
U P D A T E S

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Issue 5

President's Message

Cathleen Boivin, Co-President



It's January and the beginning of a year whose history has not yet been written. Whether you are among those who make (and keep) New Year's Resolutions or not, you are undoubtedly thinking about the future - not just about how the events of the next twelve months will impact family and friends, but us as women - AAUW women.

We have just been through midterm elections and, no matter which party you support, we hope for remedies and strategies that will help our country recover from three years plus of Covid. And we can't avoid looking at the larger picture, how our actions or inactions will affect other countries around the globe. I assume you are a lot like me; there are so many areas that need funds and support that it's difficult to choose which one to prioritize. Yet, you and I chose to become members of AAUW in order to make a difference.

President's Message 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*

How? Why? When I joined AAUW I was a recently retired public-school teacher. Anyone who has worked in or was part of a school community realizes the inequities that impact our youth. For every student with the newest cell phones or laptops or trendy clothes, there are thousands of others who are hoping that a good education will offer them a chance to improve the economic situation for their families and themselves or give them the knowledge and skills to help others. I was excited to watch these young men and, especially, young women succeed and go on to college and future success. But we know that higher education is proving too costly for many deserving students. This is why part of AAUW's mission is to provide grants and scholarships. When you volunteer to help us with fund raising activities, you are helping someone else to achieve.

Yes, I enjoy our AAUW sponsored activities like going to the movies, lunches, and meetings with like-minded intelligent women. In 2022, we had some truly remarkable meetings thanks to many of you, and with a great deal of effort from our branch Co-Vice Presidents for Programs, Ann Sauberman and Irene McGhee. We are starting 2023 with plans for more engaging meetings with speakers who will inspire and inform us. Recently, I've become increasingly aware of public policy and supporting those who make decisions and pass laws for all of us, especially those that impact education, equality, and opportunities for women. A big thank you to Elisabeth Griffiths (author of *Formidable*), and Virginia Supreme Court Justice Thomas Mann for their presentations and relevant information.

We are collectively making a difference. Someone close to me just had surgery and I was there in pre-op when the surgeon said that her Operating Room staff of doctors, nurses, and anesthesiologists were all female. I was pleased to hear that until I thought about the fact that, while I applaud these dedicated women, I was excited to hear about something that's still fairly rare even in the 21st Century. We will have made progress when we *won't* have to remark on these situations because they are exceptions to the norm. Yes, things are changing for some women, but there is still a lot to be done.

This is where you come in. We can't physically lobby in the ways that we used to. Covid put an end to that for now. We can write letters and postcards and we can encourage people to vote. We can become active in our efforts to ensure that women have equal rights and opportunities. It's a good time to make this one of the firsts for 2023.

Please read the Public Policy emails that are sent to you. Our Northern District representatives, Susan Burk and Leslie Tourigny, send out emails to inform you of dates and pending legislative efforts as do our State AAUW Vice-Presidents for Public Policy, Denise Murden and Janine Greenwood. Our Virginia State Conference is coming in March. Think about how your voice can make a difference. Let this be the year that you help to right wrongs and improve life for others.

January Milestone Facts for Women*

- 1849** Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman to graduate from Medical School and become a doctor in the United States.
- 1984** US Rep. Geraldine Ferraro becomes the first woman vice presidential nominee by a major party.
- 1993** Janet Reno is sworn in as the first female attorney general of the United States.
- 1997** Madeleine Albright is sworn in as the nation's first female secretary of state.
- 2007** US Rep Nancy Pelosi becomes the first female Speaker of the House.
- 2013** The US military removes a ban against women serving in combat positions.
- 2016** Hillary Clinton becomes the first woman to receive a presidential nomination from a major political party.
- 2021** Kamala Harris is sworn in as the first woman and the first woman of color elected vice president of the United States.

**Courtesy of History.com*

December Holiday Dinner Party

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

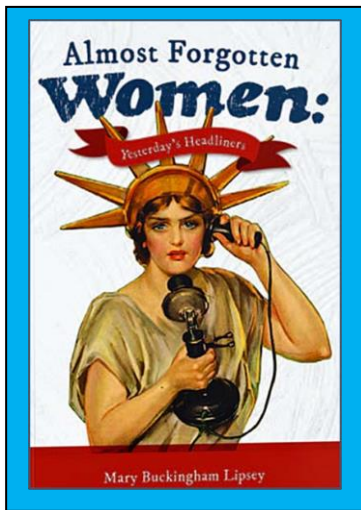
The Holiday Dinner Party, held on Wednesday evening, December 7, at Rafagino Italian Restaurant, in Burke, was attended by over thirty-eight Branch members. **Sound Advice** – a women's barbershop quartet – provided the holiday entertainment.



Sound Advice

January Program Meeting – Virtual

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



On Saturday, **January 21**, 1:00 P.M., 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.

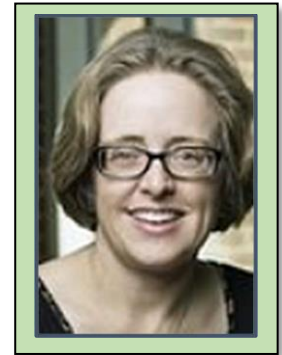
Ms. Lipsey is a sought-out speaker for the Fairfax County Historical Society and will offer some stories infringing on our own neighborhoods. More hidden women! Watch your email inbox for an invitation.

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 hold a Zoom meeting on **February 18**, 1:00 P.M., 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

Be sure to obtain the book in advance for this discussion.



Northern District Meeting – Live

The next AAUW-VA Northern District meeting is scheduled for Saturday, **February 25**, 10:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M., at the Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St, Alexandria.



A presentation will be given by a representative of Generation Hope. To ensure all student parents have the opportunities to succeed and experience economic mobility, Generation Hope engages education and policy partners to drive systemic change and provides direct support to teen parents in college as well as their children through holistic, two-generation programming. Additional details to follow.



The White House ornaments are all sold!
Thanks to Ginny Wells, Susan Burk, and Nancy Joyner who sold large numbers of them. We made \$515.50 in profit!
-Ann Sauberman

Spring Fling Silent Auction

Karen Flann, Sallie Williams, Silent Auction Team

May 5 is 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.

We are delighted to have the business letter for 2023 ready for you. When you are out and about, please keep the letter with you. When you are at a business you frequent, present the letter, and see if they would like to donate to our auction. The letter is attached at the end of this newsletter.

To recap last year:

- What was successful?

Seventy out of 72 items garnered a bid of at least \$25.00

Cash & Carry/Take It was a successful way to sell items valued at less than \$25.00

Experiences was a new category that we would like to offer again

The check-out went smoothly without a back-up

- Improvements we could make

More ideas for gift cards

Barns at Wolf Trap, Kennedy Center, Musical holiday performances, Greenspring Tea, Mt. Vernon, Hillwood, Ford's Theater, Stores such as Talbot's, Wineries/ Distilleries/Breweries, Gym membership, Massages

Items that always work

Gift Cards, Designer items – purses/scarves

Ideas for Experiences

Virtual cooking class with a chef, A House Rental, Bridge, Knitting, Quilting

All are welcome to join the **Silent Auction Team**

Contact Karen Flann or Sallie Williams

Public Policy

Susan Burk, Public Policy Chair

AAUW-VA State Lobby Day, Thursday, January 19

The Virginia General Assembly session opens for its short 45-day session on January 11, giving us many opportunities to advocate for legislative, policy, and budget priorities (attached at the end of this newsletter) that advance equity for women and girls in the Commonwealth. It is the strength of our united voices that gets the job done, so *we need every member helping in the ways they can*. We have circulated information to you from our state Vice Presidents for Public Policy.

We will kick off with a Pre-Session Public Policy Zoom meeting on **January 5** at 5:00 P.M. At this statewide gathering, you will learn how to advocate both in-person and virtually. We will introduce you to tools and resources that will be available to our members throughout the session, highlight issues to watch for, and provide updates on our in-person Lobby Day plans for January 19, as well as how you can participate virtually. *This is one meeting you will not want to miss.*

Topic: AAUW-VA Pre-Session Public Policy Zoom Meeting

Time: **January 5, 2023 05:00 PM** Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88121083620?pwd=Y1ptK0JEVDk5Tk5k3bG1JbGJoaXU3dz09>

Unfortunately, there will not be an AAUW-VA reception for women legislators due to the lack of an appropriate venue. Instead, our Public Policy VPs are looking at other options for a get-together of members in Richmond the day before.

For members wishing to travel to Richmond on January 18, a block of rooms has been reserved at the Hampton Inn & Suites Richmond Downtown (700 E Main St., Richmond, VA 23219 (804-643-5400) at the rate of \$145 for the night of January 18. Use the following registration link to get the reduced price:

<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>

If you have financial restrictions and need a place to stay, a limited number of rooms in private homes have been made available to us. Email Denise Murden for more information.

Contact me, Susan Burk, if you have any questions or need more information.

Passage of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, an AAUW Public Policy Priority

The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act requires employers to make reasonable accommodations to protect the health of pregnant workers, such as letting them carry bottles of water or take restroom breaks. This critical legislation passed the House of Representatives more than a year ago, but it was stalled in the Senate. On December 22, the Act finally was passed as part of the omnibus spending bill. Thanks to all who called or wrote their senators to urge their support for this landmark legislation.

The following report came from NBC News on December 22:

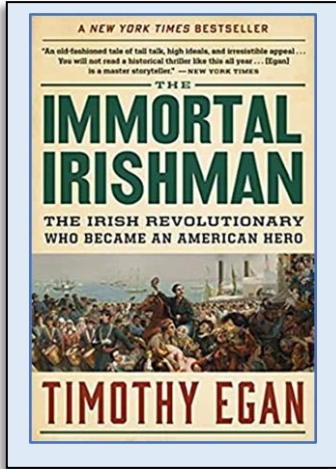
“After a years-long fight, Senators approved the inclusion of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act as part of the omnibus, offering protections from discrimination for pregnant workers. The last-ditch effort was led by Sens. Patty Murray, D-Wash., Richard Burr, R-NC, Bill Cassidy, R-LA, and Bob Casey, D-PA.

“For far too long, too many workers excited about welcoming a new baby had to worry about losing their jobs — all because their employers could deny them basic, low-cost accommodations like a bathroom break or a stool to sit on,” Murray said in a statement, calling the measure “a big and important step forward.”

Another bill expanding accommodations for pumping in the workplace also passed as part of the tranche of amendments, cementing another victory for pregnant women and new moms. That measure was offered by Sens. Jeff Merkley, D-OR., and Lisa Murkowski, R-AK.

Murkowski called the amendment's passage “good progress toward ensuring no mother ever has to choose between a job and nursing her child.”

Evening Book Group – Virtual



The Evening Book Group will meet via Zoom for the next meeting on Thursday, **January 5**, 7:00 P.M. The topic book is *The Immortal Irishman* by Timothy Egan. The scheduled reviewer is Mussaret Sheikh. Note that this topic book is different than the one shown in the Directory due to scheduling conflicts.

A dashing young orator during the Great Hunger of the 1840s, Thomas Francis Meagher led a failed uprising against British rule, for which he was banished to a Tasmanian prison colony for life. But two years later he was “back from the dead” and in New York, instantly the most famous Irishman in America. Meagher’s rebirth included his leading the newly formed Irish Brigade in many of the fiercest battles of the Civil War. Afterward, he tried to build a new Ireland in the wild west of Montana — a quixotic adventure that ended in the great mystery of his disappearance, which Egan resolves convincingly at last.

On **February 2**, 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

There is no scheduled meeting in January.

On **February 9**, 10:00 A.M., the Morning Book Group will review *The Dutch House*, by Ann Patchett. Terry Graham is the scheduled reviewer, and Jo Domingues will host.

Contact Jo Domingues 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 meet on **January 25**, the fourth Wednesday, instead of our regular third Wednesday. Note: this is a change for January only. We will again connect with First Watch for lunch following the movie.

Dates to Remember

January 5, 5:00 P.M.	Pre-Session Public Policy Zoom meeting	page 5
January 5, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group Meeting – Virtual	page 7
January 19	State Lobby Day – Richmond	page 5
January 21, 1:00 P.M.	January Program Meeting – Virtual	page 3
January 25	Movies at Midweek	page 7
January 25	February UPDATES submissions due to Judy Titterton, Editor	
February 2, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group Meeting – Virtual	page 7
February 9, 10:00 A.M.	Morning Book Group Meeting – Live	page 7
February 18, 1:00 P.M.	February Program Meeting – Virtual	page 4
February 25, 10:00 A.M.	AAUW-VA Northern District meeting	page 4
May 5	Spring Fling	page 4

So, who doesn't love Groucho Marx? Here are some quips attributed to him:

Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read.

Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana

I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book.

I'm not crazy about reality, but it's still the only place to get a decent meal.



Groucho says:
Submit your February
UPDATES information
by **January 25 at Noon!**



January 2023

Dear

The Springfield-Annandale Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) is having a benefit luncheon on May 5, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to raise funds to support AAUW-sponsored programs such as scholarships, leadership development, lifelong education for women and girls, and the Legal Advocacy Fund. The purpose of this letter is to request your support for this fundraising effort.

Our featured speaker will be 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, 25 of those years with the 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 affect our lives.

At the luncheon, we will conduct a SILENT AUCTION and we are seeking donations of items or gift certificates for use at the auction. Companies/Businesses that donate will be acknowledged as contributors to the silent auction in the printed program for the luncheon.

Thank you for considering our request. Responses may be addressed to ----

Sallie Williams
Silent Auction Coordinator
Springfield Annandale AAUW
4406 Jayson Lane, Annandale, VA 22003
Sallie.williams@gmail.com
703-424-6625

<https://sprann-va.aauw.net/>
Tax Id# 54-6058154

Bearer of Letter is: _____



AAUW-VA Legislative & Policy Priorities 2022-2023

AAUW (American Association of University Women) advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research to improve the lives of women and their families. [AAUW-VA's 2022-2024 Public Policy Priorities](#) encompass issues related to economic security; education; and equality, individual rights, and social justice. The following legislative and policy priorities are those we will focus on for the 2023 Virginia General Assembly legislative session and beyond:

- 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

AAUW-VA is a non-partisan statewide membership organization with 24 branches and approximately 1,000 members. For more information on our legislative and policy priorities, contact Janine Greenwood and Denise Murden, Co-VPs for Public Policy at aauwvpublicpolicy@gmail.com or visit <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/>.

AAUW-VA Branches

- Alexandria
- Arlington
- Fairfax City
- Falls Church Area
- Greater Manassas
- Greater Richmond
- Hampton
- Harrisonburg
- Lynchburg
- McLean Area
- Mt. Vernon
- Newport News
- Norfolk
- Portsmouth
- Reston-Herndon Area
- Roanoke Valley
- Smith Mountain
- Springfield-Annandale
- Suffolk
- Vienna Area
- Virginia Beach
- Winchester
- Woodbridge
- Wytheville