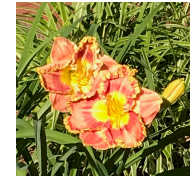




April - May 2022



## President's Letter

Although as I write this I have to admit that is sure doesn't feel like spring yet - this late frost has turned everything weather wise upside down !!

I am so sorry that more of you could not have been with us at the state conference this past weekend in Harrisonburg - what a fabulous day it was!! The key note speaker was Kimberly Jenkins Robinson from UVA and the Harvard Law School roommate of supreme court nominee Katanji Brown Jackson!! In addition to sharing her experience sitting right behind the nominee at the hearings last week in DC, she had excellent data to share with us on women in higher education, employment realities and more. Each of the other speakers that day were also excellent and had interesting and informative presentations for us. The last speaker was Dr. Stephen Farnsworth of the University of Mary Washington and if you have not heard him speak you are really missing out. He speaks frankly and honestly about the successes and failures of both parties and assures the audience that he will offend everyone before he is finished. His blunt assessment of the good, the bad and the ugly of politics is a breath of fresh air to me and his study of Virginia politics over the last three decades is particularly insightful.

**PLEASE DON'T FORGET** - the annual business meeting portion of the state conference is on **Saturday April 30th** - you will receive more details as we get closer to that date. It is a virtual business meeting and the ZOOM sign in info will be forthcoming. Be sure to check out the article on our Named Honorees in our newsletter.

### **Congratulations to all!**

I hope this finds all well with you and yours as we leap into April - please contact myself or any of your branch board members if you have questions or need anything further. Hope to see you in person soon - Laura

### **April Program - NOT on THURSDAY!**

For our April Program we are excited to be going on a **field trip to the Turning Point Museum in NOVA on Saturday April 9th!** <https://suffragistmemorial.org/> We will car pool together, meeting at Kroger on Willow Lawn at 9:30 am. We will have lunch at Harbor Grille in Occaquon and then tour the memorial and grounds. We plan to be back in Richmond around 5 pm. Contact Kathy Kelley or Lisa Scott if you plan to come and have not already signed up!

[kathy7288@gmail.com](mailto:kathy7288@gmail.com) [lisa.scott9944@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.scott9944@gmail.com)

*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

**Annual Spring Banquet - Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> 12 pm to 4 pm** End of Year Wrap Up and Picnic

Due to the unpredictability of Covid we are reluctant to plan an indoor banquet again this year. Instead, we will hold a picnic like we did last year. **This year we will meet at a shelter on Swift Creek in Sunday Park.** The branch will supply drinks and dessert and we will order box lunches for pre ordered purchase by the members. Watch for an email with details sometime in May.

### Membership Dues are due!

Please remember to renew your membership dues **by July 1st!** Total remains **\$95**. You can renew online at **[aauw.org](http://aauw.org)** using your credit card or by mailing your check to Sarah Crowder.

Checks should be made out to **GRAAUW**.

Sarah Crowder  
8912 Rattlesnake Rd.  
Bon Air, VA 23235

We will also collect checks at the picnic.

### Political News

Did you know that for the first time in Virginia's history, the Democratic Caucus is majority women?!!

Finally the **Violence Against Women Act** has been reauthorized! President Biden signed it into law on March 16, 2022. It had originally been signed into law by President Clinton in 1994. However, Congress let it lapse in 2018. It took 4 years to reauthorize it! It is good until 2027.

**Affordable Housing** proponents for Richmond plan to attend the RISC meeting at the Convention Center the evening of April 5th! Contact Kathy Kelley [kathy7288@gmail.com](mailto:kathy7288@gmail.com)

### EQUAL PAY DAY not in April!

Do you remember when Equal Pay Day was just around TAX DAY April 15th? Then a few years ago it was April 7th and the past two years it has been in March, Women's History Month. How long will we have to work to get Equal Pay Day for black women to happen in February for Black History month? If you want to learn the latest about the pay gap check out these links.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2022/03/28/young-women-are-out-earning-young-men-in-several-u-s-cities/>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2022/03/28/gender-pay-gap-young-women>

### Named Honorees for GRAAUW

At the State Conference **Jane Newell** was awarded one of the three state AAUW of VA Named Honoree awards, chosen by the AAUW of VA Board! See the picture below! She was honored for extraordinary contributions to the Equal Rights Amendment ratification efforts here in VA. Special Congratulations Jane!

Our branch chose to honor the following members who have contributed so much to our branch over the years or just in the last year or so! Certificates will be given to you in person (hopefully) at our Annual Spring Banquet! Congratulations to **Erica Brown-Meredith, Sarah Crowder, Nora Narum, Laura Wimmer, GRAAUW Board and GRAAUW branch!**

What is a Named Honoree, you ask. For every 500 hundred dollars that a branch and its members contribute to AAUW Funds, that branch is allowed to honor a person or group. Thank you to all of you who have donated to AAUW this past year! You can even go online and set up a monthly automatic contribution.

*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.*

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

Our meetings are held at the clubhouse of Trophy Club Apartments in Midlothian, near the intersection of Robious and Huguenot Roads. *All GRAAUW members and their guests are welcome.*

**April 21st 2:00 pm**

**BOOK: *Factory Man: How One Furniture Maker Battled Offshoring, Stayed Local – and Helped Save an American Town***, by Beth Macy, writer for the *Roanoke Times* newspaper. Bassett Furniture was once the world's biggest furniture manufacturer. But beginning in the 1980s suffered as waves of Asian competition hit. One man fought back: John Bassett III, a shrewd and determined "factory man."

**Mary 19th 2:00 pm**

**BOOK: *A Permanent Member of the Family***, by Russell Banks. Suffused with Banks' trademark lyricism and reckless humor, the 12 stories examine how we try to connect with one another. This collection charts the ebb and flow of the families we make for ourselves and the ones we're born into.

## 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).

**April 14th Baker's Crust**, Top of Carytown. Contact DeAnn if you plan to join us.

**May 12th First Watch** on Broad St. near Willow Lawn **NOTE- new time 1:00 pm** since the restaurant closes at 2:00 pm. Contact DeAnn if you plan to attend.

## Birthday Corner

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

### April

Laurie Coulter - 4/1  
Dulce Lawrence - 4/7  
Laura Wimmer - 4/22  
Rita Schalk - 4/26

### May

Andrea Sarate - 5/2  
Isata Turay 5/6



*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.*

## AAUW of VA News

### State Conference in Harrisonburg

GRAAUW sent 8 of its members to attend the State Conference last weekend, March 25-26th. Kathy Kelley and Carol Stephens helped with registration on Friday evening and Laura and Kathy helped with the microphones for questions and answers during the presentations. Tess Evans and Laura Wimmer arrived Friday night. Jane Newell, Isata Turay, Laurie Coulter, and Connie Sorrell arrived on Saturday morning. We were proud to witness Jane Newell's Named Honoree presentation by Caroline Pickens.



### Annual Business Meeting

The Annual Business Meeting will be held on April 30th via Zoom. We will be honoring our Woman of the Year, Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn at that time. You must register for this to receive the zoom link. Watch for emails later this month.

### Voting May 6-29 online

Those you are members as of April 15th are eligible to vote for our State Officers and Bylaw changes. Be sure to check your email in the [Member Services Data Base](#) to be sure they have your correct email, as your access to the ballot will be sent to it. See the [February Vision](#) for further details about the candidates and bylaw changes.

*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.*