



U P D A T E S

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Issue 2

President’s Message

Cathleen Boivin, Co-President

This month, I’d like to talk about the power of women and friendship. I was fortunate enough to have the role models of several very strong women as I grew up and how their families and community were strengthened by friendships so strong that they spanned generations and geographical distances. But I would like to discuss a perhaps unlikely partnership for its time between two women who helped form the foundation of the modern civil rights movement.



I’ve long been an admirer of Eleanor Roosevelt and her activism. Despite the demands of her large family of five children and a politically active husband, she worked for important causes such as women’s rights and education. However, until I read a recently published book, *The First Ladies*, by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray, I was largely unaware of the collaboration between Mrs. Roosevelt and Mary McLeod Bethune. Their friendship and belief in opportunities and rights for all Americans led to an improvement in minority rights in the US.

Eleanor Roosevelt was first lady of the United States for twelve years. However, as early as 1921 when her husband was stricken with polio, she joined the Women’s Trade Union League, became active in the Democratic Party and was a member of the Legislative Affairs Committee of the League of Women Voters. She taught at Todhunter School in Manhattan. Due to her husband’s infirmity, she served as his eyes and ears and became his closest advisor.

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*

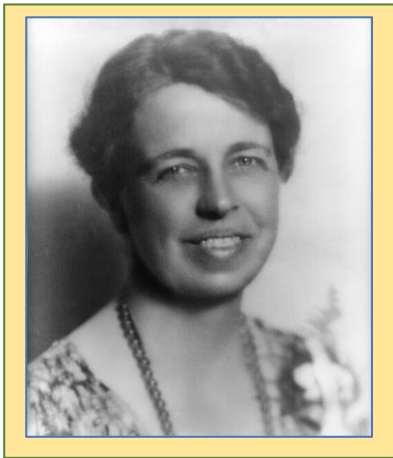
Mary McLeod Bethune, the daughter of formerly enslaved people, graduated from the Scotia Seminary in Concord, North Carolina, then taught in several small southern schools. On October 3, 1904, she opened the first school for African American children in Daytona Beach, Florida. (This grew into the Bethune-Cookman College which by 1947 had an enrollment of 1000.) With virtually no initial funding, she found donors and community leaders to help her build a school building and provide supplies for the students, earning the respect of the local African American and White citizens of the region. Her activism on behalf of education and minorities came to the attention of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.



Mary McLeod Bethune

Mrs. Bethune had achieved a certain stature as a committed civil rights activist and Eleanor was eager to meet her. They shared a common belief in women's rights and the power of education. From their first introduction, they became collaborators and fast friends. Both were controversial as their advocacy of equal rights was not universally accepted. Both received negative publicity and the occasional death threat, but did not allow the biased views of others to disrupt their activism.

In 1936, Bethune was appointed Administrative Assistant for Negro Affairs. She founded the National Council of Negro Women and served as its President. She was Vice President of the NAACP from 1940 until she died in 1955. She assisted President Roosevelt on minority affairs and, in World War II, worked with the Secretary of War in selecting officer candidates for the U.S. Women's Army Corps (WACs.)



Eleanor Roosevelt

As First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt held press conferences for women correspondents. She wrote a daily syndicated newspaper column. In 1939, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) refused to let singer Marian Anderson, perform in Constitution Hall, so Eleanor resigned her membership and relocated the concert to the Lincoln Memorial. The concert was attended by a crowd of 75,000.

Both Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary McLeod Bethune worked to advocate for the Americans previously alienated from or denied participation in the political process. After her husband's death in 1945, President Truman appointed Mrs. Roosevelt a delegate to the United Nations where she helped draft the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. She was still traveling the globe, meeting with world leaders until her death in 1962.

The growth of their friendship and the development of their shared advocacy for minorities, women, and education is the basis of the *The First Ladies*. I'm always interested in reading biographies, particularly those that feature extraordinary women. Even though this is a fictionalized account, I think it's an especially illuminating read and one that is appropriate for this year as we approach a very important election.

We members of AAUW understand that women can work together to effect change and make this world a better place for everyone. There is still work to be done as women and as a community to build the future.

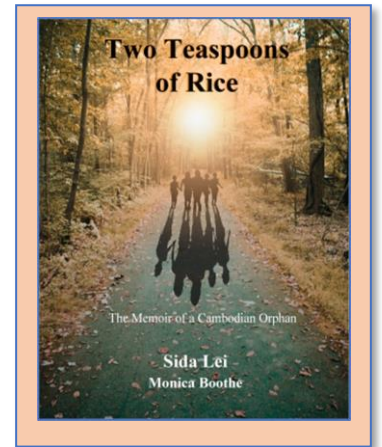
Branch Program Meeting – October 19

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



Sida Lei

Author, Sida Lei, is our guest speaker for the Branch Program Meeting, Saturday, **October 19**, 3:00 to 5:00 P.M. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Ms. Lei plans to talk about her book, *One Teaspoon of Rice, The Memoir of a Cambodian Orphan*, a story of courage, resourcefulness, and survival. She will also address her assimilation in America as a refugee. Ms. Lei is a nurse at Fairfax Inova Hospital and lives in Springfield.



Books will be available for purchase from Ms. Lei for \$15.00, cash preferred.

Branch Program Meeting – November 16

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

Eileen Filler-Corn, former Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates, is our guest speaker for the Branch Program Meeting, Saturday, **November 16**, 3:00 to 5:00 P.M. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. She is scheduled to speak about her personal 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.



Eileen Filler-Corn




Save This Date

Friday, **December 6** is the date for our December lunch at Maggiano's, 6500 Springfield Town Center, Springfield. Watch for more information in the November *UPDATES*.



Final Call for White House Historical Society's Christmas Ornaments

Susan Burk, Sharon Draper, White House Ornament Committee

 The last White House ornament order will be placed in mid-October. If you haven't requested yours yet, contact Sharon Draper NOW.

This beautiful 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.



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.

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.

Public Policy

Susan Burk, Public Policy Chair

October 3 Latina Equal Pay Day. Latinas working full-time, year-round are paid 57 cents and all earners (including part-time and seasonal) are paid 52 cents for every dollar paid to non-Hispanic white men.

October 16 AAUW Webinar on gender equity issues at stake in the November election, voter protection information, and how you can help. Register here: <https://www.aauwaction.org/my-vote/>

GOTV – Your Vote is Your Voice

Thanks again to all the Branch members who helped write 500 postcards for Reclaim Our Vote. This and other efforts are helping to ensure that all eligible voters are taking steps to prepare to vote in the November election.

Election Day is Tuesday, **November 5**. We will be electing a new United States President and Vice President, a Virginia Senator, and Congressional representative. Virginia voters will be voting on a constitutional amendment and Fairfax voters will have two bond referenda on the ballot. (See [page 7](#))

Even if you are a regular voter, please check/update (if necessary) your voter registration now!

<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/Lookup/status>

If you are not registered, you are strongly encouraged to do so by the October 15 deadline.

Many options for Voting in Virginia

Any registered voter may vote early, either in person or by mail. Early, no excuse, in-person voting began September 20.

Dates and Deadlines

Absentee ballot deadlines

(Witness signatures are NOT required on absentee ballots, but the last 4 digits of SSN and year of birth are required.)

- Request ballot (received by) By 5:00 P.M. on October 25
- Return ballot by mail (postmarked by) November 5
- Return ballot in person By 7:00 P.M. on November 5

Registration deadlines

- By mail (postmarked by) October 15
- In person during early voting September 20 – November 2
- In-person at voting location on Election Day November 5
- Online By 11:59 P.M. on October 15

Voting deadlines

- Early voting September 20 – November 2
- In-person November 5

Early, In-person Voting Locations and Hours

<p>Fairfax County Government Center</p> <p>12000 Government Center Pkwy, Room 251, Fairfax, 22035</p>	<p>September 20 – November 2</p> <p>Monday – Friday: 8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. Saturdays (September 21, October 19, October 26, November 2): 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. Sunday (October 27): 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.</p>
<p>Mt. Vernon Governmental Center</p> <p>2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, 22306</p>	<p>September 20 – November 2</p> <p>Monday – Friday: 1:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. Saturdays (September 21, October 19, October 26, November 2): 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. Sunday (October 27): 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.</p>
<p>North County Governmental Center</p> <p>1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, 20190</p>	<p>September 20 – November 2</p> <p>Monday – Friday: 1:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. Saturdays (September 21, October 19, October 26, November 2): 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. Sunday (October 27): 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.</p>

13 Additional Locations	October 17 – November 2 Monday – Friday: 1:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. Saturdays (October 19, October 26, November 2): 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. Sunday (October 27): 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
LOCATION	ADDRESS
Burke Centre Library	5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke 22015
Centreville Regional Library	14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville 20121
Franconia Governmental Center	6121 Franconia Rd, Alexandria 22310
Great Falls Library	9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls 22066
Herndon Fortnightly Library	768 Center Street, Herndon 20170
Lorton Community Center	9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton 22079
Mason Governmental Center	6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale 22003
McLean Governmental Center	1437 Balls Hill Rd, McLean 22101
Jim Scott (formerly Providence) Community Center	3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax 22031
Sully Governmental Center	4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly 20151
Thomas Jefferson Library	7415 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church 22042
Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library	7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church 22043
West Springfield Governmental Center	6140 Rolling Road, Springfield 22152

Some final notes

Mail your applications and vote ballot early in case the United States Postal Service mail is delayed OR return it to a monitored Drop Box at an early voting location during open hours, in front of the Fairfax County Government Center 24/7, or at any polling places on Election Day.

Absentee voters who choose to vote in person at a polling place on Election Day should bring and surrender the ballot received in the mail.

Constitutional Amendment

(All Virginia Voters): Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended so that the tax exemption that is currently available to the surviving spouses of soldiers killed in action is also available to the surviving spouses of soldiers who died in the line of duty?

Bond Referenda - Fairfax County

Transportation Bonds: Shall Fairfax County, Virginia, contract a debt, borrow money, and issue bonds, in addition to the transportation improvements and facilities bonds previously authorized, in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$180,000,000 for the purpose of financing Fairfax County's share, under the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Compact, of the cost of constructing, reconstructing, improving, and acquiring transportation improvements and facilities, including capital costs of land, transit facilities, rolling stock, and equipment in the Washington Metropolitan area. [Yes/No]

Public Safety Bonds: Shall Fairfax County, Virginia, contract a debt, borrow money, and issue bonds, in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$126,000,000 to provide funds in addition to funds from public safety facilities bonds previously authorized, to finance, including reimbursement to the County for temporary financing for, the costs of public safety facilities, including the construction, reconstruction, enlargement, renovation and equipment of civil and criminal justice facilities, police training and operational facilities and stations, fire and rescue training facilities and stations, including fire and rescue stations owned by volunteer organizations, and the acquisition of necessary land.

Gender Pay Gap: No Joy in Mudville

Gloria Blackwell, AAUW's Chief Executive Director began her recent newsletter to members with the following:

“As fall brings cooler air and vibrant foliage, I am reminded of the work that lies ahead with the upcoming election and beyond.

This season, we face a troubling setback: unfortunately, the gender pay gap has widened. Women working full-time now earn just 83 percent of what men earn—a decline from last year's 84 percent. This amounts to a loss of \$11,550 annually for each full-time working woman. While there have been gains in real earnings for both men and women, women, especially women of color, continue to be pushed into lower wage jobs.

This pay gap hurts us, our families, and our communities. As I've said before, “The pay gap should be shrinking, not growing.” We must address the systemic barriers that keep women from earning their fair share — like the lack of paid leave, affordable childcare, and strong pay equity laws.”

Spring Fling and Silent Auction Information

Save Friday, **May 9**, for the Springfield-Annandale Branch Spring Fling, at the Springfield Golf and Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Drive, Springfield.

Debbie Gilligan is putting together a committee to work on the Silent Auction. [Step up and answer her call for assistance.](#)

Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group next meets via Zoom, Thursday, **October 3**, 7:00 P.M. The topic book is *The Women*, by Kristen Hannah. Ann Sauberman is the scheduled reviewer.

The group meets again virtually **November 7**, 7:00 P.M. for a discussion of *Braiding Sweetgrass*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Nancy Miller 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 Karen Flann's house, **October 10**, 10:00 A.M., with a review of *A Place Called Ilda*, by Tom Shoop. Karen will also lead the review.

The group meets next at Ginny Well's house, **November 14**, 10:00 A.M. The topic book is *Tom Lake*, by Ann Patchett. Deborah Dodd is the scheduled reviewer. 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 **October 16**. Watch your email on the Friday preceding for the movie selection.

BRANCH CALENDAR

October 3, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group Meeting – Zoom	page 7
October 10, 10:00 A.M.	Morning Book Group Meeting – Live	page 8
October 16	Movies at Midweek	page 8
October 19, 3:00 P.M.	Branch Program Meeting	page 3
October 25	UPDATES articles due	
November 5	VOTE!	
November 7, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group – Zoom	page 7
November 14, 10:00 A.M.	Morning Book Group – Live	page 8
November 16, 3:00 P.M.	Branch Program Meeting	page 3
December 6	Branch Lunch at Maggiano’s	page 3

Dates of Distinction

October 2 starts Rosh Hashanah, a Jewish holiday that marks the beginning of the new year.

October 14 Indigenous Peoples’ Day (U.S.)—a holiday that celebrates the history and cultures of indigenous peoples native to what is today the United States. Indigenous Peoples’ Day is celebrated in cities and states across the country, often alongside or in lieu of Columbus Day.

October 24 is United Nations Day, which aims to bring awareness to the work of the United Nations worldwide.

October 31 is Halloween (All Hallows’ Eve)!

Farmer’s Almanac 2024



October glows on every cheek,
October shines in every eye,
While up the hill and down the dale
Her crimson banners fly.

–Elaine Goodale Eastman (1863–1953)

Newsletter articles for November UPDATES due October 25

Judy Titterton, Editor



of
Virginia

**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.