



February/ March
2016

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

President's Message

I hope that you were not too inconvenienced by our Richmond blizzard! It has been a long time since I have seen that much snow in such a short period of time! Warms my northern heart!

We are now more than 1/2 way through our GRAAUW calendar year! Our Holiday Tea was enjoyed by 20 members and prospective members. A purely social event, our only one, was a delight! Our January meeting which many have hailed as an outstanding program was not well attended. I was ill and could not attend, but I am told only 14 folks were present to hear the experiences and concerns of our four school districts with regards to Title IX and the new guidelines that were issued by OCR. I am proud of our members and their efforts to bring this program to you and to meet and exceed the expectations of our National AAUW. I wish we had been better represented by our members and the public. Perhaps the first weekend after New Years weekend is not a good time to plan a program. I welcome your ideas on the flagging attendance then.

These next few months are going to be very busy. Not only do we have the General Assembly in session and lots of lobbying to do, but we also have our Nominations for office 2016-2018 to solidify, approval of our bylaw changes to be made, a local scholarship to be awarded, decision on Sunshine Fund to be made, and a decision on the amount of local dues for 2016-2017. A group is also planning how our branch wants to honor Equal Pay Day April 12th. How will you be involved? Let us know!

There are many announcements of the numerous activities, meetings and projects in this newsletter so I will conclude by urging you to find your niche.

Carol Stephens

PROGRAM NOTES

Feb. 20th (SAT.) 10:30 am - "A Woman's War: Virginia Women and the Civil War."

Kroger Training Center, 2235 Staples Mill Rd.
4th Floor Training Room

Speaker: Frances Stevenson Pollard, Vice President for Research Services at the Virginia Historical Society.

Come find out about Virginia Women and their role in the Civil War. This should be especially interesting after book group has read about Mary Bowser and Elizabeth Van Lew last year. Come and bring a friend to learn more!

STATE LOBBY DAY - Feb. 3rd

Lobby Day Feb. 3rd will be busy with meetings with Senator McEachin, who has sponsored our Equal Pay bill, Lt. Gov. Northam, Speaker Howell, and Senator John Edwards who has championed human trafficking legislation as well as appointments with your own senator and delegate that you have made. We will be 25 strong with many AAUW women coming from across the state. We will also visit the Senate and House galleries to watch them in action and be recognized as a group by Del. Jennifer McClellan and Sen. Janet Howell. In addition, we will gather for a group picture with Women's Equality Coalition members and lunch with all participants from WEC and LWV at the Tobacco Co.

SE District Meeting - Feb. 27th

Please see end of newsletter for information. Reservations need to be made by Feb. 20th to DeAnn Lineberry. cost of lunch is \$15. We will carpool together to Newport News. Join us!

New updated Directory coming soon!

With all of our new members joining, we will be issuing an updated directory in Feb. Look for it in your email. Limited paper copies will be available at Feb. 20th meeting.

Public Policy - Kathy Kelley Chair

This is a very busy time of year at the General Assembly. "Since AAUW's founding our members and supporters have spoken out about policies important to women and girls. Without their voices, invaluable legislation would have never been passed. In recent years, such legislation included the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act." (from the AAUW website)

It is important that we make our voices heard. I will try to keep you up to date on bills to advocate. Call, write, or email your legislators. If you are not sure of your legislators go to <http://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/>

A subject that is bringing bipartisan support is the redistricting. Virginia is one of the worse gerrymandered state in the country. Counties and cities are being broken in half or into multiple pieces to create heavily partisan districts. OneVirginia 2021 is working for a fair bipartisan redistricting.

Transparency has been a real problem in recent years. Groups like ours have worked with bipartisan support from others to influence the GA to let us know what is going on with the bills and committees.

The SJ1 ERA bill has passed the VA Senate with bipartisan support! This also has happened for the last few years. However, Del. Cole Chair of the Privileges and Elections Committee has not allowed it to see the light of day when it crosses over to the House. It is imperative that you contact him and the members of the Privileges and Election Committee to urge them to allow a vote on the floor of the House.

The Centennial Rally for Equal Rights is being held on Crossover day. It is important that you lend your support. Plan to attend the rally. Drive to 5100 Monument or 4050 Forest Hill Ave. to ride city busses together. Contact Kathy Kelley and Carol Stephens for times! Gov. McAuliffe will be in attendance and arriving in an antique car and those in period dress will be attending as well! Placards will be provided!

Save the date:

February 3, 2016 State Lobby Day at the General Assembly a co-sponsored event by AAUW - VA and LWV - VA. Lunch at Tobacco Factory.

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

Check out our Facebook page or vanow.org/rally for important information. Luncheon reservations needed and are going quickly if you wish to attend luncheon.

LWV Women's Roundtable each Wed. morning at 8:30 am - 9:30 am during GA

in the General Assembly Building, room 4 East.

Membership - Marian Seigla VP

GRAAUW is moving along in its membership, despite the snow! We presently have 52 members listed on the Branch Member Roster from National. Virginia Wilson is our newest member. She recently moved back home to Mechanicsville (yeah, finally somebody near me so we may carpool)! She graduated in 2014 from the College of Charleston with a B.S. in Psychology and a Minor in Philosophy/Arts.

In addition to Virginia, as soon as the paperwork is processed, we shall officially add two more members who joined at the last Book Group Meeting, Kathryn (Katie) Garnett and Catherine (Cathy) Learnard.

Also, Robin Bajkiewicz, who was referred by Pat Geerdes, has joined National thinking she was joining us too. She attended the Dec. Holiday Tea and is sending in her state and local dues this week. We are looking for a grand total of 55 and counting! Remember 1/2 price dues until March 15.

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.

February 18, 2016 (Black History Month) —

We'll meet at home of Katy Garnett, a newer member, to discuss ***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. The first African American to receive a Ph.D. from Harvard University, Du Bois was a sociologist, historian, novelist, and activist whose astounding career spanned the nation's history from Reconstruction to the Civil Rights Movement. In ***The Souls of Black Folk***, Du Bois argued against the conciliatory position taken by Booker T. Washington, at the time the most influential black leader in America, and called for a more radical form of aggressive protest — a strategy that would anticipate and inspire much of the activism of the 1960s. Du Bois's essays were the first to articulate many of Black America's thoughts and feelings, including the dilemma posed by the black psyche's "double consciousness," which Du Bois described as this "twoness" — an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings . . . in one dark body."

For more about this book, click here: <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-souls-of-black-folk-w-e-b-du-bois/1116629258?ean=9781593080143&itm=1&usri=the+souls+of+black+folk>

Also, since this is a classic, it is downloadable for free.

Future Reading:

March 17, 2016 (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,

Future Reads (continued) 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. Thousands of civilians — many of them young women from small towns across the South — were recruited to this secret city, enticed by solid wages and the promise of war-ending work. Kept very much in the dark, few would ever guess the true nature of the tasks they performed each day in the hulking factories in the middle of the Appalachian Mountains. 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>

April 21, 2016 — ***The Invisible Bridge***, by Julie Orringer

Paris, 1937. Andras Lévi, a Hungarian-Jewish architecture student, arrives from Budapest with a scholarship, a single suitcase, and a mysterious letter he promised to deliver. But when he falls into a complicated relationship with the letter's recipient, he becomes privy to a secret that will alter the course of his — and his family's — history. From the small Hungarian town of Konyár to the grand opera houses of Budapest and Paris, from the lonely chill of Andras's room on the rue des Écoles to the deep and enduring connection he discovers on the rue de Sévigné, from the despair of Carpathian winter to an unimaginable life in forced labor camps and beyond, ***The Invisible Bridge*** tells the story of a love tested by disaster, of brothers whose bonds cannot be broken, of a family shattered and remade in history's darkest hour, and of the dangerous power of art in a time of war. Expertly crafted, magnificently written, emotionally haunting, and impossible to put down, ***The Invisible Bridge*** resoundingly confirms Julie Orringer's place as one of today's most vital and commanding young literary talents.

For more about this book, click here: http://www.amazon.com/Invisible-Bridge-Julie-Orringer/dp/1400041163/ref=sr_1_1_title_0_main?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1395694957&sr=1-1&keyword=s+the+invisible+bridge

Maggie King publishes again! *Virginia is for Mysteries II*, Sat. Feb. 27th 2-3:30 at new Libby Mill Library Author Panel: Paths to Getting Published: book signing and celebration follow.

INTEREST GROUPS

LUNCH BUNCH

FEB. 20TH 12:30 (NOTE TIME AND DATE CHANGE
IT IS A SATURDAY!)

Southern Seasons 2250 Staples Mill Rd.
(across from Kroger Training Center **right after
Program meeting**) Even if you have not done
Lunch Bunch with us before, please join us.
Must RSVP to Dottie Vye by Feb. 17th
804-262-9544 bdvye@comcast.net

MARCH 10th - 1:15 Savory Grain
2043 W. Broad St.
RSVP to Kathy Kelley by March 8th
Farm fresh eats and local craft beers
Menu thesavorygrain.com

BRIDGE

Feb. 24th - 7:00 pm RSVP Carol Stephens

March 23rd - 7:00 pm RSVP Vijay Reddy

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Lesin Dippold Chair

Our Scholarship Committee is gearing up. In addition to Lesin, Pat Mallahan, Lois Hofstra, and Marian Seigla have agreed to review applications and interview candidates. If this is something you would be interested in participating in, please contact Lesin.

To date, we only have enough money for one local scholarship this year. In order to start next year with more funds, the board has agreed to charge \$5 extra for each banquet ticket. The room will hold 100, so you are welcome to bring spouse, friend, prospective members etc. to enjoy this wonderful buffet and hear Carol Swartz's daughter, Karen MacInerney, speak about her writing of mystery books. Be sure to mark your calendars for May 4th!

SAVE the DATES!

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. 20th 12:30 - Lunch Bunch Southern
Seasons across street from our meeting
RSVP Dottie Vye

Feb. 24th - Bridge at Carol's condo

Feb. 27th (Sat.) SE District Meeting, Newport
News RSVP DeAnn Lineberry

March 10th Board Mtg 7:00 pm TBD

March 10th - Lunch Bunch 1:15 RSVP Kathy
Kelley

Mar. 12th (Sat.) 10:30 am Annual Business
Meeting and Election of Officers

Mar. 23rd - Bridge at Vijay Reddy's

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

April 15-17th - State Convention Herndon, VA

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

If you wish to make a donation toward our local scholarship, you can send a check to Connie Sorrell, our Treasurer, designating it as a donation toward our local scholarship fund.

AAUW of Virginia, Southeast District Meeting

February 27, 2016

10:30-12:30

Woman's Club of Hilton Village

87 Main Street

Newport News, VA

**(Parking is
primarily on the street)**

SPEAKERS:

**Genie Nguyen, AAUW International Fellow,
2015-2016**

**“ The Difficulties of Young Vietnamese Migrant
Girls in their Pursuit of an Education”**

**Dr. Agnieszka Whelan, AAUW American Fellow,
2015-2016**

“ Gardens and the Enlightenment”



**Meet and Greet—10:30
Speakers and Q/A—10:45
Lunch—11:45
Business—12:45**

**Marilyn Riddle, District Representative
Prepaid Lunch Reservations (\$15 inclusive) for
homemade soup, sandwich, and pie:
Reservations deadline is Feb 22.**

*DeAnn Lineberry has agreed to coordinate our
response to Marilyn and arrange carpools. Either
mail her your check for the luncheon or turn in
your form and check to us at book group or
Program meeting on Feb. 20th. That will allow
DeAnn enough time to mail everything in to
Marilyn by the 22nd. Hope you can join us, looks
like an interesting meeting!*

**Reservations for VA AAUW Southeast District
Meeting on February 27, 2016**

Name_____

e-mail_____

Branch_____

Please circle your choices:

Soup:

Cheese Broccoli

Beef Vegetable

Sandwich:

Chicken Salad on a Croissant

Pimento Cheese on White Bread

Pie:

Oatmeal Pecan

Coconut Cream

Please mark your three choices and return
with your \$15 check made payable to me and
reaching me by

Mon, Feb 22. My address is 2505 Goodrich
Durfey Williamsburg, VA 23185-8031
mriddle@cox.net

757-229-2177 Deadline for cancellations is
noon on **Tues, Feb 23.**