

Vol 48, Number 4 ~ Woodbridge, VA Branch Newsletter ~ January, 2021

Calendar of Events

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19: The Presidential Inaugural Committee is hosting a meaningful memorial of the lives lost to the COVID-19 pandemic, featuring a lighting ceremony in Washington, DC. Cities around the country are invited to illuminate buildings and ring church bells at 5:30 pm in a national moment of unity and remembrance. Think NYC 🌍.

January 23rd Saturday **Annual Movie Get Together, "Finish the Fight" – Pre-View Discussion ?s, Sharing another bio, and BINGO on zoom.** **3 pm**

January 24th **Branch Board Meeting – please forward ideas & suggestions!** **2 pm**

February 14th Sunday **Valentine's Day! Zoom your loves and share 🥰** **2:14 pm**
We have some ideas & more door prizes!



President's Message

Many of us look forward to 2021 with hope. We hope 2021 will find people getting vaccines, the pandemic ebbing, and some sense of normalcy appearing as schools and businesses begin to reopen.

And, there was the upcoming swearing in of a new administration in a peaceful exchange of power that is a hallmark of America's traditions. That was shattered on January 6th as rioters invaded the Capital to prevent Congress from following the Constitution. As our local news continues to be national news, our thoughts are with our legislators, the 46th and 49th President-elect and Vice-President-elect, and our country – especially on the 36th annual celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. From the federal STEM Coalition: <https://www.romper.com/life/martin-luther-king-jr-quotes>

As AAUW members, we need to stay committed to our mission of empowering all women and girls. We need to be involved. I urge you to attend the many great programs Woodbridge is having, such as our movie event and book discussions. Also, check out the offerings from other branches- information for these are listed in this newsletter.

Save March 13-15 for the VA-AAUW state conference. This virtual meeting will include the 2020 Women of Achievement award winners (including our 6.1.2019 "Women in STEM" keynote speaker, Ana Humphrey), a presentation by AAUW CEO Kim Churches, a panel of women legislators, and Drs. Angela Hattery and Earl Smith returning to talk about domestic and sexual violence. More information to come in our next newsletter.

We must stay safe, stay committed to our convictions, and look out for each other. I'm here if you need anything.

Sandy Lawrence

sandyaauw@juno.com



Public Policy & Advocacy

Local

Our branch has already begun preparing for the announcement of AAUW's 2021 Equal Pay Dates (see the last page of the newsletter for 2020's) to seek support from the Prince William Board of County Supervisors for an equal pay resolution. We've been advocating for this for many years, endured scorn and misogynist statements at citizens' time presentations, and maintained and nurtured connections each year. Let's be confident that 2021 is the time! **Joyce, Eileen, Barbara B., and Mary King** would like to add your voice to theirs. **Sandy** lives in Springfield, and as our Public Policy Chair, champions advocacy- so contact her if you have a contact with a BOCS in your magisterial district. **Susan B.** lives in Manassas City and prepares her statements based on the goal of the SUCCESS! Conference (for all our regional students) to ensure gender equity- which includes pay equity, too!



State

I recently sent all of our branch members information prepared by VA AAUW's Public Policy chairs. Please let me know if you need more information and/or are interested in joining the efforts. In addition:

Happy New Year! We've weathered a challenging and lengthy period during which we've become Zoom pros and collected a wardrobe of masks and gallon jugs of hand sanitizer, but with a vaccine becoming available, we see light at the end of this historic pandemic tunnel.

Our new-found communication skills will hold us in good stead as we swap our annual trek to Richmond to talk to our representatives in person with a virtual lobbying experience. The legislative session this year will be a short one: 30 days with the possibility of an extension. The General Assembly will convene on Wednesday, January 13, 2021, and since the Capitol and the Pocahontas Building are closed to visitors and the House of Delegates is meeting virtually, this is our best option. We hope it will enable many more members to participate.

To make the best use of this limited time, we are focusing on two discrete AAUW public policy priorities that contribute to economic security for women and their family members, *paid sick leave* and *salary history bans*. We will target specific legislation and key legislators to contact in addition to informing as many General Assembly representatives as possible about these issues.

We ask that every AAUW-VA member contact their State Delegate and/or Senator (ideally both) by email, phone, or both at least once during the session. [Click here to find your legislators](#) and their contact information.

Sample messages that you can personalize and background information for your use in communicating with these legislators are available. (Please contact your branch public policy chair, Sandy, if you would like this document.) We know that elected officials prioritize their constituents when it comes to communications and requests, so the draft letters flag the fact that the sender is a constituent. Phone calls are highly effective, guarantee feedback, and may give you an opportunity to communicate with a staff member. If you have a personal connection with a legislator other than your own, please contact them as well. Finally, if you or someone you know has a story about how access to or lack of paid sick leave has impacted them, especially during the pandemic, include that information in your message. Just like the gender pay gap is "math not myth," paid sick leave has real world health and economic consequences, especially now.

If you do contact your representatives, please let us know by [clicking here to complete a form that will be sent to us](#). This information will help us assess the effectiveness of this virtual lobbying activity. If you prefer, you can also email the details of your contacts directly to us.

We look forward to seeing and hearing from our members who are making their voices heard.

Susan Burk burksu@aol.com Denise Murden denise.m.murden@gmail.com Co-VPs for Public Policy

National- Please check your inbox since January 1st for emails and notices from AAUW & CEO, Kim Chuches.

Sandy Lawrence, Public Policy Chair sandyaauw@juno.com

Annual January "Movie" Event: "Finish the Fight" – Pre-View & Meet to Discuss

January 23rd



They were tireless organizers. Tenacious fighters. And political geniuses. They were Black and Latinx. Indigenous and immigrant. Together, they won women the right to vote and laid the cornerstone for gender equality in the United States. Yet their stories have rarely been told. Until now. *{From the NY Times}*

"Finish the Fight," is a Broadway performance that was supposed to open just before the pandemic- so they made lemonade, re-created it as "zoom-able" and it's amazing!!!! It presents five strong women about whom you may not have heard their story. **You can watch it at your leisure prior to January 23rd when we will zoom-together for a discussion at 3 pm. If you'd like, bring the story of a woman in history or in your life, whose *herstory* should be shared. Here is the link to watch; it is 1 hour, 22 minutes & includes a conversation with the author, director, and one of the actresses:**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/23/theater/finish-the-fight-suffrage-centennial-performance.html>

Veronica Chambers, the author, was highlighted at the Library of Congress' Annual National Book Festival. I was going to share each link, instead I have the link for a whole google search page for you:

https://www.google.com/search?q=veronica+chambers+at+the+national+book+festival+2020&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS906US906&oq=veronica+chambers+at+the+national+book+festival&aqs=chrome.1.69i57j33i160.27514j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

Our member, Colleen, before she moved/transferred to Virginia, took part in "Conversations Through Time: The Women who Won the Vote", portraying Susan B. Anthony. The program was a joint effort with Colleen's Easton, Pennsylvania AAUW Branch and the Northampton County Historical & Genealogical Society which recorded iconic women's stories. There are 8 videos at this link

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqSSP9ERNg7S8Br1JmFAvHO/videos?view=0&sort=dd&shelf_id=1 including Colleen's and six other individuals. The eighth video includes a retrospective beginning with an "interview" with Abigail Adams; check it out! *I include this in this part of the newsletter because there were three women who I did not know and one from in "Finish the Fight". Great minds think alike? ☺*

WE'VE GOT PRIZES, TOO! I have a new "Wonder Women Bingo Game" from *One More Page* bookstore. It includes 48 women (many unknown to me!) and 16 different bingo cards which I will scan as photos. Here's what Barbara B, Karen, and I are thinking- As a fund-raiser for AAUW's greatest needs fund, people who wish to do so can purchase one bingo card for \$3 and two cards for \$5. This is similar to when we do this at an in-person social with door prize tickets. Prizes will include notecards and RGB items.

What to do now? **RSVP to the email to which this newsletter is attached that you plan to zoom in with us and if you would like Bingo cards.** I will send you the 5 discussion questions to consider and the recipe roster we had for the December ZOOM-TOGETHER. You will receive the roster of "wonder women" and bingo cards as jpegs to print or view on your ipads/phones/computers. If more than 16 cards are ordered resulting in more than one person having the same possibilities, the run-off will be to give one description of each of the women. =)

PLEASE RSVP by FRIDAY, 1.22 so we can plan the schedule for the 90 minutes. I will send the zoom link on the 22nd so it won't get lost in your inboxes. =)

MEMBER NEWS

First off, we wish you all a happier new year. We hope that you and your families are safe and well. As we worked on the directory and kept in touch by phone and email, it was so good to connect and speak with you. We collected photos and notes, too.



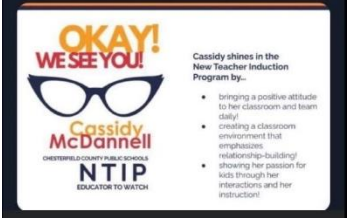
Last summer, **Colleen** portrayed Susan B. Anthony, and we have the video!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=si0MKmfQZYY>

Cassidy has finished the first semester of her first year teaching as a 4th grade teacher; in her virtual classroom has earned an award and a special mentorship opportunity that is awarded to only three new teachers in the county. This was the first time her elementary school ever had a new teacher recognized! Congratulations from your 22+ educators in the house, including your mom!

Members are asynchronously and synchronously taking part in community service- **Jeanette** as mayor of Manassas Park, **Eileen** as a member of the Prince William County Board of Zoning Appeals, **Susan B.** as a member of the Manassas City Council's Equity & Inclusion Task Force.

In December, our branch welcomed our newest member, **Cari**. She is the Student Life Advisor at the Manassas Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, joining **Chalet, Molly, Diane, and Marion** as staff members and faculty who have become branch members this 2020-2021 year. Here is link connecting English professor and author **Chalet and Cari**: <https://blogs.nvcc.edu/intercom/2016/03/28/manassas-campus-hosts-ben-jealous/>

Best way to kick start a new work week? Celebrating a new educator! Cassidy McDannell connects her students by creating a classroom where relationships are key! Her big heart is shaping minds at @HopkinsRoadES! You're making a difference, Cassidy! #oneCCPS #NTIPEducatorToWatch



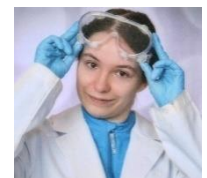
SHARING OUR PASSION & LOVEs on VALENTINE'S DAY

Our bylaws give us a reason for a February meeting- for many years it's when we had our "Looking Toward Spring" Luncheon in Occoquan. So, let's make pink lemonade with the continued need to be virtual and celebrate our loves and passions- from our families, grandchildren, children, students, colleagues, friends, careers, hobbies, community service, issues, creations. We have door prizes and you don't have to be virtually present to win, you just need to send in photos, quotes, or descriptions to either one of us- by email, postal mail, or phone by Saturday evening, 02.13. The zoom meeting will start at 02.14 pm.

Susan Bardenhagen, Membership, smbaauw@gmail.com &
Colleen Hauser, Social Committee, colhauser13@gmail.com

BRANCH PROJECTS

Marketing Math & Science for Girls Letter Writing At our January 23rd branch program/meeting, Paige will give us an update on one of our AAUW Woodbridge branch project, called *Marketing Math and Science for Girls*. Paige has presented her campaign at one of our meetings in the past, as well as presented it for the past 12 years to parents and educators at our annual SUCCESS! conference.



Please contact Paige if your signature hand is ready to affix your "Lady or John Hancock" to the letters. If you notice equitable or inequitable advertisements, please forward ideas to Paige- pepler@gmu.edu or to our member, her mom, Pam- pcoan@gmu.edu.

Scholarship for Emily Jean Rishell

A scholarship was established in our member Jeanette's daughter's honor. It is a \$1000 scholarship for a Manassas Park High School senior who will be attending a 2-year or 4-year college/university, a business or technical school, to major in business or information technology. The applicant will submit an essay addressing specific criteria, judged by a panel including the Woodbridge Branch members, educators, and community leaders, at Manassas Park High School's 2021 graduation ceremony. The funds will be forwarded to the registrar of the school the scholarship awardee attends.

The Woodbridge Branch donated \$100 as seed money for the scholarship, from our funds and scholarships savings account. The branch board has begun the process and asks members to consider donating to this charitable organization, if you can, to support a graduate in Emily's name. Almost 1/3 of the goal currently has been given.

Please send a check, **made payable** to the "**BELL Education Foundation, One Park Center Court, Suite A, Manassas Park, VA 20111**". Please note "**Emily Jean Rishell Memorial Scholarship**" in the **memo/note line**. On the envelope, you can write, "Attn: Deanne Perez. **Please forward this information as you desire and please post on social media if you can.**"



FINANCIALLY SPEAKING...

Our 2020-2021 Budget was approved at the December 6th branch ZOOM-TOGETHER. We thank you for your support and interest in the process, as our branch evolves and grows to 21st century issues.

During 2020, our branch donated **\$1852** to AAUW- including **\$1727** to Greatest Needs and **\$125** to Education & Training Fund. Thank you so much for this support in the name of our branch! For each \$500 that is donated, a branch can name a "gift honoree" which gives us three. Your board members would like your input on those we should honor for 2020's efforts. Here is the history since 2002:

21st Millennial Roster of Named Gift Honorees for Woodbridge Branch

(Year is listed for when the donations to AAUW were made, honorees are announced in the next year; highlighted names aren't branch members; bolded names have died)

2002: Marguerite Belec, Ellen Demucci, Ana Feliciano, Mary Jo Howarth, **Ethel Mae Perkins**, **Deloris Hampton** (in memoriam)
2003: Evelyn Gibbs, **Jennifer Howarth**, **Michael Friedman**, **Mary Williams** (in memoriam)
2004: Linda Viggiani, Sandra Lawrence, Barbara Blindauer
2005: **Myra Lindsey**, **Edna Nelson** (in memoriam)
2006: **Phyllis Jackson**, **Tom Howarth**
2007: Martha Langer, **Girls + Math + Science = SUCCESS! Conference**
2008: **Sara Anderson**, **Lori Gazzano**
2009: Shirley Vasy
2010: Elizabeth Blindauer
2011: Eileen Thrall

2012: Angela Booker, **Alice Reagan**
2013: **Susan Fairey**
2014: Ali Cohen, Carol Campbell, **John Fairey**, Jeanette Rishell, John Starsiak
2015: **Sara Anderson**, Susan Bardenhagen, Eileen Thrall, Karen Wolf
2016: Joyce Eagles, Jeanne Elmore, Sandy Lawrence, John Starsiak
2017: Suzanne Harvey, Lee Vannett
2018: **Venus Miller** (in memoriam) & daughter **Toni Hill**; **Frank Principi** (Equal Pay & ERA support); **Luke Torian** (ERA support)
2019: Betty Covington & Lillian Orlich- longevity in service as educators
2020: 3 Named Gift Honorees:

Our board plans to discuss our the named gift honorees at our board meeting on Sunday, the 24th. Please share your ideas with a board member (Sandy, Susan B., Karen, Suzanne, Barbara B., Marlo) by Sunday morning. Thank you!

Barbara Blindauer
Karen Wolf

barbblindauer@comcast.net
kleewolf@verizon.net

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION

Mini-Grant from VA AAUW- "Starting Conversations to Address Differences with Books & Voices"

Marlo and I selected the book titles, we plan to offer audio options in addition to the print copies, and we hope to include both our branch members as discussion leaders and invite our NVCC student affiliate members to join in the conversations. The four books we have included: [Hillbilly Elegy](#), [I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings](#), [Sabrina & Corina](#), and [White Fragility](#). If you have any of these texts and would like to participate, please let us know. We are ordering six copies of each to share with members to join us, as a branch library lending. =)

Participants can join any combination of the groups; zoom meetings can be once after reading book or in sections; and the discussion leaders will offer discussion questions and ideas. Like the plan for 1.23's program on "Finish the Fight", we can include media and input from artists of a similar background. **Please contact us to let us know which group(s) you would like to join.**

Susan Bardenhagen smbaauw@gmail.com &
Marlo Thomas Watson marlo@themarlocompany.com

Reston Herndon Invites you to share our upcoming program:

February 26 at 4:00 pm - Dr Sherri Burr, Professor of Law at the University of New Mexico will be our speaker. Dr. Burr has an impressive background. She is the Dickason Chair in Law and Regents Professor Emerita at the University of New Mexico School of Law, received her education at Mount Holyoke College, Princeton University and the Yale Law School. The author of 26 other books, Burr lectures on her research related to Free Blacks and created the art exhibition "400 Years of Freedom, Restriction and Survival." For more information about her you can go to: <https://lawschool.unm.edu/faculty/burr/index.html> Her talk will focus on the challenges of being a free Black woman in Pre- Civil War Virginia. In addition, she has written a Pulitzer Prize nominated book [Complicated Lives Free Blacks in Virginia 1619-1865](#). She indicated that the discussion would be more engaging if we read her book in advance. This should be a wonderful talk.

Topic: AAUW R-H Sherri Burr

Time: Feb 26, 2021 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89738824357?pwd=U1ZGS2VNUWlOdnh1R0gxaWpTMWJhZz09>

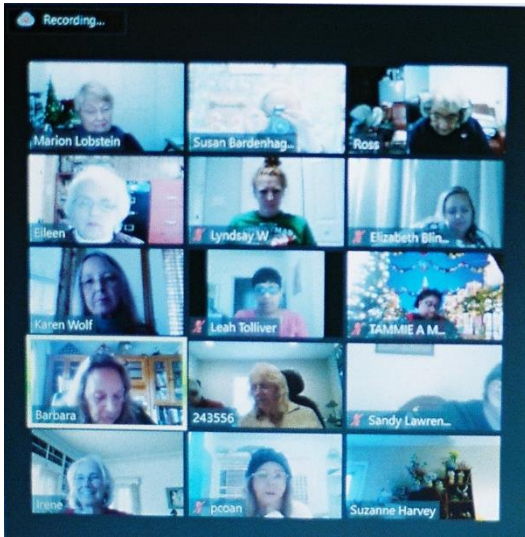
Meeting ID: 897 3882 4357

Passcode: 015506

You can purchase the book here: https://smile.amazon.com/Complicated-Lives-Blacks-Virginia-1619-1865-ebook/dp/B07ZKV97RT/ref=sr_1_1?crid=T81HEZ8AEQNR&dchild=1&keywords=complicated+lives&qid=1610210370&prefix=complicated+Lives%2Caps%2C144&sr=8-1

DECEMBER 6th ZOOM-TOGETHER!

Our December holiday get-together brought branch members zooming in on **Marlo's** invitation from the Middle



East to Ohio and Oklahoma to Savannah to Virginia Beach to northern Virginia. Pets in costumes, "ugly" sweaters, humorous outfits, and holiday attire earning votes for prizes; sharing family traditions and recipes; choral/solo reading of the traditional "Twas the Night Before Christmas" poem; and door prizes for all who donated to AAUW in 2020 delivered by our Membership elf or her postal service proxies.

Our state board rep, **Tammie**, was voted as wearing the most humorous attire; new member **Marion** won the heartwarming tradition award; **Suzanne's** Corgi won the coolest pet to tolerate dressing up as an elf; **Karen's** vest was voted the "ugliest".

Lucy shared her community's Christmas traditions in Ghana; **Elizabeth & Barbara** gave us an enjoyable repartee- each sharing how Barbara's childhood traditions evolved to what Elizabeth's generation

experienced; **Barbara & John** zoomed in from her son's music studio; **Sandy, Susan, Tammie**, and **Leah** realized they had similar memories of parents trying to keep the Santa legend alive; **Irene** reminisced about her Christmas Eve birthday merged into Christmas presents as she segued our sharing to recipes with her cousin's copper rolling pin (starting an interesting Science discussion!); **Lyndsay** and **Joyce** shared their pets who unlike Princess Bardenhagen didn't want to zoom bomb; **Eileen** and **Pam** spoke of how the pandemic has altered traditional decorating and celebrating.

Those who could not attend sent their holiday wishes on a slide; yes, we even had a shared screen mode! Finding an original "copy" of the Clement Moore poem was on our screens with early 20th century illustrations. Thirteen attendees each read a stanza of 'Twas.. and we all joyfully joined in the final one! Many agreed this should be a new tradition for us whether virtual or in-person. We've started a snack and nosh recipe roster, too. Yum!



STEMM from Suhani & STEAMM from Susan

**The Way Americans Remember the Blackwell Sisters Shortchanges Their Legacy
Elizabeth and Emily Blackwell deserve to have their incredible stories told in full**

Janice Nimura, SMITHSONIANMAG.COM, JANUARY 6, 2021

The [image is arresting](#): a young woman in three-quarter profile, creamy skin, Mona Lisa smile, calm dark eyes. She is perhaps 20. She wears her hair upswept with a cloud of curly fringe, a smart, black-ribbon choker under a lacy, white collar. It's easy to imagine a story for her, a variation on Jo March or Lizzie Bennet: irrepressible intelligence transcending 19th-century constraints. If you Google "Elizabeth Blackwell"—the first woman in America to receive a medical degree, in 1849—this image comes up every time. It accompanies articles for Women's History Month, it illustrates websites dedicated to Blackwell's achievements, it appears on the cover of at least one biography. It makes a better visual than other surviving Blackwell photographs, all of which capture her later in life, less dewy, more dowager. It's a lovely photograph, but it's not Elizabeth Blackwell. The original is in the archives of the Museum of the City of New York, catalogued as "possibly

Elizabeth Blackwell.” It’s a cabinet card, an albumen print on a postcard-sized rectangle of ivory stock. Flip it over, and there’s a flamboyantly curlicued studio advertisement on the back: “Dana’s Photo-portrait Gallery.” Edward C. Dana, a young photographer on the rise, opened his Sixth Avenue establishment circa 1885. In 1885, Elizabeth Blackwell was 64 years old. The woman in the photo is likely one of her nieces.

Heroines—far more than heroes—are often supposed to look and feel a certain way...

I only became aware of Elizabeth Blackwell, first woman doctor, and her sister Emily Blackwell, third woman doctor, when I was 44 years old, this despite the fact that I had lived since birth in the city where they practiced, grown up at a proudly feminist girls’ school, and graduated with the intention of pursuing medicine. When I began to investigate the Blackwells in earnest, I found them most often in the children’s biography section: Elizabeth, bright and pretty and triumphant; Emily mentioned only in a subordinate clause.

Moving past the pen-and-ink illustrations of slender ladies with anachronistically modern stethoscopes, I came to know two prickly, complicated women bound together by blood and idealism, not always comfortably. Having wrestled medical degrees from an appalled male establishment, the Blackwell sisters went on to found the New York Infirmity for Indigent Women and Children—the first hospital staffed entirely by women—and then added a Women’s Medical College that was more rigorous and progressive in its curriculum than the medical schools they had attended. Their mission was the promotion of female medical education, but they held divergent views on what it meant to be a woman doctor. Elizabeth used the pen and the lectern more than the contents of her medical bag, seeing her role as a teacher armed with science. Emily was the true practitioner: an obstetrician, gynecologist, surgeon and professor as skilled as any man.

The Blackwells did not apologize for their opinions even if the world disagreed with them, even if they disagreed with each other. They had hungry minds and wasted little energy wondering if people liked them. They reminded me of my most formidable teachers, the razor-sharp, slightly scary ones we held in awe. Elizabeth, born 200 years ago this year, was dominant, sublimely confident, startlingly judgmental. An actual portrait taken in her 30s shows her with sunken cheeks and lips compressed in a straight line, her expression and her tailoring equally severe. A close look reveals a subtle asymmetry in her gaze. At the age of 28, while pursuing post-graduate training at a public maternity hospital in Paris, she contracted gonorrheal ophthalmia from an infected patient and lost one eye. She wore a glass prosthetic for the rest of her life.

She chose medicine not because caring for patients was lucrative or particularly satisfying for her, but rather to prove that a woman’s potential was limited only by talent and toil. She proudly announced the establishment of her practice in New York in an era when most people understood “female physician” to mean abortionist... She had no objection to fame, but a horror of notoriety; having fought to win the respect of men, she was wary of her own sex. “Oh Milly, what is to be done with the women,” she wrote to her sister. “There are a few strong ones—a sort of exceptional eighth perhaps. If they could be united, it would be a good beginning.” She counted herself and her sister among the exceptional and dismissed most of the rest—even those at the forefront of the emerging women’s movement, whose goal of suffrage she thought perverse. What good was a vote when a woman had not yet liberated her opinions from the control of her menfolk?

Elizabeth recognized Emily (“Milly”) as the most intellectually intrepid of her four sisters and anointed her as follower, colleague, and confidante. Emily—five years younger, understated and pragmatic, vulnerable to doubt but strong enough to push past it—considered her options and accepted the challenge. She was taller and more robust than her sister, just as brilliant but less rigid, eternally in the shadow of Elizabeth’s pioneering fame even while leading and sustaining the institutions they had founded together. Where Elizabeth strove to prove herself as an exceptional woman, Emily yearned to shuck off her gender and make her way in anonymity. “I have often thought that if I followed solely my inclinations I should assume a man’s dress and wander freely over the world,” she wrote. Like Elizabeth, she was not a natural caregiver, though where Elizabeth embraced medicine for ideological reasons, Emily loved the science itself. The same modern commentators who persist in seeing Elizabeth as a more attractive younger woman tend not to see Emily at all; her portrait shows up in archives and articles chronically mislabeled as Elizabeth. It’s true the sisters resembled each other, but they’re not impossible to tell apart. Emily’s jaw and brow are squarer, Elizabeth’s cheekbones and chin more pronounced. Elizabeth invariably wore a stern expression for the camera; Emily’s gaze is more benign. And then of course there are Elizabeth’s eyes. We do so much looking at women—at their hair, their clothes, their

curves—and too often fail to see them.

Even in their own time, Elizabeth and Emily Blackwell often went unseen. They shone as beacons, but with a chilly light; few people drew close enough to know them intimately. It's no accident that their story is easiest to find in the kids' section, where their abrasive edges and questionable biases are smoothed away, where they can remain uncomplicated and inspiring- like the alluring young woman in the photograph... **It's time to put the tough, seasoned, accomplished women at the center of the story, and follow where they lead.**

VA-AAUW NORTHERN DISTRICT PROGRAM, January 9th

"Local Governments' Efforts on Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion"

Panelists: **Karla Bruce**, Chief Equity Officer of Fairfax County; **Samia Byrd**, Chief Race and Equity Officer for Arlington County; and **Susan Bardenhagen**, Manassas City Council's appointed member of the Equity & Diversity Task Force.

Moderator: **Cyndi Shanahan**

Northern District Co-Reps: Sara Anderson & Sandy Lawrence

Zoom Coordinator: Janine Greenwood

VA AAUW Co-Presidents: Leslie Tourigny & Suzanne Rothwell

The above listed speakers and VA AAUW State Board members were joined by fifty Northern District branch leaders and members, including our branch co-diversity chair, **Marlo**, and our branch friends- artist **Julie D.** and Pink Space Theory and 11.15 AEW's presenter, **Monica N.**

**OUR 2020-2021 DIRECTORIES ARE HEADED TO THE
PRINTER & THEN TO OUR 45 MEMBERS' POSTAL
MAILBOXES!!!**

**PHOTOS ABOUND, BIRTHDAYS INCLUDED!!!
WE HOPE THEY WILL KEEP US CONNECTED.**

HERstory/THEIRstory – Writing Women & the Under-Represented into History

*As Kamala Harris Becomes the **First** Woman, **First** African American, & **First** Indian American to Be Vice-President, Inaugurated by the **first** Latina Supreme Court Justice, Sonia Sotomayor, using the **first** African American Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall's Bible -*

HERE ARE SOME OTHER FAMOUS WOMEN FIRSTS:

- January 3, 1949** – Margaret Chase Smith (R-Maine) starts her tenure in the Senate, where she stays in office until 1973, became the **first** woman to serve in both the House and Senate as she previously served in the House (1940-49)
- January 5, 1925** – Nellie Tayloe Ross is inaugurated as the **first** woman Governor in U.S. history, in Wyoming
- January 7, 1955** – Marian Anderson is the **first** African American woman to sing at the Metropolitan Opera
- January 8, 1977** – Anna Pauline “Pauli” Murray is the **first** African American woman ordained to the Episcopal priesthood, by Bishop William F. Creighton at Washington National Cathedral in Washington D.C.
- January 11, 1935** – Amelia Earhart makes the **first** solo flight from Hawaii to North America
- January 12, 1932** – Hattie Wyatt Caraway (D-Arkansas) is the **first** woman elected to the U.S. Senate, becomes the **first** woman to chair a Senate Committee and the **first** to serve as the Senate’s presiding officer
- January 15, 1908** – Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc. founded at Howard University, **first** intercollegiate historically African American Greek-lettered sorority
- January 25, 1980** – Mary Decker became the **first** woman to run a mile under 4 1/2 minutes, running it at 4:17.55
- January 29, 1926** – Violette Neatly Anderson is the **first** black woman to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court

January Birthdays

- January 2, 1895 (1989)** – Sadie Alexander, **first** black woman to edit the University of Pennsylvania Law Review, helped craft state civil rights act, desegregated Washington National Airport in late 1940s, worked with the Urban League & ACLU
- January 2, 1919 (1979)** – Beatrice Hicks, engineer, worked on design, production and testing of quartz crystal oscillators during World War II, chaired the **First** International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists in New York (1964)
- January 3, 1897 (1979)** – Dorothy Arzner, the **sole** woman film director between 1927 and 1943
- January 4, 1943** – Doris Kearns Goodwin, historian, awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Lincoln; **first** female journalist to enter the Boston Red Sox locker room in 1979. She consulted on and appeared in Ken Burns's 1994 documentary Baseball.
- January 5, 1895 (1981)** – Jeannette Piccard, **first** female Episcopal priest, **first** woman licensed balloon pilot, attained almost 58,000 feet – the record altitude for women until 1963
- January 8, 1867 (1961)** – Emily Greene Balch, economist and sociologist, **co-founder** of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom with Jane Addams and others (1919), awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946, shared with John Mott
- January 9, 1897 (1994)** – Felisa Rincon De Gautier, **first** female appointed Mayor of San Juan in 1946 and re-elected until 1969, created elder-care centers, distributed clothes and food, encouraged women to participate in the economy
- January 9, 1941** – Joan Baez, folk singer & songwriter of Mexican/Scottish heritage; human, civil rights, & peace activist, **founded** the Humanitas International Human Rights Committee; one of **first** to perform Dylan's songs and **first** major artist to perform a concert on Alcatraz Island- a benefit for her sister Mimi's Bread & Roses organization; receiving the Kennedy Center Honors in May 2021
- January 10, 1898 (1979)** – Katharine Blodgett, physicist and inventor, **first** woman research scientist for General Electric’s Schenectady, NY laboratory (1920), **first** woman awarded a Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Cambridge (1926), received eight U.S. patents, most famously for inventing low-reflectance “invisible” glass
- January 11, 1885 (1977)** – Alice Paul, suffrage leader and attorney, **founded** the National Woman’s Party (1916), her innovative nonviolent strategies and political sophistication helped win passage of the 19th Amendment (1920), initiated the campaign for the Equal Rights Amendment (1923)
- January 12, 1820 (1914)** – Caroline Severance, early suffragist and social reformer, women’s clubs pioneer, **co-founded** the American Woman Suffrage Association (1869), **first** woman to register to vote in California (1911)
- January 13, 1850 (1911)** – Charlotte Ray, **first** female African-American lawyer; **first** woman admitted to the bar in D.C.
- January 13, 1917** – Edna Hibel, artist and colorist, **first** woman to win the Leonardo da Vinci World Award of Arts
- January 17, 1922** – Betty White, veteran actress; with a television career spanning over 80 years, White has worked longer in that medium than anyone else in the television industry; regarded as a pioneer of television, she was one of the **first** women to exert control in front of and behind the camera; and is recognized as the **first** woman to produce a sitcom. She is 99 years old!
- January 20, 1872 (1957)** – Julia Morgan, **first** licensed female architect in California, innovative architect of Hearst Castle and over 700 other buildings
- January 24, 1968** – Mary Lou Retton, **first** and only American woman to win a gold medal in the All-Around in gymnastics at the Olympics (1984) and **first** American woman to win a gold medal in gymnastics, **first** woman featured on a Wheaties cereal box
- January 26, 1892 (1926)** – Bessie Coleman, **first** African-American woman in the world to fly a plane and earn an international pilot’s license
- January 27, 1898 (1995)** – Georgia Clark, **first** female U.S. Treasurer (1949-53), appointed by President Truman
- January 27, 1937 (1997)** – Nancy Dickerson, producer of “Face the Nation” (1960), **first** woman on NBC to go on assignment worldwide (1986-91)



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

Programs

- Host 2-4 strategic plan- related programs in FY21. **1- September 12th program on women's history & STEAM**
2- AEW Program 11.15 including testimonials on gender equity (The Sadkers), STEM, and DEI **3-1.23 Finish the Fight & Iconic Women**

Advancement

- *** 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. An alternative elected official is acceptable if circumstances warrant. ?- PWBOCS for equal pay resolution
- 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.

WE ARE A 5-STAR BRANCH for 2019-2020. We're continuing to live up to our status, by striving to re-earn each star's goals for 2020-2021- highlighted.

Moving Forward in 2021

Dates are based on 2019 U.S. Census data on median earnings for full-time, year-round workers. Because they are observances, adjustments may have been made to avoid weekends and holidays. It is expected that next year, the data from 2020 will paint a regression of gains.

2.11.2020 ↓ 2.23.2021 : Asian American Women's Equal Pay Day

(Asian Women v. White Men - \$0.87 (from \$0.90))

3.31.2020 → 3.24.2021: All Women's Equal Pay Day

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

4.9.2020 → : White women's equal pay day

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

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

8.13.2020 → 8.3.2021: Black Women's Equal Pay Day

(Black Women v. White Men - \$0.63)

10.1.2020 → 9.8.2021 !! : Native Women's Equal Pay Day

(Native Women v. White Men - \$0.60)

10.29.2020 → 10.21 : Latinas' Equal Pay Day

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

The trend has been upward and improving from 2018, except in 2019 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.

WE SO HOPE NEXT YEAR'S DATES WILL SHOW GAINS FOR ALL WOMEN.

*VA AAUW State Conference will be held virtually March 13-15.
Stay tuned for more information!*

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, or socioeconomic status.

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

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Sandy Lawrence sandyaauw@juno.com

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