



U P D A T E S

Volume 64

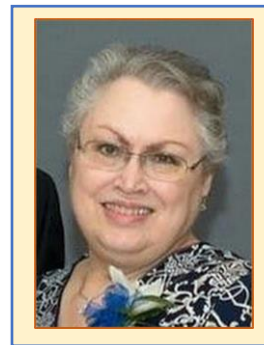
October 2023

Issue 02

President's Message

Cathleen Boivin, Co-President

Libraries are under siege these days. Even when I retired from teaching eight years ago, our school libraries were evolving into multi media centers. Our students were seemingly more invested in quick information access online instead of traditional library books and other printed materials. Mind you, I'm not knocking the Internet. Our students have access to materials and research previously available only to doctoral students with money and time to travel. My students researched topics for their National History Day projects and I did my bit for books by encouraging shelf searches. The librarians at my school were grateful. However, there has been a lot of media attention recently on who should be allowed access to certain books. Some parent groups and other lobbyists are actively trying to limit what our students read and, in some cases, censor and control required reading for some courses.



The various media outlets have been covering nationwide issues of censorship and the demand of certain groups that claim their right to choose the books that our students can read or study. There was a case this week concerning whether or not middle school students in Florida can appropriately read and study such classics of literature such as *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Certain books, such as *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain have been removed from shelves. This issue continues to be controversial and has generated passionate discussion.

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.

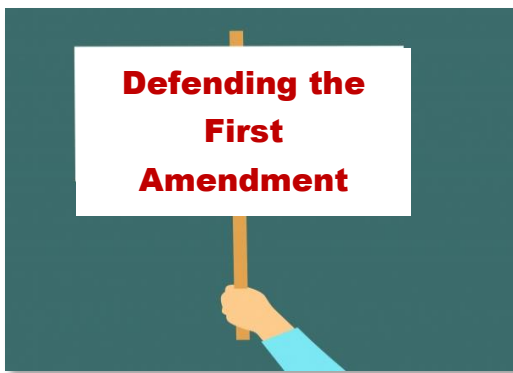
AAUW Diversity Statement

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*

Our September AAUW Branch meeting featured Shari Henry, Director of Democracy and Community Impact, Urban Libraries Council. The slides used in her presentation with links to sites with helpful information were recently distributed via email to our Branch members. Her talk was compelling and illuminating. She has stated that her favorite part of librarianship is “defending free speech (and the other freedoms imbedded in the First Amendment) and leveling the playing field.” (Virginia Library Association, www.vla.org) Even if you could not be present at the meeting, you can review her slides and identify the positions of various states and groups. Where do you stand?

I've had a love affair with books and reading all of my life. Since the day I learned my ABC's, my nose has been perpetually buried in a book. As a kid growing up in small town Texas, I was motivated to ride my blue Schwinn to the library in the summer heat to replenish my supply of reading material. I loved visiting my grandmother in Houston especially because she lived next door to a large public library. My parents were voracious readers, too. They were always happy to discuss literature and books and to explain anything



I didn't understand. I attended a girls' school in Istanbul as a teenager. I checked out books from the school library and, usually, my parents read the books I'd selected once I was done. I spent my allowance and baby-sitting money on paperbacks from a local English language book store in our village near what is now Bosphorus University. No one ever suggested that certain books were forbidden to me.

Many years later, I became a parent. As small children, my daughters spent their money on Little Golden Books. (No TV in Turkey in those days!) I participated in a reading improvement tutoring initiative at the base school. Students

picked whatever they wanted to read, including comic books, to develop their skills and open their world to the fun and adventures to be found in reading. My husband and I supported whatever reading selections our daughters chose. We trusted that their teachers were giving them a well-rounded education that would help prepare them for the future and open them up to ideas and the thoughts and beliefs of other cultures. And we taught them that these were rights guaranteed them by the First Amendment. I stand with Shari Henri, her fellow librarians, and concerned others in support of allowing all Americans, young and old, to freely read whatever they choose.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Judy Baldwin, DEI Representative

The Student Inclusion Award committee will meet soon and discuss the best ways to reach the students we want to have apply. What worked well in the past was not working this year except for Lake Braddock.

The committee chooses a Junior student from Annandale, Lake Braddock, John Lewis and West Springfield high schools who has made great efforts to increase inclusion in her/his school. When there are no entrants from a school, two winners are chosen from another and that's the situation we have had lately. Winners receive \$500 and the ability to list the award on their college applications.

Members of the committee are Judy Baldwin, Helen Cassidy, BettyMarie Fields, Elizabeth Gibbons, Irene McGhee, Ann Sauberman, and Mussaret Sheikh. We would love to have others join us especially if you have a relationship with Annandale, John Lewis, or West Springfield high schools.

Branch Program Meeting – Arlington Cemetery – October 25

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

An inspirational and informative field trip is planned to the Women In Military Service For America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery (veteransfirstltd.org/the-womens-memorial/) on **October 25**, at 1:00 P.M. The tour will be led by our own Sandy Lawrence*, in conjunction with the Memorial Staff. A tour typically takes 45 minutes to an hour. You will have the opportunity to locate the name of a friend or relative who served and is honored here. Weather permitting, we typically end up on the Rooftop Terrace which is accessible via stairs or elevator. The tour and admission are both free. It should be a great time to be there with the crowds at a minimum that week.



You need to register by October 15. Send me, Irene McGhee, an e-mail that you are coming. We can set up carpools or a Metro ride together. Look for further details on these options in future emails.

If you are arriving by vehicle, park in the Arlington National Cemetery Parking Garage. Parking is \$3.00 per hour, with a daily minimum of \$12. You will go through security screening at the Arlington Cemetery Welcome Center; walk to the facility from there. Alternately, it is an easy walk to the Memorial from the Arlington Cemetery Metro stop on the Blue Line. Guide will meet us in the Lobby by the Gift Shop.

*Read Sandy Lawrence's biography at the end of this newsletter.

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 Crolus, Co-Vice Presidents for Programs

A pleasant way to mingle amongst each other with our manners, proper etiquette, and social refinement on fitting display. *Tea with Mrs. B* (www.teawithmrsb.com/) will afford us this opportunity. Join us **December 6**, 1:00 – 3:00 P.M., 136 West Jefferson Street, Falls Church.

Sweets, savories, and teas will be served. Cost is \$40.00 per member; \$45.00 per non-member. Registration required; more information on this in the November *UPDATES* newsletter.

● ● ● **Special Guest Appearance!** ● ● ●

Spring Fling Silent Auction

Karen Flann, Sallie Williams, Silent Auction Team

We had great success with the Silent Auction at Spring Fling last May, with a mix of “Take It” Items, experiences, and biddable donations. We have an active group that likes to have fun!

What are your ideas for experiences this year? One group had a lot of fun with the Paint Party donated by Debbie Wargo last year.

Let's Dream Big!

Do you have friends, family (or maybe you?) who would like to bring an experience to our group? Let us know! Spring Fling is **May 3**, at the Springfield Golf and Country Club.

Public Policy

Susan Burk, Public Policy Chair

Getting Out the Vote

Through the efforts of 21 members, the Springfield-Annandale Branch will be mailing **500 Reclaim Our Vote** postcards to underrepresented voters in Stafford County and Hampton, VA, to encourage voters to vote this November when every state delegate and senator will be on the ballot. The response from the Branch was tremendous and we had to order more postcards and address labels. Even then, we did not have enough cards to fulfill everyone’s request. Let’s plan to do this again next year when we will have a presidential and congressional election and voter turnout will once again be vital. Remember, democracy is not a spectator sport. Thanks to all who volunteered for this important initiative.

Upcoming Candidate Forums

The League of Women Voters, Fairfax Area (LWVFA) is sponsoring four candidate forums for:

- Fairfax County Chair of the Board of Supervisors, October 2
- Fairfax County School Board Members At-Large, October 5
- Soil and Water Conservation District Board, October 11
- Sheriff and Clerk of the Circuit Court, October 16

AAUW-VA is co-sponsoring all four forums. Use the following link for information on how to access the forums and submit questions to the candidates: <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/2023-candidate-forums>

Pay Equity: It’s Math, not Myth

Latina’s Equal Pay Day is **October 5**. Latina women working full-time, year-round are paid 57 cents and all earners (including part-time and seasonal) are paid 54 cents for every dollar paid to non-Hispanic white men.

Save the 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, VA
- January 31: AAUW-VA State Lobby Day, Richmond, VA
- February 28: AAUW-VA Virtual Lobby Day



White House Ornaments Are Here

Susan Burk and Sharon Draper



We are selling White House Christmas Ornaments as a fundraiser again this year. Ornament price is \$24.00. (This is a dollar less than Amazon).

The 2023 Official White House Christmas Ornament is a festive holiday wreath, adorned with decorations inspired by the handcrafted Christmas ornaments used in the White House during the Gerald R. Ford, Jr., administration. Dozens of dolls, cherubs, doves, stars, flowers, gingerbread men, candles, and pentagon balls, in bright, cheery colors are featured with red ribbons

at the bottom bearing the words "Christmas 2023" and "The White House." Let us know how many you want, and we will get them to you.



Evening Book Group – Virtual

The Evening Book Group will meet via Zoom Thursday, **October 5**, 7:00 P.M. The topic book is *Lessons In Chemistry*, by Bonnie Garmus. Mary Kay Johnson is the scheduled reviewer.

The group will meet virtually **November 2** for a discussion of *The Secret Life of Sunflowers*, by Marta Molnar and Dana Marton. Nancy Miller is the scheduled reviewer. Contact Debbie Gilligan for more information.

Morning Book Group – Live

The Morning Literature Group will meet live **October 14**, 10:00 A.M. The topic book is *Everything I Never Told You*, by Celeste Ng. Betty Sheehan is the scheduled reviewer and Terry Graham will host.

The group will meet live on **November 9**, for a discussion of *Dinners With Ruth*, by Nia Totenberg. Terry Graham will lead the review and Mary Helmantoler 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, **October 18**, at Cinema Arts Theater, 9650 Main Street, Fairfax. Watch your email on the Friday preceding for the movie selection.

CALENDAR

October 2	LWVFA Forum	page 4
October 5	LWVFA Forum	page 4
October 5, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group Meeting – Virtual	page 5
October 11	LWVFA Forum	page 4
October 14, 10:00 A.M.	Morning Book Group Meeting – Live	page 5
October 15	Register for Arlington Cemetery Tour	page 3
October 16	LWVFA Forum	page 4
October 18	Movies at Midweek	page 5
October 25, 1:00 P.M.	Branch Program – Arlington Cemetery Tour	page 3
October 26	November UPDATES submissions due to Judy Titterton, Editor	
November 2, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group Meeting – Virtual	page 5
November 9, 10:00 A.M.	Morning Literature Group Meeting – Live	page 5
November 18, 3:00 P.M.	Branch Program – Delegate Tran	page 3
December 6, 1:00 P.M.	Branch Program – Holiday Tea	page 3
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January 30	Women Legislators Reception	page 5
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Throughout the economic boom of the 1920s, the Great Depression and the New Deal of the 1930s and the WW II and post-war era of the '40s and '50s, **AAUW** continued to thrive. Our influential network helped to increase the number of women attending college and universities and supported women in their career development.

By the time we celebrated our 50th anniversary in 1931, **AAUW** had 521 branches and 36,800 members. By 1949, we had grown to 1,097 branches and more than 108,000 members. (www.aauw.org/about/history/)

My dear Aunt Jean Lewis told me about **AAUW** and encouraged me to join. I did in 1993.



Newsletter articles for November UPDATES are due **October 26**.

— Judy Titterton, Editor

CDR Sandra Lawrence, USN, Ret.



Sandy Lawrence is a retired Navy Commander with over 24 years of service. All her jobs were in information technology, primarily in the operation and security of command-and-control systems and command-wide networks. She had assignments at US Naval Forces-Europe, Naval Space Command, Fifth Fleet, and Defense Information Systems Agency. She was the first Combat Systems Officer on the USS Nimitz and led the 11 officer and 200 Sailor department during a six-month deployment to the Persian Gulf

Sandy, a member of AAUW since 2001, has held leadership positions at the branch, state, and national levels, including AAUW of VA Co-president with Patsy Quick from 2014-18. At the national level, she was chair of the Social Media Committee for four years, co-chair of the AAUW Strategic Communications Task Force for four years, and is a Lobby Corps member. She was an AAUW of VA Named Honoree for 2023.

She has associate and bachelor degrees in physical education, a master's degree in health education, a master's degree in information systems, and is a graduate of the Naval War College. Sandy was inducted into the Massapequa High Schools' Hall of Fame in 2000.