
U P D A T E S

Volume 63

March 2023

Issue 7

President's Message

Cathleen Boivin, Co-President



We continue to celebrate women and their achievements. In 1987, Congress declared March to be, in perpetuity, the month of the year that was designated to celebrate the contributions of women throughout history and in contemporary society. It began in California in 1978 when Gilda Lerner and members of the National Women's History Alliance celebrated a Women's History Day. This group lobbied for then president Jimmy Carter to set aside a week in March annually to highlight the achievements of women. It was later expanded into a month long event.

The theme for the 2023 Women's History Month is "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories". (<https://www.womansday.com/life/a34908026/womens-history-month-facts/>). We are proud to be highlighting these stories by offering presentations centered on women and their places in history.

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*

In January, our branch highlighted the achievements and contributions of women who history has largely forgotten in an excellent presentation by local historian, Mary Lipsey. Her book is *Almost Forgotten Women: Yesterday's Headliners*.

In February we continued the theme through a panel discussion of our September speaker, Elisabeth Griffith's book, *Formidable*. George Mason University professor, Jennifer Ritterhouse led the group discussion. Dr. Ritterhouse teaches courses centering on the American South as well as women's history.



Jennifer Ritterhouse

"At present, Dr. Ritterhouse is researching the activism and spiritual and intellectual life of Lucy Randolph Mason, who was a great-great-granddaughter of George Mason IV and is best-known for her work for the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) from 1937-1952. She was also a Virginia suffragist and racial liberal whose long career illuminates the shifting currents from Progressive Era reform, through New Deal liberalism, and beyond to efforts for fundamental social change."

(<https://historyarthistory.gmu.edu/people/jritterh>)

She led us through a discussion of changing gender norms for both white and black women as articulated in Griffith's book. It was an excellent program.

It brought to mind my own great-grandmother, born in 1874, who managed to attend two years of college (I believe it was Sam Houston Normal School, one of the first teaching colleges for women in the United States) and who was a teacher for a short time until she married in 1895. There were very strict rules for women teachers. Married women were not allowed to teach. They also couldn't drink or smoke or dye their hair or cut it short. They could only be seen in the company of a young man to go to church on Sundays. They were not allowed to be suffragettes. They were expected to be very prim and proper, in short, they defined the idea we have of the "school marm." She and my great-grandfather had seven children – five girls and two boys, and she survived until the age of 92. After she was widowed in 1939, she ran a boarding house to support herself and her family until she was in her late 80s. All seven of her children graduated from high school and half of them went on to higher education in a time when that was still far from the norm. I honor her and other female members of my family who not only survived, but thrived in very trying times.

AAUW has always supported women's educational success and many of our grants and lobby efforts support the opening of academic opportunities for women. By doing so, we are creating pathways for women to use their talents and abilities for the betterment of all of us.

We are, as a society, making some slow progress towards equality and improvements for people in all walks of life. Women are still struggling to be heard. As we honor women from the past, who were courageous and refused to be ignored as intelligent, functioning individuals, let's continue to lobby for and pave the way for our daughters and granddaughters to have greater equity and opportunities to expand their horizons.

AAUW of Virginia will hold its annual State Conference in Williamsburg on **March 18** with speakers who are modern day women of note.

Access <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/conference-2/> for details on the conference and how to register.

Student Inclusion Awards

Judy Baldwin

The Student Inclusion Award committee met and revised the application and flyer which now has been sent to counselors at Annandale, John Lewis, Lake Braddock, and West Springfield high schools.

Juniors have until March 24 to submit information and an essay on what they are doing in their schools to fight back against bullying and to increase inclusion in some manner. One winner will be selected per school and be presented checks for \$500 and a certificate at our April General Meeting at Pohick Regional Library.



March Meeting – Live

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

Local government is not always studied, discussed, or covered in detail by the media. It is, however, very important to citizen's everyday lives. Come to the Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke, **March 16**, at 7:00 P.M., where our guest speaker, Fairfax County Board Supervisor, Penny Gross (Mason District), will discuss the many challenges that our County is facing and how the Board of Supervisors works with other local counties and the Virginia State Legislature.

Supervisor Gross was first elected to the Board in November 1995, and was re-elected to her seventh term in November 2019. She has announced that this will be her last term in office. Supervisor Gross is Vice-Chair of the Board and chairs the



Penny Gross

Personnel Committee. Ms. Gross is the Past President of the Virginia Association of Counties, Vice-Chair of the National Association of Counties' Energy, Environment, and Land Use Committee, and Past President of the National Association of Regional Councils.

We are fortunate to have Supervisor Gross, after a very successful career representing Mason District and Fairfax County for 28 years, tell us what key issues the Board has dealt with during the many years she has served.

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. 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>.

The deadline date to purchase tickets is **April 24**. The committee encourages you to order your tickets as soon as possible to assure that you sit with your friends.

After the silent auction, and a delicious lunch, 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."

So many of the scientific experiments in space can help scientists and government improve our way of life. There are many security risks that also must be considered. Ms. Wynn is an accomplished woman who will share her story of how women are entering new career paths.



Renee P. Wynn

Spring Fling Silent Auction

Karen Flann, Sallie Williams, Silent Auction Team

We need YOUR HELP to ensure that Spring Fling is a success!



All items must be in excellent condition. Donate items that you would give to a good friend. **April 15** is the last day to donate. Contact Karen Flann or Sallie Williams.

One-Of-A-Kind Experiences: Share your talents and interests! Can you host a cooking class or teach beginner's bridge, quilting or knitting? Are you a gardener? Why not organize a garden tour and tea? Once again, this year we have the incomparable Gary Lloyd donating a session of unique storytelling! We also have Helen Cassidy offering Unique Travel Opportunities.

Tickets: Do you have series tickets to the theater or a sporting event? Donate an evening at Arena Stage, the Kennedy Center, or a Nationals game!

Vacation Getaways: Why not donate a week or a long weekend at your beach house or cabin? We can make the dates work with your schedule!

Jewelry: Donate your fine jewelry, costume jewelry, and unique jewelry boxes.

Boutique Accessories: Designer scarves and handbags from modern to vintage.

Unique Collectibles: Fine art, decorative arts for home and garden, objects d'art acquired from your travels, unique textiles, pottery, and ceramic ware.

Gift Cards: These are our bread and butter! Restaurants, spas, bakeries, wineries – if you like to go there, so will our bidders! The business letter for 2023 is ready for you and is attached at the end of this newsletter. 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.

To prevent duplication, we already have gift cards from:

First Watch	Milano's
Foxfire Grill	Safeway
Giant	Villa Bella
Hard Times Café	

Members have signed up to contact these businesses:

Aldi – no	Aracosia McLean	Arena Stage Theater
Beanetics	Bob & Edith’s – no	Brixx Wood Fired Pizza
Café Tatti	Cinema Arts	Clyde's
Costco Wholesale	Coyote Grill	Creative Cauldron
Elephant Jumps	Encore Stage and Studio	Flagship carwash - no
Foxfire Grill	Gaylord National	Glory Days
GMU Center for the Arts	Great American Restaurants	Greenspring Gardens - no
Hamrock's	Il Giardino Italian Restaurant	Jefferson District Golf
Kirby Club – no	Lidl	Massage Envy Fairfax
Meadows Farms	Osteria da Nino	Paul Michael Salon
Plaka	Plaza Art	Safeway
Signature Theater	Silver Diner	Springfield CC Golf
The Old Brogue Irish Pub	The Swiss Bakery	Total Wine
Trader Joe's - yes	Trattoria Villaggio	Washington Capitals
Washington Commanders	Washington Mystics	Washington Nationals
Washington Wizards	Wegmans	Whole Foods
Wolf Trap National Park		

Springfield-Annandale AAUW
members mailed

150 Letters Against Isolation
in January!

Public Policy

Janine Greenwood, Denise M. Murden, Co-VPs for Public Policy, AAUW of Virginia
Susan Burk, Springfield-Annandale Branch Public Policy Chair

The General Assembly (GA) session concluded on February 25 without agreement on the state budget. The House and Senate joint budget conference committee will have to continue its work. The GA will also reconvene on April 12 for the “Veto Session” to deal with any vetoes by Governor Youngkin of the legislation it managed to pass.

This short session of the Virginia legislature saw deep partisan divides. With the Republicans in control of the House of Delegates and the Democrats in control of the Senate, the votes continued a trend of lawmakers of both parties opposing each other’s controversial legislation and killing them in committee

hearings. Disposing of the most controversial bills without a floor vote of the entire chamber enabled politicians to avoid going on the record in a way that could haunt them in the 2023 election.

Here is a summary of the outcomes in our key legislative and policy priorities:

Education

- The bills AAUW-VA we were concerned about that would have diverted state education funding of public schools into so-called “savings” (voucher) accounts died in committee and did not receive a general vote.
- Two bills that would have restricted transgender students’ participation in school athletics and required officials to notify parents if their child identifies as trans in school were defeated in the Senate. Supporters said the bills would have promoted fairness for female athletes and protected parental rights, and the measures cleared the floor of the Republican-controlled House of Delegates means that no legislation on school accommodations or health care for trans children will reach Gov. Youngkin’s desk.
- A Senate committee killed multiple bills from the House that aimed to increase parental oversight in public schools. Bills defeated by the Senate Education and Health Committee included proposals to require that parents be notified and allowed to opt their children out of presentations or performances by outside groups and mandate parental involvement in the crafting of library policies.
- AAUW-VA will continue as a member of the Fund Our Schools coalition which we joined this year. The coalition gives us additional resources to advocate for public school funding, one of our top legislative priorities. We ask that you use their portal <https://www.fundourschoolsva.org/fund-our-schools-in-the-state-budget/> to ask lawmakers to ensure that public schools are fully funded in the ongoing budget talks that now continue after the conclusion of the GA session.

Reproductive Rights and Abortion

- All the abortion bans were buried or defeated prior to crossover, but there were still some harmful anti-abortion bills that did move to the State Senate. The Senate Education and Health Committee defeated two that stigmatized health care. Delegate Greenhalgh’s bill would have interfered in the patient-provider relationship by reinstating medically unnecessary biased counseling for abortion patients, and Delegate Freitas’s bill threatened to criminalize health care providers.
- A bill that would have mandated that the Virginia Department of Health list crisis pregnancy centers on its website was defeated in the Senate Rules Committee. Crisis pregnancy centers are fake health care centers that mislead pregnant people, and the American Medical Association has called them “unethical.”
- Unfortunately, the constitutional amendment that would allow voters to enshrine a right to reproductive freedom in our constitution was defeated in the House Courts of Justice Subcommittee 1. This subcommittee had considered the House of Delegates version of this legislation and rejected it previously. The State Senate version had passed on the State Senate floor on a vote of 21-18.
- A bill that would have protected online menstrual tracker data from subpoenas was defeated in the House, along with the Contraceptive Equity Act, which would have required health care insurers to provide coverage for contraceptives.

- For a full review of what happened in the reproductive rights and abortion arena, you can Join Planned Parent Advocates of Virginia (PPAV) on Thursday, March 2 at 6:30 P.M. for their virtual Post Legislative Session briefing. Senate President Pro Tempore Louise Lucas will be joining as a special guest. Register through this link: <https://ppaf.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEpf-CspjgiGtWHHjOdk8-drcIwXwOyggN5?emci=cfdc1e7-adb3-ed11-a8e0-00224832e811&emdi=1b2aafef-58b4-ed11-a8e0-00224832e811&ceid=16932181>

Workplace Rights

- Efforts to expand Paid Family & Medical Leave and Paid Sick Leave were defeated in House committees.
- Both a salary history ban bill and a mandate for workplace harassment training were defeated in House committee.
- One bright spot was passage of the “Silence No More Act” would prohibit non-disclosure and non-disparagement provisions in employment contracts or settlement agreements if the contracts were to bar discussion of conduct at a past workplace, at work events, and between employees and employers.

Voting Rights

- On February 17, the Virginia Senate passed HB1948 (Bloxom), which the House passed unanimously on February 2, removing the witness requirement for absentee ballots beginning July 1, 2023. Instead, voters will be required to provide the last four digits of their social security number along with their date of birth and signature.

Electronic Meetings

- A bill to expand electronic meetings was tabled in the House.

Virginia made history this month with the election of its first Black woman to the U.S. Congress, Jennifer McClellan. A copy of our letter of congratulations to her is attached.

We again express our thanks to those of you who were able to participate in Lobby Day or took other action to reach out to your legislators. We hope to see many of you at the AAUW-VA conference this month.

2023 is going to be a very active election year in Virginia with the entire General Assembly up for election. At our next Public Policy meeting on March 30, we will discuss how we can inform our members and other voters about candidate positions on our Public Policy priorities.



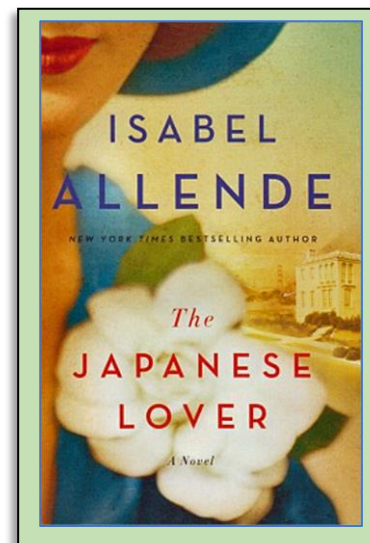
Evening Book Group – Virtual

The Evening Book Group will meet via Zoom for the next meeting on Thursday, **March 2**, 7:00 P.M. The topic book is *The Japanese Lover* by Isabel Allende. Debbie Gilligan is the scheduled reviewer.

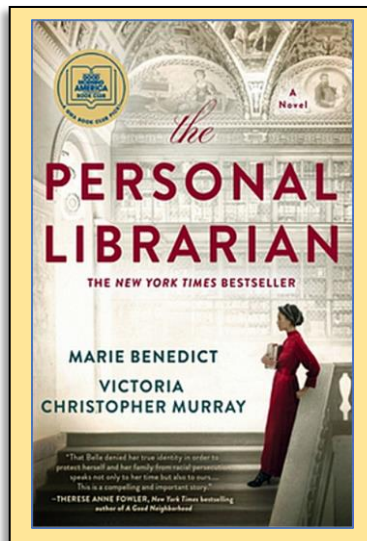
Published in 2015, the book tells the story of a wartime love story between a Polish woman and a Japanese American in the aftermath of the Nazi Invasion of Poland in 1939. It follows the magical realism and historical romance/fiction like her previous books. The Japanese Lover also coincided with Allende receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom by US President, Barack Obama.

On **April 6**, the Evening Book Group will discuss *The Lincoln Highway*, by Amor Towles. Deborah Dodd and Suzanne Bottoms are the scheduled reviewers.

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 **March 9**, the Morning Book Group will discuss *The Personal Librarian*, by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. Deborah Dodd is the scheduled reviewer and Helen Cassidy will host.

The novel follows Belle da Costa Greene, the personal librarian to J. P. Morgan, as well as the first director of the Morgan Library & Museum, as she receives employment from Morgan and establishes herself in high society while disguising her true identity as a person of color in the early twentieth century. In her time working for Morgan, she became hugely successful as she purchased rare manuscripts to build Mr. Morgan's collection. The novel also speaks to Belle's personal life as she struggles with her identity and the historical context in which she lives.

On **April 13**, 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 and Betty Sheehan will host.

Contact Jo Domingues for more information.

Movies at Midweek

Ginny Wells, Movie Maven

Movies at Midweek will meet on Wednesday, **March 15**, 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.

Dates to Remember

March 2, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group Meeting – Virtual	page 9
March 9, 10:00 A.M.	Morning Book Group Meeting – Live	page 9
March 15	Movies at Midweek	page 9
March 16, 7:00 P.M.	March Program Meeting – Live	page 3
March 18	State Conference – Williamsburg	page 2
March 27	April UPDATES submissions due to Judy Titterton, Editor	
April	Student Inclusion Awards Meeting	page 3
April 6, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group Meeting – Virtual	page 9
April 13, 10:00 A.M.	Morning Book Group Meeting – Live	page 9
April 15	Deadline for Spring Fling Auction donations	page 5
April 24	Deadline for Spring Fling ticket purchase	page 4
May 5, 11:00 A.M.	Spring Fling	page 4

March is Women’s History Month!

Did you know:

- Sixty-three percent of women voted in the 2020 presidential election, compared to 59.5% of men. Women have voted at a higher rate than men in presidential elections since the 1980s.
- Since 1916, every state but Vermont has sent a woman to the US Congress, until 2022 when Democrat Becca Balint won the race for Vermont’s lone seat in the U.S. House, becoming the first woman and first openly gay person to represent the state in Congress.
- Since 1980, there have been more females than males in the US. The female population grew 6.3% in the last 10 years.

And...

April UPDATES input is due March 27, at Noon

Judy Titterton
Editor

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"



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...*)

Tickets \$50 per person

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

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



Spring 2023

Dear Business Owner,

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: _____



February 23, 2023

Senator Jennifer McClellan
Pocahontas Building
Richmond, Virginia

Dear Senator McClellan:

On behalf of the 1000 members of AAUW of Virginia, we want to express our congratulations on your historic election to the US House of Representatives. We have been grateful for your tireless advocacy for women and girls during your years in the Virginia General Assembly and we are thrilled that you can now take this advocacy to the national stage.

On March 14, AAUW and other organizations will mark Women's Equal Pay Day. This is the day in 2023 to which women on average must work to equal the pay men received in 2022. It is tragic that for women of color, this date is many months later in the year. Over half the states have a better ratio of pay equity between men and women than Virginia. The AAUW national website offers many resources that may be helpful to you and your staff in your new role.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/article/gender-pay-gap-by-state/>

We look forward to continuing to work with you in your new role and are looking forward to addressing our next letter to you as a member of Congress. Please let us know if we can be of assistance in any way.

Warmest regards,

Janine Greenwood and Denise M. Murden
Co-VP of Public Policy
AAUW of Virginia
Aauwvapublicpolicy@gmail.com

Cc: Robin Lucas, AAUW|