



**DECEMBER / 2025**



**AAUW Vienna Holiday Lunch and Gift Card Collection  
for Artemis House**

**Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon**

**The Olive Garden Restaurant, 8133 Leesburg Pike  
Tysons Corner, VA**

You are invited to get together with branch members 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. 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.

If you wish to attend, please **[RSVP by email to me no later than December 3<sup>th</sup>](#)**. **You can bring a friend.** Contact me with any questions at

For well over 30 years, our branch has annually supported residents of Artemis House 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.

Gift cards from Target, Walmart, etc. should be in small denominations as they are given to individual women for themselves or their children. Unused, full-sized personal care products (shampoo, hand sanitizer, tooth brushes, etc.) also can be donated. I will complete my final collection of donations of store gift cards and personal care items for Artemis House at the lunch.

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Questions? Contact

December Luncheon Chair

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## ***UPCOMING BRANCH MEETINGS***

### ***JANUARY PROGRAM***

Topic:           **The Future of Energy in Virginia**

Speaker:       Lisa Hicks-Thomas, Senior Policy Director, Dominion Energy

Location:       Vienna Community Center -- Southside Meeting Room  
                    120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna

Date/Time:      January 10, 2026 – 2:30pm  
                    Doors open to the public at 2:00pm  
                    **The program is free and open to the public.**

The energy topic is a focus of Governor-Elect Abigail Spanberger and has been a growing local concern with data centers overtaking nearby landscapes and creating noise, electricity costs rising, and the lack of support for cleaner energy options. **Please bring your friends if they want to know more about what lies ahead.**

### ***FEBRUARY PROGRAM -- Work in Progress***

### ***MARCH PROGRAM***

Topic:           **Liberty's Daughters: Virginia Women and the Revolution**

Location:       To be announced

Date/Time::     To be announced

The program will consist of a series of monologues describing events during the Revolution from the perspective of various Virginia women.

Program is jointly sponsored by the AAUW Vienna Area Branch and the Vienna VA 250 Committee.

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Questions? Contact Co-Vice Presidents, Programs

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## ***MEMBERSHIP***

We are so happy to welcome **two new members to our branch!** is new to AAUW altogether and has already participated in our Great Decisions group. has been a member of the Herndon-Reston Branch and decided to become a dual member with Vienna. We look forward to seeing them both at upcoming events and to have the opportunity for more of us to meet them. We appreciate having the support of these two new members.

Contact information for these new members will be added to the next update of the Vienna Area Branch Directory.

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Questions? Contact our Co-vice presidents for Membership

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## ***FOR THOSE WHO COULD NOT ATTEND***

**2025 Virginia Women's Conference -- Women Lead the Way**  
**George Mason University**  
**November 15, 2025**

### **Women Lead the Way - 2025 Virginia Women's Conference**

Four members of the Vienna Area Branch of AAUW, attended the Northern Virginia session of the Women's Conference, sponsored by Senator Mark Warner in Collaboration with George Mason University (GMU). It was a packed agenda, and a huge audience of women of all ages were involved and enthusiastic. There was a strong focus on diversity and community involvement. AAUW's Reston/Herndon Branch staffed one of many resource tables from local businesses and organizations. This conference was a great display of women making a difference from grassroot groups to those in prominent leadership roles.

The president of GMU welcomed the group and was followed by a panel of women in public service: Jennifer Foy, Barbara Comstock and Sonia Vasquez Lunez. Women in education were represented by Jamie Jones Miller from Northeastern University (Arlington Campus) and Shea Holman from the GMU Shar School of Policy and Government. Each brought her own experiences of the challenges they faced in leadership and specific ways they built support and community.

Among the multiple possibilities offered, our members chose to attend two breakout sessions: "Women in Power, The Butterfly Effect and a New Definition of Power and a discussion of women in the intelligence community. Click here to view a documentary on the first topic. <https://www.ironbutterflymedia.com/documentary> .

Founders and leaders of five grassroots organizations addressed the topic, “Women and Community: Inspiration to Impact.” The grassroots organizations, CAPAZ, Oakwood Arts, Latinos in Virginia Empowerment Center, Huddle Up Moms (perinatal health for vulnerable women), and Girls for a Change, described how they work to improve health, diverse accessibility to the arts, and improving black girl’s lives.

Back in the general session, Congresswoman Jennifer McClellan introduced Mark Warner. He warned about job losses in the future due to the introduction of artificial intelligence, and he stressed the need to be prepared. Warner stated, “. . . these are not normal times -- we must join together.”

The final and keynote speaker, Cynt Marshall, rose from the projects to leadership in AT&T and later was brought in as the CEO of the Dallas Mavericks to reform the organization after sex scandals almost sank it. Starting out with a pean to education, she gave an impassioned stand-up-and-shout speech that literally had the audience dancing in the aisles.

A day well spent in the company of like-minded women. Consider attending next year.

## ***SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS***

### ***Tuesday Morning Book Group***

Group Coordinator:

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, December 9, 2026, 10:00am**

**Where:** Home of

Please let      know if you will be attending. She also will lead the discussion

**Book:** Collected Stories of Eudora Welty.

Kristin selected three stories and provided links to two of them.      found the third and prepared a Word document of it. See below.

"Death of a Traveling Salesman" <https://biblioklept.org/2018/03/16/read-eudora-weltys-short-story-the-death-of-a-traveling-salesman/>

"The Hitch-Hikers" <https://writingatlas.com/story/1396/eudora-welty-the-hitch-hikers/>

“No Place for You, My Love” (This document was sent to all group members by on Thursday, November 13.)

**Reading Ahead?** Book for January 21, 2026 will be “The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde” by Robert L. Stevenson.

### **Brown Bag Lit Group**

Group Coordinator:

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

**There will be no meeting in December.**

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 1:00 – 3:00pm**

**Where:** Home of

Please let know if you will be attending.

**Book: *Becoming Madame Secretary* by Stephanie Dray**

“Raised on tales of her revolutionary ancestors, Frances Perkins arrives in New York City at the turn of the century, armed with her trusty parasol and an unyielding determination to make a difference. When she's not working with children in the crowded tenements in Hell's Kitchen, Frances throws herself into the social scene in Greenwich Village, befriending an eclectic group of politicians, artists, and activists . . . . “

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

Group Coordinator:

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

**There will be no meeting in December.**

**Next Meeting: Monday, January 12, 2026 7:00pm**

**Where:** To be determined

**Book: *Coming up Short* by Robert Rauch**

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

Group Coordinator:

**There will be no Great Decisions meeting in 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 meet on Sunday, January 18, 2026**, since the third Sunday is our usual meeting date.

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: Second Tuesday of the month starting in January 2026. No meetings in July or August. Please contact \_\_\_\_\_ to be included on the distribution list.

**The group will not meet in December and starting in January 2026, the normal meeting will occur on the second Tuesday of each month.**

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. . .***

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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