
U P D A T E S

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Issue 3

President's Message

Cathleen Boivin, Co-President



Here we are again. It's November. We are anticipating cooler weather, spectacular foliage in this beautiful state of ours, and two rather uniquely American customs or observances. Our country was founded by those who sought land, freedom, and opportunity in a new world. The early British settlers on our east coast were firmly rooted in English common law and parliamentary government. As the Enlightenment progressed and our identity of what it is to be an American developed, more and more free men received the right to vote. As we all know, it would be centuries before ALL Americans, regardless of land ownership, race, religion, or sex, would gain the right to participate in the election process. However, not everyone chooses to vote.

I recently ran across this quote attributed to Thomas Jefferson: "*We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate.*" It reminded me of the lessons on enfranchisement and suffrage that I stressed in my teaching days.

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*.

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.

As some of you know, I was a high school World History teacher for many years. Year after year, my sophomores retraced the steps that humankind took from absolute monarchies to participatory government in the form of democratic republics while acknowledging that women didn't get the right to be full citizens of our country until 1921.

Until then, women were second class citizens with no representation and no voice in the passing of laws that affected them. Thankfully, this is now changing, although progress is slow. More and more women are occupying seats in governments worldwide although their numbers fall short of their male counterparts. It is telling that 75 percent of female prime ministers and presidents have taken their positions only in the last two decades.

Judging from TV spots and campaign literature, candidates for office have realized that they must address issues important to women and families in order to be elected. Long ignored, women are now casting their votes in ever increasing numbers. We women have the power to influence the decisions that are being made that will impact our futures and those of our children.

As you know, we are approaching the midterm elections on November 8. Some of our branch members assisted the League of Women Voters in handwriting "Get Out the Vote" postcards to send to registered voters to encourage them to participate in this important election. In Virginia, key issues are on the ballots: voting rights, health care, maternal wellness, gun violence, jobs, and housing. If you choose to do so, you can vote early through November 5. If you choose to vote at your polling station in person on November 8, that's great, too. Please add your voice to this important democratic process!



In keeping with the theme of legislation, I urge you to attend our Saturday, **November 19** meeting from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. at Pohick Library in the lower-level meeting rooms A&B. Our speaker will be Virginia Supreme Court Justice Thomas P. Mann. He will discuss the role of the Virginia Supreme Court in shaping the laws of the commonwealth and the nation. This is a very timely discussion and will highlight how cases are processed and appealed to the United State Supreme Court.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Anne Sauberman for Judy Baldwin, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Representative

On October 11, I substituted at a Zoom meeting of AAUW DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) for Judy Baldwin. Two main goals were discussed at the brief meeting. First, it was suggested that the letter B be added to the DEI. The B stands for Belonging. The leader stressed that our branches should not only include more diversity, but aid new members to feel a sense of acceptance and belonging.

The second point was to avoid having meetings and programs that just stress the DEIB for one and done meetings. The goal of AAUW should be to a systemic and more lasting change. We broke into groups and shared examples of how different branches are working on DEIB. One branch shared that they have begun to describe themselves physically so that sight impaired members would feel more included at a Zoom meeting just as hearing-impaired members should be helped with closed captions.

October Program – Northern District Program with AAUW CEO

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



Gloria Blackwell

Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO, was the featured speaker at the Zoom Virginia District meeting on October 22. Our new CEO is dedicated to the AAUW mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. Ms. Blackwell’s background is very broad and she is well prepared to promote AAUW throughout the country and the world. Before joining AAUW in 2004, she was the director of the African education program at the Institute of Education; she held positions as a Peace Corps staff member and volunteer in Africa. She earned a master’s degree in education and human development from George Washington University, a bachelor’s degree in international affairs at Georgetown University and studied at the American University in Paris.

Ms. Blackwell, in addition to her role as CEO, is also AAUW’s main representative to the United Nations. She managed AAUW fellowships and grant programs, which awarded more than \$70 million to women scholars and programs both in the United States and overseas. She has also been a driving force to promote individual salary negotiations and pay equity initiatives. Due to her prior experience working with the National Science Institute, Ms. Blackwell is dedicated to promoting girl participation in the STEM programs and has expanded the AAUW outreach to girls and woman of color.

AAUW started in 1881, as a small group of women who worked to research and advocate for woman. One of Ms. Blackwell’s goals is to keep AAUW relevant and to expand its impact. She works hard to keep our organization in the news and to work with other organizations to fulfill our mission. Increasing AAUW membership is an important goal. Start Smart, Work Smart, and Money Smart are three programs that can assist in reaching out to younger members. In 2022, seven-hundred high school girls and their parents or caregivers were registered for STEM activities. This can increase our visibility and membership in the future. Applications for 2023-2024 fellowships and grants will be available shortly. Ms. Blackwell is also connecting with the Coca Cola foundation to help support these initiatives. Individual branch members can assist in AAUW’s goals by donating to the Greatest Needs Fund, working on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, taking part in the two-minute activist program, and helping get out the vote.



After members had time to ask Ms. Blackwell specific questions, the state board members gave brief reports. The Zoom meeting was then divided into the four districts of Virginia. Our branch took part in the Northern Virginia District where branch members shared their activities and future programs. A second Northern Virginia District meeting is planned for February. Hopefully, we will attend in person. The date and location will be announced in future UPDATES.

November Meeting with VA Supreme Court Justice Thomas Mann – Live

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

On Saturday, **November 19**, 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke, Justice Thomas P. Mann will discuss the importance of the Virginia Supreme Court and some of the cases that have helped shape the commonwealth and the nation. He will also discuss the procedures of the court and how cases are appealed to the United States Supreme Court.



Justice Thomas P. Mann

Thomas P. Mann received his J.D. from the American University, Washington College of law (1990). He served as a judge of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, Fairfax (2006-2016) and Judge of the 19th Judicial Circuit (2016-2022). In June, Thomas Mann was elected by the General Assembly to serve on the Virginia Supreme Court for a twelve-year term beginning August 1, 2022.

Please attend this very important meeting. Invite your friends. Our speaker will be glad to answer questions about the Virginia Supreme Court and its importance to our rights and lives in the Commonwealth.

December Meeting – Holiday Dinner Party

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

Join us for an evening of delicious Italian food and genuine camaraderie on Wednesday, **December 7**, 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. at Rafagino Italian Restaurant, 9570 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. The entire restaurant will be closed to accommodate our group. This location is handicapped accessible and has abundant parking.

The cost is \$49.00/person which includes a 20% gratuity. Wine and other alcoholic beverages are available at individual request and will be billed separately. The meal includes two appetizers, choice of four entrees and four desserts. Coffee and tea are included.

RSVP and make your dinner choice by filling out the form found at the end of this newsletter and return it (with a check for the total sum, written to AAUW Springfield-Annandale), to Irene McGhee or Anne Sauberman by Monday, **November 14**.



January Program Meeting – Virtual

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

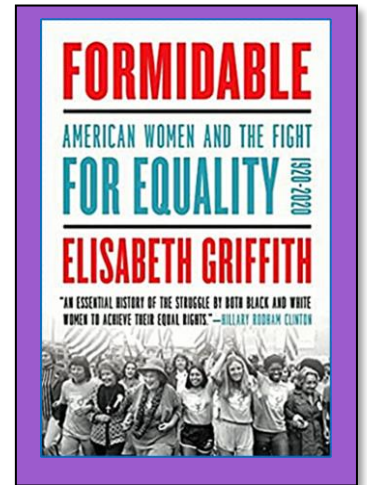
On Saturday, **January 21**, 2023, Mary Lipsey, a noted local historian, will speak about “*Almost Forgotten Women: 1840-1940*”. This meeting will be on Zoom. More in the next UPDATES.

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. It's a good way to strengthen our resolve to continue to work for women's equity and to involve the next generation of women. They certainly are welcome! So, ...over 3 months to complete this important read, a part of our education which is not always pretty, but real. Snow will not stop us!



Membership Update

Deborah Dodd, Debbie Gilligan, Membership Co-Vice-Presidents

Retention has been excellent with 57 current members. We have two new dual members from the Fairfax City branch plus two new members.

National has extended the registration deadline to **November 30**.

Public Policy

Susan Burk, Public Policy Chair

Your Vote Your Voice

Election Day is Tuesday, **November 8**. If you are voting by absentee ballot please note: A witness signature is required this year! Don't forget to get your witness signature!

The deadline to vote early in person is November 5 at 5:00 P.M. Please confirm your assigned polling place if you will be voting in person on Election Day. More information can be found on the AAUW-VA website.



AAUW Reacts Positively to President Biden’s Announcement on Federal Student Loan Debt Cancellation

Read the statement here: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/press-releases/aauw-reacts-to-president-bidens-announcement-on-federal-student-loan-debt-cancellation/>

AAUW of Virginia responded to the Proposed Model Policies released by the Virginia Department of Education last month concerning transgender students. It was submitted to the Department of Education Portal, October 3, 2022. Read the letter here: <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/files/2022/10/Comment-AAUW-VA-on-guidelines.pdf>.

Save the Date

AAUW-VA is planning to hold an in-person State Lobby Day on Wednesday, **January 19**, 2023 in Richmond. The Greater Richmond Branch, AAUW-VA, will be hosting a reception the evening of January 18 for Virginia’s Women Legislators. More information to follow.

White House Ornaments 2022 are Here

Anne Sauberman

The weather is getting colder and the holidays are soon approaching. If you have not bought your White House ornaments, please order them soon. They are very attractive and make wonderful gifts. This year, the official White House Ornament represents the tradition of displaying a gingerbread house each Christmas in the State Dining Room. This tradition started with First Lady Pat Nixon. This beautiful ornament is



decorated with striped candles and candy canes. The gift box has a recipe for Pat Nixon's gingerbread and even has the aroma of gingerbread to get you in the holiday spirit.



They are very popular this year so please call or email me (Ann Sauberman) and I will deliver them to you. Remember this is a fund raiser for the National AAUW Funds.

Movies at Midweek

Ginny Wells, Movie Maven

Movies at Midweek will meet on Wednesday, **November 16**, at the Cinema Arts Theatre, 9650 Main St., Fairfax, followed by lunch at First Watch Restaurant across the parking lot. As has been true in the past, I'll email our branch the Friday before with the chosen film title. RSVP your intentions (just movie or movie plus lunch) for a headcount. Because the third Wednesday date is so close to Christmas in December, we will take a break and reconvene on January 18. See you at the movies!

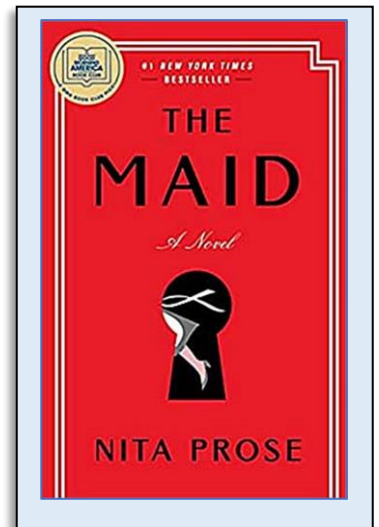
Evening Book Group – Virtual

The Evening Book Group will meet via Zoom for the next meeting on Thursday, **November 3**, 7:00 P.M. The topic book is *The Maid: A Novel* by Nita Prose and will be reviewed by Ann Sauberman.

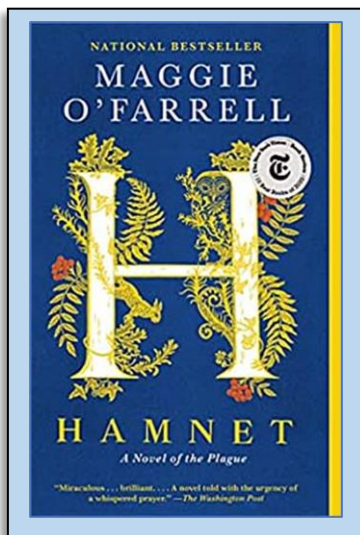
In The Maid, Molly, a twenty-something maid working in a New York hotel, discovers notorious—and very wealthy—guest Charles Black dead in his bed. This is a problem for any number of reasons, not least of which is that it offends Molly’s sense of order, which is what leads her to clean Black’s room immediately. At sea when it comes to social cues, lonely, and reliant on her late Gran’s codes of conduct to navigate the world, Molly’s actions and curious demeanor see her propelled to the top of the suspect list.

On December 1, the Evening Book Group will discuss *State of Terror: A Novel* by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Louise Penny. The scheduled reviewer is May K. Johnson.

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, **November 10**, 10:00 A.M., the Morning Book Group will meet at Mary Helmantoler’s house to discuss *Hamnet: A Novel of the Plague* by Maggie O’Farrell. Ginny Wells is the scheduled reviewer.

A young Latin tutor—penniless and bullied by a violent father—falls in love with an extraordinary, eccentric young woman. Agnes is a wild creature who walks her family’s land with a falcon on her glove and is known throughout the countryside for her unusual gifts as a healer, understanding plants and potions better than she does people. Once she settles with her husband on Henley Street in Stratford-upon-Avon, she becomes a fiercely protective mother and a steadfast, centrifugal force in the life of her young husband, whose career on the London stage is just taking off when his beloved young son succumbs to sudden fever.

The Directory shows different information regarding hosting. Update your Directory with this change.

December 8, the Morning Book Group will discuss *Still Life* by Louise Penny. Liz Clements is the scheduled reviewer; Wendy Cleland-Hamett will host.

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

Dates to Remember

November 3, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group – Virtual	page 7
November 8	Election Day	
November 10, 10:00 A.M.	Morning Book Group – Live	page 7
November 14	Deadline for RSVP for Holiday Dinner Party	page 4
November 16	Movies at Midweek	page 7
November 19, 10:00 A.M.	Justice Thomas Mann Program Meeting – Live	page 2
November 22, Noon	November UPDATES submissions due to Judy Titterton, Editor	
November 30	Membership registration deadline	page 5
December 7, 6:00 P.M.	Holiday Dinner Party	page 2
January 19	State Lobby Day	page 6
January 23	January Program Meeting – Virtual	page 5

November is National Peanut Butter Lovers Month!

Peanut butter makes everything peanut better.

Judy Titterton, UPDATES Newsletter Editor



Don't forget to
submit to
UPDATES
before you
submit to turkey!

November 22, Noon



AAUW Holiday Dinner

**Wednesday, December 7
6:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.**

**Rafagino Italian Restaurant
9570 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke**

Wine, alcoholic beverages, and soft drinks are available at individual request and will be billed separately. Coffee and tea are included.

A choice of two appetizers will be served:

Bruschetta di Stagione Fresh vine ripe tomatoes, basil, garlic, and olive oil on toasted Tuscan bread

Brocconcini Fresh marinated buffalo mozzarella wrapped in prosciutto, baked in homemade balsamic vinaigrette.

Choice of four desserts is available: **Cannoli, Tiramisu, Sorbet, or Cake**

Select your entrée from the following list and send it with your check (written to AAUW Springfield-Annandale) to:

Irene McGhee, 8631 Woodview Drive, Springfield, VA 22153 or
Ann Sauberman, 8810 Sandy Ridge Court, Fairfax, VA 22031



**Due by
November 14!!**

NAME: _____

Total Number of Attendees: _____ Total Cost: _____ (\$49.00 each)

_____ Capellini al Frutto di Mare Capellini with shrimp, mussels, and scallops in a red sauce ___ or white sauce ___

_____ Maiale Marsala Medallions of pork tenderloin topped with mushrooms and caramelized onions in Marsala wine sauce

_____ Salmone Alla Napoletana Broiled Atlantic salmon with cherry tomatoes and black olives in a white wine seafood sauce w/rice and veggie

_____ Penne Primavera Aglio e Olio Penne w/artichokes, mushrooms, spinach, tomatoes, vegetable of the day, and roasted walnuts in olive oil/garlic sauce