



December / January 2024-2025



Co President's Letter

Happy Holidays!

I am writing this on Thanksgiving and so I am reflecting on all that I have to be thankful for. Among many things, I am thankful for all of the wonderful people that I have met in GRAAUW and in AAUW of VA. When I first moved to Virginia, I knew no one but my son and his family. I looked on the web to see if there was an AAUW branch in Richmond. I was blessed to be able to contact both DeAnn and Gay Olsen who were officers at the time with the new merger of the Richmond and Bon Air branches. I met Gay, DeAnn, and Cheryl Kapec at O'Toole's when I first came up in December. I came to know many wonderful members, some of whom have passed on too early in their lives, Carol Mazur and Susana Hernandez Kurtulus. I am thankful for the continued commitment of so many of our long time members, like Marcia Phillips, Laura Wimmer, Kathy Kelley, Connie Sorrell, and Marsha Carter. And then, there are the newer members who have joined us and offered their talents, insights, and dedication to reinvigorate our branch, like our Co President Lisa Scott and web wrangler Nora Narum, not to mention the financial expertise of Jane Newell.

Holiday Party

Dec. 15th 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Details later in newsletter

We have all experienced the love and care of our members when we have had illnesses and surgeries and losses in our lives. It is this wonderful sisterhood of dedicated women, who support each other and participate in the political process to insure that women are part of the solution, that inspires me everyday.

A huge thank you to all of you who have helped Get Out the Vote this fall with post carding and with phone calls. Also thank you to those who have contacted President Biden to publish the ERA in the Constitution. Keep up the effort! See later in the newsletter about a march in DC on Dec. 10th to highlight the demand! Also see the flyer toward the end for AAUW VA Lobby Day.

Please be sure to read all the way through our newsletter as there are lots of exciting things happening and important dates to save in addition to Dec. 10th.

Carol Stephens. Co President

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Scholarship Fund Raiser Feb. 15th

We will be resuming a wine tasting fundraiser at **Gramophone on Feb. 15th 2:00 - 4:00 pm**. We hope to raise enough money for one scholarship in the fall. It will not be as labor intensive for us but should be lots of fun! More information will follow, but we are going to have 2 baskets and a floral arrangement to auction off! **If you have any items to donate to the baskets, please bring them to the Holiday party.** There will be a donation box there. Lisa Scott is in charge of our baskets.

Important Dates for your calendar!

Dec. 4 - LWV of VA Legislative Pre Session

Dec. 15 - Holiday Party

Jan. 11 - NW District Meeting

Jan. 16 - AAUW of VA Lobby Day at Capitol

Feb. 15 - Scholarship Fund Raiser

March 21& 22 - STEM for GIRLS

March 26 - AAUW of VA State Conference

April 26 - End of Year Annual Meeting & Brunch

LWV VA Annual Legislative Pre Session - Dec. 4th 9:00 -12:30

The annual event will again be on Zoom. You must register ahead with [Eventbrite](#).

NW District Meeting Jan. 11th

10:00 - Noon via Zoom (watch for email)

The guest speaker will be Karen Vallejo, director of the **Dream Project**. The Dream Project works with students without documentation to provide opportunities for a college education. It is exciting that a student who has been a recipient of this project will join Karen for the presentation.

HOLIDAY PARTY DEC. 15TH 2:00 - 4:00 pm at Hortense's home

Bring an appetizer or dessert and your beverage of choice. RSVP to [Hortense](#). This will be a perfect time to invite a guest who might be interested in joining GRAAUW! We will send out the address to those who RSVP. She is located in the Museum District. Try to carpool with others.

We will be collecting items for gift baskets for auctioning at our Scholarship Fund Raiser and at the AAUW of VA 100th Anniversary Conference. Bring them to party at Hortense's home.

We will also be **collecting items for the Great Expectation Students**. Laura Wimmer was able to speak with the advisor to Great Expectations at Reynolds CC and they now have a supply pantry for the students. They are in need of toiletries ie. toothpaste, mouthwash, deodorant, shampoo, and paper goods ie. Paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent, etc. Bring your donations to put in boxes that Laura will provide. She will deliver to the school.

AAUW of VA 100th Anniversary Conference - March 27-29 in Alexandria

Flyer for conference is at the end of the newsletter. **Rooms for \$159 per night** are filling up fast especially because this is the beginning of the cherry blossom season. **Be sure to make your reservation soon!**

Publish ERA efforts!

Dec. 10th - March in DC and mail postcard to President Biden if you cannot march. Details [here](#).

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Book Group

Continuing a 50-year-plus tradition, our Book Group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 2 p.m.. **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](#) or call 804-233-5352.

Thursday, December 19

As we have done for several years now, Instead of discussing a book, we'll each bring a poem to share. We'll also have a gift book exchange, which usually turns into a lively affair. We'll meet at Ellen Rennels home in Bon Air. **Please let [Ellen](#) know if you plan to attend.** This would be a good opportunity to join us if you have not done so before!

Thursday, January 23

BOOK: *American Dirt*, by Jeanine Cummins, a saga of people fleeing strife in Latin America and making their way to the U.S. An Oprah Book Club selection from 2020. We will meet via Zoom. Please note that this is the 4th Thursday, as the third Thursday is our AAUW Lobby Day.

Volunteers needed!

We are in need of someone to serve as our DEI representative. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please let Carol or Lisa know.

We also need someone who would be willing to coordinate the food that folks will bring to the Scholarship Fundraiser at Gramophone. Please let Carol or Lisa know if you are willing. Thank you!

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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](#) .

December 12th We'll meet at the **Hobnob Restaurant** in Lakeside.

6010 Hermitage Rd. 23228

Contact DeAnn Lineberry if you plan to attend.

January 9th, We'll enjoy Chinese fare at **Beijing on Grove Avenue** to observe the Lunar New Year. 5710 Grove Ave.23226
Contact DeAnn if you plan to attend.

Birthday Corner

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

December

Jane Newell 12/2

Nora Narum 12/18

January

Karen Rosenblum 1/05

Barb Strohman 1/15



Save the Dates



AAUW of Virginia Lobby Days in Richmond

**January 15, 2025
Evening Reception and Talk
Hampton Inn and Suites, Richmond**

**January 16, 2025
Lobby Day
Make our Voices Heard in Richmond
Connect with our Lawmakers**

**Room reservation link at Hampton Inn & Suites is [https://
group.hamptoninn.com/78zjxv](https://group.hamptoninn.com/78zjxv)
\$159**

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2025 STATE CONFERENCE

On March 27-28, 1925, the seven already existing local branches of AAUW in Virginia met in Williamsburg. When they adjourned, the Virginia Division of AAUW was a reality.

On March 28, 2025, join us in Alexandria as the AAUW-VA centennial celebration begins, and we jubilantly begin our second century of women changing the conversation.

The conference is being hosted by the AAUW-VA Northern District branches at the **Sheraton Suites Old Town Alexandria, 801 N St. Asaph Street, Alexandria 22314** on Saturday, March 29, 2025, with preconference activities on March 28, 2025.

Great news! It's not too early to reserve a room. Guest rooms will be available for March 28 & 29 (king/sofa bed or double/double) for \$159 per night plus tax, including a full hot breakfast for up to 2 persons.

Use this link to reserve your room. Or you can call 1 (888) 236-2427; use code **AAUW** to reserve a room. The rate is also available for 3 days before/after Mar 28 & 29 on a space available basis. First make a reservation for conference days & then for extra days email jrasolofoson@sheratonalexandria.com.

The earlier you book a room the better because the 2025 Conference will take place on the eve of Cherry Blossom season and rooms in the hotel will book up early. Once our block is sold out, we might be able to add more rooms, but that will only be possible if the hotel is not already sold out.

***IMPORTANT NOTICE:** When making your hotel reservation, ignore any reference to a \$25 resort fee. You will NOT be charged this. The room rate is \$159 plus state and local taxes.

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