



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

SEPTEMBER 2019

President Letter

Welcome to our New Year at GRAAUW and hope you had a great summer of fun with family and friends and maybe some travel to spice your adventurous spirit. Gordon and I were able to gather our three daughters and three younger grandchildren for a beach week in July. Also I have taken the Grandchildren a few times to the VA Arts and the Science Museum as well as Lewis Ginter where we hold memberships. Since flowers are one of my true pleasures the Gardens is one of my favorites places to visit all year around. Best Therapy!!

I joined Carol Stephens and Patricia Wallace at the Leadership Meeting in Harrisonburg the last weekend in July. There was a lot of enthusiasm at the meeting that hopefully we can transfer to our other members. At the meeting **The 5 Star Recognition Advancement program** was launched in which I hope we will decide to participate. I know we have a lot of fun groups which many of you attend, but one of our best is giving scholarships to women who have great goals and need assistance. Its for that reason our **Wine Tasting** is so popular and well attended. Also The **Great Expectations** luncheon in December that our Carol Stephens be handling this year. To those I hope you will contribute and attend with the same enthusiasm as ever. Hopefully our speakers this year will also be well attended. I know the Lunch Bunch is and I enjoyed seeing many of you earlier in August.

POTLUCK SEPT. 10TH 7:00 PM **St. Mathias Episcopal Church** **11300 Huguenot Rd. 23113**

I would like to ask you and your friends to participate taking the **Workshop on Salary negotiations**, even if like me you are retired. You can find it in our Website under Public Policy.. It will help you learn or sharpen tools you might need for other problems you might encounter. Don't forget also to ask a friend or daughter to attend the meetings and create a new generation of hard working AAUW members. There is a lot to come during the year, so please do read the Newsletter and see our exiting activities that are our AAUW goals, such as ERA which we have an opportunity to pass this year, Equal Pay and Human Trafficking.

Hope to see you at our monthly **Potluck Monthly Meeting on September 10, 2019 at 7:00p.m. at St. Mathias Episcopal Church** and bring your favorite appetizer to share. For 10-15 minutes we will also have a guest, Margaret S. Johnson, who heads a program called "Roses and Wings" that works with at-risk girls. I hope to see many of you there.

Very fondly,
Dulce Lawrence, Your President

August 26th is the 100 Year Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote !

Come celebrate on Monday Aug. 26th at 6:00 pm at the Byrd Theater on Cary St. Watch ***On the Basis of Sex*** and be inspired to do what you can to bring the right to vote to culmination with the ratification of the ERA!

Public Policy Priorities 2019-2020

This year's public policy priorities for AAUW of Virginia are getting out the vote, passing gender pay gap legislation, and ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment.

Public Policy Update

Public Policy Chair Trish Wallace helped organize the first annual *Central by Southwest Women's Equality Summit* in Blacksburg, Virginia, on July 20, 2019. Panels included "Faith, Culture, and the Equal Rights Amendment" and "A Better World Because of Equal Rights."

Keep an eye out for the "I Scream for Equality" ice cream van, which will be touring the state, distributing free ice cream, and raising awareness about the Equal Rights Amendment between August 26 and November 5. If you are interested in volunteering to hand out ice cream or educate people about ratification, please contact Public Policy Chair Trish Wallace.

Please advise your attorney friends to sign up for two hours of live continuing education ethics credit (MCLE Ethics) by attending "#MeToo, You Too, Where to: Should the Virginia State Bar Adopt an Anti-Discrimination Rule?" at 4: 00 p.m. on August 29, 2019, at the SunTrust Center in downtown Richmond. Speakers include the

President of the Virginia State Bar, Marni Byrum, and the Bar's Ethics Counsel, Jim McCauley. Tickets can be purchased through squareup.com/store/VAratifyERA.

Keep a watch out in your email for a voter guide from AAUW of VA that compares the incumbent candidates with their opponents stances on AAUW of VA Public Policy Priorities. A lot of time and energy has gone in to creating this for your reference. Please share it with your family and friends throughout the state of VA!

Last day to renew dues is Sept. 30th!

Greetings all GRAAUW members –

Hope each of you have had a wonderful and healthy summer. Hard to believe our first branch meeting of the fall is right around the corner. We sure hope you have it on your calendar already and that you can come and bring a friend, co-worker or neighbor – or one of each!! It's our annual potluck meeting – the opportunity to spend some time getting to know one another and taking the opportunity to learn more about the AAUW initiatives you would like to become involved with this year. We have several new and newer members that we look forward to welcoming in person in September. See you all right after Labor Day – please contact me if you have any membership questions.

Laura Wimmer
VP, Membership
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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.

On **September 12**, we'll meet at **Hondo's**, 4120 Cox Road in Short Pump area..

Then on **October 10**, Lunch Bunch will gather at **Nick's Greek Terrace**, Westland Shopping Center on West Broad just east of Parham Road. You can expect Nick's to be all decked out for Fall and Halloween!

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 or call 804-233-5352.

Thursday, September 19

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

Book Groups (continued)

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

BOOK: *A Gentleman in Moscow*, by Amor Towles. *He can't leave his hotel. You won't want to.*

In 1922, Count Alexander Rostov is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, and is sentenced to house arrest in a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Rostov, an indomitable man of erudition and wit, has never worked a day in his life, and must now live in an attic room while some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history are unfolding outside the hotel's doors. Unexpectedly, his reduced circumstances provide him entry into a much larger world of emotional discovery.

Thursday, October 17

Evening Group meeting location TBA.

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

BOOK: *There There: A Novel*, by Tammy Orange. *Winner Center for Fiction First Novel prize; one of the Best Books of 2018: The Washington Post, NPR, Time, New York Times, et al.*

The story of 12 unforgettable characters, Urban Indians living in Oakland, California, who converge and collide on one fateful day. ***There There*** is a wondrous and shattering portrait of an America few of us have ever seen.

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.

Is There a War on Women in the United States?

In its Global Gender Gap Report for 2018, the World Economic Forum ranked the United States 51st of 149 countries, not even in the top third. The United States' score fell below those of our neighbors Canada, ranked 16th, and Mexico, ranked 50th. Especially troubling are the United States' low scores in "Health and Survival," which came in at 71 of 149, and "Political Empowerment" at 98 of 149. The outlook is not great because the United States' rank has been dropping. In 2016, we were ranked 45th of 144 countries; in 2017, 49th of 144 countries; and now we are down to 51st.

Without action by the courts or Congress, dismantling women's rights on a variety of issues can happen and is happening.

Women's access to information, including information that could have life-saving consequences is being removed from government websites. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has imposed a gag order on Title X (family planning services) providers by prohibiting them from offering pregnant patients "non-directive counseling" on all legal options relating to pregnancy.

Employers can now deny employees contraceptive coverage on the basis of a religious or moral objection. The new rule also allows universities to deny this coverage to their students. A new DHHS rule allows healthcare providers to deny treatment, services, and information based on personal views. The Department of Homeland Security issued a "public charge rule" that authorizes the deportation of legally present immigrants who access federally funded health, nutrition, or housing programs, however briefly. Undoubtedly, this new rule will have the greatest impact on women and their children.

Equality of rights for women and girls depends on a patchwork of federal and state legislation and court decisions. Legislation can be

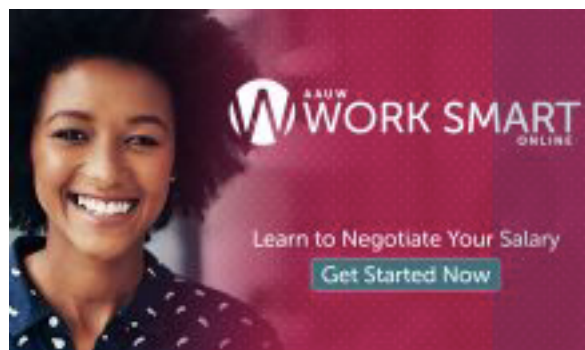
repealed or, as we saw with the Violence Against Women Act, allowed to expire. Court decisions can be reversed or retreated from. And, as the brief discussion above demonstrates, the Office of the President can undo protections.

Contrary to popular belief, discrimination on the basis of sex is not prohibited by the United States Constitution. The Fourteenth Amendment provides some protection, but not the same protection afforded against racial discrimination or discrimination on the basis of a fundamental right such as the right to free speech.

The only effective means for achieving a durable, textual basis for prohibiting states or the federal government from discriminating on the basis of sex is to add the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution. The Equal Rights Amendment does not give special rights to anyone; it merely guarantees that the government cannot discriminate on the basis of sex – whether male, female, or non-binary – without violating the Constitution. It states: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex."

Legislation and court decisions are indispensable tools in defending against the war against women in the United States, but none of these tools is as enduring or far-reaching as a constitutional guarantee of equality. Equality of rights under the law – isn't that what the American Revolution was about? At least theoretically?

Take Work Smart online <https://salary.aauw.org>



Sip N Dip

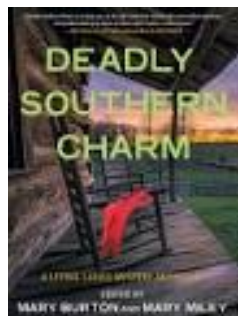
This group has been going strong for 1 1/2 years. A small group of us study wines from a DVD course. We meet the 4th Friday of each month to sample wines from the lesson for that month. We bring hors d'oeuvres to pair with the wines being sampled. The total cost of the wine is then shared equally by all who attend. Contact Jane Newell if you wish to join our group.

Sept. 27th Carol Stephens will hostess for the wines of Washington and Oregon.

**Book Talk Tues. Sept. 10th 4:00pm
5100 Monument Ave.**

Tues. Sept. 10th is a busy day for GRAAUW folks! Come to hear Sisters in Crime of Central Virginia members (our own Maggie King is one) discuss their latest anthology, *Deadly Southern Charm: A Lethal Ladies Mystery Anthology* and then head south to our Annual Potluck at St. Mathias Church for our first meeting of the 2019-2020 year!

This collection contains 18 original short mysteries. Each of these varied tales are set in the South and feature a strong female sleuth. Frances Aylor, Maggie King (AAUW branch member), Kristin Kisska, Samantha McGraw, and Heather Weidner will talk about their stories, their settings, and how they find ways to commit crime---on the page! Copies of the anthology will be available for purchase.



AMERICAN EVOLUTION™
**WOMEN'S
ACHIEVE SUMMIT**

**Oct. 15th 8:00 am - 5:00 pm at
Richmond Convention Center \$25
Queen Latifah is Celebrity Host!**

This is taking the place of the usual Women's Conference held in the Fall by Senator Mark Warner. Let's plan to carpool! To register go to <https://web.cvent.com/event/3ad72594-5282-45b4-9ed1-8d2f390d3744/regProcessStep1>

**Our own GRAAUW member attended
NCCWSL this summer!**

Cathryn Richmond, a doctoral student at University of Richmond, and a member of GRAAUW, attended NCCWSL this summer on a partial scholarship from AAUW of VA. She hopes to attend our Potluck on Sept. 10th and share about her experience. Below is a brief excerpt from her summary of her experiences.

"I received an AAUW partial scholarship to attend NCCWSL, for which I am incredibly grateful as it was an amazing experience. This provided me with housing in a dorm room on campus with another student at VCU whom I had not met previously, and I'm so glad I had the opportunity as she is fantastic! The conference was structured around the featured speakers and smaller, more specific breakout sessions."

GET READY - Wine Tasting Fundraiser 2019!

What: Wine Tasting Benefit

When: Saturday, November 2, 2019

Time: 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Where: Bon Air Presbyterian Church, 9201 W Huguenot Rd, Richmond, VA 23235

This is our **ONE** fundraising event to provide local scholarships to deserving young women who have aged out of foster care and to provide support for AAUW National. For GRAAUW to be successful, every member must sell tickets OR buy tickets to make a contribution. The ticket price will remain the same at \$25 each.

The more tickets we can sell, the greater number of scholarships we will be able to award. Last year, we awarded two \$1,000 scholarships and sent \$2,000 to AAUW National.

NOTE DATE CHANGE: Due to conflicts with the Richmond Forum on the second Saturday night and the Richmond Symphony on the 3rd Saturday night and not being able to find a space for a Friday night, we have selected **November 1st**. This means members will need to start selling tickets immediately after the first Branch meeting on September 10th. Unfortunately, this date is the Saturday before the election. While I know many of us are doing a variety of things to support our various candidates, I hope we can still have about 8 people who can help set up during the afternoon and that most everyone else will attend the event, bring food, help run the event and clean up.

We will need to know how many tickets were sold to individuals versus contributions made by members no later than October 20th. This deadline is necessary so we will know how much wine to order and food to prepare. Tickets will be given to members at the September meeting or mailed to you if you are not in attendance.

In addition to the wine tasting, we will again be doing raffles so each of the interest groups are asked to donate one basket with wine and other items. We will also raffle some of the wines we will be tasting. This has been a good addition to the event to improve our fund raising. We are looking into whether or not we can get an ABC license to sell bottles of wine not opened.

We will need several members to volunteer to help make this a success. So far, Kathy Kelley, Laura Wimmer, Diane Reale, and Jane Newell have volunteered to help. We will need folks to help with preparing food for the event, for set up and clean up, for selling raffle tickets, doing publicity, prepare gift baskets for the raffle and helping with ticket taking the night of the event. The first committee meeting is this coming Wednesday night at 6 pm at Panera Bread in Willow Lawn. PLEASE call me if you are willing to volunteer to be on the committee, even if you are not at the meeting.

There will be sign up sheets at the September meeting for the various volunteer positions and for folks to sign up to bring food. Please call me if you have any questions before the September meeting or if you would like to join the committee.

Connie Sorrell, Wine Tasting Event Committee

Calendar of Events

- August 26 - Women's Equality Day at Byrd Theater (On the Basis or Sex)**
- September 10 6:45 - 9:00 Monthly Meeting at St. Mathias Episcopal Church**
- September 23 - Native American Gender Pay Gap Day**
- October 8- 7:30 pm Monthly Meeting at St. Mathias Episcopal Church**
- October 14- Women's Achieve Summit Pay Gap Day**
- October 15- Deadline to register to Vote**
- October 17 - Federal Lobby Day in DC**
- October 26- ERA Law School Convention at UR**
- October 29- Deadline to request Absentee Ballot**
- November 5- Elections & VAratifyERA Watch Party**
- November 2- 6:00 pm WINE TASTING Fund Raiser at Bon Air Presbyterian Church**
- November 20- Latina Gender Gap Pay Day**
- December 4 9:00 a.m LWV PreSession Round Table**
- December Day and time TBA - Great Expectations Luncheon**
- January 7- Women's Equality Legislation Summit**
- January 11 - Monthly Meeting held on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. (place TBA)**
- January 14 - 6-8 p.m. AAUW OF VA RECEPTION FOR WOMEN LEGISLATORS**
- January 15 - AAUW of VA Lobby Day#1 in Richmond**
- February 8 - Monthly Meeting held on Saturday at 10 :30 a.m. (place TBA)**
- February 12 - AAUW of VA Lobby Day #2 in Richmond**
- March 10 - 7:30 pm - Annual Business Meeting - St. Mathias Episcopal Church**
- March 31 - Equal Pay Day**
- April 17-19 - AAUW of VA State Conference in Alexandria, VA. see Vision for details**
- May - Annual Spring Banquet and Installation of Officers - TBA**
- July 24 & 25 - Summer Leadership Meeting at Sweet Briar College see Vision for details**