



WORDS TO THE WISE²

WOMEN IN SEARCH OF EDUCATION AND EQUITY

Volume 28, Issue 5

February, 2024

February Meeting

Worthy Black Women of Winchester

Speaker: Judy Humbert

**Saturday, February 10, 2024
10:00 a.m.**

***T-Bones Bar and Grill
567 North Kent Street***

It is a gift to have our 2023 Woman of the Year, Judy Humbert, present our program for February. Judy's presentation is titled: *Worthy Black Women of Winchester*. The title made me think of a Winchester book by Mike Foreman called *Some Worthy Women of Winchester*. In this collection of mini biographies of 127 women who played prominent roles in the development of Winchester and Frederick County, only 6 black women were included, less than 5%. Judy is going to help us expand the base and the knowledge of worthy women of Winchester which will include some personal stories. I hope you are as eager as am I to attend this presentation by someone I consider a Worthy Woman of Winchester.

After the presentation, there will be a luncheon where the program is taking place. You will have a choice of an entrée: baked chicken or bar-b-que chicken or fried pork chops. The sides will be the same for everyone and will be green beans, mac and cheese, and cornbread. Also included is tea and/or water and cake for dessert. Lunch is only \$20 which includes tip and taxes.

Please invite friends to this exciting program and lunch. By February 5 we need a headcount for lunch so Terry Sloane Carter will know for how many to prepare food. Include your choice of entrée for lunch. Please send that information to me, theresa.merkel@comcast.net or call or text me at 540-664- 1266 by Monday, February 5. And as always, if you need a ride, call Tess, Marsha or Theresa Merkel

Barriers Broken, Barriers that Remain

**Thursday, February 29, 2024
6:00 p.m.**

Handley Library Auditorium

We are proud to present this joint program sponsored by AAUW and NAACP of Winchester, February 29th, 6-8pm at the Handley Library auditorium.

We are very excited to partner with Winchester NAACP on this panel discussion featuring local women sharing their stories of triumph and contemplating the work that remains toward equity. With this event, we celebrate Black History and Women's History months.

Lt. Governor Winsome Earle-Sears will offer a virtual welcome message to kick off the event, while Mady Rodriguez will emcee. Panelists include Brenda Jones, the first black woman to serve as a principal in Clarke County; Libby Tennyson, First Gen student at SU, and two others have been invited.

Woman of the Year Friday March 22, 2024

Godfrey Miller Center
Loudoun Street Mall
Recipient – Shelly Lee
(Details to follow in March newsletter.)



Winchester (VA) Branch

MISSION

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Winchester, Virginia, Branch
<http://winchester-va.aauw.net/>

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Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Zoom 6 p.m.

All members are invited to attend.

President's Message

Pat Kadel



Leap Day

A strange amazing day that comes only once every four years. A day of temporal tune up!

Vera Nazarian

When I was in college, my small circle of friends and I always celebrated birthdays with cake and sharing the cost of a carnation or two and card. During our sophomore year we “went all out” for one friend: dinner at a restaurant, gifts, decorations, balloons, hats, favors, games and more. She was a “Leapling”, born on February 29, and it was her 5th birthday. Most years, she celebrates on February 28 or March 1 but once every four years, she has an actual birthday. Later this month, she will celebrate her 72nd year on earth, but it will only be her 18th birthday.

The extra Leap Day tacked on to February every fourth year is a subtle admission that even something as simple as a calendar can be more complicated than we think. While the modern Gregorian calendar contains 365 days, the actual time it takes for Earth to orbit its star is slightly longer—roughly 365.2421 days. To ensure consistency with the true astronomical year, it is necessary to periodically add in an extra day (and even less often a few minutes) to make up the lost time.

Over the years, I've heard of many different customs or legends associated with Leap Day. Traditionally in Ireland

and Britain, women may propose marriage only in leap years. In Finland, tradition is that if a man refuses a woman's proposal on leap day, he should buy her the fabrics for a skirt. But, in Greece, marriage in a leap year is considered unlucky. Since 1980, the French satirical newspaper titled *La Bougie du Sapeur* (The Sapper's Candle?) is published only on leap year, on 29 February.

But I seldom see any mention that the extra day in a Leap Year might be a blessing; a day to rest and reflect, a day to catch up, a or day to celebrate birthdays. For most of us, it's just another day.

This year, Leap Day gives us an extra day to celebrate two months important to the mission of AAUW.

Our regular Branch Meeting will be on Saturday, February 10, at 10:00 am. To celebrate Black History Month, we will be meeting at T-Bone's Bar and Grill Restaurant, 567 N. Kent Street. After a BRIEF business meeting, our 2023 Woman of the Year Recipient, Judy Humbert, will give a presentation on *Worthy Black Women of Winchester*. This will be followed by a specially prepared (optional) luncheon. Details about the program and making reservations for lunch are in a separate article.

Our Book Group selection for February is **1619 Project**, by Nikole Hannah-Jones (Editor). We will be meeting via Zoom on February 19, at 6:00 p.m.

On Leap Day itself, Thursday, February 29, at 6:00

p.m. in the Handley Library Auditorium, our branch will be celebrating both Black History Month and Woman's History Month with the Winchester Chapter of NAACP. Since the fall, Becki Bronson, Suzan Herskowitz and I have been working with their members on preparing a Forum on **Barriers Broken, Barriers That Remain**. The event includes a welcome from Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears, as well as a panel discussion by four local women leaders, sharing their insight and experiences. This is the first time our two organizations have worked together on a joint activity and our team is very excited. We hope that every member will make a special effort to attend and invite others as well.

In March, we will celebrate Woman's History Month with our annual **Woman or the Year** reception. This year we will be honoring **Shelly Lee** at the Godfrey Miller Center Pavilion on **Friday, March 22**, at 6:00 pm.

These are important and interesting events and we hope that each of you will make an effort to attend. Use that extra LEAP Day to LEAP out of your easy chair and find the time to LEAP to each of these events.

Hope to see you there.



Pat Kadel
Branch President

Barriers Broken. Barriers That Remain

February 29, 2024
 Handley Library Auditorium
 6:00-8:00pm

SPECIAL GUEST: Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears

Remarkable local women share their stories of courage, fortitude and perseverance, claiming their place at the table. But, what barriers remain?

Plan now to join us on Thursday evening, February 29, at 6:00 p.m., at the Handley Library Auditorium, for this collaborative effort between the Winchester Branch of AAUW and the Winchester Area NAACP to celebrate both Black History Month and Women’s History Month. The panel discussion will feature local women sharing their stories of success and considering the work that remains toward equity.

Woman of the Year

Friday March 22, 2024

Godfrey Miller Center
 Loudoun Street Mall

Because of a scheduling conflict, please note that the **date** of our Woman of the Year reception **has been changed to Friday, March 22, 2024**, at 6:00 p.m. at the Godfrey Miller Center on the Loudoun Street Mall. Our Woman of the Year recipient this year is Shelly Lee. Further information about this event will be found in our March newsletter,

Named Gift Honoree

Marsha Gochenour

Suggestions for the 2023 Named Gift Honoree should be sent to Marsha Gochenour by Feb. 10th. For each \$500.00 donation to AAUW National, we are allowed to name a person(s) or organization to honor. Thanks to the generosity of

our members, the Winchester Branch donated \$742.00 in 2023. The Named Gift Honoree certificate is presented at the Woman of the Year reception in March.

Past Honorees are:

- 2022 Mary Froehlich;
- 2021 90th Winchester Branch Anniversary;
- 2020 AAUW@SU;
- 2019 Cheryl Reames;
- 2018 Amy Angelo (Parker);
- 2017 Branch Members, Past and Present;
- 2016 Martha Prusch.

Treasurer’s Report



Marsha Gochenour

As of January 22, 2024:

\$365.14	Checking
64.00	Woman of the Year
14.87	AAUW Funds
1,042.74	NCCWSL, AAUW@SU
0.00	Dr. Amy@SU
4,000.00	CD, 1-year
2,543.27	Froehlich Memorial Scholarship (local)
<u>2,211.27</u>	General Savings
\$10,241.29	Total

Dec-Jan Income:
 Dec-Jan Disbursements: \$50.00
 speaker gifts; \$150.00 WOY
 room rental; \$315.00 Dr. Amy @SU donation.

Membership

Laurie Gaulke

Looking towards this new year and all of the activities we enjoy leads me to think about... Whether it’s wine tastings with friends, museum visits, local concerts, upcoming festivals, do you feel our local branch offers what your friends would enjoy? Do you sometimes feel

shy, unsure of how to invite them to our events and monthly meetings? Would having an easy-to-print-off current brochure to give them help you out? You are in luck!

I am in the process of updating the brochure for the new season, including new events, book club updates etc. The brochure can be found on our AAUW Google docs. I am also working to have it as a file on our Facebook Page. If you would prefer me to email it to you, please reach me at:

laurie.mg96@gmail.com

Please consider bringing a friend to our February 10th branch meeting at T-Bones grill. This event promises to be a wonderful, community-focused program that also includes a delicious lunch.

Also, please welcome a new member, **Julie Ayre**, a transplant AAUW member from South Carolina, where she was an active member. She now lives at Lake Frederick and is looking forward to being part of our, in her words “vibrant and engaging branch”. Please say hello!

CLEO

(Classy Ladies Eating Out)

Marsha Gochenour

Monday, 6 p.m.
 February 26, 2024

Vibrissa Beer

10 North Kent Street
 Winchester, Virginia



Winter weather guidelines: if Winchester city schools are closed, we will cancel, otherwise, we will plan to meet and eat as conditions permit. We try to pick restaurants with plenty of nearby, lighted, flat parking.

Call Marsha (533-8069) if you plan to attend so she will have a head count.

Evening Book Group

Marsha Gochenour

The Book Group will meet February 19, 2024, 6:00 p.m., for a Zoom meeting. The book is **1619 Project** by Nikole Hannah-Jones (Editor). As usual, I will email the Zoom link the morning of the meeting.

Monday

February 19, 2024

Zoom 6:00 p.m.



1619 Project

by Nikole Hannah-Jones (Editor)

“The New York Times Magazine’s award-winning “1619 Project” issue reframed our understanding of American history by placing slavery and its continuing legacy at the center of our national narrative. This new book substantially expands on that work, weaving together eighteen essays that explore the legacy of slavery in present-day America with thirty-six poems and works of fiction that illuminate key moments of oppression, struggle, and resistance. The essays show how the inheritance of 1619 reaches into every part of contemporary American society, from politics, music, diet, traffic, and citizenship to capitalism, religion, and our democracy itself.”

Did You Know?

Sherry Lloyd

Esther Howland was the first manufacturer of Valentine’s cards. She commercialized them and became known as the “Mother of the American Valentine”. Valentines in early America were more comical and could even be insulting.

In England, cards were thoughtful, sweet, and expensive. In the 1870s, she decided to make cards like these, and they sold when her

brother showed samples to potential clients. She set up a miniature assembly line in her family home and with a crew of local girls assembled 3-D cards with gilded lace and wafer paper. People could now visualize the meaning of “I love you”. Her cards ranged in price from five cents to many dollars. In the 1850s she made \$100,000 a year which would be over three million dollars today. These expressions of love continue today due to Esther Howland.

Source: <https://time.com/esther-howland-valentines>

AAUW Adventures

Becki Bronson

Rachel Short to Sing
Wednesday, February 14, 2024

1:00 p.m.

Godfrey Miller Center

Happy new year! We took a little time off, but are back with this Valentine's Day adventure. Theresa Merkel will be the point of contact for this one, so please send her an email (theresa.merkel@comcast.net) if you would like to go.

Come hear Rachel Short sing music from the Great American Songbook.

Love and other topics will leave you spellbound with these amazing Broadway and Jazz Standards from the "Golden Age" of music.

This event is free and open to the public. All are welcome. For more information call 540-667-5869 or email

anna@godfreycenter.org

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Becki Bronson

Planning continues for Barriers Broken, Barriers that Remain, with the exciting addition of Lt. Governor Winsome Earle-Sears delivering our welcome message. She'll be joining us remotely, as the date falls within the General Assembly session, but we are thrilled to have her. The panel will feature local barrier breaking women and will be moderated by our own **Mady Rodriguez**. AAUW is partnering with NAACP of Winchester to sponsor the panel, which will take place February 29, 6-8 pm at the Handley Library auditorium. We also will partner with Shenandoah University through their First Gen Student program, with Libby Tennyson as a panelist. Program coordinator Marshall Edney is going to promote the event through SU's various online outlets, including the SUN-e; First Gen Student mailings, Facebook and Instagram.

Save the Date:

Wednesday,
May 8, 2024,
\$25.00/ticket
Fundraiser at the
Winchester Little
Theatre



Amy Parker Endowed Scholarship

Rosemary Green

This year, the Parker Scholarship (in the amount of \$1,425.96) has been awarded to *Amber Keeling*, a master's student in the Professional Studies Certificate Program in Administration and Supervision (PSC) at Shenandoah University. The students in this program have a master's degree already and are enhancing their degrees with advanced qualifications.

Amber is an Elementary School Reading Specialist for McAuliffe Elementary School in Prince William County VA. She has been a teacher for 22 years, 18 years as a Reading Specialist. In her application essay, she wrote, *"I have taught in both New York State and Virginia. I have loved being a Reading Specialist. One thing that I love about this role is helping both students and teachers. It goes without saying that helping struggling readers and writers to improve their skills and catch up to their peers is very rewarding. I also love to help teachers. As a Reading Specialist, I am a teacher of teachers.... Continuing to grow and learn and help other teachers do the same is where I see my administration degree taking me."*

In her acceptance email, Amber said, *"I am so honored to accept the scholarship! Believe it or not, this is the first financial award (scholarship or aid) that I have ever received. This brings tears to my eyes, I am so happy!"*

The Parker Scholarship is alternated between doctoral and master's level students at Shenandoah University's Division of Education each year; last year the scholarship went to an EdD student. Graduate students in SU's Education

program do not receive any financial assistance; the AAUW Parker Scholarship is the only award offered to them.



AAUW of Virginia State Conference

**Friday, April 12, 2024
Saturday, April 13, 2024**

Hilton Garden Inn Lynchburg, Virginia

Registration is now open for the 2024 Virginia State Conference to be held at the Lynchburg Hilton Garden Inn, April 12-13, 2024. Details about the program and how to register can be found at the AAUW Website: [AAUW Conference of Virginia](#)

The rate for rooms booked under the AAUW-VA block is \$139.00 per night, plus tax, and includes breakfast. Rooms can be reserved by calling the hotel directly at 434-239-3006 or on the Virginia AAUW website. Please use the group code AAW to ensure you receive the block rate. The cut-off date to book rooms at the discounted rate is 03/13/24.

More information about the conference is forthcoming from the state. We hope to send several members from or branch this year and can work out carpooling and/or room sharing if needed.

From National:

Webinar: The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act at 15 and the Future of Pay Equity

What: Lilly Ledbetter and friends from EEOC, National Partnership for Women & Families, and National Women's Law Center discuss what it will take to shape the future of economic justice.

Where: [Click here](#) to watch the webinar.

Faces of AAUW:

Q&A With Lilly Ledbetter

What: Thanks to Lilly's advocacy, President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, which allows people to fight ongoing discrimination regardless of when it began.

Where: Read the interview [here](#).



Lilly Ledbetter signing Grace and Grit At an AAUW Lobby Corps lunch.

Northwest District Meeting Highlights

Tess Thome

We had four of our members attend the Zoom Meeting for the Northwest District on January 6, 2024: **Becky Bronson, Theresa Merkel, Belinda Pugh, and Tess Thome.**

The State representative for our District moves around to the different branches in our District and it is the Winchester Branch's turn to appoint a District Representative from our Branch. The District Representative is a VA State Board position, so attendance at state board meetings and other state board functions would be required should you elect to be the District Representative.

There was a lot of discussion on the increase in National Dues due to the increased cost of doing business. One of the paths of this discussion was about the fact that for some Grants our organization would be denied since it is considered "Non-Inclusive". This is due to the "university" requirement even though there can be an exception to that "requirement". But there was talk of trying to educate the membership better. It was mentioned at one point there has been discussion over the years to change the name to "American Association of United Women".

The main reason this was being discussed was based on the inability to "be awarded" or "even apply" to grants for many of the causes that are part of our mission.

There was discussion about Lobby Day on January 31st and the fact that we have 66 Legislators this year and they were invited to a function the day before Lobby Day for the first time in 4 years.

There are plans in the works to try to get a Central Atlantic Regional meeting together with 9 regions.

A STEM event is being planned for mostly high school students but due to our busy spring schedule we are not going to participate as a branch due to time constraints.

Lynchburg - State Conference - April 13th, 2024 and they are working toward 2025 being in Old Town Alexandria.

CALENDAR

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| February 10 | <i>Famous Black Women of Winchester</i> , 10 a.m., T-Bone Bar and Grill |
| February 19 | Book Group, via Zoom, 6 p.m., 1619 Project |
| February 20 | Deadline for March issue of Words to the WISE² |
| February 21 | Board Meeting via Zoom, 6 p.m. |
| February 26 | CLEO, Vibrissa Beer, 10 North Kent Street, 6 p.m. |
| February 29 | <i>Barriers Broken, Barriers that Remain</i> , Handley Library Auditorium, 6:00 p.m. |

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