

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 8: The [2019 AAUW Art Contest](#) opens and members can start submitting their entries. We'll give special preference to submissions that reflect AAUW's [mission and values](#).

January 9, 2019 <i>Wednesday</i>	Book Club Uno @The Glen in Lake Ridge	2 pm
January 13, 2019 <i>Sunday</i>	Afternoon at the Movies Ali's Home Theater: "Iron Jawed Angels"	1:30 pm
January 16, 2019 <i>Wednesday</i>	ERA Lobbying in Richmond with VA AAUW Richmond (see information in Public Policy section ↓)	
January 31, 2019 <i>Thursday</i>	Lobby Corps Training for National AAUW Headquarters, Washington, DC	afternoon
February 16, 2019 <i>Saturday</i>	Annual "Looking to Spring Luncheon" Maddigan's in Occoquan	noon

President's Message



Thank you **again** to the members, spouses, and friends who attended the November 20, 2018 PWBOCS meeting for their consideration of the ERA resolution addressing support by the 2019 General Assembly to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. As was the case with the "Equal Pay Resolution" in May of 2017, support was deflected and misdirected by speakers. I am heartened, however, by the VA ERA Ratify "tour bus" and the bi-partisan support in jurisdictions including Fairfax County, Shenandoah County, and Virginia Beach; in hopes that Virginia can be THE 38th state to ratify the ERA amendment including equal rights under the law for women to the United States Constitution. *Check out Sandy's information in the newsletter for state-level support.*



It was wonderful to have more than half of our membership roster attend the Holiday Dinner on December 4th! As we look forward to a new year of branch endeavors, we hope to see you at Ali's home theater, the February "Looking to Spring Luncheon", the March STEM events.... Check out your calendar and RSVP!



Barbara Ondo barbaraondo@gmail.com

Public Policy

Local – Priority ERA Resolution and Equal Pay Resolution for the PWBOCS

~~ Yes, we are planning to earn an “Equal Pay” Resolution’s support by our Prince William County Board of Supervisors in 2019. Through planning and team efforts, each of the eight supervisors received packets and/or met with one of our members who live in Prince William County in the spring of 2018. Thank you to Sandy, Joyce, Eileen, Lee, Barbara, John, Ali- for their tireless efforts. Our plan for 2019 is already in play.

State – Priority ERA and more



VA AAUW has made ratification of the ERA amendment to the U.S. Constitution one of its priority public policy issues for the 2018-19 year. A 13-page brochure of the history and updates about the ratification was compiled by a committee of the VA AAUW leaders and distributed in November for information and distribution to both VA branch presidents and communication/newsletter chairs. This document’s contents were fact-checked and include quotes from two Supreme Court justices- Ruth Bader Ginsberg and Antonin Scalia, Republican first lady Betty Ford, and two entertainers- Ben Stein and Patricia Arquette. **VA AAUW Leaders have created an ERA informational brochure. Check it out: <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/files/2018/10/ERA-BOOK-FINAL-H6GA-compressed.pdf>** State Communications Chair, Patsy Quick, suggests this TED

Talk, also. <https://ideas.ted.com/why-the-us-needs-to-pass-the-equal-rights-amendment-finally/>

Happy New Year AAUW of Virginia members! We hope you had wonderful holidays with friends and family. If there is one resolution we plan to make for 2019, it is to make our voices heard — politely but firmly — on the public policy issues we care about, especially where positive action will improve the lives of women — and men — and families.

This is a reminder that we will be in Richmond on January 16, 2019 to add our voice and increase our visibility with our state representatives in support of ratification of the ERA. We have made Virginia’s ratification of the ERA our principle public policy priority this year. Working with many other groups around the state, we have been publicizing all the reasons why the ERA is important and remains necessary, addressing the myths that have been put forward to defeat ratification, and communicating these points to our elected officials with postcards. AAUW of Virginia’s own booklet, “*Unfinished Business*,” available at the AAUW of VA website, lays out the history, the arguments for and the responses to the “myths.” We are so pleased that it is now featured on the websites of many other advocacy groups. We are making a difference!

The General Assembly has a short session this year – just six weeks – and will convene on January 9, 2019. So, this year AAUW of VA will be in Richmond on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 to distribute printed and bound copies of “Unfinished Business” to all delegates and senators. Our goal is to interact directly with every elected state official (or their staff) to convey our strong support for ERA ratification by the Virginia legislature. We will provide a few talking points for you to use at each office visit. This is an additional lobby day for those interested in and available to join us. We hope it will raise AAUW of VA’s visibility in Richmond and reinforce our lobbying efforts to date. If we have enough volunteers to deliver all the booklets efficiently, we hope to have time to meet with a couple of legislators. Those meetings are TBD, however.

We plan to meet at 10:00 AM at the public entrance of the Pocahontas Building, 900 East Main Street (where all legislators’ offices are while a new General Assembly Building is being constructed). At that time, we will distribute copies of the booklet and delivery assignments with room numbers. If you wish to participate in the LWV weekly Legislative Round Table that runs from 8:30-9:30 AM at the Sun Trust Bldg. at 919 E. Main St. in the Tidewater Room on the 4th floor, you would need to arrive earlier, or spend Tuesday night. (See details below.) We will distribute maps and delivery assignments once we know how many AAUW of VA members plan to join us for this additional Lobby Day. For members wishing to drive in the night before, GRAUW members have offered to host members in their homes. And, we will make arrangements for lunch for all those able to stay. Please let us know by January 9, 2019 if you plan to join us. This is a firm deadline to give us time to assign the office visits and try to schedule any meetings with legislators. In the event of inclement weather, we will reschedule this event for the following Wednesday, January 23rd.

Thank you for all you do to change the climate for women and girls!

Susan Burk (burksu@aol.com) and Sylvia Rogers (srogers1nm@aol.com) Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy, VA AAUW

National

Recently, the U.S. Department of Education proposed regulatory changes that would undermine students' civil rights protections and drastically reduce schools' obligations in responding to reports of sexual harassment and violence. The public comment period has started, so please speak up and fight back against these attacks on Title IX. Sign our petition to oppose the changes and learn more about other opportunities for action.

SAVE THE DATE: Lobby Corps Training – Thursday, January 31, 2019

Your AAUW National Public Policy and Research team has been working hard on planning and strategizing for the new year and I hope you are as excited as we are to execute these new plans come the start of the 116th Congress!

We are inviting all Lobby Corps volunteers to AAUW National Headquarters on Thursday, January 31st for our Spring Training. Time to be announced but please expect that this will be an afternoon activity. This is a slight shift from previous training times but still doable for all local commuters (and avoids rush hour traffic!). AAUW staff will be in touch shortly with a confirmation of time and an RSVP link. All new and prospective Lobby Corps volunteers are welcome (and encouraged!) to attend training but, as a reminder, training will be focused on enhancing the skill set of Lobby Corps volunteers. Process, procedure, and responsibilities/expectation settings conversations for new volunteers are facilitated through Pam. Please see me (202.785.7712) if you have any additional questions about Training or new volunteer recruitment. Wishing you all a happy holidays and a healthy, successful new year with your family and loved ones! Can't wait to see you all in 2019!

Best, Pam Yuen, Senior Government Relations Coordinator, American Association of University Women

International

From Smithsonian.com 1.3.2019- On a steep hill in India's Kerala state sits the centuries-old Sabarimala temple, one of Hinduism's holiest sites. Each year, millions of men visit the temple, but women between the ages of 10 and 50 have long been barred from entering. Yesterday, in the early hours of morning, two women slipped inside the temple, cloaked in black and flanked by plainclothes policeman—a history-making moment that has sparked both jubilation and fury in Kerala. The two women—identified by the *BBC* as Bindu Ammini, 40, and Kanaka Durga, 39—are the first to access Sabarimala shrine since India's Supreme Court overturned a ban on women's entry in September, 2018. Others have tried, but were rebuffed by angry mobs.

Under the cover of darkness, the two hour-trek up the hillside to Sabarimala went smoothly for Ammini and Durga, who made it to the temple at around 3:30 a.m. local time. "We had no trouble trekking to the shrine and the officials were cooperative," Ammini tells the *BBC*. "We left before the protesters spotted us." But when word got out that women had entered the temple, Kerala was beset by protests. According to the *New York Times*' Kai Schultz and Ayesha Venkataraman, demonstrators blocked traffic, forced stores to close, vandalized a government office and pelted stones at police, who responded by firing tear gas canisters. Relatives of one of the women had to be moved to a safe house. A Hindu priest temporarily shut down the temple to perform "purification rituals."

Sandy Lawrence

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Public Policy Chair (with input from AAUW, members, and other news outlets)



“Iron-Jawed Angels” – Fight for Women’s Suffrage in the United States

- a 2004 American historical drama film directed by Katja von Garnier. The film stars Hilary Swank as suffragist leader Alice Paul - Please join us at former member Ali's home, near the McCoart Building, for viewing this movie and gaining background in the Suffragists. Bring a snack to share. Sandy and Susan will have materials for you. Contact Ali to RSVP: ali.cohen@verizon.net and for directions.

Members' "Matinee Out" for Shakespeare? for New Female Playwright?

Member Patty McCoart is an alumna of the Castaways Repertory Theatre troupe. Members attended the 9.29.2017 show of *The Madwoman of Chaillot*. The Castaways offered a special group rate which we supplemented as a fund-raiser toward AAUW's efforts, raising \$87. The next performance is **Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*** from January 18th – February 3rd (weekends). We're thinking **January 19th or February 2nd or 3rd** - check your calendars to see which date(s) will work for you and contact Lee, our program chair. lmvannett@aol.com

Also, the Signature Theater is hosting, "SigWorks: The Heidi Thomas Writers' Initiative, a partnership with the Jenna and Paul Segal Foundation, is a multi-year commitment to present world premieres by female playwrights with female directors.

masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity - a world premiere

February 26 – April 7, 2019 in the Ark Blackbox Theater, in Alexandria

Three women—an art restorer, her nurse, and their military captor—are trapped in a ravaged museum during a catastrophic hundred years war. Tasked with restoring a damaged Rembrandt painting, the women find common shreds of humanity as they try to save a small symbol of beauty in their broken world. Holly Twyford (A Little Night Music) and Felicia Curry (The Scottsboro Boys) star in this season's Heidi Thomas Writers' Initiative work, a brutal and elegant exploration of the unifying virtue of art and what things are most worth saving when the world is collapsing. The tickets are \$40. Based on what else the branch and I have going on in March – the matinee on March 16th works, so I have purchased a ticket for this date for myself. If you would like to attend also, contact me: susanmbee@juno.com

OPPORTUNITY to SUPPORT "TURNING POINT" MEMORIAL



About the Memorial

In time for the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial will be built close to the Workhouse near Occoquan where suffragists were imprisoned in 1917 for picketing outside the White House for the right to vote. Their treatment and forced feeding became national news and a turning point in public awareness. AAUW of Virginia became a charter member in 2013 when our Virginia members contributed more than \$2,000 in 2013. Now our help is needed again as the deadline to raise \$2 million by 2019 is fast approaching. The location of the stone memorial in a lovely park by the river will be a natural for large gatherings for the national celebration.

Our January program will be at our former member/friend's home- Ali Cohen. Her "home theater" will show "Iron-Jawed Angels" about the suffragists who were imprisoned at the federal workhouse at Lorton. Attendees can bring snacks to share. Please RSVP to Ali- ali.cohen@verizon.net so she can plan.

To support the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial, you can contribute: www.suffragistmemorial.org.

New York Honors Shirley Chisholm, First Black Congresswoman in U.S. History, With New Statue - The firebrand politician once quipped that she would like to be remembered as a woman who 'had guts' - Victoria Stapley-Brown of the *Art Newspaper* reports that the statue will mark the first project undertaken by **She Built NYC**, an initiative that seeks to correct the lopsided gender representation among New York's public monuments. Chisholm, who died in 2005 at 80, spent her decades-long career battling for gender and racial equality, making her an apt choice for the subject of the new statue, expected to be completed in 2020. It will sit at one of the entrances to Prospect Park in Brooklyn, the borough where Chisholm was born in 1924.

Holiday Dinner 12.4



Yes, a good time was had by all! Happy New Year to All of You!

NOTES from OUR FINANCE OFFICER

At the holiday dinner, the members present raised \$100! Thank you to all who contributed! As per our vote at the dinner, the money will be donated to the Economic Security Fund #4449.

AAUW's 2018 Strategic Plan has four pillars of focus, which are the four pillars that have been AAUW's foundation through the years. The AAUW Contribution Report Form (CRF) has been revised so that it matches those four pillars, with all the current funds falling within one of those pillars.

Economic Security Fund: Start Smart and Work Smart (salary and benefits negotiation for college seniors and women in the work force); pay equity (activities to address the pay gap); and other activities to address women's retirement security.

Karen Wolf

Finance Officer for Branch/Treasurer

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



Those who attended the December dinner received the new branch 2018-2019 directories. Please let me know if you would like me to bring yours to the next event or if you would like me to send it to you.

We have two new members to our branch this year- both new to AAUW, also. Of course, more are welcome- please let me know if you would like me to get in touch with a contact you have for a prospective member. Perhaps, invite a friend to the Movie Date 1/13 or to the Looking to Spring Luncheon on 2/16. Thanks.



Susan Bardenhagen
Membership Chair

(new email address: smbaauw@gmail.com)

THE ISSUES of SEXUAL HARASSMENT and GENDER DISCRIMINATION

Congress Passes Bill to Address Sexual Harassment in Legislative Workforce

In December, the House and Senate unanimously passed a bipartisan bill that changes the way sexual harassment is addressed in the legislative workforce. The bill, which reforms the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995, eliminates the problematic counseling, mediation, and “cooling off” periods required under the previous law. While the original version of the bill introduced in the House held members of Congress financially liable for both harassment and discrimination settlements, the final bill only holds members liable for harassment settlements. The bill also increases transparency by requiring an annual public report of awards and settlements for instances of harassment and provides additional support for legislative branch employees, including a dedicated advocate. AAUW supports equitable climates free of harassment and has urged Congress to take action on improving the process by which workplace discrimination, including sexual harassment, is addressed in the legislative workforce.

STEM/STEAM Updates from Susan & Susan

Interesting article on first woman at MIT: https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/first-female-student-mit-started-women-chemistry-lab-food-safety-180971056/?utm_source=smithsoniandaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20181218-daily-responsive&spMailingID=38008049&spUserID=NzQwNDU1MTE5OTAS1&spJobID=1422043783&spReportId=MTQyMjA0Mzc4MwS2

Register to attend X-STEM on March 19, 2019! X-STEM DC 2019 – presented by NCR Foundation – is an Extreme STEM symposium for middle through high school students *{editor’s note- AND educators and interested adults}* featuring interactive presentations by an exclusive group of visionaries who aim to empower and inspire kids about careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. These STEM role models and industry leaders are sure to ignite your students’ curiosity through storytelling and live demonstrations. Speakers include:

[Serena McCalla, Ph.D.](#) – From coaching her students at Jericho High School to championships at renowned international science fairs to being featured in Sundance Film Festival’s award-winning documentary, *Science Fair*, Serena shares her secrets for guiding young learners in science fair pursuits.

[Hannah Herbst](#) – She’s been called a scientific genius, but this 18-year-old innovator wowed the scientific world at age 14 when she invented a small turbine that produces energy from ocean currents. Now discover what is next for her as she explores new frontiers in biomedicine and sustainability.

[Tyler Allen, Ph.D.](#) – Named in 2018 to Forbes’ 30 Under 30 list for his groundbreaking research into how certain cancer and tumor cells exit the bloodstream to form new tumors, this rising young scientist at Duke University is playing a key role in developing next-generation cancer therapies.

[France A. Córdova, Ph.D.](#) – Known for her scientific contributions in the areas of observational and experimental astrophysics, this noted scientist is Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF), the only government agency charged with advancing, all fields of scientific discovery and technological innovation.

[Bill Schindler, Ph.D.](#) – This archaeologist at Maryland’s Washington College is internationally known for his unique hands-on approach to immersing students in prehistoric life, including the diet of our ancient ancestors, and for his co-starring role in National Geographic Channel’s 2016 series, “The Great Human Race.”

We both attended this event in 2018 when it occurred right before the biannual USA Science & Engineering Festival. Let us know if you are interested in attending this year.

Susan Bardenhagen smbaauw@gmail.com **Susan Farmer** farmersw@pwcs.edu
Branch Co-STEM Liaisons

2019 “Girls + Math + Science = SUCCESS!” Conference on March 30th

The 29th annual SUCCESS! STEAM Careers Conference for students in grades 5-12 and the adult in their lives, will be held at Marsteller Middle School in Bristow on Saturday, March 30th. Plans are underway for sponsor support, presenters, and volunteers. Micron Technology, Lockheed Martin, Aurora Flight Sciences, and ProChain Solutions, Inc. are on board. We are hoping to have students with service project hours and our Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority sisters supporting, too. You are needed, too: send possible presenter names, volunteer to help with set-up on the 29th in the evening and/or during the conference on the 30th.

Susan Bardenhagen, Conference Coordinator successSTEAMconference@gmail.com

HERstory – Writing Women into History

In 1973, Marlo Thomas (**that** girl) joined Gloria Steinem, Patricia Carbine, and Letty Cottin Pogrebin as the founders of the Ms. Foundation for Women, the first women's fund in the US. The organization was created to deliver funding and other resources to organizations that were presenting liberal women's voices in communities nationwide. Marlo was born 11.21.1937. In 2010, Thomas created MarloThomas.com, a website for women aged 35+, associated with AOL and the *Huffington Post*. {Editor was intrigued by Marlo's continued advocacy of St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and surprised to read the information.}

In November, the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra (in its 75th year) launched its **Sister Project, a multi-year endeavor featuring works by female composers**, often musicians who positively influenced the lives of their better-known family members. Classical music has been missing these essential voices, and although it will not right past injustices, we are thankful that now the voices of woman artists and diverse composers are being discovered, honored and supported as never before. {Editor has season tickets – let her know if you'd like to add a concert to your calendar. 🎵 }

On 12.9.2018, history was made in the Commonwealth. For the first time in the 400+ year history of the Virginia House of Delegates (the oldest contiguously serving elected body in the western hemisphere), the Leader of a legislative caucus is a woman! Members of the House Democratic Caucus have chosen Del. Eileen Filler-Corn to lead House Democrats into the 2019 campaign year. The diversity of the House Democratic Caucus is our biggest strength, and it doesn't just represent the future of the Commonwealth -- it represents the present of the Commonwealth.

On 12/10 in 1815, Ada Lovelace, Augusta Ada Byron, was born. Lovelace, who considered herself "an Analyst (& Metaphysician)," predicted the potential of modern computers before they were invented.

On 12/13 in 1903, civil rights activist Ella Baker was born in Norfolk, Virginia. Baker played a crucial role in the male-dominated Civil Rights Movement, notably helping found the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

On 12/27 in 1901, Marlene Dietrich, the actress who refused to bend to the Nazi propaganda machine, was born in Berlin, Germany. Dietrich was born in Berlin in 1901. But by the 1930s, she was stridently denouncing the rise Nazi Germany; and after becoming a U.S. citizen in 1939 and making more than 500 appearances entertaining American troops overseas, she was awarded the Medal of Freedom, one of the highest civilian honors in the United States. The icon's glamorous mystique was the theme of a major 2003 exhibition mounted at the Fashion Museum in Paris. The show drew on the Dietrich Archive's collection, exploring the star's style through artifacts including photographs and 250 outfits from her personal wardrobe.

Activist Naomi Wadler Isn't Like Most 12-Year-Olds - Rachael Lallensack for Smithsonian.com, January 2, 2019

It can be difficult for sixth-grader and March for Our Lives activist Naomi Wadler to escape the sense that "we're doomed." "How else are you supposed to feel when shootings happen every day?" says Wadler. But talking with other people, including victims of gun violence, one-on-one, gives her hope. On the [Road to Change](#) tour, she and survivors of the Parkland shooting traveled the country and spoke with communities about gun violence. Wadler was the youngest speaker at the March for Our Lives rally in Washington, D.C. on March 24, 2018. She captured national attention when she delivered a powerful message about how black women are disproportionately victims of gun violence, and yet their "stories don't make the front page of every national newspaper." She joined Disney Imagineer Bei Yang on stage on December 7 for this year's "[The Long Conversation](#)," an annual event that brings together more than two dozen thinkers for an eight-hour relay of two-person dialogues about optimism at the Smithsonian Arts and Industries Building.

The Alexandria, Virginia native quickly moved into the spotlight after her speech—even if she isn't quite aware of the full extent of her reach since she stays away from social media. But she's grateful that her message took off because it brought intersectionality into the discussion of gun violence. "I'm happy that it did because I can use my platform to give a voice to other black girls who feel as if they don't have one," Wadler says. What does the future hold for a young person who has achieved so much? One day, the sixth grader would like to run *The New York Times*. But for now, she's teaching herself the ukulele.

1.3.2019- On this day in 1793, Lucretia Mott, the abolitionist, women's rights activist and social reformer, was born. Mott was instrumental in convening the historic Seneca Falls Convention. There was a groundbreaking "Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions" that came out of the gathering. Strangely enough, the struggle for women's rights and, eventually, women's suffrage in America began with a blowup over seating. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott met when they were whisked off to a roped-off, women's-only seating section at the 1840 World Anti-Slavery Convention. The convention had been thrown into chaos at the news that American women intended to vote, serve on committees and even speak at the convention, and in response they were shunted off to a section that was out of the view of men. Irate at their treatment, Stanton and Mott began to plot a convention of their own—this time, to address the state of women. *The rest, as they say, is herstory....*

Advanced Planning Calendar for 2018-2019

Tuesday, March 5: Asian American Women's Equal Pay Day (Asian Women v. White, non-Hispanic Men - \$0.85)

Tuesday, April 2: All women's Equal Pay Day (Women overall v. Men overall - \$0.80)

Friday, April 19: White women's equal pay day (White, non-Hispanic Women v. White, non-Hispanic Men - \$0.77)

Thursday, August 22: Black Women's Equal Pay Day (Black Women v. White, non-Hispanic Men - \$0.61)

Monday, September 23: Native Women's Equal Pay Day (Native Women v. White, non-Hispanic Men - \$0.58)

Wednesday, November 20: Latinas' Equal Pay Day (Latinas v. White, non-Hispanic Men - \$0.53)

Moms Equal Pay Day will be determined at a later date.

- January 13**
(snow date 1/20) **Movie Afternoon @ Ali's Home Theater ☺**
"Iron-Jawed Angels" – about the Suffragists who were imprisoned at the Lorton Workhouse (see Turning Points Memorial article above)
- February 5** **AAUW VA evening reception for all female Delegates and Senators in the General Assembly**
- February 6** **AAUW VA Lobby Day**
- February 16** **Annual Looking to Spring Luncheon**
@ Maddigan's in Occoquan **noon**
- March 23 (CORRECTION)** **PWC Manassas Regional Science Fair- Branch Judging of Female Projects in Grades 7 and 8**
- March 29** **Setting up for SUCCESS! Conference**
- March 30** **29th Annual "Girls + Math + Science = SUCCESS!"**
- April 6** **AAUW-VA State Conference - (Roanoke/Vinton)**

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

Northern District Co-Representatives: **Sara Anderson** sfpaaaauw6382@aol.com and
Kate MacLeod bobmacleod@verizon.net

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