



December
2015
January
2016

Breaking through Barriers for Women and Girls • <http://richmond-va.aauw.net>

President's Message

I cannot believe that we have already celebrated Thanksgiving and are making plans for the Winter Holiday Season! We have now completed 3 months of our program year! They have been busy ones with the Wine Tasting and Silent Auction the most recent. We also enjoyed the presentation by an AAUW fellowship recipient in Sept. and hosted the School Board Candidate Forum in Oct, made difficult decisions about and voted on a budget, conducted a voter registration effort, have initiated contact with the Title IX Coordinators of our 4 school districts, been planning for a STEAM conference for middle school girls in June, and now are planning for our Annual Holiday Tea! Our interest groups have also been busy each month with their activities.

In addition to all of this, we have been welcoming new members and have been in conversations with several other prospective members. Please encourage anyone you think might enjoy our GRAAUW to attend our Annual Holiday Tea. It is a perfect opportunity to share our mission in an informal social setting.

In Dec. and January we will continue our Title IX efforts culminating in a panel discussion about Title IX successes and challenges in our 4 districts on January 9th.

I have been very encouraged by the energy and efforts of so many of our members these past three months in spite of personal and family challenges. Your commitment to our AAUW mission and to each other has been wonderful! We make a great team! I especially want to thank Lesin, Sandra, Marsha, Marcia, and Connie for all their hard work on the Wine Tasting and Silent Auction. Everyone who attended who made the comments about it said what a wonderful venue Forest Hill Presbyterian Church turned out to be and kept asking whether we had as many in attendance as in the past as it seemed like there was so much more room. Kudos to all who came and helped on Sat. to set everything up and to all who spent



Annual Holiday Tea
Sunday Dec. 6th
3:00 - 4:30
RSVP by Tues. Dec. 1st

We are holding our Holiday Tea at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church, 4401 Forest Hill Ave. Richmond 23225. Each member who attends is asked to bring finger food appetizer items or sweet treats. A variety of teas will be available as well as holiday punch and coffee. Our tea will be held in the church's parlor. We look forward to you joining us! **Please RSVP to Laura Wimmer at 804-496-6124 or lwimmeraauw@aol.com by Tues. Dec. 1st.** If you are bringing guests, please let her know that too so we will know how many tea cups we need.



(continued)
hours in the kitchen preparing their specialties that we all look forward to each year.

I was just watching Tavis Smiley's interview with Mitch Albom on his new book. Albom stated that we all belong to various bands and we each play a part in the total music produced whatever that part may be it is not the same music without that part. I believe our GRAAUW band makes beautiful music. Thank you for the part you play in our band!

I look forward to sharing tea and cucumber sandwiches with you on Sunday Dec. 6th at 3:00 pm. Happy Holidays!

Carol

Public Policy - Kathy Kelley Chair

Save the date:

The LWV-VA Women's Roundtable Pre-Session on December 2, 2015 9:00 - noon in the General Assembly Building, House Room D in Richmond.

Speakers - Non Profit representatives including our own AAUW -VA Public Policy Chair, Leslie Tourigny, and members of the Governor's Cabinet.

Join Kathy Kelley, Laura Wimmer, Barb Strohmman, and Carol Stephens to learn about upcoming state legislation that could affect women and girls.

February 3, 2016 State Lobby Day at the General Assembly a co-sponsored event by AAUW - VA and LWV - VA. More to come. If you are willing to house out of town members of AAUW on the evening of Feb. 2nd, please let Carol Stephens know.

Feb. 16th Centennial Rally for Equal Rights
Carol Stephens and I have been working with several other women's organizations to plan this rally on Virginia's Capitol steps. Join us for *"equality of rights under the law which shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex"*. **We are one of three states which have not ratified the Equal Rights Amendment.**

Schedule:

10:00-11:00 AM Rally on the Capitol steps with Guest Speakers

11:00-12:00 PM Vigil and gathering on the Bell Tower

12:00 – 1:00 PM Luncheon at the Library of Virginia

1:00 – 3:00 PM Distinguished Guest Speakers

More information to follow.

Title IX

Carol Stephens, Marian Seigla, Laura Wimmer, Mary Radziejewski, Carol Swartz and I have been working on contacting area school districts in order to discuss their work

on Title IX. There will be a branch meeting on January 9th where the appointed coordinators will take part in a panel discussion.

AAUW strongly supports Title IX and opposes any efforts that would weaken its effectiveness or undermine its enforcement.

Voter Registration

The deadline for registration for the Primary election in March is Feb. 9th. If you are interested in helping with registration efforts, please contact Kathy.

LWV Women's Roundtable each Wed. morning at 8:30 am - 9:30 am starting Jan. 20th in General Assembly Building during the legislative session. Come join Kathy Kelley, Sally Johnston, Anne Sterling, Pat Fishback, Elizabeth Smith, Deneise Melenbrink, and Carol Stephens as we learn about various bills being brought forth by our Delegates and Senators and then visit your representatives to lobby for the bills you want to pass or against those you feel are bad to pass.

Nominations for Officers coming!

In March we will be electing officers for the positions of President, VP of Programs, and Communications Officer. Please think very seriously about serving in one of these positions and/or serving on the Nominating Committee. The board will choose the nominating committee at its January meeting. At least one member of the committee cannot be a member of the board. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please let a board member know. According to our Standing Rules we have a position of Communications Officer. This position is extremely important for representing our branch to the media in a timely fashion as well as making sure we have accurate records of our meetings. Consider it!

Hospitality Chair - Mary Radziejewski

I want to thank everyone who has helped out with our meeting refreshments so far this year.

We are still in need of a few more volunteers as we go into 2016. **We need someone to bring drinks and someone to bring snacks in March and snacks and paper goods in April.** Please contact me if you can help with any of these,

Don't forget, drinks and snacks don't need to be elaborate and I will remind you before the meeting of your commitment.

Book Group DeAnn Lineberry Chair

Continuing a nearly 40-year tradition, our Book Group meets on the **third Thursday of each month** at 7:00 p.m. **All GRAAUW members and their guests are welcome.** Attend just one meeting whose book interests you OR join us on a regular basis. Contact DeAnn Lineberry for more information and our schedule:

deann.lineberry@yahoo.com or phone 233-5352.

December Book Group meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, December 19, 7:00 p.m.** at Catherine Luckey's home.

For the third year, our December meeting will not feature a book discussion; instead we'll have poetry sharing and a book exchange. Those attending are invited to bring a poem/poems that you especially like and share why this is one of your favorites — perhaps because of the topic, the lyrical quality, the technique, or maybe the setting in which you first encountered the poetry. If you don't have a favorite poem to share, don't let that keep you from attending, as we are sure you will enjoy hearing others' selections and can contribute to the discussion.

Members are also asked to bring a gently used book that they think another member in our group will enjoy; gift wrap it but do not include giver's name. Then we'll play a gift-choosing and swapping game till everyone has a new book. Like other book groups, we have found this a fun way to expose us all to different authors and books. You might just find a new favorite author! Only one restriction — please do NOT bring a book we have read in our Book Group.

January 21, 2016 — *One Amazing Thing*, by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. *Selected for 2015-16 All Henrico Reads program*; author will visit our area in April.

One Amazing Thing is a passionate creation about survival -- and about the reasons to survive. Set in a passport and visa office in an unnamed American city; most customers and office workers have left, but nine people of varied backgrounds and nationalities remain. When an earthquake traps them together, their focus first jolts to their collective struggle to survive. The novel proves the transcendent power of stories and the meaningfulness of human expression itself as the survivors conquer their fears. Chitra Divakaruni is an award-winning,

bestselling novelist and poet, author of 14 books in all. Two of her novels have been made into movies; ***One Amazing Thing*** is expected to become a movie as well. She teaches creative writing at the University of Houston

Link to All Henrico Reads article: http://www.richmond.com/news/local/henrico/article_f395661c-fb7a-54cd-8d1f-18669b30bfce.html

Future Reading & Activities:

February 18, 2016 (Black History Month) — *The Souls of Black Folk*, by W.E.B. DuBois (1903)

One of the most influential books ever published in America, W. E. B. Du Bois's ***The Souls of Black Folk*** is an eloquent collection of 14 essays that describe the life, ambitions, struggles, and passions of African Americans at the transition from the 19th to the 20th Century.

March 17, 2015 (Women's History Month) — *The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II*, by Denise Kiernan

At the height of World War II, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, was home to 75,000 residents, consuming more electricity than New York City. But to most of the world, the town did not exist. That is, until the end of the war ... when Oak Ridge's secret was revealed. Drawing on the voices of the women who lived it — women who are now in their 80s and 90s — ***The Girls of Atomic City*** rescues a remarkable, forgotten chapter of American history from obscurity. Denise Kiernan captures the spirit of the times through these women: their pluck, their desire to contribute, and their enduring courage.

Link to PBS info about ***The Girls of Atomic City***: <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/2013/03/in-the-girls-of-atomic.html>

Maggie King publishes again!

Virginia is for Mysteries Volume II comes out Feb. 1, '16. If the book group is interested, my fellow authors and I would love to return as guest authors sometime in '16. Our launch takes place on Feb. 27 at the new Libbie Mill library on Staples Mill. I'll be sending info on that at a later date.

For more on the anthology, here are a couple of links to our web site: <http://www.virginiaisformysteries.com/stories/> and <http://www.virginiaisformysteries.com/>.

This time there are 19 authors/stories. Maggie's own 2nd mystery novel has been sent to the publisher's pipeline; she hopes for late 2016 or early 2017 launch.

INTEREST GROUPS

Lunch Bunch

Dec. 10th - TJ's at Jefferson Hotel 1:15
(reservations are closed, limited to 10)

Jan. 14th 1:30 at Ruang Tong Thai Cuisine
6790 Forest Hill Ave. Stratford Hills Shopping Center, Richmond, 23225 - a quiet personal restaurant with refreshing Tai food Sits in the far side of the shopping plaza near Tues. Morning store RSVP by Jan. 12th to hostess, Carol Stephens ruangtongthaicuisine.com

Bridge Group - contact Carol Stephens for info

Membership - Marian Seigla VP

We are growing! Welcome to all of our newest GRAAUW Members, Allison Tinsey, Rena Berlin, and Barb Strohman.

Member of the Month: Allison Tiinsey

A newcomer to AAUW and Virginia, Allison Tinsey is delighted to join the Greater Richmond chapter of the AAUW to promote higher education and equality for women. Allison grew up in Grand Ledge, Michigan, a rural suburb of Lansing as the daughter of an agricultural engineer and church administrator who nurtured her love of learning. She owes much of her success to her brother, Seth, who is autistic, and her parents for encouraging her to think critically about the world around her.

Allison attended Kalamazoo College and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy with several honors and accolades. Kalamazoo College is the pre-eminent liberal arts college in Michigan, which outfits its students with the skills to navigate social issues with a focus on historical, local, and global impacts. Allison served as Editor-in-Chief of the student newspaper, *The Index*.

After graduation, Allison worked as a judicial extern for the 17th Circuit Court in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and later interned for a law firm specializing in bankruptcy and social security law. Her favorite post-graduation

SAVE the DATES!

Dec. 6th (Sun.) Branch Holiday Tea 3:00 - 4:30
Forest Hill Presbyterian Church
4401 Forest Hill Ave. 23225

Jan. 4th (Mon) Board Mtg. - Marian Seigla's

Jan. 9th (Sat.) 10:30 am Kroger Training Center
2235 Staples Mill Rd.
Title IX - Henrico, Chesterfield, Richmond

Feb. 3 (Wed.) State Lobby Day 8:30 - 2:30
General Assembly Building, Richmond

Feb. 11th Board Mtg. - Kathy Kelley's home

Feb. 16th (Tues.) ERA Centennial Rally 10:00 am
Capitol Steps

Feb. 20th 10:30 am Kroger Training Center
Women in the Civil War

Feb. 27th (Sat.) SE District Meeting

Mar. 15th (Tues) 7:30 pm Annual Business Meeting and Election of Officers
Equal Pay Day

April 12th (Tues) 7:30 pm Transportation Issues

April 15-17th - State Convention Northern VA

May 4 (Wed.) - End of Year Banquet - Meadowbrook Country Club

position was working for Michigan State Senator Steve Bieda (D-9th) in Lansing, where she composed communications, analyzed policy, and organized events. These experiences solidified Allison's decision to pursue a law degree.

Allison moved to Richmond in August and began her first semester of law school at the University of Richmond School of Law. She hopes to pursue a career in public policy focused on the ongoing struggle for women's rights to personal safety, equal wages, and reproductive health, as well as access to higher education. She hopes to revive the university chapter of AAUW and begin a women's policy advocates group on campus.