



Breaking through Barriers for Women and Girls

<http://richmond->

July and August 2021



President's Letter

Hope you are having a wonderful Summer now that the solstice has passed. We had a great end-of-year picnic in June - first time we had an in-person gathering since early in 2020 and it sure was great to see everyone in person!! While ZOOM has certainly been a lifesaver during this pandemic and many thanks to Jane Newell for acting as our administrator, we have all definitely missed meeting in person.

We have two new board officers starting on July first - Andrea Sarate and Erica Brown -Meredith - serving a two-year term as Finance Officer and Membership VP respectively. Our thanks to departing board officers Jane Newell and Marcia Phillips for their service to the branch while serving on the board.'

On June 1st branch members Kathy Kelley, Barb Strohman and Carol Stephens joined me downtown at The Governor's bill signing for sick leave for healthcare workers. While this bill is very limited in scope - only covering those folks who are on Medicare or Medicaid, it's a start for some much needed change here in the Commonwealth. We got excellent TV

coverage that evening and Governor Northam personally came over to shake our hands and thank us for our support.

Hopefully you already have sent in your member survey for events and programs for the branch - if not, please do so immediately if you want your voice heard. We will be having our traditional new board/old board meeting on July 19th and planning our 2021-2022 program year then.

As always, hope this finds all well with you and yours - looking forward to seeing you on September 14th for our kick off meeting. And again, if you need anything please do not hesitate to reach out to one of your board members - we are ready, willing and able to help.

Laura, Branch President, 804-496-6124 or [804-387-5315 Or lwimmeraauw@aol.com](mailto:lwimmeraauw@aol.com)

SAVE THE DATE

July 17 10:30 am - LWV Voter Registration Training! Zoom only. Must register! See later in newsletter

Sept. 14th Kick Off program IN PERSON!! Let Kathy and Lisa know if you are willing to help.

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.

Programs

On June 6th we had a wonderful turnout for our Annual Spring gathering. Unlike in years past, we had a picnic at Robious Landing Park and with the covering of the shelter and a breeze from the weather we survived the heat! Even the walking wounded came, Connie in a sling and Andrea wearing her boot! Those who were in attendance completed their Program surveys. Please complete yours and turn it in to Lisa Scott. We have attached it at the end of the newsletter.

LWV Voter Registration Training

Our local LWV branch has invited us to join them for Voter Registration Training conducted by the State Board of Elections on **Saturday July 17th 10:30- 12:30 pm**. This will be offered on Zoom. Please register for this training at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lwv-rma-voter-registration-training-tickets-158031491445>

Equal Rights Amendment still not in Constitution!

Once VA became the last state needed to ratify the ERA President Trump instructed the Archivist not to include the ERA in the Constitution! President Biden has not countered that instruction and his Justice Department have not made any moves to counter it. On Tuesday June 22nd, Connie, Kathy, and Carol went to DC to stand as Silent Sentinels to remind the Justice Dept. employees that we are still waiting. Much to our surprise, DC was like a ghost town in contrast to the upsurge in activity in Richmond. In the 2 hours that we waited at the exit of the building we saw only 10 employees leave. Stay tuned for updates!

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Membership Dues are due!

Please remember to renew your membership dues **by July 1st!** Total remains \$95. You can renew online at aauw.org, using your credit card or by mailing your check to our new Treasurer, Andrea Sarate.

Checks should be made out to GRAAUW.
Andrea Sarate
1203 Clearwood Rd.
Henrico, VA 23238

Welcome to our newest member, Kimberle Jacobs!

Saying Goodbye to 2 members!

Just as we have gained new members who have moved to Richmond to be near grandchildren, we are losing two members who are moving to be near their grandchildren. Cheryl Kapec has moved to Boston and Anne Sterling is in the process of preparing her house for sale. She will be moving to two different locations that she has already been preparing! We will miss them both!

Elizabeth Smith is moving into Westminster-Canterbury in July. We will now have two members who live there.

Borrower's Bill of Rights!

Did you know that starting July 1, the Commonwealth will have a Borrower's Bill of Rights? Now student loan borrowers (women have larger student loan debt than men) will no longer be subject to predatory lenders. Virginians owe more in student loans than credit card or car loan debt, yet student loans lacked credit protections. Now that is changing on July 1st! Hurray for us!

Book Group

Continuing a 50 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.

Thursday, July 15

Our meeting will be held at 2 p.m. at Kathy Kelley's home. Please let Kathy know if you plan to attend by calling 804-330-5588.

BOOK: *The Stories of Eva Luna*, a short story collection by Isabel Allende, a significant Latin American writer whose works have been translated into 35 languages.

Thursday, August 19

Our luncheon meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. at O'Toole's Restaurant on Forest Hill Avenue.

Our August meeting is devoted to planning our reading for the coming year. Members are asked to come with ideas about books to read over the coming months.

August

Anne Sterling 8/24
Connie Sorrell 8/24
Catherine Luckey 8/02

Lunch Bunch Resumes!

GRAAUW's Lunch Bunch normally 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. However, during the pandemic we have not been meeting. For information about the group, contact DeAnn Lineberry at deann.lineberry@yahoo.com.

Kathy Kelley will host our July 8 gathering at a restaurant in the Willow Lawn area. August 12 TBD

Birthday Corner

We would like to recognize the folks who have celebrated their birthdays in June and those who will be celebrating their birthdays in July and August. Please let them know you are thinking of them on their special day!

June

Marcia Phillips 6/22
Hortense Mitchell Liberti. 6/29

July

Georgiana Ball 7/31
Tiffany Haynes 7/17
Cathy Learnard 7/20
Janet Schwarz 7/19



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