



Breaking through Barriers for Women and Girls

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



February/March 2025



Co-President's Letter

Hope this finds everyone healthy and warm. It has been an interesting and action-packed couple of months, with social events, public policy, and community outreach activities! We had a lovely Holiday party at the home of Hortense Mitchell-Liberti. A huge thank you to Hortense for hosting! From our public policy arm, we had several members participate in January Lobby Days at the State Capitol. AAUW Virginia used a new format with a speaker/training session the evening before.

We have organized two very successful community outreach activities with two of our philanthropic partners. Laura Wimmer headed up a collection for the pantry at Great Expectations. Members generously donated toiletries and other essential items. Also, all the branches in VA were tasked with donating 100 items for the 100th anniversary of Virginia AAUW. We chose a donation to the VCU Heartbeats program which serves pregnant women in high-risk situations. We did much better than our goal of 100, we donated over 300 items to the grateful staff at Heartbeats.

We are very excited about our scholarship fundraiser at Gramophone Wine Bar on February 15th. It is wonderful to be back in a position where we can host a live event! We hope to see many members there, and new friends as well. There will be good wine, great food, and wonderful fellowship. There will be raffle baskets as well.

We are putting together a basket for the raffle at the State meeting in Alexandria in March. Anyone who is still planning to donate, please give items to Lisa by March 10th. The theme is "The Best of Virginia".

Sincerely, Lisa Scott, Co-President

Important Dates for your calendar!

Feb. 15th - Scholarship Fund Raiser at Gramophone 2-4 pm (see flyer at end)

March 21- 22 - STEM for Girls Conference

March 28 - 30th - AAUW VA State Conference in Alexandria - 100th Anniversary Register [here](#).

April 26th - Annual Spring Brunch and Business Meeting

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Meet our new members!

Aimerance Fariala -Aimerance is a student member and Musau WaKabonga's niece. Aimerance came from Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2021. She is studying math and science at Reynold's Community College with the goal of becoming a math teacher. Her aspirations are : 1) Teach young people how to value themselves, to tell them how important they are, and how important their young age is. (2) Encourage everyone, men and women who have been exposed to sexual, physical and verbal abuse to rise above the abuse and know that they are important. These abuses do not define them or predict their futures. These are her aspirations because God has healed and saved her from similar situations, so she wishes to help others too. She knows that she is not the only one who has been in difficult situations in the world. Women and men are still facing similar difficult situations.

Patty Grigoryev - Patty is a clinical psychologist specializing in treating trauma. She is easing her way out to retirement. She has been married to her husband, Leon, for 41 years and they have 3 adult children and 2 grandchildren. They moved here 7 years ago from Mississippi. A Florida friend introduced Patty to AAUW. The dedication to education of girls and women in AAUW fits with the upbringing Patty received. She relates... "My parents were both depression era children born in 1921. They suffered, especially my mother, whose memories of her childhood were of being cold and hungry. But my poor, uneducated grandparents pushed education for both the boys and the girls as the way out of poverty. Their neighbors pulled their children from school to take menial jobs. Not my grandparents!

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(Patty continued)

They threw more water in the soup and pushed education. Then, I think my parents were also ahead of their time. They were very close and had a deeply loving relationship. They counseled me to never depend on a man financially but to have an education and always be able to be self sufficient." She likes to travel, especially to Portugal, and they spend 1/3 of the year in New Smyrna Beach FL near their son.

STEM for Girls - March 21-22

Registration is open on the website (See flyer at the end of the newsletter). We will need volunteers for Saturday morning at Reynold's downtown campus at 9:00 am to sign girls in, give them their bags and direct them to their mini workshop rooms. We will also need volunteers to gather them at the end of the morning onto busses and chaperone on the bus to VCU Engineering campus where they will have lunch and the afternoon workshops. We will need volunteers to help with supervising lunch and guiding to afternoon workshops. Contact Carol if you can help.

April 26th 10:00 - 12:00 Brunch and Annual Business Meeting

We will meet at St. Matthias Episcopal Church for a catered brunch buffet and hold our election and installation of new officers. Watch for details in your email.

Nominations open for GRAAUW Board Positions

We are looking for volunteers willing to serve as VP's of Membership. Nora Narum is running for Treasurer. We thank Jane Newell and Marian Seigla for stepping in to finish the terms of Treasurer and VP of Membership, respectively, for this year.

Programs/Community Outreach

January VCU Heartbeats Collection a Success!

Eleven members gathered at Ginter Park Library on Jan. 25th. A total of 14 members contributed over 325 items from the wishlist. Jan. 30th, Dulce, Lisa, and Carol delivered items to VCU Heartbeats. See our website and FB page for photo of group at Ginter Park Library.



December Great Expectations collection a success!

Thank you to all who contributed detergent, paper goods, food etc. to the pantry for Great Expectation Students. Laura delivered them to Reynolds Community College once the new semester started.



December Holiday Party full of good fun and earnest conversation.

Thank you, Hortense, for being the hostess with the mostest!

Equal Rights Amendment

On January 17, 2025, President Biden declared the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is the law of the land as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. President Biden's declaration affirms the ERA's legitimacy, superseding the Archivist's need to act as their role is purely ministerial.

As legal scholars Laurence H. Tribe and Kathleen M. Sullivan explain in [The Contrarian](#):

"It is not necessary for the National Archivist to publish the ERA for it to be adopted under the Constitution. The President avoided conflict with the Archivist, who recently stated she would defy her ministerial duty to publish the ERA. Nearly a century ago, Congress tasked the Archivist with ensuring the nation was informed that an amendment was in force. In today's age of instant communication, the President's announcement fulfills that function."

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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.

Thursday, February 20 - Zoom only
BOOK: *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store*, by James McBride, in observance of Black History Month.

Thursday, March 20
BOOK: *the Campaign for Women's Suffrage in Virginia*, by three Library of Virginia staff members, in observance of Women's History Month. Meeting place TBD.

AAUW Funds

The total amount that our branch members contributed to AAUW Funds for 2024 was \$1383.20. This qualifies our branch to honor two members as Named Honorees at the State Convention. If you are interested in contributing to AAUW Funds to help support the various programs that AAUW supports, please go to aauw.org and sign in with your email address. At the bottom of the Personal Snapshot click on Donate. Read and decide about the Greatest Needs Fund and then click on Donate. After you decide your amount and whether it is a once or monthly donation fill in the payment information and then click on Donate.

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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 at deann.lineberry@yahoo.com

February 13, we'll enjoy Chinese fare at **Beijing on Grove Avenue** to observe the Lunar New Year a bit late. We had scheduled this restaurant for January but had to cancel due to water issue in City. Contact DeAnn Lineberry if you plan to attend.

March 13, we'll celebrate St. Patrick's Day at **O'Toole's Irish Pub**, 4800 Forest Hill Avenue, just east of Westover Hills Blvd. Contact DeAnn if you plan to attend.

Birthday Corner

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

February

Marian Seigla 2/09

Carol Stephens 2/23

March

Patty Grigoryev 3/07





January 30, 2025

Dear Ms. Wimmer and AAUW Local Branch Members,

I am writing to express appreciation and gratitude for the generous donation of toiletries you made to Reynolds Community College students. I recently learned that our two food pantries located at our downtown and Parham Road campuses together had 798 visits from students during the fall 2024 semester. Until now, we have had limited supplies of much needed toiletry items, so we are extremely thankful to be able to offer more of these items to our students in need.

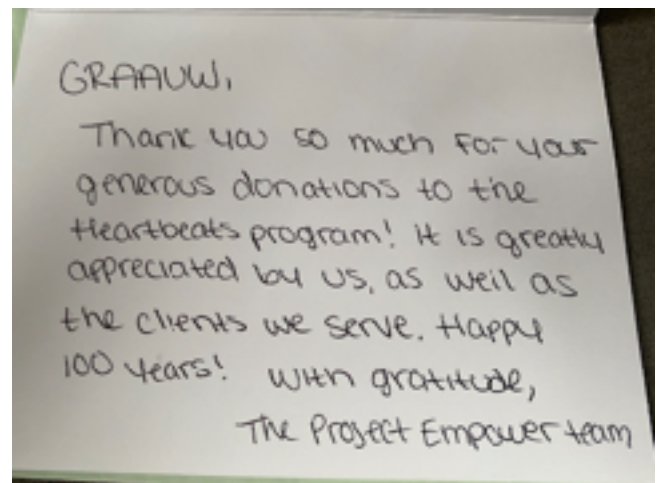
We look forward to partnering with you in the future, especially at the upcoming STEM event on March 22nd. Please provide any detailed information that you have concerning that event when it is available.

Again, on behalf of the Reynolds Student Support Services Department, I thank you for your kindness and generosity.

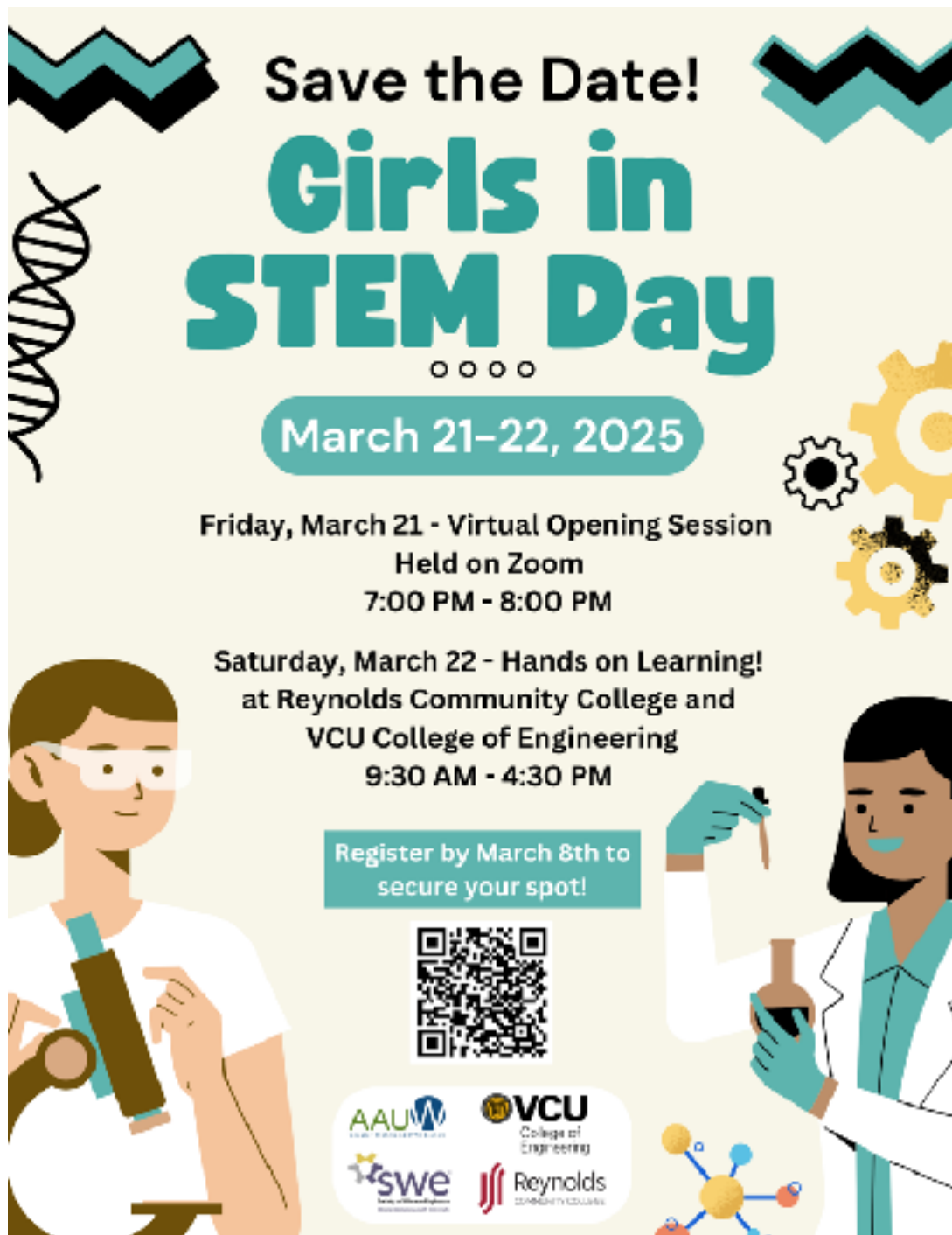
Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Karen Cole'.

Karen Cole
Student Support & Great Expectations Coach
Reynolds Community College
804-523-5294
kcole@reynolds.edu



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The poster features a light beige background with teal and black decorative elements. At the top, there are two stylized wave-like shapes. On the left, a DNA double helix is drawn vertically. On the right, there are several interlocking gears in teal and yellow. The main title 'Girls in STEM Day' is in large, bold, teal letters. Below it, the dates 'March 21-22, 2025' are in a teal rounded rectangle. The event details are listed in black text. At the bottom, there are two illustrations of women in lab coats: one on the left using a microscope and one on the right holding a test tube. A QR code is centered below the registration text. Logos for AAUW, VCU College of Engineering, SWE, and Reynolds Community College are at the bottom.

Save the Date!

Girls in STEM Day


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March 21-22, 2025

Friday, March 21 - Virtual Opening Session
Held on Zoom
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Saturday, March 22 - Hands on Learning!
at Reynolds Community College and
VCU College of Engineering
9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Register by March 8th to
secure your spot!



AAUW
American Association of University Women

VCU
College of Engineering

swe
Society of Women Engineers

Reynolds
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Wine Tasting Fundraising Event at Gramophone

4827 Forest Hill Ave. Richmond, VA 23225

Sponsored by Greater Richmond American
Association of University Women



Celebrate Valentine's Day Weekend with friends and loved ones, and help to provide scholarships!

Saturday Feb. 15th 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Tickets \$35 per person order or donate [here](#)

Proceeds will provide scholarships to local colleges / community colleges. Limited number of tickets available

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