



Vienna Area (VA) Branch

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

NOVEMBER / 2024

AAUW VIENNA BRANCH MEETINGS

Patrick Henry Library

Monday, November 4, 2024

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

The Inside Scoop on Engaging With Our County

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. Do not miss this opportunity to raise your questions.

Jointly Sponsored Zoom Presentation

Monday, December 2, 2024

5:00pm -- Advanced registration required (See below)

Representative Gerry Connolly Previews Upcoming Congressional Session

Representative Gerald E. "Gerry" Connolly (D-Va.), who represents Fairfax City and most of Fairfax County in the U.S. House of Representatives, will preview potential activities of the 119th Congress, which begins in January. This preview is being sponsored jointly by the Vienna Area Branch along with six other Northern Virginia branches.

Click on URL below to register in advance:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IbHEq8JMTUmEPCp1MxPquQ

(If you have difficulty with the link, cut-and-paste the above into a blank URL)

Patrick Henry Library
Saturday, January 4, 2025
11:00am (Doors open at 10:30am)

State Delegate Holly M. Seibold on the Statewide Outlook

State Delegate Holly M. Seibold, who represents Virginia's 12th House District, including Vienna, Tysons and some adjacent parts of Fairfax County, will preview the legislative session scheduled to begin January 8th in Richmond. In addition to issues likely to be considered, the Democratic delegate will also discuss the work of her non-profit organization, BRAWS, which supports women's shelters.

DECEMBER ACTIVITY

As we have done so many years in the past, we are inviting you and all Vienna Branch's members and friends for a bit of socializing and good works for those in need.

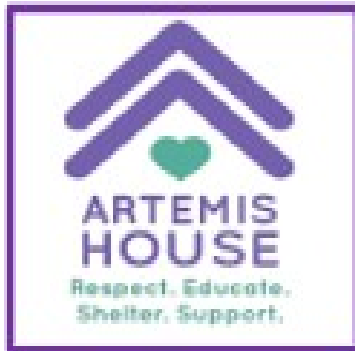
AAUW Vienna Lunch and Gift Card Collection for Artemis House
Saturday, December 7th at 12 Noon
The Olive Garden Restaurant, 8133 Leesburg Pike, Tysons Corner, VA

You are invited to get together for socializing with AAUW Vienna Area members at **The Olive Garden Restaurant** on Route 7 in the Tyson's Corner area. Please invite friends and your significant other to join us at this nice event.

We will gather in the restaurant's large private room, members will order from the full menu and each will be separately billed for their meal—which can be made easier by paying in cash. We will start with a social mix time (when you can order beverages) and then be seated at several tables. You may wish to check out the extensive menu in advance at <https://www.olivegarden.com/menu/appetizers>

If you wish to attend, **please email me to RSVP no later than December 4th**. Contact me with any questions at 703-255-6273. (Accessibility: one-step up from the parking area behind the restaurant to a sidewalk leading to the restaurant.)

At this event, I will complete my final collection of gift cards and personal care items for the women of Artemis House. As we have many new members and it never hurts to refresh our memories, you may want to read about this annual function in support of Artemis House. I encourage you to read the article below for tips on the best way to prepare your donations.



For well over 30 years, our branch has annually supported residents of Artemis House (operated by Shelter House, Inc.) as our project to benefit women-in-need and their children in our community. With two locations, Artemis House is the only Fairfax County-sponsored 24-hour emergency shelter for women and children fleeing domestic and sexual violence and human trafficking.

The branch collects donations of store gift cards and full-size personal care items that are given to the residents, who generally arrive only with the clothes they are wearing. Gift cards from grocery, drug stores, and multi-purpose stores like Walmart and Target are the most useful.

Artemis House staff have found that multiple gift cards in smaller denominations are better than those in large denominations. This allows them to best serve the diverse needs of the women and children.

Donations of full-size adult or child/baby hand, body, and face lotions, shampoo, and body wash and other personal care items are appreciated. Your donation is a tax-deductible donation to “Shelter House, Inc.,” in compliance with IRS policies, which do not allow us to collect cash donations for another non-profit.

As Artemis House Chair, I am collecting donations from now through the annual December Lunch Event at noon on December 7th. If you will not be able to attend the lunch, contact me to arrange for me to receive your donation.

Thank you to AAUW Branch members for your decades of generous help to Artemis House women and children that means such much to them!

***CONGRATULATIONS TO BEVERLY
Our New Honorary Life Member!***

Raise your hand if you have heard of being an AAUW Honorary Life Member. Anyone? This membership category is for members who have made a long-term commitment to AAUW.

To become an Honorary Life Member, you must have belonged to AAUW for fifty years. You

submit an application listing your membership dates so that AAUW staff can confirm your history. Once confirmed, you receive an acknowledgment from AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell as well as an Honorary Life Membership certificate in recognition of your loyal support. In addition, you are exempt from paying AAUW national dues and, usually, exempt from state and branch dues. The bylaws of both AAUW of Virginia and the Vienna Area Branch call for the exemption.

When I learned that Beverly recently received this recognition, I asked her to write about her history with AAUW. Newer members will not know Bev, but many of us remember her from her 24 years in-person with our branch. What follows is Bev's account.



Dear Vienna Branch Members,

In 1974, when I joined AAUW it was to continue lifelong learning. As a bonus, AAUW has really taught me to learn and to develop my capabilities. The network of women in this organization has inspired me through their leadership and commitment. They have guided and given me confidence to grow and make a difference.

When I moved to Virginia in 1990 I joined the Springfield branch and later moved to Vienna in 1991. I believe I maintained dual membership for a few years. I moved to Charlotte in 2015 and have remained in contact with the Vienna Area Branch as a dual member since then. Seems strange to think I've been a North Carolinian for over nine years.

The positions I've held in the eight states and branches where I have lived since 1974 have included every office and committee except financial officer – not even my checkbook gets balanced. My beginning as branch secretary opened the way to become president of three branches, serve on the Washington State Board, and recently as the Vice President of the North Carolina State Board. After being Branch President in Vienna, I went on to volunteer for four years as a member of Lobby Corps.

As an AAUW Honorary Life Member and also a Legacy Circle member, I have received a lifetime of learning. My best to all of the AAUW Vienna Area members.

Our branch supported the AAUW Get-out-the-Vote project this summer. Eleven members wrote 200 postcards to voters at risk of being disenfranchised this election cycle in Georgia. The hand-written and hand-addressed cards listed crucial reasons to vote and gave recipients information on how to make sure that they are still registered and how to vote early where they live. Thank-yous for careful writing go out to Mary, Yuki, Kathy, Julia, Susan, Kristin, Kate, Becky, Corinne and Danny. A special thank-you to Julia for hosting our writing party.

REPORT ON THE AAUW ATLANTIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE

At the end of September, we were pleased to represent the Vienna Area Branch at the first AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference. We enjoyed meeting members from branches from Florida up through Massachusetts. Participants and speakers were a diverse mix of ages and ethnicities. The keynote speaker was Gloria L. Blackwell, CEO of AAUW, on the topic of Moving AAUW Forward.

Much work obviously went into planning to this event, of which Virginia was the Host State. We were impressed by the mix of speakers on major topics of interest of AAUW members, such as voting rights, reproductive rights, Title IX, menstrual equity, ranked choice voting, AI, and many more.

Suzanne was a key member of the conference planning committee and Kristin was a program presenter, giving a presentation as a member of the National Legacy Circle Team. We had time to meet with members from other states and discuss topics aimed at sustaining and growing our branches and their activities.

The schedule was packed, from Friday afternoon through Sunday morning. We left the conference excited about AAUW's future.

HOW TO RENEW AAUW MEMBERSHIP

Online with a credit card:

Go to www.aauw.org and click on Log In. Once logged in, scroll down and click on RENEW and follow the directions.

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, November 12, 2024 - 9:30am

Pachinko, by Min Jin Lee will be discussed. The discussion l

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, November 20, 2024, 1:00 – 3:00pm

The First Ladies by Marie Benedict.

This novel details the extraordinary partnership between First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune—an unlikely friendship that changed the world.

Non-fiction Book Group

Group Coordinator:

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

Next Meeting: Monday, November 18, 2024 7:00pm-

The book for November is *On-Call* by Anthony Fauci.

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, November and December.

Next Meeting: January 12, 2025 2:00 – 4:00pm

It has been a great year of fascinating discussions in our AAUW Branch Great Decisions group! We have had a variety of topics and very timely issues, from China, to NATO, to the Mideast, to the High Seas Treaty.

Our monthly meetings will resume in January. The Foreign Policy Association is now preparing topics, articles, and videos for the next calendar year. Sometime in December the Association will have the links online at fpa.org so we can order new briefing books in print or digital format. I will be on the lookout for them and let you know as soon as I see the announcement.

Please be prepared to order your own books since the group discount is for more people than we usually have. I will host the first meeting and then you can sign up to host one of the other seven months if you can.

If you do not regularly get our meeting reminders and would like to, please notify me. We will always welcome new participants!

Please send an RSVP for the January meeting. You will receive a reminder about a week before the meeting.

We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Movie Meet-ups

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

Next Meet-up: Tuesday, November 24, 2024 for the early show

Where: Cinema Arts Theater

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 Coordinator will convey this information in a reminder email.

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.