



December/January 2021 - 2022



President's Letter

I am hoping this finds all happy and healthy with you and yours at the start of the holiday season !! We have several dates for you to include on your calendars for December 2021 and starting off 2022 !! First though I want to make sure each and every member got the message about our "No-Wine tasting" fundraising campaign that started last week and continues through December 5th!! We are having this event virtually again this year for the safety of all our members and friends. We hope to meet or exceed our 2020 goal and we hope you can to contribute to our ONLY fundraising event of the year to provide scholarships for women to continue their education. Details are provided later in the newsletter and you can send a check or pay online - whatever you are comfortable doing. We will celebrate our fundraising success at our meeting on **THURSDAY DECEMBER 16th at 7:30pm** - see you on ZOOM!! Next for your calendars is the League of Women Voters Pre-session Roundtable on December 1st and our AAUW statewide

public policy ZOOM that same day at 5 pm.

I also want to thank Laurie Coulter for organizing an awareness event on Paid Sick Leave with VA Interfaith Center at a local Food Lion on Nov. 20th and those members who participated. See more about this later in the newsletter.

In January we will not have our usual branch meeting as the General Assembly session opens as we will be hosting the **reception for women legislators on Tuesday, January 17th with AAUW of VA.** We will be back to our usual meeting schedule in February. March will be our annual business meeting and election of officers.

Here's hoping for a wonderful holiday season and a New Year of health and prosperity for all. Thanks for all you do for AAUW and GRAAUW specifically. Please contact myself or any of your board officers if you have questions, concerns or need anything.

Laura, Branch President
804-496-6124 or 804-387-5315

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.

No Wine Tasting Fund Raiser

We kicked off our Scholarship fund raiser on Thursday evening Nov. 18th. Did you know that global warming is increasing the alcohol content in our wines ? This was just one of the interesting things we learned from Dennis Topper, wine specialist at Wegman's. We hope you will be able to contribute to the wine tasting fund raiser by Dec. 6th, but late contributions are always welcome! See the end of this newsletter for details on how to contribute!

Important Dates for your calendar!

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

LWV VA Annual Legislative Presession - Dec. 1st 9:00 -1:00

The annual event will again be on Zoom. You must register ahead with [Eventbrite](#). Some of the speakers will be the VA Commissioner of Finance, K. Joseph Flores, VA Commissioner of Elections, Christopher Piper, NAACP Virginia, Da'Quan Love.

NW District Meeting Jan. 29th

10:00 - Noon via Zoom

Darlene Baugh (Harrisonburg Branch member) will discuss issues related to the **Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003** in her capacity as a PREA auditor certified by the Department of Justice.

December 16th 7:30 Raise a Glass

We will celebrate the No Wine Tasting Fund Raising results via Zoom.

Join us with a glass of your favorite beverage and celebrate the holidays and the success of our No Wine Tasting Fund Raiser. We will announce the amount we were able to raise. Also if you are interested in serving on the Scholarship Committee that will review scholarship applications and recommend the most worthy students, contact Laura Wimmer. Watch your email for our Zoom link

GRAAUW members participate in Adopt a Grocery Store Action

On Saturday Dec. 20th several members joined 11 other folks for a "teach in" concerning Paid Sick Leave that was organized by Virginia Interfaith Center and our Public Policy Chair, Laurie Coulter. We gathered at the Food Lion on Forest Hill Ave. and were led in prayer and litany by a minister. We handed out flyers with information about the need for Paid Sick Days in VA, especially for those workers who handle the food we buy. Food Lion and Harris Tweeter are two major grocery store chains that do not offer paid sick leave to their employees. We conversed with shoppers as they entered the store and asked them to sign the online petition. Members who participated included, Laurie, Kathy Kelley, Barb Strohman, Carol Stephens, Ramona Jones-Lemon, and Nora Narum. If you wish to sign the petition please click [here](#).

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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, December 16

As we have done for several years now, Instead of discussing a book, we'll each bring a poem to share. We'll also have a gift book exchange, which usually turns into a lively affair. We'll meet at Kathy Kelley's home, 5100 Monument Avenue.

Please let Kathy know if you plan to attend. This would be a good opportunity to join us if you have not done so before!

Thursday, January 20

BOOK: *From a Paris Balcony*, by Ella Carey. Heartbroken and alone, Boston art curator Sarah West is grieving the recent deaths of her parents and the end of her marriage. She finds in her father's papers notes about a great-aunt's intriguing love affair in the 1890s and travels to Paris to unravel the truth of this family mystery.

GIFT CARDS for at risk girls

Watch your email for an announcement about our support of Holiday celebration for Roses and Wings girls. Contact Carol Stephens

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

December 9th Nick's Roman Terrace, Westland Shopping Center near intersection of West Broad & Parham Road. We plan to have a separate dining area to lessen fears of COVID. Contact DeAnn Lineberry if you plan to attend.

January 13th, we'll meet at Baker's Crust, Top of Carytown. Contact DeAnn if you plan to join us..

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!

December

Jane Newell 12/2

Ibrahim Kurtulus 12/08

Nora Narum 12/18

January

Karen Rosenblum 1/05

Deniese Mellenbrink 1/06

Barb Strohman 1/15



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For many years, GRAAUW and its predecessor organizations have provided scholarships to young women needing assistance in pursuing their community college and university education. By holding annual in person wine tasting fundraising events, GRAAUW consistently raised over \$4,000 a year. Half of these funds have been awarded to local students' scholarships and the other half have been used to support National AAUW programs. The local scholarships currently are awarded to young women who have aged out of the foster care system and are pursuing their undergraduate education.

Given the ongoing concerns regarding inside, in-person gatherings, we are having a "No Wine" Tasting Fundraising event. Instead of meeting in person this year, we are soliciting donations from our members and friends. We ask that members share this announcement with their friends who have supported us in the past as well as other friends.

Our campaign for donations will be held between November 19 and December 5, 2021. Please contribute today to support this important scholarship tradition.

Click [here](#) to donate online using a credit card, or send a check (write "Fundraising" in the memo line) to :

AAUW of Greater Richmond
c/o Sarah Crowder
8912 Rattlesnake Road
Richmond, VA 23220

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