



Vienna Area (VA) Branch

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

Happy New Year
JANUARY / 2025

JANUARY VIENNA BRANCH MEETING

Patrick Henry Library
Saturday, January 4, 2025
12:30pm (Doors open at noon)

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 (Bringing Resources to Aid Women's Shelters).

As we said in last month's newsletter, part of the 100th anniversary celebration at the AAUW Virginia Centennial Conference will be the contribution by each branch of "100 of Something" to a local philanthropy. After discussion, the branch board decided on a donation to BRAWS. They collect necessary feminine hygiene supplies and undergarments to be distributed free of charge and tax free to women and girls in schools, shelters, and prisons/jails in our area.

As State Delegate Holly M. Seibold, founder of BRAWS, will be the program speaker at our January branch meeting, we will present her with our contribution at the meeting.

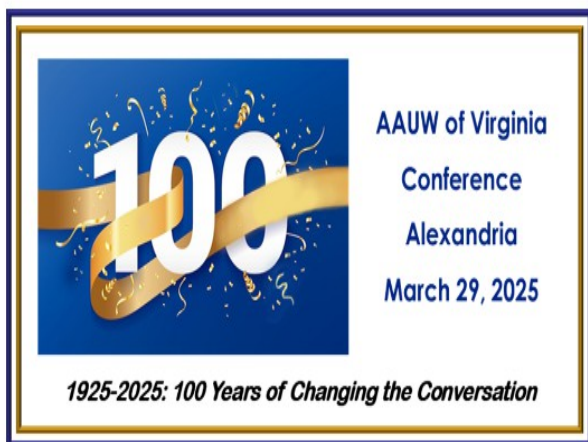
FEBRUARY VIENNA BRANCH MEETING

Patrick Henry Library
Saturday, February 8, 2025
3:00pm (Doors open at 2:30pm)

Local Author Lisa Munoz Sheds Light on Challenges Faced by Women in Science

Lisa Munoz will discuss her book, *Women in Science Now*, which documents the obstacles women working in science face, and also offers perspectives on how to make science more equitable and inclusive for all. Ms. Munoz’s book won a Silver Medal in the Social Change and Social Justice Category at the 2024 Nautilus Book Awards. This program is free and open to the public.

PLAN AHEAD . . .



Sheraton Suites Old Town Alexandria

Preconference activities: March 28, 2025

Guest Room Reservations (888) 236-2427
Code: AAUW

Dbl/DbI - \$159 per night plus tax including full breakfast for up to two persons.

Rate is also available for three days before/after March 28 and 29 on a space available basis.

MEMBERSHIP

Our December newsletter listed the very interesting branch meeting programs we have slated for the first two months of 2025, January 4th and February 8th. Remember that all meetings held at the Patrick Henry Library are open to the public.

Please consider contacting two people you think would be particularly interested in the upcoming programs. You will find details on the programs above.

If each current member would issue such invitations, we would improve our chances of recruiting new members over the next several months. Consider offering a ride to those you invite to further encourage their attendance. New members often bring new and refreshing ideas to our group.

Achieving the branch's goal of increasing membership is not limited to just the Membership officers. As in the past, the officers look to the total membership to support our outreach efforts.

PUBLIC POLICY

Join AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Corps in 2025!

As AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell recently wrote: "We enter 2025 with hope and renewed passion for the challenges that may lie ahead. We're prepared to fight and start the year strong with an agenda that we will present to Congress based on AAUW's values. ***Let's keep fighting for women's and girls' equity in 2025 — together.***"

The **registration link to a January 9th online Zoom training session was sent out in a separate AAUW email on December 19.** In just an hour Zoom call, learn how to interact with Congress on familiar, important issues that support women and families.

YES! You can do this! Lobbying requires only one or two mornings monthly. You DON'T need to be an expert! You will always be paired with another AAUW member. You will be well prepared with brief talking points and one specific "ASK" per visit. We often speak to young Congressional staffers who are not intimidating and are happy to hear from dedicated volunteers. Congressional offices are easily reached via Metro. ***You can do this!***

SPECIAL 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, January 21, 2025 1:00 – 3:00pm

Discussion of *Women* by Kristin Hannah will be led by Mary

“ . . . in 1965 the world is changing, and Frances Frankie McGrath suddenly imagines a different choice for her life. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she impulsively joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path. As green and inexperienced as the men sent to Vietnam to fight, Frankie is overwhelmed by the chaos and destruction of war, as well as the unexpected trauma of coming home to a changed and politically divided America. *The Women* is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on the story of all women who put themselves in harm's way to help others. Women whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has all too often been forgotten.”

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, January 29, 2025 1:00 – 3:00pm

Discussion of *The Women* by Kristin Hannah will be led by Marian
(See book summary above.)

Non-fiction Book Group

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

Next Meeting: Monday, January 13, 2025 7:00pm

Discussion of will be “*Poverty, by America*” by Matthew Desmond. ”Elegantly written and fiercely argued, this compassionate book gives us new ways of thinking about a morally urgent problem. It also helps us imagine solutions. Desmond builds a startlingly original and ambitious

case for ending poverty. He calls on us all to become poverty abolitionists, engaged in a politics of collective belonging to usher in a new age of shared prosperity and, at last, true freedom.”

Great Decisions Program with the Foreign Policy Association

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

Next Meeting: January 19, 2025 2:00 – 4:00pm

(Continued below.)

Topic: American Foreign Policy at a Crossroads, Author: G. John Ikenberry

This chapter will explore the contours of the U.S. foreign policy debate as it plays out in a world of multiple and escalating crises and domestic polarization.

You will receive a reminder about a week before the meeting.

If you do not regularly get meeting reminders and would like to, please notify Connie. The group always welcomes new participants!

OUR SUCCESSFUL DECEMBER EVENT

Twenty-five branch members attended our December lunch at The Olive Garden Restaurant on December 7th, where we had a spacious private dining room and excellent service. Laughter rang out and lively, spirited discussions could be heard at the tables. Mary on a trip East from San Diego, surprised us with a visit and new member Sue and her husband came too.

Many thanks to our branch members who generously donated \$2,075 in store gift cards and some other needed personal care items to our community’s victims of abuse and their children who seek protection at Artemis House. The generosity of our members, who contributed so much, was very appreciated by Artemis House Director Charlotte Crawford-Rowe.



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, January 28, 2025 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.
