



Vienna Area (VA) Branch

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

**SEPTEMBER/ 2024**

***AAUW VIENNA BRANCH'S ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP OPEN HOUSE***

**Patrick Henry Library**

**Saturday September 7, 2024**

**2:30-4:00pm (Doors open at 2:00pm for set-up)**

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

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***UPCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS***

***Elections in Fairfax County: Making Sure Your Vote Counts***

**Patrick Henry Library**

**Monday, September 30, 2024**

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

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

The County employs a group of experienced election workers, like our **speaker Jean (member of AAUW Vienna)**, who turn out for each election to support the small full-time staff in delivering on their election plan. The group helps with equipment preparation, site arrangements, volunteer support, and the

security of election materials used in early voting and 265 election-day precincts. They also participate in reconciling results which are used by the Election Board to certify the election. Jean calls it a “rapid response team” as the job is different every day and every election!

***The Inside Scoop on Engaging with Our County Government***

**Patrick Henry Library**  
**Monday, November 4, 2024**  
**7:00pm (Doors open at 6:30pm)**

Penny Gross, recently retired vice chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, will discuss the best ways to raise your issues with the board. She will also talk about how the county government works, political issues of concern to women, and ways to get involved with the community. Gross has a wealth of public-service experience. This also is an opportunity to raise your questions with her.

***Save-These-Dates on Your Calendar***

**December 5, 2024** *Rep. Connolly Previews Upcoming Congressional Session on Zoom @ 5:00pm*, sponsored jointly by the Vienna branch with these additional AAUW branches: Reston-Herndon, Alexandria, Arlington, Falls Church, McLean and Mt. Vernon.

**December 12, 2024** *December Luncheon and Gift Cards for Artemis House (Location TBD)*

**March 28-29, 2025** *AAUW-VA State Conference, Sheraton Inn and Suites in Alexandria.* (Pre-conference activities on March 28.)

**\*\*\*\* Watch upcoming newsletters for more details closer to the events \*\*\*\***

***FY2025 AAUW Vienna Branch Budget***

At a Board of Directors meeting on August 7, 2024, the board unanimously approved the budget below.

**NOTE:** The branch has ample reserve funds to cover the budgeted loss if any loss actually occurs.

|                                  |                                |                 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b><u>Operating Income</u></b>   | Dues (# members x \$10)        | \$ 600          |
|                                  | Retained VA Mini Grant         | \$ 153          |
| <b><u>Total Income</u></b>       |                                | <b>\$ 753</b>   |
| <b><u>Operating Expenses</u></b> |                                |                 |
|                                  | Co-Presidents                  | \$ 50           |
|                                  | VP Membership                  | \$ 50           |
|                                  | VP Programs                    |                 |
|                                  | Room Rental (6 x \$25)         | \$ 150          |
|                                  | Honoraria (6 x \$25)           | \$ 150          |
|                                  | Finance Officer (stamps)       | \$ 15           |
|                                  | Fundraising                    | \$ 25           |
|                                  | Public Policy                  | \$ 50           |
|                                  | DEI                            | \$ 50           |
|                                  | General Administration         |                 |
|                                  | Va. Conference Reg. (2 x \$75) | \$ 150          |
|                                  | Va. Conference Program Ad      | \$ 55           |
|                                  | Regional Conf. Reg. (2 x 150)  | \$ 300          |
|                                  | Regional Conf. Ad              | \$ 50           |
|                                  | Liability Insurance            | \$ 210          |
|                                  | Northern District Dues         | \$ 10           |
|                                  | Special Project                | \$ 153          |
|                                  | <b><u>Total Expenses</u></b>   | <b>\$ 1,318</b> |
|                                  | <b><u>Balance</u></b>          | <b>\$ -565</b>  |

### ***Bylaws Updates***

At the Branch Board of Directors Meeting on August 7, the Board approved amendments to Article XIV of the Vienna Branch Bylaws. The change updated the provisions describing dues procedures to reflect changes since 2022 by AAUW. Only Board approval was necessary.

## ***Getting Out the Vote***

Our branch is participating in an AAUW postcard get-out-the-vote among underrepresented voters for the upcoming election. Vienna Branch members are working on them now and I will be collecting the 200 postcards to mail on September 20.

## ***VIENNA AREA INTEREST GROUPS***

### ***Tuesday Morning Literature Group***

Group Coordinator:

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 Moyer.

"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***

Group Coordinators:

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

*The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride had been scheduled for this past June, but it was carried over to September 2024.

“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**

Group Coordinator:

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

**Next Meeting:** Monday, September 9, 7:00pm

The book for the September Non-fiction Book Group meeting is "American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America" by Colin Woodard.

### **Great Decisions Program with the Foreign Policy Association**

Group Coordinator:

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, 2:00 – 4:00pm

Please send an RSVP to Jean and copy Connie. She will send out a reminder about a week before the meeting.

**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**

Group Coordinator:


Normal Schedule: Fourth Tuesday of the month. No meetings in July or August. Please contact Susan to be included on the distribution list.

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. Group Coordinators convey this information in a reminder email.


**Next Meet-up:** Tuesday, September 24, 2024

**BEYOND THE BRANCH**

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|  | <p><b>Northern District Meeting</b><br/><b>Saturday, September 14, 2024</b><br/>10:30am – 12:30pm<br/>Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library<br/>4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria</p> |
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***What Are Microaggressions and What Do I Do about Them?***

**Meg Tuccillo**, AAUW VA Co-vice president for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), will discuss Microaggressions, commonplace verbal and behavioral indignities, whether intentional or not, Microaggressions can result in communicating hostile, derogatory, or negative verbal slights and insults. Like it or not, they happen often – and sometimes out of our own mouths! (A business meeting will follow.)

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|  | <p>Meg retired from Arlington Public Schools after serving as the Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services for seventeen year where her duties included Title IX coordinator. Prior to that, she was principal of Abingdon and Tuckahoe elementary schools. She is a recipient of the Arlington Community Foundation “Spirit of Community” Award, the Arlington NAACP Martin Luther King Award and the Commission on the Status of Women “Woman of Vision” award. She is Past President of Arlington Branch of AAUW.</p> |
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**AAUW Diversity Statement**

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.



**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.