

## Vol 45, Number 10 ~~ Woodbridge, VA Branch Newsletter ~~ September, 2017

### EVENTS

<b>September 14, 2017</b> <i>Thursday</i>	<b>Book Club Uno</b> <b>Panera's at the Glen</b>	<b>2 pm</b>
<b>September 16, 2017</b> <i>Saturday</i>	<b>"Meet &amp; Eat"</b> <b>Nancy Sorenson's Home, Lake Ridge</b>	<b>11 am</b>
<b>September 26, 2017</b> <i>Tuesday</i>	<b>Board Meeting</b> <b>Wegman's upstairs meeting room</b>	<b>7 pm</b>
<b>October 5, 2017</b>	<b>Federal Lobby Day on the Hill</b>	
<b>October 21, 2017</b> <i>Saturday</i>	<b>Northern District Event: "Meet AAUW's New CEO, Kim Churches"</b> <b>George Mason Regional Library, Fairfax City</b>	<b>1:30 pm</b>

### Co-Presidents' Message



We hope everyone has had a wonderful summer and an enjoyable, restful break. Fall is fast approaching and a new AAUW year begins, with an anniversary year for our Woodbridge Branch.



We will be having our welcome back "Meet & Eat" on Saturday, September 16th at 11AM at the home of one of our branch "founders" -Nancy Sorensen. Please contact our new Program Vice-President, Lee Vannett, to let her know if you can make it and what you will be bringing. We are looking forward to seeing you and meeting prospective members.

Our October meeting will be in conjunction with the Northern Virginia District meeting on October 21st at 1:30 PM at the George Mason Regional Library at 7001 Little River Turnpike, in Fairfax City. Kim Churches, our new AAUW CEO. We will have sign-up sheets for carpools at the September luncheon.

As this newsletter goes "to print", we hope all of your families are safe. Barbara's son and family live in Houston, but are ok, thank goodness. Susan's godmother's son lives northwest of Houston- he and his family are ok, too.

**Barbara Ondo**     [barbaraondo@gmail.com](mailto:barbaraondo@gmail.com)  
**John Starsiak**     [jstarsiak@gmail.com](mailto:jstarsiak@gmail.com)  
*Co-Presidents*

## **Public Policy ~ Local, State, & National... International, Too**

### **Local**

**Local Focus: Equal Pay Act Victory in Maryland** ~ Prince George's County, Maryland, will pay civil engineer Joanna Smith approximately \$140,000 in damages and increase her salary. Smith, who works for the Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DOE), made attempts to negotiate a higher salary but was unsuccessful. The county subsequently hired men to perform a job similar to Smith's — for higher pay. According to the supervisory trial attorney for the case, "We filed this lawsuit because Prince George's County not only refused Ms. Smith's efforts to negotiate a higher salary commensurate with her experience and education, it then continually paid her less than it paid her male colleagues even though she did equal and in some cases more complex and superior work." Smith's victory is not only monetary but will also lead to systemic reform in Maryland. Prince George's County must now hire a consultant who will ensure that the DOE's compensation procedures and individual salary determinations comply with the Equal Pay Act. The consultant will also help train the county's position review board members and all managers and supervisors within the DOE on federal antidiscrimination laws.

### **State**

Please mark on your calendars that our **AAUW of Virginia 2017 Federal Lobby Day is scheduled for Thursday, October 5, 2017**. As in the past, it will be held under the auspices of the AAUW Lobby Corps. AAUW of Virginia members will be matched up with experienced Lobby Corps members and assigned offices to visit that day. Of course, there is always a chance that Congress will change its calendar between now and then, which might mean rescheduling. Stay tuned!!

### **National**

Attorneys general from 20 states asked Secretary DeVos to leave in place protections for students who are victims of sexual assault, responding to suggestions that her office will roll back Title IX guidance and regulations. In the letter, the attorneys general asked DeVos to maintain the progress that states have already made in protecting students and to trust the stories of survivors. (**Newsletter's editor's question: what about the other 30 states?**) Today's women stand on the shoulders of the brave revolutionaries who fought for our rights. But we know the fight's not over for women and girls, and we're here to do something about it. After all, you know what they say about well-behaved women. Saturday, August 26, was Women's Equality Day. The date commemorates the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, which secured women's right to vote in 1920. It is also a time to acknowledge that the Nineteenth Amendment didn't include all women and that 97 years later the fight for gender equality is far from over.

**TBA: New gender pay gap data is released; AAUW updates The Simple Truth About the Gender Pay Gap report**  
**Legal Advocacy News:**

**Final Plaintiff in Feather River Case Reaches Settlement** ~ Paul Thein's 11-year experience with the legal system and California's administrative processes, which he describes as a case of David battling Goliath, is finally over: In May 2017 he was awarded a \$2-million settlement by his former employer, Feather River Community College. Thein and his fellow plaintiffs, Laurel Wartluft and Michelle (Jaureguito) Henley, filed whistleblower lawsuits against the school in 2006, alleging that the college violated Title IX by retaliating against them for complaining about sex discrimination, among other claims. LAF adopted all three cases in 2007. Wartluft and Henley settled their lawsuits in fall 2015. The Feather River cases highlight the importance of protecting educators who stand up for fairness. Since LAF adopted his case, Thein has traveled to many AAUW state conventions to share his story with members. He says, "When I step into a room with AAUW members it feels like I am in the room with family."

### **International**

**Cheer of the Week from AAUW in July** ~ Thanks to the work of Rayouf Alhamedhi, a 16-year-old girl from Saudi Arabia, Apple revealed that its newest set of emojis would include a woman with a headscarf. Alhamedhi drafted and submitted the proposal for the emoji in a desire for increased representation for Muslim women.

### **AAUW Public Policy Notable Dates**

- September 5: Congress returns from August recess
- September 15-22: House recess (district work period)
- September 21-22: Senate recess (state work period)
- September 25: Native American Women's Equal Pay Day
- September 26: National Voter Registration Day

**Sandy Lawrence**  
Public Policy Chair

[sandyaauw@juno.com](mailto:sandyaauw@juno.com)

## Book Club Uno

Our next Book Club Uno meeting will be **Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**, at 2 pm at Panera's in "The Glen" in Lake Ridge. Lee, John, Martha, Susan, and Karen invite you to join us- speaking of science, mystery, political commentary, novels, costume design, history, and more. Our August meeting was awesome- consider joining the lively discussion!

**Karen Wolf**    [kleewolf@verizon.net](mailto:kleewolf@verizon.net)

## PHOTOS from our May 13<sup>th</sup> SPRING SALAD & DESSERT LUNCHEON

Two of our phenomenal Science Fair winners and their moms joined us at Joyce's home for our annual spring luncheon. Members and guests shared conversation, named gift honorees received their certificates, outgoing President Sandy was honored, a slate of new officers was presented- thanks to our hosts, Joyce and Doug Eagles. Thanks, Karen, for photos!



**The Fall of 2017 brings our Woodbridge Branch of AAUW's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Let's celebrate the history and esteemed roster of those who founded our branch and have graced its member roles. We are seeking ideas – get your scrapbooks, journals, and memories together. ☺**

**Sandy, Lee, and Susan are putting together our branch directory to celebrate our 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It will be ready for distribution at the September 16<sup>th</sup> "Meet & Eat". Please respond to requests for updates for this endeavor. Thanks!**





## Virginia Women in History 2017: A Traveling Panel Exhibition from the Library of Virginia

Haymarket Gainesville: September 22 – October 1 \*

Central: October 5 – October 12 \*

Bull Run: October 16 – October 25 \*

On loan from the Library of Virginia, come see this annual project that honors eight women, living or deceased, for their contributions to the commonwealth. One of the women honored this year is Mary Virginia Jones, a mechanical engineer from Prince William County, the first female licensed professional engineer in Virginia. *{Editor's note- Many of the previous years' posters are part of the twenty-seven years of SUCCESS! Conference's portfolio!}*

\*Please note start and end dates may vary slightly due to shipping and rotating of the traveling exhibit.

## STEM UPDATES & NEWS

**July 21, 2017** - AAUW shared information about our research, programs, and advocacy for women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) with Congressional leaders and other stakeholders. We were thrilled to attend the Women's Congressional Policy Institute's Fifth Annual Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) Fair and Reception. Opportunities for AAUW to share our STEM resources are critical steps towards breaking down barriers faced by women and girls in STEM occupations. Jobs in these fields are growing, and the supply of new workers is struggling to keep up with demand. Yet AAUW research has shown that women are still severely underrepresented, especially in computing and engineering. AAUW advocates promoting and strengthening STEM education, especially for girls and other underrepresented populations. These efforts will increase America's competitiveness by reducing barriers that deter women from pursuing academic and career goals in these fields.

### **When Women Crowdfunded Radium For Marie Curie: The element was hard to get and extremely expensive but essential for Curie's cancer research**

(from [Smithsonian.com](#) – Kat Eshner, 5/19/17)

*It was 1921, 23 years after Marie Curie discovered radium, and she was out of the stuff. Curie, who lived in France for much of her life, had done an interview with an American reporter named Marie Meloney the year before. In that interview, she told Meloney that she didn't have any radium to continue her research and that she couldn't afford any, writes Ann Lewicki in the journal Radiology. After a fundraising campaign led by American women, Curie travelled to the United States to be presented with one gram of radium by President Warren Harding on May 20, 1921.*

She needed the radium for her ongoing research. But the element was expensive, and Curie was living off a single professor's salary while supporting her two teenage daughters. Her husband and collaborator Pierre, with whom she shared the 1903 Nobel Prize for Physics, had died in 1906. "She, who had discovered radium, who had freely shared all information about the extraction process, and who had given radium away so that cancer patients could be treated, found herself without the financial means to acquire the expensive substance," Lewicki writes.

Meloney, then the editor of a women's magazine called *The Delineator*, started the Marie Curie Radium Fund soon after her return to the United States. "The price of 1 gram of radium in 1921 was \$100,000," Lewicki writes. That's about \$1.3 million today. Although the sum was astronomical, Lewicki writes, the Radium Fund was able to raise it in less than a year. Numerous prominent women academics rallied around the cause. In fact, writes Suzanne Gould for the *American Association of University Women*, "The Marie Curie Radium Fund was so successful that it raised an additional \$56,413." Curie never touched that money, which was eventually put in a trust for her daughter, who was continuing her research. The funds eventually became a fellowship for French or American women in science. Meloney was part of the

presentation ceremony, which was attended by American and French diplomats as well as “leaders of science and philosophy,” was held in the White House’s East Room, the Associated Press reported. “Madame Curie’s speech of thanks consisted of only a few sentences, telling of her gratitude and her regard for America,” AP reported.

Speaking to the National Bureau of Standards (now the National Institute of Standards and Technology) during her trip, Curie shed more light on the situation, writes George Kauffman for Chemistry International. Marie and Pierre Curie chose not to patent radium or any of its medical applications, even though, she explained, the patents could have funded their research and provided money for their family. “The price of radium is very high since it is found in minerals in very small quantities, and the profits of its manufacture have been great, as this substance is used to cure a number of diseases,” she said. “...Yet, I still believe that we have done right.”

## **Updates from Our Treasurer**

For those of you who have not rejoined AAUW for this new year, it is time to do so! It is so much easier to use the credit card payment method than to send me a check. (I may not process right away because I travel quite a bit, sometimes for long periods of time.) With the Member Payment Plan and your credit card you can rejoin in less than 5 minutes! My credit card gives me 2% cash back so that is a great incentive for me. I am impressed with the fact AAUW is using only the latest browsers which are the most secure. Try Chrome if you are unable to use other browsers. To do this open the personalized link I sent you by email which when opened, allows you to enter the AAUW Member Services Database under your member number. I will send you a new email if you need it. Or, call me! (703-494-4983)

You may mail me your check at Karen Wolf, 13104 Rock Ridge Lane, Woodbridge, VA 22191-1022 and I will take care of it for you. Be sure to indicate any changes such as addresses, phone numbers, or new emails that you may prefer.

Dues for National, State, and Branch are \$76, \$46 of which is tax-deductible.

I can walk you through credit card renewal at the “Meet and Eat” in September or take your check at that time, too.

**Karen Wolf, Treasurer**

[kleewolf@verizon.net](mailto:kleewolf@verizon.net)



## **Our Member Spotlight**



This month our college focus is on the **University of Wisconsin at Madison** where our Program V-P, **Lee Vannett** earned her BA in Ibero-American Studies. There are more than 427,000 UW-Madison alumni living around the world. UW alumni or faculty have been awarded 20 Nobel Prizes and 38 Pulitzer Prizes. More than 1,050 UW-Madison alumni serve as CEOs and nearly 16,000 hold an executive management position. It is a public, research university, founded when Wisconsin achieved statehood in 1848. **Alumni include:**

VA US Senator, Chuck Robb '61; US Representative, Tammy Baldwin '89  
Astronauts: Laurel Clark '83, MD '87- Columbia 2003; Jim Lovell, x50- Apollo 13; Brewster Shaw '68 & NASA staff  
Naturalist John Muir x1863; Charles Lindbergh x1924; musicians Boz Scaggs '66 and Steve Miller '67  
Actors, including: John Belushi, Jane Kaczmarek, Joan Cusack, Peter Falk, Fredric March, Mason Adams, Don Ameche  
Frank Lloyd Wright x1890; Abraham Maslow '30 psychologist who devised hierarchy needs  
Eudora Weltz '29- journalist, photographer, author; Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings '18- author *The Yearling*  
Joyce Carol Oates- journalist, author; Lorraine Hansberry- playwright of *Raisin in the Sun*  
Bell Hooks- academic scholar, journalist; Iris Apfel- fashion icon  
Carol Helen Burke '69, MFA '72- Emmy award-winning costume designer  
Susan Straub '66- founder of NYC non-profit “Read to Me”

## “MEET & EAT” September 16<sup>th</sup>!

Call it a “potluck” or a “dish to pass” or “stone stoup” or “a get together with food”—our Board requests the honor of your presence at our Branch’s 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary year opening event. We encourage guests as prospective members to enrich our roster. It will be hosted by founding branch member, Nancy Sorenson, at her home in Lake Ridge, at 11 am. Co-President Barbara Ondo also has 1972 listed in the rolls for joining AAUW. As we look through our scrapbooks (gallantly passed from historian Susan Fairey to Karen Wolf) to see not only those who are no longer with us, we will also celebrate all our branch has accomplished. **Please RSVP to our Program Vice-President, Lee Vannett, by Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, with the food dish you will bring, if you will be accompanied by a guest, or well wishes if you are unable to attend.** As noted in the email which carried this newsletter to you, we will send you the address and directions in reply to your RSVP.

**Lee Vannett** [lmvannett@aol.com](mailto:lmvannett@aol.com)  
Program Vice-President

### Membership & Leadership Matters for the Northern District

Cyndi Shanahn, VA AAUW Membership VP, organized a meeting for Northern District officers/leaders to share our branches’ ideas and projects for membership- new, renewals, lapsed, engagement, and how to include college/university and national members. We met at the Fairfax Regional Library for almost two hours and brainstormed new ideas and projects, too. Sandy, John, and Susan represented the Woodbridge Branch and came away with lots of ideas!

**On Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>**, the Northern District has a special event scheduled. **AAUW’s new CEO, Kim Churches**, will be our featured speaker! Yes, we’re close to AAUW’s home base- location has its benefits. It will be at **1:30 pm at the George Mason Regional Library at 7001 Little River Turnpike, in Fairfax City**. Kim will talk about her vision for AAUW’s future and what’s happening at National. Bring your questions. Check out this link to prepare: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbudSXFpGck&feature=youtu.be>

### Outgoing President’s Postlude: THE GOOD, THE BAD, and THE UGLY

As I reach the end of four years as president of the Woodbridge Branch, I remember what happened during my two terms.

😊 **First, the good** ~ We continue to do great things in STEM. Our judging in the Science Fair and our support of the SUCCESS! Conference are making a difference in girls continuing their interest in STEM fields. We worked numerous voter registration events with the League of Women Voters. Our mission based programs made our members aware of things happening in our community, such as human trafficking, gang violence, and school bullying. Many of our branch members have given their time to be branch and state leaders. And, branch members continue to participate in activities and events and generously give to AAUW Funds.

😞 **...the bad** ~ The hardest part, for me, was the deaths of Susan Fairey and Sara Anderson. They were such a force for AAUW and within the community. They will be missed. Also missed are members who have moved or who are no longer healthy enough to participate in branch events. Good is passed on, however. Here is a photo of “our” Jeanne Elmore receiving her named gift honoree certificate from us, being presented by her new branch members in Beaufort, South Carolina.



😡 **And, the Ugly** And then, there was the PWC Board of Supervisor’s vote against the Equal Pay Resolution that our branch proposed. This battle has just started and I hope we submit another resolution for Equal Pay in 2018.

Thank you for your support, energy, dedication, and humor. I know John and Barbara will do a fabulous job and you will support them as much as you supported me.

**Sandy Lawrence** [sandyaauw@juno.com](mailto:sandyaauw@juno.com)  
Co-State President (in her second term for this office)

## September Highlights in US Women's History

**September 12, 1910** – Alice Stebbins Wells, a former social worker, becomes the first woman police officer in the U.S.

**September 13, 1994** - Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) signed into law

**September 14, 1964** – Helen Keller receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom along with 4 other women: Dr. Lena Edwards, Lynn Fontaine, Dr. Helen Taussig, and Leontyne Price

### September 15 - October 15: National Hispanic Heritage Month

**September 20, 1973** – Billie Jean King defeats Bobby Riggs in the battle of the sexes tennis match

**September 25, 1981** – Sandra Day O'Connor is sworn in as the first woman U.S. Supreme Court Justice

**September 26, 1971** – Rep. Shirley Chisholm (D-New York) announces she will enter the Democratic presidential primaries, and

**1973** Capt. Lorraine Potter, an American Baptist minister, becomes the first woman U.S. Air Force chaplain

**September 29, 1988** – Stacy Allison becomes first American woman to reach the summit of Mt. Everest

## September Birthdays

**September 1, 1896 (1987)** – Mary Jones, a pioneer in the field of behavior therapy and a celebrated developmental psychologist, her famous patient was a small boy who was terrified of his stuffed white rabbit and gradually overcame his fear with rewards of food

**September 1, 1909 (1999)** – Hildegard Peplau, a nurse educator, created the foundation for modern nursing in her 1952 book, *Interpersonal Relations in Nursing*, enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps in World War II, served in England and New York and then in the New York Women's Disturbed Service, president of American Nurses Association, 1970-72; **1933 (2006)** – Ann Richards, second woman elected governor of Texas (1990); and **1939** – Lily Tomlin, comedienne & actress

**September 2, 1948 (1986)** – Christa McAuliffe, first teacher in space, died aboard space shuttle Challenger in 1986

**September 3, 1914 (1984)** – Dixy Lee Ray, marine biologist whose scientific papers and research on marine invertebrates led to public television programs, appointment to the Atomic Energy Commission (1973-75), and election as Governor of Washington on conservative issues in 1976; and **1920 (1966)** – Marguerite Higgins, first woman to win Pulitzer Prize

**September 4, 1906 (1988)** – Elaine Yoneda, Communist labor organizer with the International Longshoremen's Union, argued for free day care for women and equal pay for equal work in 1930s, interned in 1942 with her Japanese-American husband because she felt family should stay together

**September 5, 1914 (1994)** – Hannah Wormington, studied and compared American Paleo-Indian artifacts with European anthropological findings, also studied minerals from those areas and eastern Colorado, resistance to women scientists prevented her talents from being utilized but she remained a model for women in interdisciplinary archaeology

**September 6, 1860 (1935)** – Jane Addams, founder of Hull House in Chicago, first major settlement house, first American woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize (1931), suffragist, helped establish American Civil Liberties Union (1920); and **1898 (1998)** – Emily Mudd, pioneering marriage counselor and family planning advocate, advised the Kinsey Reports

**September 7, 1892 (1987)** – Elizabeth Coit, architect who tackled affordable housing for people of limited means, collected and analyzed information for the Federal Public Housing Authority, developed more than 150 projects

**September 8, 1859 (1918)** – Mary M. Kimball Kehew, union organizer, co-founder of the Union for Industrial Progress (1892), first president of the National Women's Trade Union League (1903); **1914 (1985)** – Tish Sommers, co-founded the Older Women's League (OWL – whose motto is, "Don't Agonize, Organize"); **1945 (1995)** – Esther Rome, with 13 other women, created the Boston Women's Health Book Collective- basis for women's health manual Our Bodies, Ourselves

**September 10, 1890 (1980)** – Rose Norwood, powerful speaker and labor organizer from Kiev, Russia

**September 14, 1830 (1910)** – Emily Edson Briggs, first woman White House correspondent during Lincoln's administration, first president of Women's National Press Association (1882); **1879 (1966)** – Margaret Sanger, pioneer in birth control and sex education, founded predecessor to Planned Parenthood; and **1917 (1994)** – Joyce Chen, cookbook author

**September 16, 1913 (1995)** – Florence Greenberg, founded Scepter Records, produced successful rock and roll and soul records in 1950s to early 1970s, her Wand Records label promoted Dianne Warwick in the mid-1960s

**September 18, 1905 (1990)** – Greta Garbo, actress, got her start in advertising in 1922, moved to Hollywood in 1925; and **1905 (1993)** – Agnes De Mille, dancer, choreographer, pioneer of the American Ballet Theater

**September 20, 1899 (1979)** – Anna Strauss, League of Women Voters national president from 1944 to 1950; and **1946** – Judith Baca, Latina visual artist and muralist, community activist

**September 23, 1838 (1927)** – Victoria Woodhull, feminist, first woman candidate for U.S. President (1872); **1863 (1954)** – Mary Church Terrell, outstanding speaker, first president of National Association of Colored Women (1896), picketed in Washington D.C. for woman suffrage and desegregation; **1899 (1988)** – Louise Nevelson, sculptor, migrated from Kiev to Maine, taught in the Works Progress Administration in 1943; and **1906 (1993)** – Harriet Hardy, physician

**September 25, 1903 (1993)** – Olive Beech, Beech Aircraft Company- trained 90% of all bombardiers in World War II **September 26, 1893 (1976)** – Freda Kirchway, prolific political journalist, editor of the "Nation", espoused women's concerns for birth control in the 1920s, also worked for the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

**September 27, 1895 (1988)** – Jennie Matyas, labor organizer and educator who emigrated from Hungarian Transylvania to Manhattan, supported equal suffrage, worked to enroll black women in the ILGWU, organized women in San Francisco

**September 30, 1875 (1951)** – Anne Martin, helped win equal suffrage in Nevada, became 1<sup>st</sup> woman to run for the U.S. Senate in 1918

*Edited from "National Women's History Project" Calendar [www.nwhp.org](http://www.nwhp.org)*

*{Editor is proud that AAUW firsts are included on their site ☺}*

## **Advanced Planning Calendar for 2017-2018**

<b>November, 2017</b>	<b>Branch Program: “Human Trafficking”</b>
<b>December 6, 2017</b>	<b>Holiday Dinner: Occoquan Inn</b>
<b>January 27, 2018</b>	<b>Movie Day – “Hidden Figures” @ Ali’s Home Theatre</b>
<b>February 7, 2018</b>	<b>State Lobby Day in Richmond</b>
<b>February 10, 2018</b>	<b>“Looking for Spring” Luncheon @ Maddigan’s in Occoquan</b>
<b>March 10, 2018</b>	<b>Pr. Wm.-Manassas Regional Science Fair Judging</b>
<b>March 17, 2018</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> Annual “Girls + Math + Science = SUCCESS!” Marsteller Middle School</b>
<b>April 20-22, 2018</b>	<b>Virginia AAUW State Conference Portsmouth</b>
<b>May 20, 2018</b>	<b>Spring Brunch @ Susan’s Manassas Home</b>



Woodbridge homepage: <http://woodbridge-va.aauw.net/> AAUW homepage: <http://www.aauw.org>

Northern District Representatives: Caroline Pickens [carolineaauw@gmail.com](mailto:carolineaauw@gmail.com) & Susan Burk [burksu@aol.com](mailto:burksu@aol.com)

AAUW of Virginia homepage <http://aauw-va.aauw.net>