

**Vol 47, Number 8 ~ Woodbridge, VA Branch Newsletter ~ May, 2020**

**Calendar of Events**

<b>May 6</b>	<b>Branch Board Meeting Teleconference</b> <i>Contact a board member if you have an item for discussion.</i>	<b>2 pm</b>
<b>June, 2020</b>	<b>Branch Elections</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>Summer, 2020</b>	<b>Bruncheon @ Susan's Home in Manassas</b> <i>Looking forward to celebrating and reconvening 😊</i>	<b>12:30 pm</b>
<b>August 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Women's Equality Day ~ 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment</b>	



**President's Message: Continued Next Steps on Full Speed Ahead... Hang in There!**

We enter May 2020 continuing to stay at home and practice social distancing. This means events and activities are cancelled or postponed, our supermarket shelves look like Russia in the 50's and we are discovering everyone's real hair color. But we are strong and creative and hanging in there.

AAUW of VA had a very good Annual Business Meeting using Zoom. I hope you review the Conference Program book you got via email. There are great things being done throughout the state.

I hope everyone has voted in the National and State AAUW elections. The AAUW National election is currently open until **6 pm EDT on May 18** to vote online. Your vote is important because National needs at least 5% of the membership to vote in order to meet a quorum requirement and elect the Board members. The AAUW of VA online election is open until **May 16 at 11:45 p.m.** *Please let me know if I can help you navigate the sites for either of these.* And, keep your voting hat on, as we will have Branch elections via email in June. More details to follow and your board is exploring options and ideas for future programs.

All of us have found ways to be involved and active. We are attending virtual concerts, happy hours and events. Our closets are organized and we are rediscovering jig saw puzzles. We are making phone calls to catch up with friends and family. We must continue to look out for one another. If you need someone to get you groceries or a prescription, please reach out. And if you just need to talk, we are also here for that. I hope that you continue to be well and safe, keeping in touch with your family and friends.

**Sandy Lawrence** (from my backyard, engulfed in spring!)

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

## **Public Policy & Advocacy**

### **State**

#### **Virtual AAUW-VA Annual Business Meeting Held April 18<sup>th</sup>**

Although the state conference was cancelled, the required Annual Business Meeting was held on April 18, 2020. Susan B, Karen, and I were among the 99 members who attend the meeting via Zoom. Shannon Wolfe, Managing Director & Chief of Staff at AAUW, ran the Zoom application and the meeting ran very smoothly.

The reports presented by the state board members are located in the conference program book that was email to everyone. Highlights of the meeting:

- The proposed Public Policy Priorities and the proposed bylaws amendment were approved by the attendees to be voted on by branch members in the state election.
- The Northern District branches have voted Sara Anderson (Arlington Branch) and Sandy Lawrence (Woodbridge Branch) as the Northern District Co-Representatives for 2020-2022.
- The meeting was open to attendees to talk about innovated programs and changes to program formats their branches have done due to the effects of the pandemic. Many branches are conducting book groups via Zoom. Branches are doing something similar with movies, with members watching the movie in their own home and then meeting via Zoom to discuss. Some have had programs with the speaker and attendees connection via Zoom.

The 2021 conference will be in the same location from March 12-14, 2021. Of course more details to come.

#### **Proposed 2020-2022 Public Policy Priorities for AAUW-Virginia**

##### Equality, Individual Rights, and Social Justice

- Support additional actions, as required, so that the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) becomes the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution
- Support access to civil and constitutional rights, including affirmative action and voting rights
- Support measures to ensure fair, nonpartisan redistricting, and transparency in government
- Support self-determination of women's health decisions, including reproductive rights
- Assure freedom from violence and fear of violence, including bullying, hate crimes, sexual harassment, and human trafficking
- Advocate for diversity and inclusion as mission-based values

##### Economic Security

- Support adoption of measures to close the gender pay gap and promote fairness in compensation and benefits
- Support equitable access and advancement in employment and leadership opportunities for women
- Advocate for quality, affordable health care and family planning services, dependent care, and paid family, medical and sick leave
- Support a livable minimum wage standard

##### Education

- Support Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education
- Provide adequate and equitable funding for quality public education for all students

- Oppose use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary schools and to charter schools that do not adhere to the civil rights and accountability standards required of other public schools
- Promote and protect programs that meet the educational needs of girls and women at all levels, including STEM fields
- Increase support for and access to affordable higher education for women and disadvantaged populations

**Sandy Lawrence**, Public Policy Chair

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

{With input from AAUW, members, and other news outlets}

## **Checking in with Our Members & Friends As Spring is Sprung!**

It was great to hear from so many of you after our April newsletters. ☺ **Sandy** is looking forward to sharing golf stories with Jeanne; meanwhile her yard has beautiful spring colors. I expect that “cross the street neighbors” life member **Nancy S.** and alumna member **General Clara** have beautiful greenery to share also.



**Karen**’s 17-year old kitty is just loving the warm weather for sunbathing. **Dorothy** is so glad that her family’s annual ski trip went on wonderfully in the beginning of February. She is so looking forward to her first great-grandchild in June- a boy. ☺ She promises to send photos!

**Chalet** is doing distance learning with her NVCC-Manassas college students, while supporting her three children in their education, too. Manassas Park Mayor **Jeanette** has in-person quorum meetings with her city council as they social distance and meet in smaller committees to continue business as usual. She sends her best and is looking forward to being able to check in with her constituents as she campaigns for her second term. **Nancy S** is keeping up with the challenge of working with her non-profit NGOs by virtual connecting with clients.



*It is with feelings of great sadness and grief that I share with you that our dear member, Toni, stayed strong in her battle against cancer until May 2<sup>nd</sup>. She was under hospice at home since January. Let me know if you wish to be kept apprised of the details which as of this printing, are not available. Toni is seen here with her Delta Sigma Theta sisters at the SUCCESS! Conference in 2018.*

**Susan Bardenhagen**

[smbaauw@gmail.com](mailto:smbaauw@gmail.com)

Did you see AAUW CEO’s Kim Churches’ note about our dollar-for-dollar match for donations given through May 30? Thanks to generosity of the AAUW board, Kim and others, we’ll double all gifts up to \$18,000. **If you can, please give today for a better tomorrow.** —

Tremayne Parquet, Deputy Director, Advancement

## National Women's History Alliance



### National Women's History Alliance

One more organization that is providing virtual opportunities is the *National Women's History Alliance*, formerly *The National Women's History Project*, a long-time provider of SUCCESS! Conference materials. In addition to on-line book forums, check out the website:


<https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/>

*Jeane Sloan will discuss her research of the Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASPs) from WWII. Jeane had the privilege of meeting some of these women who were members of an amazing and brave group of 1,074 pilots.*

*In the face gender discrimination these women made a valuable contribution to the war effort. WASPs ferried seventy-seven types of aircraft during the war to 137 army bases for men to fly into combat. The task did not come with risk and thirty-eight pilots died attempting to complete their mission. {It is free and easy to register!}*

<https://shop.nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/virtual-meet-up-she-flew-bombers-with-jeane-sloan-p6251.aspx>

National Women's History Alliance  
**Virtual Meet Up**  
**"She Flew Bombers"**  
*Live with Jeane Sloan*



Thursday, May 7th 7pm ET / 4pm PT  
WWW.NWHA1980.ORG

## Memorial Dedication/Suffrage Centennial Celebration Delayed Due to Coronavirus Pandemic

*Pandemic Puts Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars in Government Funding in Doubt -- Memorial now to be Constructed in Stages \*\*Donor Wall Contributions Now Accepted through July 31, 2020\*\**



*From a Turning Point Suffragist Memorial "Mother's Day Memorial" newsletter: Did you know it was a **mother** who rescued the suffrage movement nearly 100 years ago? It's an important piece of history to remember as we celebrate Mother's Day 2020. A Constitutional Amendment seeking women's suffrage needed to be ratified by 36 of the 49 states. It read:*

*The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.*

Thirty-*five* states had ratified the Amendment with the deadline drawing near. Four states were asked to hold special legislative sessions to vote on the issue. Three refused, but Tennessee agreed and called a session in August of 1920. There was plenty of debate by the southern lawmakers, and a motion to table the amendment was defeated with a 48-48 tie. Then it came time for the ratification vote. Those wearing a red rose in their lapel were against ratification, while those in favor wore a yellow rose. The suffragists felt certain the vote would result in another deadlock which would mean failure. But the youngest legislator, 24-year-old Harry Burn, who had earlier sided with those in the *anti*-suffrage camp, surprised everyone and changed his vote. He said he'd received a note from his mother, Phoebe Ensminger Burn, which read, "Hurrah and vote for suffrage!" She wrote how she'd been watching her son to see where he stood, but had not noticed anything yet. In a nod of support to suffragist leader, Carrie Chapman Catt, she concluded her letter, "be a good boy and help Mrs. Catt put the 'rat' in ratification." Burn said a good boy always obeys his mother.



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL EMAILS ON THEIR WAY TO YOUR INBOX

This week, you will receive a personal email from AAUW- asking you to renew your membership for the July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 year. There will be a link, unique to your information, which will allow you to pay on-line by credit/debit card. It is a safe, protected method. As in the past, if you feel more comfortable sending a check to pay- that is ok, too. However, the check needs to be sent to our branch finance officer. Since I have to go to Oklahoma this summer, beginning June 2<sup>nd</sup>, to complete the preparation and sale of my dad's home, Susan will resume her assistant finance officer role. Thanks, Susan! ☺

Karen Wolf

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

## AAUW ACTION NETWORK SIGN-UP for Family, Colleagues, & Friends

One of the opportunities that AAUW provides is the Action Network, aka The Two Minute Activist. Since AAUW's efforts on behalf of ratification of the ERA, Equal Pay, and ending violence against women are still present in our minds amidst the inequity of women and under-represented minorities during the pandemic, AAUW's program is just as relevant as when the program began several years ago. The "Two Minute Activist List/AAUW Action Network" is a program that, "is the cornerstone of AAUW's e-advocacy efforts. By signing up, people will receive urgent e-mail notices to contact your elected officials on important issues, including equal pay, education, and ending violence against women. With our Two-Minute Activist Too, it takes just minutes to make your voices heard!"

We are asking that you to ask family, colleagues, and/or friends who are interested in being part of AAUW's advocacy. **If so, please list their name, email, zip code, whether or not they are an AAUW member, and the option to receive weekly policy newsletters, in an email to Susan B. [smbaauw@gmail.com](mailto:smbaauw@gmail.com) . {And, by the way, if you are not signed up for this, simply tell Susan. ☺}**

## STEM & STEAM from Susan & Susan

### **National Museum of Women in the Arts – News May 2020**

#### Nature Never Stops

While the museum is temporarily closed, we are enjoying the beautiful exhibition outside. Like in Mizué Sawano's oil painting *Burst of Spring*, bright, bold flowers are on full display here in Washington, D.C. From cherry blossom trees to tulips of every color, stunning flora remind us to seek beauty to help us weather this challenging moment in time.

Rachel Carson, renowned writer, scientist, and ecologist, wrote in her book *Silent Spring* (1962), "Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter."

This May, enjoy our newest online exhibition, podcast recommendations, a scavenger hunt, coloring pages, and a myriad of other online resources to keep you connected with women in the arts.

## *From our previous newsletters about the 3.19.2020 Symposium:*

Thank you all for participating in our recent symposium focused on addressing the underrepresentation of women. We are excited to share that the recording of the event is now posted on the event page here: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/03-19-2020/symposium-on-addressing-the-underrepresentation-of-women-in-stemm>. Please feel free to share widely with your networks!



If you are interested in reading the report that provided the foundation for this event, you can download it for free at: <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/25585/promising-practices-for-addressing-the-underrepresentation-of-women-in-science-engineering-and-medicine>.

### **Addressing the Underrepresentation of Women of Color in Tech**

The Committee on Addressing the Underrepresentation of Women of Color in Tech is hosting the third of four regional workshops to learn more about evidence-based, effective programs, models, and practices that academic institutions, employers, and individuals can implement to increase the recruitment, retention, and advancement of women of color in tech. This is a two-day webcast workshop. Registration for day 1 and day 2 are below. If you have further questions, please contact [Marquita Whiting](#).

**May 14 - May 15, 2020**

**12pm - 3:00pm (ET)/both days**

[Register Now For Webcast - Day 1](#)

[Register Now For Webcast - Day 2](#)

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

[mwhiting@nas.edu](mailto:mwhiting@nas.edu)

<https://www.nationalacademies.org/cwsem>

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine  
500 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001 USA

**COVID 19: I have been participating in many webinars in the last month. Here is a link to a special panel, including Dr. Fauci, Dr. Sanjay Gupta, and others, that originally aired virtually 4.25.2020 from the 157<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the National Academy of Science:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=alwmL2QiK7w&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=alwmL2QiK7w&feature=emb_logo)

### **NASA Names Mars Helicopter “Ingenuity”**

**SPACE** (4/29) reports that NASA officials announced Wednesday that the Mars helicopter – which will launch with NASA’s Perseverance rover in the summer – will be named Ingenuity. Alabama 11th grader **Vaneeza Rupani** submitted the name “as part of NASA’s ‘Name the Rover’ contest for Mars 2020. ‘Perseverance’ won that competition, of course, but agency officials dipped back into the submission pool to hang a name on the solar-powered Mars helicopter.”

**CNN** (4/29) reports that Rupani wrote in **her** submission essay, “The ingenuity and brilliance of people working hard to overcome the challenges of interplanetary travel are what allow us all to experience the wonders of space exploration. ... Ingenuity is what allows people to accomplish amazing things, and it allows us to expand our horizons to the edges of the universe.” **CNET News** (4/29) reports that NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine said in a tweet, “Our Mars helicopter will attempt the first powered flight on another world. I’m proud to name it Ingenuity.” *{from American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics “Daily Launch”}*

**The Untold Story of the Birth of Social Distancing -The idea has been around for centuries. But it took a high school science fair, George W. Bush, history lessons and some determined researchers to overcome skepticism and make it federal policy. {From NY Times Article by Eric Lipton and Jennifer Steinhauer 4.22.2020}**

{In 2005} given the increased danger from new strains of influenza and the reality that existing antiviral drugs like Tamiflu did not work against all contagious diseases, Drs. Hatchett and Mecher and their team began exploring other ways to combat a large-scale contagion. It was about that time that Dr. Mecher heard from Robert J. Glass, a senior scientist at Sandia in New Mexico who specialized in building advanced models to explain how complex systems work — and what can cause catastrophic failures.

Dr. Glass’s **daughter Laura, then 14**, had done a class project in which she built a model of social networks at her Albuquerque high school, and when Dr. Glass looked at it, he was intrigued. Students are so closely tied together — in social networks and on school buses and in classrooms — that they were a near-perfect vehicle for a contagious disease to spread.

Dr. Glass piggybacked on his daughter’s work to explore with her what effect breaking up these networks would have on knocking down the disease.

The outcome of their research was startling. By closing the schools in a hypothetical town of 10,000 people, only 500 people got sick. If they remained open, half of the population would be infected.

“My God, we could use the same results she has and work from there,” Dr. Glass recalled thinking. He took their preliminary data and built on it by running it through the supercomputers at Sandia, more typically used to engineer nuclear weapons. (His daughter’s project was entered in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in 2006. Several of our branch’s previous winners have earned a place in the ISEF, unfortunately due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 event in California was cancelled....)

On April 28<sup>th</sup> in 1927, Coretta Scott was born near Marion, Alabama. Although she's remembered as the widow of Martin Luther King Jr., Scott King was an activist in her own right, advocating for racial and economic justice, gay rights and peace.

[Read about how the National Park Service acquired the Kings' home, where Coretta Scott King lived until 2004, and the NPS' plans to open the site to the public.](#)

## **Researchers Uncover New Evidence That Warrior Women Inspired Legend of Mulan**

Nearly 2,000 years ago, women who rode horseback and practiced archery may have roamed the steppes of Mongolia  
by Katherine J. Wu, SMITHSONIANMAG.COM APRIL 29, 2020 11:07AM

Mulan, a woman warrior who disguised herself as a man to fight in her father's stead, has found most of her fame through fiction, perhaps most notably in the 1998 animated Disney film of the same name. But the legend of this Chinese heroine is likely rooted in truth: Hints of her existence—or at least the existence of women like her—are scattered throughout history. And now, a team of researchers may have homed in on a crucial cache of clues. As Colin Barras reports for *New Scientist*, scientists have found physical evidence that female warriors once rode across the steppes of what is now Mongolia, wielding bows, arrows and other weapons that left traces of physical exertion on their bones.

So far, the remains appear to be rare, and they don't point specifically to a person who bore Mulan's name. But their chronological placement in history—around the fourth or fifth century A.D.—fits the bill for her story and, according to California State University, Los Angeles, anthropologists Christine Lee and Yahaira Gonzalez, may have served as inspiration for the legend that has lasted the millennia since.

The first historical mention of Mulan dates back to at least 1,500 years ago, when a folk song called *The Ballad of Mulan* was popularized during China's North Wei Dynasty. Its heroine, a young woman named Hua Mulan, steps in for her old, ailing father, taking on the identity of his son by donning the traditional clothes of men and joining the emperor's army. Though variations on the tale splinter in their endings, Mulan achieves success on the battlefield in just about all of them, becoming a leader among men who, in several iterations, never discover her true gender, write Gisela Sommer and Teresa Shen for the *Epoch Times*.

Though this story has been written, recorded, remixed and even Disney-fied many times over, scientists have struggled to pin down archaeological evidence that Mulan was real. Some suspected that the character had been fashioned as a fictional paragon of ancient women warriors—perhaps belonging to the Xianbei, an ancient nomadic people who conquered and controlled northern China from 386 to 534 A.D. But if these individuals existed, many reasoned, they would have been few and far between. That's why Lee and Gonzalez were surprised when they stumbled across two female Xianbei skeletons unearthed in modern-day Mongolia. Both bore familiar marks on their bones—ones traditionally attributed to strenuous activities like horseback riding and archery. The findings stem from a re-analysis of previously discovered remains found at 29 ancient burial sites, and may have been missed by colleagues in the anthropologists' male-dominated field of study, Lee tells Jennifer Ouellette of *Ars Technica*.

Markings on the three female Xiongnu skeletons hint that these women may have occasionally practiced archery or ridden horses, while their Turkic counterparts dabbled only infrequently in the latter activity. Two of the three Xianbei women in the mix, on the other hand, stood out as seasoned riders and possibly skilled fighters, suggesting to Lee that they may have been more battle-ready than some of their peers.

“Perhaps everybody was needed to defend the country” at a time of great sociopolitical turmoil, Lee tells *New Scientist*. If these women truly were Xianbei, they would have lived through the tumultuous and violent era following the end of the Han dynasty in 220 A.D. “It's a small sample size, only 29 burials, and there are two women who fit the bill,” she says. “That's actually a lot. I didn't expect to find any.” Written records of warrior women pepper history—and though they've often been passed over, Lee thinks it's high time someone went looking for more physical evidence. If someone like Mulan existed, she almost certainly wasn't alone. “If there are all these stories, then why hasn't anyone ever found these women?” Lee tells *Ars Technica*. **“It's only because nobody was looking. I thought it was time to look.”**



## AAUW Re-Launches Branch 5-Star Recognition Program:

The new program is outlined below, with highlighted actions our branch has **already addressed** and **planned actions**. Your board will keep you apprised of continued reaching of goals.



### Programs

- Host 3-5 strategic plan- related programs (e.g., Forum on economic security, Work Smart Online Training Day, Operation Equity: Reading for Results participation, panel on women and leadership) in FY20. **1-January program on Exploring Diverse Cultures of Women, 2-Science Fair Judging, 3- AEW Presentations & Testimonial**
- **Representative(s) from the branch complete the community resource mapping exercise.**



### Advancement

- **\$30 per capita (member) gift raised for greatest needs. Shift focus in branch giving from fellowships and grants/LAF to greatest needs or strategic plan focus areas by 50%.**
- **Retain 90% or more of your branch membership and submit annual dues by September 30.**



### Communications & External Relations

- **All existing websites and social media presences include an Economic Security Focus and Work Smart Online.**
- **Note: Monthly posts are required for social media; Work Smart Online must be included on the website home page.**



### Public Policy & Research

(Note: States that do not have annual legislative calendars are only required to complete two activities.)

- **Conduct an annual meeting with U.S. representative(s) and/or state legislators around a strategic plan area of focus.**
- **Ensure a branch public policy chair is appointed who collaborates with the state public policy chair.**
- **Host at least one public event where Action Network sign-ups are collected.**



### Governance & Sustainability

- **Align planning with state and AAUW national strategic plans.**
- **Branch board institutes a succession plan to ensure new ideas and perspectives are included in the future leadership.**

## Moving Forward in 2020

~~3.5.2019 → 2.11.2020: Asian American Women's Equal Pay Day~~

~~(Asian Women v. White Men - \$0.90)~~

~~4.2.2019 → 3.31.2020: All Women's Equal Pay Day~~

~~(Women overall v. Men overall - \$0.82)~~

~~4.19.2019 → 4.9.2020: White women's equal pay day~~

~~(White Women v. White, non-Hispanic Men - \$0.80)~~

~~6.10.2019 → 6.4.2020: Mom's Equal Pay Day (Moms vs Dads - \$0.70)~~

~~8.22.2019 → 8.13.2020: Black Women's Equal Pay Day~~

~~(Black Women v. White Men - \$0.62)~~

~~9.23.2019 → 10.1.2020: Native Women's Equal Pay Day~~

~~(Native Women v. White Men - \$0.57)~~

~~11.20.2019 → 10.29.2020: Latinas' Equal Pay Day~~

~~(Latinas v. White, non-Hispanic Men - \$0.55)~~

*The trend has been upward and improving from 2019, except for Native American Women. At this point, there is no way to know how the effects of addressing COVID 19 will result in a change to the above dates.*

**Summer Bruncheon, 12:30 pm** @ Susan's home in Manassas. Our Prince William-Manassas Science & Engineering Fair winners have been invited to share their projects.

**VA AAUW SUMMER LEADERSHIP MEETING 2020** is scheduled to be held at Sweet Briar College 134 Chapel Road, Sweet Briar, VA 24595 on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

### Groundbreaking for the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial

*Dedication planned for Suffrage Centennial on August 26, 2020 {memorial is now TBA...}*

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](mailto:sfpaaauw6382@aol.com) and  
**Kate MacLeod** [bobmacleod@verizon.net](mailto:bobmacleod@verizon.net)

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