



Breaking through Barriers for Women and Girls

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

SEPTEMBER 2022

President's Letter

Dear GRAAUW Colleagues,

I hope you and yours have been enjoying the summer and are looking forward to beautiful fall weather here in Virginia. It promises to be a very busy fall with the upcoming elections and some very exciting GRAAUW programs. We are participating in a postcard writing campaign through the state AAUW and if you have NOT yet volunteered please contact your Public Policy VP, Laurie Coulter or myself immediately. Postcards, addresses and postage will be provided. Your board has been very busy planning our 2022/23 year. Be sure to read through this newsletter to find out some of these plans!

The Covid virus continues to plague us - most recent infection rates in the entire metro area continue over to be 19/20% or higher from the latest sub-variant. Branch member Marian Seigla and her husband Harry have both recently been infected and Marian had to be hospitalized for several days. Flu shots and hopefully some Covid protection are right around the corner - stay as healthy as you can!!

A final reminder to please pay your dues if you have not already done so. Sept.30th

Is the cut off date.

As always, if you or your family have any needs please let us know. Take care of yourselves and each other - look forward to seeing you in the fall either in person or by ZOOM - whichever is safer for you.

Laura Wimmer, Branch President,

Monthly Programs

Thursday Sept. 15th - Kick Off Potluck and Heartbeats Program at VCU 6:30 pm St. Mathias Episcopal Church 11300 W.Huguenot Rd. Midlothian, 23113

Potluck will be from 6:30 - 7:30. Bring your favorite dish to share. Branch will supply beverages. At 7:30 Leann Ragland, team leader of the Heartbeats Program at VCU will present about this amazing program. It is one of 12 grants awarded across the country to reduce maternal deaths due to suicide, homicide, and domestic violence by early intervention. We will be using a hybrid zoom meeting for the program at 7:30 so all can benefit from this presentation. Watch for emails to give more details and the zoom link.

Saturday Oct. 22nd - Is there a future for GRAAUW and if so, what will it look like? 1:00 - 3:00 pm after District Zoom meeting 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. We will have an in depth discussion facilitated by one of the State Board members. Be sure to save the date. More info in next month's newsletter.

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Public Policy

The November 8, 2022 election important dates to keep in mind are the following:

- September 24-- Early Voting Starts
- October 17-- Registration Deadline

Please refer to [LWV-RMA](#) for more detailed information about voting this year. Also to learn more about the candidates and bond referendums in Henrico and Chesterfield please visit [vote411.org](#). Remember that your US Representative Candidate may have changed. [vote411.org](#) will give you the correct candidate information.

Our Branch has agreed and plan to write a minimum of 500 "Get out the Vote Postcard" for the upcoming November 8 election. We need your help on this project! Once we get the postcards from the State AAUW Public Policy Co Chairs, we will distribute these blank postcards to any of you would like to help write these postcards. In the past we have found that many voters don't turn out for the mid-term elections so this is a very important project our Branch and State AAUW members participate in.

Please let me know if you are interested in helping out with the "Get out the Vote" Postcards campaign.

Laurie Coulter, PP Chair,
lfcoulter@yahoo.com

Former Member passed away

Kathy Kelley wanted to let our longtime members know that Sharon Davis passed away last Sept. <https://www.goundreydewhirstfuneral.com/obituary/Sharon-Davis>

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 again this year. You can renew online at [aauw.org](#), using your credit card or by mailing your check to our Treasurer, Sarah Crowder. Renewals are due by Sept. 30th!

Checks should be made out to GRAAUW.
Sarah Crowder
49 Malvern Ave. #1
Richmond, VA 23221

Some new steps are necessary this year when you renew online. AAUW has moved to a new system called Community HUB. When you log in you will come to your Personal Snapshot. Scroll down to the bottom. You will see a RENEW button. When you click on it you will have an opportunity to update any of your information before entering your payment information.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ERICA BROWN-MEREDITH

Erica was awarded the Citizen Leadership Award - Advocate of the year award last spring because of her involvement in incorporating multicultural elements into the scope of her work with several groups at Longwood University. Go Erica

GRAAUW cosponsors Affordable Housing Forum Sept. 22nd 5:30 - Zoom

See last page for info. Please share with those who might be interested. Invite your Council member or County supervisor to attend. Watch for the Eventbrite registration.

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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, September 15 - Zoom

BOOK: CASTE: The Origins of Our Discontents, by Isabel Wilkerson, who gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores how our country today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings.

Thursday, October 20 - Zoom

BOOK: The Sentence by Louise Erdrich *The Sentence* asks what we owe to the living, the dead, to the reader, and to the book. A small independent bookstore in Minneapolis is haunted from Nov. 2019 - Nov. 2020 by the store's most annoying customer. Flora dies on All Souls' Day, but she simply will not leave the store.

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!

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. However, during the pandemic we have not been meeting. For information about the group, contact DeAnn Lineberry at deann.lineberry@yahoo.com or phone 804-233-5352.

This Fall, we've planned an International Tour with our Lunch Bunch dates. On **September 8**, we'll gather at Belle Greek in the Village Shopping Center, corner of Three Chopt Road & Patterson Ave.

Then on **October 13**, we'll gather at Kuba Kuba Dos, [403 North Ridge Road, Henrico, VA 23229](https://www.google.com/maps/place/403+North+Ridge+Road,+Henrico,+VA+23229), in the Tuckernuck Shopping Center. Contact DeAnn Lineberry if you plan to attend either lunch.

Birthday Corner (continued)

Pat Geerdes - 9/02
 Lisa Scott - 9/04
 Kathy Kelley - 9/13
 Adah Parashar 9/17
 Nancy Berger - 9/20
 Ed Mazur - 9/24
 Ramona Jones-Lemon 9/26



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AFFORDABLE HOUSING FORUM - MAKING A ZONING U TURN

The League of Women Voters of the Richmond Metro Area is hosting a public forum on **“Affordable Housing Making a Zoning U Turn”**: on **Thursday, September 22nd from 5:30 to 7pm via Zoom**. The forum is designed for citizens and policy-makers in RVA who are interested in strategies that increase affordable housing and provide housing opportunities for all Virginians. Featured presenters are Tom Jacobson, adjunct professor of planning at the VCU Wilder School and former planning director for Chesterfield County and Matt Weinstein, Associate at McGuire Woods LLP and one of the authors of Zoning and Segregation. Tom will focus on how zoning impacts affordable housing and what localities can do to make zoning more inclusionary and increase the supply of affordable housing. Matt will provide local and state policy recommendations to overcome the legacy of housing segregation to achieve housing equality. Partners include the Partnership for Housing Affordability, Housing Forward Virginia, Greater Richmond American Association of University Women, the Richmond Association of Realtors, the Virginia Housing Alliance and the VCU Masters in Urban and Regional Planning program. The session is free but registration is required.

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