



APRIL/MAY
2016

Breaking through Barriers for Women and Girls • <http://richmond-va.aauw.net>

President's Message

Spring is here! How beautiful Richmond is at Spring!

Spring means there are only two more months of regular programming for GRAAUW and we will be planning for next year already! Speaking of next year, **I hope if you have not yet filled out your survey** (is attached to this email as well) that you will do so and **return to us no later than May 4th**. We have added a survey on Sunshine Fund also so please complete it as well.

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend our March business meeting. You enabled us to have a quorum and complete the business needed. Our new by-laws are now official and we voted to fund a NCWSL scholarship for a VA college student.

Your new officers for next year will be:

President- Carol Stephens
VP Program - Georgianna Ball
Secretary - Katie Garnett

I especially want to thank our new member, Katie Garnett, for accepting the position of Secretary. Georgianna Ball was a new member when she accepted the position of Secretary two years ago. Is this a trend? It is a good way for newer members to become involved!

Our Annual Banquet will be May 4th. Please note that this is a **WEDNESDAY evening**. Also, we have heeded the concerns expressed last year as to limited seating. This year we will be able to accommodate 100! So, please bring your spouse, significant other, friends, and prospective members. We are charging \$5 over cost and the proceeds will be donated to our local scholarship fund. Let's make this a gala affair!

Look forward to seeing you at our April 12th meeting and our May 4th Banquet!

Carol Stephens

PROGRAM NOTES

April 12th (Tues.) 7:30 pm. - Equal Pay Day

St. Mathias Episcopal Church
11300 Huguenot Road, Midlothian

Speaker: Jennifer B. DeBruhl, Deputy District Administrator for the VDOT Richmond District
Topic: New Methods for Evaluating Projects for Funding - Come find out how this will be used for new projects in the Richmond Metro Area

May 4th (Wed.) 6:00 pm ANNUAL MAY BANQUET

Meadowbrook Country Club

3700 Cogbill Rd, Richmond, VA 23234

Buffet includes soup, salad, two entrees, vegetables, bread and dessert bar. Coffee/tea are included.
Cash bar.

Guests are welcome!

\$25 (includes \$5 donation to local scholarship fund)
Prepaid Reservation required no later than April 26th to Connie Sorrell.

Connie Sorrell, GRAAUW Treasurer
3100 Mount Hill Drive
Midlothian, Va, 23113

Pre-dinner Garden Tour: Meadowbrook County Club is the site of the former home of the Jefferies Family that had extensive gardens dating back to the 1800s. It is also the site of a garden designed by Charles F. Gillette, a prominent landscape architect in the early 1920-50s in Virginia. For those interested, a tour of the gardens has been arranged. The fee is \$5 and should be paid with reservation. There will be a slide presentation of the before and after of the garden at 5:15 with the tour to follow, weather permitting.

Guest Speaker - Karen MacImerney

Topic: Living a Creative Life: Stepping Out of the Box

article about Karen MacImerney and her topic continues on the next page.

Guest Speaker - Karen MacInerney

Karen MacInerney is the bestselling author of fourteen novels and several short stories, and her victims number well into the double digits. Her first novel, *Murder on the Rocks*, was nominated for an Agatha Award, and her book *On the Prowl* was nominated for a PEARL award by her readers; she also received the SAGE Award for Mentoring Authors from the Barbara Burnett Smith foundation. When she's not working on her next book, she teaches writing and coaches aspiring authors. She lives in Austin, Texas.

Talk: Living a Creative Life: Stepping Out of the Box.

What have you always dreamed of doing but been afraid to try? Too often — particularly as women — we fear doing something “frivolous” or taking creative risks. A veteran of the internal creative wars, Karen will talk about embracing the process, weaving creativity into our day-to-day lives, and moving past the fear, unrealistic expectations, and obstacles that threaten to derail us when we commit to making our vision a reality.

By the way, her very proud mother is our own member, Carol Swartz. We know where Karen gets her sense of humor!

Book Group DeAnn Lineberry Chair

Continuing a nearly 40-year tradition, our Book Group meets on the **third Thursday of each month** at 7:00 p.m. **All GRAAUW members and their guests are welcome.** Attend just one meeting whose book interests you OR join us on a regular basis. Contact DeAnn Lineberry for more information and our schedule: deann.lineberry@yahoo.com or phone 233-5352.

April 21, 2016 — We'll meet at Catherine Luckey's home to discuss *The Invisible Bridge*, by Julie Orringer

Paris, 1937. Andras Lévi, a Hungarian-Jewish architecture student, arrives from Budapest with a scholarship, a single suitcase, and a mysterious letter he promised to deliver. But when he falls into a complicated relationship with the letter's recipient, he becomes privy to a secret that will alter the course of his — and his

Book Group (continued)

family's — history. From the small Hungarian town of Konyár to the grand opera houses of Budapest and Paris, from the lonely chill of Andras's room on the rue des Écoles to the deep and enduring connection he discovers on the rue de Sévigné, from the despair of Carpathian winter to an unimaginable life in forced labor camps and beyond, *The Invisible Bridge* tells the story of a love tested by disaster, of brothers whose bonds cannot be broken, of a family shattered and remade in history's darkest hour, and of the dangerous power of art in a time of war. Expertly crafted, magnificently written, emotionally haunting, and impossible to put down, *The Invisible Bridge* resoundingly confirms Julie Orringer's place as one of today's most vital and commanding young literary talents. For more about this book, click here: http://www.amazon.com/Invisible-Bridge-Julie-Orringer/dp/1400041163/ref=sr_1_1_title_0_main?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1395694957&sr=1-1&keywords=the+invisible+bridge

May 19, 2016 — Meet at Bon Air Presbyterian Church, 9201 Huguenot Road, Richmond, VA 23235, Carol Stephens and DeAnn Lineberry Hostesses *All the Light We Cannot See*, by Anthony Doerr (2014, 545 pages). *Winner of 2015 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction; recommended by Karen Winne, Catherine Luckey, and consensus of many other Book Group members.* Does the world need yet another novel about WWII? It does when the novel is as inventive and beautiful as this one by Anthony Doerr. In fact, *All the Light We Cannot See* -- while set mostly in Germany and France before and during the war -- is not really a “war novel”. The author focuses on the interior lives of his two characters, a blind 14-year-old French girl who flees to the countryside when her father disappears from Nazi-occupied Paris and a gadget-obsessed German orphan whose skills admit him to a brutal branch of Hitler Youth. This is a book you read for the beauty of Doerr's writing and for the way he understands and cherishes the magical obsessions of childhood

We'll be planning the remaining of our reading selections for June, July and Sept. from our suggested list at our April meeting. Please join us!

REMINDER! HENRICO READS featured author, **Chitra Divakaruni**, will be speaking at **Glen Allen High School April 13 at 7:00 pm**. Come early for a good seat! We have read the 2016 book, *One Amazing Thing* in book group. Let's plan to carpool at Martin's parking lot on Huguenot at 6:00 pm. Let Carol Stephens know if you wish to carpool.

Public Policy - Kathy Kelley Chair

Barb Strohman, Carol Stephens, Deniese Melenbrink, Georgiana Ball, Pat Fishback, Elizabeth Smith, Ann Sterling and Kathy Kelley had a very busy two months attending meetings at the GA, the Women's Roundtable, and contacting the delegates and senators during the General Assembly. Unfortunately some bills were not passed.

These bills which passed in the Senate were left in the Privileges and Elections Committee in the House:

SB59 - . Provides criteria for the General Assembly to observe in drawing districts, including respect for political boundaries, equal population, racial and ethnic fairness, contiguity, compactness, and communities of interest. Use of political data or election results is prohibited unless necessary to determine if racial or ethnic minorities are able to elect candidates of their choice. This bill incorporates **SB495**.

SJ1 – would ratify the ERA.

HB1315 – Any legislation introduced in the House or Senate must have a recorded vote. This bill was referred to the House Rules Committee which ironically tabled it with a voice vote.

The following Items (that fall under the Public Policy stands of AAUW VA) below are taken from the Sunday March 11th *Richmond Times Dispatch*.

A bill that would have banned most abortions after 20 weeks did not advance from the House.

Advocates for transparency beat back a number of proposed bills restricting the people's right to know.

Three bills were passed that were part of Governor McAuliffe's Task Force on combatting campus sexual violence.

Lawmakers defeated legislation that would have put a charter school amendment to the VA Constitution before voters in November.

No bills were passed that would regulate key aspects of the health care industry.

Lawmakers backed a bill designed to help prepare students for technology jobs by calling for the Board of Education to incorporate computer science, computational thinking and coding into the Standards of Learning curriculum. Local school boards also would need to develop and implement computer education for students from K-12.

Next year? Onward and Upward

Save the date: Thurs. May 12th Federal Lobby Day - join members of AAUW Lobby Corps on the Hill to lobby key legislators on issues of importance to AAUW. **If you wish to attend and sleep over at a NOVA members home the night of May 11th before our early morning briefing on the 12th, let Carol Stephens know by April 22nd.**

Membership - Marian Seigla VP

GRAAUW membership keeps snowballing! We have now added 14 new members this year with another prospective member joining soon. Congratulations have been received from our State VP of Membership, Cyndi Shanahan. We shall be recognized at our State Convention April 15-17th for our accomplishments and will be asked to speak about the keys to our success. We can credit our willingness to invite women to our various activities, as well as our involvement in the community with Voter Registration and the Centennial Rally for Equal Rights and our campaign for Each One to Bring One. One of our major contributors to membership is our presence on the internet with a website that is kept interesting and current by our Webmaster, Suzanne Conrad. We must also give credit to National for their 1/2 price dues from Jan. - March 15th.

To date the following have brought in new members: (Remember the winner will be announced at the Annual Banquet and awarded free local membership 2016-2017)

Carol Stephens 3, Pat Geerdes 2, Kathy Kelley 1, Lesin Dippold 1. The other 7 joined from website search.

INTEREST GROUPS

LUNCH BUNCH

April 14th - 1:15 Savory Grain
2043 W. Broad St.
RSVP to Kathy Kelley by April 13th
Farm fresh eats and local craft beers
Menu at www.thesavorygrain.com

May 12th - Urban Farmhouse at Linden Row Inn, Pat Geerdes Hostess Please let her know by Tues. May 10th.

BRIDGE

April 27th 7:00 pm - Carol Swartz home

May 25th 7:00 pm - Cheryl Kapec's home

STEAM Conference

Full STEAM Ahead has taken on a momentum of its own! We have received over 70 applications for presenters! We will only be able to accommodate 30 at the most, so we now have to choose! Registration goes out April 11th so if you have a middle school girl you wish to have attend, please register her early! We have had folks contacting the Math Science Innovation Center for registration already!

The Conference will take place Sat. June 25th at the Martin Luther King Middle School 1000 Mosby St, Richmond, VA 23223 and is open to rising 5th-9th graders from Hanover County, Henrico County, Chesterfield County, and Richmond City schools.

We have received a \$13,000 grant from Pepsico plus bottled water, a \$250 award from AAUW-VA, \$2000 from Siggis Yogurt plus 200 cartons of yogurt, free website design and maintenance from MAXX Potential, and a promise of a donation from Mobelux and a discount on the boxed lunches from Ukrops and free printing donated by Copy Cat.

Please look at the areas we will need you to help and contact Laura Wimmer or Carol Stephens to let them know how you will help.

SAVE the DATES!

April 7th (Thurs.) 7:00 pm - Board mtg at Connie Sorrell's home

April 12th (Tues) 7:30 pm Transportation Issues Equal Pay Day

April 14th (Thurs) 1:15 Lunch Bunch at Savory Grains

April 15-17th - State Convention Herndon, VA

April 21st (Thurs) 7:00 pm Book Group

April 27th (Wed.) 7:00 pm Bridge

May 4 (Wed.) 6:00 pm - End of Year Banquet - Meadowbrook Country Club

May 12th (Thurs) 1:30 pm Lunch Bunch at Urban Farmhouse, Linden Row Inn

May 25th 7:00 pm Bridge

June 9th 6:30 pm Old Board/New Board meeting at Laura Wimmer's home - potluck

STEAM Conference (continued)

Sign up sheet will be available at the April 12th meeting and at the May 4th banquet as well.

Pre conference Plans - folders, box lunches, supplies, refreshments for presenters/volunteers

7:45 - 8:45 Set up for registration and presenters

8:15- 9:15 Registration check in, welcomers, handing out yogurt, collecting Pre surveys

9:00 - 12:00 monitors/helpers in workshops, between workshops helping girls find rooms etc.

11:30- 1:00 Lunch distribution and clean up

1:00-4:00 monitors/helpers in workshops, between workshops helping girls find rooms etc. and collecting post surveys

3:30 - 4:30 - clean up and close up