

U P D A T E S

Springfield–Annandale Branch

Volume 63 December 2022 Issue 4

# President’s Message

Nancy Miller, Co-President



Well, we’ve managed to survive another election cycle—this time without too much mayhem. Democracy is looking safer, I hope. As you’ve watched and read countless voting reports, you have probably noted the number of women joining the ranks of elected officials, from local school boards to mayors to governors. These are women from a distinctly diverse set of backgrounds, all of which will make the future interesting. Hopefully, they will bring a more equitable world for us too.

It takes all of us, working together, to achieve our long-term goals. Thanks to all of you who have worked in the campaign, registering voters, manning polls, sending postcards, and voting!

We must remain active in our pursuit of knowledge of the world to push forward our agenda for women. Learning about our Virginia Supreme Court from our most recent program is one way to move ahead.

President’s Message *from Nancy Miller 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*.

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.*

President’s Message *continued from page 1*

Only by knowing what is happening, and how we can react in support or opposition can we hope to maintain our position and push forward.

AAUW members are leaders and examples for women who may not belong to a formal organization. Remember, we are non-partisan but NOT apolitical! Wishing you a wonderfully peaceful holiday season!

# Student Inclusion Award



The Student Inclusion Award Committee will begin meeting in January. Springfield-Annandale AAUW Branch members include:

 Ann Sauberman, Irene McGhee, Mussaret Sheif, Helen
 Cassidy, Betty Marie Fields, and Judy Baldwin

# November Meeting with VA Supreme Court Justice Thomas Mann – Live

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

On November 19, at the Pohick Regional Library, many of our branch members and several guests of the library were treated to a very interesting talk by Justice Thomas P. Mann, of the Virginia Supreme Court. He was also a former circuit judge of Virginia’s 19th Circuit in Fairfax County. He was elected by the Virginia General Assembly to be a justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia for a 12- year term starting on August 1, 2022. On November 1, he had his formal investiture ceremony in Richmond.



Justice Thomas P. Mann

In his detailed discussion, we all learned how hard it is to become a Virginia justice and how different the Virginia Supreme Court is from the United States Supreme Court. Justice Mann described the lengthy process to be nominated and then be elected by a majority vote in both the Virginia Senate and General Assembly. There is also a struggle between judging independently and being affected by political pressures. Since there is a 12-year term, Justices who want to be reappointed must go through the process of another political vote. This is unlike the Justices of the United States Supreme Court who are appointed by the President of the United States, and then ratified by a 2/3 vote in the Senate. They are appointed to a life term and theoretically are free from political pressure.

Justice Mann covered the early history of the Virginia Supreme Court, which started before the Revolutionary War. The first court met four times a year and was called the Quarters Court. After the Revolution, many of the first cases involved property and the ownership of slaves. It was interesting but upsetting to hear about how courts had to decide if a will was constitutional that transferred the ownership of humans from one member of the ownership family to another. They also ruled on when a slave or their children would be set free. In the 1960’s, a very important case, Loving v. Virginia, was appealed to the Virginia Supreme Court. In 1958, an inter-racial couple, Richard Loving and Mildred Jeter, were married in the District of Columbia. The Lovings soon returned to Virginia and were charged with violating the state’s Racial Integrity Act, which criminalized marriage between people who were classified as “white” and people who were classified as “colored”. The Lovings were found guilty and sentenced to a year in jail, but could avoid jail if they left Virginia and not return for 25 years. The case was appealed to the Virginia Supreme Court, but the lower court’s ruling was upheld. The United States Supreme Court overturned the Virginia decision stating that the ruling was unconstitutional according to the Fourteenth Amendment.

Judge Mann showed how important the Virginia Supreme Court is to all of us. Many of the audience knew much more about the United States Supreme Court and its decisions, but it was made clear that we need to be aware of the importance of our own state courts.

A special thanks to the Pohick Regional Library for hosting this even.

# December Meeting – Holiday Dinner Party

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

A Holiday Dinner Party is planned for Wednesday, **December 7**, 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M., at Rafagino Italian Restaurant, in Burke. The entire restaurant will be closed to accommodate our group. Thirty-eight Branch members have signed up. **Sound Advice** – a women's barbershop quartet will entertain.

# January Program Meeting – Virtual

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

On Saturday, **January 21**, Noon, via Zoom, Mary Buckingham Lipsey, a noted local historian, will speak about her book, “*Almost Forgotten Women: Yesterday’s Headliners, 1840-1940*”.



Almost Forgotten Women: Yesterday’s Headliners *includes the stories of over 60 women between the years of 1840 and 1940 who made a difference. The stories come from their own words, legal documents, and news articles from their times. These diverse women were famous as contributors in a man's world and making a real difference in
their fields.*

Mary Buckingham Lipsey was born in Atlanta, Georgia and raised in Fairfax County, Virginia. She received a B.A. in History and Sociology from Mary Washington College, and a Masters in Middle School Education from Virginia
Tech. In June 2003, Mary retired after teaching seventh grade American History for nearly thirty years.

Ms. Lipsey has been a volunteer docent for the American History Museum of the Smithsonian since 1980, and for the National Archives since 2004. She is a member of the Fairfax County History Commission. Her interest in local history has found an outlet through writing articles and speaking to community groups. She became interested in aviation when her elementary school teacher wheeled a television into the classroom to watch astronaut Alan Shephard’s first flight. During her teaching career, Mary was frustrated by how little women’s history was included in the curriculum. Mary wrote the book *Almost Forgotten Women: Yesterday’s Headliners* to educate persons of all ages about the accomplishments of women from the past and illustrate the women’s struggle for equality.

Published works include:

Co-author of *Braddock’s True Gold- 20th Century Life in the Heart of Fairfax County* (2006)
Author of *A Christmas Flight: Aviation Pioneer, Dr. William Christmas* (2013)
Author of *Aviation: From Curiosity To Reality* (2018)

Ms. Lipsey is a sought-out speaker for the Fairfax County Historical Society and will offer some stories infringing on our own neighborhoods. More hidden women! Watch your email inbox for an invitation.

# A Look Ahead – February Meeting – Virtual

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

In September we had such a successful and informative meeting with Dr. Elisabeth Griffith, local author, and historian at our collaboration with Pohick Regional Library. Dr. Griffith presented her notable book, *Formidable, American Women and the Fight for Equity 1920-2020*. Our mission hasn't changed, so, we have decided to do a Zoom meeting in February to discuss it further, and its relevance for us now.



Jennifer Rittenhouse, History Professor at George Mason University, has graciously agreed to be our moderator for the event. Many of you have already purchased the book or, if not, it is available at the public library and on Amazon. This is a good way to strengthen our resolve to continue to work for women’s equity and to involve the next generation of women.

#

Jennifer Rittenhouse

# Public Policy

Denise Murden and Janine Greenwood via Susan Burk, Public Policy Chair

A recent message from AAUW-VA’s Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy, Denise Murden and Janine Greenwood:

Year after year, no matter the results of Virginia’s election, AAUW-VA continues its nonpartisan work with all our state and federal legislators to advance our public policy priorities. To do this, we encourage members and branches to:

1. Know and reach out to your local elected representatives – and share their names with the AAUW-VA Public Policy Team

2. Create programs for your branch that engage members in our issues

3. Participate in AAUW-VA Lobby Day in Richmond on January 19

Your first mission is to give the PP team what information you can about your local legislators. Many of our branches span multiple districts, particularly Delegate districts, and if you know of any other lawmakers relevant to your branch, please let us know. If you are not sure, here’s a link to find your legislators:

<https://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/>

 Then, hit “reply” to this email and fill in as much as you can of the following:\*

 My Virginia delegate(s) is/are:

And the House District #(s) is/are:

 My Virginia state senator(s) is/are:

 And the Senate District #s is/are:

 My US Member of Congress is/are:

It’s more important that you give us whatever information you have rather than stressing about being perfect. This information is vital as we reach out to lawmakers and as we prepare for Lobby Day in January.

\*If you send Susan Burk this information, she will compile it and send it to Denise Murden and Janine Greenwood

Your second mission is to consider inviting one of the lawmakers you identify to speak with your branch. Trust us, lawmakers always love to talk and to have an audience. Just over the next few weeks, Alexandria has Del. Herring speaking at their December lunch, Reston-Herndon has Del. Plum presenting The State of the Commonwealth, and Vienna is working with Reston-Herndon for a program with two state Senators. An excellent draft invitation letter prepared by the Vienna Branch is attached.

Your third mission is to plan to be part of Lobby Day in Richmond. The Richmond Branch is already at work setting up a reception for lawmakers on the evening of January 18. We will lobby on January 19 and need lots of great team members to spread the AAUW-VA message. We have booked a block of discounted rooms nearby for that night at the Hampton Inn and Suites, Richmond Downtown. You can make a reservation using the following link: <https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=RICEMHX&groupCode=CHHAAU&arrivaldate=2023-01-18&departuredate=2023-01-19&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

Please let Susan Burk know if you are interested in participating in State Lobby Day. We will try to arrange carpools and room sharing, as needed.

##  AAUW-VA Legislative and Policy Priorities for 2022-23

* Protect access to abortion and women’s right to make personal reproductive decisions with their medical care providers
* Eliminate systemic racism and sexism through changes to Virginia law and regulations
* Make childcare affordable and readily available for all families
* Protect full access to voting
* Ensure full public-school funding and protect teachers from harassment and liability claims

## Save the Dates

* AAUW-VA Women Legislators Reception (Richmond): evening of January 18
* AAUW-VA Lobby Day (Richmond): January 19
* AAUW-VA Public Policy Zoom meetings: January 5 and March 30, 5:00 P.M.

Springfield-Annandale AAUW members mailed
**106 Letters Against Isolation**
in October!

# Spring Fling Update

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

As the year ends and we all look forward to 2023, please save **May 5** for our Spring Fling at the Springfield Golf and Country Club from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. After a fun-filled silent auction and a delicious lunch, we will present our featured speaker, Renee Wynn, a former Chief Information Officer at NASA. Ms. Wynn joined NASA in July 2015 and retired in 2020. She has 29 years of Federal service and 25 of those years was with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from DePauw University, Indiana. Ms. Wynn will present us with the opportunity to learn about the space program, and how advances in space can affect our lives. More details will be available in future UPDATES.

# White House Ornaments

Anne Sauberman

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who either helped sell or purchased one or many White House Ornaments. They are really very attractive and will either make wonderful gifts or help you enjoy the holidays. We purchased 150 this year and if you want one, you need to contact me ASAP - there are only 2 available! This sale helps us contribute to the AAUW fund and helps support the many activities of AAUW. Thanks again, especially to my little elves who helped sell many to their friends and neighbors.



# Movies at Midweek

Ginny Wells, Movie Maven

Because the third Wednesday date is so close to Christmas in December, we will take a break and reconvene on **January 18**.

# Evening Book Group – Virtual



The Evening Book Group will meet via Zoom for the next meeting on Thursday, **December 8**, 7:00 P.M. The topic book is *State of Terror: A Novel* by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Louise Penny. The scheduled reviewer is May K. Johnson. Note that this date is different than the one shown in the Directory due to scheduling conflicts.

*A novice U.S. Secretary of State joins the administration of her rival, a president inaugurated after four years of American leadership that shrank from the world stage. A series of terrorist attacks throws the global order into disarray, and the Secretary is tasked with assembling a team to unravel the deadly conspiracy, a scheme carefully designed to take advantage of an American government dangerously out of touch and out of power in the places where it counts the most.*

On January 5, the Evening Book Group will discuss *Born A Crime*, by Trevor Noah. Susan Burk is the scheduled reviewer.

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

# Morning Book Group – Live

On Thursday, **December 8**, 10:00 A.M., the Morning Book Group will meet at Wendy Cleland Hamett’s house to discuss *Still Life* by Louise Penny.
Liz Clements is the scheduled reviewer.



*Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Surêté du Québec and his team of investigators are called in to the scene of a suspicious death in a rural village south of Montreal. Jane Neal, a local fixture in the tiny hamlet of Three Pines, just north of the U.S. border, has been found dead in the woods. The locals are certain it's a tragic hunting accident and nothing more, but Gamache smells something foul in these remote woods, and is soon certain that Jane Neal died at the hands of someone much more sinister than a careless bowhunter.*

There is no scheduled meeting in January.

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

Louise Penny rules the Book Groups in December!

# Dates to Remember

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December 8, 7:00 P.M. Evening Book Group – Virtual page 7

December 8, 10:00 A.M. Morning Book Group – Live page 7

December 22, Noon January UPDATES submissions due to Judy Titterton, Editor

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January 19 State Lobby Day – Richmond page 4

January 21, Noon January Program Meeting – Virtual page 3

May 5 Spring Fling page 6

**December is National Pear Month!**

I

 ran into a retired pear farmer from Oregon while on a tour of Sicily in 2015. I have very little
 experience with farmers – I grew up in western Long Island (2 miles from the New York City line). I was intrigued by how a farmer retires, so I asked him. He said that he and his wife will stay in the farmhouse and they have turned over the farm to his son who lives in the nearby town. He and his wife were very friendly and a lot of fun on the tour. I then asked him how they had decided on a tour of Sicily (it was in February – an off-season tour). He said they basically threw a dart at a world map and it hit near Sicily. How much fun is that?!

Enjoy whatever holidays you celebrate (if any) in the month of December.

Judy Titterton, UPDATES Newsletter Editor



Don’t be a Grinch!

Submit your January UPDATES information
by **December 22 at Noon**!

As mentioned on page 5

Letter of invitation to a lawmaker template courtesy of the Vienna Area Branch:

On behalf of the \_\_\_\_\_\_ Area AAUW Branch and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Area AAUW Branch, we invite you to speak at our joint program via Zoom to discuss the upcoming 2023 General Assembly session, what bills you hope to see pass, and what problems you foresee. The event will be open to the public.

Our proposed date is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ pm. We also are inviting Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to speak. We would like each of you to speak for twenty to thirty minutes, followed by question time, with questions taken in the chat.  Your part of the program will end no later than \_\_\_\_\_\_ pm.

AAUW is a non-partisan organization of over 1000 members in the Commonwealth.  We are a part of the national AAUW with over 140,000 members and supporters nationwide. The mission of AAUW is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. Here are the current legislative and policy priorities for Virginia AAUW:

* Protect access to abortion and the right of women to make personal reproductive decisions with their medical providers.
* Eliminate systemic racism and sexism through changes to Virginia law and regulations.
* Make childcare affordable and readily available for all families.
* Protect full access to voting.
* Ensure full public-school funding and protect teachers from harassment and liability claims.

Our members will also be in Richmond for our Lobby Day on January 19 to bring our priorities to the members of the General Assembly.

We know that the week prior to the General Assembly is a very busy time for you, but we hope that you can share your insights with our members about prospects for the Commonwealth in the new year.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAod-uprTwrHdbJ0owNVU-6q8jF37zHtJBr>