
U P D A T E S

Volume 63

April 2023

Issue 8

President's Message

Nancy Miller, Co-President



March has been a busy month for our branch. First, did you know that Springfield-Annandale Branch of AAUW was founded in 1955?

We are 68 years old this year!

We had a strong delegation attend the Northern District Meeting in Alexandria, where we enjoyed two presentations by non-profit groups supporting women in our community. They offered several alternatives for partnering with like-minded causes. The first part of our state meeting was held in Williamsburg on March 25, too late for a report this time around.

We also had an in-person Branch Meeting on the March 16, when Penny Gross, vice-chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, gave an informal insider view of local government. It was entertaining as well as enlightening.

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*

It's also been a month of loss, most notably Pat Schroeder, who certainly embodied AAUW ideals. Someone who we've never heard of, Traute Lafrenz, has died. She was the last known survivor of a small band of medical students (and others) known as the White Rose Resistance Group in Nazi- controlled Germany during WWII. They passed out leaflets and painted graffiti revealing truths about the Nazis and the Holocaust, risking death each time. Lafrenz received a citation from modern Germany calling her "a heroine of freedom and humanity," according to an obituary in the Washington Post.

From now until June 18, there is a special exhibition at the Hillwood Museum, "Determined Women: Collectors, Artists, and Designers at Hillwood" that might be of interest to you.

On Wednesday, March 29, the Library of Virginia hosted a panel discussion, "A Women's Place is in the House ... of Delegates". According to Karen Newton of *Style Weekly*. This program was dedicated to celebrating a century of women in the Virginia House of Delegates. Her article goes on to note that in 1982, Vivian Watts, a Fairfax County representative, had to use the side door—and she was only the 22nd woman to service in the Virginia legislature. I highly recommend the non-partisan Virginia Public Access Project *VANews* (<https://www.vpap.org/>) for anyone interested in keeping up with Virginia news.

Refer to the flyer attached at the end of this newsletter regarding the **Alexandria Branch** fundraiser at the **Little Theater of Alexandria**.

Our founding mothers in 1955 certainly had their work cut out for them. Let's not let them down! Continue to work for equality!

March Meeting

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

The March Program meeting, held March 16 with Supervisor Penny Gross at the Pohick Regional Library, was very successful. Supervisor Gross discussed the many projects the current Board of Supervisors is working on and will need to continue efforts in the future. Some of these important projects involve climate change, use of energy, affordable housing, improvement of our river and streams, clean water, and working with the other local legislative boards on common interests. She also went into details on how the Fairfax Board must work with the Virginia Department of Transportation.



Penny Gross

We moved our chairs into a circle and were able to have a frank discussion and an opportunity to ask all our questions. Toward the end of the meeting, we discussed many of the cultural issues that Virginia is dealing with, especially in our schools. The evening gave those that attended an opportunity to talk directly to an experienced local official, who has served the county for 28 years.

Student Inclusion Awards – April Program Meeting

Judy Baldwin

Four high school students will be honored for their efforts to increase inclusion and/or prevent bullying in their schools on **April 20**, 7:00 P.M., at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. The Springfield-Annandale Branch presents Student Inclusion Awards to high school Juniors from Annandale, John Lewis, Lake Braddock, and West Springfield High Schools. A certificate and a \$500 check will be presented to each awardee at the April Program Meeting.

In past years, some of our awardees have led a campaign to sticker lockers with “Respect is the new R word”; created holders on the inside of girls’ toilet stalls for handouts about services available to students who need them guaranteeing privacy for the recipients; worked with special needs sports; and, promoted a Blacks Can Swim campaign.

Each year, this proves to be our most inspiring program as we meet and listen to young people who are trying to make a difference in their world. There will be time to enjoy refreshments and talk to the students and their families after their presentations.

Student Inclusion Awards Committee includes Judy Baldwin, Ann Sauberman, Helen Cassidy, Betty Marie Fields, Irene McGhee, and Liz Gibbons.

Spring Fling Update

Ann Sauberman, Spring Fling Co-Chair

Our Branch, along with friends and family, will gather at the Springfield Golf and Country Club (8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield) on **May 5** from 11:00 A.M. to 3 P.M. Refer to the flyer at the end of this newsletter for all the information. After a fun-filled silent auction comes a delicious lunch. There are three menu options to choose from:

- Chicken Piccata with Lemon Butter Sauce
- Salmon with Citrus Beurre Blanc
- Pasta Primavera

It is now time to purchase your tickets. The deadline for purchasing your tickets is **April 24**.

There are two methods to do this.

1. Send your check for \$50 per person to Rose Clark. Make checks payable to *AAUW Springfield-Annandale*.

Be sure you include your email address, menu choice, and your list of table buddies (people you would like to sit with). We need this information along with your check.

2. Use Eventbrite where you can fill in all the information on line and pay with a credit card.

There is a small fee to use this convenience. The URL for Eventbrite is <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aauw-2023-spring-fling-luncheon-and-silent-auction-tickets-533676931067>.

Refer to the flyer attached at the end of this newsletter for all the details

Renee Wynn will speak about her experiences as a former Chief Information Officer at NASA. Ms. Wynn joined NASA in July 2015, after working 25 years with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). NASA and the space program are repeatedly in the news and it is important to learn how advances in space can affect us, our children, and grandchildren. The theme of her presentation is “The Benefit to Humanity from Space Exploration.” Ms. Wynn is an accomplished



Renee P. Wynn

speaker who will share her story of how women are entering new career paths. Come to Spring Fling with your many questions for our dynamic speaker

Spring Fling Silent Auction

Karen Flann, Sallie Williams, Silent Auction Team

Items for the silent auction can be dropped off at Karen Flann's house, the week of **April 10-16**. They can be left on the front porch, along with your name and phone number, or you can call Karen and make arrangements to have someone there when the items are delivered.

We are looking for:

- Costume and fine jewelry
- Designer purses and scarves,
- Fine art – including decorative textiles and items for the home

We can't use:

- Framed art
- Silver that needs to be polished
- Holiday items

Items will be offered at a minimum of \$25.00 as the opening bid, or will be sold in the Take It section.

Branch Picnic

June 17



Occoquan Regional Park
9751 Ox Road, Lorton

Springfield-Annandale AAUW
members mailed
86 Letters Against Isolation
in February!

Public Policy

Susan Burk, Public Policy Chair

March 14 was Equal Pay Day, the symbolic day when the pay of women overall catches up to the pay of men the previous year. Women working full-time, year-round are paid 84 cents, and all earners (including part-time and seasonal) are paid 77 cents on average for every dollar paid to men. Pay equity will remain

an AAUW priority until the pay gap is fully eliminated. We've long known that on average, pervasive pay inequities mean that women in the workforce take home less than men—and that women of color are often paid far less. (Throughout the year, AAUW will highlight how the gender pay gap impacts women of color and mothers differently in the workforce.)

Why are we still talking about the gender pay gap? Because it has barely changed in decades, and these historic inequities were further exacerbated when the COVID-19 crisis hit. Women over the past three years, especially women of color and mothers, were pushed into part-time or seasonal work, or out of the workforce all together. As elected officials continue efforts to rebuild our nation in the wake of the dual public health and economic crises, they must do better. We cannot build back an economy that works for everyone without ensuring that all women can work with equality, safety, and dignity—starting with pay equity.

U.S. Representative Rosa DeLaura (D-CT-03) and Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) reintroduced the Paycheck Fairness Act. Their press release is attached at the end of this newsletter.

Evening Book Group – Virtual

The Evening Book Group will meet via Zoom for the next meeting on Thursday, **April 6**, 7:00 P.M. The topic book is *The Lincoln Highway*, by Amor Towles. Deborah Dodd and Suzanne Bottoms are the scheduled reviewers.

Set in the 1950s, The Lincoln Highway is filled with nostalgia as well as the gentle naïveté and hijinks of those who are young, optimistic, and on a mission. The story follows four boys who set out to travel the country in search of a fresh start: Emmett and Billy want to find their mother who left them when they were young, and Duchess and Woolly are on the hunt for a stashed wad of cash. Sometimes their dreams are aligned but often they are not.

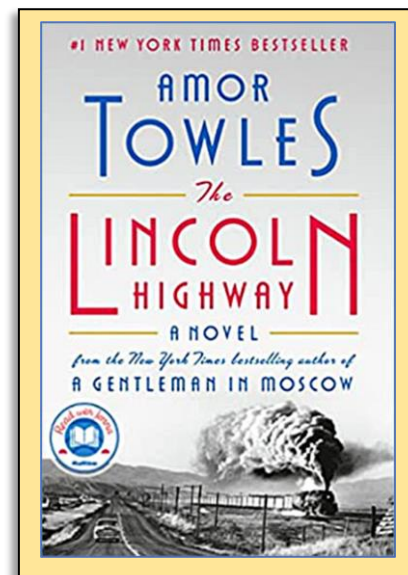
On **May 4**, the Evening Book Group will discuss *The Book of Hope*, by Jane Goodall. Beth Von Holle is the scheduled reviewer.

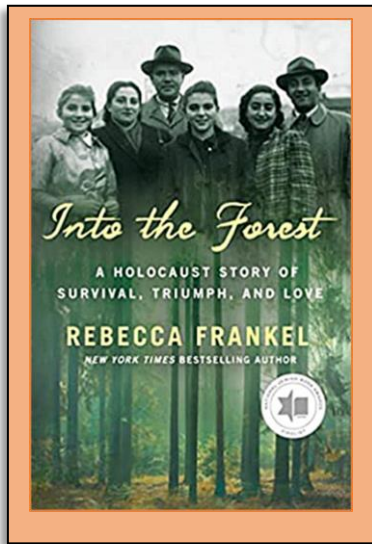
Contact Debbie Gilligan for more information. The complete list of the reading selections and reviewers for each month are in the Directory.

Morning Book Group – Live

On **April 13**, 10:00 A.M., the Morning Book Group will discuss *Into the Forest: A Holocaust Story of Survival, Triumph, and Love*, by Rebecca Frankel. Helen Cassidy is the scheduled reviewer.

Author Rebecca Frankel based the book on a series of in-depth interviews with Tania and Rochel Rabinowitz. Along with their parents, Morris and Miriam, they miraculously escaped the second liquidation of the Jewish ghetto in Zhetel in the summer of 1942. Today the small town is located in Dyatlovo, Belarus. But it was then part of Nazi-occupied Poland. Frankel, a D.C.-based journalist and editor, places that genocidal slaughter into a wider historical and geopolitical context.





The meeting will take place at the George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, in the Conference Room. Covered drinks are allowed, and Jo Domingues will bring snacks.

The Morning Book Group will meet on **May 11**, 10:00 A.M. The topic book is *Moonwalking with Einstein*, by Joshua Foer. Jo Domingues is the scheduled reviewer with Irene McGee hosting.

The Directory shows different information regarding hosting for April. Update your Directory with this change. Contact Jo Domingues for more information.

Movies at Midweek

Ginny Wells, Movie Maven

Movies at Midweek continues **April 19**, the third Wednesday, at the Cinema Arts Theater, 9650 Main Street, Fairfax, with lunch following as usual at First Watch restaurant. We will not meet in May, since I will be unavailable.

June 21 will be my last meeting as Movie Maven. There will be two new Co-Mavens beginning in September. Movies at Midweek will not meet during July and August.

Looking back at my notes, I began our monthly Movies at Midweek on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, when four of us saw *Timbuktu* and lunched at Potbelly. I selected Wednesday because it was reduced admission day for seniors at Cinema Arts Theatre; we could thus offer a low-price activity to our members.

The idea was to watch a morning movie and discuss it over lunch. We continued with the fourth Wednesday, usually with summers off, until Covid hit March 2020. When we resumed Movies at Midweek in September 2021, we changed to the third Wednesday to make November and December holidays less of a problem with scheduling. We switched restaurants to First Watch near to the movie theatre which proved to be a hit with everyone.

I thoroughly enjoyed being your Movie Maven. I wish you all Happy Viewing!

Dates to Remember

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April 10-16	Items for Spring Fling accepted	page 4
April 13, 10:00 A.M.	Morning Book Group Meeting – Live	page 5
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April 20, 7:00 P.M.	April Program Meeting – Live	page 2
April 21	Alexandria Branch – Little Theater of Alexandria	page 8
April 24	Deadline for Spring Fling ticket purchase	page 3
April 25	May UPDATES submissions due to Judy Titterton, Editor	
May 4, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group Meeting – Virtual	page 5
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June 17	Branch Picnic	page 4

During his lifetime, Ogden Nash was the most widely known, appreciated, and imitated American creator of light verse, a reputation that has continued after his death in 1971.

Few writers of light or serious verse can claim the same extensive dissemination of their poems that Nash's works enjoy, both with and without citation of the author.



Certain Nash lines, such as “If called by a panther, Don’t anther,” and “Candy is dandy, But liquor is quicker” have become bits of popular American folklore. Nash’s peculiar variety of poetic buffoonery combines wit and imagination with eminently memorable rhymes. -*Wikipedia*

Outside of him being my favorite poet, and a baseball fan (as am I), we share the same birthdate, August 19.

Be sure to get your UPDATES input to me by **April 25**, Noon.

Judy Titterton
Editor

HEADS WILL ROLL.
WELL, AT LEAST ONE WILL.

AAUW
Fundraiser

April 21, 2023
7p Reception
8p Performance

MARY 
STUART



LITTLE THEATER OF
ALEXANDRIA
600 WOLFE ST.
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
TICKETS ARE \$35, OF WHICH
\$10 IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE

RESERVE YOUR SEAT BY
EMAILING
SUSAN.WERNER1@VERIZON.NET

DeLauro, Murray Introduce the Paycheck Fairness Act

March 9, 2023

Press Release

Today, U.S. Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT-03) and Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), reintroduced the *Paycheck Fairness Act*, legislation that would combat wage discrimination and help close the wage gap by strengthening the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and ensuring women can challenge pay discriminations and hold employers accountable.

Ahead of Equal Pay Day on March 14, Representative DeLauro and Senator Murray joined advocates in underscoring the need to pass their *Paycheck Fairness Act*—which would end the practice of pay secrecy and strengthen available remedies for wronged employees—as the gender pay stubbornly persists. Across the U.S., women still earn, on average, just **77 cents** for every dollar paid to men, resulting in a gap of \$11,782 each year—and the disparity is worse for women of color.

“Men and women in the same job deserve the same pay,” **said DeLauro**. “It is a simple concept that has eluded so many in our workforce for far too long. It is time that ends. We must enact the Paycheck Fairness Act to close the expanding pay gap and give women the necessary tools to dispute pay discrimination in their workplace. This legislation is overdue, needed, and will meet women in the workplace where they are now. It is time for us to say that the work that women do in our society today is valued, and respected, and a needed contribution that we make.”

“Women across our country are still being paid less than their male counterparts, still being shortchanged, and it’s time we finally take action to close the wage gap,” **said Senator Murray**. “When we talk about the wage gap, we are ultimately talking about huge, life-changing amounts of pay that women are being cheated out of. Women are paying the price of inaction, and we have to put a stop to sexist pay practices—for good. That’s why I’m proud to reintroduce the Paycheck Fairness Act with Congresswoman DeLauro and every Democrat in the Senate today—to update our laws and take common sense steps to combat pay discrimination.”

“The gender wage gap is not only discriminatory; it undermines the financial stability of families and slows our economic growth. Despite current protections, inadequate remedies and limited enforcement tools have allowed gender-based wage discrimination to persist—leaving women, particularly women of color, without the pay they deserve,” **said Ranking Member Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA-03), House Committee on Education and the Workforce**. “The Paycheck Fairness Act strengthens enforcement of the Equal Pay Act of 1963, helps to lift families out of poverty, and finally aligns the fight against workplace gender discrimination with other federal anti-discrimination laws. This bill is one more step toward finally achieving equal pay for equal work.”

“I want to thank Congresswoman DeLauro and Senator Murray for their tireless work for women and families and for the reintroduction of the Paycheck Fairness Act,” **said Gaylynn Burroughs, director of workplace equality at the National Women’s Law Center**. “We all want to be paid fairly, yet the work that women do—often the work that makes up the backbone of our economy—is consistently undervalued and underpaid, contributing to a gender wage gap that has barely budged in the last decade and that

continues to exist in almost every occupation. The Paycheck Fairness Act is needed to strengthen the Equal Pay Act and provide new tools to help ensure fair pay and fight discrimination.”

“Lost wages make the strain that women face supporting themselves and their families even harder, especially at a time when rents and the price of necessities continue to rise,” **said Sharita Gruberg, Vice President for economic justice at the National Partnership for Women & Families.** “The wage gap is more than numbers. Women workers can’t afford to wait anymore and neither can our economy. It is time to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act and make pay discrimination history.”

“The experience of the COVID-19 pandemic has reaffirmed the critical role that women play in keeping our country running. However, women—particularly women of color—continue to be paid less than their male counterparts in virtually every industry and occupation in this country,” **said Melvina Ford, National Legal Director at Equal Rights Advocates.** “The Paycheck Fairness Act will close loopholes and ensure robust protections against sex-based pay discrimination under federal law and we applaud Rep. DeLauro and Senator Murray for their leadership in the fight for pay equity.”

“Our nation’s families and economy continue to suffer because of persistent wage discrimination, with moms and women of color facing the widest wage gaps and the most devastating harm,” **said Kristin Rowe-Finkbeiner, Executive Director and CEO, Moms Rising.** “Congress must take action, and passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act would be an essential step toward protecting women from losing much-needed income to wage discrimination. Its speedy passage should be a top priority for every lawmaker.”

“The Paycheck Fairness Act is an essential step towards addressing the persistent pay inequity facing women in our country,” **said Gloria Blackwell, Chief Executive Officer at American Association of University Women (AAUW).** “By allowing more transparency and providing tools to challenge wage discrimination and incentivizing employers to do the right thing, this bill will also help address wealth gaps that disproportionately impact Black and brown women.”

Across all workers in the United States, including those working part-time or part of the year women, on average, earn just 77 cents for every dollar paid to men, resulting in a gap of \$11,782 each year. The gap exists in every state, regardless of geography, occupation, education, or work patterns. And it is worse for women of color: compared to white men, Black women are paid 64 cents, Latina women are paid 54 cents, Native American women are paid 51 cents, and Asian American and Pacific Islander women are paid as little as 80 cents. For a woman working full-time year-round, the current wage gap represents a loss of **nearly \$400,000** over the course of her career. The wage gap impacts women’s ability to save for retirement and reduces their total Social Security and pension benefits, contributing to more older women living in poverty.

The Equal Pay Act of 1963 made it illegal for employers to pay unequal wages to men and women who perform substantially equal work. Along with other key civil rights laws that followed, it helped change the workplace and began to combat wage inequality—but these laws have not been updated in decades and have not closed the persistent gap between women’s and men’s wages. In the last two decades, the pay gap has **barely budged.**

The *Paycheck Fairness Act* would eliminate loopholes in the Equal Pay Act, breaking harmful patterns of pay discrimination and strengthening workplace protections for women. It is included among President Biden's gender equality priorities.

The Springfield Annandale Branch, AAUW of Virginia

American Association of University Women

AAUW 2023 Spring Fling

Friday, May 5th, 2023

Springfield Golf and Country Club

8301 Old Keene Mill Rd, Springfield, VA 22152

Our Guest Speaker,

Renee Wynn, Former Chief Information Officer of NASA

“The Benefit to Humanity of Space Exploration”



Come and Enjoy!

- Silent Auction: 11AM to Noon
- Luncheon
- Guest Speaker

This fundraiser supports AAUW programs such as fellowships, leadership development, lifelong education for women, the Legal Advocacy Fund, and other similar projects

Reservations:

Rose Clark

SpringFlingAAUW@gmail.com

DEADLINE: April 24th

Include in your email to Rose:

Menu Selection:

1. Chicken Piccata w/ lemon butter sauce
2. Salmon Filet w/ citrus beurre blanc
3. Pasta Primavera

Table buddy name(s) and their email address
("seat me with...")

Payment Options

1. Pay by credit card:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aauw-2023-spring-fling-luncheon-and-silent-auction-tickets-533676931067>

2. Pay by check:

Mail a \$50 check payable to Springfield-Annandale AAUW

To:
Rose Clark
330 S. West St. #303
Alexandria, VA 22314-5928

Tickets \$50 per person