



April/May/June 2024



President's Letter

Happy Spring everyone!!

Sure hope this finds all well with you and yours and that the pollen season will not be toooo bad! This is my last newsletter message as your Branch President ... hard to believe all that we have been through these last four years. The worldwide health pandemic that came out of nowhere and caught us all off guard in so many respects ... we lost friends, family and loved ones, colleagues and co-workers. But it also modified so many aspects of our lives - some good, some bad, some temporarily and some it would seem permanently. Most of us had never even heard of ZOOM much less used it nor knew we would spend the next 18 months on it!! But through it all we managed to hold our Richmond branch of AAUW together and we hope that we will stay strong going forward.

Please mark your calendars now for the dates of the last events of spring 2024. **Saturday April 20th** - annual business meeting and election of officers and **Saturday June 1** - our end-of-year luncheon for appreciations & celebrating.

We have 7 members attending the state meeting in Lynchburg next week and wish you could all be with us. When you get a chance, please take time to say thank you to our members who have served you and your organization so well over the last four years. It takes a team to make a branch run smoothly and efficiently - come and join the team!! There is always room for more at the table and unfortunately - even after 140 years there is still much more to be done to ensure equity for women and girls. Stay strong!! Hope to see you soon - Laura.
804-387-5315 or wimmeraaauw@aol.com

Laura Wimmer
Branch President

Important Dates for your calendar!

April 12-13— AAUW of VA State Conference
April 20 - GRAAUW Annual Meeting
May 4 - AAUW of VA business meeting
(zoom) all welcome
May 15 - deadline to vote in AAUW vote
June 1 - Annual GRAAUW EOY celebration

Dues Are Due for 2024-2025 in July
Bring your checkbook with you June 1st!

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.

Slate for GRAAUW Board Positions

Your Nominations Committee, Laura Wimmer, Isata Turay and Carol Stephens were charged with finding candidates to fill the following elected positions: President, VP of Program, and Secretary. We are pleased to report that Carol Stephens and Lisa Scott have agreed to serve as Co - Presidents for the next 2 years, DeAnn Lineberry has agreed to serve as Secretary for the next 2 years and Musua Wakabonga and Dulce Lawrence will serve as Co -VP's of Program. Unfortunately, Janie Brazier, who has been serving out Sara Crowder's term as Treasurer, has had to resign due to family illness. The Executive Committee has appointed Carol Stephens to serve as interim Treasurer until July 1, 2024. We do have an opening for Treasurer to serve just one year from July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025. If you are willing to serve in that capacity, please let your Nominations Committee know this or self nominate yourself at our Annual Business Meeting on April 20th!

Voting in AAUW of VA Elections

Voting begins April 15th. Be on the look out for an email about voting.

Voting in AAUW National vote

Voting has started and ends May 15th. You can only vote by email link with your ID and Password given in your email. Look for AAUW Election 2024 from AAUW in your email sent on April 4th. It is important to vote whether you want the membership criteria for AAUW to retain its current Associate Degree or to drop that educational degree requirement.

Programs

April 20 - Annual Business Meeting & Speaker 10:30 am - noon - St. Mathias Episcopal Church 1300 W Huguenot Rd, Midlothian, VA 23113

Speaker: Chantal Ampah, Partnership for the Future, will share about her organization and volunteer opportunities. "Partnership for the Future is a **community-driven college preparation and workforce development program** dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty for young people by providing training and educational opportunities that will fuel their future success." Read more about their mission and success stories at: <https://www.partnershipforthefuture.org/>

After our speaker we will hold our Annual Business meeting. We must have a quorum! We will be zooming this meeting as well. Watch for an email with the **zoom link**.

June 1st - EOY Celebration - 11:00 am- 1:00 pm - Annie Ruth's Cafe and Wine Bar - 6161 Harbourside Centre Loop, Midlothian 23112

Please join us for our end of year celebration including brunch, awards, and introduction of new officers. RSVP to Lisa Scott at lisa.scott9944@gmail.com or 317-435-8211, text or call by May 17, 2024

We will also be honoring Laura Wimmer as our Named Honoree as Past President multiple years and serving on the State Board multiple years! Thank you, Laura!

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GRAAUW PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

At the time of this writing for the April-June GRAAUW Newsletter, we are still waiting on whether Governor Youngkin will sign or veto bills AAUW-VA supported that have passed both the House and Senate. Many of our initiatives passed both chambers of the General Assembly and the Governor has until early April to decide to either veto or sign these bills into law.

The next Public Policy Zoom Call will be on April 9 at 6 pm. I hope many of you will join that call. If you can't make it, I will send everyone out the recording for your review.

Public Policy both at the State and Federal level is so important and I am so grateful for all the support given by the AAUW-VA State Public Policy Chairs, Denise Murden and Janine Greenwood over the past year. They have provided information and support for our Get Out the Vote Campaign, wrote position papers on our public policy priorities, held numerous zoom calls, and followed important bills before and during the General Assembly. If it were not for these 2 individuals' hard work, we would not have been as successful as a branch getting as much done with public policy over the past few years

As I finish up 3 years as your Public Policy Chair, I want to thank you all for all your support over the past 3 years!! Many of you in the GRAAUW branch were actively involved with postcard writing for the Get Out the Vote Campaign for the past 3 years! You all wrote up to 50 postcards each and we completed 400-600 postcards each of the past 3 years!! Way to go GRAAUW branch members! We were also heavily involved with lobbying at the General Assembly each year. In addition to lobbying, this past January our branch provided food and set up for the AAUW-VA Legislative Women's reception at St Paul's Church that had not been held for several years due to Covid. We also as a branch lobbied in February at the Capital this year with the Fund Our School coalition to support increased funding for public schools. Many of you attended the numerous AAUW-VA Public Policy Zoom Calls prior, during and after the General Assembly sessions in order to follow bills that AAUW-VA was supporting and opposing. Thank you also for all the calls and emails to your General Assembly members as well as the Governor in support of many bills we were both supporting or opposing. Our Branch has been very active as far as public policy, and I am grateful for all your support.

Natima Jones has been my Co-chair for Public Policy for the past year and will now be the Public Policy Chair for the GRAAUW branch beginning in July. I have enjoyed getting to know Natima and I know she will do a great job as your Public Policy Chair for our branch moving forward.

Laurie Coulter

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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. April and May we will meet at Westminster Canterbury and in June we will meet at Brandywine Senior Living.

Thursday, April 18

BOOK: *Dinners With Ruth* by Nina Totenburg of NPR Read about personal insights on Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

Thursday, May 16

BOOK: *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri

Thursday June 20

BOOK: *The House of the Spirits* by Isabelle Allende

April

Laurie Coulter 4/01
Dulce Lawrence 4/07
Laura Wimmer 4/22

May

sata Turay 5/05

June

Shelley Mays-Couch 6/04
Ellen Rennels 6/18
Marcia Phillips 6/22
Hortense Mitchell-Liberti 6/29

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 or at deann.lineberry@yahoo.com

April 11 -Capital Ale House in the Shoppes at Innsbrook to sample their international beer selections. If you plan to attend contact DeAnn.

May 9 - Mexico Restaurant - A late celebration of Cinco De Mayo. Contact DeAnn if you plan to attend.

June - TBD

Birthday Corner

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



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