



Breaking through Barriers for Women and Girls

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

January - February 2023

President's Letter

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I hope this finds all well with you and yours. I have to agree with the meme on the internet that says mother nature is trying to kill us - in the teens & twenties one week and 60's the next!!

Your Board of Directors has been busy planning the rest of this fiscal year after you submitted your preferences, and suggestions on the branch survey in November. As we make this shift from the old way of doing things with our branch to the new, we ask for your patience as things will be a little different going forward. Your program VPs have been busy planning programs/events and we look forward to seeing you at many of these in the coming months of 2023.

The 2023 legislative session for the General Assembly is about to start and we have many changes coming here in Virginia. So, we hope that many of you can join us on the state conference call next Thursday so we can all keep informed on our legislative priorities.

As we close out 2022 and move into the new year the board and I thank you for your commitment to issues of importance to women and girls.

Happy New Year!
Laura Wimmer

Programs

The GRAAUW Board met to plan in response to the ideas/preferences expressed in the recent survey of our membership. **We will be changing to a program format which alternates an information session or lecture with a service activity related to the same topic.** Our January presentation will be on *Effective Lobbying* with Denise Murden from AAUW of VA. This will be a virtual presentation on **Zoom Thursday, January 12th at 7:30 pm.** We will follow up with **Lobby Day** at the General Assembly on **January 19th.** Our February program will be *Unnatural Causes: Is inequality making us sick?* This will be a hybrid meeting on **Thursday, February 16th at 7:30 pm at St. Matthias Church and also available on Zoom.** We will watch a portion of the PBS series of the same name and Lisa Scott will lead a discussion on current issues in health care and health policy. In April, we will follow up with a service project related to health care and underserved populations. Stay tuned for details in our next newsletter.

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.

Important Dates for your calendar!

Jan. 12 7:30 pm GRAAUW Program
 Jan. 19 AAUW of VA Lobby Day at Capitol
 Feb. 16 - 7:30 pm GRAAUW Program
 Feb. 18 A.M. - AAUW of VA District meeting
 March 13 7:30 pm - GRAAUW Annual Meeting
 March 17 & 18 - State Convention - Williamsburg

Public Policy - GRAAUW in Action!

The Virginia General Assembly session opens for its short 45-day session on January 11, 2023

AAUW-VA Co Public Policy Chairs will hold a Pre-Session Public Policy Zoom meeting on January 5 at 5 p.m. At this statewide gathering you will learn how to advocate both in-person and virtually. AAUW-VA will introduce you to tools and resources that will be available throughout the session, highlight issues to watch for, and provide updates on our in-person Lobby Day plans for January 19 as well as how you can participate virtually.

Unfortunately, there will be no Women Legislators Reception for the evening of January 18 due to lack of a venue, but AAUW-VA will be **meeting in person in Richmond for AAUW-VA Lobby Day on Thursday, January 19.** AAUW-VA is in the process of planning a gathering in place of the reception, on Wednesday evening, **January 18**, for those members who will be arriving that day.

The following **AAUW-VA legislative and policy priorities** are those we will focus on for the 2023 Virginia General Assembly legislative session and beyond:

- **Protect access to abortion and women's right to make personal reproductive decisions with their medical care providers**
- **Eliminate systemic racism and sexism through changes to Virginia law and regulations**
- **Make childcare affordable and readily available for all families**
- **Protect full access to voting**
- **Ensure full public-school funding and protect teachers from harassment and liability claims**

Congressional District 4 ONLY!

Here are some important dates on this upcoming Congressional District 4 Special Election to replace Rep. Donald McEachin, who passed away.

- **January 7, 2023:** First day of in-person early voting at your local registrar's office
- **February 14, 2023:** Deadline to register to vote or update an existing registration (Voters may register after this date, through Election Day, and vote using a provisional ballot).
- **February 10, 2023:** Deadline to apply for a ballot to be mailed to you. Your request must be received by your local voter registration office by 5:00 p.m.
- **February 18, 2023 poll close at 5 PM:** The last day of in-person early voting at your local voter registration office: Saturday,

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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. **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.

FRIDAY January 20 NOTE change of day!! GRAAUW Lobby Day is the 19th!

BOOK: *Cat's Eye*, by Margaret Atwood
The story of a controversial painter who returns to the city of her youth for a retrospective of her art. Engulfed in vivid images of the past, she reminisces about a trio of girls who initiated her in the fierce politics of childhood and its secret world of friendship, longing, and betrayal.

Thursday February 23 (also someone's birthday)

BOOK: *Yellow Wife*, by Sadeqa Johnson (Virginia author). Born on a plantation in Charles City, Virginia, Pheby Delores Brown has lived a sheltered life. She's been promised freedom on her 18th birthday, but instead of the idyllic life she imagined with her true love, she is forced to leave the only home she has ever known. She finds herself thrust into the bowels of slavery at the infamous Devil's Half Acre, a slave jail in Richmond.

Birthday Corner February

Marian Seigla - 02/09
Carol Stephens - 02/23

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 804-233-5352 deann.lineberry@yahoo.com

This Fall, we've planned an International Tour with our Lunch Bunch dates. **January 12** we'll meet at **The Mantu**, Modern Afghan Cuisine, in Carytown, 10 S Thompson St, Richmond, VA 23221, across parking lot from Elwood Thompson Grocery Store. Contact DeAnn if you plan to attend.

For February 9 (someone's birthday), we'll gather at **Beijing on Grove**, [5710 Grove Ave, Richmond, VA 23226](http://www.beijingongrove.com). Contact DeAnn if you plan to attend.

Birthday Corner

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

January

Karen Rosenblum 01/05
Deneise Melenbrink 01/06
Barb Strohmman 01/15



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