



WORDS TO THE WISE²

WOMEN IN SEARCH OF EDUCATION AND EQUITY

Volume 29, Issue 4

December, 2024 – January, 2025

December Meeting

300 Children's Books in Spanish: A Multi-Organization Project

Saturday

December 14, 2024

12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

NOTE CHANGE IN TIME!

Bowman Library

871 Tasker Road

Stephens City, Virginia

Please note the change in time for this end-of-year meeting: 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m., at Bowman Library in Stephens City.

You are invited to join us for a very special program that will showcase a collaboration among Winchester AAUW and several local organizations. 2025 is the 100th year anniversary of the Virginia AAUW, and, in keeping with the theme of One Hundred, our branch planned to donate 100 children's books in Spanish to [Winchester Little Libraries](#). Board members agreed at the August 21 meeting that our branch would support the local Little Libraries organization by donating 100 children's books in Spanish to be placed in neighborhood libraries. Rosemary Green contacted the [HJH](#)

[Libraries for All Foundation](#) to request 100 children's books in Spanish. The Foundation responded immediately and donated - not 100 books - but 300 books! Our program speakers will be Allie Mondell, interim director of Winchester Literacy Volunteers <https://lvwa.org/> and representative for Winchester Little Libraries <https://lvwa.org/winchester-little-libraries/>, Ori Largent, representative for Leyendo Juntos <https://lvwa.org/family-literacy-in-the-community/leyendo-juntos/>, Pat Kadel, president of the Winchester Branch of AAUW, and Rosemary Green, board member [HJH Libraries for All Foundation](#).

Note the time for this program Saturday, December 14 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Bowman Library in Stephens City

January Meeting Northwest District Meeting

Shenandoah Valley Scholars Latino Initiative Inc.

Saturday

January 11, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Zoom

The AAUW Winchester Branch is so excited to have the District Meeting highlight the philanthropic mission of the Shenandoah Valley Scholars Latino Initiative Inc. (SLI). With programs in Harrisonburg,



Winchester (VA) Branch

MISSION

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

Winchester, Virginia, Branch

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

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Board Meeting

Wednesday January 8, 2025

Zoom 6 p.m.

All members are invited to attend.

(Contact Marsha Gochenour for Zoom details.)

Richmond, and Winchester, Virginia, the mission of Scholars Latino Initiative (SLI) is to support Latino/a/x high school students with college access through rigorous academic challenge, leadership development, scholarships, and supportive mentorships. Through collaborations with university and high school staff, faculty, and students, the Scholars Latino Initiative provides college access opportunities throughout high school. In addition, its scholars can become eligible for college dual enrollment and AP course tuition assistance while in high school, and Scholars Latino Initiative scholarships and technology grants for college success.

This presentation will include Christopher Clymer Kurtz [from](#) SLI as well as several students who are recipients of mentoring and college funds.

You may read more information in advance about SLI by using these websites:

Website: <https://vasli.org/>

Testimonials: <https://vasli.org/somos>

As a follow-up, you will be encouraged to attend the initiation for freshman to this program at the same time the senior graduates are honored. There are several high schools where this event takes place. Dates and times will be provided later. We are eager for you to hear about and possibly participate in this organization in the future.

Following the SLI presentation, the Northwest District Meeting will be held.

Mary Anne Graham, Northwest District Representative

Tess Thome, Program Co-Chair

Theresa M. Merkel, Program Co-Chair

February Meeting SAVE THE DATE

Saturday

February 8, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Orrick Chapel

5310 Mulberry Street

Stephens City, Virginia

Brenda Nelson will present her research, which culminated in a book about Robert Orrick, a Winchester native. Robert Orrick was an entrepreneur, a significant influence in the black community and a very generous donor. Orrick donated the funds for the black cemetery on Valley Avenue and Orrick Chapel in Stephens City. It is at the latter site that our February meeting will be held. Carpooling can be arranged. Just let Tess or Theresa know that you want to arrange a ride.

In preparation for the meeting, you will find this article from the Winchester Star about Orrick very informative:

https://www.winchesterstar.com/winchester_star/winchester-slave-turned-entrepreneur-honored-with-historic-marker/article_9d982e0a-b1b3-59ea-a2e5-a026ab823fbc.html

President's Message

Pat Kadel

Happy Holidays!

Each year, it seems as if I'm putting away my summer clothes, I blink, and it's "the holiday season". That seems especially true this year since less than two weeks ago we were wearing shorts and t-shirts and running the air conditioning. It's now upon us. Most of us are still full from a Thanksgiving meal and frantically trying to get everything ready for the next big celebration.

I believe that one of the best parts of the holiday season is seeing all the different ways people celebrate.

Whether they celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, Yule, or just the break from work and school, there are many shared traditions, old and new. For some, it's a huge dinner with extended family and friends. Most of us have special decorations, especially using lights, as well as special music and games. There are those who place importance on baking cookies and desserts to share with the neighbors. Some go to religious services while others give back to the less fortunate by volunteering. Most give and receive gifts, especially children. The point is that everyone's celebration might look different, but they all share the spirit of thankfulness, reflection and resolution, giving to others, and bringing light into the world.

It's easy to forget what we're celebrating among all the baking, gift wrapping, shopping and decorating, but all it takes is a few kind words to remind you that this season is about so much more. I thought I might share a few quotes that I stole from the December 2023 issue of Good Housekeeping Magazine to help you maintain the true holiday spirit (and find the time to attend a very special program we have planned for the afternoon of December 14).

(Note: Some of these specify Christmas but are applicable to all celebrations, whether religious or secular.)

Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.

Hamilton Wright Mabie

For it is in giving that we receive.

Saint Francis of Assisi

Christmas isn't just a day, it's a frame of mind.

From Miracle on 34th Street

This is a season for kindling the fire for hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart.

Washington Irving

Remember this December, that love weighs more than gold.

Josephine Dodge Daskam Bacon

This is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection.

Winston Churchill

At Christmas, all roads lead home.

Marjorie Holmes

Treasurer's Report

Marsha Gochenour

As of November 20, 2024:

\$378.49	Checking
185.00	Woman of the Year
174.87	AAUW Funds
682.74	NCCWSL
155.00	Dr. Amy @ SU
755.00	Orndoff @ SU
5,507.27	Froehlich Memorial Scholarship (local)
4,200.67	CD, 1-year
<u>2,211.92</u>	General Savings
\$14,250.96	Total

Oct-Nov Receipts: \$1,625.00 play fundraiser; \$400.00 Orndoff @ SU; \$100.00 Health Forum
Oct-Nov Disbursements: \$200.00 Liability insurance; \$75.00 program expense

Successful Fundraiser!

Marsha Gochenour

Thanks to everyone who helped make our November play fundraiser a rousing success! Income from ticket sales and donations was \$1,625.00; our cost was \$250.00; and our net was \$1,375.00. We had a great collaboration with Literacy Volunteers Winchester. We each sold half the theatre (100 tickets) and were able to split the cost, making this a win-win for both groups. Refreshments and wine at intermission helped fuel us for the 2nd act. The Irish play was lots of fun and had plenty of action. The actors learned the dialect so well, we sometimes had trouble figuring out what they were saying. In the last scene, the whole cast of 14 were on stage – a massive feat for such a small venue. Hats off to Winchester

Little Theatre for a great production! of *Playboy of the Western World*

Evening Book Group

Marsha Gochenour

Monday
January 20, 2025
6:00 p.m. Zoom



There is no December book.

Our last scheduled book selected is for January, 2025. Please send suggestions for our 2025 reading list to Marsha by early January. We will vote and results will be announced at the January Zoom meeting.

Necessary Trouble: Growing up Mid-Century

Author: Drew Gilpin Faust

Dr. Faust, a native of Clarke County, has written this memoir about having found the female subordination and racial hierarchy that her upbringing imposed was intolerable. Instead, she became actively involved in the civil rights, student, and antiwar movements of the 1960s, and, eventually, an esteemed historian and the first woman president of Harvard University.

CLEO

(Classy Ladies Eating Out)

Marsha Gochenour

Monday, 6:00 p.m.
December 2, 2024
Umberto's Pizza and Pasta
170-4 Delco Plaza
Winchester, Virginia



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

We will not be meeting at the end of December because of the holidays. Next CLEO Will be in January, 2025.

Membership

Laurie Gaulke

HELP WANTED!!!

Are you someone who enjoys communicating via email? With all the new women we are meeting, I could use some help following up with emails and I'm happy to share the details. Let's GROW our branch together! Please call/text me at (908) 591-7595 or email me at: laurie.mg96@gmail.com

AAUW Adventure

Theresa Merkel



PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC WINCHESTER

HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR

Sunday, December 8, 2024
12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Our Branch has a vested interest this year in the Preservation of Historic Winchester (PHW) Holiday House Tour!!! As one of our past programs, we visited and heard about the foundation for the arts founded by Dr. Peter Bullough. Both of his homes will be open for the tour.

TA DA!!! What is even more exciting is that our Membership Vice President, **Laurie Gaulke**'s home will be on the tour. Her home is at 124 East Clifford Street. Support Laurie and PHW by attending the Holiday House Tour.

Since this is an Adventure, it would be nice to go through the houses together. Let's meet at Laurie's house at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 8, view it, and go on from there. Contact Martha Prusch (540-729-1135) if you would like to participate so we will know to wait for you.

Tour tickets are \$25 for advanced sales and \$30 at the door. They will be available beginning November 22 at Kimberly's and the Winchester-Frederick County Visitors Center. Tickets can also be purchased at PHW's Bough & Dough Booth during Winchester's Winter Village weekend.

Locations:

- 122 West Cork Street Dr. Peter Bullough's Winter Home
- 120 West Cork Street Dr. Peter Bullough's Summer Home
- 522 South Loudoun Street Dr. Cornelius Baldwin House
- 524 South Loudoun Street Old Valley Hotel
- 124 East Clifford Street Joseph Hodgson House



Betty and Edwin Orndoff Scholarship for the Performing Arts

Rosemary Green

Sarah Morris, Doctor of Musical Arts in Performance student, is the 2024 recipient of the \$1,000 Orndoff Scholarship for the Performing Arts at Shenandoah University. Sarah is pursuing an interesting blend of piano performance and performing arts health, with particular interest in women performers. She has been invited to attend any of our programs and meetings, and perhaps we will see her soon.

Sarah Morris' essay submitted for the 2024 Betty and Edwin Orndoff Performing Arts Scholarship:

I am grateful for the opportunity to apply for the Betty and Edwin Orndoff Scholarship for the Performing Arts. I have worked as hard as I know how to for the past eleven years of my college career, and this final year has thus far proved to be among the most challenging. I am in my third year in Shenandoah Conservatory's Doctor of Musical Arts in Performance (piano) program, and I am an adjunct professor for Strength and Conditioning. These career fields are traditionally dominated by men at the highest levels, and I am working to bring awareness to both the challenges faced by women as well as the immense value of including women in these areas.

My goal is to obtain a faculty position in which I will serve as a piano professor and director of a university performing arts health program. This position will allow me to continue teaching, performing,

and conducting groundbreaking research in the field of performing arts health. While I have enjoyed pursuing piano for my entire college career, I have discovered a unique intersection of my gifts in the field of musician health and wellness. I have taken on unprecedented research projects related to strength training for pianists, and I have had the wonderful opportunity to present my work at multiple national and international conferences. I also had the privilege of writing an article earlier this year about the DS Keyboard that was published in Piano Buyer. The DS Keyboard is an alternatively sized piano keyboard that has been shown to help prevent playing-related injuries for pianists with small- to average-sized hands (including most women). As a performer and teacher, I firmly believe that pursuing equity in the world of piano through alternatively sized keyboards is of the utmost importance.

In addition to my work at Shenandoah University, I am a piano teacher, certified strength and conditioning specialist (CSCS), USAW LI certified weightlifting coach, and nationally competitive weightlifter. I work hard at all that I do, but pursuing a terminal degree comes at a high cost. I have been blessed with a partial graduate assistantship, but that still leaves me with a significant tuition bill that multiple part-time jobs simply cannot keep up with. Any financial assistance is a blessing that provides me with the opportunity to keep pressing forward toward completing my doctorate and completing quality research that will propel me into my career.

Virginia State DEIB Meeting

Becki Bronson

**Diversity
Equity
Inclusion
Belonging**

This meeting was held via Zoom on November 21, 2024. Some time ago, state coordinator Meg Tucillo added the B for Belonging, noting that while inclusion is an important step, all members will hopefully feel like they also belong.

Becki joined representatives from the Arlington, Alexandria, Mount Vernon, and Virginia Beach branches on Zoom. Discussion centered on current and anticipated activities, given the recent election. The general discussion noted that the purpose of DEI is to ensure all people have their rights.

Meg Tucillo shared Arlington’s ongoing Lunch Bunch held with young women; 16 to 22 years old. This project started in one of their local high schools and has grown to a monthly event featuring a diverse group of young women. Their most recent program featured a 30-year-old DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) recipient who has finished college and is now an attorney. Meg shared another

anecdote about another participant who also arrived as a small child and is now working toward owning her own beauty parlor. She said that the young women they interact with through this program are hardworking and have goals for the future that include contributions to the economic life of their communities.

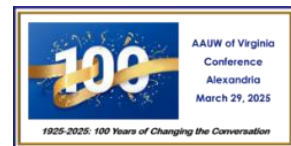
In Virginia Beach, Maria described her branch’s program on understanding ranked choice voting.

Becki shared our Winchester Branch’s *Barriers Broken, Barriers that Remain* programming, noting that the ongoing partnership with Winchester NAACP has opened new opportunities for collaboration in our community. On the same theme, Becki also shared our upcoming branch meeting featuring our partnerships with Literacy Volunteers, Little Libraries, and Leyendo Juntos to provide Spanish language children’s books.

AAUW National

Stay Informed with AAUW Webinars

Explore [AAUW’s Webinar archive](#) for expert-led discussions on key topics like economic security, education equity, and public policy advocacy.



AAUW of Virginia Conference Alexandria, Virginia March 29, 2025

The Virginia State Conference will be held in Alexandria, on March 29, 2025, with special activities on Friday, March 28. See flyer on page 6 for details.

Back by popular demand, the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund Baskets Fundraiser will be returning. This fundraiser provides a social venue, friendly competition, and an opportunity to raise funds to further AAUW’s mission of promoting equality for women and girls. Baskets created by branches will be raffled off, and the winners will be announced at the close of the conference on Saturday, March 29, 2025. A branch may submit one or more themed baskets for the raffle.

Raffle tickets for the baskets will be available during the conference at a cost of \$7 for 1 ticket, \$15 for 3 tickets, or \$30 for 7 tickets. Winners or a proxy must be present at the end of the conference to pick up their baskets.

CALENDAR

December 2	CLEO, Umberto’s Pizza and Pasta, 170-4 Delco Plaza, 6 p.m.
December 14	December Meeting, ‘300 Children’s Books in Spanish’, Bowman, 12:30 p.m.
January 8	Board Meeting via Zoom, 6 p.m.
January 11	Northwest District Meeting via Zoom, 10:00 a.m., <i>Shenandoah Valley Scholars Latino Initiative</i>
January 20	Deadline for February issue of <i>Words to the WISE²</i>
January 20	Book Group, <i>Necessary Trouble: Growing up Mid-Century</i> , Zoom, 6 p.m.
February 8	February Meeting, Orrick Chapel, 10:00 a.m., Stephens City



MARK THIS DOWN ON YOUR CALENDAR!

2025 AAUW-VA STATE CONFERENCE

MARCH 29, 2025

(Preconference activities on March 28)

On **March 27-28, 1925**, the seven already existing local branches of AAUW in Virginia met in Williamsburg. When they adjourned, the **Virginia Division of AAUW** was a reality.

On **March 28, 2025**, join us in Alexandria as the **AAUW-VA centennial celebration** begins, and we jubilantly begin our second century of women changing the conversation.

The conference is being hosted by the AAUW-VA Northern District branches at the **Sheraton Suites Old Town Alexandria, 801 N. St. Asaph Street, Alexandria 22314** on **Saturday, March 29, 2025**, with preconference activities on **March 28, 2025**.

Great news! It's not too early to reserve a room. Guest rooms will be available for March 28 & 29 (king/sofa bed or double/double for \$159 per night plus tax, * including a full hot breakfast for up to 2 persons.) Use this QR code to make a reservation:



or use this link. You can also call 1 (888) 236-2427; use code **AAUW** to reserve a room. The rate is also available for 3 days before/after March 28 & 29 on a space available basis. You must make a reservation for March 28 and/or 29, and then email jrasolofoson@sheronalexandria.com to book extra days.

The earlier you book a room the better because the 2025 Conference will take place on the eve of Cherry Blossom season and rooms in the hotel will book up early. Once our block is sold out, we might be able to add more rooms, but that will only be possible if the hotel is not already sold out. Room reservations can be cancelled without penalty up until 72 hours before the first day of the reservation.

***IMPORTANT NOTICE:** When making your hotel reservation, ignore any reference to a \$25 resort fee. You will **NOT** be charged this. The room rate is \$159 plus state and local taxes.

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