



U P D A T E S

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Issue 06

President's Message

Cathie Boivin, Co-President

As I'm writing this in mid-January, TV ads are full of promos for gyms, exercise equipment, and healthy eating. The beginning of the year is as good a time as any for making positive changes for ourselves. Now, I'm not the kind of person who makes resolutions. In my experience, most people who make those resolutions at New Years wind up breaking them before a week has passed. It's really terrific to want to make changes in your habits, but cut yourself some slack. No one is perfect!

I've entered a phase of my life with a very large learning curve and more changes than I'm really comfortable with. As many of you know, an enormous tree fell on my home and rendered it uninhabitable. So, while another move was certainly not in my plans, we are moving into a rental home for the duration of the rebuild. This event certainly jolted me out of my comfort zone. Thus, my new philosophy is being more open to change, exercising patience, and trying to be flexible when things happen that I can't control. That being said, there are some things we can control.



Our Program VPs, Irene McGhee and Amy Crolus, have sought out speakers to address women's fiscal and physical/mental health. Our Zoom meeting in January featured two women who educated us on our financial concerns and how to ensure our financial futures. Our recent house disaster has

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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*

brought this issue to the forefront. I now have made a list of things to do to protect my assets and keep my children in the loop.

Our March speaker will highlight elements of maintaining our health. As we age, we develop conditions that need attention and maintenance to lead a quality life. We are fortunate to live in an area where we have access to some of the best doctors and facilities in the U.S. Not everyone on the globe is so fortunate and many women have significant challenges due to their locations and living conditions.

International Women's Day is on March 8. This year's theme is "Inspire Inclusion." I ran across a very interesting article about obtaining clean water in under developed parts of the world.

https://www.wtw.org/post/international-women-s-day?gclid=Cj0KCQiA2KitBhCIARIsAPPMEhKYdxiFvZOCGA3U-n-sWakhzreux8EtlSu0ZsztOZG7J9xSPxP4C5oaAqz4EALw_wcB The documentary called "Wine to Water" is fascinating. Every day women worldwide spend 200 million hours collecting water under all weather conditions and physical limitations such as age, mobility, and pregnancy. We all know that potable water is integral to our health and that of our families. In this country, that is, for the vast majority of us, fairly easily obtainable. When we were stationed in Turkey in the 1970s, we hauled treated drinking water from the base to our homes as city water wasn't always reliably drinkable. It took forethought and discipline to regularly refill our water dispensers. We take this for granted now, but I really value quality water supply that comes from the tap in my home. And don't even get me started on the miracle that is hot water!

I encourage you to think about changes you may need to make in 2024 to ensure your financial and physical/mental health. Attend our February and March Zoom meetings. They are designed to be educational and informative.

Student Inclusion Award

Judy Baldwin

The Student Inclusion Award committee is in the process of contacting our four area high schools - Annandale, Lake Braddock, John Lewis, and West Springfield - to advertise the award which recognizes Junior students who are promoting inclusiveness and fighting bullying and exclusion in their schools. The award is given to a Junior from each school so the students can include it in their college applications. A 500-word essay and participation in school activities are required.

Committee members are Judy Baldwin, Helen Cassidy, Betty Marie Fields, Ann Sauberman, Mussaret Sheikh, Irene McGhee and Elizabeth Gibbons. The awards will be presented at the April 18 Branch meeting. Students will be invited to talk about their inclusion efforts

Branch Program Meeting – ERA – February 17

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



Georgia Fuller is a women's rights activist who was heavily involved in the political struggle for the Equal Rights Amendment in the 1980s. She was a member of the Congressional Union, a feminist group in the 1980s, and was co-founder of the Arlington, Virginia chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW). Join us to hear her speak on ERA history and her personal civil disobedience experience in that area on Saturday, February 17, 10:00 A.M. Watch your email for the Zoom link.

Branch Program Meeting – Global Health Equity – March 14

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

Women are leading the Global Health Equity charge when it comes to advancing health equity, yet factors are inhibiting our progress. We also know that on a global scale both women’s health and financial wellness vary widely further causing inequities.

Mary Stutts, CEO of the Healthcare Businesswomen’s Association will speak to the reasons and offer solutions that will drive meaningful change, and pave the way forward for improved financial well-being and enhanced health outcomes for women globally. This meeting is virtual on Thursday, March 14, 7:00 P.M. - watch your email for the Zoom link.



Mary Stutts

Invisible Warriors

The League of Women Voters of Virginia presents a virtual special screening of the documentary: “Invisible Warriors: African American Women and World War II,” March 20, 7:00 P.M. Refer to the flyer at the end of this newsletter for more information.

Public Policy

Janine Greenwood, Denise M. Murden, Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy, AAUW of Virginia

Virginia State Senator Dave Marsden is critically important for passing a paid sick day standard in Virginia’s General Assembly. Senator Marsden is a senior member of the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee, which means that his view will be particularly important. Two years ago in subcommittee, Senator Marsden made a speech about the importance of part-time working people being covered by the paid sick day bill. This year, when there is a real possibility of passing a standard, the opponents will seek to reduce coverage of the bill by exempting small businesses and part-time working people. Senator Marsden will face fierce lobbying by those who will try to exempt as many employers and working people as possible.

Virginia State Senator Scott Surovell is the patron of a bill to pass a paid sick day standard, but as the incoming Senate Majority Leader, he is under enormous pressure to weaken the bill – both from hard core opponents and from squishy members of his party who will want to pretend they support paid sick days, but will try to exempt people from being covered by the bill. We need to support Senator Surovell in passing a strong paid sick day bill.

As a member of the Virginians for Paid Sick Days Coalition, AAUW-VA is advocating a standard requiring every employer to allow working people to accrue up to five paid sick days – something more than 40 percent of Virginia working people don’t currently have. Too many working people who stock our grocery shelves, look after our elders, care for the sick, and provide childcare are without any paid sick days or PTO.

But even this modest standard of five days will be a fight. Opponents will seek to exempt small businesses – the ones least likely to have paid sick days – and part-time working people. Most states that have passed a paid sick day standard cover all working people, including part-time working people, because all working people get sick. If viruses and colds impact everyone, then all working people need access to a few paid sick days, regardless of the size of their employer or their part- or full-time schedule.

Help Virginia pass a paid sick day standard. And, help make sure the bill covers all working people, including part-time folks. Use the appropriate message listed here or call to urge his support for a paid sick day standard that covers everyone.

Senator Marsden senatormarsden@senate.virginia.gov

37th District covers a portion of Fairfax County, Annandale, Kings Park, West Springfield, Burke, Fair Oaks, and Centreville.

Suggested email content:

Senator Marsden:

Congratulations on your re-election. I know your seniority on the Commerce and Labor Committee means that you will be an influential leader on paid sick days.

I live in your district and urge you to help the Senate pass a strong paid sick day standard in Virginia. We need a bill that covers everyone, not a bill that exempts small businesses and part-time workers. Workers employed by small businesses and part-time workers are the ones least likely to have paid sick days.

Please use your leadership to pass a paid sick day bill that covers all workers. Everyone deserves a few paid sick days.

Senator Surovell senatorsurovell@senate.virginia.gov

36th District covers parts of Fairfax, Prince William, and Stafford Counties in Northern Virginia, including Hybla Valley, Fort Hunt, Mount Vernon, Woodlawn, Fort Belvoir, Groveton, Hayfield, Lorton, Newington, Mason Neck, Woodbridge, Dale City, Montclair, Dumfries, Triangle, Quantico, and Cherry Hill.

Suggested email content:

Senator Surovell:

Congratulations on your re-election and your election as Majority Leader. I live in your district and am so proud that you are a champion of paid sick days.

Virginians need a paid sick day bill that covers everyone, not a bill that exempts small businesses and part-time workers. Workers employed by small businesses and part-time workers are the ones least likely to have paid sick days.

I know you will be under enormous pressure to exempt workers from the paid sick day bill. Please stand up for all workers, including part-time workers. Everyone deserves a few paid sick days.

Members who contact their Senator are asked to let us know by sending an email to aauwvpublicpolicy@gmail.com. Also, let us know if you receive a response.

Spring Fling

Ann Sauberman

May 3 is the day! 11:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. is the time! Springfield Golf and Country Club is the place!

Springfield-Annandale Annual Spring Fling is the event!

The time has come to invite your friends and family to our Spring Fling. The event will start with a Silent Auction, followed by a delicious lunch, and then an interesting and dynamic speaker. The committee is finalizing the speaker and will announce the menu very soon. A separate flyer and order form will be sent out in a separate mailing. Mark your calendar and reserve the date.

The Annual Spring Fling is our main fundraiser and supports the National AAUW as they advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. We hope to see you at this always popular springtime event.

Spring Fling Silent Auction

Karen Flann, Sallie Williams, Silent Auction

Confession of a Formerly Shy Person

By Karen Flann

In the beginning, neither Sallie Williams nor I ever wanted to be in a position where we had to ask for a donation. Did you see Sallie at the holiday tea? She was the one asking the owner for a donation to Spring Fling when we didn't even have the business letter written yet!

Just saying, everyone can do what we now do boldly and audaciously! We'll share the big secret:

Donations help businesses!

We give publicity!

We bring new customers!

We reach over 200 eyes (2 per person....) at Spring Fling!

We're actually working on the behalf of businesses....

I confess that the first six years, the only way I would ask for a donation is to go to a restaurant with a friend, and after the meal, ask for the manger. Then I would timidly ask if they would like to donate.

Fast forward to last year. I actually went to a big restaurant in Fairfax, went straight to the manager and asked for a donation. He gave me a \$50 gift card!

Yes, it's true, sometimes businesses are not in a position where they are able to donate. You don't know if you don't ask.

The major source of our income from the auction is from gift cards, even though the "stuff" is more fun. Join us and give it a spin! It's a win/win for the branch. The more, the merrier!

The business letter is at the end of this newsletter.



Evening Book Group – Virtual

The Evening Book Group will meet via Zoom Thursday, **February 1**, 7:00 P.M. The topic book is *Horse*, by Geraldine Brooks. Debbie Gilligan is the scheduled reviewer.

The group will meet virtually **March 7** for a discussion of *The Personal Librarian*, by M. Benedict & V. Murray. Beth Von Holle is the scheduled reviewer. This is a schedule change - please note it in the Directory. Contact Debbie Gilligan for more information.

Movies at Midweek

Bev Wise and Helen Cassidy, Movie Mavens

The next meeting of Movies at Midweek is **February 21**. Watch your email on the Friday preceding for the movie selection.

Morning Book Group – Live

The Morning Book Group will meet live **February 8**, 10:00 A.M. and review *Daughters of Yalta*, by Catherine Grace Katz. Helen Cassidy will lead the review and Jo Domingues will host the meeting

The group will meet **March 14**, and review *Dragon Teeth*, by Michael Crichton. Deborah Dodd will lead the review and Wendy Cleland-Hamnett will host the meeting. Contact Jo Domingues for more information.

CALENDAR

February 1, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group Meeting – Virtual	page 6
February 8, 10:00 A.M.	Morning Book Group Meeting – Live	page 6
February 17, 10:00 A.M.	Branch Program Meeting – ERA – Virtual	page 2
February 21	Movies at Midweek	page 6
March 14, 7:00 P.M.	Branch Program Meeting – Global Health	page 3
March 20, 7:00 P.M.	LWV of VA – Invisible Warriors	page 3
April 18, 7:00 P.M.	Branch Program Meeting – Student Inclusion	page 2
May 3, 11:00 A.M.	Spring Fling	page 5

AAUW has continued to trailblaze for women, breaking down barriers and making the world more equitable for future generations.

- 2002 **AAUW** hosted its first National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) at American University in Washington, D.C.
- 2008 **AAUW** received special consultative status with the United Nation.
- 2009 On January 9, **AAUW** members joined President Barack Obama for the signing of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.
- 2011 On March 28, **AAUW**'s Legal Advocacy Fund accepted its first strategic lawsuit outside of academia, Wal-Mart v. Dukes — the largest-ever class-action sexual discrimination lawsuit.
- 2013-14 **AAUW** partnered with the Clinton Global Initiative to engage students from around the country to develop gender perspectives for global issues.
- 2016 **AAUW** participated in the White House United State of Women Summit and White House Equal Pay Pledge release.
- 2017 **AAUW** engaged in the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault.
- 2019 **AAUW** continued advocating for the Paycheck Fairness Act, which was passed in a bipartisan vote in the U.S. House of Representatives

[\(www.aauw.org/about/history/\)](http://www.aauw.org/about/history/)

— Judy Titterton, Editor

Newsletter articles for March *UPDATES* are due February 24.

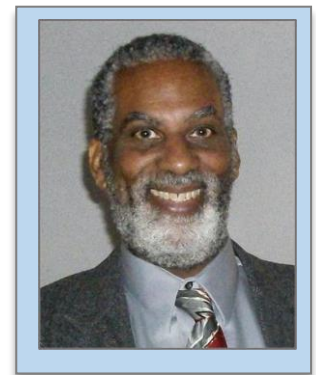


**The LWV of Virginia presents
a virtual special screening of
the documentary: “Invisible
Warriors: African American
Women and World War II”
March 20, 7:00 P.M.**

Spend an evening with Gregory S. Cooke, producer and director of the documentary “Invisible Warriors, African American Women and World War II.” Mr. Cooke will introduce the film and give us perspective on the contribution of these “Invisible Warriors” before the movie is shown.

Invisible Warriors tells the important story of women who have been ignored for too long due to their race, gender, and class. African American “Rosie the Riveters” highlight the resilience, tenacity, dedication, and pride of a people, with lessons that transcend the barriers between us and that resonate today.”—Amber Mitchell, Asst. Director of Public Engagement, The National World War II Museum.

Gregory S. Cooke has dedicated his career as an educator and historian to help relocate African Americans to the main pages of history. Invisible Warriors is his directorial debut following a successful stint as Associate Director of Chocolate Soldiers from the USA.



RSVP here: <https://LWVVAInvisibleWarriors.eventbrite.com>

To defray costs, we are asking for a \$5 tax-deductible donation.



Spring 2024

Dear Business Owner,

The Springfield-Annandale Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) is having a benefit luncheon on May 3, 2024, 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.

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.

We expect 150-200 people will attend this fundraising event, which will be held at the Springfield Golf and Country Club.

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

Sallie Williams
Silent Auction Committee
Springfield Annandale Chapter, 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: _____