

WORDS TO THE

$WISE^2$

WOMEN IN SEARCH OF EDUCATION AND EQUITY

Volume 28, Issue 7

April, 2024



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 Annual Business Meeting

Saturday, April 20, 2024 10:00 a.m. Handley Library Auditorium 100 West Piccadilly Street Winchester, Virginia

We welcome everyone in the Winchester Branch of AAUW to join us for our Annual Meeting which has changed from the May meeting to the April meeting. (Note that both months had the date shifted to the 3rd weekend of the month due to conflicts.) We look forward to an exciting meeting. Please plan to attend. We need your votes and input. The meeting will consist of the following:

- 1. Annual branch meeting with elections, recruitment for committees, suggestions for programs for next year, etc.
- 2. Introduction of several of our scholarship winners from the past with a brief update.
- 3. Tour of the Handley Library branch to learn of its history and architecture.

Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 Zoom 6 p.m.

All members are invited to attend. (Contact Marsha Gochenour for Zoom details.)

May Meeting Presenter: Carolyn Thome

Saturday, May 18, 2024 10:00 a.m. Handley Library Auditorium 100 West Piccadilly Street Winchester, Virginia

From 3D to 2D

Journey from

Model Maker to Photographer

Join AAUW in welcoming Carolyn Thome, Photographer, Artist, Model Maker, Mushroom Hunter just to name a few of her interests. She will share her journey that started with a camera at 10 years old, to the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, to the film industry in Los Angeles, to the depths of the behind the scenes in the Smithsonian, to Museums in Mongolia and Africa and all over the world, to 3D printing and bringing to life what many think of as a small bit of the forest easily overlooked to a work of art worthy to be hung in an art gallery and admired. Bring a friend and enjoy the presentation for the last meeting of our program year.

Play Fundraiser

The Spitfire Grill

May 8, 2024 (See page 2 for further details.)

Elections

We will hold an election for the following positions at the April 20 meeting:

Vice President for Membership:

Laurie Gaulke

Treasurer:

Marsha Gochenour

Appointed Positions:

Mary Anne Graham has agreed to become our Northwest District Representative.

We are in need of a *Recording* Secretary

Treasurer's Report Marsha Gochenour

\$ (\$)

As of March 25, 2024:

\$188.49 Checking

25.00 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)

2,211.27 General Savings

\$10.025.64 Total

March Receipts: Dues \$190.00, WOY \$25.00. March Disbursements: Dues \$190.00, Newsletter expense \$140.70

Branch Dues Renewal

Treasurer Marsha Gochenour will send a separate mailing in early May with the dues renewal form and a return envelope. Please pay your dues promptly so that our report can be submitted on time. Total dues are \$95.00. The breakdown is as

follows: National \$72, VA State \$15, Branch \$8. As of January 2024, all National dues are fully tax deductible.

The AAUW website has updated their member portal. An email giving instructions for online payment of dues will be sent by National in May. You will be directed on how to pay with a credit or debit card. Donations to AAUW Funds may be included with this payment. (Sorry – donations to our local scholarships cannot be made online with a credit/debit card.)

Please consider including donations to some or all of the following:

- (1) AAUW Funds donations to National AAUW used for governance, research, advocacy, fellowships, leadership training and NCCWSL scholarships. Our local donations are given as a Named Gift to honor one of our members who is recognized at our Woman of the Year reception.
- (2) NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) – our Branch pays for a Shenandoah University student to attend the conference. Local fundraiser: Winchester Little Theatre play tickets.
- (3) Mary Miller Froehlich Memorial Scholarship –for a Laurel Ridge Community College transfer student to Shenandoah University. In honor of Mary Miller Froehlich, former branch member. Local fundraiser: Winchester Little Theatre play tickets.
- Marsha Gochenour (4) Dr. Amy Lee Parker Endowed Scholarship – for a Shenandoah University student enrolled in Dr. of Education in Administrative Leadership or Professional Studies Certificate Program in Administration. Funded by the Estate of Dr. Amy Lee Parker, former branch member. Donations

- to the corpus earn interest and may increase the dollar amount of the annual scholarship.
- (5) Betty and Edwin Orndoff Scholarship for Performing Arts – for a Shenandoah University student in any of the Performing Arts. In honor of former branch member, Betty Orndoff and her husband, Edwin.
- (6) Woman of the Year Reception event expenses: plaque, flowers, printing, room rental.

Winchester Little Theatre **Play Fundraiser**

The Spitfire Grill

Wednesday May 8, 2024, 8:00 p.m. **Tickets \$25.00**

Our spring theatre event will be a fundraiser for two of our local scholarships: the Mary Miller Froehlich Memorial Scholarship and the NCCWSL scholarship for a Shenandoah University student to attend the conference.

The Board urges each member to be responsible for selling (2) tickets – ask your friends and relatives as this is always a fun evening.

We will serve wine and light refreshments at intermission. A signup sheet will be at the April meeting. See play flyer on page 6 in this newsletter for further details.

Membership

Laurie Gaulke

Collaborations are great! Widening our branch circle includes collaborating with other like-minded groups and people. From our collaboration with the NAACP, I met with Kelsey Lawrence of Red, Wine & Blue for coffee. Their mission is to engage primarily

women in the suburbs and get them active in creating change in their local communities. They are progressive-leaning, and do a lot of community action, from Book Ban Busters, to reproductive freedom, public education, gun violence & voting restrictions.

Here's a link for more info: https://redwine.blue/ This could be a fruitful collaboration. Younger, active, community-minded women might be attracted to our branch.

Abi Gomez, the founder of

Arte Libre in Winchester is another local woman I met. She is a local powerhouse and is involved and this may be an organization to perhaps partner with as well. One of their upcoming projects/partnerships is: Streetscape: Crosswalk Mural Program Arte Libre VA is partnering with the City of Winchester and the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley to bring public art to Piccadilly Street!

Who do YOU know that is active in our community that we can reach out to?

UPCOMING On Thursday, April 4th, from 4:30-6:30pm Chris Oxford and I will have a table at the **Visitor Center Spring Newcomers' Event**. Please share the info with anyone new to the area:

https://visitwinchesterva.com/event/newcomers-welcome-event/

On March 26th I attended a virtual AAUW membership seminar **Getting to Know You -**

"Join us for a special webinar organized by AAUW National's Advancement Committee to share best practices from fellow AAUW Branches, big, small, and virtual, about their member retention and recruitment programs and the resources you can use to help improve your branch's membership."

UPDATED print-from-home branch brochure is available on our branch Google Drive. If you would prefer one emailed to you, please send a request to: laurie.mg96@gmail.com
I plan to update the brochure each quarter or so, with our current events schedule and information. So many activities and opportunities to meet new potential members this season.

Reach out to me - I'm happy to meet with any prospects for coffee or at home to explore how they can benefit from AAUW.

CLEO

(Classy Ladies Eating Out) *Marsha Gochenour*

Monday, 6:00 p.m. April 22, 2024 Taqueria Guadalajara, 1181 Front Royal Pike 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 April 15, 2024, 6:00 p.m., for a potluck dinner at the home of Martha Prusch.

Monday April 15, 2024

Potluck 6:00 p.m. Home of Martha Prusch



How the Word is Passed by Clint Smith, III

In a deeply researched and transporting exploration of the legacy of slavery and its imprint on centuries of American history, How the Word Is Passed illustrates how some of our country's most essential stories are hidden in plain view-whether in places

we might drive by on our way to work, holidays such as Juneteenth, or entire neighborhoods—like downtown Manhattan—on which the brutal history of the trade in enslaved men, women and children has been deeply imprinted. Informed by scholarship and brought alive by the story of people living today, Clint Smith's debut work of nonfiction is a landmark work of reflection and insight that offers a new understanding of the hopeful role that memory and history can play in understanding our country.

Monday, May 20, 2024 Potluck 6:00 p.m. Home of Theresa Merkel

A Long Petal of the Sea by Isabel Allende

A complete list of locations matched with the book summaries will be in the May newsletter. To read ahead here is a list of the books that have been chosen:

- The Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams
- *Indigo Girl* by Natasha Boyd
- *Dinners with Ruth* by Nina Totenberg
- Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See
- Necessary Trouble: Growing Up Mid-Century by Drew Gilpin Faust
- I Swear Politics is Messier Than My Minivan by Katie Porter
- I Know Why the Caged Birds
 Sings by Maya Angelou

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

further opportunities for

Becki Bronson

The *Barriers Broken*, *Barriers that Remain*participants held a review of the forum on March 14 and discussed

collaboration between AAUW and NAACP. The next event would be a Women's Health Forum to be held in conjunction with the Red Cross. Partnering with other established organizations allows greater exposure for our branch in the community and will help us expand our branch's reach. The first planning meeting for our next venture is April 4.

AAUW Adventures <u>Becki Bronson</u>

Theresa Merkel coordinated our Valentine's Day adventure, a concert by Rachel Short, singing from the Great American Songbook.

For our next adventure, we will attend Sarah McCown's dissertation recital, April 20, at 4:00 p.m., in Ruebush Hall, Room 128 on the SU campus. Sarah was the 2022 Orndorff Scholarship recipient and 2022 NCCWSL attendee and now a member of our branch. Hope to see everyone there!

Sad News to Share

Pat Kadel

Attached is a link to the obituary for our long-time member, **Susannah Godlove**, who died on March 4, 2024

Susannah was an active member of our branch from 1987 until poor health limited her abilities. She served as Co-President 1999-2001, and was our Named Honoree in 2004. When she learned that I was a fellow "Mary Washington Girl" she didn't invite, she ordered me to join AAUW. And, of course, I joined.

<u>Susannah Godlove | Obituaries |</u> winchesterstar.com

Fall 2024 Orndoff Scholarship for the Performing Arts

Rosemary Green

The Betty and Edwin Orndoff Scholarship for the Performing Arts is being renewed this year and will be awarded to one or two women graduate students in the Shenandoah Conservatory. At the moment, we have \$1,000 in the scholarship funds and would like to raise a little more. In 2022, the scholarship was awarded to master's student Zoe Mark and doctoral student Sarah (McMichen) McCown. Sarah went on to attend the NCCWSL conference and has recently joined our Branch. If you would like to contribute to the scholarship, please send your check or add a donation on your dues renewal check in May. If you have any questions, please contact Rosemary Green rglibrarian50@gmail.com.

NCCWSL National Conference for College Women Leaders

Rosemary Green

Jamilla Gault, master's student in Educational Leadership, applied for the Parker Scholarship this year, but it was awarded to another applicant. After Sophia Loukopoulos declined the invitation to attend the conference, I reread Jamilla's application materials and offered the opportunity to her. She was delighted. Her essay follows:

Jamilla Gault

Lead Special Education Teacher Shenandoah University Administrative Leadership Program

"After working for more than 17 years as a special education teacher in Prince William County Schools, I've had for more than 10 years the desire to explore educational leadership at the building level. I've been blessed to be able to collaborate with a number of outstanding county principals and assistant principals. I've been encouraged and inspired to take on more leadership responsibilities and work with the incredible leaders that our nearby universities have helped to develop over the years.

I plan to step forward in education as a servant leader, initially as a building assistant principal and then as a principal. I'm committed to setting a positive example for our young people. This is evident across multiple areas of my life where I display leadership qualities and perform in the roles of mentor, mentor leader, facilitator and other. I am the founder of Blessing Bags and Beyond - a non-profit organization serving multiple counties in northern Virginia, am an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. a community-based organization focused on alleviate concerns with women and girls all over the world, am a member of the Interfaith Bridges ministry of Loudoun County, serve as the community engagement leader of my church and the scholarship ministry of my church-Providence Baptist Church in Leesburg, VA. In each capacity, I work directly with children and teens to ensure they are equipped to serve as leaders one day beyond primary school.

As a special education teacher, I am passionate about tiered support systems for our students, classroom management for behavioral intervention and quality instruction for all students. As a leader in my building, I've worked very closely with general education teachers to ensure the students' support and interventions are effective and that student progress is consistently

monitored for improvement purposes. It is important that as we front load students with accommodations and modifications in primary education years, we gradually release the supports to promote more independence and problem solving with our students. It is equally important that our students become strong advocates for their needs and pursuits in education beyond K-12 education. I am and have always been an "all hands on deck" leader and I plan to bring that into any administrative position that I pursue. As the current team leader, it is important to me that all of my teachers feel supported, valued and that they are treated with professional courtesy and respect. I know what it feels like to be seen, heard and valued and I plan to bring those qualities into my role as an administrator. With the assistance of this scholarship and the studies that Shenandoah University provides, I am confident that I will be the leader that our students deserve and need for future endeavors, sustainability and the pursuit of excellence.

Thank you for this opportunity."

Jamilla Gault

Student- Administration
Certification
Shenandoah University

Did You Know?

Sherry Lloyd

Emily Dickinson was born in 1830 in Amherst, Massachusetts to a prosperous family. She became a famous poet who was able to take abstract concepts and write about them with concrete images. She had twelve poems published anonymously during her lifetime and the rest published after her death. She wrote 1.775 poems. She attended Amherst College and Mount Holyoke Female Seminary. At Amherst College, Emily received an education with an emphasis on 19th-century science. This

influenced her poetry. At Mount Holyoke, she was placed in a category "without hope" because of her lack of religious beliefs at that time.

As spring arrives it is time to enjoy some of Emily's thoughts and images regarding growth, rebirth, friendship, and gardening.

I have a Bird in spring Which for myself doth sing-The spring decoys.
And as summer nears-And as the rose appears, Robin is gone.

I have a Bird in Spring by Emily Dickinson

"Hope" is the thing with feathers That perches in the soul And sings the tune without the words And never stops at all. **Hope is the Thing with Feathers** by Emily Dickinson

A Light exists in Spring
Not present on the Year
At any other periodWhen March is scarcely here.
A Light Exists in Spring
by Emily Dickinson

A sepal, petal, and a thorn
Upon a common summer's morn
A flask of Dew-A Bee or twoA Breeze-a caper in the treesAnd I'm a rose!
A Sepal, Petal, and a Thorn by

Emily Dickinson

Emily Dickinson was well-known during her life as a gardener. After her death, she became well-known as a famous female poet.

Sources: sites>expedition">https://poetry foundation.org>poets, Short Poems.org, https://your dailypoem.com.

AAUW Funds Named Gift Honoree For 2024

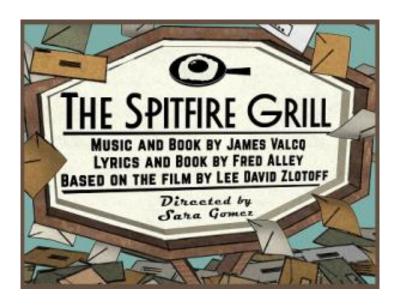
Marsha Gochenour



A long-time, tireless, member of our branch, Marsha Gochenour, has been selected as our AAUW Funds Named Gift Honoree for 2024. (If the branch donates at least \$500.00 to AAUW Funds at the national level, it can be given in someone's name.)

Marsha has been active in our branch in many ways including President and currently as Treasurer. She organizes CLEO gatherings, manages and moderates Book Group choices, arranges for food at events such as Woman of the Year and the play fundraiser at Winchester Little Theatre, and many other tasks too numerous to mention.

A worthy selection, we thank Marsha for all that she does to keep us under control!



A heartwarming and inspirational musical tale of redemption, perseverance and family. Set in a small Wisconsin town and full of soulful, engaging music, it depicts the journey of a young woman looking for a second chance, and the multidimensional townspeople who end up embarking on a journey of their own. Based on the hit 1996 film.

Sponsor:

American Association of University Women, Winchester Branch
Shenandoah University Scholarships
Wednesday, May 8 2024
8:00 p.m. \$25.00 tickets
Winchester Little Theatre, 315 West Boscawen Street
Light Refreshments at Intermission
Contact Marsha Gochenour for reservations

540-533-8069 OR mgochen@yahoo.com

Mail check for tickets or donation to:

AAUW-Winchester Branch, c/o Marsha Gochenour

201 Crest Circle, Winchester, VA 22602

April 13 April 15 April 15 Book Group, *The Way the Word is Passed*, home of Martha Prusch, 6 p.m. April 20 Annual Branch Business Meeting, 10 a.m., Handley Library Auditorium April 20 AAUW Adventure, **Sarah McCown**'s dissertation recital, April 20, 4:00 p.m. April 20 Deadline for May issue of *Words to the WISE*² April 22 CLEO, Taqueria Guadalajara, 1181 Front Royal Pike, 6 p.m. Board Meeting via Zoom, 6 p.m.



Hello friends,

I hope this finds you well. It's almost time to vote in not one but two upcoming AAUW elections.

For AAUW-VA, please take a few moments to review the **Voter Guide** that is attached. This document will help you make informed decisions when voting for open state officer positions and for our Public Policy Priorities. Those ballots will hit your email box in May.

The other election is on the AAUW National Bylaws proposed change. April 3 is when voting begins on that. As members of AAUW, your input is important and valued, and we urge you to participate in this important process.

Thank you for all you do,

Lane Stone, AAUW-VA President Dr. Sarita Gregory, AAUW-VA Administrator

CLICK HERE

To open your copy of AAUW-VA Vision Special Edition 2024 Voter Guide

Get Ready! National Election Opens April 3

Check your email when National Election voting opens on Wednesday, April 3! AAUW will again this year use a third-party vendor to administer voting. You'll receive an electronic ballot with your unique voting credential from vote@simplyvoting.com. Please add this address to your safe sender list now to ensure your ballot reaches you. Members without an email address on file will receive a paper ballot.

Voting closes Monday, May 15, at 12 p.m.

AAUW National Elections 2024

What: Your vote counts! This spring AAUW members will be asked to vote on an amendment to the national bylaws recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee that would open membership to any individual who supports AAUW's important mission of advancing equity for women and girls. **When:** Bylaw voting opens April 3. Online voting is encouraged! Voting closes May 15, after which results will be announced online.

Additional Resources: You can review the proposed bylaw changes <u>here</u>. The open membership toolkit can also be reviewed <u>here</u>. Please read our statement on civility and inclusivity <u>on the website here</u>.

Open Membership Vote and Member Civility

As we prepare for the next open membership vote this spring there are several resources on the AAUW website that can help in your branch or state discussions. The <u>open membership toolkit</u> includes a PowerPoint and talking points on eliminating the degree requirement for membership and the newly added <u>civility and member responsibilities</u> <u>information</u> could be useful to highlight in your branch and state newsletters.

WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2024

Another successful Woman of the Year and another Handley 100 Notable included on our honoree list.

How many women do you know who:

- Taught in the Winchester public schools for 45 years;
- Started 7th & 8th grade girls' basketball and track teams which she then coached for 25 years;
- Helped to start and coach the first swim team at Handley in 1997. Shelly also coached Handley girls' cross country from 1997-1999 and was the assistant coach for girls' distance runners in track;
- Officiates Little League Basketball and Middle School Volleyball;
- Has been involved with the Youth Development Center where she has worked with skiing programs, the Gymnastics Club and Gym Shows;
- Helps supervise some Handley Interact Club students who volunteer at different events;
- Is a Handley Hall of Fame Committee member;
- Is the Winchester Park Foundation President and volunteer for Special Park Events;
- Has served on the First Night Winchester Board;
- Is Co-Chair of the Apple Blossom Breakfast Walk with Frances Lowe which is coming soon;
- Is a Volunteer Stroke and Turn Judge for High School Swim Meets.

Of course, it is our 2024 Woman of the Year, **Shelly Lee** who enjoys volunteering and participating in many fundraisers that benefit our community non-profit service organizations, especially the ones that help kids.

Currently Shelly's passion is the 2 For 2 Foundation for which she is the Event Coordinator. This organization supports water and ice sports programs throughout the Northern Shenandoah Valley and is raising funds to build 2 pools and 2 ice rinks for our community. The ice-skating rink will have its own Zamboni and is of regulation size. The pool will be Olympic size. Both will be available for all to use when they become a reality.

Several impressions of Shelly were shared to me.

One of our own, **Rosemary Green** said, "I know Shelly through years of dancing and laughing with her in Jazzercise. I admire her so much for her tireless efforts to make swimming accessible to all children, regardless of their economic situations."

Former Mayor Liz Minor said, "Shelly loves all of Winchester more than anyone I know."

Shelly recently described being able to know and to follow students from elementary school to Handley as "a true joy." It was a true joy for AAUW to have her as our 2024 Woman of the Year!

Thank you to all of you for your contributions and of course, your wonderful offering of munchies afterwards.

Happy Spring to all of you,

Theresa Merkel



Front Row: Mary Ruos, Shelly Lee, Theresa Merkel, Amy Fielder, Martha Prusch Back Row: Marsha Gochenour, Ann Poling, Pat Rice, Laurie Gaulke, Becky Ebert, Pat Kadel, Jane Parrish

Woman of the Year 2024



Theresa Merkel presents plaque to Shelly Lee, Woman of the Year 2024





Marsha Gochenour, AAUW Funds Named Gift Honoree, Pat Kadel, President of Winchester Branch of AAUW



Elizabeth Pendleton, Woman of the Year 2022; Shelly Lee, Woman of the Year 2024; Theresa Merkel, AAUW Coordinator; Rebecca Ebert, Woman of the Year 2017



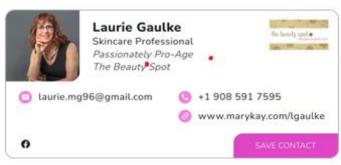
Shelly Lee with good friend Patsy Gochenour



Mary Ruos, Marsha Gochenour, Ann Poling, Pat Rice, Laurie Gaulke, Becky Ebert, Theresa Merkel, Pat Kadel, Amy Fielder, Jane Parrish, Martha Prusch, Catharine Prusch

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