



Springfield–Annandale Branch

U P D A T E S

Volume 66

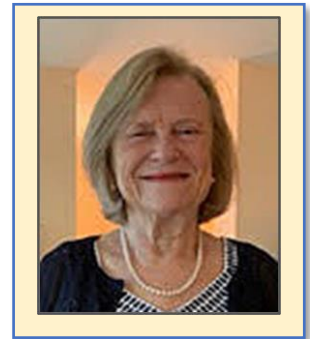
September 2024

Issue 1

President's Message

Ann Sauberman, Co-President

Last July, while watching the Paris Olympics, I saw a Toyota commercial. It stressed that one of the most important lessons of the Olympics was the Power of Community. I thought about this each night as I watched the many venues: swimming, gymnastics, track and others. I realized that there were many communities represented. Each nation and each event were, in their own way, a community and it had its own power. The Power of Community also personifies AAUW. Both the Olympics and our AAUW are hierarchies of Community.



The Paris Olympics was comprised of many countries from all over the world. Each has national spirit and pride, expressed with flags and special uniforms. They work so hard to compete for the gold, silver, and bronze. There is so much joy when they win, but they also celebrate the victories and accomplishments of their competitors. There are so many examples to demonstrate the Power of Community.

Simone Biles is an American champion gymnast. This was her fourth summer Olympics where she added three more gold metals and one silver to total eleven metals. During her career, she has had both amazing victories, but also great setbacks. In the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, Simone suffered the “twisties” and had to quit the competition. In the next four years she battled mental illness, worked hard, and set out again to return to gymnastics. Her power was to learn from her setbacks and help motivate other gymnasts like

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*

Jordan Chiles, a team member, who also suffered from an illness and had to work her way back up the ladder of success. The power of these gymnasts is to serve as examples to their team mates, and as role models to all those little girls, sitting at home, hoping to be future champions.



Katie Ledecky, a local champion swimmer, also became a legend this summer. At 27, she added two more gold and one silver to her many metals from four Olympics and world competitions. She, like Simone Biles, uses her power as a role model for so many young competitors in the United States and all over the world. Not only does she spend countless hours improving her strokes and stamina, but she also spends time motivating and inspiring others to help them compete. It was wonderful to see Katie Ledecky in the pool after a long race reaching out and hugging her fellow swimmers from many other countries.

The Power of Community is also evident at all three levels of the AAUW. The National AAUW, raises funds, formulates the main missions of the organization, and uses its power to advocate for important legislation that will fulfill its mission. Two examples of legislation are equal pay for women and paid leave. The National AAUW also gives out scholarships and grants to further women's education. At the State level, AAUW has its own power when it supports or rejects state legislation. It connects the many local branches together at state conventions and through Zoom meetings and publications. It also works with other organizations on combined projects to increase its power and influence. The last piece of the power hierarchy is the local Branch. Each Branch is unique and educates its members on important issues and motivates members to work on special projects. Our Springfield-Annandale Branch has monthly meetings, usually with a speaker about a current or important topic. In August, many of our members joined to write 500 postcards to get out the vote. We met at two member's homes for postcard-writing sessions. Many members finished the project at their homes. The Virginia State Branches are completing 4,000 plus postcards. The 2024 national election is essential and citizens need to vote. On each postcard, the voter will receive information on registration and early voting. This is an example of the Power of Community.

As our new AAUW year begins, I invite all of you to bring new members to our meetings so that we can increase the size of our community. Attend our meetings and work on Branch projects - your efforts will increase our power to accomplish our many goals.

I hope to see many of you at our September meeting. Read *UPDATES* each month for information on you can become more involved in Branch activities.

Branch Program Meeting – September 26

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

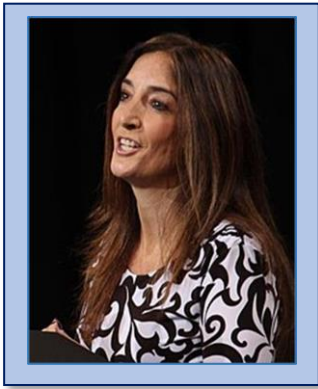
Meghan Dorn, Federal Policy Director at TECH-NET for Artificial Intelligence is the guest speaker on for the September Branch Program Meeting on Thursday, **September 26**, at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke at 7:00 P.M. Find out how AI is moving America forward, and its impact on equity in healthcare, energy, climate, education, cyber security, disaster relief, agriculture, and keeping us safe. Come with your curiosity and questions. Bring a friend.



Meghan Dorn

Branch Program Meeting – October TBD

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



Eileen Filler-Corn

Eileen Filler-Corn, a seasoned politician and advocate for women's causes, is our guest speaker for the October Branch Program Meeting (date TBD). She is scheduled to speak about her personal passed involvement and experiences, and to the current state of the State.

Ms. Filler-Corn is an American lawyer and politician who served as the Minority Leader of the Virginia House of Delegates from January to April 2022, a position she previously held from 2019 to 2020. She also previously served as the 56th Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates from 2020 to 2022. She represented the 41st district in the Fairfax County suburbs of Washington, D.C., from 2010 to 2024. More information in the October issue of *UPDATES*.

Northern District Meeting – September 14

Sandy Lawrence, Sharon Zackula, Co-Representatives for Northern District

Refer to the flyer at the end of this newsletter for information regarding the upcoming Northern District Meeting on Saturday, **September 14**, 10:30 A.M., Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Let's have a large turnout to start the AAUW season.

Membership Directory Update

Deborah Dodd, Co-Vice President for Membership

I am in the process of compiling the *Springfield-Annandale AAUW 2024-2025 Membership Directory*. If there are any changes to your address or telephone number(s), email the changes to me. If you have any questions, email or call me. I will use the list from last year that indicates those members who requested hard copies of the *Directory* and those who chose to access it online. If, however, you accessed the *Directory* online last year but would prefer a hard copy this year, let me know. I will have the *Directory* at the September Branch Program meeting for distribution.

The *Directory* will be posted on the Branch website, <https://sprann-va.aauw.net/>.

The Springfield-Annandale Branch currently has **55 members**. We have two new members, Terry Wright and Arona Butcher. Welcome!

Reclaim Our Vote Postcard Project

Cathie Boivin, Co-President

The 500 completed postcards for the Virginia Campaign that our Branch worked on will be mailed September 1-30 in time for early voting. We all know that this is going to be a very tight race and that getting people to the polls is crucial. Many thanks to those members who gave of their time and efforts to participate in this worthy project. This was a group effort. I particularly want to send kudos to those members who helped me make the project possible: Ann Sauberman, Debbie Gilligan, Susan Burk, and Sharon Draper. I'm proud to belong to the most active AAUW Branch in Northern Virginia!

2024 White House Historical Society's Christmas Ornaments Have Arrived

Susan Burk, Sharon Draper, White House Ornament Committee

This 2024 White House Christmas ornament commemorates Jimmy Carter, the 39th President of the United States. The distinctive anchor shape represents Carter's service in the U.S. Navy. He is the only President to have attended the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis.

The view of the North Portico features doves, a symbol of his peacemaking efforts which culminated in the Camp David Accords. The reverse side features the Seawolf-class USS Jimmy Carter submarine. Carter is the only President to have qualified in submarines. The globe signifies President Carter's life-long commitment to the environment as well as his efforts to secure world peace. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 for these efforts.



This is a beautiful and unique ornament that you will be very happy to display or give as a gift. We are selling the ornament for \$24.00 this year. All proceeds will go to the AAUW Greatest Need Fund.

Contact Sharon Draper or Susan Burk to order the ornament. Checks can be made out to Springfield-Annandale AAUW and mailed to Sharon.

Thanks in advance for supporting our fundraiser. You will love this year's ornament! And so will your friends and family! Anchors Away!!

Save the Dates – March 28-29, 2025

Join us in March for the 2025 AAUW-VA State Conference in Old Town, Alexandria. Refer to the flyer at the end of this newsletter for more information.

Here is a link is to an on-line exhibit, *Deeds Not Words: Celebrating 100 Years of Women's Suffrage*, from the San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles in San Jose, California. <https://sj-mqt.org/deeds-not-words> - Nancy Miller

Silent Auction Needs You!

We are currently gathering ideas as to how to present an outstanding Silent Auction at the Spring Fling **May 9**. Your input, ideas, volunteerism, imagination, devotion, brain power, eclecticism, foot power, capabilities, creativity, genius, cleverness, resourcefulness, originality, talent, and vision are all in high demand!

Contact Ann Sauberman and Debbie Gilligan NOW. It won't work without YOU! Yes, **YOU!**

Public Policy

Susan Burk, Public Policy Chair

Your Vote is Your Voice!

The November election is barreling toward us. The results up and down the ballot will impact our AAUW policy priorities, as is evident from the candidates themselves. While we adhere strictly to our non-partisan principles, there are other ways to Get Out the Vote (GOTV). Thank you to all members who supported GOTV by writing postcards to voters in the Commonwealth for Reclaim Our Vote, an organization that reaches out to “underrepresented voters.” This year, our Branch wrote 500 postcards and enjoyed gathering at postcard writing parties hosted by Debbie Gilligan and Cathie Boivin. Brava!!

There is no shortage of information on Virginia’s voting procedures, so please make sure you are up-to-date.

VOTE411

Run by the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF), Vote411.org is a “one-stop-shop” for election related information. It provides nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information on the following aspects of the election process:

- Absentee ballot information
- Ballot measure information (where applicable)
- Early voting options (where applicable)
- Election dates
- Factual data on candidates in various federal, state, and local races
- General information on such topics as how to watch debates with a critical eye
- ID requirements
- Polling place locations
- Registration deadlines
- Voter qualifications
- Voter registration forms
- Voting machines



An important component of Vote411.org is the polling place locator, which enables users to type in their address and retrieve the poll location for the voting precinct in which that address is located.

In-Person Early Voting

Many of us opt to vote early in-person or via absentee ballot. It’s an option that no longer requires an “excuse.” Here’s what you need to know if you are an in-person early voter:

- In-person early voting will be available from **September 20** through **November 2** for the November 5 General and Special Elections.
- Only Fairfax County registered voters may vote at any Fairfax County early voting location.
- Voters must present an acceptable ID or may sign an ID Confirmation Statement.
- Curbside voting is available for eligible voters.
- Absentee by mail voters may vote early in person if they choose. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is **October 25**. If you received a ballot in the mail, you must bring it with you and surrender it to vote in person. If you received a ballot but do not bring it with you, you may vote a provisional ballot. Mail ballot drop boxes are available during early voting location operating hours.
- Same-day registration is available between **October 16** and **November 2** at early voting locations. Voters submitting a same-day registration will vote a provisional ballot.

Questions? Email Voting@FairfaxCounty.gov or check our [FAQs](#).

October 5 is Latina Equal Pay Day.

We need to keep the pressure on our legislators to rectify this gross inequality – for all women.

Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group next meets via Zoom, Thursday, **September 5**, 7:00 P.M. The topic book is *Lady Tan's Circle of Women*, by Lisa See. Cathie Boivin is the scheduled reviewer.

The group meets again virtually **October 3**, 7:00 P.M. for a discussion of *The Women*, by Kristen Hannah. Ann Sauberman is the scheduled reviewer. The Book List for this group is in your *2024-2025 Membership Directory*. Contact Debbie Gilligan for more information.

Morning Book Group

The Morning Book Group meets this month at the home of Mary Helmantoler on **September 12**, 10:00 A.M., for a discussion of *Ordinary Grace*, by William Kent Krueger. Ginny Wells is the scheduled reviewer.

The group meets next at Karen Flann's house, **October 10**, 10:00 A.M., with a review of *A Place Called Ilda*, by Tom Shoop. Karen will lead the review. The Book List for this group is in your *2024-2025 Membership Directory*. Contact Deborah Dodd for more information.

Movies at Midweek

Bev Wise and Helen Cassidy, Movie Mavens

The next meeting of Movies at Midweek is **September 18**. Watch your email on the Friday preceding for the movie selection.

BRANCH CALENDAR

September 5, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group Meeting – Zoom	page 6
September 12, 10:00 A.M.	Morning Book Group Meeting – Live	page 6
September 14, 10:30 A.M.	Northern District Meeting	page 3
September 18	Movies at Midweek	page 6
September 24	UPDATES articles due	
September 26, 7:00 P.M.	Branch Program Meeting	page 2
October 3, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group – Zoom	page 6
October 10, 10:00 A.M.	Morning Book Group – Live	page 6

Dates of Distinction

September 17 is **Constitution Day**. This day celebrates the adoption of the U.S. Constitution, which occurred on September 17, 1787.

September 21 is recognized as the annual **International Day of Peace**.

September 22 marks the **start of Fall** at 8:44 A.M. EDT, with equal hours of daylight and darkness.

September 29 is **Michaelmas**, an ancient Celtic “Quarter Day” which marked the end of the harvesting season and was steeped in folklore.

Farmer’s Almanac 2024

There are flowers enough in the summertime,
More flowers than I can remember—
But none with the purple, gold, and red
That dye the flowers of September!
—Mary Howitt (1799-1888)



Newsletter articles for October UPDATES due September 24

Judy Titterton, Editor



Northern District Meeting

Saturday, September 14, 2024

10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library

4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria

What Are Microaggressions and What Do I Do About Them??

Meg Tuccillo, AAUW VA Co-Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), will discuss Microaggressions, commonplace verbal and behavioral indignities, whether intentional or not. Microaggressions can result in communicating hostile, derogatory, or negative verbal slights and insults. Like it or not, they happen often – and sometimes out of our own mouths!!



Meg retired from Arlington Public Schools after serving as the Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services for seventeen year where her duties included Title IX coordinator. Prior to that, she was principal of Abingdon and Tuckahoe elementary schools. She is a recipient of the Arlington Community Foundation “Spirit of Community” Award, the Arlington NAACP Martin Luther King Award and the Commission on the Status of Women “Woman of Vision” award. She is Past President of Arlington Branch of AAUW.

- A business meeting will follow.



**MARK THIS DOWN ON YOUR
CALENDAR!**

**2025 AAUW-VA STATE
CONFERENCE**

MARCH 29, 2025

(Preconference activities on March 28)

On **March 27-28, 1925**, the seven already existing local branches of AAUW in Virginia met in Williamsburg. When they adjourned, the **Virginia Division of AAUW** was a reality.

On **March 28, 2025**, join us in Alexandria as the **AAUW-VA centennial celebration** begins, and we jubilantly begin our second century of women changing the conversation.

The conference is being hosted by the AAUW-VA Northern District branches at the **Sheraton Suites Old Town Alexandria, 801 N. St. Asaph Street, Alexandria 22314** on **Saturday, March 29, 2025**, with preconference activities on **March 28, 2025**.

Great news! It's not too early to reserve a room. Guest rooms will be available for March 28 & 29 (king/sofa bed or double/double for \$159 per night plus tax, * including a full hot breakfast for up to 2 persons.) Use this QR code to make a reservation:



or! Use this link [https://www.sheratonalexandria.com/rooms/AAUWofVirginiaMar2025](#) you can also call 1 (888) 236-2427; use code **AAUW of Virginia Mar2025** to reserve a room. The rate is also available for 3 days before/after March 28 & 29 on a space available basis. You must make a reservation for March 28 and/or 29, and then email jrasolofoson@sheratonalexandria.com to book extra days.

The earlier you book a room the better because the 2025 Conference will take place on the eve of Cherry Blossom season and rooms in the hotel will book up early. Once our block is sold out, we might be able to add more rooms, but that will only be possible if the hotel is not already sold out.

***IMPORTANT NOTICE:** When making your hotel reservation, ignore any reference to a \$25 resort fee. You will **NOT** be charged this. The room rate is \$159 plus state and local taxes.