



Sept/Oct. 2023



President's Letter

Fall Greetings Everyone! Fall you say ?? How could that be? And from all the heat and humidity still around it hardly seems possible for sure!! Whatever the season, hope this finds you and yours happy and healthy and that you enjoyed the Labor Day holiday.

Our thanks to Tess, Jane, Carol, Kathy, Laurie and Isata who represented GRAAUW at the Women's Equality event at the state capitol last Saturday, Check out our FB page, website and this newsletter for pictures.

Covid is alive and well. We are watching things and planning accordingly. Right now we are planning for in person meetings. Hope to see all of you on September 18th and 30th - see details later in this newsletter.

Exciting things are happening in and around GRAAUW - period product collection, postcard campaign, book club and more. Your board has been busy planning for the 23/24 year - please mark your calendars now with the dates inside this newsletter so you don't overbook!!

Laura Wimmer
Branch President

A Fresh Perspective

Attending the August 26th event to honor Women's Equality Day was an inspirational experience. I was proud to be walking in the footsteps of female pioneers of the Women's Rights Movement and advocating for the progress yet to be made. Being surrounded by fellow AAUW members and leaders like Gayle Converse, makes me believe our collective actions can illuminate a path toward complete equality; not only for women, but for all who are marginalized, excluded, alienated, and prejudiced against. We must achieve this goal for the benefit of current and future generations.

Tess Evans

Important Dates for your calendar!

- Sept. 14 - Lunch Bunch
- Sept. 18 - Branch Meeting
- Sept. 21 - Book Group
- Sept. 28 - Pre-Election AAUW-VA Public Policy Zoom Meeting
- Sept. 30 - NW District Meeting/Voter Postcard addressing; Education Conf.
- Oct. 12 - Lunch Bunch
- Oct. 19 - Book Group
- Oct. 21 - Branch Service Project Meeting
- Nov. 11 - Wine Tasting Fund Raiser

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GRAAUW doesn't rest in the summer! PAD THE STASH



Thanks to everyone who contributed tampons, pads, pantyliners, and underpants and leggings for the drive to supply our area schools with sanitary needs for our middle and high school students. We had a trunk full! Keep your eyes out for good buys on these products as we will collect again later in the year.

Women's Equality Day - Aug. 26th

AAUW members, along with others, met Gayle Converse on August 26 at the Women's Monument on the Capitol Grounds to celebrate the day the 19th Amendment was certified. Gayle Converse [left of Adele Clark statue], walked from Alexandria, VA to Richmond, VA. [133miles]. She said, " The walk is designed to recognize and honor all women of the Commonwealth of Virginia - past, present and future. My goal is to highlight women's history, women's health and women's equality. "

Programs

Monday September 18th 7 pm at Bon Air Presbyterian Church 9201 W Huguenot Rd, Richmond, VA 23235

We will meet at 7:00 pm for refreshments and socializing and program will start at 7:30 pm. We will hear from **Assisting Families of Inmates (AFOI)**. The organization was established in 1978 with a goal to prevent the breakdown of relationships between the incarcerated and their families. AFOI accomplishes this through providing meaningful visitation, children's services, and family supports. These programs help families through periods of incarceration and continue once they are home.

Saturday October 21st - time and place TBD - Service Project for the AFOI group

Womens Monument on Capitol Grounds



AAUW members, Gayle Converse, others

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RECLAIM OUR VOTE/GET OUT THE VOTE POSTCARD CAMPAIGN 2023

Once again our GRAAUW Branch Public Policy Project for this year will be **Reclaim our Vote, ROV, Get out the Vote, GOTV**, postcard campaign. **ROV** is a campaign by the nonpartisan group, **Center for Common Ground**, that **AAUW VA** has collaborated with on this important project.

We will be handing out the names/addresses, script, postcards at 2 meetings in September, on September 18 and September 30. At our first Branch meeting on September 18, you can pick up your postcards, stamps, labels, and scripts to complete the postcards. Natima and I will do a short training on how to complete the postcards. We will also be getting together at **12 Noon for Lunch on Saturday September 30** following the NW District meeting at **Panera Bread 11649 Midlothian Tnpk** to have a second training on how to write and send these postcards.

Last year we completed 500+ postcards and this year we plan to complete at least 500 postcards again. Your help is greatly needed!!! Center for Common Ground showed a 6% increase in Voter participation last year after the statewide ROV/GOTV campaign.

We hope many of you will join us on **September 18 and September 30** to pick up what you will need to complete this important Public Policy Project. If you cannot be at either meeting Natima or I can help get you these postcards and materials to complete this project.

Thank you so much for all your support of this Public Policy Branch Project!!!!

Laurie Coulter and Natima Jones, Co-VP Public Policy chairs

Important future Public Policy Dates:

September 28, 2023: Pre-Election AAUW-VA Public Policy Zoom Meeting; **January 4, 2024:** Pre-General Assembly AAUW-VA Public Policy Zoom Meeting; **January 30, 2024:** Women Legislator's reception (Richmond); **January 31, 2023:** AAUW-VA Lobby Day (Richmond); **February 28, 2023:** AAUW-VA Lobby Day (Virtual); **April 4, 2024:** Post-General Assembly AAUW-VA Public Policy Zoom Meeting

GRAAUW Board News

At our July board meeting Laurie introduced us to **Natima Jones** who agreed to be our Co Chair of Public Policy with Laurie. Natima plans to finish her Masters Degree in Dec. At our August board meeting we accepted Sarah Crowder's resignation as Treasurer and approved the appointment of **Janie Brazier**, a former VA Beach member who is now teaching at Longwood. Thank you to **Sara Crowder** for stepping in when we needed you! Welcome to the Board Natima and Janie!

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Wine Tasting Fund Raiser Nov. 11th!

Once again, GRAAUW is going to have a scholarship fundraising event by holding a wine tasting! The wine tasting will be on **November 11th at the St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 6000 Grove Avenue, Richmond, Va 23226 5:30 - 7:00 pm.**

The last time we held this event, we raised over \$4,000 which was divided evenly between our local scholarships and the National AAUW. Two local \$1,000 scholarships were made to two young women who were pursuing their degrees after having aged out of the foster care system.

All members will be needed to help make this a successful event! That means marketing, making posters and tickets, attending, selling tickets to friends, preparing food and helping with the set up and take down, and other tasks needed to make it a fun evening. The event will consist of a sampling of 5 wines and hors d'oeuvres prepared by the members. It will be held between 5:30 and 7:00pm. In addition to the wine tasting, we will have a raffle of several of the wines and baskets put together by the different interest groups. If you are a member of an interest group, start planning what items you can donate for your basket!

Connie Sorrell is the chair of this event this year and would like to have a co-chair to be able to take over for next year's event. Please call her and volunteer. It will be fun! Also, email or call her if you have questions.

Wine Tasting (continued)

A committee is now forming and will be meeting in the next two weeks. So far, several members of the board have volunteered but we need members, too! Over the next month, more details will be available, including the price of tickets. Each member should strive to sell at least 6 tickets!

Connie Sorrell

csorrell@comcast.net

804-240-8547

GRAAUW agrees to sponsor Education Conference on Sept. 30th in Chesterfield!

The Board has agreed to sponsor a very timely education conference in Chesterfield on Sept. 30th. We are donating \$100 of support since we were unable to offer physical assistance that day as it conflicts with our own activities scheduled for that day. This conference will be live-streamed as well and we urge you to register for that option and tune in when you can around our own events that day. We believe that a recording of the sessions will be made available as well. See details below.

Date: Sept. 30th 9:00 - 4:30 pm

Place: Chesterfield Technical Center

13900 Hull Street Rd. Midlothian 23112

Topics: student mental health, gun violence and student safety, anti LBGQT and DEI rhetoric, censorship and book banning, corporate and career tech ed, funding and impact of charter schools and vouchers, astroturfing and dark money.

Register at www.raiseyourhandva.org

Spread the word to your friends and neighbors!

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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. If you wish to attend, please contact DeAnn Lineberry: deann.lineberry@yahoo.com or call 804-233-5352 to find out location.

Thursday, Sept. 21st Gina's place
Anthology 11210 Robious Rd. North
Chesterfield 23235

BOOK: *The Last Green Valley* by Mark Sullivan, Inspiring story of one family perseverance as they travel from Ukraine to the West during the last months of World War II.

Thursday, Oct. 19th Ellen Rennels home
2009 Greenfield Drive, N. Chesterfield, VA
23235

BOOK: *Thief of Time* by Tony Hillerman
Crime mystery set in Arizona's Navajo country.

September Birthdays: Lisa Scott 9/04;
Kathy Kelley 9/13; Ed Mazur 9/24;
Ramona Jones-Lemon 9/26;

October Birthdays: Gina Turner 10/18

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. Last Fall, we planned an International Tour with our Lunch Bunch dates.

For information about the group, contact DeAnn Lineberry 804-233-5352
deann.lineberry@yahoo.com

Sept. 14th 1:30 pm Mekong Restaurant,
6004 West Broad Street, Richmond 23230,
(just East of Horsepen Road) for Vietnamese food. Contact DeAnn Lineberry if you plan to attend.

October 12, 1:30 pm Hiro Sushi,
9958 Midlothian Turnpike, Richmond 23235,
(just East of Robious Road) to sample Japanese cuisine. Contact DeAnn Lineberry if you plan to attend.

Birthday Corner

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



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Important Dates for the November 7, 2023, Election



Ongoing (See deadlines below)	Register to vote
Ongoing	Check and, if necessary, update registration information
Ongoing (see deadline below)	Apply to vote absentee by mail
September 22	Early in-person voting begins
October 16, 5 p.m.	Deadline to register/update registration (in person or receipt by mail) to vote by regular ballot. Voters may register at local registrar's office through November 7 to vote with a provisional ballot.
October 16, 11:59 p.m.	Deadline to register to vote or update registration (online)
October 27, 5 p.m.	Deadline to apply to vote absentee by mail
November 4, 5 p.m.	Deadline to request replacement absentee ballot or vote early in-person at your local registrar
November 4, 2 p.m.	Deadline to request emergency absentee ballot
November 7	Deadline for postmark on absentee ballot submitted by mail
November 7, 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.	Election Day Voting at assigned polling places . Non-registered voters may register and submit a provisional ballot.
November 7, 7 p.m.	Deadline for receipt of absentee ballot delivered in person
November 10, 12 p.m.	Deadline for receipt of absentee ballot mailed to registrar
November 13, 12 p.m.	Deadline for provisional No ID voter to provide acceptable photo ID via fax, email, mail, or in person to local registrar.