

Vol 48, Number 2 ~ Woodbridge, VA Branch Newsletter ~ October, 2020

Calendar of Events

10.31-11.1: Remember to turn your clocks back on any devices that do not reset automatically on Saturday night- microwaves, the clock in your car, wall clocks, etc.

- November 3rd** **Election Day- Many members have already voted! Thank you!**
- November 11th** **Veteran's Day- Please thank a veteran for their service.
Branch Vets include John & Sandy; Lyndsay is currently serving.**
- November 15th
Sunday** **2nd Annual American Education Week "Honoring Our Educators"
Celebrating K-12+ Faculty, SUCCESS! Role Models, & Mentors**



President's Message

Fall is Here!



I will admit that fall is not my favorite season. Yet- after a hot, humid, rainy summer, I am enjoying the fall cool temperatures and fabulous foliage. And, fall brings so many AAUW programs and events, even if they are virtual in this pandemic world.

The Northern District Zoom meeting focused on “What’s My Privilege - Identifying and Using Various Privileges for Good.” The workshop gave attendees a deeper and broader understanding of racism and its effect on our society.

Hot off the virtual presses! Our branch is highlighted in AAUW's October Membership Matters! Susan & I prepared a 200-word piece- it's so hard to condense all of the wonderful things we did leading up to and including the 2019-20 year- but we did it. This link looks long, but please click and view! <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/membership-matters-a-hub-for-branch-leaders/?emci=23976a6e-0d1a-eb11-96f5-00155d03bda0&emdi=1776933e-111a-eb11-96f5-00155d03bda0&ceid=1046213> You'll notice that Susan created a photo collage of all 35 of our members last year, including Toni in memoriam. (See later→)



Last night our branch program with author Lorelei Brush discussing her latest novel, Chasing the American Dream, was well attended and thought provoking. While Susan B and board members are planning more events, we want to hear what you want to do. Bring your ideas to our November 6th branch meeting- on zoom @6:30 pm. (See more info later→)

Stay safe, continue to practice social districting, and get out there and enjoy Fall.

Sandy Lawrence

sandyaauw@juno.com

Public Policy & Advocacy

National

AAUW supports vote by mail; on-line registration; early voting; no excuse absentee voting; and in-person voting with proper health precautions – anything to make voting easier and more accessible. Virginia's state legislators passed, and Governor Northam signed a number of major legislative measures to expand voter access, measures that look especially prescient in light of the current health crisis. These measures will take effect July 1, 2020 (except where indicated) and include:

- ~ No-excuse absentee voting and no-excuse early voting 45 days prior to an election;
- ~ Elimination of the requirement for a picture ID at the polls;
- ~ Designating election day as a Virginia state holiday;
- ~ Implementing automatic voter registration for individuals accessing service at a DMV office or DMV website

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR 2020 ELECTION DAY

November General Election: November 3, 2020

Early walk-in voting (no excuse necessary) begins*: September 19, 2020

~~Deadline to register to vote: October 13, 2020~~

~~Deadline to request absentee ballot by mail: October 27, 2020~~

Early walk-in voting ends: October 31, 2020

*You will need to determine the early voting locations in your district, as they will vary from district to district.

<https://www.elections.virginia.gov>.

Sandy Lawrence, Public Policy Chair

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

sandyaauw@juno.com

Checking in with Our Members & Friends

From what I've been reading in emails and chatting about on the phone, our branch members and alumnae have been making lemonade with the new normal of the pandemic's effects. There have been family and friends zoom sessions, camping in the open air in RVs, teleworking, and figuring out how to keep in touch. I do not have as many photos as were in the September newsletter- so please keep me in your selfie send-outs! 😊



Leah, our newest member, transferred from the Alexandria Branch. She lives off Hoadly Road and is looking forward to "meeting" us on a future zoom meeting. Leah sends us this fall photo to share.

Sandy won the Ace of the Year for the Blue Flight from the Lake Ridge Ladies Golf League. She received a \$25 gift certificate. She also won a birdie pin and got a mask-wearing golf ball for participating during a pandemic.



Irene completed a rent to own agreement with her tenants in her townhouse in Woodbridge and closed the deal last Friday.

Susan F and her husband closed on their newly built home yesterday in Alexandria. Both Susans have been taking zoom classes on environmental awareness and climate change; they had a socially distanced lunch on Susan F's daughter's (Lindsay, SUCCESS! Presenter) front porch – she's promised me the recipe for her salsa!

Barbara B and daughter **Elizabeth** are using zoom to keep in touch with family. At right is a pre-pandemic photo. Elizabeth is in the Eastern Hemisphere, working with the University of Maryland's distance learning programs.





Welcome to Virginia! **Colleen** arrived in King George less than a month ago and has already been camping in Westmoreland State Park. In the summer with her Bethlehem, PA branch, she portrayed Susan B. Anthony toward the end of her life, in an "interview" recorded by the Sigal Museum, in Northampton County- "Pennsylvania's leading institution of local history. Colleen's former branch shared a sneak peek virtually and she looks forward to the whole "story". Check out the article and photo Colleen shared from *Today* in the Herstory page. (→)

In 2012, **Suhani** was one of our Science Fair awardees. Having attended SUCCESS!, she asked if she could present about Science & Science Fair projects to her peers at the next conference. It was a great idea which initiated another integral part of the program. *{I attended a webinar today that reported how effective it is to have students learn about STEM from their peers. SMB}* Suhani presented from 2013-2016, graduated from the Governor's School @ Innovation Park, and earned her degree from Virginia Tech this past May. Now, she's a new member of our branch!



Pam and **Paige** are really busy with virtual courses, virtual cohort group meetings – Paige hoping to get lab time at Johns Hopkins when the institution is part of COVID medical trials; Pam remembering oh so well how time-consuming research is for papers as she works on her PhD. **Chalet** is completing her doctoral dissertation defense, expecting completion for her PhD in May of 2021. We wish all three success in earning their advanced degrees!

Cassidy (in Chesterfield), **Tammy** and **Lucy** (in PWC), **Chalet** (NVCC), and **Andrea** (American University) are teaching virtually- a challenging endeavor in person and daunting in virtual mode!



Our 2019-2020 Team Roster: Cassidy McDannell, Nancy Sorenson, Eileen Thrall, Katherine Nelson-Tracey, Lillian Garland, Kristina Crossley, Elaine Cash, Lillian Orlich, Marlo Thomas Watson, **Toni Hill** (RIP 5.2.2020), Marlene Norton, Suzanne Harvey, Barbara Ondo, John Starsiak, Karen Wolf, Mary King, Joyce Eagles, Sandy Lawrence, Susan Bardenhagen, Dorothy Salesses, Betty Covington, *SUCCESS! Ts*, Susan Farmer, Paige Epler, Barbara Blindauer, Patty McCoart, Chalet Jean-Baptiste, Lyndsay Wilshaw, Lucy Afful, Tammy McDannell, Pam Epler, Nancy Savage, Irene Cromer, Jeanette Rishell, Tara Lateef, Andrea Brothers.

Welcome to our new members- your photos will be added to this collage for our 2020-2021 Team Roster!

Susan Bardenhagen

smbaauw@gmail.com

BRANCH MEETING- November 6th, 6:30 pm on Zoom

We've had two wonderful, interactive, virtual programs in September and October which included history & herstory, STEAM and research, and introduced us to literary and visual artists in our northern Virginia community. Now it's time for us to keep this momentum going and meet on screen to get updates from our board members, discuss ideas for a virtual holiday event, and consider some branch projects that can be done @ home. Marlo will be coordinating the zoom platform for us, so we will send an invitation to join the meeting, with the agenda. And, munching on dinner and pets zoom bombing are definitely ok! 😊 We hope you all can join us.



Lorelei Brush Returned for our Branch Program October 28th!

In January, Lorie shared her novel, Uncovering, for our program “Experiencing Another Culture- Living among Muslim Women”. She returned to share her new book, Chasing the American Dream. This was a zoom meeting at 7 pm with twelve members logging in by phones, ipads, laptops, and desktops, too!



Lorie asked, "**When is it appropriate for the U.S. Government to lie to us?**" and provided background into her research with a power point of photos and text- all to form what is needed for an intriguing historical fiction work. She left us in suspense – so we all need to read the book! (I'm thinking a Chasing the American Dream, part Deux?) We had an excellent discussion with insight of members who shared their memories of WWII, the McCarthy era, and more recent times; musings of those who related their families' interaction; and good questions for us to ponder. Thanks to Karen (2nd frame) for capturing her screen!

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION

**Reflections from Gloria Steinem, from RollingStone.com
Excerpts from an Interview by Tessa Stuart 10.28.2020**

Steinem spoke to Rolling Stone by phone from Santa Barbara, where she's been beaming into Zoom happy hours throughout the pandemic while working on her next book.

You grew up as the daughter of a traveling salesman and spent the majority of your adult life on the road, engaged in activism. Has COVID grounded you? Writers are always quite used to sitting in our chair, typing, so it doesn't feel that unusual. It's probably more unusual for people who are accustomed to going to the office every day. I haven't missed being on the road yet. But seeing my friends, and walking the New York streets? I do miss that. We're all living in Zoom City now, right? I do at least three or four long Zooms a week.

You've objected to the TV show *Mrs. America*'s portrayal of the battle to pass an amendment guaranteeing women equal rights under the Constitution as “a catfight” — what do you think the show got wrong? The showrunners came to see me and Ellie Smeal [the former president of NOW] and we told them that the opposition to the ERA was not from other women — the huge majority of women supported the Equal Rights Amendment. Ellie Smeal was in every state working on it, and she could never determine that one single vote was ever changed by Phyllis Schlafly. Women don't have the power to be our own worst adversaries. It's economic interests that do.

If you were starting the fight over the ERA over today — We are starting over today.



... **Is there anything you would have done differently?** We thought, how hard can it be? It's perfectly clear that women should be [recognized as] equal [in] the Constitution. We didn't understand what the opposition would be, so we didn't start soon enough or organize state by state enough.

Is the ERA still necessary today? There are some who would argue we've achieved its goals through other means. Yes, absolutely. To have to proceed every time, law by law, issue by issue [is impractical] — we need justice. We have the 14th Amendment for racial equality. We need to have equality by sex.

You used to quote Irina Dunn saying “a woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle.” Do you still believe that, or did your understanding of your needs change when you got married? No, no. That was always a joke. No. People need people — regardless of gender. Everybody needs people.

If you knew in the 1960s what women's rights would look like in 2020, would you be excited or disappointed? About how far we have come in terms of economics and legislation — I would have thought we'd be much further by now. But the movement itself, in terms of what little girls think they can do, and the diversity of the movement and the global nature of the movement [is exciting].

You've said your funeral “will be a fundraiser.” What do you want the cause to be?

The movement for equality — no more labels by sex and race. Whatever form that takes.

08.13.2020 SmithsonianMag.com by Nora McGreevy: When the 19th Amendment was finally ratified on August 18, 1920, some women in Hawai'i wasted no time in submitting their names to fill seats in government. But, as Healoha Johnston, curator of women's cultural history at the Smithsonian's Asian Pacific American Center (APAC), explains, these women didn't realize that the right to vote didn't automatically guarantee that women could also hold office.

Their confusion was understandable. After all, women in Hawai'i had held key positions in government for generations. Before the U.S. annexed it as a territory in 1898, Hawai'i had been an independent country with a constitutional monarchy. Women were ambassadors, judges on the supreme court, governors and monarchs.

“That's where their minds were,” says Johnston. “They were already ten steps ahead of the vote. They were absolutely ready to occupy those positions.” As it turned out, it took five more years and an amendment for Rosalie Enos Lyons Keli'inoi (1875-1952) to be elected and become the first woman to hold office in the Hawaiian Territorial Legislature. As host Lizzie Peabody explains in the most recent episode of *Sidedoor*, a Smithsonian Institution podcast, the achievement of the 19th Amendment in Hawai'i was a complicated and confusing win. “We tend to think of the 19th Amendment as the moment women *gained* power in America. But in fact, it was a moment when some women—Hawaiian women—regained a *small* portion of the power they once held,” Peabody notes.

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK "Honoring Our Educators"



Last year, our branch inaugurated a program to recognize the teachers, SUCCESS! Conference presenters/role models, and community stakeholders positively impacting education. Our educators are virtually continuing to teach and support our students- we can honor ten people virtually as well! Four people will be celebrated in memoriam. The second annual program will be **on Sunday afternoon, November 15th @ 4 pm**, as a zoom program. Presenters will include branch members; we plan to have certificates "handed off" from frame to frame on the screen, like the Emmys & CMAs. The invitation will be attached to the email in which you receive this newsletter.

CELEBRATING OUR BRANCH'S IMPACT

Many years ago, our life member, **Susan Nathanson Fairey** (1947-2014), established a grant with AAUW with her initial investment to which the branch donated funds until it was fully vested. This program supports the many grants awarded, e.g. Community Action Grants, Pursuing Education, and more. Each year we highlight

the recipient whose grant funds were supported by Susan's grant. This year, we are pleased to report Susan's grant is for a regional awardee and we know Susan would be so proud:

Name: **Rhian O'Rourke** **Award Year:** 2020-21 **Award:** Career Development Grant
Institution: John Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland **Discipline:** Interdisciplinary Programs
Degree and Specialization: M.B.A., MBA/MA in Government

Rhian O'Rourke is pursuing an MBA/MA in government at Johns Hopkins University and is undertaking a health-care concentration that studies the intersection of public policy, health-care legislation and health-care management. Her research focuses on public-policy reforms that increase access to health care for people experiencing disability and marginalization. After graduation, she aspires to serve as a health-care public-policy researcher and advocate.

Sponsors: 1210 - Billings (MT) Branch/Virginia Dove; 1214 - Buffalo (NY) Branch; 1230 - Helen Coover; 1274 - Alberta McNeal, 1290 - Rocky Mountain Regional/Mindell Stein, 1395 - Inez G. Schaefer, 1464 - Missoula (MT) Branch, **1468 - Newport News (VA) Branch**, 1486 - San Juan (PR) Branch, 1723 - St. Paul (MN) Branch Founders, **1748 - Martha Ann Miller**, 1895 - Wendy Shannon, 4090 - Muriel Miller, 4142 - Frances "Peg" Lamont, 4167 - Ethel "Dode" Wonson, **4176 - Susan Nathanson Fairey**, 4177 - Helena (MT) Branch/Harriett Meloy, 4195 - Janet Evans, 4196 - Jane Ellen Maddy, 4218 - Susan Lemke, **4267 - McLean (VA) Branch**, 4312 - Helen Barney, **4319 - McLean Area 40th Anniversary**
4350 - Falls Church Area Branch *Note there are also four branches from Virginia whose grants' funds will support Rhian's career, too!*

HERSTORY in OUR REGION

‘Lifting people up’:

Manassas officials unveil long-awaited Jennie Dean statue

by Jill Palermo Times Staff Writer, Oct 24, 2020 Updated Oct 26, 2020



“She is leaning forward with her hand extended, lifting people up,” Mayor Hal Parrish said Saturday morning, as dignitaries pulled a black shroud from a long-awaited sculpture memorializing Jennie Dean, a Manassas native born into slavery who founded the Manassas Industrial School for Colored Youth, which educated thousands of Black high school students from the 1890s through the 1930s.

Dean, whose given name was Jane Serepta Dean, worked as a domestic in Washington, D.C., but was born and lived in Manassas and spent almost 10 years after the Civil War raising money to open the school. Dean eventually accumulated enough to purchase 100 acres and chartered the industrial school in 1893. Its first building was dedicated by Frederick Douglass in 1894. Speakers remembered Dean as an everyday person and a woman of faith who worked tirelessly to establish what was then the only high school serving black students in all of Northern Virginia...

A highlight of the event were memories shared by Carroll Braxton, a 96-year-old U.S. Marine Corps veteran who attended the Manassas Industrial School for Colored Youth from 1939 to 1943. Braxton was “interviewed” onstage by his daughter, television journalist **Monique Braxton**, about his time at the school. The elder Braxton told of “a beautiful campus,” with a girls’ dormitory, boys’ dormitory, teachers’ cottage, administration building and home economics building, where students began their days with devotions and then studied English, history, physics, geometry, home economics and agriculture. All students wore uniforms – shirts and ties for the boys and dresses for the girls – and came from across Northern Virginia, sometimes walking miles to catch “hand-me-down buses” to ride still more miles to Manassas, Braxton said.

The school did not have a gym “because it could not afford it,” but fielded teams in track, baseball and football. The students enjoyed “socials” after Friday afternoon football games where they paid 10 cents to dance and listen to records, Braxton said. **Braxton and his late wife, Celestine Braxton, were recently honored as the new namesakes for Unity Braxton Middle School, formerly Stonewall Middle School.** *{Celestine volunteered at SUCCESS! & was an AAUW member; Monique presented at the conference in 1995-97. ☺}*



2020 is the Centennial for the 19th Amendment & the Bicentennial of Susan B. Anthony's Birthday

The Friends of Mt. Hope have placed plastic covers over Susan B. Anthony's headstone in Mt. Hope Cemetery in Rochester, N.Y. as well as her sister's Mary Anthony's headstone. "I Voted Today" stickers on their headstones, Oct. 26, 2020 have been placed on them since early voting started Saturday. The covers are to protect the old headstones. Tina MacIntyre-Yee / Rochester Democrat and Chronicle

Isn't this phenomenally spot on? 😊

People putting their "I Voted" stickers on

women's suffrage leader Susan B. Anthony's headstone will see something new this year: a plastic cover. Her headstone, in a cemetery in Rochester, New York, now has a shield to prevent further degradation to the marble from the stickers' glue and the cleaners used to remove the stickers, the *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* reported. Her sister Mary Anthony's headstone, just next to hers, was also covered.

The sticker trend became popular on Election Day 2016, said Patricia Corcoran, president of the nonprofit Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery, in an email. That day, as many as 12,000 people visited Mount Hope Cemetery, the sisters' final resting place, to honor the work done by Anthony to win women's suffrage and to memorialize the first time Americans could vote for a female major-party presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton.

A restoration effort in spring revealed the damage done to the marble marker by the stickers, Corcoran said. The nonprofit's main mission is the cemetery's preservation, "so above all we wanted to protect this iconic gravesite," she said. The headstones were already covered in plastic on Saturday, when in-person early voting began in New York. The city of Rochester, which owns the cemetery, doesn't know how many voters will visit this Election Day, said Justin Roj, spokesperson for the city.

The headstone could be a popular destination this year, too, because it's the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. Other explanations: it's the 200th anniversary of Anthony's birth. We also need to acknowledge Kamala Harris, Democratic candidate Joe Biden's running mate, the first woman of color to be nominated for national office by a major party.

August 6, 1965 – The Voting Rights Act outlaws the discriminatory literacy tests that had been used to prevent African Americans from voting. Suffrage is finally fully extended to African American women. Senator Harris was 9 ½ months old that day...

Suffragents: Fathers, Sons, Brothers, Husbands and Friends

Surprising to some, many of the suffragists' strongest supporters were their husbands, fathers, brothers, uncles, and other men. There were men throughout the country who were themselves suffragists and who lent their support to advancing the women's cause. Showing family influence, many young female suffragists were inspired to take action in the political arena because their fathers were politically active. It is a testimony to their democratic values that a large number of American men consistently supported women's cause. There were more than 50 electoral campaigns and in every one, a large number of men—often above 40%—voted in favor of equal suffrage. A majority of male voters in New York, California, and eleven other states actually approved it.

October Highlights in U.S. Women's History, from the National Women's History Alliance

- **October 3, 1904** – Mary McLeod Bethune opens her first school for African American students in Daytona Beach, Florida
- **October 4, 1976** – Barbara Walters becomes the first woman co-anchor of the evening news (at ABC)
- **October 4, 1993** – Ruth Bader Ginsburg joins the U.S. Supreme Court as its second woman Justice
- **October 8, 1993** – Toni Morrison becomes the first African American woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature
- **October 10, 1983** – Dr. Barbara McClintock receives the Nobel Prize for Medicine for her discovery in genetics about mobile genetic elements....





AAUW Continues Branch 5-Star Recognition Program - 7.1.2019-6.30.2021

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**

Advancement

- Representative(s) from the branch complete the community resource mapping exercise.
- \$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

- 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. *Submitted 6.2020*

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.

YES, WE ARE A 5-STAR BRANCH- one of a 15 in the country!!! Are you doing the "floss" dance? 🕺

Moving Forward in 2020 to 2021

~~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 ~This is almost a year later. ☹️

(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.

VA AAUW State Conference that was scheduled for in-person in March has been cancelled.

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
Sandy Lawrence sandyaauw@juno.com
AAUW of Virginia homepage <http://aauw-va.aauw.net>