



Greater Richmond (VA) Branch



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

April - May 2019

President letter

GRAAUW members, We are coming to the end of the year with one more meeting on **Tuesday April 9th at 7:30 at St. Mathias Episcopal Church on Huguenot Road** and then the **May Banquet**. I want to thank all those members who have dedicated their time to the projects and different groups and activities since I began as President in July 2018.

We had a successful **Wine Tasting Event in November** headed by Connie Sorell and Marsha Carter who with their committee plus many other members were able to procure enough to offer two \$1,000 local scholarships. Randi Edwards heading the scholarship committee has been working hard contacting different colleges and universities, so we might have two winners. Jane Newell has sent AAUW Funds their share from the Event. Thanks to Louise Brierre for a good job with AAUW Funds this year.

I also feel very proud of the continued success of the **Great Expectations** event in December. Thank you to Laura Wimmer for organizing and for all who contributed with gifts and food for the students and also those who came to share their success.

A special thanks to all those who were involved in advocacy, mainly trying to get the ERA ratified. Even though we were not able to become the 38th State, we put up a great fight. Women never give up and we will continue to fight.. Many of the members were involved with VAratifyERA. Jane Newell has been keeping the books on contributions and expenses for the movement. A special thanks also to Trish Wallace for her enthusiastic participation and hard work obtaining a Grant for signs that many of us placed in yards around town. Also for the organizing of events where many members sent post cards to delegates and senators asking for

ratification of the ERA: Jane Newell, Katie Garnett, Lesin Dippold, Carol Stephens, Kathy Kelly, Barbara Strohman, Louise Brierre, Adah Parashar, Maggie King. ALSO to many others members who sent the cards during our meetings.

Please, I urge you to attend the May Banquet where we will be celebrating the 110th anniversary of GRAAUW and the 10th anniversary of the merger between Richmond and Bon Air branches. To all past presidents and their spouses or guests I ask that you come and celebrate with us at **Meadowbrook Country Club on Wednesday May 8th at 6:00p.m.** Tickets are \$35 per person. You can send checks to Jane Newell or pay through Eventbrite or at the April meeting. We must have 40 attending to get this price. Thank you, Connie, for getting us a place to hold the Banquet. Katie Hornung, who organized VAratifyERA will be our speaker! We hope to be presenting our scholarship winners that evening also.

Thank you,
Dulce Lawrence, GRAAUW President

April 9 Program

**St. Mathias Episocopal Church
7:30 pm**

Speaker is Ruth Ann Cutright....CEO of the Chesterfield County CASA Inc. of Virginia

**May 8 Annual Spring Banquet
Meadowbrook Country Club 6:00 pm
10th Anniversary of Richmond and Bon Air merger to GRAAUW and 110 years for Richmond!**

(details for both events page 4)

EQUAL PAY DAY

April 2, 2019, is all women's Equal Pay Day.

The date is chosen annually to symbolize how far into the new year women must work to earn what men earned during the previous year. This year, Black women's Equal Pay Day does not occur until August 22, with Native women's following on September 23, and Latinas' not until November 20. Latina women have to work almost two years to earn what men do!

AAUW and other organizations suggest a number of ways to recognize Equal Pay Day, from wearing red to symbolize that women are "in the red" with their salaries relative to men to participating in AAUW's salary negotiation workshops, which are now available online. Politicians and representatives will officially recognize the day.

Regardless of how we "celebrate" Equal Pay Day, we should take the time to contemplate and share with others the cascading effects of the gender pay gap. With women earning less than men, it takes more time for them to pay off student loans and other debt, resulting in more money going toward interest. It takes more time for them to acquire enough equity to purchase a home. Lower salaries often mean smaller employer retirement contributions and less to draw from for individually funded retirement accounts.

Women's earning less than men also means that women are not equally treated by the criminal justice system. Women are much more likely not to be able to afford bail, resulting in the incarceration of many awaiting trial, many of whom will never be convicted of a crime.

Nearly half of all incarcerated women are held in local jails, where phone cards are significantly more expensive and educational and other opportunities are much less available as compared to prisons, where most incarcerated men are held.

There's little room for debate: the gender pay gap hurts not only women, but also their families and their communities. The gender pay gap also marks an unhealthy society, where women and their work are not valued. This inequity detracts from the dignity of all humans.

So, this year, make a point of listening to others talk about Equal Pay Day and helping our families, friends, allies, and representatives understand the compounding cost, both financially and spiritually, of the gender pay gap.

2019 Equal Pay Days

March 5, 2019

[Asian American women's Equal Pay Day](#)

April 2, 2019

[All women's Equal Pay Day](#)

April 19, 2019

White women's Equal Pay Day

June 10, 2019

Moms' Equal Pay Day

August 22, 2019

[Black women's Equal Pay Day](#)

September 23, 2019

[Native women's Equal Pay Day](#)

November 20, 2019

[Latinas' Equal Pay Day](#)

Fight for ERA Continues

Some 62 members of Virginia's House of Delegates would have voted to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment had they been given the opportunity, according to estimates provided by delegates.

The House, however, did not have that opportunity despite several attempts by ERA supporters to bring the ratifying resolution to the floor. Delegate David Toscano (D-Charlottesville) tried to amend a pending resolution on a related topic, only to be prohibited from speaking until after the House voted (orally) to return the pending resolution to committee. A motion to amend the House Rules to allow immediate consideration of the ratifying resolution, brought by Delegate Hala Ayala (D-Prince William), failed by a vote of 50-50. Another motion to amend the rules to allow discharge of resolutions from committee by a simple majority – to make it consistent with the vote needed to discharge bills – brought by Marcus Simon (D-Fairfax) also failed.

In all of these instances, one man, Delegate Todd Gilbert (R-Shenandoah), blocked the vote.

In speaking against the ERA, Delegate Gilbert has misrepresented the existing state of rights under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, misrepresented cases regarding Medicaid funding of abortion procedures, and engaged in baseless fear-mongering.

Delegate Gilbert incorrectly stated that women are already “fully protected” by the 14th Amendment. This is not so. If women were so protected, then there would have been no need for the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed women's right to vote. Also, as lawyer Gilbert surely knows, discrimination on the basis of sex is subject to intermediate scrutiny, an easier standard for government to satisfy than the strict scrutiny standard applied to discrimination on the basis of

race, religion, or nation of origin. In other words, under the 14th Amendment, it is easier for the government to discriminate on the basis of sex than on the basis of race, religion, or nation of origin.

Delegate Gilbert also erroneously claimed that the ERA will provide unfettered access to taxpayer-funded abortions. In support, Delegate Gilbert cited an Alaska Supreme Court decision released on February 15, 2019. That case, *State v. Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest*, however, did not test Alaska's constitutional guarantee of equal rights. Rather, the case applied that state's equal protection and privacy guarantees (Art. I, sec. 1 and 22), not its equal rights clause (Art. I, sec. 3), and compares two classes of *women, not men to women*. No case in any state gives an “unfettered right to a taxpayer funded abortion.”

Efforts in support of ratification will continue through resolutions before city and town councils as well as public events throughout the state. All are urged to become involved in the 2019 November election.

GRAAUW Supports Ratification of the ERA

At every committee meeting, at every rally, at the overnight ERA vigil, and during every ERA campaign phone conference or in-person meeting, one or more members of GRAAUW were present. Among those spotted: Carol Stephens, Kathy Kelly, Barb Strohman, Maggie King, Trish Wallace, and Jane Newell. Jane has also been doing an outstanding job managing finances for VAratifyERA.

A number of members, including Kathy Kelly, Barb Strohman, Jane Newell, Carol Stephens, and Trish Wallace attended some of

the legislative roundtables hosted by the League of Women Voters each Wednesday during session. Fortunately, no member of Virginia's official seal. Sutherland was arrested on Monday, February 18, and held in jail until Thursday, February 21. Sutherland and activist Natalie White, who was not arrested, enacted the Virginia seal while a third activist read an open letter to Delegate Gilbert to remind him that he is not a king.

At Sutherland's trial on March 21, 2019, in General District Court in Richmond, the charges were dropped.

Community Outreach Chair

Our annual holiday luncheon for the students in the Great Expectations program was a HUGE success!! Thanks to all our branch members that participated - some gave cash, some gave gift cards, some cooked, some baked and some came to help with set up, serving and/or clean up!! And some did ALL of the above to ensure that these hard working students had a home cooked meal and some holiday treats. Thanks to your generosity we were able to give each student a beautiful cookie/candy gift box with a \$25 Old Navy gift card, a \$10 grocery card and a movie ticket!! Special thanks to: Connie's mom who donated some of the Old Navy cards before she passed away, to Lesin's daughter who volunteered her time even tho not (yet!!) a member and to my husband Emmett who refers to himself as "pack mule" - couldn't have done it without each and every one of you!! The feedback from the GE Coordinators at Reynolds Community College is fantastic every year.

April 9 - 7:30 pm - St. Mathias Episcopal Church 11300 Huguenot Rd. Speaker: Ruth Ann Cutright

Come hear about CASA, and the Chesterfield County group in particular, from its CEO, Ms. Ruth Ann Cutright. CASA provides trained volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in the juvenile court process. We also hope to have a quorum to officially elect our slate of officers for Board Positions and to discuss Standing Rules changes.

Annual Spring Banquet May 8, 6:00 pm at Meadowbrook Country Club \$35 payable in advance by May 1st.

We are especially excited about our Spring Banquet this year as we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the merger of Richmond and Bon Air branches into GRAAUW. Ms. Kati Hornung will be our guest speaker. She will talk about the grass roots campaign to ratify the ERA in Virginia, known as VaRatifyERA. We also look forward to meeting our Scholarship winners and presenting them with their certificates of award. If you have attended the banquet at Meadowbrook Country Club before, you know it is not ordinary banquet fare, but a scrumptious buffet which includes the most amazing array of desserts. Please bring your check with you to the April 9th meeting or mail it to our Treasurer, Jane Newell.

SAVE THE DATE: JULY 26-27 Summer Leadership Meeting in Harrisonburg

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

Lunch Bunch

GRAAUW's Lunch Bunch gathers on the second Thursday each month at 1:30 p.m. in restaurants around RVA. **Lunch Bunch** began a few years ago as a way for members to meet for informal socializing. For information about the group, contact DeAnn Lineberry at deann.lineberry@yahoo.com.

For April 11, our place is yet to be determined. If you would like to attend, please contact DeAnn at 233-5352.

Lunch Bunch will not meet in May but will celebrate annual banquet with other members..

Book Groups

Continuing a 45-year tradition, our Book Groups meet on the third Thursday of each month. We have two groups: Daytime Book Group, meeting at 1 PM, and Evening Group meeting at 7 PM. Both groups read the same books, enabling members to attend whichever time is more convenient month-to-month. **All GRAAUW members and their guests are welcome.** Join us any time our book interests you OR come every month. For more information, please contact DeAnn Lineberry: deann.lineberry@yahoo.com 804-233-5352.

Thursday, April 18

Daytime Group will meet at our standing location, **Ginter Park Library**, 1200 Westbrook Avenue 1:00 pm

Evening Group will meet at Kathy Kelley's home 5100 Monument Ave. (near Willow Lawn Shopping Center) 7:00 pm

BOOK: *Licking the Spoon, A Memoir of Food, Family, and Identity*, by Candace Walsh...

Sometimes humorous, sometime poignant, always entertaining, this memoir combines the author's interest in food and cooking along with her self-exploration and revelation.

Book Groups (continued)

Thursday, May 16

Evening Group will meet at Cathy Learnard's Ginter Place condo, 1350 Westwood Avenue

Daytime Group will meet at our standing location, **Ginter Park Library**, 1200 Westbrook Avenue.

BOOK: *A Change in Altitude*, by Anita Shreve

Margaret and Patrick have been married just a few months when they set off on what they hope will be a great adventure – a year living in Kenya. Margaret quickly realizes there is a great deal she doesn't know about the complex mores of her new home, and about her own husband. While there a horrific accident occurs. In the aftermath of the tragedy, Margaret struggles to understand what happened on the mountain and how these events have transformed her and her marriage, perhaps forever.

A Change in Altitude illuminates the inner landscape of a couple, the irrevocable impact of tragedy, and the elusive nature of forgiveness. With stunning language and striking emotional intensity, Anita Shreve transports us to the exotic panoramas of Africa and into the core of our most intimate relationships.

Sip N Dip

April 26 - 7:00 pm Katie Garnett, Lesson 15, The Tastes of Germany and Austria

May 17 - 7:00 pm Cheryl Kapec, Lesson 16 The Tastes of Spain and Portugal

Kathy Kelley is a New Legacy Circle Member!

Kathy will receive her pearl pin at the State Conference on April 6th. Congratulations, Kathy, and thank you! So what is a Legacy Circle member you ask? It is someone who has completed the paperwork to leave some portion of their assets to AAUW when they die. It could be a life insurance policy, stock, or a % of assets, whatever you determine.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We are happy to welcome two new members to GRAAUW, **Patricia Grigoryev** and **Ramona Jones-Lemon**.

Patricia lives in Mechanicsville and her field of study was Psychology. She is opening a part-time clinical practice in Ashland and Henrico. She became interested in AAUW when she was a guest at a branch meeting in FL. She used to live in Danville, VA. She is interested in attending book group and working for fairness and equality.

Ramona lives in Glen Allen and graduated from VCU in education. She is currently working in the telecom technology sector. She also enjoys reading and volunteering in ways that give back to the community!

Membership Renewal Time!

It is that time of year again to renew your membership in GRAAUW. You can renew online, bring a check to our April 9th meeting or to the Spring Banquet on May 8th, or mail a check made out to GRAAUW for \$95 to our Treasurer, Jane Newell, 509 S. Cherry St. Richmond VA 23220

Letters to the Editor

Two of our members have written letters to the editor. We are experimenting with publishing them in our newsletter. See what you think! We thank them for their contributions!

Hmm, computer complications are not letting me add another page to this newsletter. Louise Brierre's letter will need to be printed in the summer edition. Sorry Louise! As you can see it is also playing with my numbering!

Allow the House of Delegates to Vote on the ERA

One of the distinct advantages of living in my eighth decade is that I have witnessed with my own eyes the significant evolution in the role of women in American society.

When I was growing up most the women in my town were stay-at-home moms. They dedicated their entire lives to raising their children, supporting their husbands, and managing their households.

The women that I knew who worked outside of the home were teachers, nurses, secretaries, clerks, shop workers, or helped run family businesses—all of which were important positions that contributed to the community, but which were clearly limited in authority and influence.

Since those days, society has come a long way in embracing a greater role for women. Women have filled the ranks of most professions, circled the earth as astronauts, and become corporate executives and leaders in government. Why even my previously male-represented Congressional district recently voted in a woman, as did my House of Delegates district!

I think that it is time to make it completely and unequivocally clear that this nation stands on two pillars of hard work, creativity, intelligence, and strength and that one of those pillars is and shall always be a woman.

I call upon the leadership of the Virginia House of Delegates to allow a floor vote on the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. With the Virginia Senate having already approved ratification, approval by the House would send a message to the entire nation that Virginia has fully embraced the 21st century, and wants to ensure that women across this entire nation will always stand in full equality with their brothers under the U.S. Constitution.

Ed Mazur
Chesterfield