



# **ARLINGTON BRANCH REPORT AAUW OF VIRGINIA**

January, 2018

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## **The AAUW Mission Statement**

*AAUW advances equality for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.*

## **Our Co-Presidents' Message for 2018**

**Happy New Year to everyone!** I think we all have hopes that 2018 will be a year of positive growth in recognizing and ensuring equal rights for all and in finding solutions to a very old issue of women's equality. AAUW is celebrating its 136<sup>th</sup> birthday after being founded in 1881 by two very committed women who gathered the first group to be known as AAUW aimed at providing equal educational opportunities for women. These early pioneers certainly fit the definition of **feminists!**

As I was driving recently, the radio news told me that the 2017 "Word of the Year" had been determined by Merriam-Webster's dictionary to be **FEMINISM**. This is based on the frequency of a word being looked up by individuals during the year. The Women's March in Washington last January and the increased news related to sexual harassment concerns both contributed to the increase in checking the meaning of the word.

The dictionary defines feminism as

1. The theory of the political, economic and social equality of the sexes, and/or
2. Organized activity on behalf of women's rights and interests.

Based on these definitions, I don't think there is any question that being a feminist is absolutely in line with being involved in AAUW activities. What is amazing to me is the word feminism was first in the dictionary in 1895, not

long after AAUW was founded. Did the early members have any inkling that we would still be working towards equality 136 years later? Let's look to 2018 as a year to truly broaden society's understanding of women's equality in the workplace, in education and in all aspects of our "pursuit of happiness". There is much work to be done, goals to be met and minds to be changed!! Find your way to be part of the positive movement forward and, "Let's go, Feminism"!

**Meg and Carol**

## **EVENTS COMING OVER THE HORIZON**

**From our sister Mount Vernon Branch:**



**Mt. Vernon AAUW**

**Presents a Screening of the Documentary**



**Sunday, January 14, 2018, Time 4:30-6:30 PM**

**Heritage Presbyterian Church**

**8503 Fort Hunt Rd, Alexandria, VA 22308**

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.**

**Representatives from the League of Women Voters and OneVirginia2021 will respond to questions afterwards.**

**More Info: AAUW Mt. Vernon 703/780-8494**

**GerryRIGGED: Turning Democracy On Its Head** examines the historical context and consequences of gerrymandering through a multi-partisan lens that includes Republicans, Democrats, Independents, Libertarians and the Tea Party. The documentary explores the impact on communities and individual lives by including testimonials from strategists, political consultants, and map drawers, and by incorporating interviews with the men and women in politics who have the most to win – and perhaps lose – through reform. “Gerrymandering is the enemy of representative government. It deliberately manipulates the system to take away from voters the very choice that should be a hallmark of our system,” says program producer William Oglesby. “We hope with this documentary to help citizens understand that this isn’t the way it has to be; that the voters have a right to choose their representatives rather than the representatives choose them.”

“Inclement Weather Reminder” :We follow the Arlington Public Schools regarding whether to hold meetings or not in cases of inclement weather.

## **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **JANUARY**

- 01 New Year’s Day
- 14 Mount Vernon AAUW invites us to join them in learning more about Gerryrigging. Details above - page 2
- 15 Deadline for the February Newsletter.
- 18 Lunch Bunch meets. - Details pg. 6
- 21 League of Women Voters at Arl. Central Library - Details pg.4
- 22 Arlington Branch Mt. Women’s Club of Arlington - Detail pg. 4
- 23 Lets Talk About Books - Details pg. 5
- 24 Arlington AAUW Board Meeting - all mts. at 7 pm at **Meg’s**

### **FEBRUARY**

- 07 Lobby day in Richmond - Details pg. 4
- 19 Snow date for January 22 meeting pg 4

### **MARCH**

- 17 At 2 pm Arlington AAUW Election with a program - Details later

### **APRIL**

- 16 7 pm. Pay Equity Meeting - Details later

### **MAY**

- 23 Arlington AAUW Board Meeting

### **JULY**

- 25 Arlington AAUW Board Meeting

## **DETAILS FOR ACTIVITIES LISTED ABOVE:**

**Jan. 21, 3:45 p.m.-5 p.m. at Central Library the League of Women Voters will host a program on the roots of the Electoral College with speaker Dr. T. Lindsay Moore who has taught and spoken on this issue at the U.S. Military Academy, Georgetown University and National Defense Intelligence College.**

**Jan. 22,** 7 p.m. at the Woman's Club of Arlington, located at 700 S. Buchanan St., Alice Tangerini will be our guest speaker highlighting her experiences as an illustrator for the Botany Department of Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History. Alice has specialized in drawing plants in pen and ink and graphite since 1972. She has illustrated at least 1,000 species of plants and the illustrations have appeared in scientific periodicals, floras, and botanical and nature books. - More details in the December newsletter.

### **February 7, 2018 -Lobby Day in Richmond! Save the Date!**

**Leslie Tourigny**, the Public Policy Chair for AAUW of Virginia, sent this announcement to Branch PP chairs. We'll be reminding you of Lobby Day in January, and hope to have a group from Arlington attend. Meanwhile, please note Feb. 7 on one of those 2018 calendars you've doubtless gotten in the mail recently!

On [Wednesday, February 7, 2018](#), we will be holding our annual State Lobby Day, and I hope that we will have a large cadre of members participating. Members of the groups involved are working out the agenda for the day, which will come out in early February.

Once again, members from the AAUW Greater Richmond Branch (GRAAUW) will graciously be opening their homes to host any of our members participating in State Lobby Day, [who arrive on February 6, and want to spend the night. Anyone who wants to partake of the GRAAUW hospitality should let Leslie Tourigny know no later than January 25.](#) Also, there are hotel rooms available through a block of rooms reserved by the League of Women Voters of Virginia (LWV-VA) for \$139 plus tax for the night at the Hotel Berkeley, 1200 E. Carey Street, Richmond, VA, 804 225-5149. Mention LWV-VA when you call.

**Feb.19, snow date for the Jan. meeting**

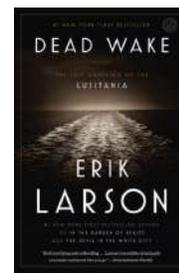
**March 17, 2 p.m.**, election of Arlington AAUW officers and a program on the national AAUW initiative promoting leadership for college women. Location of the meeting TBD.

**April 16, 7 p.m.**, pay equity for women is the topic with a focus on Work Smart and Start Smart, workshops developed by national AAUW to give women the skills needed to negotiate their salaries and benefits. On average women typically make 80 cents compared to a dollar for a man and the gap widens for women of color.

## **MONTHLY BRANCH ACTIVITIES**

### **LET'S TALK ABOUT BOOKS**

Our January meetings will be at the following time and location: The fourth Tuesday, Jan 23, at the home of **Marjorie Hobart** 900 N Taylor St., #925, Arlington, VA 22203, 703-527-4647, marjhobart@aol.com. Our book selection for January is ***Dead Wake*** by Eric Larson.



**Marjorie** has limited space so be sure to let her know if you are planning to attend the session at her home. She will provide information on parking.

**Barbara Gallagher** [bgallag2@gmail.com](mailto:bgallag2@gmail.com) 703/243-1043

### **ARLINGTON INTERNATIONAL COFFEE GROUP**



The International Coffee Group held their traditional Holiday luncheon in December. It was a lovely affair with many wives of foreign diplomats in attendance.

**The group will not meet in January.**

We plan to gather again on February 14 at the home of **Liz Klass** in Arlington.

Members of the Arlington Branch are welcome to join us. For further information please contact **Priscilla Becker** at 703-841-0647 or [JBecker841@aol.com](mailto:JBecker841@aol.com).

## **LUNCH BUNCH**

The next meeting of the Arlington Branch AAUW Lunch Bunch will be on **Thursday, January 18, 2018** from **12:40 to 1:20 p.m.** at the **Arlington Community High School** located **at 800 S. Walter Reed Drive in Arlington**. We will meet in **Room 115**. The school is directly across the driveway from the Columbia Pike Branch Library

During this lunch meeting, the girls will follow up with this year's theme of *A Healthier Me*. The goal will be to understand that emotional, mental, and physical health are connected to doing well in school and at home. At the December Lunch Bunch, the girls and AAUW volunteers learned yoga exercises to practice. See attached photos.

**Thank you** to the following Arlington AAUW Members for volunteering at the December Lunch Bunch: **Betsy Marron, Michele Milden, Susan Nelson, Susan Senn, and Arlene Wilson**. We look forward to having you join this very rewarding activity of the Arlington Branch AAUW. Email us if you would like to join our volunteers.

Lunch Bunch Coordinators,

**Michele Milden** and **Mary Ann Ullrich**

mbmilden@aol.com

maryann.ullrich.va@gmail.com

703-820-7794

703-573-2002

## **Some reflections from December, 2017**

### Volunteers at December

#### Lunch Bunch:

**Arlene Wilson**

**Susan Senn**

**Michel Milden**

**Susan Nelson**

**Betsy Marron**





A YOGA Lesson  
During Lunch Bunch in  
December

### **Holiday Luncheon Event**

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, we had a wonderful Holiday Luncheon at the Arlington Public Schools Career Center. It was catered by a great group of teens enrolled in the Culinary Arts Program there, and they proved themselves to be well-prepared to serve a lovely meal, be responsive to our needs and provide a great experience. We were delighted to have **Emma Violand Sanchez** speak and share the background of the Dream Project. We also heard the extraordinary life stories of two dreamers who are actively working to make a positive difference in the community. The Arlington Branch of AAUW has supported young dreamer women over the years through The Lunch Bunch and through scholarship assistance. Hearing the struggles of these young women and how they have overcome obstacles was inspiring for everyone there!

Submitted by **Meg Tuccillo**

### **A TIMELY SUBJECT OF INTEREST TO US**

#### **Know Your Rights at Work/TITLE VII**

##### **Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination that violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Very generally, sexual harassment describes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Title VII is a federal law that prohibits

discrimination in employment on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, and religion, and it applies to employers with 15 or more employees, including federal, state, and local governments. Even with Title VII's protections, many people across the country still face sexual harassment in their workplaces.

If you are experiencing harassment at work you are likely overwhelmed and afraid. The important thing to remember is that you are not alone and that you do have options when coming forward.

The following resources will help you better identify sexual harassment, advocate for yourself and others, and determine your next steps. As you begin this journey it is important to remember to DOCUMENT EVERYTHING. Nothing is too small or trivial when it comes to calling out harassment in the workplace:

- Your experience with the harasser — time, location, details, and witnesses
- Your experience reporting the harassment — time, location, details, and witnesses
- Your productivity — safeguarding and documenting your productivity at work can be essential during and after reporting

Submitted by **Marcy Leverenz**

The Arlington Branch Report has been published monthly from September through June by the Arlington Branch of the AAUW. Articles for the February, 2018 *Branch Report* should be mailed or emailed by January 15, 2018 to Editor Cece Michelotti at [cecemich@gmail.com](mailto:cecemich@gmail.com)

**NOTIFY ME IF YOU NEED MORE TIME, PLEASE.**

Address changes or corrections should be made to **Elizabeth Dunn.**

[betty.dunn3@verizon.net](mailto:betty.dunn3@verizon.net)

***Our website: [arlington-va.aauw.net](http://arlington-va.aauw.net)***