



March-April Newsletter Volume 1, Number 4

President's Message –

What a beautiful spring we are having! Earlier than we expected it, but I bet every one of us is enjoying the early warm weather and the exuberant blossoming forth.

Our Branch is having a robust spring as well. For the past three meetings, we have provided three thought-provoking programs. **In January**, Anne Hedgepeth, the governmental relations manager for AAUW in Washington, came to speak with us about pay equity issues. One of the most interesting subjects she covered was “Start Smart”, one of the AAUW Programs in a Box, which provides female college students entering the job market with the tools to negotiate salaries and benefits. **In February**, we hosted a speaker, Kristen Kirchen with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Historic Resources, who told us about the Rosenwald School movement of the early 20th Century. Our learning curve was steep that evening. None of us knew much, if anything, about the era when Julius Rosenwald, the founder of Sears stores, collaborated with Booker T. Washington to build schools in fifteen states throughout the rural south for Negro children who otherwise would not have a school to attend. Over 5,000 schools were built; six of them were in Chesterfield County. Then, **in March** we met at the Virginia Historical Society. Our speaker took us through centuries of Virginia history with a local flavor. Although most of us have a pretty thorough knowledge of Virginia history, we all learned something. Do you know much about the Melungeon people?

In addition to these meetings, which all created a lot of discussion and interest in doing more, in November, a group of 12 members each read and reflected on a part of AAUW's Sexual Harassment report. After reading, the member summarized for the group the information she learned. We listened, learned and expressed a need for action.

These interesting topics stretched the minds of the attendees, but only those members who attended the meetings benefited. That raises two questions for me. One is that I am very interested in how members decide what to attend. Think about it, so you can give your Board feedback as it plans for next year's programs. The other is, should we take one or more of these topics and develop a program for others in the community to participate and learn?

We have two more opportunities to enjoy learning something new: women in running their own business and women as artists. Join us, won't you?

Marsha Carter

Program Notes

Our April meeting will feature Annie Tobey, the editor and co-publisher of the Central Virginia Women's Sourcebook. On **Tuesday, April 17 at 7:30 pm, at St. Matthias Church, 10300 West Huguenot Road.** Her topic will focus on some of the challenges and successes faced by selected women owning their own businesses in Richmond. Join us for what promises to be a very enlightening evening!

In May we will hold our annual banquet luncheon at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts on **Saturday, May 19 at 11:30 am.** Following our lunch, we will view a collection of women's art, a tour developed and presented by museum docent and Branch member Pat Mallahan. The lunch at Amuse Restaurant including dessert will cost \$28.82 (excluding tip). This charge includes the fee for reserving the private room, which we will need for our meeting and installation of officers. Mail your check for \$28.82 made out to GRAAUW to Gay Olsen (10821 Hinshaw Drive, Midlothian, VA 23113) by April 15. We must confirm 20 people to fully cover the room charge.

*Gay Olsen
Program*

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officers to the Branch:

Co-Presidents: Laura Wimmer
 Marcia Phillips

Co-Chairs Program: Maggie King
 Carol Mazur

Communications: Sharon Davis

The Branch will vote on this slate at the April meeting. Nominations from the floor, if any, will also be requested at that time.

The committee consisted of Nancy Berger, Marian Siegla, and Marcia Phillips.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report for February is as follows:

INCOME

Wells Fargo

Balance Forward 2/1/12 \$5,177.97

EXPENSES

Conference Booklet 50.00

Newsletter 36.40

TOTAL \$86.40

Balance Forward 2/29/12 \$5,091.57

VANGUARD

Balance Forward 12/31/11 \$8,636.02

*Karen Gray
Treasurer*

Funds Chair Report

The local scholarship committee is anticipating applications from the area community colleges for our \$1500 scholarship award this year. The finance offices at both J Sargeant Reynolds and John Tyler Community Colleges are happily assisting us to find eligible candidates. Several potential candidates have contacted us already.

The committee will make its selection in June.

*Lois Hofstra
Funds Chair*

Annual Conference

Although the waters won't be warm enough for a dip, VA AAUW still will be "making waves" at the wonderful City Center at Oyster Point.

Our central location, in the heart of the Hampton Roads region of Southeast Virginia, is steeped in 400 years of American history with hundreds of historical sites and attractions. This makes it easy to see why we think our area one of the most diverse in Virginia!

The AAUW of Virginia Making Waves Conference in Newport News is also historic. We are AAUW's first state to implement One Member/ One/Vote. We hope to shake things up, rock the boat a little and have fun! This conference will be informative, energizing, and rewarding!

Have You Heard?

It's true. The word is out. State dues have not increased for AAUW of Virginia members for twenty years, but necessity offers us no alternative.

What used to cost \$8 in 1991 now costs more than \$13. The state board has stretched and stretched that \$8 until it can't be stretched anymore! We had to go into reserves this year to balance the budget. After great debate, we determined that an increase to \$15 will mean that we won't have to consider another increase for years.

When given the option in 2009, AAUW of Virginia members determined that having a state board was something you wanted to keep. Here are some reasons why:

- The state board is the link between National and the branches. We know how to get your questions and concerns to the right people at National. We make sure branches receive the resources you can use or know where to find them.
- The state board is a direct connection to the branches: a layer of support and assistance.
- The state website and Facebook page promote our branches to potential new members, especially younger women. We are "out there" for you!
- Through the publication of the *Vision* we provide a way to share branch programs, events and ideas. We inform members of state activities and national initiatives.
- The state lobbies in Richmond, representing more than 1300 members, which carries more weight than that of your individual branch or members.
- We organize and provide state conferences where members and branch leaders can re-energize, learn, gather ideas, network, socialize, and feel the pride of being part of something bigger than ourselves.

Come to the AAUW of Virginia

Making Waves Conference in Newport

News, April 20-22, to contribute your

two-cents-worth to the discussion!

(Adjusted for inflation that's \$2.45.)

Patsy Quick
AAUW of Virginia

Vice President for Communications
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It's My Vote – I Will Be Heard

We all know that women make up a powerful and influential bloc of voters. As we look towards Election Day 2012, we also know that we need to do more: in education, outreach, voter registration, and mobilization. That is why the AAUW Action Fund has launched a high energy, high return, non-partisan campaign to mobilize women voters, focusing on young women of the millennial generation. Virginia has been selected to participate in “It’s my Vote – I Will Be Heard” training because we are one of the states electing a senator this year.

The training will be held on Friday, April 20, the day before the state Conference begins, at the same site: the Newport News Marriot at City Center, from 11 am to 5 pm. Seth Chase, AAUW Field Director, will teach us how to mobilize women voters and strengthen our voices in the 2012 election.

Topics to be covered will include: Reaching Millennial Voters, Voter Turnout Techniques, Planning Issue and Candidate Forums, and Voter Education as a Membership Recruitment Tool. A complimentary lunch will be served.

If you are interested in attending this very useful and timely training, contact Laura Wimmer at: lwimmeraauw@aol.com

GRAAUW Birthdays

April 1	Laurie Coulter
22	Laura Wimmer
25	Carol Mazur

May 19	Sara Hardin
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Please wish these members a happy birthday. I will be sending out cards from the branch.

Marian Siegla

Book Group

The April meeting for book group will discuss *Song of Solomon*, by Toni Morrison. **This is a change.** Because of illness and prospective low attendance, the February meeting was cancelled. Since people had read and wanted to discuss *Song of Solomon*, the book originally planned for April will be considered at a later date. The meeting will be held on **April 19** at the home of Sharon Davis, 3001 Markview Drive, Midlothian 23113. As previously scheduled, Deann Lineberry will lead the discussion.

Gourmet Group

April Gourmet will be held on the evening of Saturday **April 14**. Hosts for the split groups will be Steve and Kathy Kelley, and Chris and Sharon Davis.

May Gourmet will be held on Saturday, **May 5**. The entire group will meet at the home of Ray and Connie Sorrell.

It's Worth Remembering

Book Group read and discussed Gail Collins' epic history *When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present*, and most of us had tales to tell about job discrimination – only men were principals, women with good degrees could only be clerical support, pay scales were unabashedly skewed to favor men, pregnant women could not work, many of us were asked what forms of birth control we were using, and other indignities. Of course, the story of extending the civil rights act to cover gender equity was just a joke, because the Senator was so sure that the bill would not pass, reminds us that what we have won so hard, we can lose easily, if we don't pay attention.

GRAAUW BRANCH CALENDAR

- April 10 GRAAUW Board Meeting, home of Laura Wimmer, 11485 Otter Run Drive, Ashland 23005, 7:30 pm
- April 14 Gourmet Dinner, home of Chris and Sharon Davis, 3001 Markview Drive, Midlothian 23113, and Steve and Kathy Kelley, 3925 Sherbrook Road, Richmond 23235, 7:00 pm
- April 17 Branch Meeting, Women Business Owners, presented by Annie Tobey, at St. Matthias Church, 10300 Huguenot Road, Midlothian, 7:30 pm
- April 19 Book Group, discussion of *Song of Solomon* (re-scheduled), by Toni Morrison, at the home of Sharon Davis, 3001 Markview Drive, Midlothian 23113, 7:30 pm
- April 20 It's My Vote – I Will Be Heard – Get out the vote training, Newport News Marriott, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm
- April 21-2 AAUW of Virginia Annual Conference, Newport News Marriott
- May 5 Gourmet Dinner, home of Ray and Connie Sorrell, 3100 Mount Hill Drive, Midlothian, 7:00 pm
- May 8 GRAAUW Board Meeting, home of Catherine Luckey, 2 Hill Point Court, Richmond 23238, 7:30 pm
- May 10 Federal Lobby Day, Capitol Hill, Washington DC
- May 17 Book Group, home of Marcia Phillips, 8671 Trabue Road, Bon Air, 7:30
- May 19 Branch Meeting, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 11:30 am