



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



December 2020 - January 2021



President's Letter

Hope this finds you healthy and having enjoyed a Thanksgiving celebration of some kind - the 70+ weather made it nice enough here in the southeast to eat outdoors which was a wonderful respite. Obviously life is very different for all of us right now, but we must try to stay positive and know that this time next year things will definitely be different.

It's hard to believe that December is here and we have already had 4 ZOOM branch meetings, 5 ZOOM Board meetings and a NW District ZOOM meeting !! We are so fortunate to have this technology so that we can still meet, learn and share. Many thanks to Jane Newell, our branch ZOOM administrator, for help with our transition to this new "world of meetings" !! If you have not had a chance to join us please do so in December to touch base with your friends and colleagues as we enter into the holiday season.

AAUW, like all non-profits, is hurting during this pandemic so I encourage you to support us with a gift if you can as the year end approaches. As part of the CARES Act passed by Congress in the spring you will be allowed a \$300.00 tax deduction on your 2020 return even if you do not file a Schedule A - itemized deductions or the "long form" as folks call it. If you do file a long form and are fortunate enough to be able to do so, you

can donate up to 50% of your income to charities.

I hope many of you will be participating in the LWV Pre-session Round Table on Wednesday December 2nd - we are very lucky to be able to do this virtually and plan how we will still maintain an active presence at the General Assembly starting in January even with pandemic precautions and restrictions, The GA is right around the corner and we will keep you informed with as much up to date information as we can as the session proceeds. We do still need a Public Policy Chair, so if interested, please let me know!

Throughout this newsletter are dates for your 2021 calendar - please mark them in now. Somehow or another - even though we don't go many places these days - meetings will slip by us as we get involved in yard work, a good book, engrossing film or other activities around the house!!

As always, please call myself or one of your branch board members if you have questions or need information about anything AAUW. Happy New Year!

Laura

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804-387-5315 or
804-496-6124

DECEMBER 8TH 7:00 PM - GRAAUW HOLIDAY SOCIAL! - watch for an email with the Zoom link in the next few days!

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.

In Memoriam

In October we lost a longtime member and good friend of AAUW - Dottie Vye. While the end came quickly and we are very grateful for that, we shall miss her and extend our deepest condolences to her family. Six of us were allowed to attend the restricted church service on behalf of AAUW - Marion and Harry Seigla, Kathy Kelley, Janet Schwarz, my husband Emmet and myself, Laura Wimmer. A summary of my remarks from the service follow. Many thanks to the members who have made contributions to AAUW in her memory - the family is very grateful. If you still wish to do so, you can do so online or mail a check.

Dorothy Ruth Vye June 23, 1933 - October 26, 2020 - In Memorium

"We are gathered today to remember a life well lived - a friend and colleague of over 30 years. Dottie's older sister Barbara got her involved in AAUW in PA and when she and Bud moved to Richmond she joined the Richmond Branch. She recruited Marian Seigla and welcomed me as a transfer 2 years later. Dottie served in many offices over the years, Membership. Program, President and whatever job she undertook she did it passionately and tirelessly. A couple of her passions were the AAUW Advocacy Fund and the holiday luncheon we did annually at J Sarge Community College for the kids aged out of foster care that were trying to pursue their education. She loved coming and talking with the students - getting to know them and what their interests were - where they wanted to go in life. While not as active in recent years as she once was, Dottie was a faithful member of the book club and lunch bunch. She was an intelligent and

well read woman - whether it was a social issue or medical/nutritional issue she did her research!! She did not - shall we say - suffer fools gladly. Dottie was a generous woman - when one of our members outlived her income Dottie stepped in and helped her out of her own pocket. Because - well it needed to be done...And oh by the way, good work on voting the week before you left us - you got that one in right under the wire ... job well done!!"

December 8 at 7:00 pm

GRAAUW Holiday Social

Let's talk about the holidays! Our December Branch meeting will be on Tuesday December 8th at 7 PM on Zoom. Bring your favorite holiday drink, dessert or snack and join us for a discussion about your past experiences and hopes for the 2020 holidays. How did you celebrate in the past? Favorite recipes? Funny stories? Plans for this year?

January 12 at 7:00 pm

Increasing Representation of Women and Minorities in STEM Professions

Speaker: Kendra Brinkley, Ph.D., Engineering Instructor, School of Mathematics, Science and Engineering, J Sargeant Reynolds Community College

Dr. Brinkley teaches engineering at Reynolds Community College and is committed to early introductory programs which increase interest and involvement for women and minorities in the STEM fields. She is currently involved in a program titled, *Girls for Change STEM Immersion Lab*. The program goals are to increase student awareness of STEM careers and engage minority female students through mentorship, scholarship, and industrial collaboration. Dr Brinkley will discuss the program and opportunities for support and mentorship.

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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 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.

December 17 - 2:00 pm Zoom

We won't be discussing a book this month; rather each member will share poetry she thinks the group will enjoy. If you're interested in joining us, please contact DeAnn at deann.lineberry@yahoo.com and you'll be added to email list for notifications.

January 21 - 2:00 pm Zoom

BOOK: *Small Great Things*, by Jodi Picoult. A white supremacist couple declare that no African American nurses are to touch their newborn baby. The hospital complies, but the baby goes into cardiac arrest while a Black nurse is alone in the nursery. Does she obey orders or does she intervene?

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. Watch future newsletters for notice about when we'll meet again. For information about the group, contact DeAnn Lineberry at deann.lineberry@yahoo.com.

Birthday Corner

We would like to recognize the folks who celebrated their birthdays in November or will be celebrating their birthdays in December and January. Please let them know you are thinking of them on their special day!

Erica Brown-Meredith - 11/29

Marsha Carter - 11/24

Suzanne Conrad - 11/23

DeAnn Lineberry - 11/23

Jane Newell - 12/2

Ibrahim Kurtulus - 12/8

Nora Narum - 12/18

Karen Rosenblum - 1/5

Deniese Mellenbrink - 1/6

Barb Strohman - 1/15



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AAUW Funds Report

Carol Stephens is happy to report that members of GRAAUW have contributed a total of almost \$700 during 2020 so far! A total of over 12 members have made up those contributions in various amounts, including some our newest members! Thank you!! Did you know that 55% of the contributions to AAUW Funds comes from members and branches? Our branch contributed \$2075 in 2020 from our Wine Tasting Fund Raiser we held in Nov. 2019. Wondering what 2021 will bring as an opportunity for the branch to raise funds. If you have any ideas for creative ways to raise funds, please let us know!

March 13 - 15th AAUW of VA State Conference

Due to Covid 19 we will again have to have our conference virtually via Zoom. However, this does allow us to get excellent presenters from many parts of the state and allows more folks to participate. Please set the following dates and times aside so you can join us for **Women Make the Difference!** Saturday March 13 10:00 am- 12:30 pm and from 3:00 - 5:30 pm.

Sunday March 14 & Monday March 15 at 3:00 - 5:30 pm.

Watch for more details in the February *Vision!*

AAUW'S LONG HISTORY OF EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Did you know that AAUW has been actively working for equity and equal rights for **100 years**? This isn't something we have been doing for just the past 5 or 10 years. After all, AAUW was founded for the express purpose of fighting for women's equal access to education, especially higher education. Take a look at some actions from our amazing past:

- 1921 lobbied for independent citizenship for married women (!)
- 1922 lobbied for access to contraceptives for married women
- 1922 advocated to allow women in the diplomatic service
- 1935 lobbied to legalize the dispensing of contraceptive information by physicians
- c.1942 created a refugee aid fund for Jewish women refugees from Germany and other Nazi-held countries; helped Jewish women professors who had been fired find positions in the U.S.
- 1949 amended the national bylaws to clearly state all college women graduates were entitled to membership regardless of race or religion—16 years before the Civil Rights Act. (AAUW never prevented anyone from joining, but it became clear some branches were refusing membership to women of color. The bylaws were amended to make it clear branches could not do that.)
- 1962 established the African Educators Program that for almost 20 years gave African women educators, primarily high school teachers, professional development opportunities in the U.S. to address the shortage of teachers in Africa. Branches in the U.S. hosted those women.

More good facts from Caroline Pickens in next newsletter.

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