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# **AAUW VIENNA CONNECTION**

**APRIL 2024**

[AAUW Vienna Area \(VA\) Branch](#)

AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

For any questions, or for more information about anything in this newsletter, please contact [viennaauw@gmail.com](mailto:viennaauw@gmail.com).

**April Program:** ***Paying Tribute: A Field Trip to the Turning Point Suffragist***

**Saturday, April 20** ***Memorial and Lucy Burns Workhouse Museum***

**Carpools 9 am, Museum 10am**

Please join us for a tour of the Lucy Burns Museum and Turning Point Memorial Park in Lorton on April 20, 2024 at 10am. We will be carpooling at 9am from the Vienna Giant parking lot in the area near Glyndon St. and Maple Ave. After our tour, we will be walking around Turning Point Suffragette Memorial, then lunching nearby at The Brickmaker Café, which is a short walk from the Memorial.

## **Looking Forward to May**

Please mark your calendars for our branch's **annual business meeting/election of new officers**.

*We need your presence to achieve a quorum and finalize the elections.*

**What: Brown bag** luncheon (the branch will supply dessert and drinks)

**When:** 12:00-1:30 pm on Saturday, May 11

Lunch will be followed by a brief business meeting and the election of new officers

{ ie., President(s) and Program VP(s) and Board Secretary }.

Thank you in advance for helping our branch be a success!

## **Review of March meeting: Is There Affordable Housing in Fairfax County?**

Jerry Poje, recognized for his extensive work in housing for the homeless, spoke to branch members and visitors on March 11th, making the following points:

1. Know your and your family's narrative of "home" over the arch of life.
2. Our needs for **preserving** and **building** affordable homes in Fairfax
  - a. Pre-pandemic (2018) strategic plan showed a deficit of 31,000 affordable homes and a coming need for 15,000 by 2034
  - b. Examine outcome of 2008-2018 Ten Year Plan to end homelessness; 46% success; remember there are 2300 homeless children in FCPS; remember 13,500 homeless NVCC students
  - c. COVID impacts and cessation of federal funding
3. Many successful models implemented across Fairfax that are encouraging:

One University Place near GMU; The Exchange at Springhill Station in Tysons; Lamb Center-Wesley Housing partnership to build 54 residential studios at Fairfax Circle with wrap-around services
4. Step up to advocate and educate to do more; attend county budget hearings. Be a voice for the homeless.
5. There are a wealth of compelling videos on YouTube: search for "Fairfax County Affordable Housing."

Jerry also recommended two books; perhaps our nonfiction book group will take note.

*Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, by Matthew Desmond; winner of the Pulitzer Prize.

*The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*, by Richard Rothstein. A New York Times Bestseller

## **Membership and Dues**

### **Is It Time to Renew Your Membership? It Depends.**

Later In April, many of you – but not all – will start to receive reminders to renew your AAUW membership for the new fiscal year starting July 1. Expiration dates for our members range this year from June 30, 2024, to February 28, 2025, depending on when they joined. The reminder from AAUW will arrive a month or so before your membership expiration date and will include that date. There is no need to renew until you receive an email reminder.

### **How much are the dues?**

Dues for most of you are again \$97, which covers the following:

- Vienna Area branch, \$10
- Virginia state, \$15
- AAUW national, \$72.

Life members pay only branch and state dues. Remember that the national dues are entirely tax-deductible if you itemize your deductions in 2025.

### **To renew online with a credit card.**

Many of you use this method successfully to renew. If you have never tried, or if you tried and quit, I would be glad to try to help. I can send you a PDF file with screen shots and step-by-step instructions. We can go through the steps together on the telephone, and I can answer your questions as we go. Email me if you want to try this.

### **To renew by mailing a check.**

Write the check for \$97 payable to AAUW Vienna Area Branch. Double-check that you write the amount in both numerals and words and that you sign the check. Mail it to me, and I will acknowledge receipt of the check when it arrives.

Please send me any questions you have about renewing.

## **INTEREST GROUPS**

### **Tuesday Morning Literature Group**

**April 23:** *The Piano Lesson (play)*, by August Wilson.

We meet at members' homes beginning at **9:30am** for coffee and socializing, then begin the book discussion at 10am.

Watch for an email from Adrienne with the location.

### **Wednesday Brown Bag Book Group**

**April 24 1:00 pm**

*Up Home* by Ruth Simmons

The former president of Smith College, Brown University, and Prairie View A&M has inspired generations of students as she herself made history. From the farmland of East Texas to Houston's Fifth Ward to New Orleans at the dawn of the civil rights movement, Simmons depicts an era long gone but whose legacies of inequality we still live with today.

Watch for an email from Susan with the location.

### **Nonfiction Book Group**

**Looking ahead to May:**

***An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us***,  
Ed Yong

Meetings are normally held the second Monday at 7pm in alternate months.

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### **GREAT DECISIONS PROGRAM with the Foreign Policy Association**

Our **April** meeting will be on the **21st, 2 pm**,

The topic is: Technology Denial and Sino-American Rivalry.

We're looking forward to another interesting discussion!

The remaining 2024 topics are below:

NATO's future

Understanding Indonesia

High seas treaty

Pandemic preparedness

## **Movie Meet Ups**

The **Movie Meet Ups** group meets at Cinema Arts for the early show on the **4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday** of the month. The film is selected after we know what the choices are for that day. Those who can stay afterwards have lunch together at First Watch, in the shopping center.

Let Susan know if you would like to be on the email list. Just go to whichever movie you are interested in. Susan sends an email a week ahead, with the movie selection for the month.

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## **Beyond the Vienna Branch**

# **AAUW of VIRGINIA 2024 CONFERENCE**

Please join us for the 2024 AAUW-VA State Conference  
at the Hilton Garden Inn, Lynchburg, VA

Saturday, April 13, 2024 ~ 9:30 am. to 4:30 pm.

**REGISTER NOW!**

The link below has everything you need

**[AAUW-VA 2024 CONFERENCE BROCHURE](#)**

Traditionally, several members of the Vienna Area Branch of AAUW attend the AAUW of Virginia Conference each year. Read the brochure, and if you are interested in attending, we can set up carpools.

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## **VOTE - The AAUW Open Membership Ballot**

**AAUW will be sending each AAUW member that has an email in their record an encrypted ballot email on April 3, 2024 to vote on the Open Membership Proposal.** The email will come from “Simply Voting.” So on April 3<sup>rd</sup> check your email inbox and, if the email is not there, check your spam/junk folder. Those members without an email address on file or who have unsubscribed from all AAUW emails will receive a paper ballot by mail.

AAUW’s Board of Directors and Governance Committee have proposed to amend the AAUW Bylaws to open membership to “. . .any individual who supports AAUW’s purpose of advancing equity for women and girls . . . .” To read AAUW’s rationale for this change and review the proposed amendments -- go to [PROPOSAL](#) Additional information is at the [OPEN MEMBERSHIP TOOLKIT](#)

In 2021, only 23% of our nationwide membership voted on that year’s version of this amendment. ***This is a membership change on which all members are encouraged to vote.***

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, online voting ends at 12:00 pm ET (noon) and the results will thereafter be announced on the AAUW website.

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In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or socio-economic status.