****

**FOCUS**

Volume 48, No. 2

January − February 2022

**“You Need a Schoolhouse, the Remarkable Story of Julius Rosenwald”**

*In Honor of Black History Month*

Saturday, February 12, 2022, 10 a.m. to Noon

Zoom Meeting: Documentary Viewing and Discussion with Author



Julius Rosenwald was a successful business man who headed Sears Roebuck & Co during its early years. He was also a philanthropist and worked in collaboration with Booker T. Washington to build over 5,000 schools for African-American children during the 1920’s and 30’s. Our virtual program will feature the film Rosenwald, the Remarkable Story of a Jewish Partnership with African American Communities, a 90-

minute documentary written and directed by Aviva Kemper.

Following the film, Stephanie Deutsch, author of You Need a Schoolhouse: Booker T. Washington, Julius Rosenwald and the Building of Schools for the Segregated South, will discuss and answer questions about Rosenwald, her book and the film. Stephanie Deutsch’s husband is the great-grandson of Julius Rosenwald.

This fascinating program is presented by the AAUW McLean Area Branch with the Fairfax City Branch as co-sponsor. Look for the Zoom link about a day before the program. It will be forwarded to Fairfax City Branch members and supporters by Dianne Blais or Dottie Joslin. Please add this program to your calendar.

*Editor’s comment:*

My husband and I (Dottie) viewed this moving documentary about Julius Rosenwald’s compassionate schoolhouse philanthropy a few years ago. Recently, I learned there was a Fairfax Rosenwald School, built on School Street, near where GMU stands now. Information and a photo of the school are at <https://silverbox.gmu.edu/legacy/s/blnd/page/origins-of-rosenwald>

When we moved to Fairfax in 1971, there was a thriving African American community around School Street. Since then, the area has been gentrified.

If you have questions, please contact Dottie Joslin, j.joslin3@verizon.net.



**AAUW of Virginia Public Policy**

Here is a summary of the Public Policy priorities and information emailed to members by Susan Burk and Denise Murden, Co-VPs for Public Policy, AAUW-VA. We thank them for working hard on our behalf. Information they email helps us focus our lobbying during the General Assembly, which is meeting from January 12 to March 12.

Please see the January 24 Public Policy email Dianne Blais forwarded: “Fwd: AAUW-VA Calls to Action (Fact Sheets).” Fact sheets on three of our legislative priorities are attached to the email.

**AAUW-VA 2022 Legislative Priorities**

1. Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML)

2. Paid Sick Days

3. Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

4. Holding the Line on Voter Access, including a constitutional amendment (SB21) to address the voting rights of “returning citizens.” Passage of this bill for a second time is required to permit it to move to the voters, who must approve any Amendment to the Virginia Constitution.

5. Public Education/Vouchers. AAUW has positions to guide our lobbying efforts, including this statement on vouchers: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/position-vouchers/>.

6. Childcare

**Opportunities to Lobby and Engage.**

Our lobbying on behalf of AAUW-VA will be virtual again this year. In addition to issues papers, we will provide information on how best to engage your legislators. AAUW has a toolkit for meeting and communicating with your legislators: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/advocacy-toolkit/meeting-elected-officials/>. Denise has developed and will circulate an online contact form (<https://forms.gle/TD28SPqHNo3JZGLZA>) that members can use to report on their contacts. Please use it throughout the session.

**Fair, Non-partisan redistricting.** Thanks to the efforts of two Special Masters, and with the approval of the VA Supreme Court, Virginia’s state and national legislative districts have been redrawn and renumbered. You can find your district and other information explaining the changes at this link: <https://www.vpap.org/redistricting/>.

**AAUW-VA’s DEI presentation: *Creating Inclusive Spaces*.**

AAUW-VA presented a thoughtful virtual panel discussion ably moderated by our state Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) chair, Cindi Shanahan, on Saturday, January 22. The esteemed panelists were Krysta Jones, Somya Dwivedi-Burks, Ph.D., and Jonathan Zur. It’s well worth watching the recording.

The question that the panelists were responding to at the beginning was:

Do you agree with the AAUW definitions for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging?  Can you expand on them to provide more context?

Some perspectives shared during the program include:

What is the difference between equality and equity?

Equality: everyone is provided with the same thing. (“One size fits all.”) Equity: everyone is provided with what they need, depending on context and differences, to accomplish an equivalent result.

What is the difference between diversity and inclusion?

Diversity is variety; for example, diverse people sit at a table.

Inclusion is leveling the power differential, so that all voices are heard, individuals are accepted and embraced, and input from diverse people is included when decisions and policy are made. “Nothing about us without us.” (Disability rights slogan.)

How can personal behavior reflect inclusivity? Be self-reflective and empathetic. When one hears a disagreement, listen and respond with wonder rather than rushing to judgement. How is it that this person has a different viewpoint from mine? Know when to speak up and when to listen. Be open to feedback. Be kind.

Rethink policies: Who benefits (who was the policy designed for), and whose voices are missing?

Recognize when we are privileged: In addition to race, gender, and economic status, consider education, lack of disability, broadband access, and other factors.

Comfort is not a goal of DEI action. Acting on DEI forces us to change, which is uncomfortable.

Recommended books:

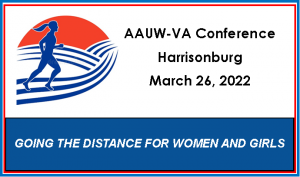
*Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men,* by Caroline Criado Perez

*Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?* by Beverly Daniel Tatum

*The Leader's Guide to Unconscious Bias: How To Reframe Bias, Cultivate Connection, and Create High-Performing Teams,* by Pamela Fuller

Here is the link to the recording:  <https://youtu.be/lHYFDV2XYRc>

By Dottie Joslin



**2022 AAUW of Virginia Conference and Business Meeting**

**Part 1– Saturday, March 26, 2022, IN-PERSON**

Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, Harrisonburg, VA

Because AAUW-VA operating costs were lower due to the pandemic, the state board is offering a low conference registration fee, which includes morning beverages and lunch. The registration deadline is March 11. There will be morning and afternoon sessions and afternoon district meetings.

AAUW of Virginia Members: Registration fee is $25.00 until March 4 ($30 from March 5-11)

See the state website for details and to register. The Conference page is at

<https://aauw-va.aauw.net/conference-2/> Or, see the January 26 email from AAUW-VA.

**Part 2- Saturday, April 30, 2022, VIRTUAL Annual Business Meeting.**

Details and Zoom link will arrive via email.****

|  |
| --- |
| **AAUW National Election, Bylaws Proposals and Comment Period**  Did you know that, as an AAUW member, you have the right to comment on any proposed changes to our organization's bylaws before they are put up for a member vote? As we prepare for AAUW's national election in the spring, now is the time to share your thoughts! **The comment period is open, and we invite members to weigh in through *February 2*, 2022, at 5 p.m. ET.**  The changes recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee this year would streamline two important organizational functions: nominations for the board and timing for those eligible to vote in AAUW elections.  To learn more about the proposed changes and submit your feedback, please visit the [election page on the AAUW website](https://click.everyaction.com/k/40797701/325998156/-1079078354?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwNS8xLzc2OTU1IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjMwN2FmZWFmLTc3NzgtZWMxMS05NGY2LWM4OTY2NTBkNDQ0MiIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAiai5qb3NsaW4zQHZlcml6b24ubmV0Ig0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=R_0hMBWaptykdeMiElVuSC17hXtGPEDnpKo0hcWiv-Q=&emci=c749bd44-b374-ec11-94f6-c896650d4442&emdi=307afeaf-7778-ec11-94f6-c896650d4442&ceid=913355). |

**Night Owls is Thriving!**

**Night Owls 2021-22 Schedule**

Our Night Owls Evening Book Group meets on the second Tuesday of the month via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.  We welcome new participants for any or all of our discussions.

Our next meeting will be on **February 8** for a discussion of *Stoner*by John Williams, led by Jan Humphrey. Please contact Paulette Miller, psmiller10847 at verizon.net or 703-250-0876, to receive the link for each meeting.

**Month                    Book**

February 8, 2022 – ***Stoner***by John Williams

March 8, 2022 – ***The Overdue Life of Amy Byler*** by Kelly Harms

April 12, 2022 – ***When All is Said*** by Anne Griffin

May 10, 2022– ***Counting by 7’s*** by Holly Goldberg Sloan

******June 14, 2022 - Planning



**A Sad Farewell to a Dear Friend**

David Humphrey, Jan's husband of 54 years, died on December 20.  All of us who were fortunate enough to know David will miss him for his kind, sensitive ways, which made you feel so comfortable around him. Our social events, such as the pool volleyball games, brought out his sense of humor and, of course, his good sportsmanship.  We will have many happy memories of David.

Our condolences go out to Jan and her family of two married sons and four grandchildren.

Olga Burns

[DAVID HUMPHREY Obituary (2022) - Alexandria, DC - The Washington Post (legacy.com)](https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/washingtonpost/name/david-humphrey-obituary?id=32196953)



**Calendar**

**January 12 to March 12.** VirginiaGeneral Assembly meets. Lobby for AAUW policy priorities!

**January 12 through March 9, Wednesdays ,** 8:30 a.m. Women’s Legislative Roundtables

[Women's Legislative Roundtables In Person With Virtual Option Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/womens-legislative-roundtables-in-person-with-virtual-option-tickets-215579934387)

**January 27, Thursday, 4 p.m. Creating Allyship. 2022 AAUW Webinar Series on Inclusion and Equity.** See email of 1/21/2022 from “Shannon Wolfe, AAUW” to register.

**January 29,** Saturday, 10 a.m., NW District meeting.  Darlene Baugh will talk about the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). Zoom Meeting ID: 831 0450 2148, Passcode: 798732

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83104502148?pwd=Nm1Xc3FEQ2JtUU0xVzlpcEdIZzYwUT09>

**February 2**, Wednesday, 5 p.m. Comment period closes for AAUW proposed bylaws amendments.

**February 8,** Tuesday,7 p.m**.** Night Owls. Zoom.

**February 12,** Saturday**, 10 a.m. – Noon**. **“You Need a Schoolhouse, the Remarkable Story of Julius Rosenwald.”** *Fairfax City Branch meeting on Zoom*, co-sponsored with McLean Area Branch

**February 26,** Saturday**,** 10-11:30 a.m. Workshop on Regional Storm Water Management and Climate Change, LWV of the National Capital Area. Zoom. *Register on Eventbrite*:[***Climate Change Workshop***](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001X0ogTqdKfz8yR2sXlGG-jVg2zacS3V29s2HorJTrF4EG8KzpVI3fpzyZBE43QvqTb5Wqd8uw-7Az_amHUOHC_aKtrl16x4LSJ7rB-FQm13-670iohvAreGRUQlQIIxiVNDsBeEIQR0lOy0UZlGLegskEvOcs1WyP2n9wRWkmKrh7cENet_jd10ChMa6jfFJrzZB7f3JP_DHl0QAmloUoqWFI6Kh3dooS2nU_vIMU5ig=&c=JRTeKZHc363QdtKKLyY1knAoHRQVeiGGpab0zj1eSWD5YR9nbgV4bA==&ch=p3LvK6XFMj3uYY3tZAtcGzXYLUqFNvN-NMOffvhHR2sXT6rU_RTHSg==) *Flyer for Workshop****:***[***Workshop Flyer***](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001X0ogTqdKfz8yR2sXlGG-jVg2zacS3V29s2HorJTrF4EG8KzpVI3fpzyZBE43QvqT84iR_VGdeYRVPyvGF_-f63oNFSOUhx5VTAGN4ZtrJpUrMt5tVhGQb3kfCoildOKODOaXvvhM31tWB_gpr0ocxq7XgpuvKfpgVphezlhE5BiSn4pFue-MxLwUaXIyimskR2jud5uV11VvajAFJ-9_SwAd-iQSH4u778qh7pGN8Lw=&c=JRTeKZHc363QdtKKLyY1knAoHRQVeiGGpab0zj1eSWD5YR9nbgV4bA==&ch=p3LvK6XFMj3uYY3tZAtcGzXYLUqFNvN-NMOffvhHR2sXT6rU_RTHSg==)

**March 11, Friday, Deadline to register for the AAUW-VA Conference**

**March 24, Thursday, 7 p.m. Intersectionality Identified. AAUW Webinar Series on Inclusion and Equity.**

**March 26,** Saturday, **AAUW-VA Conference, Harrisonburg**

**April 30,** Saturday,AAUW-VA Annual Business Meeting, Zoom

****

**The AAUW Mission Statement**

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

**Fairfax City Branch Website:** http://fairfaxcity-va.aauw.net/

**Officers:**

President: Dianne Blais

Dianneblais at aol.com

Secretary: Anita Light

[anita.light95 at gmail.com](mailto:anita.light95@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Dottie Joslin

[j.joslin3 at verizon.net](mailto:j.joslin3@verizon.net)

AAUW Funds and Scholarship:

Paulette Miller

[psmiller10847 at verizon.net](mailto:psmiller10847@verizon.net)

Newsletter Editor:

Dottie Joslin

[j.joslin3 at verizon.net](mailto:j.joslin3@verizon.net)

Communications and Website:

Padmini Chilappagari

[padmini89 at gmail.com](mailto:padmini89@gmail.com)

**Interest Group Chair:**

Night Owls: Paulette Miller

[psmiller10847 at verizon.net](mailto:psmiller10847@verizon.net)

Note: For security, the @ in email addresses was replaced with “at.” To contact the members, reconstruct a usable address.

