

MAY / 2025



AAUW VIENNA AREA BRANCH PICNIC

Branch Picnic: **Thursday, May 15th 11:30am - 2:00pm**

Location: Picnic Shelter #2, 300 Glyndon St NE, Vienna

Parking: * Lot north of Ayr Hill Road at Beulah Road (follow the path to the shelter)
* Lot on Glyndon Street, which is closer to the shelter.

The final event of the season will be our Branch Picnic at Glyndon Park, which is always a well-attended branch event. It gives members the opportunity to stop by and say hello before we all get busy with our summer activities. We will conduct a bit of business as well; recognizing and installing officers for the up-coming program year, and revealing the names of those members and associates receiving special honors for their contributions to the Branch.

Ever prepared, we will have the picnic rain or shine. Should the weather predict we might have to scurry indoors, we will let members know by email prior to the picnic if we need to switch the get-together to a member's house.

Note: Although the picnic is our last program event of this fiscal year, several smaller group activities will occur in June and July. Those interest group leaders will communicate details by email to those on the group's roster.

Co-president, Vienna Area Branch



AAUW-VA 100th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

Six members of the branch were able to attend this ***sold-out*** conference on March 29, 2025. The theme of this year's conference was "100 Years of Changing the Conversation," and all speakers worked the theme into their presentations.

AAUW-VA President Lane Stone, welcomed us and introduced **Congresswoman Jennifer McClellan (VA-04), Keynote Speaker for the day.**

Attendees enjoyed remarks from **Alyia Gaskins, Mayor of the city of Alexandria**, AAUW's host city this year.

Zeina Azzam, Poet Laureate of Alexandria, surprised the attendees with a special reading of her poem, "Lessons from the Moon," written for the celebration of AAUW Virginia's Centennial Year, March 2025. (The poem follows this article; please note the references to "Changing the Conversation," which is the conference's theme.)

Interesting and thought-provoking panels included the following presentations:

- Branches that have used mini-grants from AAUW-VA
- Fifty years of Title IX and its future;
- Preventing People from Reading Books (1939 Alexandria Library Sit-In and The Threat of Censorship in Schools and Public Libraries)

After a full program day, the conference closed with the reminder that the 2026 will be held in Virginia's capital of Richmond.



LESSONS FROM THE MOON

On the celebration of AAUW of Virginia's centennial year, March 2025

From Alexandria to Wytheville
We are 24 branches of the AAUW tree
Planted in Virginia a century ago.
The state chapter came alive in 1925
under a waxing crescent moon,
the lunar phase that tells of intentionality and growth,
clarity and change.

For 100 years we have struggled and aspired,
Untiring, to amplify the W in our logo –
The oversized letter stands for
Women and their rights.
Women's Well-being,
Women's Work and Worth.
Women's Words of Wisdom
for our imperfect World.
We, the Women.

We are changing the conversation,
redirecting the thinking,
illuminating the territory,
advancing what's fair.

We believe in the melding of science
and hard work and intuition, research and caring,
the art of knowing and the skill of doing.
Like the moon's nurturing light,
Women embrace the world to change it,
to birth goodness, new beauty, new life
with the power of a strong and persistent
Women-led movement.

We, the Women of Virginia's AAUW
continue to fight for teachers' rights
and for funding free public schools.
We advocate for the civil liberties of Women and girls of color.
We champion access to STEM programs.
We promote women's reproductive rights.
We ensure equity and inclusivity in the workplace.
We uphold the noble principles of Title IX:
no sex-based discrimination in education.
We affirm that the ERA must become

the 28th Amendment of the US Constitution.

We are changing the conversation,
redirecting the thinking,
illuminating the territory,
advancing what's fair.

We applaud all—
the conversation trail-blazers and cutting-edgers,
the conversation sowers and spreaders,
the conversation modelers and engagers,
the conversation leaders and motivators,
the conversation changers.
We recognize all—in AAUW and in the community—
proudly, lift up their work.

How lovely and meaningful
that tonight we have a new moon
modeling new beginnings,
reminding that our work for a new century is before us.
We cannot see the shadowed moon
but we feel its promise.
As the coming crescent thickens each night
we grow with it and welcome its glow and gleam,
The moon will become more and more luminous
like our shared hopes,
our bright, essential mission.

© Zeina Azzam, March 2025
City of Alexandria Poet Laureate

MEMBERSHIP

As of March 1, 2025, the Vienna Area Branch consists of 62 members. Six new members joined our branch between May 2024 and February 2025.

We enjoy welcoming these newbies to any and all activities. We encourage every member always to be on the lookout for new prospects who would enjoy participating in the mission, the fellowship and the fun we all find through our AAUW membership.

Questions? Contact Membership Co-vice-presidents

MEMBERSHIP 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. Your expiration date depends on when you joined. There is no need to renew until you receive an email reminder from AAUW.

How much are the dues?

Dues for most of you are \$99, which covers the following:

- Vienna Area Branch \$10
- Virginia State \$15
- National AAUW \$74

Life members pay only branch and state dues. Dual members pay additional dues; if you are unsure of how to renew your dual memberships, contact the Vienna Area Branch Finance Officer. Remember that the national dues are entirely tax-deductible if you itemize your deductions in 2025. State and branch dues are not deductible.

To renew online with a credit card

Go to www.aauw.org and click on Log In. After logging in, scroll down and click on the orange “Renew” box. From there, click to renew your National membership, your Vienna Area Branch membership, and your Virginia State membership. After transmitting your credit card information you will receive an email from AAUW acknowledging your renewal.

To renew by mailing a check

Write the check for \$99 payable to AAUW Vienna Area Branch. Because we will have a new Finance Officer as of July 1, 2025, please mail your check as follows:

If sent before July 1, mail check to

If sent on or after July 1, mail check to

Questions? Finance Officer until June 30, Finance Officer starting July 1,

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Tuesday Morning Book Group

Group Coordinator:

Normal Schedule: Third Tuesday of each month.

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

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 9:30am – 11:00am

Where: Home of

Book: *The North Woods* by Daniel Mason.

A sweeping novel about a single house in the woods of New England, told through the lives of those who inhabit it across the centuries—“a time-spanning, genre-blurring work of storytelling magic” (The Washington Post)

Book Selections and Pot Luck Lunch: Tuesday, June 17, 2025.

Book selections for September 2025 through May 2026. Be prepared to send your book recommendations to when she emails you closer to the June date.

Brown Bag Book 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, May 28, 2025 1:00 – 3:00pm

Where: Home of

Book: *West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge.

The story follows two giraffes, who miraculously survived a hurricane while crossing the Atlantic and then experienced a twelve-day road trip in a custom truck that delivered them to the San Diego Zoo. Behind the wheel is the young Dust Bowl rowdy named Woodrow. Inspired by true events.

June Book: Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pei.

Non-fiction Book Group

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

Next Meeting: Monday, May 19, 2025 7:00pm

Where: Home of

Book: *A Torch Kept Lit: Great Lives of the Twentieth Century* by William F. Buckley, Jr

Great Decisions Program with the Foreign Policy Association

Group Coordinator:

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: May 18, 2025 2:00 – 4:00pm

Where: Home of

(You will receive a reminder from the hostess about a week before the meeting.)

Topic Number 5: **International Climate Cooperation in an Era of Geopolitical Turmoil.**

Over the past 30 years, climate change has become one of the central global challenges of the modern era, one that has hugely important consequences for the livability of the planet.

Please contact if you need information on how to obtain materials for the topics.

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

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.

Next Meet-up: Tuesday, May 27, 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.

FOR STRESSFUL TIMES. . .

Be a participant, not an observer

“Start where you are, Use what you have, Do what you can.” Arthur Ashe

Bloom where you are planted



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.
