



Vienna Area (VA) Branch

<https://vienna-va.aauw.net>

AUGUST / 2024

Co-presidents' Corner

Welcome to the new fiscal year for AAUW Vienna Area Branch! As your new co-presidents for the upcoming two years we plan to continue our branch's tradition of informative programs (under the direction of Kris and Mary, our new Program co-chairs) and social events. Since our annual Open House will be early this year, we wanted to give everyone plenty of notice. Julia and Becky, our new Membership co-chairs, are planning the Open House scheduled for September 7 at 2:30 pm; doors open at 2 for set-up.

Please join us to reconnect, converse and spread the good word about AAUW.

Gail and Kate, Co-presidents, Vienna Area Branch

AAUW VIENNA BRANCH'S ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP OPEN HOUSE

Patrick Henry Library

Saturday September 7, 2024

2:30-4:00pm (Doors open at 2:00pm)

Personally invite your friends and neighbors to learn more about AAUW at the Vienna Area Branch's annual membership Open House.

Tell them that the branch offers a variety of interest groups, public programs and engagement in AAUW's advocacy for equity for women and girls in education, the workplace and the government.

Mention that some recent branch meetings have included the following program topics.

- Artificial Intelligence after ChatGPT
- Affordable Housing, Myth or Reality
- Exchange Programs for Youth

Questions? Contact Membership co-chair Becky .

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Is it time to renew your membership? Have you received emails from AAUW reminding you to renew your membership? Then now is the time!

To renew online with a credit card, go to <https://www.aauw.org/>. Click on “Log In” on the upper-right side of the screen and enter your email and password in the appropriate spaces. Once in the Personal Snapshot screen, confirm your profile information and click the orange “Renew” box to renew your national, Vienna branch, and Virginia state memberships.

If you prefer, write a check payable to AAUW Vienna Branch for \$97 (\$72 for national dues, \$15 for Virginia dues, and \$10 for Vienna Branch dues). Mail it to Sandra, whose address is in the online in the Membership Directory that was sent out last May.

Remember, the \$72 for national dues is a tax deduction for 2024 if you itemize deductions.

NEXT BRANCH MEETING

Patrick Henry Library

Monday, September 30, 2024

7:00pm (Doors open at 6:30pm)

(Venue availability dictated date of this “October” Branch Meeting.)

Elections in Fairfax County: Making Sure Your Vote Counts

Our new Program Co-vice-presidents have arranged to bring us a behind the scenes look at what it means to conduct a safe and fair election on November 5.

One of our very own Vienna Area members, Jean, will be the speaker for this special Branch presentation. The county will have a “rapid response team” to respond to all technical, safety and administrative issues that may arise that day, and Jean is part of that team.

GET OUT THE VOTE

Our branch is participating in an AAUW postcard event to get out the vote among underrepresented voters. We have 200 postcards to address and write, so if you want to write some, we would love to have your help. This is a strictly nonpartisan effort and they have to be written exactly according to the set template that we have been provided. I will collect them to mail on September 20.

There are two ways to participate. Come to Julia's house on Thursday, where we will gather to enjoy each other's company as we write.

If that does not work for you but you want to pitch in, simply contact me to secure the number of postcards that you would prefer to write on your own. I will collect them and mail them with those written on August 8.

Questions? Contact Public Policy Chair Leslie

VIENNA AREA INTEREST GROUPS

Tuesday Morning Literature Group

Normal Schedule: Third Tuesday of each month.

Socializing: 9:30am Book discussion: 10:00am – 11-11:30am. No meeting in the month of August.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 17, 9:30am

The Blind Assassin, by Margaret Atwood was chosen as the first book of the season and our discussion leader will be Kristin.

"Ten days after the war ended, my sister Laura drove a car off a bridge." They are spoken by Iris, whose terse account of her sister's death in 1945 is followed by an inquest report proclaiming the death accidental. But just as the reader expects to settle into Laura's story, Atwood introduces a novel-within-a-novel. Entitled *The Blind Assassin*, it is a science fiction story told by two unnamed lovers who meet in dingy backstreet rooms. When we return to Iris, it is through a 1947 newspaper article announcing the discovery of a sailboat carrying the dead body of her husband, a distinguished industrialist. Brilliantly weaving together such seemingly disparate elements, Atwood creates a world of astonishing vision and unforgettable impact.

Brown Bag Lunch Literature Group

Normal Schedule: Last Wednesday of each month from 1:00 – 3:00pm. No meeting in the months of July and August.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 25, 1:00 – 3:00pm

Where: TBA

The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride had been scheduled for June, but it was carried over to September.

"While digging begins for a new development in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, a skeleton is found at the bottom of a well. As the characters' stories overlap and deepen, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins of white, Christian America struggle and what they must do to survive. When the truth is finally revealed about what happened on Chicken Hill and the part the town's white establishment played in it, McBride shows us that even in dark times, it is love and community--heaven and earth--that sustain us"

Non-fiction Book Group

Normal Schedule: Second Monday every other month at 7:00pm

Next Meeting: September 9, 7:00pm

Location and Book: TBA

Great Decisions Program with the Foreign Policy Association

Normal Schedule: Second Sunday of each month from 2:00 – 4:00pm. No meeting in the months of July and August.

Next Meeting: September 15, 2:00pm

Where: TBA

September topic: High Seas Treaty: Areas of the seas beyond national jurisdiction comprise the high seas, which are facing a degradation of ecosystems due to climate change and the increase in human activities, such as shipping, overfishing, pollution, and deep-sea mining. The recently negotiated High Seas Treaty, also known as the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction treaty, will attempt to address these issues. How difficult will it be to convince nations to participate?

Movie Meet-ups

Normal Schedule: Fourth Tuesday of the month. No meetings in July or August.

Where: Cinema Arts Theater for the early show.

Film is selected when the theater publishes its films and schedules on its website. Those who can stay afterwards have lunch together at First Watch, in the shopping center.

Next Meet-up: September 24

BEYOND THE BRANCH



Join Us!

for the

AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference

Connecting Voices from the Everglades to the Northern Border

September 27 – 29, 2024

Virginia Crossings Hotel & Conference Center
1000 Virginia Center Pkwy, Glen Allen, VA 23059

REGISTER NOW!

Detailed information is at the Conference Website

<https://aauwatlanticregionalconference.com>

AAUW-VA is hosting this three-day conference of AAUW members along the Atlantic coast at a resort/conference center just north of Richmond. Members of other organizations, and your friends and family are invited to this powerhouse conference.

Included in the sessions are presentations by Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO, and Meghan Kissell, AAUW Senior Director of Policy and Member Advocacy. Other speakers will discuss the challenges of our public schools, artificial intelligence, poverty, voting rights, inclusion, Title IX and the compelling history of AAUW. Share with and learn from members from other states about successful AAUW projects and ideas for your branch. You may wish to make the event a vacation given all the historical, arts, and outside activities in the area of the Conference, the beauty of the resort location, the quality of our speakers, and the opportunity to network with members from other states.

Members should look at the useful AAUW logo items we created that are for sale on the conference website to support the Conference.

AAUW Diversity Statement

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks 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.