



WORDS TO THE WISE²

WOMEN IN SEARCH OF EDUCATION AND EQUITY

Volume 28, Issue 8

May, 2024



Winchester (VA) Branch

MISSION

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

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<http://winchester-va.aauw.net/>

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Play Fundraiser

The Spitfire Grill

Winchester Little Theatre
315 West Boscawen Street
Winchester, Virginia

Wednesday May 8, 2024, 8:00 p.m.
Tickets \$25.00

Our spring theatre event will be a fundraiser for two of our local scholarships: the Mary Miller Froehlich Memorial Scholarship and the NCCWSL scholarship for a Shenandoah University student to attend the conference.

The Board urges each member to be responsible for selling (2) tickets – ask your friends and relatives as this is always a fun evening.

We will serve wine and light refreshments at intermission. To contribute contact Marsha Gochenour. See flyer on page 6 for further details.

Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Zoom 6 p.m.

All members are invited to attend.

(Contact Marsha Gochenour for Zoom details.)

May Meeting

Presenter: Carolyn Thome

Saturday, May 18, 2024
10:00 a.m.

Handley Library Auditorium
100 West Piccadilly Street
Winchester, Virginia

From 3D to 2D

Journey from
Model Maker to Photographer

Join AAUW in welcoming Carolyn Thome, Photographer, Artist, Model Maker, Mushroom Hunter just to name a few of her interests. She will share her journey that started with a camera at 10 years old, to the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, to the film industry in Los Angeles, to the depths of the behind the scenes in the Smithsonian, to Museums in Mongolia and Africa and all over the world, to 3D printing and bringing to life what many think of as a small bit of the forest easily overlooked to a work of art worthy to be hung in an art gallery and admired. Bring a friend and enjoy the presentation for the last meeting of our program year.

You may check out Carolyn on Instagram at Carolyn_Thome.

Elections

An election for the following positions was held and approved at the April 20 meeting:

Vice President for Membership:

Laurie Gaulke

Treasurer:

Marsha Gochenour

Appointed Positions:

Mary Anne Graham has agreed to become our *Northwest District Representative*.

Julie Sayre is now our *Recording Secretary*.

Treasurer's Report



Marsha Gochenour

As of April 23, 2024:

\$315.49	Checking
25.00	Woman of the Year
164.87	AAUW Funds
477.74	NCCWSL, AAUW@SU
0.00	Dr. Amy@SU
4,000.00	CD, 1-year
2,818.27	Froehlich Memorial Scholarship (local)
<u>2,211.46</u>	General Savings
\$10,012.83	Total

April Receipts: Dues \$1,590.00 (Orndoff and National), AAUW Funds \$150.00, Spring WLT \$525.00

April Disbursements: Dues \$1,463.00, NCCWSL \$565.00, Fall WLT \$250.00

Dues Renewal

Marsha Gochenour

Notices have been sent out concerning paying your dues.

Please do so soon before it is forgotten!

Membership

Laurie Gaulke

Chris Oxford and I 'woman-ed' our AAUW table at the spring Winchester Visitor's Center Welcome event on April 4. We were a group of around 8 local community organizations welcoming those who have moved to the area. I've reached out to those who expressed interest and included our most updated newsletter. I am continuing to follow up to get together for coffee this spring.

Member News

An article in the April 24, 2024, issue of *The Winchester Star* reported about a recent art exhibition held at Laurel Ridge Community College. 'Arte Libre VA launched in October 2019 to ensure that local children and young adults of color have equal access to the arts regardless of financial or geographical barriers.' Founder **Abi Gomez** and board president **Mady Rodriguez** explained the concept of providing free opportunities for all to experience the art world and let them know that their efforts have value and worth.

We welcome **Eydie Orndoff** as our newest member. She is a graduate of Randolph Macon Woman's College and is interested in art and antiques. As the daughter of **Betty Orndoff**, Eydie will continue the legacy of her parents with the Orndoff Scholarship for the Performing Arts at Shenandoah University. We look forward to seeing Eydie often at our events.

CLEO

(Classy Ladies Eating Out)

Marsha Gochenour

Monday, 6:00 p.m.

June 3, 2024

50/50 Taphouse
29 West Cork Street
Winchester, Virginia



Ladies,

May CLEO will be on Monday, June 3, 6:00 pm 50/50 Taphouse, 29 West Cork Street.

Yes, you saw that right, May CLEO in June. The 4th Monday in May is Memorial Day and we decided not to meet then. We pushed dinner to the following Monday. Hope to see you then!

Marsha

Call Marsha (533-8069) if you plan to attend so she will have a head count.

Evening Book Group

Marsha Gochenour

The Book Group will meet during the summer at the homes of some of our members. Selections and locations for the summer are listed below with a short synopsis. Other books through January follow.

Monday

May 20, 2024

Potluck 6:00 p.m.

Home of Theresa
Merkel



A Long Petal of the Sea: A Novel
by Isabel Allende

A gorgeously devastating tale of the immigrant experience housed in the historical context of the Spanish Civil War. In the late 1930s, civil war grips Spain. When General Franco and his Fascists succeed in overthrowing the government, hundreds of thousands are forced to flee in a treacherous journey

over the mountains to the French border. Among them is Roser, a pregnant young widow, who finds her life intertwined with that of Victor Dalmau, an army doctor and the brother of her deceased love. In order to survive, the two must unite in a marriage neither of them desires. Together with two thousand other refugees, Roser and Victor embark on the SS Winnipeg, a ship chartered by the poet Pablo Neruda, to Chile: "the long petal of sea and wine and snow." As unlikely partners, the couple embraces exile as the rest of Europe erupts in world war. Starting over on a new continent, they face trial after trial, but they will also find joy as they patiently await the day when they might go home. Through it all, their hope of returning to Spain keeps them going. Destined to witness the battle between freedom and repression as it plays out across the world, Roser and Victor will find that home might have been closer than they thought all along.

Monday

June 17, 2024

Potluck 6:00 p.m.

Home of Marsha Gochenour

The Dictionary of Lost Words

by Pip Williams

Esme is born into a world of words. Motherless and irrepressibly curious, she spends her childhood in the Scriptorium, an Oxford garden shed in which her father and a team of dedicated lexicographers are collecting words for the very first Oxford English Dictionary. Young Esme's place is beneath the sorting table, unseen and unheard. One day a slip of paper containing the word "bondmaid" flutters beneath the table. She rescues the slip and, learning that the word means "slave girl," begins to collect other words that have been discarded or neglected by the dictionary men. As she grows up, Esme realizes that words and meanings relating to women's and common folks' experiences often go unrecorded. And so she begins in earnest to search out words for her own

dictionary: the Dictionary of Lost Words. To do so she must leave the sheltered world of the university and venture out to meet the people whose words will fill those pages.

Monday

July 15, 2024

Potluck 6:00 p.m.

Home of Sherry Lloyd

Indigo Girl

by Natasha Boyd

Based on historical documents, this is a historical fiction account of how a teenage girl produced indigo dye, which became one of the largest exports out of South Carolina, an export that laid the foundation for the incredible wealth of Southern families who still live on today. Although largely overlooked by historians, the accomplishments of Eliza Lucas influenced the course of U.S. history. George Washington served as a pall bearer at her funeral.

Monday

August 19, 2024

Potluck 6:00 p.m.

Home of Julie Sayre

Dinners with Ruth

by Nina Totenberg

This book is an extraordinary account of two women who paved the way for future generations by tearing down professional and legal barriers. It is also an intimate memoir of the power of friendships as women began to pry open career doors and transform the workplace. At the story's heart is one, special relationship: Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Nina Totenberg saw each other not only through personal joys, but also illness, loss, and widowhood.



2024 Winchester AAUW Book Group Selections and Locations

* May 20. Theresa Merkel.

A Long Petal of the Sea by

Isabel Allende

* June 17. Marsha Gochenour.

The Dictionary of Lost Words by

Pip Williams

* July 15. Sherry Lloyd.

Indigo Girl by Natasha Boyd

* Aug 19. Julie Sayre.

Dinners with Ruth by Nina

Totenberg

* Sept 16. Amy Fielder & Ann

Poling.

Lady Tan's Circle of Women by

Lisa See

* Oct 21. TBD.

I Know Why the Caged Bird

Sings by Maya Angelou

* Nov 18. Zoom.

I Swear Politics is Messier Than

my Minivan by Katie Porter

* Dec – no meeting

* Jan 20. Zoom.

Necessary Trouble: Growing up

Mid-Century by Drew Gilpin

Faust

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Becki Bronson

Planning continues for the women's health forum to be held this fall in conjunction with the Winchester NAACP, Winchester Red Cross, and Laurel Ridge nursing programs. Currently booths are planned for the Juneteenth event at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley on June 16 and at the Douglass Community Center Day, date forthcoming.

AAUW Adventures

Becki Bronson

Several members attended Sarah McCown's dissertation recital at Shenandoah University. Sara was the 2022 Orndorff Scholarship recipient and NCCWSL attendee. Her dissertation examined woodwind doubling in musical theater performance. Congratulations on your remarkable achievement Sarah!

Did You Know?

Sherry Lloyd

We will celebrate Mother's Day on May 12th, 2024. It is an official holiday celebrating motherhood and the accomplishments of women. This is also a day that took many years and a lot of dedication to establish.



How are West Virginia, Wanamaker's, abolitionists, suffragettes, Union and Confederate soldiers, President Woodrow Wilson, and Anna Jarvis all related to the history of Mother's Day?

In the 19th century Ann Maria Reeves Jarvis of West Virginia started "Mother's Day Work Clubs" to help women learn how to take care of their children. In 1868, she also organized "Mother's Friendship Day". During this time mothers got together with former soldiers from the Union and the Confederacy to help the men reconcile. Julia Ward Howe (an abolitionist and suffragette) wrote a "Mother's Day Proclamation" calling mothers together every June 2nd to promote world peace. Juliet Blakely (a temperance activist) inspired a local

Mother's Day in Michigan. Mary T. Sasseen and Frank Herring worked to organize Mother's Day in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. John Wanamaker provided financial aid and sponsored a Mother's Day event in 1907 in one of his Philadelphia retail stores. Anna Jarvis, daughter of Ann Jarvis, organized a celebration on the same day in Grafton, West Virginia, at the Methodist Church to honor her mother's lifetime of activism. These events were successful and repeated in 1908. Jarvis wanted this day to be added to the national calendar. She utilized letter writing and talking to prominent politicians to get the message out that American holidays at that time were focused on male accomplishments. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill making it official that the second Sunday in May would be celebrated as Mother's Day. By 1920, Anna Jarvis-unmarried and childless-was working in the floral industry and became upset with the fact that the holiday that she wanted to honor her mother had become so commercialized. She tried to have it removed but was unsuccessful. Mother's Day continues to be celebrated today in the United States and around the world. Ann Maria Reeves Jarvis and Anna Jarvis receive credit for their dedication to women and the establishment of this treasured holiday.

Happy Mother's Day!

Sources: <https://nationalwomenhistory.org/resources>, <https://www.almanac.com/content/history-mothers-day>, and <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays>.

2024 Woman of the Year Thank You

Theresa Merkel

This is a note from Shelly Lee, our 2024 Woman of the Year. Not only did she send a thoughtful note, she also included a check for \$150 for the Named Honoree Fund in honor of Marsha Gochenour.

Dear Theresa and Members of AAUW,

Thank you, thank you for honoring me as your club's choice of WOY for the Winchester Branch of AAUW I'm still floating on cloud 9 from all the kind and generous compliments.

It is very humbling to be chosen along with the truly amazing women you chose before me as WOY!

I appreciate, Theresa and Pat, and all of you, who went above and beyond with the invitations, award, reception, flowers and your time and support to honor me.

The wonderful memory I have of that evening I will always treasure. I plan on being involved with some of your events and activities.

Thank you for the honor!

*With Sincere Appreciation
Shelly Lee*



Call for Volunteers

Athena Michael

Winchester Little Libraries is looking for volunteers to help *steward* our 13 Little Libraries that are part of Matt Peterson's JW2 grant that is part of the community-wide campaign for grade level reading. In the past, AAUW has been a strong supporter of community literacy.

We received an email from Susan Policastro asking for our assistance:

My name is Susan Policastro and I am the Coordinator of Volunteers for Winchester Little Libraries. Co-Chair Athena Michael thought your organization might be a good fit for our current volunteer need. At this time, we have 13 little libraries around town (see map attached), that are supplied and maintained through a collaboration with the city, LVWA, and community volunteers.

Athena has asked me to help with recruiting some new stewards for our little libraries. Our hope is that, with more people on our team, everyone's commitment will be minimal. Volunteers are not responsible for any maintenance, and we have access to a good supply of books for replenishing the libraries (although new sources are always appreciated.) All that would be asked is that stewards check on the assigned library at least once a month, organize and straighten books, re-stock, and report any maintenance needs. (We have a very convenient link to report issues).

We plan to have a fun gathering soon to thank our current volunteers and would love to also include and introduce new volunteers! If you know of anyone you think would be interested in joining our team, please share my contact information and/or send me theirs and I would be happy to reach out.

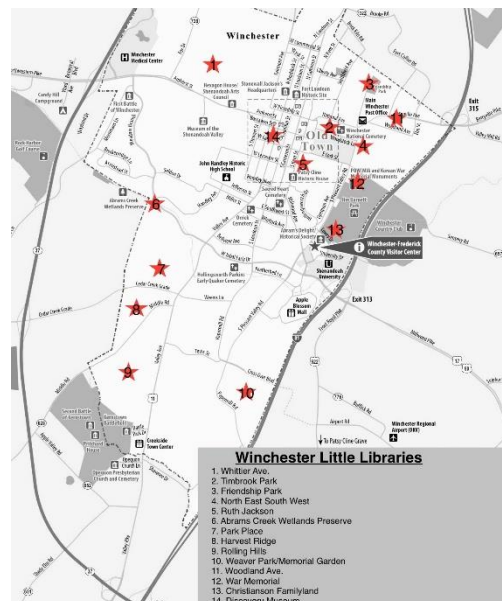
Please call, text, or email if you have any questions.

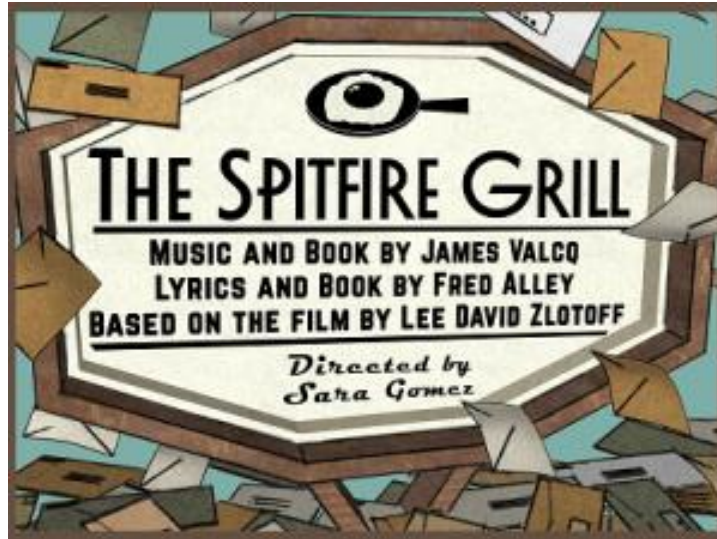
Thank you,

Susan Policastro

susanpolic@gmail.com

513-325-7107





A heartwarming and inspirational musical tale of redemption, perseverance and family. Set in a small Wisconsin town and full of soulful, engaging music, it depicts the journey of a young woman looking for a second chance, and the multidimensional townspeople who end up embarking on a journey of their own. Based on the hit 1996 film.

Sponsor:

**American Association of University Women, Winchester Branch
Shenandoah University Scholarships**

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

8:00 p.m. \$25.00 tickets

Winchester Little Theatre, 315 West Boscawen Street

Light Refreshments at Intermission

Contact Marsha Gochenour for reservations

540-533-8069 OR mgochen@yahoo.com

[Mail check for tickets or donation to:](#)

[AAUW-Winchester Branch, c/o Marsha Gochenour](#)

[201 Crest Circle, Winchester, VA 22602](#)

CALENDAR

- | | |
|--------|---|
| May 8 | Fundraiser <i>The Spitfire Grill</i> , Winchester Little Theatre, 8 p.m. |
| May 18 | Branch Meeting, Carolyn Thome, Handley Library Auditorium, 10 a.m. |
| May 20 | Book Group, <i>A Long Petal of the Sea</i> , home of Theresa Merkel, 6 p.m. |
| May 22 | Board Meeting via Zoom, 6 p.m. |
| June 6 | CLEO, 50/50 Taphouse, 29 West Cork Street, 6 p.m. |

April 20 Program

The Winchester Branch of AAUW provides funds for scholarships and awards for Shenandoah University students. At our April 20, 2024, Annual Business meeting, three recipients were able to attend and share some information about themselves and what these funds have meant to them. We were all impressed by their overall confidence and commitment to their continuing education.

Camberlin Barnes: Fall 2023 Mary Froehlich Scholarship
Marisol Rodriguez: Spring 2023 Mary Froehlich Scholarship
Jamilla Gault: NCCWSL 2024



April 20, 2024 Annual Branch Meeting
Theresa Merkel, Cami Barnes, Marsha Gochenour, Marisol Rodriguez, and Jamilla Gault



Hello friends,

I hope this finds you well. It's almost time to vote in not one but two upcoming AAUW elections.

For AAUW-VA, please take a few moments to review the **Voter Guide** that is attached. This document will help you make informed decisions when voting for open state officer positions and for our Public Policy Priorities. Those ballots will hit your email box in May.

The other election is on the AAUW National Bylaws proposed change. April 3 is when voting begins on that. As members of AAUW, your input is important and valued, and we urge you to participate in this important process.

Thank you for all you do,

Lane Stone, AAUW-VA President
Dr. Sarita Gregory, AAUW-VA Administrator

[CLICK HERE](#)
To open your copy of AAUW-VA
Vision Special Edition 2024
Voter Guide

From AAUW National

2023 Year in Review

1. **47K+ Messages Sent** – AAUW’s Two-Minute Activist network sent more than 47,000 messages to elected officials.
2. **40K+ Donors** – More than 40,000 members and thousands of donors supported AAUW – including nearly 450 college and university members and over 700 branches across the country.
3. **4-Star Rating** – AAUW earned 4-stars, Charity Navigator’s highest rating, recognizing our commitment to best practices and industry standards in accountability, finance, culture, and community.
4. **4.2K People Trained** – AAUW’s salary negotiation and financial literacy trainings continued to be AAUW’s most sought-after programs, reaching 4,227 people in 2023, and 197,679 people to date.
5. **NCCWSL Returned** – AAUW successfully brought back in-person the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, featuring 500 students from 170 campuses, 50 sessions, and notable speakers.
6. **4.7 Million Views** – AAUW’s message of activism and advocacy for equity for all received nearly 4.7 million views across Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and X (formerly Twitter).
7. **150+ Hill Offices Visited** – AAUW’s tireless Lobby Corps resumed visits to Capitol Hill, visiting more than 150 congressional offices to advocate for legislation that uplifts and advances women’s equity and access to opportunity.
8. **135 Years of Fellowships** – We celebrated the 135th anniversary of AAUW’s pioneering American Fellowships Program – our largest fellowship program and the oldest non-institutional source of graduate funding for women in the U.S.
9. **\$6.1 Million Awarded** – AAUW awarded \$6.1 million in fellowships and grants to 277 awardees, maintaining our leadership as the nation’s largest non-institutional funder of women’s graduate-level education.

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