



February 2020

<http://jamestown-nd.aauw.net/>

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**Upcoming Events:**

A Call in Meeting: Thursday, February 20 at 7:00 PM in your own living room!!

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**A 'horse' of many colors**

Whitehorse, Yukon's only city and the largest in northern Canada, will have just seven hours of daylight today, but nature has a way of compensating for this injustice. The area enjoys frequent and spectacular light shows, thanks to the aurora borealis. The mechanics of northern lights are still not fully understood, but scientists agree that solar winds—big pulses of energy from our sun—pass through the Earth's magnetic fields, especially at the polar regions, resulting in shimmering colors.

In addition to the lights, the nearby mountains help facilitate another unusual phenomenon: lenticular clouds. These lens-shaped clouds usually develop on the downwind side of a mountain range, and we think they add an otherworldly element to our image.

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601 - 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S  
701-952-9684

Mon - Fri Hours: 10AM - 5PM  
2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month  
10a-2p

**Aurora Borealis quiz**

**What do you know about the Northern Lights?**



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1. What inspired the name 'aurora borealis'?
  - A: Greek and Roman mythology
  - B: A misinterpretation of a Celtic phrase
  - C: A brand of detergent
2. Who coined the term 'aurora borealis'?
  - A: Jules Verne
  - B: Galileo Galilei
  - C: Carl Sagan
3. What causes the aurora borealis?
  - A: Microwaves
  - B: Gamma rays
  - C: Charged solar particles
4. Auroras exist on other planets, too. Which one of these does NOT have them?
  - A: Venus
  - B: Saturn
  - C: Mercury
5. What are the southern lights called?
  - A: Aurora equitorius
  - B: Aurora australis
  - C: Lights down under

## AAUW February Meeting

This month is going to be our stay at home and meet meeting. Members can either select our book to read **The Radium Girls** by Kate Moore or watch a movie, “**She’s Beautiful When She’s Angry**,” or if you are feeling really adventurous, do both. We will then hold a conference call discussion group for those who want to join in by phone. We are in need of two discussion group leaders for this meeting. If you want to be a leader – let Deb Alber know (701-269-1446). The movie discussion will be held on **Thursday, February 20 at 7:00 PM. Dial in Conference Number is 712-775-7031 Access Code: 667275745 #.** The book discussion will be held on Thursday, February 27 at the same numbers as the book.

### Book

#### **The Radium Girls by Kate Moore**

Discussion Feb. 27, 7:00 PM. Call 712-775-7031 Code:667275745#



The year was 1917. As a war raged across the world, young American women flocked to work, painting watches, clocks, and military dials with a special luminous substance made from radium. It was a fun job, lucrative and glamorous - the girls themselves shone brightly in the dark, covered head to toe in the dust from the paint. They were the radium girls. Drawing on previously unpublished sources - including diaries, letters, and court transcripts as well as original interviews with the women's relatives - The Radium Girls is an intimate narrative account of an unforgettable true story. It is the powerful tale of a group of ordinary women from the Roaring 20s who themselves learned how to roar.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you find most horrifying about the suffering the women endured as their health deteriorated? Was this too difficult to read? Or did you get through it?
2. Talk about the response of the United States Radium Corporation to the women's complaints—how much did it truly understand about the hazards of radium? What arguments did the company enlist against the health claims of the women?
3. What most outraged you about the treatment the women received? The dentist who approached the company for hush money, for instance? What else?

### Movie

#### **She’s Beautiful When She’s Angry**

Discussion February 20, 7:00 PM Call 712-775-7031 Code: 667275745#



Resurrects the buried history of the outrageous, often brilliant women who founded the modern women’s movement from 1966 to 1971. SHE’S BEAUTIFUL takes us from the founding of NOW, with ladies in hats and gloves, to the emergence of more radical factions of women’s liberation; from intellectuals like Kate Millett to the street theatrics of W.I.T.C.H. (Women’s International Conspiracy from Hell!). Artfully combining dramatizations, performance and archival imagery, the film recounts the stories of women who fought for their own equality, and in the process created a world-wide revolution.

*The film is an incredible narrative account of second wave feminist activism in USA, which raises many questions about the current state of feminism globally today. What is your opinion on the state of feminism today? This movie was a visual history of second-wave feminism. What visual, in the movie, most stood out to you? What is the most important message you would like to share after watching the movie?*



# The Month of February

February is the 2nd month of the year and has 28 or 29 days. The 29th day is every 4 years during leap year.

**Season** (Northern Hemisphere): Winter

## Holidays:

Chinese New Year  
National Freedom Day  
Groundhog Day  
Valentine's Day  
President's Day  
Mardi Gras  
Ash Wednesday  
Black History Month  
American Heart Month  
Chocolate Lover's Month  
National Bird Feeding Month  
National Dental Month

## Symbols of February:

Birthstone: Amethyst  
Flower: Primrose  
Zodiac signs: Aquarius and Pisces

## History:

February was added to the Roman calendar in 713 BC. The length of the month changed over time and, at one time, it had as few as 23 days. When Julius Caesar remade the Roman calendar, the month was assigned 28 days during normal years and 29 days during leap years which occurred every four years.

## February in Other Languages:

Chinese (Mandarin) - èryuè  
Danish - februar  
French - février  
Italian - febbraio  
Latin - Februarius  
Spanish - febrero

## Historical Names:

Roman: Februarius  
Saxon: Sol-monath  
Germanic: Hornung

## Fun Facts about February

- ◆ It is the shortest month of the year.
- ◆ The Welsh call February "y mis bach" which means "little month".
- ◆ It is the third month of winter.
- ◆ In the Southern Hemisphere February is a summer month the equivalent of August.
- ◆ The month is named for the Latin word februum which means purification.
- ◆ Together with January, it was the last of the months added to the Roman calendar.
- ◆ The largest American sporting event of the year, the Super Bowl, is held in February.
- ◆ The Saxon term for the month, Sol-monath, means "cake month". This is because they offered cakes to the gods during this month.



## Answers to Aurora Borealis quiz

1. Greek and Roman mythology - 73% got this right; These undulating lights in the night sky were named for Aurora, the Roman goddess of the dawn, and Boreas is the Greek god of the north wind.
2. Galileo Galilei - 76% got this right; The Italian astronomer, physicist, and engineer coined the term 'aurora borealis' in 1619.
3. Charged solar particles—78% got this right; Auroras occur when charged particles in solar winds pass through the Earth's magnetosphere. The disturbance of the magnetosphere results in waves of colored light perceptible to the human eye.
4. Mercury - 52% got this right; Due to its small size and proximity to the sun, Mercury doesn't have an atmosphere. And without an atmosphere, there can be no auroras. Mars, Venus, Saturn, Jupiter, and Uranus have all been observed to have auroras, though.
5. Aurora australis—65% got this right; The lights of the aurora australis can be seen from Antarctica, Tasmania, the very southern parts of New Zealand, and the Patagonian region of South America.