

# THE WOMAN'S CLUB VOICE

WINTER/SPRING 2023-2024 • TWCRICHMOND.ORG



L to R: Chair of the Day Jane Hamilton and Ari Shapiro; Alex Hitz with Chair of the Day Janie Moyers and Betty Crutcher; Roz Pulliam and Elisabeth Griffith; and Pat Hackler with David Baldacci and Chair of the Day Sandy Treadway.

## THE WOMAN'S CLUB FALL PROGRAMS IMPRESS AND ILLUMINATE

This season's [Monday programs](#) have been a resounding success, bringing a memorable blend of style and substance to packed houses. From NPR's **Ari Shapiro**, who set the stage for a stellar lineup, to **Alex Hitz**, who set the table for a banquet of entertaining advice, members have been treated to the very best of gracious and thoughtful insights. The Program Committee, under the leadership of **Janet Nelson** and **Margaret Ivey**, has ensured that our audience of lifelong learners has had a weekly dose of diverse perspectives and stimulating information.

Journalist **Robin Wright** nimbly stepped in on October 16 for colleague **Martha Raddatz**, who was dispatched to the Mideast to cover the Israeli-Gaza war. Wright, a seasoned international correspondent, shared a clear and illuminating history of the conflict. Her sober and thoughtful viewpoint, honed by years of experience, helped the audience grapple with the complexities of a frightening world situation.

Three female Navy Top Gun pilots were the highlight of our October 9 program. They have balanced the incredible challenge of unusually demanding careers with being wives and mothers. And they remain committed to serving their country. They said, "there are a rainbow of people in the Navy. It is a great place to grow up and work. Come. Be with us. Join the jet community. It's been a wonderful ride." It was nothing short of an inspirational program.

Historian **Elisabeth Griffith** issued a clear call-to-action in her Nov. 6 talk: "I hope you will embrace American history as a way of using fact-based evidence to safeguard democracy." Griffith discussed her riveting 2022 book, "Formidable: American Women and the Fight for Equality, 1920 to 2020," which chronicles the century between the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment and the last presidential election. While women have made progress, much work remains.

*Continued on page 2.*

### THE WOMAN'S CLUB MISSION:

The Woman's Club, based in the heart of Richmond, Virginia, educates, inspires, and engages today's women by offering exposure to new ideas and new people.



### BOLLING HAXALL HOUSE FOUNDATION MISSION:

The Bolling Haxall House Foundation is dedicated to preserving the Bolling Haxall House, a Virginia Historic Landmark, as a community resource and as the home of The Woman's Club.

THE  
WOMAN'S CLUB  
AT THE BOLLING HAXALL HOUSE

# THE WOMAN'S CLUB

211 East Franklin Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

(804) 643-2847

HOURS: Weekdays  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**TWCRICHMOND.ORG**



Use your camera app to focus on the code on the left. You will be prompted to open the TWC website.



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE WOMAN'S CLUB PRESIDENT

Thirty years ago, **Sandra Treadway** – longtime member and recently retired Librarian of Virginia – wrote our club's history: *Women of Mark*. Today, an update could easily be "Remarkable Women." The spirit of the handful of women who gathered some 130 years ago seeking "the delightful friction of well-trained minds" is alive and well today among our more than 1,200 members. The Program and Special Events committees see to that. The Library Committee, chaired by **Barbara Gibson**, entices us to continue learning with a thoughtful selection of books each week. Membership, led by **Kim Ruscio** and **Betty Walker**, seeks out new members with a thirst for knowledge. Hospitality, organized by **Caroline Lockerby**, encourages us to discuss ideas following the Monday speaker. And Scholarship, headed by **Barbara Glenn**, ensures we reach out and enable other women to share the love of learning.

The new year promises to continue this stellar trajectory. In 1900, **Mary Munford** and her fellow club organizers faced the challenge of buying the Bolling Haxall House, at a time when banks were reluctant to lend money to women. But they persevered. Today, we look forward to keeping our heritage home beautiful, safe, and up to date. We will embark on a campaign to renovate the auditorium and improve infrastructure ... a campaign led, like their predecessors, by talented and committed women.

It is a great time to be part of an organization that fosters learning, especially in such welcoming surroundings.

With thanks to all the remarkable women of The Woman's Club,

**Marjorie Grier**  
*President, The Woman's Club*



L to R: Woman's Club President Marjorie Grier, Program Chair Jan Nelson, Bolling Haxall House Foundation Chair Sue Taylor, Executive Director Leighann Scott Boland, and Special Events Chair Roz Pulliam.



*Continued from front page.*

The Woman's Club of Richmond was part of the historical woman's club movement of the late 19th century, bringing members together in intellectual discourse at a time when they held few, if any, rights. Members of The Woman's Club are "just the kind of women whose company I enjoy – respectfully provocative," said Griffith.

Award-winning journalist and author **Libby Copeland** spoke about her book, "The Lost Family: How DNA Testing is Upending Who We Are." In her fascinating talk, she explored the rapidly evolving phenomenon of home DNA testing and its implications for how we think about family and identity. Blending her scientific knowledge with elements of a detective story, Copeland explained the rewards and perils, the pros and cons of searching for family lineage through today's popular home testing websites. The author traced the history of several families who

spit into a vial, found shocking results, and then were forced to wrestle with the huge questions: Who are we? What is family? Are we defined by nature, nurture, or both?

The charming, funny, and self-deprecating **David Baldacci** was the final speaker for the Fall programs. He told of growing up in a working-class family in Richmond and how he traveled the world through books. His love of reading inspired him to establish with his wife the "Wish You Well" foundation to encourage literacy and a passion for reading. "If all of us read more, we would have a better world," Baldacci asserted. "Social ills would plummet... Reading allows us to realize our potential ... put food on the table and live in safety."

To watch any of the Monday Programs, go to the Members section of the website at [TWCRichmond.org](http://TWCRichmond.org).



# A LOOK BACK AT SOME OF OUR FUN FALL EVENTS

INTERMEDIATE MEMBER RECEPTION



DESIGNER HOUSE TOUR



HOLIDAY RECEPTION



MIXOLOGY DEMONSTRATION





# 2024 PROGRAMS & EVENTS



Rich Conti



Allison Gilbert



Caroline Gidiere



Tracey Gendron



Sylvia Buffington-Lester



William Pomeranz

## JANUARY 2024

MONDAY JAN. 8	<b>MEMBER LUNCHEON AT THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB (MEMBERS ONLY)</b> 12 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. ✨ \$45/Members
WEDNESDAY JAN. 10	<b>WRAPPING OUR SENIORS UP WITH LOVE: HOW CAREGIVERS, BANKERS, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT CAN PREVENT ELDER FINANCIAL ABUSE</b> 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. ✨ Free/Members and Nonmembers
WEDNESDAY JAN. 17	<b>FIELD TRIP: CHRYSLER MUSEUM AND THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF NORFOLK</b> 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. ✨ \$110/Members, \$120/Nonmembers
MONDAY JAN. 22	<b>UFO: THE INSIDE STORY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S SEARCH FOR ALIEN LIFE HERE - AND OUT THERE</b> 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
WEDNESDAY JAN. 24	<b>LET'S TALK POLITICS AND LUNCH</b> 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. ✨ \$40/Members; \$45/Nonmembers
MONDAY JAN. 29	<b>DISQUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT</b> 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
WEDNESDAY JAN. 31	<b>"GETTING TO KNOW YOU" GAME PLAY</b> 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. ✨ \$25/Members; \$35/Nonmembers

## FEBRUARY 2024

MONDAY FEB. 5	<b>ART CONSERVATION AT VMFA: PAINTINGS, OBJECTS, PAPER, AND PHOTOGRAPHS</b> 2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
THURSDAY FEB. 8	<b>NEW AND NEWER MEMBER ORIENTATION AND MIX &amp; MINGLE</b> 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
MONDAY FEB. 12	<b>BECOME A MEMBER LUNCHEON</b> 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. ✨ \$30/Member and 1 Nonmember Guest, \$15/Each Additional Nonmember Guest
MONDAY FEB. 12	<b>FASCINATING FINGERPRINT FACTS IN FORENSICS</b> 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
WEDNESDAY FEB. 14	<b>EASY PEASY SCONES AND BISCOTTI CLASS</b> 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. ✨ \$95/Members, \$105/Nonmembers
MONDAY FEB. 19	<b>AGING UNBOUND</b> 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
MONDAY FEB. 26	<b>ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING</b> 2 p.m.
MONDAY FEB. 26	<b>ELSIE EMBRACES RESILIENCE TO RISE ABOVE GRIEF AND ADVERSITY, TO THRIVE, AND TO BE HAPPY AGAIN</b> 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
WEDNESDAY FEB. 28	<b>THE AGE OF INNOCENCE: HEARTBREAK, DRAMA, AND SCANDAL IN THE GILDED AGE</b> 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. ✨ \$30/Members, \$40/Nonmembers

## MARCH 2024

EVERY WEDNESDAY IN MARCH	<b>WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS: YOGA AT THE WOMAN'S CLUB (MEMBERS ONLY)</b> 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. ✨ \$10/Member
MONDAY MAR. 4	<b>FIRST LADIES: INFLUENCE AND IMAGE</b> 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
MONDAY MAR. 11	<b>FLASHPOINTS IN US-CHINA RELATIONS</b> 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
MONDAY MAR. 18	<b>CHANGING PERSPECTIVES IN SCIENCE</b> 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
MONDAY MAR. 25	<b>MIDDLETON PLACE: AN AGELESS LOVE AFFAIR</b> 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
THURSDAY MAR. 28	<b>JULIA CHILD: A RECIPE FOR LIFE-EXHIBITION AT THE VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND CULTURE</b> 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. ✨ \$60/Members, \$65/Nonmembers

## APRIL 2024

WEDNESDAY APR. 3	<b>CARYTOWN DESSERT TOUR</b> 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. ✨ \$55/Members, \$65/Nonmembers
MONDAY APR. 8	<b>BECOME A MEMBER LUNCHEON</b> 12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. ✨ \$30/Member and 1 Nonmember Guest, \$15/Each Additional Nonmember Guest
MONDAY APR. 8	<b>ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY</b> 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
WEDNESDAY APR. 10	<b>BOOK DISCUSSION: "THE LITTLE LIAR: A NOVEL" BY MITCH ALBOM</b> 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m. ✨ Free/Members and Nonmembers
MONDAY APR. 15	<b>A CURATED LIFE</b> 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
MONDAY APR. 29	<b>ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND LUNCHEON (MEMBERS ONLY)</b> 12:15 p.m. - 2 p.m. ✨ \$35/Members

### DON'T FORGET

Monday programs are livestreamed on Zoom. You can listen to the recordings on the [The Woman's Club website](#)!

Members of The Woman's Club may have lunch at The Commonwealth Club on any weekday when there is a scheduled Woman's Club program. Reservations are required and must be made at least 48 hours in advance by calling The Commonwealth Club directly at 804.648.6543. Payments must be made to The Commonwealth Club before leaving the premises (The Woman's Club no longer handles these transactions except for special TWC scheduled events.)

# 2024 PROGRAMS & EVENTS

## SPRING SEASON SURE TO DELIGHT, FASCINATE, AND ENRICH

If you were thrilled with the first half of the 2023-24 season, wait — we are just getting started! January began with the always-entertaining stories of **Lee Smith**, a returning speaker to The Woman's Club. If things extraterrestrial pique your interest, **Garrett Graff** came later in January to discuss real-life U.S. government searches for **UFOs**. The stellar speaker lineup continues through mid-April. Special events and trips are also available to members this spring. In February learn how to bake **scones and biscotti** or see a special viewing of the film **"The Age of Innocence"** at the historic **Byrd Theatre**. Be sure to sign up for the March **"Wellness Wednesday"** weekly yoga classes. And for the foodies among us, don't miss the field trip to the **Julia Child: A Recipe For Life** exhibition or the **Carytown Dessert Tour**.






## BRING YOUR FRIENDS!



**PROSPECTIVE MEMBER PACKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT MONDAY PROGRAMS.**


TWC's Membership Committee offers the opportunity multiple times a year for current members to invite prospective members to an intimate luncheon at the Commonwealth Club. What a great way to show a friend the benefits of membership to The Woman's Club. "Become a Member" Luncheons this Spring will take place on [February 12](#) and [April 8](#). Make reservations online and encourage your friends to join.

Go online to learn more at [TWCRichmond.org/the-club/become-a-member](https://TWCRichmond.org/the-club/become-a-member)

 If you miss a program you can listen to the **RECORDING** on the **TWC website!**

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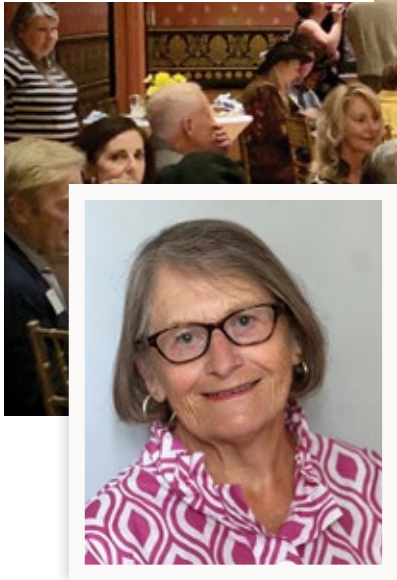
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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOLLING HAXALL HOUSE FOUNDATION



*Sue C. Taylor*  
*Chair, Bolling Haxall House Foundation*



The Bolling Haxall House Foundation has had a busy fall! **The Annual Fund began in October** and is off to a good start with **100% support from both the TWC and BHHF boards**. Thank you to all members and staff who have made or pledged gifts thus far. These funds are what enable us to maintain our historic building as a safe and elegant club home and community resource. As a reminder, gifts for this year's annual fund are accepted until April 30, 2024, so there is still time to [TWCRichmond.org/donate](https://www.TWCRichmond.org/donate).

Also, in October many of you enjoyed our **Annual Gala** including an online auction and raffle, which is another income stream for the house upkeep.

**Sarah Gray** and **Carolyn Reynolds** and their gala committee, particularly **Susan Stevens** and **Mary Lou Lee**, did a tremendous amount of work to make the event a success. We appreciate all those who attended and those who generously donated items and services for the auction, especially BHHF board members and gala sponsors.

Plans are proceeding with the **Capital Campaign**, and we are delighted to report that **Marcia Thalhimer** and **Ann Belk** have agreed to serve as co-chairs. We anticipate the campaign will last three years with a

goal of refurbishing the auditorium and updating our fire suppression system which was last done in the '80s. With feedback from potential renters and members, we feel this is the time to implement a plan begun with research and design by **Nita Enoch** last year. We are finalizing a timeline, case statement, campaign cabinet and evaluation of mechanical, plumbing, and electrical status in order to plan the scope and budget of the campaign and starting date.

We are proud of our progress so far. Keep your ears open for lots of good things to come!

*Sue C. Taylor*  
*Chair, Bolling Haxall House Foundation*



*Barbara Wright and Thomas Wright*



*Sandra Treadway and John Kukla*



*Ann Belk and Marcia Thalhimer*



*Kim Wasil, Dorothea Robertson, Brad Robertson, and Susan Brewer*



*Mary Korb and Steven Korb*



## 2022-2023 ANNUAL FUND DONORS

Campaign period represented: May 1, 2022 – April 30, 2023

Contributions to the Annual Fund support the ongoing maintenance and preservation of the Bolling Haxall House. In publishing this list, the Bolling Haxall House Foundation Board of Directors gratefully acknowledges the generous support of those listed. This donor list represents gifts received by the Foundation in the previous 2022-2023 fiscal year that began May 1, 2022 and concluded on April 30, 2023.

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