



WORDS TO THE WISE²

WOMEN IN SEARCH OF EDUCATION AND EQUITY

Volume 28, Issue 6

March, 2024



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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AAUW Winchester Branch Woman of the Year *Shelly Lee*

Friday March 22, 2024
6:00 p.m.

Godfrey Miller Center
Woltz Pavilion
28 South Loudoun Street
Loudoun Street Mall
Winchester, Virginia

Could AAUW be making better choices for Woman of the Year? It seems not, as last year's Woman of the Year, Judy Humbert, and this year's Woman of the Year, Shelly Lee, are both recognized as Handley 100 Notables. In the article about Shelly Lee when it was announced that Shelly was a Handley Notable, this quote initiated the article:

"A lot of names come to mind when we think of people who have shown enthusiastic support for Handley over the last century. However, one name comes to mind when we think of the people who have always had fun doing it."

Shelly was a teacher in several of the Winchester Schools, has been extensively involved in the Winchester Parks and Recreation Programs and is now a force behind the 2 For 2 Foundation. The 2 for 2 Foundation is attempting to build an indoor ice-skating rink and pool facility in the region which will benefit children of all ages.

Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Zoom 6 p.m.

All members are invited to attend.

Come to the Woman of the Year event to find out how much fun Shelly really has. (See page 5 to witness the joy she has experienced at some of her fundraising events.)

At this reception we will also be recognizing one of our members as the recipient of the Named Gift award for our donation to AAUW Funds at the national level. Notable women will be in abundance at this event. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend. Call Marsha, Theresa or Tess if you need a ride. (See article on page 2 concerning refreshments.)

NOTICE: *Our April and May meetings have been scheduled on the third instead of the second Saturdays when we usually meet. The State conference is on April 13 and in May we have Mother's Day, graduations and other activities.*

AAUW Winchester Branch Annual Business Meeting

Saturday, April 20, 2024
10:00 a.m.

Handley Library Auditorium
100 West Piccadilly Street
Winchester, Virginia

Our Annual Business Meeting will be held in April this year instead of May because of scheduling conflicts. Elections will take place for Treasurer and Vice President for Membership. While not an elected position, we are also in need of a Recording Secretary. Please consider becoming involved in the branch and offer to fill one of these positions. Call Pat Kadel if you are interested.

We will also have a short program at the April meeting that is currently being developed. Stay tuned for further information in the April newsletter

May Meeting

Saturday, May 18, 2024

10:00 a.m.

**Handley Library Auditorium
100 West Piccadilly Street
Winchester, Virginia**

Our May meeting will feature guest speaker Carolyn Thome, artist, author, and photographer. She has led an interesting life and we anticipate an exciting presentation.

Woman of the Year Refreshments

Marsha Gochenour

We have a wonderful reputation for providing delicious refreshments at our Woman of the Year reception. Thanks to those members who signed up at the February meeting, we have lots of goodies coming. We still need people to bring: Cucumber sandwiches, meatballs, cookies, wrapped candy, nuts, 8 oz water bottles (24/pack), napkins, plates and flowers. Please let Marsha Gochenour or Tess Thome know what you can provide. A reminder email will be sent out the week of the event.

President's Message



Pat Kadel

What is March?

When it was time for me to sit down and write a message for March, I could think of was that

we are “marching into March”, which wasn’t much of an inspiration. I then began to think of all the different ways we use the word “march” and how many of them apply to our March activities.

Obviously, March is the third month of the year, considered the first month of spring in the northern hemisphere: *The name references Mars, the Roman god of war.*

Marching often refers to the movement of groups of soldiers, perhaps also in reference to Mars: *Enemy troops marched on the city*

Marching is defined as the regular and organized way to walk, not necessarily in a military operation. Many of us think of “eight to the five” or “six to the five” when told to march: *The band marched onto the field*

A march refers to a piece of music with a strong regular beat that is written to be played while people are marching: *Who doesn't love a good Sousa march?*

A march can be a group of people who are protesting or supporting something: *Demonstrators marched on City Hall to celebrate International Woman's Day.*



To march can mean to walk quickly in a direct and forceful way: *She marched into the office and demanded a raise.*

Marching can cause or force (a person) to walk somewhere: *We marched the children off to bed.*

Marching can mean to continue onward: *Time marches on.*

A march is more than music; it refers to *border region or an area with common borders: The region marches with Canada in the north.* Primarily in England, to march means to get ahead of or win an advantage in an unexpected and clever way: *He stole a march on his competitors by being the first to put the product on the market.*

As we march into March, consider all the different ways we can march together supporting the mission of AAUW, our local community and the activities of our own branch: March Forth to the polls and VOTE on March 5, if not before; honor a special woman you know on March 8, International Women's Day; Enjoy some cookies on March 12, National Girl Scout Day, or a slice of pie on March 14, National Pi Day. Heed the words of Shakespeare's soothsayer and beware of the Ides of March on March 15; wear your green and dance a jig (or march to your favorite march) on March 17; recognize Shelly Lee at our Woman of the Year Reception on March 22 (after letting Marsha Gochenour know what dish you will bring); join the Book Group on March 18, as they continue their discussion of 1619; have dinner with some Classy Ladies on March 25 and don't forget to set your clocks ahead on March 10 (Spring Forward).

*Pat Kadel
Branch President*

Treasurer's Report



Marsha Gochenour

As of February 23, 2024:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| \$329.19 | Checking |
| 0.00 | 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 |
| \$10,141.34 | Total |

February Disbursements: \$20.00
speaker meal; \$79.95 WOY plaque.

Membership

Laurie Gaulke

Our numbers continue to increase! In addition to Julie Sayre who was mentioned in the last newsletter we have added two new members to our branch. Margarita (Margot) DiSalvo lives at Lake Frederick and is a friend of Chris Oxford. She has a degree from Thomas Edison State University in New Jersey. Kimberli Ball has a degree in law. She studied at the College of William and Mary and the University of Virginia. Please join me in welcoming all of these new members!

CLEO

(Classy Ladies Eating Out)

Marsha Gochenour

Monday, 6:00 p.m.
March 25, 2024

Chop Stick Cafe

207 North Kent Street
Winchester, Virginia



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 March 18, 2024, 6:00 p.m., for a Zoom meeting to discuss Part 2 of *The 1619 Project* by Nikole Hannah-Jones (Editor).

We had a great discussion at the February Zoom on *The 1619 Project*, but there was a lot more book to cover. The participants agreed to continue talking at our March meeting. We will push the March book to April. If you didn't finish *The 1619 Project*, or didn't start, you still have time to read and join us. Each chapter has a theme; if you are not that interested in that chapter, skip it and go on to the next one. We will start with Chapter 8 – Citizenship.

As usual, I will email the Zoom link the morning of the meeting.

Monday

March 18, 2024

Zoom 6:00 p.m.



The 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.”

Evening Book Group

Marsha Gochenour

Calling all readers – please submit your suggestions for book club discussions for the rest of 2024 to Marsha Gochenour by March 10th. She will compile the list and send out to members to vote on their favorite books to read. We will choose books at the March 18 meeting, as well as deciding on potluck dinner locations and Zoom meetings.

Did You Know?

Sherry Lloyd

On March 17th we may wear green, purchase shamrocks, plus enjoy Irish foods and parades as we celebrate traditions brought to this country by Irish immigrants.



There are also many women who not only shaped Ireland's history, but who also influenced the world. Some of these famous women include Edith Anne Stoney (1869-1938), Mary Robinson (1944-present), Katie Taylor (1986-present), Sybil Connolly (1921-1998), and Maureen O'Hara (1920-2015).

Edith Anne Stoney was the first woman medical physicist who completed her studies at Newham College Cambridge. She was not awarded a degree because in 1893, Cambridge did not award degrees to women. Fifty years later, they did. Edith was active in the women's suffrage movement. She was the first treasurer of the British Federation of University Women. She also pioneered the use of x-rays in the diagnosis of gas gangrene.

Mary Robinson has been a lawyer, politician, and diplomat. She served as the first female president of Ireland. During her career, she

promoted human rights and founded Realizing Rights. The United States awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Katie Taylor was born in Bray, Ireland. She is a world class boxer and former soccer player. She has won five consecutive gold medals in Women's World Championships and been a super lightweight Champion since 2023.

Sybil Connolly was an Irish fashion designer who dressed Jackie Kennedy, Julie Andrews, and Elizabeth Taylor. She introduced the world to the use of Irish fabrics with her contributions to Harper's Bazaar and Life magazines. These Irish fabrics included linen, lace, tweed, plus lace and crochet. She never married because she preferred to buy her own mink and diamonds.

Perhaps the most famous Irish actress born in Dublin was Maureen O'Hara. Her career spanned 75 years and she starred in over 60 motion pictures. She was known as the Queen of Technicolor because of her fiery characters and flame-red hair. She first appeared as Esmeralda in The Hunchback of Notre Dame. Other motion pictures include Miracle on 34th Street, The Quiet Man, McClintock!, The Parent Trap, Mr. Hobbs Takes A Vacation, and Only The Lonely. She was the first female action star who performed many of her own stunts and sword fighting. In 2005, she was named Irish American of the Year. In 2011, she was inducted into the Irish American Hall of Fame. She also received an Honorary Oscar in 2014.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

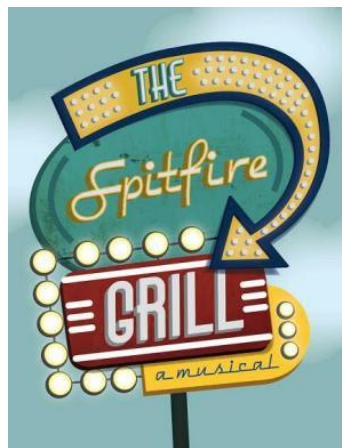
Sources: <https://boxrec.com>>box-pro , <https://www.irishtimes.com>>life-and-style>people>25fearlesswomenwhohelpedshapetoday'sIreland , <https://www.oscars.org>>governors-awards>maureen-o-hara , and sources across the web.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Becki Bronson

Between programming that featured a presentation by Judy Humbert on Worthy Black Women of Winchester to the book group's selections of *The 1619 Project* and *How the Word is Passed*, our branch has centered DEI in our programs and activities in February and March.

Thank you to Tess and Theresa for arranging Judy Humbert's presentation and the book group for selecting both *The 1619 Project* and *How the Word is Passed*. Through these experiences, our branch has begun the work of learning about the African American experience.



Save the Date:

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

International Women's Day March 8, 2024

International Women's Day (IWD) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. Significant activity is witnessed worldwide as groups come together to celebrate women's achievements or rally for women's equality. Marked annually on **March 8th**, IWD is one of the most important days of the year to:

- celebrate women's achievements
- educate and raise awareness for women's equality
- call for positive change advancing women
- lobby for accelerated gender parity
- fundraise for female-focused charities

Everyone, everywhere can play a part in helping forge gender equality. From a wide range of IWD campaigns, events, rallies, lobbying and performances - to festivals, parties, fun runs and celebrations - all IWD activity is valid. That's what makes IWD inclusive.

What's the IWD 2024 campaign theme?

The IWD 2024 campaign theme is **Inspire Inclusion**.

When we inspire others to understand and value women's inclusion, we forge a better world. And when women themselves are inspired to be included, there's a sense of belonging, relevance and empowerment.

Learn more about the IWD 2024 campaign theme [here](#).

AAUW Winchester Branch Woman of the Year

Shelly Lee



Circling back to Shelly always having fun, here are two photos of her. One is for a fundraiser for the 2 For 2 Foundation called a Pot of Gold when Shelly was a leprechaun, and the other was for a fundraiser for the Evans Home when she was Shilly Snowflake. Are you not curious what she will be wearing for the Woman of the Year program?



CALENDAR

- | | |
|----------|--|
| March 8 | International Women's Day |
| March 18 | Book Group, via Zoom, 6 p.m., <i>The 1619 Project</i> , Part 2 |
| March 20 | Deadline for April issue of <i>Words to the WISE²</i> |
| March 22 | <i>Woman of the Year</i> , 6 p.m., Woltz Pavilion, Godfrey Miller Center |
| March 25 | CLEO, Chop Stick Cafe, 207 North Kent Street, 6 p.m. |
| March 27 | Board Meeting via Zoom, 6 p.m. |
| April 13 | Virginia State Conference, Lynchburg |
| April 20 | Annual Branch Business Meeting, 10 a.m., Handley Library Auditorium |



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](#)

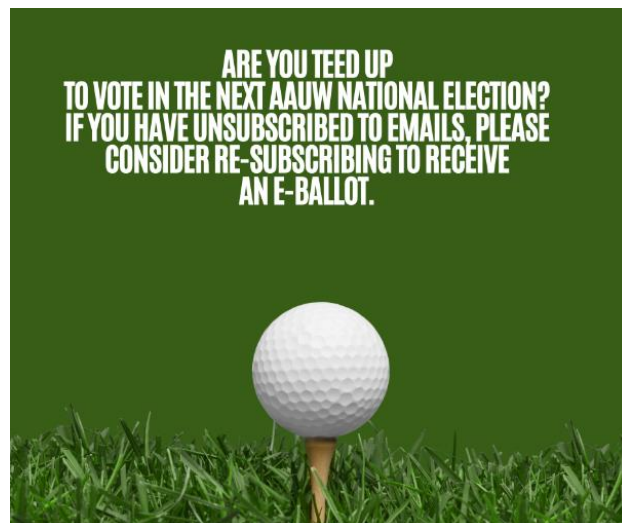
The rate for rooms booked under the AAUW-VA block is \$139.00 per night, plus tax, and includes breakfast. Rooms can be reserved by calling the hotel directly at 434-239-3006 or on the Virginia AAUW website. Please use the group code AAW to ensure you receive the block rate. The cut-off date to book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

Voting on AAUW National bylaws changes will begin in April.

This is a good time for you to be sure you are receiving emails from national. If you have unsubscribed in the past, please consider re-subscribing so you will receive an electronic ballot.

Lane Stone
President, AAUW-Virginia
703.307.2431



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