



Breaking through Barriers for Women and Girls

• <http://richmond-va.aauw.net>

## SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2025

### Co - President's Letter

We are very pleased at the successes that we had last year and to see that we are finally crawling out of "the COVID brain".

Thanks to all of you who answered our survey about programs. The overwhelming preference indicated was for hybrid meetings where folks can meet in person but zoom the meeting to those who cannot attend in person. We have scheduled St. Mathias Episcopal Church for three such meetings throughout the year.

Already this year we have had a very successful Postcard writing gathering at The Veil on Forest Hill Ave. Thanks to 13 members and Laura Wimmer's friend we were able to complete or make good headway on 300 Get Out the Vote Postcards. This is a very important election and many of you will be helping with various candidate campaigns. It is exciting to know that Virginia will have its first female governor in our Commonwealth's history.

We are also very excited to be able to relaunch our scholarship effort this year. We will be able to offer 2 \$1000 scholarships and Lisa Scott has volunteered to head up the Scholarship Committee! Thank you, Lisa!

The Northwest District of which we are a part will be responsible for the AAUW of VA State Conference. It is being held in Richmond so we look forward to your help this spring!

Please check out the Calendar of the Year later in this newsletter and mark down the dates in your own calendar now!

Carol Stephens, Co President GRAAUW

### Saturday Sept. 13th 2:00 - 4:00 Fall Kick Off at Gramophone

4827 Forest Hill Ave. Richmond 23225

Beverages and snacks for purchase.

Come meet our new members, renew friendships and see what is in store for this coming year!

Celebrate with Marsha Carter and Marcia Phillips their 50 year Life Memberships in AAUW.

Bring a friend or neighbor. See you there!

### GRAAUW members help with Voter Guide

Kathy Kelley, Jennifer Morrison, Barb Strohman and Carol Stephens are researching House Delegate candidates in Metro Richmond area for the AAUW of VA Voter Guide.

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## AAUW Fredericksburg off to good start!

Fredericksburg now has 14 members plus a number of college student members from Mary Washington. Fredericksburg has been a big help already in our planning for the Spring State Conference.

## CALENDAR FOR THE YEAR

Sept. 13th - Fall Kick Off at Gramophone

Oct. 14th - Jane Newell on National Popular Vote - zoom 7:00 pm

Nov. 1st - hybrid meeting at St. Mathias

Dec. - in gathering for Great Expectations Pantry

Jan. 31st - Northwest District Mtg on Mary Washington campus - Human Trafficking

Feb. 3/4 - AAUW VA Lobby Day

Feb. 14th - Wine Tasting Fund Raiser at Gramophone

March 14th - hybrid meeting at St. Mathias gathering of items for Heartbeats

April -17 & 18th State Conference at Drury Plaza Hotel Richmond

May 2nd - Annual Business Meeting and Brunch at St. Mathias

Lunch Bunch - 2nd Thursday of each month  
Book Group - 3rd Thursday of each month

## GRAAUW Board

Co Presidents - Lisa Scott  
Carol Stephens  
Secretary - DeAnn Lineberry  
Finance Officer - Nora Narum  
VP Membership - Kiki Kimber  
CO VP's Program - Musau Wakabonga  
Dulce Lawrence

Public Policy Chair - Kathy Kelley

Webmaster - Nora Narum

STEM Chair - Teri Weston

Facebook and Historian - Tess Evans

Outreach Chair - Laura Wimmer

AAUW Funds Chair - Jane Newell

**DEI or College/University Partners-** Is it you? It can be! Contact Lisa or Carol if you are interested

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## Welcome to AAUW Fredericksburg!

We have a new branch in Virginia! Fredericksburg has formed a new branch and will be joining us in the Northwest District. Our **Northwest District Meeting will be Jan. 11th 10:00 - noon via zoom. Topic - Dream Project - Karen Vallejo**

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## Book Group

Continuing a 50 year tradition, our Book Groups meet 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](mailto:deann.lineberry@yahoo.com) or call 804-233-5352.

### Thursday, September 18 2:00 pm

**BOOK: *Overstory*** by Richard Powers  
A novel that explores trees and peoples relationships to them and to each other. It explores elements of peaceful resistance movements. Place - TBD

### Thursday, October 16 2:00 pm

**BOOK: *Code Talker*** a memoir by Chester Nez, a Navajo who helped to design a secret code for the military during WWII that helped defeat the Japanese. He also attended the infamous boarding schools as a child. Place - TBD

## Birthday Corner

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

Lisa Scott - 9/04

Kathy Kelley - 9/13

Ed Mazur - 9/24

Ramona Jones-Lemon 9/26

## Lunch Bunch

**GRAAUW's Lunch Bunch** normally gathers on the **second Thursday each month at 1:00 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](mailto:deann.lineberry@yahoo.com) or phone 804-233-5352.

**Sept. 11th** we will enjoy good barbecue at **Buzz and Ned's** 8205 West Broad Street, Richmond 23294, just east of Parham Road. Contact DeAnn Lineberry if you plan to attend.

**Oct. 9** we'll have authentic Italian fare at **Maldini's Ristorante & Pizzeria**, 4811 Forest Hill Ave., Richmond 23225, just east of Westover Hills Blvd., across from O'Toole's. Contact DeAnn if you plan to attend.



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## Bragging on our Members!

Dr. WaKabongo has received numerous awards for her leadership and service. On June 19, 2025, she was honored with the **American Society for Microbiology (ASM) William A. Hinton Award for the Advancement of a Diverse Community of Microbiologists.**

This prestigious award recognizes outstanding contributions to fostering research training of underrepresented groups and promoting diversity in microbiology. Named in memory of Dr. William A. Hinton—a pioneering physician-scientist and one of the first Black members of ASM who developed the highly effective Hinton test for syphilis—the award celebrates excellence, inclusivity, and scientific impact.

In 2021, Dr. WaKabongo made history by establishing the first **4-H program** in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Part of a global network spanning more than 80 countries, 4-H equips young people with leadership and life skills through hands-on learning. Its four pillars—Head, Heart, Hands, and Health—guide youth toward a lifetime of success and service.



## WE HOLD TRUE

AAUW, we hold true,  
Each and every one of us – she and you.  
We fight for equality, over a century strong;  
Through words and actions, we right the wrong.

From grassroots to the national stage,  
We ban together, no matter our age.  
For women and girls, we've risked our necks  
—  
Never are we the lesser sex.

Opportunities from coast to coast,  
Are offered as we play host  
To the land of lobbying and campaigning  
For which we're never waning.

We are a voice for the oppressed,  
As they deserve nothing but the best,  
Like equal pay and Title IX.  
They should never have to walk the line.

We heed the call with pride in our breast,  
And though weary, we never rest.  
For America, we give our due  
To AAUW, we hold true.

Tess Evans, GRAAUW member and VP of Communications for AAUW of VA

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