



Breaking through Barriers for Women and Girls

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

October/November 2021

President's Letter

Fall Greetings Ya'll !! Hope this finds all well with you and yours and that you are enjoying this absolutely beautiful fall weather that has finally arrived. Our September meeting was plagued by technology problems and we are so sorry if you were not able to join in - please go to youtube to see the Ted Talk and peruse the handouts provided to you by email by our Program VP's. At this time we have scheduled our **October 21st meeting in person** at St. Mathias church - **BUT** - we will be back in touch with you on **October 15th** after we see what the Covid variant numbers are and whether the church is open at that time. Since we have had one member that we know of to be diagnosed with Covid even though fully vaccinated, we are trying to be especially cautious with everyone's health & safety. We will also have more information coming your way soon on our VIRTUAL winetasting on **November 18th** to raise money for our scholarships fund. **Stay tuned!!!** Please welcome Laurie Coulter to your branch board as VP of Public Policy - you will be hearing from her SOON. As always, please contact myself or one of your other branch board members if you need further information or assistance. Hope to see you all soon -
Laura, GRAAUW Branch President

National Voter Registration Day - Sept. 28th!

AAUW of VA is working with Reclaim Our Vote to reach under-represented voters to encourage them to vote. GRAAUW has over 100 postcards to send out. If we each send out 10 it is not a big lift by anyone person. Cards are already stamped and addressed, just needs your handwritten message. Scripts are provided. Let Laura know if you can help!

Monthly GRAAUW meeting days have changed!! Mark your calendars now!

We are changing our regular monthly meetings to the third Thursday evenings instead of 2nd Tuesdays. We hope this will allow more of our members to attend, as several had conflicts with second Tuesdays. **Please plan to attend our Oct. 21st meeting at 7:00 pm** either in person (hopefully) or on Zoom. Our guest speaker will be **Delegate Jennifer McClellan**, who will speak to us about **potential legislation to promote quality Child Care and Pre School**. 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

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.

Wine Tasting Update!

Many issues related to holding an inside event where many would gather and food would be served have resulted in the board deciding not to hold the wine tasting this Fall. With the rise in COVID-19 cases, the uncertainty about finding a place that would host an inside event during November, questions about whether proof of vaccination would be required for admittance, and others, the board decided that there are just too many unknowns to further plan this event for the Fall.

We had a very successful fund raising event with our Zoom No Wine Tasting Fundraiser last fall and feel that would be a much better way to raise funds at this time. Watch for the notice about it in your email! We will continue to explore other ways to raise funds to support our scholarship program, including considering another fundraiser in the Spring. If you have any ideas or would like to participate in fund raising, please contact Connie Sorrell, csorrell@comcast.net.

Important Dates for your calendar!

Nov. 18 - Wine Tasting virtual fund raiser
 Dec. 1 - LWV of VA Legislative Pre Session
 Jan. 18 - 6:00 pm Women's Legislative Reception
 Jan. 19 - AAUW of VA Lobby Day at Capitol
 Jan. 19 - LWV Women's Round Table starts
 Jan. 29 - NW District Meeting
 March 26 - AAUW of VA State Conference

Laurie Coulter is our new Public

Policy Chair! Public Policy Priorities for AAUW of VA this year are Paid Sick Days, Paid Family Leave, and Gender Pay Gap.

Membership Dues are past 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.

The 2021-2022 Directory is in process and will come out soon. If you do not renew, we will be taking your name off the Directory. Please do it right now!

You can renew online at aauw.org, using your credit card or by mailing your check to our interim Treasurer, Connie Sorrell.

Checks should be made out to GRAAUW.

Connie Sorrell
 3100 Mount Hill Drive, N.
 Chesterfield, VA 23113-3924

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 a woman who does, please contact Carol Stephens or Erica Meredith-Brown. Keeping fingers crossed that COVID does not derail our plans!

Gourmet Group will meet at Portico on Oct. 20th at 11:30 Contact Marsha Carter if you are interested in attending.

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Book Group

Continuing a 50-year tradition, our Book Group meets at 2 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month. Our meetings are held at the **clubhouse of Trophy Club Apartments in Midlothian**, near the intersection of Robious and Huguenot Roads. [2301 Thoroughbred Cir, Midlothian, VA 23113](#)

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, Oct. 21st

BOOK: *Eva Luna* by Isabelle Allende
Allende is a significant Latin American writer whose works have been translated into 35 languages. This novel tells the amazing story of Eva Luna, strong survivor and vivid storyteller whose stories we read in *The Stories of Eva Luna* last July.

Thursday, November 18

BOOK: *Educated: A Memoir*, by Tara Westover. Named a Best Book of 2018 by Washington Post and several other publications. Story of a woman who grew up in isolated, survivalist family and her quest for education and integration in the "real world."

Northwest District Meeting

Kathy Kelly, Barb Strohman, Laura Wimmer, Carol Stephens, Musua Wakabonga, and Tiffany Haynes heard a wonderful presentation by AAUW of VA graduate student intern, Catalina Perez. Sylvia Rogers has agreed to mentor another student intern this year.

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

Oct. 14th - On October 14, we'll gather at Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Amuse Restaurant for lunch, followed by museum tour for those who wish to browse exhibits. Contact DeAnn Lineberry if you plan to attend.

Nov. - Due to Covid and not being able to eat outdoors, plans are not determined at this time.

Birthday Corner

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

October

Gina Turner 10/18

November

Suzanne Conrad 11/23

DeAnn Lineberry 11/23

Marsha Carter 11/24

Erica Brown-Meredith - 11/29



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