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# UPDATES

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Volume 63

September 2022

Issue 1

## President's Message

Cathleen Boivin, Co-President



I recently read about Eric Yuan, a Chinese immigrant, who along with 40 engineers launched Zoom in 2013. Originally the program could only host 15 people at a time, but now it has expanded worldwide. One of the worst things about the past three years has been our social isolation. Humans need to communicate with other humans. Our ability to use communication technology like Zoom, computers, and cell phones has kept us all connected.

Teachers have had to use these methods to connect with their students. We had a program featuring a panel of teachers this past year and we heard how difficult the process of education has been for our teachers and students. Fairfax County Public

Schools and other districts in our area are back in session at schools this year. It is a step towards normalcy. I admit to feeling some nostalgia as this is my eighth year out of the classroom since I retired in 2015. I loved teaching history in the classroom and interacting with eager young minds. There were many personal reasons I decided to leave my profession. And Covid-19 wasn't even a factor at that time!

**President's Message** from Cathleen Boivin continues on page 2.

AAUW National Website: <https://www.aauw.org/>

AAUW-VA Website: <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/>

Springfield-Annandale Website: <https://sprann-va.aauw.net/>

Like us on Facebook. Search *Springfield-Annandale AAUW*.

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### AAUW Mission Statement

*To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. Vision: Equity for all. Values: Non-partisan. Fact based.*

### AAUW Diversity Statement

*In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or socio-economic status.*

Teaching is one of the most worthwhile things I've ever done and, at the same time, challenging and occasionally overwhelming. I have profound respect for every one of our educators who give of themselves to educate our children. Many of them have done so in less-than-ideal circumstances.

I was closing one door without knowing what the future would hold. Like many of you, I wondered what I would do in retirement. I thought I might teach online, but I rejected that idea because what I loved about teaching was the classroom contact with students. Teaching online would have given me less of that and more of the mountain of paperwork that comes with teaching a subject like history. I do have hobbies. I love reading, arts and crafts, baking, doing genealogy research, etc. But these are largely solitary pursuits and I didn't feel like I was quite ready for a rocking chair on the porch just yet. One of my best friends,



and former colleagues, Ann Sauberman, had encouraged me to join AAUW for several years, but I thought I was too busy at the time to commit to it. However, I joined AAUW almost immediately. I'm grateful to be actively involved with such an active branch. I am constantly inspired by your dedication to making our lives richer.

Our branch provides opportunities for us to gather as friends and associates to enjoy discussions, lectures, movies, and books, to express our ideas, to assist other women to succeed, and to participate in our political process as educated and active voters. Our first meeting of the year will highlight the role of black and white women in the struggle for equality after the passage of the 19th Amendment. Our participation is, in large part, their legacy. It took a community of like-minded women to work together to address their concerns over gender-based qualifications in order to vote on matters that concern everyone.

What matters to so many AAUW members is a commitment to bettering the lives of others and giving women a voice and a future. Like-minded women join AAUW to collaborate with their communities in order to bring about change. Accomplishing many things as individuals is difficult and challenging, but when we women work in groups, we can make a difference. One of AAUW's big initiatives is to work with the League of Women Voters to "Get Out the Vote." How can you help? You can volunteer to register voters. Note that you will need to complete online training before participating. Susan Burk and Leslie Tourigny, our Northern District Representatives, recently sent you an email with links on how to do this. Midterm elections will be held soon and we need to get as many people registered and to the polls as possible.

You can also volunteer to write postcards for the "Reclaim Our Vote" campaign. Our Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy, Denise Murden and Janine Greenwood, are coordinating this effort and Nancy Miller, our Branch Co-President, will organize this for us. Please email her if you would like to participate and receive the cards and instructions.

As Ruth Bader Ginsburg once said,  
*"Real change, enduring change,  
happens one step at a time."*

Each one of you is valuable to your community, your state, and your nation. Together we can make a difference to the lives of so many. You are capable and intelligent women and I'm proud to be associated with this group. We are a small group, but mighty.

## Springfield-Annadale AAUW 2022-2023 Officers

### Elected Officers

Co-Presidents	Cathie Boivin and Nancy Miller
Past President	Judy Baldwin
Co-Program VPs	Irene McGhee and Ann Sauberman
Co-Membership VPs	Deborah Dodd and Debbie Gilligan
Secretary	Judy Baldwin
Treasurer	Sharon Draper

### Appointed Officers

AAUW Funds	Ginny Wells
Bylaws	Judy Baldwin
Corresponding Secretary	Judy Baldwin
Directory	Deborah Dodd
Diversity and Inclusion Chair	Judy Baldwin
Historian	(Open)
Inclusiveness Awards Committee	Judy Baldwin
Public Policy	Susan Burk
Publicity	Karen Flann
Spring Fling	Ann Sauberman
Sunshine Fund	Laura Lehn
UPDATES Editor	Judy Titterton
Webmaster	Sharon Draper

### Interest Area Chairs

Literature, Morning	Ginny Wells and Jo Domingues
Literature, Evening	Debbie Gilligan and Cathie Boivin
Movies at Midweek	Ginny Wells

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Judy Baldwin, Diversity and Inclusion Chair

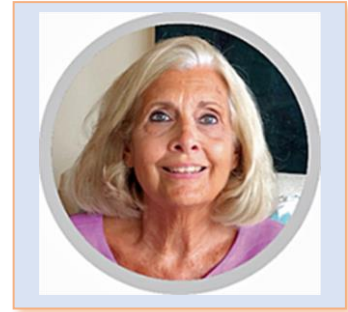


The Springfield-Annadale Branch received Five Stars from National once again. A big factor was meeting the standard for at least two meetings with the theme of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and mentions on the website of inclusion issues. We have one meeting scheduled for April 2023 – the Student Inclusion Award presentations – and should be looking for another such meeting.

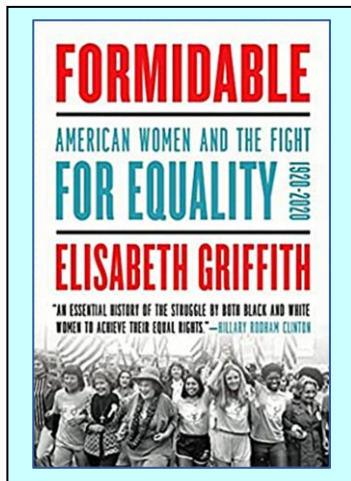
## September Program – Distinguished Author Featured – Live Meeting

Irene McGhee, Anne Sauberman, Co-Vice Presidents for Programs

Springfield-Annadale’s first program meeting for the 2022-2023 membership year will be held at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke, at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, **September 17**. The guest speaker, author Elisabeth Griffith, earned her PhD from The American University with an undergraduate degree from Wellesley College. She has been a Kennedy Fellow at Harvard’s Institute of Politics and a Klingenstein Fellow at Columbia Teachers College. Dr. Griffith has spent her career working for women’s rights as an activist and an academic, teaching women’s history at the secondary and college level and



Dr. Elisabeth Griffith



has written for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and professional journals. She is currently teaching courses in women’s history at the Smithsonian Associates and Politics & Prose. She is the author of *In Her Own Right: The Life of Elizabeth Cady Stanton*, which was the inspiration for Ken Burns’ PBS documentary, *Not For Ourselves Alone*.

Dr. Griffith will discuss her latest book, *Formidable*, which chronicles the efforts of white and Black women to advance sometimes competing causes. In this riveting narrative, Dr. Griffith integrates this fight to achieve equality.

Signed copies of *Formidable* will be available for purchase after the meeting. This is a community event - all are welcome.

## October Program – Northern District Special Program – Virtual Meeting

Irene McGhee, Anne Sauberman, Co-Vice Presidents for Programs

The October Program Meeting will be held virtually on **October 22**, from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. Gloria Blackwell, AAUW’s Chief Executive Officer, is scheduled to be the featured speaker. This program on Zoom will provide Virginia AAUW members with a unique chance to meet our new CEO and find out about the operations and goals of our organization.

Ms. Blackwell’s presentation will be followed by a short presentation, and then each of the districts will hold their own district meeting in a Zoom breakout room. More details will be available in the October *UPDATES*.



Dr. Gloria Blackwell

February 25, 2023 is the next Northern District meeting. Stay tuned for further details.

## Public Policy

Susan Burk, Public Policy Chair

### Get Out the Vote activities with the League of Women Voters

One major activity we can do is to help staff voter registration drives.

In conjunction with National Voter Registration Day, on **September 20**, (1:00- 4:30 P.M.) there will be LWV-sponsored voter registration and voter information in-person events at all branches of Fairfax County Public Library. Volunteers are asked to commit to at least a 2-hour shift. AAUW members can sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d48afa82fa7f94-national2>. There will be a place to designate AAUW affiliation once a member has signed up. Those volunteering will be notified of a Zoom pre-event orientation.

Note this: Before participating in any voter registration event, members must complete training via this link <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/registration-drives/voter-registration-training-video/>. It's pretty quick to complete the training and be added to the State Department of Elections list of individuals who can participate in third-party voter registration drives. Members who completed training in previous years are required to retake training for 2022.

Reclaim Our Vote: The Springfield-Annandale Branch will again be supporting “Reclaim Our Vote” which works to reach under-represented voters, i.e., voters who may vote in presidential elections, but not otherwise. We will be writing postcards this month to send to these voters. Contact Nancy Miller, Co-President, if you would like to write postcards.

## White House Ornaments 2022 are Here

Anne Sauberman

Believe it or not, it is time to present our 2022 White House Ornament and begin our annual sale. The Ornament represents the cherished White House tradition of displaying a gingerbread house each holiday in the State Dining Room. Included with this beautifully gift-boxed keepsake is a gingerbread scented booklet and recipe card featuring a gingerbread recipe from First Lady Pat Nixon's time at the White House. This beautiful ornament is a perfect addition to any holiday tree. They make wonderful gifts too.

Each year our ornament sale supports our donation to the National AAUW Fund. We are selling the ornament for \$24 each and you can purchase them at our September 17 Branch meeting or by contacting me by email.



## Here's a project for you:

Spread some joy by handwriting letters to residents of assisted living facilities and care homes



## Sign up with *Letters Against Isolation*

Quarantining can be lonely for everyone, but senior citizens and those in nursing homes, assisted care, and senior centers are feeling particularly isolated. Join the fight against loneliness and spread joy by writing them handwritten letters. Your letters help them feel more connected, loved, and important. Writing a letter is such an easy, fun (and safe) way to serve the community right now. It is also an awesome creative outlet!

### *Here's what to do:*

- Go to: [www.lettersagainstisolation.com/](http://www.lettersagainstisolation.com/)
- Read through this marvelous website
- Sign up online

### *Here's what will happen:*

- Receive an email from LAI
- Receive a link to the database

### *Then you:*

- Open the link to the database
- Select the facilities you plan to write to
- Handwrite the letter and mail it!
- At the end of each month, tell Judy Titterton [Judy.Titterton2@gmail.com](mailto:Judy.Titterton2@gmail.com) how many letters you have sent out for reporting to the Board

### *What to write about:*

- Say where you are writing from; what is going on where you live, etc.
- A funny thing that happened to you or someone you know; a sweet memory, etc.
- Add jokes, puns, funny sayings, quotes, etc.
- Use colorful stationery, colored pens and pencils, crayons, highlight markers, stickers, stamping, colored envelopes, postcards, notecards

### *What not to write about:*

- Do not solicit. Do not send gifts.
- Stay neutral in your letters. Don't discuss politics.
- Don't refer to religious holidays, Mother's Day, Father's Day.

In June and July, Springfield-Annandale AAUW members mailed 75 Letters Against Isolation

**Questions? Comments? Guidance? Free beer? Contact Judy Titterton**

(just kidding about the beer)

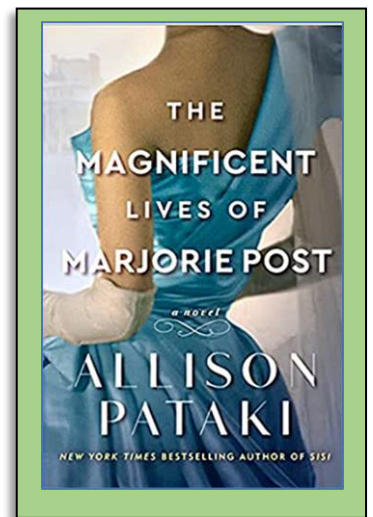
## Evening Book Group – Virtual

The Evening Book Group has a new coordinator, Debbie Gilligan, (assisted by Cathie Boivin). The Group will meet via Zoom for the next meeting on Thursday, **September 1**, 7:00 P.M. The topic book is *The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post* by Allison Pataki and will be reviewed by Cathie Boivin.

*Growing up in the modest farmlands of Battle Creek, Michigan, Marjorie was inspired by a few simple rules: always think for yourself, never take success for granted, and work hard—even when deemed American royalty, even while covered in imperial diamonds. Marjorie Merriweather Post lived an epic life few could imagine.*

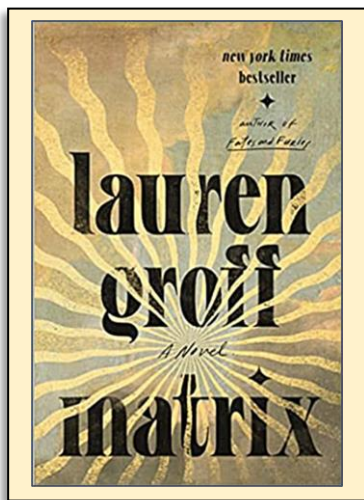
Next month, the Evening Book Group will discuss *The Warmth of Other Suns*, by Isabelle Wilkerson. Jane Censer is the scheduled reviewer.

Contact Debbie Gilligan for more information about this dynamic group. The complete list of the reading selections and reviewers for each month are in the Directory.



## Morning Book Group – Live

On Thursday, **September 8**, 10:00 A.M., the Morning Book Group will meet at Karen Flann's house to discuss *Matrix* by Lauren Groff. Wendy Cleland-Hamnett is the scheduled reviewer.



*Matrix is about a "seventeen-year-old Marie de France... sent to England to be the new prioress of an impoverished abbey, its nuns on the brink of starvation and beset by disease." Within the novel, Marie, whom Groff writes as a lesbian, turns around the abbey's fortunes and treats it as a quasi-mystical female separatist "utopia".*

Next month, the Morning Book Group will discuss *While Justice Sleeps*, by Stacey Abrams. Irene McGhee is the scheduled reviewer; Mary Helmantoler will host.

Contact Jo Domingues or Ginny Wells for more information. The complete list of the reading selections and arrangements for each month are in the Directory.

## Movies at Midweek

Ginny Wells, Movie Maven

Movies at Midweek will resume following summer vacation on Wednesday, **September 21**, the third Wednesday of the month, at the Cinema Arts Theatre, 9650 Main St., Fairfax. As has been true in the past, I'll email our branch the Friday before with the chosen film title.

Back by popular demand will be lunch and discussion following the movie at First Watch Restaurant, 9600 Main St., Fairfax. We ask you to RSVP your intentions (just movie or movie plus lunch) for a headcount. See you at the movies!

## Dates to Remember

September 1, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group – Virtual	<a href="#">page 7</a>
September 8, 10:00 A.M.	Morning Book Group – Live	<a href="#">page 7</a>
September 17, 1:00 P.M.	September Program	<a href="#">page 4</a>
September 20, 1:00 P.M.	National Voter Registration Day	<a href="#">page 5</a>
September 21, TBD	Movies at Midweek	<a href="#">page 7</a>
September 23, Noon	October UPDATES input due to Judy Titterton, Editor	
October 22, 10:00 A.M.	October Program	<a href="#">page 4</a>

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September is National Honey Month!

Bee Happy!

Judy Titterton, UPDATES Newsletter Editor