

Vol 47, Number 9 ~ Woodbridge, VA Branch Newsletter ~ May, 2020 (II)

Calendar of Events

- May 27** **Branch Board Meeting Teleconference** **2 pm**
Wednesday *Contact a board member if you have an item for discussion.*
- June 1-10, 2020** **Branch Elections**
You will receive an email to cast your vote online from secretary, Suzanne.
- “Juneteenth”** **Branch Zoom Meeting (see inside)**
- Summer, 2020** **Bruncheon @ Susan’s Home in Manassas** **12:30 pm**
Looking forward to celebrating and reconvening – might be virtually... ☺
- August 26th** **Women’s Equality Day ~ 100th Anniversary of 19th Amendment**

President’s Message: STAY SAFE!! “Fair Winds and Following Seas”

I hope everyone voted in the National and State AAUW elections. The AAUW National election closed **on May 18** with voting online. The AAUW of VA online election closed **May 16**. Please 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.

Usually Memorial Day weekend is the unofficial start of summer. But with “stay at home” still in effect, favorite activities such as pool openings, trips to the beach, and cook outs with family and friends will not occur.

Talk like a Sailor

Many of you know that I was in the Navy from 1980 to 2005. This included being the Combat Systems Officer onboard the USS Nimitz (CVN 68). Sailors have their own terms that are different from civilians and also the other military services. I thought we would try something different and hopefully fun. I will give you a list of Navy terms and you need to determine the civilian equivalents. Some are pretty easy, some are unusual. No googling the terms, answers later in the newsletter. ☺

NAVY TERMS

1. Head 2. Deck 3. P-Way 4. Three Terms (See photo for hints) a. Cover b. Scrambled Eggs
c. Chest Candy 5. Skylarking 6. Scuttle Butt (Two answers) 7. Gedunk



Sandy Lawrence

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Public Policy & Advocacy

State



AAUW-VA Election

State Election 2020

April 26, 2020 at 12:15am — May 16, 2020 at 11:45pm

(GMT-05:00) EASTERN TIME (US & CANADA)

Completed **321 ballots submitted** of 1097 eligible voters (17 opened) — **29%**

(only 7% necessary for quorum!) As of July 1st, our new co-presidents are Suzanne Rothwell and Leslie Tourigny; Patsy Quick will continue as VP of communications; our new VP of Program is Nadine James; our new co-VPs for Public Policy are Susan Burk and Denise Murden; the amendment in the financial article aligning our membership dues with AAUW passed; and the priorities for public policy listed in our last newsletter were approved. Our new Northern District co-reps will be Sandy Lawrence and Sara Anderson.

National

THE STATE OF AAUW: STAYING STRONG TOGETHER

While AAUW members can't gather in person for their spring conventions, they can — and should — continue to cultivate strong relationships and advance gender equity, said AAUW CEO Kim Churches in her recent [“State of AAUW” presentation](#). Churches provided key organizational updates, including:

Highlighting virtual programming like AAUW's [weekly webinar series](#), including her interview with Diane Rehm, talks by distinguished Fellowships and Grants alumnae, and tutorials on professional development.

Sharing our renewed partnership with the Coca-Cola Foundation to bring [salary-negotiation training](#) to the nation's 107 historically black colleges and universities.

Giving kudos to 60 branches working toward [5-star recognition](#) for meeting our mission, especially the three that have attained all five stars: AAUW Marin (California), Bellingham (Washington), and Northeast Tarrant County (Texas). *{We are almost there for all 5, too!}*

Explaining how we're engaging the next generation of activists through our [Equity Network](#).

Encouraging donations to [AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund](#), which is crucial to AAUW's sustainability and responsiveness during the pandemic.

After watching the State of AAUW, please join **Kim on Tuesday, May 26, at 4 p.m. ET** for a [virtual town hall meeting](#). You can ask questions about AAUW'S priorities and strategies to be relevant in this difficult economy, and share ideas on how to stay committed and connected.

Sandy Lawrence, Public Policy Chair

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



May 18, 2020 5-5:45pm - AAUW American Fellowship alumna and University of Connecticut Assistant Research **Prof. Sarah McAnulty** is a squid biologist and science communicator. She is the founder and executive director of “Skype a Scientist”, a non-profit organization that connects scientists and teachers around the world for live video calls. The demand for online tools and resources has grown exponentially during COVID-19 as educators and parents struggle with the “new schoolhouse”. This workshop was wonderful and exciting! Hope you were able to attend.



ARE YOU READY TO HAVE A BRANCH MEETING VIRTUALLY?

We've been reporting how many members are "attending" virtual birthday and anniversary parties with families and friends; participating in zoom meetings and webinars; teaching your classes; and teleworking. Fifty members of the Manassas Symphony got on Zoom and had "a virtual rehearsal" with catching up and sharing ideas for how to keep connected with our audience and each other.

Zoom is a leading video-conferencing platform and AAUW members are using it for webinars, book groups, and branch meetings. We've heard that many people are using it keep connected with their families, too. Virginia AAUW held its annual business meeting on April 18 using Zoom- and a few of our Woodbridge branch members joined the meeting.

We would like to hostess a June virtual branch meeting, using Zoom.

Are you Zoom-ready? :)

Sandy and Karen are offering one-on-one Zoom training with members who have not had an opportunity to participate in a Zoom meeting. We will link you to some great tutorials to get you started and then we will set up a practice meeting so you can experience a Zoom session. We will walk you through managing the audio and video (optional) controls. We will be confidential and patient. Neither one of us are experts, so bear with us while we work through any special requirements for your device. The main point here is that you will have a practice session with one person. Please let us know when you would like to connect.

Sandy Lawrence: sandyaauw@juno.com

Karen Wolf: kleewolf@verizon.net



Tammy's class ☺

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL EMAILS IN YOUR INBOX

Two weeks ago, you received 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 2nd, to complete the preparation and sale of my dad's home, Susan will resume her assistant finance officer role. Thanks, Susan! ☺

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.

Karen Wolf

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Susan Bardenhagen

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Branch Elections: Karen, an AAUW and branch member since 1979, has been an active member of our branch in leadership roles- VP of program and membership, two terms as finance officer. She has empowered us to welcome many new members by incorporating the "Shape the Future" program from the time it was offered by AAUW. She has proudly taken the torch to maintain the branch's history through the scrapbooks-collecting programs and capturing events through her wonderful photography. **Susan** joined AAUW in 1991 with the Manassas Branch, taking on the leadership role of coordinating the SUCCESS! Conference which she has continued since Woodbridge co-presented, and since 2000 presents the conference, in its 30th year. She was co-president for Manassas. In addition to the conference, Susan has been involved with both program and membership- incorporating both roles into our branch's outreach. **Look for Suzanne's email to vote by email.**

Checking in with Our Members & Friends



We have many scientists in “our house”. For Easter, Susan F. was her grandsons’ neighborhood socially distanced Easter Bunny. “We did some strawberry picking and collected data as a citizen scientist.” Paige is conducting research for her grad classes in biomedical



engineering. Andrea has to check in on equipment at American University while she virtually connects with her students; while at home she muses on her days with “her” transmission electron microscope. Our scientist family Eagles had Mother’s Day dinner at home, but the guys will do the cooking and clean-up. The park trail on Blackburn is open so, weather permitting, we will be able to walk our dog where eagles, osprey and sometimes a muskrat swimming will be interesting to see.



Eileen is working on lots of projects “here in Dumfries and looking forward to when we can meet”. Pam continues her PhD research at GMU. Cassidy graduated with her Master’s in Education from Radford and is seeking a teaching job near Richmond at the primary level.

Tammy is virtually engaging her 57 fifth grade students and cherishing family times. She’s ready to support the 30th SUCCESS! Conference whatever its platform may be...

Michelle V and her husband Michelle and her husband included

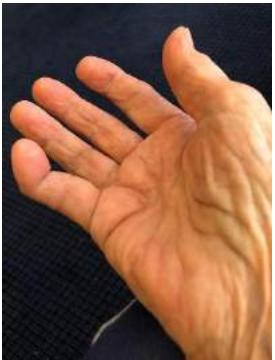


this sentiment in their weekly update to their *Aim Human Performance* email for this weekend. Please email Susan if you would like to contact Michelle for information on fitness & health classes from your chair, floor, or mat at home 😊.



This photo was “Words” article assisted living

included in a recent New York Times “In Her about the loneliness of those who are in and nursing homes. No visitors are allowed to protect those inside. We long for the time when we can hug and console once more. Until then, celebrations will be driving be, in the driveway, and through windows. My sister’s father-in-law will “celebrate” his 100th birthday in June. A Pearl Harbor survivor Marine gunnery sergeant, he has 22 great-children with two more due this year. Plans include a color guard and family with balloons to honor him through his nursing home window. I know many of us share similar heartaches; please know- especially on this Memorial Day weekend, that our thoughts & prayers are with you.



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 2nd. 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 Alpha Kappa Alpha (note corrected name) sisters at the SUCCESS! Conference in 2018.



Susan Bardenhagen

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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 discussed 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 as she endeavored to write her most recent book. She's researched and written many books about women's roles during WWII.

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.

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

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION

From AAUW's home page: **OUR VALUES:** Intersectional. Inclusive. Intergenerational. Empowering.

Though we are nonpartisan, we are not values-neutral: We fight to remove the barriers and biases that stand in the way of gender equity. We train women to negotiate for pay and benefits and to pursue leadership roles. And, we advocate for federal, state and local laws and policies to ensure equity and end discrimination.

5.18.2020 Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's interview with Trevor Noah on "COVID-19 Crisis of Leadership": Albright discussed her new memoir, *Hell and Other Destinations*, which draws its title from her famous quote, "There is a special place in hell for women who do not help other women." While speaking about the legacy of that quote and the role women have in boosting other women into elected office, Albright's thoughts turned back to the coronavirus crisis. "What is so interesting now is that the countries that have managed to have some kind of control over the virus are the countries run by women — that is what's so fascinating," she said. "Like the Prime Minister of New Zealand and then Taiwan, Finland, Germany, Denmark and Norway... I think women are really good at multi-tasking because that's what we have to do, which means that we have peripheral vision, that we do care about how decisions are made, that we actually — if you want to put it in these terms — we don't want to divide our children so that one group hates the other. And there are a variety of aspects in terms of how women come to power, which is mostly by trying to be helpful rather than having a lot of ego activity."

I received this link from my *New York Times* "In Her Words" and registered for the next virtual forum. —Susan B.

http://www.womens-forum.com/?campaign_id=0&campaign_id=10&emc=edit_gn_20200517&emc=edit_gn_20200521&instance_id=0&instance_id=18676&nl=in-her-words&nl=in-her-words®i_id=0®i_id=93041506&segment_id=0&segment_id=28743&te=1&te=1&user_id=8244faa7f3b59426dbba8fa7100e6d58&user_id=88f9fbf8b15b1eaf617380ad73834d5

WOMEN'S FORUM
G7 A CALL TO ACTION

From “The Mrs. Files,” article 5.18.2020, *New York Times* “In Her Words” and archived stories:

What does marriage mean for a woman’s identity? And more specifically, what does it mean for her name? Those questions are at the center of “The Mrs. Files,” a new project from *The Times*. The project began when editors, digging through the paper’s archives, stumbled on something perplexing: Many prominent women were identified by their husband’s last names. Frida Kahlo, for example, was once filed under “Mrs.” Diego Rivera. June Carter Cash was “Cash, Johnny & Mrs.” The discovery propelled the editors on a journey to study the history of those three letters, M-R-S, and to explore the power they still hold today.

The tradition of a woman taking on her husband’s name came partly from a culture where women were defined “more exclusively by their marital status,” historian Stephanie Coontz told *The Times*. So what message does that convey to women — married or not? Like much of society, almost reflexively referred to women using the construction “Mrs. Husband’s Name.” The practice extended into our news pages, often referring in articles to married women — famous or not — by their husband’s names: Mrs. John F. Kennedy, for instance, or Mrs. Frank Sinatra. These women, no matter how extraordinary they were in their own right, were symbolically subsumed into their husbands’ stories.

Amelia Earhart, for one, wasn’t having any of it. In a 1932 letter to *The New York Times*, she implored the paper to call her by her “professional name.” “Despite the mild expression of my wishes, and those of G.P.P.,” she wrote, referring to her husband, the publisher George Palmer Putnam, “I am constantly referred to as ‘Mrs. Putnam’ when the *Times* mentions me in its columns.” “However,” she added, “it is for many reasons more convenient for both of us to be simply ‘Amelia Earhart.’” (The *Times* heeded her request.) This practice was, of course, emblematic of the time.

But we wanted to know how it came to be. It sent us on a journey to learn more about the history of the word “Mrs.” What struck us was how the meaning changed over time. In 16th- and 17th-century England, and in its American colonies, “Mrs.” — which was short for mistress — marked a woman’s social status, either through marriage or as “someone who managed her own money or business and governed other people,” Stephanie Coontz, author of “*Marriage, a History: How Love Conquered Marriage*,” wrote in an email. “A married woman of middling status was usually called Goodwife or Dame, while lower-status women didn’t get any honorific at all.” Only in the 19th century did the “Mrs. Husband’s Name” form develop. “In America this was at first considered ‘a new fashion’ associated with wealthy women and social climbers,” Coontz said. But by the end of the century, “Mrs. Husband’s Name” had been widely adopted. Coontz partly attributes this to the cult of domesticity, which defined women “more exclusively by their marital status.”

Many women, she added, embraced the “Mrs. Husband’s Name” title as a sign of their “pride in their wifely identity.” Not every woman felt that pride. In 1855, the suffragist Lucy Stone famously kept her birth name after her marriage to Henry B. Blackwell. As she wrote in a letter to Blackwell: “My name is my identity and must not be lost.”

A century would pass before Sheila Michaels and others would change the way modern women are addressed, by bringing “Ms.” into common use. The *Times* began using Ms. in its pages in 1986. *{Editor’s note: When my younger sister got married in 1978, the local wedding reporter insisted to the point of not including my name as a bridesmaid, that I be listed as “Mrs. my husband’s name,” yet, my other unmarried sisters could have their first names. This practice continued in 1983, when my third sister was married...} ... Brides continue to choose to retain their maiden name, hyphenate, or take their husband’s surname; Swedish newlyweds often have both assuming a new hyphenated name of both; other newlyweds sometimes make a “mash-up” to honor both names. For example, the article mentions Grace Kelly, adored as having the wedding of the century...*

With the Mrs. Files, we’re looking back at our archives with a contemporary lens to explore, through essays, photos and poetry, what names and marriage mean to women and their identity. What we’ve found is that who a woman becomes in the world, and how she is regarded, can never be reduced to a one-dimensional story of titles and honorifics.

In this moment of the coronavirus pandemic, love, partnership, support and the decision to join forces and become family have taken on a new urgency. We have watched with awe and appreciation as couples have decided that marriage is a thing too important to wait for the pomp and circumstance of a big wedding. With each generation, the emphasis on marital titles fades further and further into the past, but what pulsates through time remains vital: The story of how two people endeavored to build a life together never gets old.



STEM & STEAM from Susan & Susan

STEM Equity and Inclusion (Un)Interrupted?

Stephanie A. Goodwin & Beth Mitchneck | Inside Higher Ed
May 13, 2020

Graphic illustration created for article which will be presented in next newsletter.

From Susan F. It's an exciting time for science right now with epidemiologists making headlines in the COVID-19 environment. Many of us find ourselves wishing that we too had pursued careers in science. Good news! Today, thousands of scientific discoveries, ranging from finding new planets orbiting alien stars, to determining the migration of bird and butterfly species in our area are being made by everyday people working as citizen scientists.

The idea of **citizen science**, also called community science, crowd science, civic science or volunteer monitoring, isn't new. It probably began in the United States with the colonists who studied and recorded much needed weather and climate data. Through the years the idea of citizen science has evolved to meet many needs. Its goals are twofold: to equip and empower people around the world to collect, understand and act on data, and to increase the amount of data collected to answer complex global questions. A myriad of interesting projects, some short, others longer, await the adventurous soul!

One exciting project happening at Occoquan Forest in Woodbridge, is **Caterpillars Count**. Dr. Allen Hurlbert from the University of North Carolina developed this project as a part of a broader National Science Foundation funded project on phenological mismatch. Citizen scientists are asked to measure the seasonal variation, *also known as phenology*, and abundance of arthropods like caterpillars, beetles, and spiders found on the foliage of trees and shrubs in their yard or neighborhood. Training is available on-line to help volunteers master the skills needed to identify arthropods from April through July. **You can see these volunteers using a beat net to capture and release the bugs found on a tree in their neighborhood. {I'm one of the people in this photo.}**



Another fun project that can be done in your own yard, requiring little time, is The Great Backyard Bird Count. It was started by Frank Chapman, U.S. ornithologist and founder of Bird-Lore (which became Audubon magazine). He proposed counting birds on Christmas instead of hunting and killing them. Today, birdcount.org mails materials to participants for them to count the birds that come to their yards in January and February.

If you're interest in learning more about some of the interesting projects looking for volunteers, a great place to start is the **Federal Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science Catalog** <https://www.citizenscience.gov/#>. Two other great sites cataloguing projects are Zooniverse <https://www.zooniverse.org/> and SciStarter <https://scistarter.org>

COVID 19: I have been participating in many webinars in the last month (Susan B). 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 157th annual meeting of the National Academy of Science:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=alwml2Qik7w&feature=emb_logo

From a 5.15 “In Her Words” article, by Mara Altman

A 51-year-old administrative assistant, cannot wait to get her roots dyed as soon as pandemic-ly possible. “I’m not going to lie, I can’t wait to get back into that salon chair and feel normal again.” She has dyed her hair every three weeks for 30 years.

The 62-year-old director of a Hunger Prevention Project, is going to continue to let hers grow out. After all, she’s already managed to get through eight weeks of the awkward phase. “I’m anxious about it,” she said, “but I think the time is now.” During quarantine, she began to notice all of the time and expense she was channeling toward her monthly touch-ups. “Instead, I could be outside, I could be hiking, I could be in my garden, I could be reading,” she said. “I asked myself, ‘What are your real priorities in life?’”...

As hair turns gray and the final flecks of pedicures chip away, we are coming face-to-face with what lies beneath all that beauty maintenance. For some, it’s become a time of experimentation and fun. For others, it’s been an unwelcome reminder of the lost access to beauty products and services. ...Other academics are hopeful that the pandemic will cause women and men to cultivate a more compassionate view of their bodies.

When we took delivery of Boeing 747-400 G-VWOW on 1 December 2001 we couldn't have known how the story of this particular aircraft would pan out. Or how interesting it would be.

Yet the clue was there, written on her side –

Cosmic Girl. → During her 14-year career with us – stats geeks, this is for you – G-VWOW flew 8,265 flights, was in the air for 66,430 hours, carried 2,506,175 customers, (315,582 in Upper, 338,756 in Premium and 1,851,837 in Economy) and flew from Heathrow to New York 1045 times.



That's impressive, but let's be honest, nothing particularly unexpected. What makes this aircraft so special is what happened after she delivered her last customer to their destination and left the Virgin Atlantic fleet. On 29 October 2015, G-VWOW flew to San Antonio to start a new and very different life. She was acquired by Virgin Orbit, the sister company to Virgin Galactic, and she's now center stage of their space launch operations. Her new job? An airborne launch platform, using a rocket called LauncherOne slung under her wing to deliver small satellites into orbit. This is all terribly exciting stuff. Here at Virgin Atlantic, we're thrilled to see one of our aircraft get this new lease of life and perform such an unusual and important role. **UPDATE 5.21.2020 FROM AIAA Daily Launch: Virgin Orbit Plans To Attempt First Launch Of Demonstration Payload Into Space This Weekend on Monday, May 25th.** The AP (5/20) reports that Virgin Orbit "is targeting the coming weekend for its first attempt to launch a demonstration payload into space aboard a rocket released from beneath the wing of a Boeing 747." The "air launch is scheduled for Monday off the coast of Southern California," weather permitting. BBC News Online (UK) (5/20) reports that the mission will involve the "former Virgin Atlantic jumbo [aircraft], now named Cosmic Girl," which "will carry the rocket, dubbed LauncherOne, to an altitude of about 35,000ft (10km), where it will drop the liquid-fuelled booster into a freefall." Approximately "four seconds into that fall, as Cosmic Girl banks hard to the right, LauncherOne will ignite its Newton Three engine to begin the climb to orbit. The dummy payload atop the rocket's upper-stage will be released after 32 minutes."

NAVY TERMS - ANSWERS

1. Bathroom (Note: In sailing ships, the crew relieved themselves in a space that was way forward on either side of the figurehead.) **2. Floor** **3. A passageway or a hall** **4. a. Hat** **b. The gold embroidered decoration on senior officers' covers** **c. The ribbons/medals worn on uniforms** **5. Goofing off/Not doing assigned work (Note:** Sailors were sent to the top of masts to look for ships, land, etc. If a Sailor instead watched the clouds, birds, etc, they were skylarking.) **6. Drinking fountain; Rumor (Note:** The cask used by the ship's crew for their drinking water, i.e. water fountain, was the "scuttlebutt". Since the crew used to congregate around the "scuttlebutt", that is where the rumors about the ship or voyage would begin. Thus rumors are called "scuttlebutt".) {Hmm, does that make the watercooler – scuttlebutt?} **7. Candy/Snacks/Place that sells candy. (Note:** From the sound that a coin makes when put into a candy machine)

So how did you do? Are you ready to "Talk like a Sailor?" Then use some of these terms the next time you are on a zoom or conference call or at a family meal. I'm sure you will amaze your friends and family. ~Sandy



5.19.2020 (NEWSER) – Annie Glenn, the widow of astronaut and Sen. John Glenn and a communication disorders advocate, died Tuesday at age 100, per the [AP](#). Glenn died of COVID-19 complications at a nursing home near St. Paul, Minn., said a rep for the Glenn College of Public Affairs at Ohio State. At the time of John Glenn's [death in 2016](#), the pair who met as children had been married 73 years. She'd moved out of the apartment they shared in Columbus in recent years and gone to live with her daughter. Annie Glenn was thrust into the spotlight in 1962, when her husband became the first American to orbit Earth, but she shied away from media attention because of a severe stutter. Later, she underwent an

intensive program at the Communications Research Institute at Virginia's Hollins College that gave her the skills to control her stutter and to speak in public.

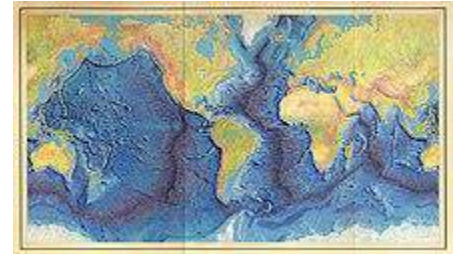
Her career in advocacy for those with communication disorders included service on the advisory boards of numerous child abuse and speech and hearing organizations. The Annie Glenn Award was created to honor individuals who overcome a communication disorder. Defense Secretary William Cohen honored Annie Glenn with the Department of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service in 1998. He called her "a hero in her own right" and praised her for being "a strong voice for children, speech and communications, and the disabled." In 2009, Glenn received an honorary doctorate of public service from Ohio State, where she served as an adjunct professor of speech pathology in the Department of Speech and Hearing Science. The department bestows an Annie Glenn Leadership Award annually. She is survived by her two children, Lyn and David.

{I hadn't heard of this next person, but was introduced to her in an Oceanography & Climatology webinar last week.}

Painting of the Mid-Ocean Ridge by Heinrich Berann (1977) based on the scientific profiles of Marie Tharp and Bruce Heezen

Marie Tharp (July 30, 1920 – August 23, 2006) was an American geologist and oceanographic cartographer who created the first scientific map of the Atlantic Ocean floor. Tharp's work revealed the detailed topography and multi-dimensional geographical landscape of the ocean bottom. Her work also revealed the presence of a continuous rift valley along the axis of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, causing a paradigm shift in earth science that led to acceptance of the theories of plate tectonics and continental drift.

Marie's father was a soil surveyor for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and she often helped him with this task, which gave her an early introduction to mapmaking. Influenced by her mother, a teacher, she took a year off before going to college; after graduating, she too planned to become a teacher. Staying on the farm to help after her mother's death in 1936, Marie later matriculated in college. Advised by her father to choose a subject of study that she not only loved, but also would provide her with a career and financial security, Tharp graduated from Ohio University in 1943 with bachelor's degrees in English and music and four minors. World War II meant more women were being recruited into professions like petroleum geology, hitherto largely restricted to men. Having taken a geology class at Ohio, Tharp was recruited to the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor's petroleum geology program, where she completed a master's degree. Tharp's leap into a career in earth sciences is extraordinary given longstanding discrimination against women in this field — women obtained fewer than 4% of all earth sciences doctorates at this time. She took a job at Standard Oil and Gas in Tulsa, but found it unsatisfying, earning a BSc in mathematics from the University of Tulsa while working as a geologist for the Stanolind Oil Company. In 1948, she moved to New York to work with Maurice Ewing, the founder of Columbia University's Lamont Geological Observatory as an assistant.



Before the early 1950s, scientists knew very little about the structure of the ocean floor. Studying the field of geology on land was cheaper and easier. The complete idea of the structure of the entire earth could not be accomplished without knowledge of the structure and evolution of the seafloor. Marie Tharp was one of the first women to work at the Lamont Geological Observatory. There, Tharp met Bruce Heezen, and in early work together they used photographic data to locate downed aircraft from World War II. For the first 18 years of their collaboration, Heezen collected bathymetric data aboard the research ship, the *Vema*, while Tharp drew maps from that data since women were still excluded from working aboard ship at that time. Although restricted from conducting research at sea early in her career due to her gender, she was later able to join a 1968 data-collection expedition. Tharp independently used data collected from the Woods Hole Oceanographic ([yes, the Titanic wreck explorers](#)) Institution's research ship *Atlantis*, and seismographic data from undersea earthquakes. Her work with

Heezen represented the first systematic attempt to map the entire ocean floor.

In 1952, Tharp painstakingly aligned sounding profiles from *Atlantis*, acquired during 1946 - 1952, and one profile from the Naval ship *Stewart* acquired during 1921. She created a total of approximately six profiles stretching west-to-east across the North Atlantic. From these profiles, she was able to examine the bathymetry of the northern sections of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. Tharp

identified an aligned, v-shaped structure running continuously through the axis of the ridge and believed that it may be a rift valley. She believed that the rift valley formed when new material welled up to the surface, pushing either side of the ridge apart. Heezen was initially unconvinced as the idea would have supported continental drift, then a controversial theory. At the time many scientists including Heezen believed that continental drift was impossible. Instead, for a time he favored the expanding Earth hypothesis, ridiculing her theory as "girl talk".

Marie Tharp appears in *The Lost Worlds of Planet Earth*, the ninth episode of Neil deGrasse Tyson's science documentary show *Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey* in animation form voiced by actress Amanda Seyfried. The episode depicts her discovery of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and subsequently later in the episode deGrasse Tyson recognized Tharp not only as an influential scientist who happens to be a woman but also as one who should be recognized as a scientist who overcame sexism to contribute to her field.

As we continue to celebrate the Centennial of Women's Suffrage in America, I offer this piece for this section.

Opinion THE BIG IDEAS: WHY DOES ART MATTER?

May 21, 2020

Producer & Academy Award-Winning Actress, **Cate Blanchett**: I'm Not 'Mrs. America.' That's the Point.

I was home schooling my 5-year-old daughter almost two weeks into our Covid-19-induced lockdown when our pug, Doug, suddenly began chasing his tail. "He's bonkers," I said. "What does bonkers mean?" my daughter asked without looking up from her coloring. "Mad," I said. "Mad," she repeated to the half-finished mermaid in front of her. Then she asked: "What does mad mean?" "Mad means you don't make sense to anyone but yourself," I replied. I had hurried past the word's countless implications in the grown-up world, but she seemed to understand how it applied to our pug, locked in his own paranoid tail-chasing.

In coming to that simple, but very complicated, understanding with my daughter, I realized just how important a shared sense of meaning is in our brave new world of social distancing and self-isolation. Communication and comprehension are as critical to the delicate social fabric that holds us together as facts and research are to scientific investigation and advancement. And art, in turn, is a social investigation, with the results contributing to the advancement of society. It is one of the key ways we work out, as a group, what makes sense to us and how best to communicate that awareness.

That act of building a shared understanding is what attracts me to a particular role or story, or the work of one director over another. Work with themes and stories beyond my ken is vital to my developing any deeper understanding, appreciation or acceptance of the interwoven global culture that all art comes from.

Recently, for example, I played the conservative icon and staunch anti-feminist Phyllis Schlafly in the FX series "Mrs. America." [See our April newsletter notes.] On first encounter, Schlafly and I are, let's say, two guests you wouldn't invite to the same dinner party. But that was precisely why I was attracted to the role. I was drawn to investigate, illuminate, make sense of and hopefully understand the apparent gap between us.

Simply put, there seems to exist a deep divide between Schlafly and me, between "staying at home" and "making your way in the world." Between, from one perspective, obedience and adventure. Or, seen differently, between the demands of faith and the indulgence of the self. But that divide is an illusion. A rhetorical tool. A simplified antagonism that shattered a generation. What I found in the show is that its women — Schlafly, Gloria Steinem, Betty Friedan — although sometimes on opposing sides, are bound together in a complex battle charged with conflicting emotions and desires. Those emotions drive them in similar ways, and subsequently tear them all to pieces. At first, the challenges they have embraced are oversimplified by others. The charged feelings born of that oversimplification are then exaggerated and politicized along partisan lines, separating the women initially from each other, and eventually from their husbands, sons, lovers and friends. When expediently embraced and cynically championed, such exaggerated divisions can quickly fracture society, splinter communities and ultimately disintegrate relationships.

The world today is similarly split, but we have more opportunities to create a unified social understanding rather than segregating ourselves based on misinterpretations and political disagreements. Informed by science and attention to the facts, the coronavirus emergency has forced us to make sacrifices as a group, for the common good. Inside those sacrifices are real pain, real loss and real loneliness. When we venture into a social or public space, we have to imagine new ways of being together that incorporate the silence and the stillness that has been imposed on us.

The virus is here to stay; we will have to learn to live with a mutating, evolving, shifting threat. We are being asked to live with doubt, uncertainty and the unknown. But when life begins to return to normal, certain spaces will help us overcome that fear. They are art galleries, theaters, cinemas, places of worship — those hybrid public/private spaces housing millions of potential connections among strangers, millions of ways to communicate.

Seemingly vast divides — whether political or viral — can leave us frightened and paranoid, more likely to draw back than to try to bridge them. But art, in its ability to cross social, partisan and even temporal gaps can help foster a shared sense of understanding. It can bring us together physically and emotionally. And it can teach us about one another, inspiring empathy rather than anger. Art matters because it lets us engage with our complex social fabric, allowing us to cross divides and work toward a safer and more meaningful existence together.

Art allows us to investigate, illuminate and hopefully understand the apparent gap between us.

*This essay is part of [The Big Ideas](#), a special section of *The Times's* philosophy series, [The Stone](#), in which more than a dozen artists, writers and thinkers answer the question, "Why does art matter?"*

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 25th.

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 and

Kate MacLeod bobmacleod@verizon.net

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