



Breaking through Barriers for Women and Girls

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

## October & November 2020

### President's Letter

Fall Greetings to all GRAAUW members!

I hope you and yours are healthy and enjoying the beautiful fall weather now that it is FINALLY here! AS you know we are meeting virtually for the time being - Jane Newell is doing a fantastic job of being out account administrator and keeping us operating in an efficient manner. We can have up to 100 people participate at any one time so we hope you, anyone in your household or "bubble" are welcome and any friends/neighbors that are interested will join us. More information on the October and November branch meetings are enclosed later in this newsletter.

Your board has been busy finalizing a budget for 2020/21 and we will go over it in more detail during the business portion of our meeting in October. It's a tad difficult to plan since we don't know what our lives will look like in the New Year but we have tried to plan for any contingencies.

ZOOM is certainly a different way of doing our meetings but in this dangerous virus time it is certainly safer and it IS great to see everyone's smiling face !!

We are very busy with a postcard campaign to support passing the amendment to end partisan gerrymandering on the ballot in November - please let one of us know if you or anyone you know needs any assistance with getting registered to vote or getting their ballot counted!!

Marian Seigla and Dottie Vye continue to recover well from their respective surgeries and falls. Again, if you need anything or we can be of help to you during these challenging times please contact one of us so we can assist. Our GRAAUW family continues to be there for one another in whatever way we can.

Many many heartfelt thanks to Carol Stephens who does this wonderful newsletter for us and also updates the membership directory. Please look it over and let us know if there are any corrections and also please note that we have 6 new members !! Our warmest welcome to each of you - we look forward to working with you on issues of importance to women and girls.

*Laura*

[Lwimmeraaauw@aol.com](mailto:Lwimmeraaauw@aol.com)

804-387-5315 or  
804-496-6124

### PROGRAMS

**October 13th 7:00 PM -ZOOM  
Refusing To Be Enemies**

**November 10th 7:00 PM - Museum  
tours and discussion**

See next page for all of the details to these great programs!

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## Positions filled but still need...

In order for our branch to operate efficiently and meet our goals of equity for all women and girls we need to fill the following vacancies - please let me know if you can help - we need to have all of our offices and committees "staffed" ...

### Positions needed:

Diversity Equity and Inclusion Chair  
Public Policy

### Postions filled:

Scholarship Committee Chair - Nancy Berger  
AAUW Funds Chair - Carol Stephens  
Historian - Janet Schwarz  
Facebook - Kathy Kelley

Please note – two members could co-chair a chair position – it’s a great way to become involved if you are a new member and learn the ropes from an experienced member! Please contact the Branch President at 804-496-6124 or [lwimmeraaauw@aol.com](mailto:lwimmeraaauw@aol.com).

Also, the Board regretfully accepted Trish Wallace’s resignation as Public Policy Chair. We are going to miss her energy and knowledge in leading us forward in lobbying efforts. Thank you, Trish!

### Northwest District Fall Meeting

We were very glad to “meet” our fellow members from the Harrisonburg and Winchester branches and to hear from our state leaders. What was a special treat was to “see” one of our newest GRAUW members, Erica Meredith-Brown, who attended. Other branch members in attendance were Kathy Kelley, Connie Sorrell and Laura Wimmer. Jane Newell was our Zoom host.

## Program Notes

**October 13th - 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

### Refusing To Be Enemies: The Zeitouna Story

The Zeitouna Story is a 58-minute long 2007 documentary film that profiles a self-formed group of twelve ordinary women calling themselves “Zeitouna,” the Arab word for olive tree. There are six Palestinian women and six Jewish women, some are American-born, others are immigrants. One is a Holocaust survivor, and another is a survivor of the Nakbah’s terror; their ages span 40 years. These women have come together to share a story of purposeful sisterhood, and how the learning and practice of dialogue can be a catalyst for personal transformation and the basis of peace and understanding.

Jane Newell will send a Zoom link from for you to use for the meeting. You do not have to order a ticket from Eventbrite. However, if you want to invite friends then ask them to use Eventbrite. That link will also be sent with the Zoom link.

Some of our members have offered to participate in the discussion after the film so get your refreshments, sit down and enjoy an interesting evening. Our Business meeting will follow the discussion.

**November 10th - 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

### Celebrating the Women’s Suffrage Centennial

For our November meeting, we are celebrating the Women’s Suffrage Centennial. We recommend visiting the exhibits at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture and the Library of Virginia. Members can go individually, or organize in small groups. If you prefer not to attend in person, both exhibits have virtual alternatives. We will then meet by ZOOM, Tuesday November 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm for a discussion of the exhibits and the history of women’s activism in Virginia.

See the next page for the details of the exhibits!

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## Take our live or virtual tour of the exhibits in Richmond

### **Agents of Change: Female Activism in Virginia from Women's Suffrage to Today**

The exhibit features artifacts from the museum's collections and new acquisitions made through a major collecting initiative. It highlights the efforts and impact of a selection of female change-makers who brought about positive change and created new models of female empowerment.

Daily from 10:00 am to 5:00

In Stern Family Gallery **thru November 1, 2020**

Tickets must be purchased in advance

Go to the museum's web site for additional information, or for a virtual exhibit tour if you prefer not to attend in person.

<https://www.virginiahistory.org/exhibitions/agents-change-female-activism-virginia-women%E2%80%99s-suffrage-today>

The exhibit web page includes:

"Votes for Women: 100 Years, 1920-2020 and Going Strong!" Driving Tour

"These Things Can Be Done" Documentary and discussion by historians, which can be viewed on YouTube, connect to link through the museum site

### **Library of Virginia**

The Library of Virginia's current exhibition, *We Demand: Women's Suffrage in Virginia* commemorates the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guaranteeing women the right to vote.

The Library's gallery is open Tuesday through Friday, 10:00–4:00, and *We Demand* has been extended through May 28, 2021.

Exhibition Gallery and Lobby are located at 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA.

[Parking](#) is available under the building.

As an alternative if you prefer not to view in person, the exhibition curators created short videos highlighting sections of the exhibition. Located on the library's Suffrage [playlist](#) on YouTube. Link is also on the exhibit's webpage.

<https://edu.lva.virginia.gov/wedemand/?ga=2.146439796.1991566953.1601134502-933488327.1585070952>

**HAVE FUN AND LOOK FORWARD TO OUR SHARING!!!**

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## PUBLIC POLICY

### VOTING

**Absentee and mail-in balloting** - You may request an absentee mail-in ballot online <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation> or by mail NOW until 5:00 pm Oct. 23rd or in person until 5:00 pm Oct. 31st. Requested absentee ballots will be mailed beginning mid-Sept. Return completed ballot by mail or in person to General Registrar by 7:00 pm Nov. 3rd. NO EXCUSE is need to request an absentee ballot. Ballot must be post - marked by Election Day and received within 3 days of Election Day. The LWV and the ACLU successfully sued the courts to not require a witness for your mail in ballot due to Covid 19. NO WITNESS needed!

### TRACK YOUR MAIL-IN BALLOT ONLINE!

Be sure to check on your absentee ballot for the instructions to check the status of your mail - in ballot. It lets you know when it was received by the registrar's office.

### SATELLITE OFFICES

The GA over their special session approved the use of Satellite Offices for early voting starting 2 weeks prior to the election. Henrico County has 2 registrar offices so will not be having satellite offices. **Chesterfield County is opening 4 satellite offices at local libraries**, La Prade, Meadowdale, North Courthouse Rd and Ettrick-Matoaca Oct. 19 - Oct. 31st. **Richmond City is opening 2 satellite offices**, one at City Hall and one at Hickory Hills Community Center Oct. 24 - Oct. 31st. City of Richmond Registrar's office has moved to 2134 W. Laburnum Ave. Shuttle bus service is available from City Hall and Museum of Science stop to the new office hourly.

- Visit [elections.virginia.gov](http://elections.virginia.gov) to register, request absentee ballot, learn your voting location, ID requirements & more. Need help? Call (800) 552-9745
- Visit [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org), a nonpartisan voters' guide published by LWV, to view your ballot and candidates' position statements.

### Redistricting Amendment #1

#### 1000 Postcards have been sent by GRAAUW

AAUW of VA has supported the efforts of One VA2021 for several years now. It has finally made it to the ballot. We urge you to VOTE YES FOR AMENDMENT #1!!! Thanks to Laura Wimmer, Kathy Kelley, Pat Mallahan, Carol Stephens, Dulce Lawrence, Katie Garnett, Marcia Phillips, Nancy Berger, Lois Hofstra, Marsha Carter, Ed Mazur, Louise Brierre, Lee Canossa, Isata Turay and Hortense Liberti-Mitchell we have addressed and mailed out 1000 postcards to folks in Southwest VA!!!

### Amicus Brief Update for Support of Equal Rights Amendment

The Archivist's motion to dismiss was fully briefed as of August 20. In the meantime, the intervening states (Alabama, Louisiana, South Dakota, and Tennessee) sought summary judgment against the Plaintiff States in an attempt to prevent inclusion of the Twenty-Eighth Amendment in the Constitution. We expect that the Intervening States' motion for summary judgment will be fully briefed by September 23. The Plaintiff States also moved for summary judgment, but the briefing schedule on that motion has not been set. The parties have requested oral argument on the motion to dismiss, and it is likely that the Court will schedule argument given the importance of the issues and the interest shown by amici. It is not likely oral argument will occur for at least another month or two, and the Court will issue its decision two to three months after the oral argument.

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## Notorious RBG

### Tribute to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg

by Trish Wallace

No one has done more over the last century to advance equity for women and girls than Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She was a daughter, wife, mother, attorney, law professor, judge, justice on the Supreme Court, grandmother, and cultural icon.

When Justice Ginsburg was born on March 15, 1933, her ascension could hardly have been imagined. In the words of Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt, Justice Ginsburg had been “born into a world that does not see you, that does not believe in your potential, that does not give you a path for opportunity, or a clear path for education,” and yet Ginsburg, like the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., was able to see beyond the way things are “to imagine that something can be different.”

Many AAUW members were born into a world where women were invisible or, at best, limited to particular roles. And many imagined that something could be different. AAUW members, old and young, have worked tirelessly to achieve equality for all under the law and equality of educational opportunity. We have seen advances, but we have also seen discouraging regressions.

We can learn from Justice Ginsburg not to lose hope and not to lose the vision of equal rights, even in the face of the discouraging regressions. We can live lives that support a vision of equality under the law. To do so, we must, as Justice Ginsburg did, listen to others, be friends with those who hold different political views, and foreground love of others and respect for human rights over ideology.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg never lost sight of her personal connections to and responsibility for others. She cared about her clients, not just the legal issue her clients’ circumstances presented. She cared about her law clerks, not just the work they produced. Her clients and her clerks feel her passing personally. We participate in their loss even as we see the loss of Ginsburg within the larger arena of the continuing project of securing for every citizen equality of rights under the law.

We also appreciate the work Justice Ginsburg has done for us and for generations to come. As an attorney, she strategically litigated case after case to make classifications based on sex increasingly suspect. As a Justice, she authored the landmark decision in *United States v. Virginia*, which required “an exceedingly persuasive justification” for a sex-based government policy. She gave us a thorough dissent in *Shelby County v. Holder* to show that the Voting Rights Act pre-clearance requirements were not obsolete. Win or lose, Justice Ginsburg’s voice can be heard. In the words of Chief Justice Roberts, Justice Ginsburg’s “483 majority concurring and dissenting opinions will steer the court for decades.”

Justice Ginsburg’s passing is both political and personal. We all must take the time to grieve this loss personally as well as politically.

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## Book Group

Continuing a 45-year tradition, our Book Groups meet on the third Thursday of each 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](mailto:deann.lineberry@yahoo.com) or call 804-233-5352.

During the pandemic, we have been meeting via Zoom, thanks to Nora Narum who sets up our gatherings. Though it's not the same as meeting in person, we enjoy our virtual get togethers and discussions. Many thanks to Nora who makes it possible!! **Be sure to let DeAnn know if you want the Zoom link.**

### October 15 - 2:00 pm. Zoom

BOOK: ***The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote***, by Elaine Weiss.

Focusing on the Tennessee fight for the final state needed to ratify the 19th Amendment, this very informative book highlights many characters active in determining women's right to vote in 1920. Though the focus is Tennessee, the book covers much history of this important movement in women's history and fight for equality.

### November 17 - 2:00 pm Zoom

BOOK ***On Bear Mountain*** by Deborah Smith  
Dirt-poor, sensitive as poets, and proud as kings, the Powell family has lived on a Georgia mountaintop for generations. Then during the 1960s, young Ursula Powell's father convinces the Tiber family, owners of everything in nearby Tiberville, to commission a huge iron sculpture of a bear for the town. Decades later the strange sculpture -- rejected by the townspeople and left to rust on the Powell farm-- symbolizes a family's failure and thwarted dreams.

## Book Group ( continued)

But, unknown to Ursula, it is now worth such a huge fortune that the artist's embittered son, Quentin Ricconni, is coming to reclaim it ... and to change everything Ursula believes about the past, the choices that break a heart, and the redeeming powers of art and love.

### Lunch Bunch

We normally meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 1:30 in restaurants around RVA to allow some informal socializing. However due to Covid 19 we have not been meeting. Pat Geerdes is interested in hosting our normal December holiday Lunch Bunch at Hanover Tavern in the separate dining room we had last year. If you think you are willing to do this sitting at socially distanced spaces, please let DeAnn know. We will have a limit of 12 to attend.

### Tired of eating your own cooking?

The **Richmond Restaurant Week** is happening, in fact, it will be two weeks in October. Local restaurants will offer their menus, many for takeout or delivery. The event has always been a fundraiser for Feed More and will again. For the details and the restaurant lists go to <https://www.rweek.com/dine-local-2020>. Some of you might want to do a bit of outside dining together in your backyard.

## Virginia Museum of History and Culture

### Secretly Y'all: Agents of Change Tuesday, October 20 | 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Our first partner event with Secretly Y'all, a live storytelling series based in Richmond, will focus on female change makers, in conjunction with the VMHC exhibition, ***Agents of Change: Female Activism in Virginia from Women's Suffrage to Today.*** [Learn more and register.](#)

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## Membership Matters

Please welcome two of our new members. **Erica Brown-Meredith** joined at the suggestion of her Delta Sigma Theta Inc. sorority. Erica teaches at Longwood University in the Department of Social Work. **Musua WaKabongo** recently retired as an Associate Professor of Medical Microbiology and as well as a County Public Health Laboratory Director. She is very much interested in helping with STEM activities. We are very glad to have them both!

If you have not paid your dues yet, your name has been dropped from the directory. If you had planned to rejoin please do and we will add you back in! Don't delay! You can send your check made out to **GRAAUW for \$95 to Jane Newell at 509 South Cherry St., Richmond, VA 23220-6215**. You can also renew online and pay by debit or credit card. If you have any changes, please go into the Members Services Database (MSD) and change your address and contact information and let Carol Stephens know so it will be correct in the next version of the Membership Directory. Thank you!

## Fiscal Year 2021 Budget

The GRAAUW Board voted to approve the budget for program year 2020-2021 at the September 24, 2020 meeting. This budget required some creativity due to the pandemic that has forced us to cancel our major fundraiser. There will be no Wine Tasting & Raffle in 2020. We hope to have some virtual fundraisers (that are also fun). To continue our support of AAUW Funds and local scholarships we voted to move

## Fiscal Year Budget 2021 (cont.)

a portion of our Operating Fund contingency into our Project Funds budget. We also voted to withdraw a small portion of the funds from our investment account for Project Funds use. We anticipate that with alternative fundraising and our financial moves we can be as generous in this fiscal year as we have been in the past. We are on solid financial ground.

If you would like to see the full budget please contact Jane Newell, GRAAUW Finance Officer.

## Three Facts About Black Women and the Pay Gap

August 13 was Black Women's Equal Pay Day, which marks roughly how long Black women must work into the new year to get paid what white, non-Hispanic men made at the end of the previous year. According to U.S. Census data, Black women were compensated 62% of what non-Hispanic white men were paid in 2018 — a substantially worse gap than the national earnings ratio for all women, 82%. That's because Black women live at the intersection of sexism and racism. While these distinct forms of discrimination manifest differently, their effects are compounded for people who experience both. For example:

- Black women's wider-than-average pay gap persists even though Black women participate in the workforce at much higher rates than most other women.
- 80% of Black mothers are the sole, co- or primary breadwinners for their households, so a fair salary can mean the difference between struggling and surviving.
- Black women make up just 1% of high-paying engineers and 3% of the computing workforce.

[Learn more about how Black women are shortchanged.](#)

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## Screenshot of Northwest District Zoom Meeting

Can you find Carol Stephens, Kathy Kelley, Connie Sorrell, Laura Wimmer and Erica Brown-Meredith?

## AAUW Funds Contributions by GRAAUW members

I am pleased to announce that GRAAUW contributed a total of \$2575 from January to June of 2020. \$2075 was our Wine Tasting funds contribution. \$500 was given by 6 different members of GRAAUW, three of whom gave \$100 each. Please consider going online to [AAUW.org](http://AAUW.org) and setting up an automatic donation of \$10 or more a month. If you put in your AAUW member number you get a credit for our branch. More of us may have given to AAUW Funds, but may not have entered the member number and so we do not get the report. If you need help navigating the system to set up a monthly donation, just give Jane Newell or myself, your AAUW Funds Chair a call.

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