



**NOVEMBER / 2025**

## **BRANCH MEETINGS**

### **NOVEMBER MEETING**

Who: Gautam Sethi, Chief Information & Technology Officer, Fairfax County Public Schools  
When: **Tuesday, October 28, 2025 (Date chosen on availability of meeting location.)**  
7:00pm - doors open at 6:30pm  
Where: Vienna Community Center Auditorium, 120 Cherry Street. SE, Vienna

#### **How Artificial Intelligence Is Being Used in Our Schools**

This program will focus on the current use of and future prospects for artificial intelligence in Fairfax County Public Schools

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Questions? Contact Co-Vice Presidents, Programs Kris and Mary

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## **BEYOND THE BRANCH PRESENTATIONS**

**What:** **Healing the Gender Divide in the Era of Pervasive Social Media**

Two-part community forum sponsored by the Falls Church Branch

**When:** November 6<sup>Th</sup>, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

**Where:** Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School, Falls Church

The first forum will address the state of men and the state of women in our society, particularly how misogyny affects gender equity and the power of social media in reinforcing harmful gender attitudes. A representative of Equimundo (<https://www.equimundo.org>), a research organization which recently published *The State of American Men 2025*, will discuss the complex crisis of boyhood and manhood. A representative of the Center for American Progress, Inclusive Econ-

omy (<https://www.americanprogress.org>), will focus on the state of women and the impact of misogyny and corrosive social media on the lives and livelihoods of women. The second forum will take place next spring.



**What:** Virginia Women Conference

**When:** November 15<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Where:** The Johnson Center, George Mason University  
4400 University Drive, Fairfax, VA

Senator Mark Warner invites citizens to the Annual Virginia's Conference. AAUW will once again have a table at the conference. The conference was highly recommended by an AAUW member who attended last year in Roanoke.

Click [here](#) for information on registration.

Email AAUW-VA Public Policy VP, if you can help out,



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

You are invited to get together for socializing at the annual AAUW Vienna Area December Lunch that will be 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.

If you wish to attend, please email me to RSVP no later than **December 4<sup>th</sup>**. Contact me with any questions

At this event, I will complete my final collection of donations of gift cards and personal care items for Artemis House.

**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.

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Questions? Contact Suzanne, December Luncheon Chair

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## ***IN CASE YOU MISSED OUR OCTOBER PROGRAM***

### **Meghan Kissell, AAUW Headquarters, Speaks at Oct. 9 Program**

Advocacy is at the heart of the AAUW's mission and Meghan Kissell, Senior Director of Policy and Member Advocacy at AAUW's Washington headquarters, has primary responsibility for our advocacy efforts. She leads that work at the Federal level and supports the advocacy work of AAUW's nationwide membership network.

Meghan "peeled back the curtain" on her office's activities. With her staff of three (including interns), her office manages to cover issues that require a short-term, quick response and longer term issues that are part of AAUW's mission. Their efforts are assisted by weekly coalition calls in which they exchange information with other organizations on developments and challenges in higher education and other topics. The office focuses on women's education, women's employment, and efforts to assure a thriving AAUW, which are AAUW strategic issues.

Some of Meghan's guidelines in selecting policy issues on which to focus on include:

- We're not effective when we swing at everything – we need to carefully choose the issues we work on.
- We try to build momentum in issues we care deeply about, even if legislation may not pass in this Congress. Rarely does a bill get passed in one session, and we need to remind lawmakers of our interest on an ongoing basis.
- We are in regular contact with state public policy chairs to identify issues and challenges we should take on. Diane Schrier is the Virginia chair.

Meghan described upcoming efforts to create better connections between AAUW National and the branches. A survey of branches showed that branches want more practical information on advocacy, including policy briefings and meetings with other partner organizations. As a result, AAUW National will be focusing on providing training on working with coalitions, how to collaborate, and how to work with school boards.

She also urged us to sign up and participate in the [ACTION Network](#). This involves receiving emails and using the Two-Minute Activist software to send emails to our members of Congress. She suggested that it makes your communication more effective if you slightly edit the text that is provided, because congressional offices are looking for nuances and differences in responses. She also suggested calling congressional offices to express your opinions. She mentioned that if you want to find out more about Lobby Corps, you can participate in a session without obligation. If you're interested in visiting a Lobby Corps session, contact our Public Policy chair, Leslie

Meghan concluded her presentation by reminding us that the power of AAUW is its passion about issues and the actions of its membership

## ***SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS***

### **Tuesday Morning Book Group**

Group Coordinator: Adrienne

Normal Schedule: Third Tuesday of each month.

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

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 11, 10:00am**

**Where:** Home of Kristin

Please let Kristin know if you will be attending. [kcmoyer45@gmail.com](mailto:kcmoyer45@gmail.com)

**Book: *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin**

These friends, Sam and Sadie, intimates since childhood, borrow money, beg favors, and, before even graduating college, they have created their first blockbuster, Ichigo. Overnight, the world is theirs. Not even twenty-five years old, they are brilliant, successful, and rich, but these qualities won't protect them from their own creative ambitions or the betrayals of their hearts.

Spanning thirty years, from Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Venice Beach, California, and lands in between and far beyond, Gabrielle Zevin's *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* examines the multifarious nature of identity, disability, failure, the redemptive possibilities in play, and above all, our need to connect: to be loved and to love.

Laurie Cole will facilitate the discussion.

### **Brown Bag Lit Group**

Group Coordinator: Susan

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

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> 1:00 – 3:00pm**

**Where:** Home of Julia

Please let Julia know if you will be attending.

**Book: *My Friends by Fredrik Backman***

Twenty-five years earlier, in a distant seaside town, a group of teenagers find refuge from their bruising home lives by spending long summer days on an abandoned pier, telling silly jokes, sharing secrets, and committing small acts of rebellion. These lost souls find in each other a reason to get up each morning, a reason to dream, a reason to love.

Leslie will facilitate the discussion.

### **Non-fiction Book Group**

Group Coordinator: Jean w

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

**Next Meeting: Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm**

**Where:** Home of Gail

Please let Gail know if you will be attending

**Book: *Talking Pictures: How to Watch Movies* by Ann Hornaday.**

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

Group Coordinator: Connie

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

**There will be no Great Decisions meetings in November and December.**

The new set of lectures will begin in January and we will be watching for the announcement of topics and how to secure the materials. **We will probably meet on Sunday, January 18, 2026,** since the third Sunday is our usual meeting date.

Please contact Connie 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 Connie. The group always welcomes new participants!

## **Movie Meet-ups**

Group Coordinator: Susan

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

**When: Tuesday, October 25 Early showing**

**Tuesday, November 18 Early showing**

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. . .***

Get vaccinated . . . as soon as possible. Check on your neighbors who might need help.

Foster kindness . . . It is good for your mental health and that of others.

Encourage civility and tolerance . . . We are meant to be a community. Hatred and violence have no place within our nation.

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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.

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