

# *The Sandscript*

The Newsletter for the Virginia Beach Branch  
the American Association of University Women

April 2025

Join us for our next meeting:  
(Visitors welcomed!)

Saturday, April 12, 2-4pm

Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital,  
1060 First Colonial Road, 23454

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE MOVED OUR MEETING UP ONE WEEK THIS MONTH  
SO IT DOES NOT INTERFERE WITH EASTER WEEKEND

*It's Our Birthday!*

AAUW Virginia has been working on behalf of our fair state's women and girls for **100 years!**

All of you have been part of that effort! Join your AAUW sisters at our April 19 Branch meeting to recognize our combined efforts toward furthering equitable rights for women and girls in areas such as equal pay, education, and secure healthcare. You have made a difference and deserve cake, as well as hugs and congratulatory pats on the back.



Don't miss this opportunity to immerse yourself in the energy of shared goals and like minds. Five members of our Branch attended the State Conference on March 29. We'll hear their reports on the excellent speakers and various conversations about the future of AAUW. In addition to hearing about the goals of our earnest and forward-looking organization, we'll have cake and ice cream, and a game with prizes. Who can resist that?!

## **Message from Co-Presidents**

On March 28, 2025, AAUW of Virginia members from across the state gathered in Alexandria to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of AAUW of Virginia. Alexandria's town crier opened the conference by reading out a list of the accomplishments of AAUW over the years. We heard words of encouragement from the Mayor of Alexandria and Representative Jennifer McClellan. We have been asked to educate ourselves and make our voices heard.

Several branches shared stories of how their mini-grants helped advance the mission of AAUW while promoting AAUW in the community. Also, we learned about the struggles Title IX is facing and the work being done to save the protections it offers.

After lunch, we heard the story of how the residents of Alexandria fought to ensure that the library was free, equal, and accessible to all and how librarians are fighting back against censorship and book banning. In celebration of the accomplishments of women, a speaker from the National Inventors Hall of Fame spoke about the women who have been included in the museum. Stop by the museum on your next trip to Alexandria.

The conference was closed with the reading of a poem written by Zeina Azzam in celebration of AAUW of Virginia's centennial year.

Please join us at our next meeting to hear the stories of the other members who attended the conference.

Jeanette Olson  
Maria Kronenburg  
Co-Presidents

# Souvenirs from the State Conference

## 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 that 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

## Untitled Poem

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.

Copyright: Zeina Azzam, March 2025  
City of Alexandria Poet Laureate





## COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 574

### Commending the Virginia chapter of the American Association of University Women

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 10, 2025  
Agreed to by the Senate, February 13, 2025

WHEREAS, the Virginia chapter of the American Association of University Women, an organization dedicated to advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research, celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2025; and

WHEREAS, on March 27-28, 1925, members from seven different branches of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in the Commonwealth met in Williamsburg to establish a Virginia chapter of the organization; and

WHEREAS, in the beginning, AAUW-Virginia was mostly composed of educators who were resolved to work for an increase in funds for state-supported schools and a program for preschool children; and

WHEREAS, in the 1930s, AAUW-Virginia worked to improve school curricula, promoted teacher training, fought for equal salaries for men and women teachers, and supported overturning the discriminatory ruling against married women teaching in public schools; and

WHEREAS, in the 1940s, the number of local branches of the AAUW in the Commonwealth grew, and the members of AAUW-Virginia worked around travel restrictions from World War II as they supported the national organization in its efforts to help women in Axis and occupied nations escape to safety and advocated for women's right to participate in jury duty; and

WHEREAS, in the 1950s, when some schools were closed following federal court orders, several AAUW branches in the Commonwealth established tutoring groups, laying the groundwork for the organization's firm and courageous stand for the preservation of a statewide system of free public schools; and

WHEREAS, in the 1960s, AAUW-Virginia worked for compulsory school attendance and advanced the organization's efforts to protect and improve the legal status of women; and

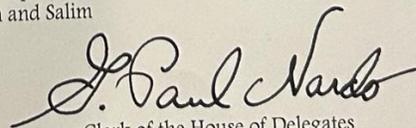
WHEREAS, since the 1970s, AAUW-Virginia has supported a number of causes in its fight for gender equality, including the Equal Rights Amendment and the admission of women into the Virginia Military Institute; and

WHEREAS, as it embarks upon its next century, AAUW-Virginia remains steadfastly committed to its aim to advance equity for women and girls in higher education and to promote women's economic empowerment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Virginia chapter of the American Association of University Women on the occasion of its 100th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Virginia chapter of the American Association of University Women as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the organization's history and legacy of service.

House Patrons: Bennett-Parker, Herring, Lopez, Maldonado, and Rasoul  
Senate Patrons: Ebbin and Salim

  
Clerk of the House of Delegates

## **Are you feeling overwhelmed? AAUW Making a Difference**

Many of us have become discouraged by recent events which seem to move our country back in time. DEI, education, health care, and even Social Security do not seem to be secure anymore. AAUW is NOT a political group. However, it IS an organization which fights for issues that affect women. Without our foremothers, women would not be allowed in college—much less play sports. We would not have the right to vote or have credit cards or ... well, many things that we take for granted today.

Now, some things that we were taking for granted seem to be in peril. Roe v Wade seems to be fading. New efforts to restrict voting are being discussed. And, our public education system has lost its status in the Federal Government. DEI initiatives are now a cause to lose federal funding!

Our National organization has put out papers in defense of voting rights, public education and the like. However, branches seem to be quiet. Well, I hope that the last statement is no longer true! Maria, Kathleen, Sandra and I attended a meeting of leaders in the League of Women Voters and Delta Sigma Theta sorority on March 30. The purpose of this meeting was to explore how women's voices could again be a force for good in the world. Our three organizations all have public policy statements in favor of DEI, voting and health care. How can we work together to amplify our voices?

We came up with some ideas concerning effective ways to communicate with our elected leaders. We talked about how to keep informed of pertinent legislation (and got some good ideas). And, we decided that letting CEOs know of our support of DEI might make a difference in their policies.

Of course, we need our members to stand up to this task. We'll talk about how to do this at our next meeting. Let us be the change-makers that our foremothers were! COME TO OUR MEETINGS TO GET IDEAS AND INSPIRATION!  
Sally Daniel

## **We're Happy That You Were Born!!!! Here Is Our April Birthday**

◇ **Herta Okonkwo. 4/1**

## **Book Club Meetings:**

Adelante Book Club: Adelante Book Club, so named by National, has been active in our Branch for about eight years. The club meets every other month to discuss books written by women focusing on women's experiences in all walks of life in many different cultures. Past books, for example, have been translated from Egyptian, Hungarian and French and detail plights both familiar and foreign.

A fair number of American authors and U.S. settings have been represented, also.

Meetings are held in members' homes the third (usually) Monday of the month from 7 -9.

The book for the May 19 is *Wild Dark Shore* by Charlotte McConaghy

The book for July 28 is *Boat Baby: A Memoir* by Vicky Nguyen

Literary Lunchers: April 8, *The Rediscovery of America: Native Peoples and the Unmaking of America* by Blackhawk, Ned. Contact Daisy or Alice for details.

## **Membership Renewals**

We currently have 39 active members.

With the new "rolling enrollment" period, some of us don't know when our membership is about to expire. Luckily, we have Trusty Tammie to keep us up-to-date. Thanks, Tammie!

Speaking of rolling membership renewals, the following folks need to renew (please!)

January 31      Emily Dreyfus

April 30        Caroline Campbell

Expired: (we're sorry to see them go!). Brita Hampton and Staci Martin

Dues are \$101 or \$18.81 for Student. You can renew online or through Tammie. If you want Tammie to process your renewal, mail a check (payable to AAUW Virginia Beach) to 1010 Barnacle Court, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

# Slate of Officers Offered by Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee: Barbara Woodlee and Sally Daniel

President	Sally Daniel
Vice President	Dana Henning
V.P. Membership	Maria Kronenburg & Jeanette Olson
Secretary	Kathleen Stasulis

These officers, if elected, will join these officers who remain on the Board

V.P. of Programs	Carole Szetela
Finance Officer	Tammie Mullins

Voting on the new Board will be at April's meeting. **We need a quorum at that meeting so make arrangements to be there—April 12.**

Look on the last page of the Sandscript to see all of the appointed positions that will need to be filled. Many hands make light work. Contact Sally if you are willing to give a little time to one of our activities

Consider:

Hospitality (you arrange snacks for the meetings!)

AAUW Funds Chair (fun ways we can raise money)

Newsletter editor (you'll be the first to know what's going on!)

REACH liaison (getting the books to Chris Medlin)

Social Event Planner

Public Policy Team

What else do you want to do?

# **Linda Todd Scholarship**

## **Deadline is Approaching!!**

We generally give 2 \$1000 scholarships. Spread the word!

Here are the guidelines (more information on our website)

1. Resident of Virginia Beach
2. At least 23 years of age or older
3. Be currently enrolled in an undergraduate program in Hampton Roads and have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours at an accredited two- or four-year institution (this does not include accredited career colleges)
4. Have returned to school after a lapse of time
5. Have a G.P.A. of 2.75 or greater.

### **SCHOLARSHIP INSTRUCTIONS—READ CAREFULLY**

**1. All information submitted online or via the application form must be typed or printed.**

**2. The following information must be included:**

**\*Latest official transcript** that includes **all** grades from college/university

**\*Two letters of recommendation:**

**One** from a teacher; **One** from one of the following: Counselor, employer, or clergy

**\*Personal evaluation-** Provide in one page or less, information concerning career goals and any special circumstances or information that the scholarship committee should consider. Include any extra curricular activities (i.e., student government, awards, publications, clubs, associations, or community service).

### **MAIL ALL INFORMATION TO LOCAL BRANCH CONTACT:**

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AAUW Virginia Beach Scholarship Committee  
1152 Treefern Drive  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

*Materials (including transcript & recommendations must be postmarked on or before April 15, 202*

What's Next?

MAY  
17  
2 TO 4PM

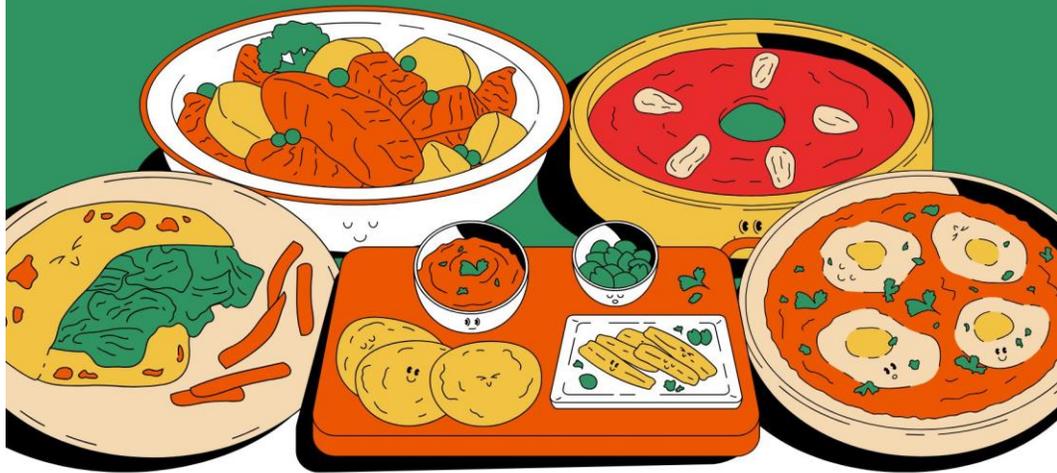
AAUW VIRGINIA  
BEACH BRANCH  
ANNUAL SPRING

# POTLUCK

BRING A DISH TO SHARE!

FOOD & DRINK  
SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER  
SENTARA VIRGINIA BEACH  
GENERAL HOSPITAL



RSVP Through [SignUp Genius](#)

# Virginia Beach Branch Board

2024-2025

## Officers, Elected Positions

Co-President	Jeanette Olson	<a href="mailto:olsonej@verizon.net">olsonej@verizon.net</a>	757-663-527
Co-President	Maria Kronenberg	<a href="mailto:makronstats@gmail.com">makronstats@gmail.com</a>	757-650-7112
VP--Membership			
VP—Programs	Carole Szetela	<a href="mailto:karolka@verizon.net">karolka@verizon.net</a>	757-681-4191
Secretary	Kathleen Stasulis	<a href="mailto:stasuliss@hotmail.com">stasuliss@hotmail.com</a>	757-576-5485
Finance Officer	Tammie Mullins-Rice	<a href="mailto:tammieaauw@gmail.com">tammieaauw@gmail.com</a>	757-630-7097

## Other Important Positions

AAUW Funds	Carole Szetela	<a href="mailto:karolka@verizon.net">karolka@verizon.net</a>	757-681-4191
By-Laws Chair			
College-University Liaison	Barbara Woodlee	<a href="mailto:barbarawoodlee@gmail.com">barbarawoodlee@gmail.com</a>	207-649-9711
	Sally Daniel	<a href="mailto:swdaniel01@gmail.com">swdaniel01@gmail.com</a>	757-495-4349
REACH Liaison	Chris Medlin	Cmedlin8491	757-361-5826
Fund-raising			
DEI	Maria Kronenberg	<a href="mailto:makronstats@gmail.com">makronstats@gmail.com</a>	757-650-7112
Newsletter	Sally Daniel	<a href="mailto:Swdaniel01@gmail.com">Swdaniel01@gmail.com</a>	757-495-4349
	Marissa Rice	<a href="mailto:Mr686@cornell.edu">Mr686@cornell.edu</a>	757-636-9136
Social Media	Tammie Mullins-Rice	<a href="mailto:tammieaauw@gmail.com">tammieaauw@gmail.com</a>	757-630-7097
Hospitality	Sally Daniel	<a href="mailto:Swdaniel01@gmail.com">Swdaniel01@gmail.com</a>	757-495-4349
Adalante Bookclub	Barbara Paige	<a href="mailto:bpaigebateman@gmail.com">bpaigebateman@gmail.com</a>	757-481-0580
Literary Lunchers	Chris Medlin	Cmedlin8491	757-361-5826
Public Policy	Sandra Brandt	<a href="mailto:brandt@theelectivegroup.com">brandt@theelectivegroup.com</a>	757-467-0422
	Barbara Woodlee	<a href="mailto:barbarawoodlee@gmail.com">barbarawoodlee@gmail.com</a>	207-649-9711
Scholarships	Linda Love	<a href="mailto:loveshacklj@hotmail.com">loveshacklj@hotmail.com</a>	757-575-4555
Movie Sisters (Zoom)	Marissa Rice	<a href="mailto:Mr868@cornell.edu">Mr868@cornell.edu</a>	757-636-9136
Movie Sisters (in person)	Kathleen Stasulis	<a href="mailto:stasuliss@hotmail.com">stasuliss@hotmail.com</a>	757-576-5485
Pennies for Prescriptions	Toni Lohman	<a href="mailto:tlohman@verizon.net">tlohman@verizon.net</a>	757-463-1135