



Breaking through Barriers for Women and Girls

• <http://richmond-va.aauw.net>

## SEPTEMBER 2021

### President's Letter

Dear GRAAUW Colleagues,  
I must admit that I didn't think I would be writing a note to you this month on vaccine hesitancy, children/teacher quarantines by the thousands and rising COVID-19 numbers throughout the U.S. ... I felt really optimistic in June & early July, but since then things have definitely gone awry. That being said, I'm hoping that all of you and yours are safe and healthy and staying dry during this crazy monsoon weather we're having in August. Later in the newsletter you will see the schedule for the fall - we had hoped to do our first meeting in September as we most always do with a potluck at the church, but that doesn't seem to be the safest plan right now. The board will be meeting next week to make decisions about the fall schedule and let you know how to mark your calendars ASAP. We are fortunate to have several new members in our branch and on our board. we have lots of exciting activities planned for the 2021/22 year if it is safe to do so. As always, please let myself or any of your branch board members know if you have any needs or news of branch members that needs to be passed along. Take care of yourselves and your loved ones - hope to see you soon!  
Laura Wimmer

### Women's Equality Day August 26th!

Celebrate by donating to a favorite woman's organization or cause

**Monthly GRAAUW meeting days are changing!! Mark your calendars now!**

We are changing our regular monthly meetings to Thursday evenings instead of Tuesdays. We hope this will allow more of our members to attend, as several had conflicts with second Tuesdays. However, Sept. date conflicts with Yom Kippur, so we will be meeting the third Thursday in Sept. **September 23rd will be our meeting date in September.** See the next page for details!

#### Public Policy Chair needed!

A very important part of Greater Richmond AAUW is our opportunity to be in the capitol of the Commonwealth and to lobby our General Assembly on behalf of women and girls. If you have a passion to improve the laws that affect women and girls, then please talk with Laura about serving as our Public Policy Chair. Or maybe there are two of you who would like to team up and be Co Chairs!

*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.*

## GRAAUW Diversity and Inclusion Part 1: The Power of Privilege

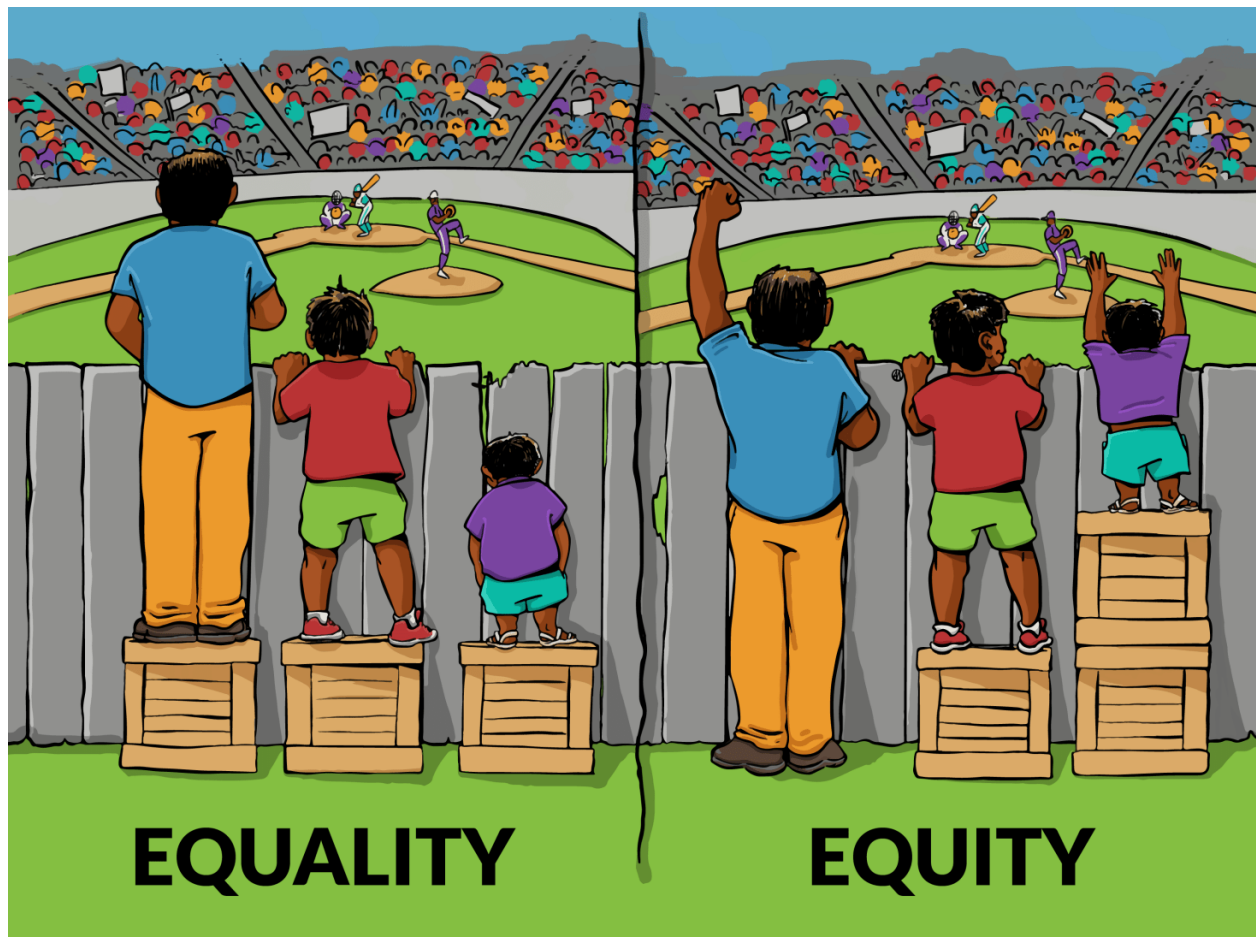
September 23, 2021 7pm

St Matthias Episcopal Church, 1300 W Huguenot Rd, Midlothian, VA 23113

We will watch a video of the TedTalk by Tiffany Jana, author\* and entrepreneur, *The Power of Privilege*. We will assess our own beliefs and then discuss recognizing and addressing issues with identity, power, and oppression.

If you have time before our meeting, take the online quiz found here:

<https://www.buzzfeed.com/regajha/how-privileged-are-you>



\*Books by Tiffany Jana:

- Overcoming Bias: Building Authentic Relationships Across Differences
- Subtle Acts of Exclusion: How to Understand, Identify, and Stop Microaggressions

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## Programs

Please be sure to add the following dates to your calendars for our monthly programs.

**Sept. 23rd, Oct. 21st!**

Our October program will feature **Senator Jennifer McClellan** speaking to us about **Early Childhood Childcare issues**. We know how crucial this is to allowing women to reach their potential in their careers as well as providing for the well-being of their children.

## STEAM/STEM Program is gaining steam!

We are in the process of exploring a joint venture with GRAAUW, Girls For A Change, and the Girl Scouts to present a STEM or STEAM opportunity for middle school girls in the Metro Richmond area to be held on a Saturday in either Spring or Fall of 2022. If you are interested in helping us plan this event, have skills you can share with the girls, or know of woman who do, please contact Carol Stephens or Erica Meredith-Brown. Keeping fingers crossed that COVID does not derail our plans!

## Have You Heard?

**Jane Willenbring** is a geologist who solves problems related to the earth's surface. In 2020, she was featured in a NOVA documentary called "Picture a Scientist." She and two other women shared their experiences in the sciences, ranging from brutal harassment to years of subtle slights. Watch her Brief But Spectacular take on making science more diverse, equitable, and inclusive.

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/brief/385860/jane-willenbring>

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## Membership Dues are due!

If you have forgotten to renew your membership, please do so today!! Total remains \$95 even though national dues increased. Our branch is absorbing that increase this year. You can renew online at [aauw.org](http://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, Sarah Crowder!

### Have You Heard? (continued)

**Alysson Felix**, American track and field Olympic star, defied Nike and redefined endorsement and earning restrictions based off female athletes performance as mothers or mothers-to-be. Read the coverage about her courageous fight for women in sports. Title IX is alive and well and the fight for equality lives on!

<https://www.cbssports.com/olympics/news/tokyo-olympics-allyson-felix-kept-running-stood-up-to-nike-and-redefined-whats-possible-for-women-in-sports/>

**Zoe Spencer** - Remember when we went to the courthouse to support her effort for equal pay and advancement at VSU a few years ago? She is the force behind a new Task Force at VSU, Policing Leadership and Social Justice. It brings together police chiefs and sheriffs in the region with community activists, professors, students and community leaders to engage in collaboration to explore ways to bring these disparate groups together.  
<https://www.wtvr.com/news/america-in-crisis/vsu-center>

## 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](mailto:deann.lineberry@yahoo.com) or call 804-233-5352.

### Thursday, Sept. 16

Our meeting will be held at 2 p.m. at a location to be determined or by zoom.

**BOOK: *The Guest Book***, by Sarah Blake (2019, 496 pages) A poignant family saga that illuminates the great divide, the gulf that separates the rich and poor, black and white, Protestant and Jew. Spanning three generations, *The Guest Book* deftly examines the life and legacy of one unforgettable family as they navigate the evolving social and political landscape from Crockett's Island, their family retreat off the coast of Maine. Blake masterfully lays bare the memories and mistakes each generation makes while coming to terms with what it means to inherit the past.

### Thursday, Oct. 21st

**BOOK: *Eva Luna: A Novel*** by Isabelle Allende

## Lunch Bunch

**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. For information about the group, contact DeAnn Lineberry at [deann.lineberry@yahoo.com](mailto:deann.lineberry@yahoo.com)

**Thursday September 9 at the Grapevine Restaurant at 1 PM** on their Veranda. The **Grapevine Restaurant** is located at **1105 Three Chopt Rd Henrico VA 23233**. (Corner of Cox Rd. And Three Chopt)

Contact Laurie Coulter by Sept. 2nd if you wish to attend. [lfcoulter@yahoo.com](mailto:lfcoulter@yahoo.com) or 804-690-2246.

## Birthday Corner

We would like to recognize the folks who will be celebrating their birthdays in **September** Please let them know you are thinking of them on their special day!

Pat Geerdes - 9/02  
Lisa Scott - 9/04  
Kathy Kelley - 9/13  
Nancy Berger - 9/20  
Ed Mazur - 9/24  
Ramona Jones-Lemon 9/26



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