

Vol 46, Number 7 ~ Woodbridge, VA Branch Newsletter ~ Spring #1/3, 2019

Upcoming Dates for Your Calendar

Sunday, June 30th *End of Membership Year 2018-2019* **midnight**
Please contact Karen Wolf, if you haven't received the link to renew.

Saturday, August 24th *VA AAUW Summer Leadership Conference*
Harrisonburg (near James Madison University)

Sunday, September 22nd ? *Fall Luncheon* **12:30 pm**
Planning our year for STEM, More Science Fair Winners Sharing
Susan's home in Manassas

President's Message

It's been longer than your board had hoped to share a newsletter with you, but we're going to get caught up in just three issues over the next few weeks. Our many branch activities and outreach; family commitments; vacations to France for John and me, South America for Karen, northern New York for Susan- to name a few; and graduations and grandchildren to celebrate- have overflowed our time schedules.

We've elected new officers for 2019-2020; my term ends on June 30th, just as our membership year does. How's that for a hint? ☺ By now, you should have received reminders generated by AAUW that our treasurer initiated. The link is clickable and easy to do! See more information in Karen's article.

We want to let you know that Lee has resigned her position as program vice-president. We thank her for her efforts to promote program ideas and help to connect us with new contacts. With that being said, there is one year remaining in this board position. Our branch has worked to plan as a committee for programs and meetings over the last several years and then assign each of us tasks. If you would like to support our board and assume the role of program vice-president through June of 2020, please contact me or our new president, Sandy Lawrence. Thank you for your continued support of our branch!

Barbara Ondo

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Public Policy

Local

April 2, 2019 was the “average” equal pay date for women’s salaries for the same job to “catch up” to what men earned in 2018- three months + later. We had hoped to speak at the closest Prince William County Board of County Supervisors meeting. It was suggested that we pool our advocacy efforts into visiting with as many supervisors as we could to share AAUW materials. A special election was held to have someone in place for Neabsco’s open seat due to John Jenkins death on April 9th, the primary for many offices is next Tuesday, June 11th, which will give us an idea of the landscape for November. As you did for the VA AAUW elections and hopefully, for AAUW national elections, please be sure to exercise your citizenship rights next Tuesday.

State

April 6 AAUW-VA State Conference - (Roanoke/Vinton) The 2019 state conference at the Vinton War Memorial in the town of Vinton in the Roanoke Valley was held on April 6th. Sandy Lawrence represented our branch and gave a brief report at our April 9th program.



National

During the first week of March, Congress took the first step by introducing the EMPOWER Act. The EMPOWER Act is a bipartisan, bicameral bill that would improve the lives of workers by reducing barriers to speaking out when harassment occurs, requiring companies to report on workplace harassment and arming workers with resources they need to address workplace harassment.

From March 11–22, AAUW representatives joined government officials, NGO and civil society leaders and activists from around the world for the 63rd UN Commission on the Status of Women and the NGO Committee on the Status of Women Forum in New York. The Commission is the primary international body solely devoted to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. AAUW hosted an interactive panel highlight global solutions to achieve workplace equity and women's economic security. Senior Vice President of Fellowships and Programs Gloria Blackwell developed an expert panel of AAUW fellowships alumnae that was moderated by CEO Kim Churches. Titled "Economic Security, Women and Work: Global Solutions for Equity," it was a standing-room-only event. Our advocacy work is local, national and global!

In an important victory on March 4th, a federal district court judge in D.C. ruled that the government acted illegally when it stopped the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) from collecting pay data by sex, race and ethnicity from large companies. The government must now move forward with a requirement that employers report compensation information to the EEOC by demographic information and job category. The Trump Administration halted the pay data collection in August 2017 in response to opponents who felt it created a costly and unfair burden on employers. Subsequently, three advocacy groups filed a lawsuit challenging the move. AAUW has long advocated for pay data collection so that employers and enforcement agencies are better able to analyze and act on pay disparities. With this federal pay data collection moving forward, employers and enforcement agencies can better develop solutions to close gender and race pay gaps.

Sandy Lawrence

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

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

We continue to do a great job of retention and recruiting within our branches. As of early January, we have only 51 fewer members across the state than we did in February of last year. Branch recruiting is still active with

many members joining across the state even during the busy month of December. Please remember that during January through March 15 there is no longer half-price national dues for the remainder of the fiscal year. However, new members who join during branch events qualify for Shape the Future half-price national membership. Also, during this period, the state dues are half-price for new members. Beginning March 16, membership at the national and state level includes the remainder of this fiscal year as well as next fiscal year!

AAUW is focused on diversity and inclusion within our organization and we can be leaders in this area of focus. The diversity statement for AAUW is available on the national website and on page 6. For our branches, this means we will strive to encourage the membership in our branch to be diverse in the same way and to the same extent as our local community. We encourage you to share your success stories via the Vision and with me so that I can share them with others throughout the state.

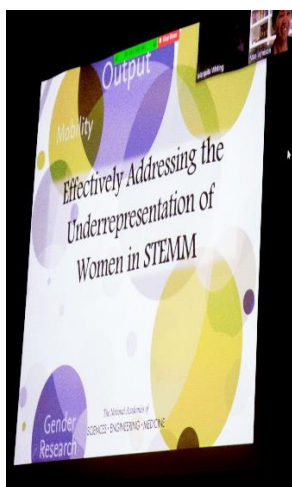
Every branch in Virginia made contributions in 2018 to AAUW Funds! I bet there aren't many states in AAUW who can say that. We should be very proud of our commitment to AAUW... It is notable that three of the top five have big book sales: McLean Area, Falls Church Area, and Roanoke Valley. Alexandria also benefits not only from their joint fundraiser at a theater performance with Mt. Vernon, but also from a member who has set up a monthly contribution online to AAUW Funds. Four other branches also have members who make automatic monthly online contributions, which enhance their branches' contributions. This is something we should all think about as an easy way to support AAUW Funds and programs. Can you spare \$10 a month for AAUW's work? Just click on "Donate" at www.aauw.org and set up this painless way to give. AAUW's primary focus right now is Economic Security, so contributions to that Fund are especially encouraged. The "Greatest Needs Fund" contributions are also encouraged since that Fund really gives AAUW the flexibility and ability to steer money where there is immediate need or when an unexpected opportunity arises.

{From VA AAUW's VISION, Cyndi Shanahan}

Thank you to those who have already renewed their 2019-2020 memberships. I initiated the email reminders through AAUW with links personalized for you. It's an easy process- clickable and taken care of on-line safely and securely. If you would prefer to renew by check, please contact me or send it directly to my address in your directory. 😊

Karen Wolf, Treasurer

kleewolf@verizon.net



March 11 Symposium: Improving Women's Representation in Science, Engineering, and Medicine

The scientific, engineering, and medical communities have been working toward improved representation of women in these fields for years. While progress has been made, women remain underrepresented in many fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine (STEMM). On March 11 the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine hosted a symposium to explore policies, practices, and strategies that have been effective in improving women's participation and success in STEMM fields, and to better understand institutional barriers to implementing such practices. The symposium will inform a [consensus study](#) that is examining underrepresentation of women in these fields. *{Susan B. attended & shared her bibliography of AAUW's addressing of these themes since 1881 with NASEM staff.}*

9 to 9:15 a.m. – Welcome from National Academy of Sciences President **Marcia McNutt**, former head of United States Geological Survey

9:15 to 9:30 a.m. – Opening remarks from **Mae Jemison**, astronaut, chair of the Committee on Addressing the Underrepresentation of Women in Science, Engineering, and Medicine

9:30 to 10:30 a.m. – Panel on *Beyond Bias and Barriers*, the book published based on report

Elaine Weyuker, Ph.D., University Distinguished Professor of Computer Science, University of Central Florida and committee member of 2007 NASEM study *Beyond Bias and Barriers*; **Eve Fine**, Ph.D., Associate Scientist and Director of Curriculum

Development and Implementation, WISELI, University of Wisconsin-Madison; **Rodolfo Mendoza-Denton**, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, University of California Berkeley; **Ashley Bear**, Ph.D., moderator, Senior Program Officer for the Committee on Women in Science, Engineering, and Medicine at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

10:30 to 11:30 a.m. – Panel on Family-Friendly Policies

Kathleen Christensen, Ph.D., Program Director, Working Longer, Sloan Foundation; **Mia Ong**, Ph.D., Senior Research Scientist and Evaluator, Technical Education Research Centers, Inc. (TERC); **Beth Shelton**, MBA, CEO, Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa, Infants at Work Policy; **Tom Rudin**, MSW, moderator, Director of the Committee on Women in Science, Engineering, and Medicine at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

12:30 to 12:45 p.m. – Remarks and introduction of keynote speaker by **Vivian Pinn**, Office of Research on Women’s Health (retired), National Institute of Health, M.D., Senior Scientist Emerita, Fogarty International Center & Former Director (Retired)

12:45 to 1:30 p.m. – Keynote address, Rep. **Donna Shalala**, former secretary of health and human services, and currently representing Florida’s 27th Congressional District

1:30 – 2:30 P.M. Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement

Reshma Jagsi, M.D., Ph.D., Professor, Deputy Chair, and Residency Program Director, Department of Radiation Oncology and Director of the Center for Bioethics and Social Sciences in Medicine, University of Michigan; **Alice M. Agogino**, Ph.D., Roscoe and Elizabeth Hughes Professor of Mechanical Engineering, University of California Berkeley, committee member of 2007 NASEM study Beyond Bias and Barriers; **Kimberly Griffin**, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Higher Education, Student Affairs, and International Education Policy Program, University of Maryland; **Alex Helman**, Ph.D., moderator, Associate Program Officer for the Committee on Women in Science, Engineering, and Medicine at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

2:45 – 3:45 P.M. National Programs

Janine Clayton, M.D., Director, ORWH, National Institutes of Health; **Suzi Iacono**, Ph.D., Head of the Office of Integrative Activities, National Science Foundation; **Marlene Kaplan**, Deputy Director of Education, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; **Diann McCants**, Ph.D. Senior Scientist and Analyst, Strategic Analysis Incorporated; **Lida Beninson**, Ph.D., moderator, Program Officer at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

3:45 – 4:00 P.M. Closing Remarks

Ashley Bear, Ph.D., {see above before lunch; she was also the keynote for Susan B.’s VAST Region IV STEAM Conference in 2018}

WEBCAST: [Morning video](#) [Afternoon video](#) [article in Forbes link:](#)

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/joanmichelson2/2019/03/31/unusual-tips-for-how-to-advance-women-in-stem-national-academy-of-sciences/#22064c1b2359>

[masterpieces of the oral & intangible heritage of humanity](#)



This was quite a riveting play, which in an intimate “blackbox theater” setting, did not allow audience members to just be part of the air space. We were given a burlap little bag with a piece of paper, a small pencil, and a rock. Front row seats were amongst the scenery of broken furniture, tumble down brick walls, and dirt floors. The theme’s question is given in the ad (left) and we were asked to write down what two things we would bring with us if we had twenty minutes to leave our home which would be destroyed beyond salvage... The three main female characters’ portrayals of guards, prisoners, and workers- changed roles as the desperate attempts to escape, survive, or kill morphed from one to another. Almost all of the crew were female; it was upsetting, yet quite powerful! *{Susan B., our eclectic attendee/critic}*

From the theatre’s preview: **Holly Twyford**, **Felicia Curry**, and **Yesenia Iglesias** play characters on opposite sides of an endless war who are forced to coexist and find common shreds of humanity in a brutal world. This play will stick with you long after you leave the theatre.

March 23rd Science Fair Judging



Suzanne Harvey organized our annual organizational judging of middle school female projects at the Prince William-Manassas Regional Science Fair. Our team included Suzanne, Karen, Lee, Susan, and Joyce. We each took a large category and split the smaller ones to make an initial interview and assess projects which we felt were worthy of the team's second view. We narrowed our ten high-rated projects to a first, second, third, and two honorable mention

awards- after coming to consensus. Suzanne created the beautiful award certificates and had chosen the prizes- hard-covered books, thumb drives, and other gifts. Susan shared the SUCCESS! Conference information with forms for any interested attendees from both the middle and high school entrants (with fees covered by Micron) and presented our gift bags at the middle school awards ceremony later that afternoon.



Our first place winner, **Rania**, also placed first in her category of Behavioral Science- analyzing the effects of a “growth mindset” on female students’ attitudes toward STEM careers, “She Can Do It: an the Growth Mindset Encourage Girls to Pursue STEM Careers.” Rania is a 6th grade student at Benton Middle School. Our second place winner also in the category of Behavioral Sciences, **Vivian**, titled her project, “Can You Read What I Read?” She earned second place in her category and is an 8th grader at Benton Middle School. For third place, the team selected **Alexia** for her project in the Microbiology category: “Brainless Intelligence”. Alexia earned second place in her category. The two honorable mention awards for also excellent projects were presented to 8th graders **Naomi** and **Natale** both from Reagan Middle School. Naomi’s project, “Aim High: The Effect of Bow Draw Weight on Arrow Flight,” won first place in the Physics category and she also received an award from the *Society of Women Engineers*. Natale’s project, “The Effect of the Shape of the Blade of a Wind Turbine on How Much Electricity it Creates,” was also recognized by SWE and the Aerospace Corporation.

Once again, validation from category judges and other organizations, confirms our judging team’s ability to determine outstanding projects. All five awardees were invited to our spring brunch with their parents to share their projects.

STEMM & STEAM NOTES from Susan & Susan

Democracy's Plight

In a recent editorial, Rush Holt, chief executive officer of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and executive publisher of *Science*, shares his concerns about current challenges to democracy. "Democracy is at risk when it becomes simply a contest of fervently held opinions or values not grounded in evidence." [He recommends a major initiative](#) to communicate that evidence-based thinking is available to all citizens, not just to scientists.



T.C. Williams Student Wins \$250,000 In National Science Contest

Ana Humphrey, a senior, surpassed more than 2,000 other students in the Regeneron Science Talent Search for her research work on exoplanets.

By [Chris Gaudet](#), Patch Staff | [Mar 14, 2019](#) 11:53 am ET | Updated Mar 14, 2019 2:40 pm ET

{Stay tuned to June's newsletter to see events for the northern district's "Women in STEM" program with Ana and a July 11th conference....}

Karen Uhlenbeck Is the First Woman to Win Math's Top Prize: The Abel Prize honoree was recognized for "the fundamental impact of her work on analysis, geometry and mathematical physics" *{announced March 19th in smithsonian.com}*

From your newsletter editor:

As Barbara shared, there have been many commitments- both personal and professional- which delayed getting the spring issues of our Woodbridge Branch's newsletters. Today, June 10th, you are receiving the first of 3 issues. On June 17th, I will send the second issue with a report on the SUCCESS! Conference (3.30) and our April 9th program & meeting at the McCoart Building. Issue #3 will be sent on June 24th with reports on our May 19th Brunch, our named gift honorees from AAUW for 2019, and the June 1st "Women in STEM Celebration & Share-a-thon".

Please be thinking of ideas for programs at meetings, cultural programs, gourmet out, "field trips", book club, and more. Also, we welcome new members. 😊

Our new officers with 2-year terms are: Sandy Lawrence, President; Susan Bardenhagen, VP-Membership; and Suzanne Harvey, Secretary. With our Finance Chair/Treasurer Karen Wolf, we will be looking for a VP-Membership for one year, and Public Policy person or team.

The VA AAUW Summer Leadership Meeting is August 24 in Harrisonburg (near where James Madison University is located). It's a "gentle" day trip drive, so we could carpool. These meetings are a great way to network and hear from other state branches.

Thank you for your patience.

HERstory – Writing Women into History for March

How Margaret Dayhoff Brought Modern Computing to Biology - The pioneer of bioinformatics modeled Earth's primordial atmosphere with Carl Sagan and made a vast protein database still used today

Margaret Oakley was born in Philadelphia on March 11, 1925 to Ruth Clark, a high school math teacher, and Kenneth Oakley, a small business owner. At the age of ten, her family moved to New York City. There, she attended public schools, eventually becoming the valedictorian of Bayside High in 1942. She attended Washington Square College of New York University on a scholarship, graduating *magna cum laude* in mathematics just three years later in 1945. In 1984, the National Biomedical Research Foundation launched a free online database containing over 283,000 protein sequences. Today the Protein Information Resource allows scientists all over the world to take an unknown protein, compare it to the thousands of known proteins in the database, and determine the ways in which it is alike and different. From that data they can quickly and accurately deduce a protein's evolutionary history and its relationship to various forms of life. The humble origins of this massive online database start long before the internet. It all began with the *Atlas of Protein Sequence and Structure*, a 1965 printed book containing the 65 then-known protein sequences, compiled by a woman named Margaret Dayhoff. To create her *Atlas*, Dayhoff applied cutting-edge computer technologies to find solutions to biological questions, helping usher in the birth of a new field we now call bioinformatics. Originally a chemist, Dayhoff harnessed new and evolving technologies of the post-World War II computing era to pioneer tools that chemists, biologists and astronomers alike could use in the cross-disciplinary study of the origins of life on Earth.

On March 22, 1972, the Senate passed the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution, which proposed banning discrimination based on sex. It was designed to guarantee equal legal rights for all citizens regardless of sex. The E.R.A. was sent to the states for ratification, but it would fall short of the three-fourths approval needed.

March 22nd: In 1934, Mildred Ella "Babe" Didrikson threw a scoreless inning in an exhibition game for the Philadelphia A's. Didrikson wasn't the first woman to play ball with the major leaguers, but the all-star athlete's towering presence on the mound brought mainstream attention to the feats that women were capable of accomplishing.

The best of intentions during Women's History Month... NASA was set to reach a milestone Friday, March 29th with the first ever all-female spacewalk. The historic moment was postponed, however, because only one suit in the correct size for both women was safe-to-use and at-the-ready on the International Space Station. Anne McClain and fellow astronaut Christina Koch were set to exit the ISS to conduct a six-hour mission to replace two large lithium-ion batteries outside the space station on March 29. Women would have also performed crucial work on the ground; Mary Lawrence and Kristen Facciol were set to serve as lead flight director and lead spacewalk flight controller, respectively, supporting McClain and Koch from NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

On July 20, 1969, as the lunar module, *Eagle*, was approaching the moon's surface, its computers began flashing warning messages. For a moment Mission Control faced a "go / no-go" decision, but with high confidence in the software developed by computer scientist Margaret Hamilton and her team, they told the astronauts to proceed. The software, which allowed the computer to recognize error messages and ignore low-priority tasks, continued to guide astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin over the crater-pocked, dusty crust of the moon to their landing. "It quickly became clear," she later said, "that [the] software was not only informing everyone that there was a hardware-related problem, but that the software was compensating for it." An investigation would eventually show that the astronauts' checklist was at fault, telling them to set the rendezvous radar hardware switch incorrectly. "Fortunately, the people at Mission Control trusted our software," Hamilton said. And with only enough fuel for 30 more seconds of flight, Neil Armstrong reported, "The *Eagle* has landed." The achievement was a monumental task at a time when computer technology was in its infancy: The astronauts had access to only 72 kilobytes of computer memory (a 64-gigabyte cell phone today carries almost a million times more storage space). Programmers had to use paper punch cards to feed information.

{above articles excerpted from Smithsonian.com}

Calendar for 2019, Moving Forward

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, June 20: Moms Equal Pay Day (\$0.69 from 6.7 email from AAUW)

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)

AAUW membership year: July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

American Association of University Women's Mission:
*To advance gender equity for women & girls through
research, education, and advocacy.*

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

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

Northern District Co-Representatives: **Sara Anderson** sfpaaauw6382@aol.com and

Kate MacLeod bobmacleod@verizon.net

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