



## February-March 2019 Newsletter

### GRAAUW President's Greeting

Dear GRAAUW Members,

I hope the New Year is treating you well and you are pursuing your new goals. As AAUW members, we certainly have been working and hoping the ERA passes the house. Our hope seemed to be overshadowed in the House of Delegates, in spite of passing in the Senate. As women we know about disappointments and accomplishments and know that we will continue the struggle without giving up

We've had some success with redistricting and might get a win there. **Call your senators and ask them to support two elements to SJ306: ADD TRANSPARENCY LANGUAGE AND ANTI-GERRYMANDERING LANGUAGE.** Let's not give up and keep fighting for what we know is right.

**This year is the former Richmond Branch 110th Anniversary and the 10th Anniversary of the formation of GRAAUW.** I would like to encourage all members who have **memorabilia to give it to our historian, Marian Seigla.** We could celebrate at our May Banquet. We could make a slide show and have some of you who have been members for a long time sharing those memories. We especially want items and memories of the merger of Richmond and Bon Air branches.

I am sorry I missed the January meeting, since I've been recovering from a hospital stay.. I am, however, hoping to join you in future meetings. We will have our own Patricia Wallace at our Saturday, February 9, meeting at Westover Hills Library at 10:30 am.

We also request your presence at our business meeting in March, since we will be electing some new Board positions then. **I am asking you to consider serving as VP of Membership.** It's an important position. Think of serving yourself or nominating someone who would be willing to serve. Please contact Carol Stephens at (804)658-3565.

Laura Wimmer has accepted the nomination for Financial Officer and Hortense Mitchell Liberti has agreed to serve as Secretary for the rest of the 2 year term, since Lesin Dippold will be moving to North Carolina in March. Also Maggie King and Kathy Kelly are willing to administer Facebook. We hope all members will be willing to serve in some capacity because it's important we keep involved with AAUW in pursuit of our goals.

On Thursday **February 7 we have AAUW Lobby Day beginning at 8:15 am. We will be meeting in the SunTrust Center Cafeteria, 3rd floor to organize for the day and then head to meet with the Lt. Governor, Justin Fairfax.** Carol Stephens will keep a list of members participating in the event. Let her know at (804)658-3565 **no later than Jan. 30th.**

**Hope to see you at some of these events,**

Sincerely,  
Your President, *Dulce M. Lawrence*

### **SATURDAY FEB. 9 - BRANCH MTG. 10:30 AM WESTOVER HILLS LIBRARY**

Attorney Trish Wallace will discuss the **relationship between the aging brain and investment decision-making** and explain two rules recently promulgated by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) to protect senior investors. The goal of the talk is to provoke consideration of our decision-making processes as well as to identify resources that can help us and our families. Open to the public. Plan to attend and bring a friend This presentation will be held Saturday February 9, 2019 at the Westover Hills Library, 10:30 am-1:00pm, 1408 Westover Hills Blvd., Richmond, VA. 23225

### **AAUW of VA Lobby Day Thursday Feb. 7th 8:15 am - 2:00 pm Reserve your spot with Carol Stephens by Jan. 30th**

## Community Outreach

Our annual holiday luncheon for the students in the Great Expectations Program at J. Sargent Reynolds Community College was a HUGE success!! Thanks to all our branch members that participated: some gave cash, some gave gift cards, some cooked, some baked. and some came to help with set up, serving and/or clean up!! And some did ALL of the above to ensure that these hard working students had a home cooked meal and some holiday treats.

Thanks to your generosity we were able to give each student a beautiful cookie/candy gift box with a \$25 Old Navy gift card, a \$10 grocery card and a movie ticket!! Special thanks to: Connie Sorrell's mom who donated some of the Old Navy cards before she passed away, to Lesin's daughter who volunteered her time even though not (yet!!) a member, and to my husband Emmett who refers to himself as "pack mule." We couldn't have done it without each and every one of you!! The feedback from the GE Coordinators at the College is fantastic every year.

Happy New Year to all –  
**Laura Wimmer**, Outreach Coordinator

## ERA Passes Senate; Enjoys Bipartisan Support

The Virginia Senate approved ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment on January 15, 2019. Seven Republicans joined all 19 Democrats, passing the resolution by a 26 to 14 vote. The Senate resolution, introduced by Glen Sturtevant, was before the House, where it was assigned to the Privileges and Elections Committee ("P&E Committee). Chairman Delegate Cole assigned it and the House bills urging ratification of the ERA to Subcommittee #1 where he knew it would meet with certain defeat, and they were defeated.

With 81% of registered voters in Virginia favoring the General Assembly's ratification in 2019 and elections around the corner, 2019 may be the year that the Equal Rights Amendment is finally ratified. There are other options that are being explored. Stay tuned and be ready to act swiftly!

## AAUW of VA Lobby Corps delivers!

On Jan. 16th members of GRAAUW along with AAUW of VA members from across the state deliver the pamphlet, *Unfinished Business*, created mostly by Patsy Quick and Sylvia Rogers, to each Senator and Delegate in the General Assembly. As we delivered them it was accepted with broad smiles by many of the receptionists at their desks. Thanks to everyone involved!



## **Many in VA and across the US support ERA efforts !**

After the P & E Committee killed the ERA resolutions, support came in to VA from across the US and throughout VA. Carol Stephens received a phone call from a woman ( not an AAUW member) in Virginia Beach who wanted to let us know that she had sent 38 symbolic yellow roses to Speaker Cox's office. He refused to accept them, so she rerouted them to "AAUW office". Jane Newell was surprised to receive those 38 yellow roses! Trish Wallace also received 38 yellow roses too. The Redland Branch of AAUW in California sent a letter of support to a long time advocate for passage of the ERA in VA, Neola Waller. Lee Winne wrote a beautiful letter of support to his delegate and senator in honor of Karen's long held desire for ratification of the ERA.

### **Karen Winne**

Karen Winne, who served as GRAAUW's Corresponding Secretary for several years, passed away on January 11 due to complications from a stroke. Karen was a long-time AAUW member, belonging to Branches around the U.S. as her husband Lee's career took them to many places, including several assignments abroad. Wherever they landed, Karen always found meaningful work for herself, often working with refugees and other immigrants stateside.

In GRAAUW, Karen was active in Book Group, Lunch Bunch, and Bridge Group as long as her health allowed. Several of us had special connections with Karen ... Dottie Vye learned that she and Karen had grown up in the same Philadelphia suburb and graduated from the same high school a few years apart. Suzanne Conrad was Karen's Midlothian neighbor and remembers her as a dear friend. Maggie King and DeAnn Lineberry connected with Karen before she came to Richmond. Maggie lived briefly in Charlottesville and looked into joining AAUW there; she spoke with Karen about membership, and when Karen came to GRAAUW several years later, she still remembered the conversation with Maggie! While Karen was living in Charlottesville, she and DeAnn worked together at the Virginia Department of Social Services in the early 2000s and Karen recruited DeAnn to AAUW, encouraging her to find a Richmond-area Branch ... which she did!

## **Nominations Committee needs your help!**

The Nominations Committee is proud to announce that **Laura Wimmer** has agreed to run for Finance Officer and **Hortense Liberti-Mitchell** as agreed to fill the vacancy of Recording Secretary left by Lesin Dippold's move to Harrisonburg. In addition, Isata Turay, has agreed to be "in-training" with Horti for running for Recording Secretary next year. So, we have one other position that needs filling - VP of Membership. Carol Stephens and Kristen Johnson have filled that position to complete the position left by Tracey Mooneyham's departure. We must now elect a new VP of Membership. Please contact a member of the Nomination's Committee, Carol Stephens, Adah Parashar, or Marian Seigla to let them know of your willingness to serve! Our election of officers will be held at the **Annual Business Meeting on March 12th at St. Mathias Church 7:30 pm.**

## **Lunch Bunch**

**GRAAUW's Lunch Bunch** 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](mailto:deann.lineberry@yahoo.com).

On February 14, we'll gather at *Baker's Crust Carytown*, 3553 West Cary Street, Richmond, VA 23221. Please call Barb Strohman at 380-0637 if you would like to attend.

On March 14, we'll have lunch at *Tazza Kitchen Alverser Plaza*, 1244 Alverser Plaza, Midlothian, VA 23113. Please contact Dulce Lawrence at 423-6174 if you plan to attend.

Join us if you can for great food, good fellowship, and celebrating the various seasons.

## **Cocktails and Convo's** 🍷 🍷

We will meet at Laura Lee's on the south side of the river, 3410 Semmes Ave, Richmond, VA 23225 on Feb. 27th 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Let Carol Stephens know if you plan to attend by 2/26/19.

## AAUW Art Contest Be sure to vote!

GRAAUW member **Jane Newell** has two submissions in this year's AAUW Art Contest.

**Voting by members will be conducted from February 12 to February 26.** Members may vote one time for their 10 favorite images online at [www.aauw.org/contests](http://www.aauw.org/contests). Look for Jane's submissions called *Coneflowers* and *Egg Rock Lighthouse*.

### ***Southeast District Meeting Feb. 23 What Has Happened to Title IX?***

The Southeast District meeting will be held on Saturday, February 23, 2019. We will meet at the **Algonquin House, 7320 Glenroie Avenue, in Norfolk.** The meeting begins at **10:00 a.m.** and concludes at 12:00 p.m. We will create a salad bar for lunch following the meeting. **Please see the link to the RSVP and lunch sign up below.**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a44aeab2da2ff2-district>

Let Carol Stephens know if you will be going and if you wish to carpool.

In recent months **Title IX has become a hot button issue for AAUW**, as the Department of Education has taken actions impacting protections for students, and particularly for student survivors of sexual assault. **Our speakers for the District meeting will be Ragean Hill, Associate Athletic Director, Student Athlete, at Old Dominion University. She will be joined by Courtney Kelly, Assistant Director of Institutional Equity and Diversity and Interim Title IX Coordinator at Old Dominion University.** We are asking our speakers to focus remarks on these recent actions.

***Save the date! Spring Banquet is May 8th at the Meadowbrook Country Club! 10th Anniversary of GRAAUW ( merger of Bon Air and Richmond branches )*** Plan to bring a friend to share the celebration, even husbands!

## Sip N Dip

**Feb. 22 - Lesson 14 - Wines of Southern Italy**  
Hostess: Gay Olsen

**Mar. 22 - Lesson 15 - Tastes of Germany and Austria** Hostess: Louise Brierre

## AAUW of VA Spring Conference

**April 6 in Roanoke Valley**

See the *Vision* coming out in mid February for complete information and registration. **Diversity and Inclusion will be the theme for the conference.** We will carpool as usual!

## News and Notes from AAUW

### **Remembering Nancy Grace Roman**

We were saddened by the passing of longtime AAUW member and renowned astronomer [Nancy Grace Roman](#) last month at age 93. Affectionately known as the "mother of the Hubble" for her role in developing the Hubble Space Telescope, Roman was the first chief of astronomy in the Office of Space Science at NASA and the first woman to hold an executive position there. (And she's one of four "[Women of NASA Legos!](#)") She was a member of the [AAUW Legacy Circle](#), a past president of [the AAUW Washington \(DC\) Branch](#), and an [AAUW Maryland Woman of Distinction](#) in 2016. Learn more about her [amazing story](#) in her own words.

### **Spotlight on 3 Amazing Leaders**

Every year at the [National Conference for College Women Student Leaders](#) (NCCWSL), AAUW honors notable women leaders from across industries through its Women of Distinction awards. We're proud to announce the following 2019 honorees:

[Ashley Nell Tipton](#), the first person to win Project Runway for a plus-size design line.

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## Book Groups

Continuing a 45-year tradition, our Book Groups meet on the third Thursday of each month. We have two groups: Daytime Book Group, meeting at 1 PM, and Evening Group meeting at 7 PM. Both groups read the same books, enabling members to attend whichever time is more convenient month-to-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) 804-233-5352.

### Thursday, February 21 – Black History Month

**Evening Group** will meet at Cathy Learnard's Ginter Place condo, 1350 Westwood Avenue

**Daytime Group** will meet at our standing location, **Ginter Park Library**, 1200 Westbrook Avenue.

**BOOK: *The Underground Railroad, A Novel***, by Colson Whitehead. *Winner Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award; Oprah Book Club selection.*

Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. Life is hellish for all the slaves but especially bad for Cora. When Caesar, a recent arrival from Virginia, tells her about the Underground Railroad, they decide to take a terrifying risk and escape. Matters do not go as planned and, though they manage to find a station and head north, they are being hunted.

In Whitehead's ingenious conception, the Underground Railroad is no mere metaphor -- engineers and conductors operate a secret network of tracks and tunnels beneath the Southern soil. Like the protagonist of *Gullivers Travels*, Cora encounters different worlds at each stage of her journey – hers is an odyssey through time as well as space. As Whitehead brilliantly re-creates the unique terrors for black people in the pre-Civil War era, his narrative seamlessly weaves the saga of America from the brutal importation of Africans to the unfulfilled promises of the present day.

## Book Groups (continued)

### Thursday, March 21 – Women's History Month

**Evening Group** will meet at Cathy Learnard's Ginter Place condo, 1350 Westwood Avenue

**Daytime Group** will meet at our standing location, **Ginter Park Library**, 1200 Westbrook Avenue.

**BOOK: *The Firebrand and the First Lady: Portrait of a Friendship: Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt, and the Struggle for Social Justice***, by Patricia Bell-Scott. *Recommended by AAUW's Adelante Book Club; author is 1984–85 AAUW American Fellow*

A groundbreaking book, two decades in the works, that tells the story of how a brilliant writer-turned-activist, granddaughter of a mulatto slave, and the first lady of the U.S., whose ancestry gave her membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution, forged an enduring friendship that changed each of their lives and helped to alter the course of race and racism in America.

Pauli Murray first saw Eleanor Roosevelt in 1933, at the height of the Depression, at a government-sponsored, 200-acre camp for unemployed women where Murray was living, something the first lady had pushed her husband to set up in her effort to do what she could for working women and the poor. The first lady appeared one day unannounced, behind the wheel of her car, her secretary and a Secret Service agent her passengers. To Murray, then aged 23, Roosevelt's self-assurance was a symbol of women's independence, a symbol that endured throughout Murray's life.

### Spotlight on Amazing Leaders (continued)

[Lauren Simmons](#), the youngest equity trader at the New York Stock Exchange at age 24 and the second African-American woman on the floor. [Jane Marie Chen](#), co-founder of a startup to develop low-cost infant warmers to help the 15 million premature and low birth-weight babies born each year.

Meet these remarkable women at the 2019 NCCWSL from May 29–June 1 at the University of Maryland, College Park. Early bird rates expire February 15 (a \$120 savings), so register soon.



