



U P D A T E S

Volume 64

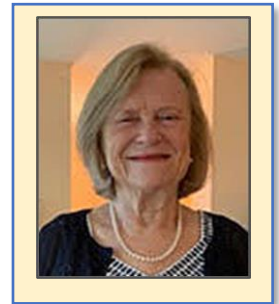
November 2023

Issue 03

President’s Message

Ann Sauberman, Co-President

For all of us who have spent time watching the TV news and reading the newspaper, there is so much discussion of war, destruction, fear, and hate since the morning of October 7, when Hamas terrorists attacked Israel. Their motive was the destruction of a Jewish state. Civilians: men, women, and so many children, both in Israel and Gaza have either been killed or suffered unspeakable torture from bombs and gunmen. Over 220 Israelis, Americans, and other nationalities have been taken as hostages by the Hamas terrorists. Both Israelis and Palestinians have lost their land, homes, schools, and essential buildings. Many Palestinians have run out of food, water, and fuel and have absolutely no where to go to be safe. Realistically, it looks like this war will not end quickly, but will spread to other terrorist groups and countries in the Middle East, as well as involving the United States. I could continue, but this is not a new phenomenon. It may seem more brutal, more barbaric because now we can see the gruesome pictures and listen to personal interviews. For over a year, we have also watched the Ukrainian civilians going through death, destruction, and inhumane treatment.



Will these religious and ethnic wars ever end? Will anti-Semitic, anti- Islamic, and racism stop fueling the destruction of innocent civilians? These same questions were asked in my history class when I was in high school. Will there be peace in the Middle East or in the other tense areas of the world?

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*

There was no answer then or now. But we cannot give up as Americans or World Citizens. As AAUW members we do not have the power to end war or remove the bombs and guns, but we must try to work on toleration and acceptance.

I am so proud of what AAUW has accomplished in encouraging diversity, equity, and inclusion. In our diversity statement, we have written that *“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.”* These are not just empty words. In all levels of AAUW, national, state, and local, there are diversity, equity, and inclusion representatives that meet to plan ways of making our principles a reality. In our own branch, Springfield-Annandale, we have been sponsoring the Diversity Award since 2001 to inspire juniors in high school to create and fulfill projects that will help them learn about and include the many diverse individuals in their school or in their community.

Before 2001, Joanna Shows, a teacher at Braddock Secondary School and an AAUW Springfield/Annandale Branch member, observed students in her class having difficulty accepting students from different backgrounds and religions. A few Christian and a few Muslim girls were not understanding each other and were being discriminatory and cruel. Joanna began a project of inviting a few students of different backgrounds to her classroom for lunch. She discovered that as they got to know each other, they began to appreciate people of different religions. Understanding people as individuals can reduce hate and division. The students were able to work together in her class and outside of school. In 2001, Joanna Shows, Ercel Binns, and a few other branch members created the diversity award in four High Schools; Annandale, Justice, Lake Braddock and West Springfield. The award was recently renamed the Inclusion Award to meet the needs of not just understanding and learning about others, but making them feel welcome and important. At the April Branch meeting each year, our members get to enjoy oral and visual presentations of the winning projects that have helped students learn to understand and value others. The applications are not restricted to girls but now include all juniors. Four winners receive a monetary prize that can be used for college applications. Our Branch is again sponsoring the Inclusion Award. The Inclusion Committee will be meeting next month so that the members can review and update the application to meet the needs of our changing world. If you are interested in joining this committee, contact Judy Baldwin, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Representative.



It is true that hate and violence cannot just disappear. It exists not only in wars globally, but there are many smaller examples in our own community and throughout the United States. Mosques, Churches, Jewish Temples and Schools are just examples of places of violence and destruction. So many individual ethnic, racial, and religious groups have been attacked because of hate. Just last week, a six-year-old boy was stabbed to death in Chicago because he was Palestinian and his mother was also badly injured. Each of us must find ways of replacing hate in our communities with acceptance and inclusion. No one can solve the world's problems but we can start with a small step. Let's work together and develop more ways to fight discrimination and hate.

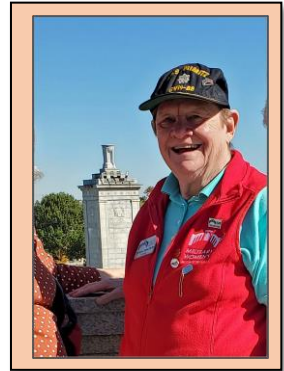
Branch Program Meeting – October 25

Irene McGhee, Amy Crolus, Co-Vice Presidents for Programs

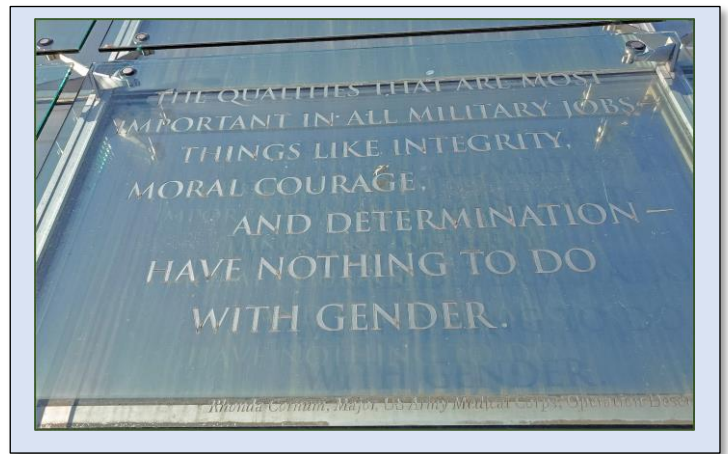
Sandy Lawrence led a group of Springfield-Annandale Branch members on a tour of the Women In Military Service For America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery on October 25. The tour was led in conjunction with the Memorial Staff.



L to R: Wendy Cleland-Hamnett, Deborah Dodd, Irene McGhee, Marcy Leverenz, Ann Sauberman



Sandy Lawrence



Rooftop Glass Tablet quote by Rhonda Cornum. Major, US Army Medical Corps, Desert Storm: "The qualities that are most important in all military jobs - things like Integrity, Moral Courage, and Determination - have nothing to do with gender."

Another quote from Rooftop Glass Tablets by President William Jefferson Clinton at the Dedication 1997: "The Women in Military Service for America Memorial tells the story of hundreds of thousands of courageous American servicewomen. Everyday these women bring new meaning to the old adage: DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY."

Branch Program Meeting – Delegate Tran – November 18

Irene McGhee, Amy Crolus, Co-Vice Presidents for Programs



Delegate Kathy Tran has championed women's causes seeking to expand access to affordable healthcare for woman and families, and paid family leave. She favors immigration reform, protecting our environment, preventing gun violence, and growing our economy. Ms. Tran is currently serving in the Virginia House of Delegates representing the 42nd District since 2018 (www.kathyfordelegate.com/). She is our featured speaker at the Branch Meeting on **November 18**, 3:00 P.M., at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke.

Born in Vietnam, Ms. Tran was raised in the United States, and attended Duke and the University of Michigan. She is married and has five children. Come and hear what the legislature has done on these issues and *Where Do We Go From Here?*

Branch Program Meeting – Holiday Tea – December 6

Irene McGhee, Amy Crolius, Co-Vice Presidents for Programs

Our holiday meeting is at Tea with Mrs. B (www.teawithmrsb.com/), 136 West Jefferson Street, Falls Church. **December 6**, 1:00 – 3:00 P.M.

Sweets, savories, and teas will be served. Cost is \$40.00 per member; \$45.00 per non-member. RSVP is required. Refer to the flyer at the end of this newsletter for more information.

Branch Program Meeting – January

We will feature two financial experts to address women’s financial issues. More on this in upcoming newsletters.

Public Policy

Susan Burk, Public Policy Chair

Pay Equity: It’s Math, not Myth.

I know this sounds like a broken record, but in the past 25 years, the gender pay gap has narrowed only by 8 cents – and the latest data reveals yet another year of stagnation. The money women are NOT making could be used for student loans, childcare, home ownership, and medical care. AAUW has been on the front lines fighting for pay equity from the beginning and our work continues. While there is little to no chance the Paycheck Fairness Act will make any progress in Congress in the near term, let your congressperson and senator know that you are counting on their support for this important piece of legislation. #Persist

Native Women’s Equal Pay Day - November 30

Native Women working full-time, year-round are paid 59 cents and all earners (including part-time and seasonal) are paid 55 cents for every dollar paid to non-Hispanic white men.

Looking Ahead on AAUW-VA’s Public Policy Priorities

We will soon know who will be serving in Virginia’s House of Delegates and Senate after the **November 7** state-wide election. Redistricting and many retirements ensure that Virginia’s General Assembly will look very different when

**VOTE on Election Day,
November 7!**

it convenes in January 2024. AAUW-VA will continue to advocate for paid family and medical leave, pay equity, paid sick days, and full support for Virginia’s public schools. We will resist any effort to roll back legislation that has facilitated citizens’ access to the ballot box, as well as efforts to limit women’s reproductive rights and access to appropriate health care. This needs to be an “All Hands On Deck” effort and there will be many ways you can support AAUW-VA’s Public Policy advocacy. Stay tuned for more information on how you can lend your active support. And thank you for voting. #YourVoteYourVoice

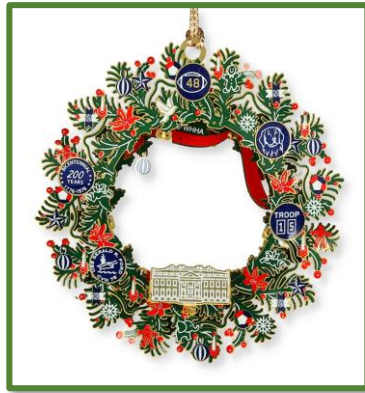
Save These Dates

- January 4: Pre-General Assembly Public Policy Zoom Meeting, 6:00 P.M.
- January 30: Women Legislators Reception, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Richmond
- January 31: AAUW-VA State Lobby Day, Richmond, VA

Read a message from AAUW-VA Public Policy Co-Vice Presidents at the end of this newsletter.

White House Ornaments

Susan Burk and Sharon Draper



We have sold all our ornaments!

A big
THANK YOU

to everyone who made purchases for this very popular fundraiser!

Evening Book Group – Virtual

The Evening Book Group will meet via Zoom Thursday, **November 2**, 7:00 P.M. The topic book is *The Secret Life of Sunflowers*, by Marta Molnar and Dana Marton. Nancy Miller is the scheduled reviewer.

The group will meet virtually **December 7** for a discussion of *The Things We Cannot Say*, by Kelly Rimmer. Ann Sauberman is the scheduled reviewer. Contact Debbie Gilligan for more information.

Morning Book Group – Live

The Morning Book Group will meet live **November 9**, 10:00 A.M., for a discussion of *Dinners With Ruth*, by Nia Totenberg. Terry Graham will lead the review and Mary Helmantoler will host.

The group will meet **December 14**, and review *The Violin Conspiracy*, by Brendan Slocumb. Karen Flann will lead the review and Helen Cassidy will host. Contact Jo Domingues for more information.

Movies at Midweek

Bev Wise and Helen Cassidy, Movie Mavens

Movies at Midweek will meet on the third Wednesday, **November 15**, at Cinema Arts Theater, 9650 Main Street, Fairfax. Watch your email on the Friday preceding for the movie selection.

CALENDAR

November 2, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group Meeting – Virtual	page 5
November 7	Election Day	page 4
November 9, 10:00 A.M.	Morning Book Group Meeting – Live	page 5
November 15	Movies at Midweek	page 5
November 18, 3:00 P.M.	Branch Program – Delegate Tran	page 3
November 23	RSVP for Tea With Mrs. B	Flyer
November 27	December newsletter articles due to Judy Titterton	
December 6, 1:00 P.M.	Branch Program – Holiday Tea With Mrs. B	page 4
December 7, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group Meeting – Virtual	page 5
December 14, 10:00 A.M.	Morning Book Group Meeting – Live	page 5
January 4	Public Policy Zoom	page 4
January 30	Women Legislators Reception	page 4
January 31	State Lobby Day	page 4

The 1960s ushered in an era of significant social progress in the U.S., and **AAUW** played a pivotal role. Throughout the decade, we became increasingly engaged in the Civil Rights Movement. We created the *Coretta Scott King Fund* to provide scholarships to enable Black women to become leaders in academia, business, the professions, the arts, and public service.

AAUW remained at the forefront of the Feminist Movement, continuing its fight for laws and policies to increase gender equity. Our members served on the 1961 Presidential Commission on the Status of Women, and around the country and in Washington D.C. We advocated for reforms on issues such as equal pay, reproductive rights, maternity leave, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. Our commitment to environmental issues was marked by the publication of a 1968 study, *This Beleaguered Earth—Can Man Survive?*

We continued to lead the fight for equality in education. **AAUW** was instrumental in the creation and passage of Title IX, which was introduced by **AAUW** Member Rep. Edith Green (D-OR) and was co-sponsored by **AAUW** Member Rep. Patsy Mink (D-HI). (www.aauw.org/about/history/)

Newsletter articles for December UPDATES are due November 27.

— Judy Titterton, Editor



Join us for

Tea With Mrs. B

Wednesday, December 6

1:00 to 3:00 P.M.

136 West Jefferson Street

Falls Church, VA

Sweets and savories, plus a variety of teas are available

AAUW members \$40.00 - guests \$45.00

Mail your checks, made out to *Springfield-Annandale AAUW* to:

Sharon Draper, 6913 Pacific Lane, Annandale 22003

RSVP by **November 23** to Irene McGhee, ibmcghee@verizon.net

Surprise Visitor!



AAUW-VA PUBLIC POLICY
NEWSLETTER RESOURCES FOR BRANCHES

October 22, 2023

- Public Policy wants to alert branches to the situations in Grayson County and Bristol, VA, both in Southwest Virginia. After working with the Wytheville Branch and the Southwest District Rep to better understand the community's involvement and impact on women there, we have decided to support advocates in these communities who are facing efforts from outside Virginia to restrict access to abortion and establish "test cases." We held a special Zoom presentation on the subject on October 26 and provided additional details of how our members can support community advocates at this meeting. In addition, Denise Murden plans to speak on behalf of AAUW-VA at the Grayson County Board of Supervisors public hearing on an abortion ordinance on December 14.
- Voter Guides for the 37 contested Virginia Senate Races were completed, shared with individual candidates, and posted on the AAUW-VA website prior to the start of early voting. AAUW National recognized Virginia for this effort.
- After a summer break, AAUW National restarted its monthly State Public Policy Chair (SPPC) Zoom meetings. We have been introduced and given access to a new legislative tracking system, BillTrack50, which we will use in the upcoming General Assembly session. AAUW National Lobby Corps has also resumed with many Virginia members, including Janine Greenwood. Lobby Corps training for both existing and new members will be held on November 2 in the AAUW offices.
- AAUW National sent out two GOTV emails to all AAUW-VA members after working on the details and wording with us. The first encouraged registration and the second encouraged voting. National is using Virginia as a "beta test" of new ways they can support state public policy activities.
- Along with many in the AAUW-VA leadership, Denise Murden and Janine Greenwood attended Senator Warner's annual non-partisan Virginia Women's Conference in Norfolk on September 30. They attended AAUW's Salary Negotiation Workshop and received applause when we were able to comment that we have been pursuing salary history ban legislation in Virginia for several years.
- Denise Murden attended Social Justice University on October 1 in Virginia Beach. This annual event, organized by the Hampton Roads Legislative Collaborative Table (LCT), provides advocates with information on the common agenda of the 27 participating groups, including AAUW-VA, that was developed in June.
- We held another Public Policy Zoom meeting on October 4 to discuss Branch public policy activities. Thanks to Northern District for sharing the Congresswoman Jennifer McClellan video we showed.
- AAUW-VA will again participate in the League of Women Voters Pre-session event on December 6 to highlight the AAUW-VA Public Policy agenda.
- More than 3,000 postcards were distributed to our branches for the Reclaim Our Vote campaign, and we know that some Branches were supplying their own cards to write. Cards were mailed through October 25, so we will provide a complete report on participation in January.

- Preparations for our Lobby Days is underway. We have secured a room at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Richmond for our Women Legislator's Reception on January 30 at 5:00 P.M. We will be working with GRAAUW Branch members on this event. A block of 18 rooms have been reserved at the Hampton Inn, Richmond, at a group rate of \$149 each. This is the same hotel as last year. In person lobbying will be on January 31 and we are working on details for virtual lobbying on February 28. Issues for lobbying will depend on what is introduced by the newly elected members of the legislature after the election, but will reflect our policy priorities.

Submitted by:

Janine Greenwood
Denise Murden
Co-VPs for Public Policy