



U P D A T E S

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Issue 3

President’s Message

Ann Sauberman, Co-President

As November draws near and the leaves turn beautiful colors, I begin to think of the coming November holidays. This year, I am very excited about Veterans Day. You might ask why? Just a few weeks ago, I reviewed an excellent historical novel, *The Women*, by Kristin Hannah for the Evening Book Group. The author was very interested in the Viet Nam War and the role of women and spent ten years doing extensive research. One main theme of the book is that “Women can be heroes too.”



The Women is an epic tale of a nation divided by war and broken by politics. It is also the story of a twenty-year-old nursing student, Frances “Frankie” McGrath, who decided that she wanted to make a difference in this changing world. In 1965 after her brother joined the military to serve in the Viet Nam War, Frankie decided to join the Army Nurse Corps. Only the Army would let a woman join their Nurse Corps without much hospital experience. Soon this young inexperienced nurse found herself amid chaos, destruction, and life and death. She worked hard to help the wounded and try to save lives, but it was a daunting task and left her broken after two tours of service. Then she returned home to California to a world who had turned against the Viet Nam War. Many Americans wanted to forget the war and forget the brave male soldiers and the female nurses who served their country. Many including Frankie suffered PTSD and could not deal with coming home. But the biggest hurdle for Frankie was when she went to the Veteran’s hospital for help. She was refused treatment because the VA did not consider her a veteran

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.

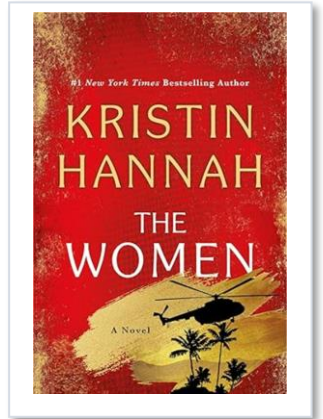
President's Message *continued from page 1*

but only a nurse. Even her parents were ashamed of her service and had lied to friends about where she was for two years. Women's contributions to the war were minimized. This book, although fiction, shows the difficult path that military women faced in the 1960's. They were not considered "heroes."

Facts prove that the women who served in Viet Nam were essential to the war effort. An estimated 10,000 women served in Viet Nam. Ninety percent of the women served as nurses in the Navy, Airforce, and Army Nurse corps. Others worked in administrative roles, military Intelligence, or air traffic control. Very few of these women were given the respect and gratitude they deserved.

Things have changed and both men and women have now been honored for their service in both the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial and the Viet Nam Women's Memorial. In 1982 the Viet Nam Memorial, the most-visited memorial on the Washington Mall, displays the names of more than 58,000 servicemen and women who lost their lives. This memorial fulfilled the promise to never forget those who served. The names of eight brave nurses, who lost their lives during the war, are also on the wall. The Viet Nam Women's Memorial was established and dedicated on November 11, 1993, to honor 265,000 military and civilian women who served around the world during the Viet Nam War. It is the first and only women's memorial on the Washington Mall. The main purpose of the memorial is to demonstrate that women did make a difference and served their country.

As the nation celebrates the contributions of women in the military, it is important to visit a third Memorial, the Military Women's Memorial, also known as the Women in Military Service for America Memorial. Established on October 17, 1997, it is located at the western end of Memorial Avenue at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery. Military women can register and be listed for their years of service. There are many displays about outstanding military women who have contributed to our country. Sandra Lawrence, a Springfield-Annandale Branch member and a retired Navy officer, led a tour of the Memorial for our Branch. Those who attended could learn about how important women have been to the military. There are so many pictures and information about outstanding women. As the 2024 Veterans Day approaches, I recommend that we take the time to visit one or more of these memorials and honor these amazing women. They should never be forgotten. It will be our way to proclaim that "women are heroes too."



Branch Program Meeting – November 16

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



Eileen Filler-Corn

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 was 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.

Branch December Lunch – December 6



Join us for Lunch, Italian Style on Friday, December 6, 1:00 to 4:00 P.M., at Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant, Francesca Room, Springfield Town Center, 6500 Springfield Mall, Springfield. Food is served Family Style. Refer to the attached flyer for the menu. Your guests are welcome to join us.

Cost is \$36.00. You can pay via check made out to “Springfield-Annadale AAUW”, and mailed to Sharon Draper by **November 22**

OR

Via PayPal, Venmo, Credit and Debit cards through this link:

<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/A2AXDHYYEYGZG>

Be sure to RSVP you and your number of guests with Irene McGhee via email by **November 12**. Also notify Irene if you require a gluten-free diet.

This will be a grand time of year to celebrate ourselves, our objectives, our mission, and our holiday traditions.

Branch Program Meeting – January 8 – Zoom

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

The Branch Program Meeting on **January 8**, 7:00 P.M., is via Zoom. “Empowering Women: Human Trafficking Awareness, Prevention, and Support Strategies” is the theme.

Deepa Patel, our featured speaker, is the Co-Founder of Trauma and Hope, a private government contracted mental health organization dedicated to supporting survivors of trauma including violence, sexual exploitation, and gang involvement.

A Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Certified Sex Offender Treatment Provider, Ms. Patel specializes in trauma-focused mental health care, offering expertise in working with non-voluntary court mandated clients, including gang members and perpetrators of sex crimes. She is proficient in various therapeutic modalities such as Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing (EMDR), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Progressive Counting (PC), Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), and Havening, which she uses to address developmental and complex trauma.



Deepa Patel

With over two decades of experience, Ms. Patel has developed a 5-day human trafficking program for professionals working with survivors of human trafficking, Sexual Exploitation Treatment and Training Services (SETTS). Her programs, rooted in evidence-based practices, have been implemented statewide in Virginia in partnership with the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services.

Ms. Patel is a sought-after consultant and trainer in trauma, human trafficking, and gang intervention. Her work has earned her numerous awards, including the Virginia NASW Social Worker of the Year Award (20117) and the Frederick Milton Thrasher Award for gang intervention. She continues to shape policy and practice at local and national levels, providing critical education and interventions.

September Branch Program Meeting Review

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



At our September 26 program, we welcomed Meghan Dorn, Federal Policy Director at TECH-NET. She spoke about Artificial Intelligence - the history, practical use cases, and benefits. Some of the examples she gave included using AI in schools to support teachers and students and help tailor content to individual needs. It is used in healthcare to remove bias in diagnosis and in agriculture to monitor the viability of crops and environmental protection, monitoring climate change factors. It could create specific breakthroughs that combat global warming.

Ms. Dorn also shared information about policy and regulations at both the federal and state levels, as well

as information related to the investment in programs designed to support students and help develop a pipeline for AI careers. She is an expert in her field, and we had a highly engaged audience with an informative question and answer session.

Atlantic Regional Conference Review

Sandy Lawrence

From New York to Florida, AAUW members gathered for the Atlantic Regional Conference, held at the beautiful Virginia Crossings Hotel and Conference Center in Glen Allen, September 27 - 29. The conference was hosted by AAUW-VA and Nancy D. Joyner and I represented the Springfield-Annandale Branch.

The conference featured a wide variety of presentation topics. These included Generative AI, ETA status, Immigration, Reproductive Freedom, and Voting Rights. All the speakers were excellent. We also received updates on AAUW current and future activities from Gloria Blackwell, AAUW Chief Executive Officer. Of course it was not all work. Friday night dinner included a musical cabaret from the Sassy, Soulful Sirens. And there were numerous opportunities to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

It is tentatively planned to have a regional conference every two years, with it being held in different states. I highly enjoyed and learned a lot from this conference and plan to attend the next one, whenever and wherever it will be.



Sandy Lawrence and Nancy Joyner

Report on Preliminary Injunction on Executive Order 35

Executive Order 35 was announced on August 7, 2024, 90 days from the 2024 Election. The National Voter Registration Act states that no systemic program of voter removal can be done within the 90-day period preceding the election, also known as the quiet period. The Executive Order required the DMV to provide daily electronic updates, a change from the monthly updates, of people registered on the rolls as noncitizens, even if incorrectly marked and changed later. Additionally, those who didn't mark anything on the DMV rolls, and any name where there was a discrepancy was marked for voter cancellation. There could be an issue due to any one of three discrepancy similarities: social security number, last name, or last name and date of birth. Between August 7 and October 14, 1600 people had been removed. More had been removed up to this date.

The Judge ruled in favor of the Plaintiff for the balance of equity favors the Plaintiff and there was a likelihood of Plaintiff success based on the merits of the case. The right to vote is a fundamental right and public interest means that the State must comply with Federal Law. She said removing people from the voting rolls during the last 90 days went against the National Voter Registration Act and caused irreparable harm to citizens. There was clear and compelling evidence that this was a systematic program as it was based on a methodical or planned activity relating to classification as opposed to individualized inquiry.

The Defendants argued that due to the lateness of the injunction, the order should remain, but the Judge remarked on the delay of the records being provided. Due diligence is required for a case to be filed. Requests for data were requested in August and September. The Defendants also noted that there was a remedy as Virginia has same day voter registration. The Judge noted that that would create a system of provisional ballots, would weaken voter participation and create an aura of suspicion.

The judge ordered that the Defendants had 5 days to reenter those citizens removed from the rolls after August 7, notify all Boards of Elections registrars and all voting personnel. Letters must be sent to all of those removed that they can now vote. Additionally, there needs to be a public press notification of this injunction and to educate the public. Every reasonable effort must be made to let citizens back on the voting rolls. The injunction ends on Nov. 6th.

The Governor's office responded by saying that they would appeal to the Fourth Circuit Court and then to the Supreme Court to stay the injunction.

A Post Election Conversation

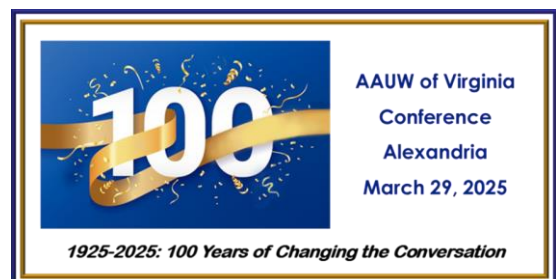
Janine Greenwood

Attached is the flyer for our Monday, **December 2**, 5:00 P.M., program with Congressman Gerry Connolly including the Zoom registration link supplied by National.

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IbHEq8JMTUmEPCp1MxPquQ

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

Election Day is Tuesday, **November 5**.



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.)

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

Registration deadlines

- In person during early voting September 20 – **November 2**
- In-person at voting location on Election Day **November 5**

Voting deadlines

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

Early, In-person Voting Locations and Hours

Fairfax County Government Center 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Room 251, Fairfax, 22035	September 20 – November 2 Monday – Friday: 8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. Saturday – November 2: 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Mt. Vernon Governmental Center 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, 22306	September 20 – November 2 Monday – Friday: 1:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. Saturdays – November 2: 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
North County Governmental Center 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, 20190	September 20 – November 2 Monday – Friday: 1:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. Saturdays – November 2: 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.
13 Additional Locations	October 17 – November 2 Monday – Friday: 1:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. Saturdays – November 2: 9:00 A.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

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.

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. Watch your email for a call for your ideas and donations. [Step up and answer her call for assistance.](#)

Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group next meets via Zoom, Thursday, **November 7**, 7:00 P.M. The topic book is *Braiding Sweetgrass*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Nancy Miller is the scheduled reviewer.

The group meets again virtually Thursday, **December 5**, 7:00 P.M. for a discussion of *An Unfinished Love Story* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. Mussaret Sheikh is the scheduled reviewer. Contact Debbie Gilligan for more information.

Morning Book Group

The Morning Book Group meets this month at Ginny Well's house, Thursday, **November 14**, 10:00 A.M. The topic book is *Tom Lake*, by Ann Patchett. Deborah Dodd is the scheduled reviewer.

The group meets next on Thursday, **December 12**, 10:00 A.M. at Helen Cassidy's house for a discussion of *Rules of Civility* by Amor Towles. Jo Domingues is the scheduled reviewer. Contact Deborah Dodd for more information.

Movies at Midweek

Bev Wise and Helen Cassidy, Movie Mavens

The next meeting of Movies at Midweek is **November 20**. Watch your email on the Friday preceding for the movie selection.



The Branch has 56 members as of the publication of this newsletter

BRANCH CALENDAR

November 5	VOTE!!	
November 7, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group Meeting – Zoom	page 8
November 14, 10:00 A.M.	Morning Book Group Meeting – Live	page 8
November 16, 3:00 P.M.	Branch Program Meeting	page 2
November 20	Movies at Midweek	page 8
November 25	UPDATES articles due	
December 5, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group – Zoom	page 8
December 6, 1:00 P.M.	Branch Lunch at Maggiano’s	page 3
December 12, 10:00 A.M.	Morning Book Group – Live	page 8
January 8, 7:00 P.M.	Branch Program Meeting – Zoom	page 3

Dates of Distinction

November 1 – Diwali. The Indian “festival of lights”—celebrating the triumph of good over evil.

November 2 – Sadie Hawkins Day. In November 1938, the first “girls-ask-boys” Sadie Hawkins Day dance happened and became popular.

November 3 – The end of Daylight-Saving Time. Set your clocks back one hour on Saturday night.

November 5 – Election Day. Don’t forget to vote in state and federal elections. Every vote counts.

November 11 – Veterans Day, a federal holiday - an important day set aside to honor and show appreciation for ALL who have served in the United States military.

November 28 – Thanksgiving Day. We all know what this is about.

Farmer’s Almanac 2024



Judy Titterton, Editor

*And the dead leaves lie huddled and still,
No longer blown hither and thither;
The last lone aster is gone;
The flowers of the witch-hazel wither ...*

-Robert Frost (1874-1963)

Newsletter articles for December UPDATES due November 25



Join Springfield-Annadale AAUW Branch's
Lunch, Italian Style

Friday, December 6

1:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Maggiano's Little Italy
Italian-American Restaurant

Francesca Room

Springfield Town Center
6500 Springfield Mall, Springfield
exterior entrance available from the ample parking lot



Served **Family Style**, with freshly baked bread, and your choice of regular or decaf coffee, hot tea, iced tea, assorted sodas. Alcoholic beverages may be purchased at the bar.

FIRST COURSE:

Italian Tossed Salad (V)
Balsamic Tomato-Bruschetta (V)
Stuffed Mushrooms

SECOND COURSE:

Rigatoni, Chicken/Mushroom Marsala
Eggplant Parmesan (V)
Lemon and Herb Salmon (GF)

DESSERT:

New York Style Cheesecake (V)
Tiramisu

Event Cost: **\$36.00**

Mail your check, made out to **Springfield-Annadale AAUW**, to Sharon Draper by **November 22**.

OR Via PayPal, Venmo, Credit and Debit Cards through this link:

<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/A2AXDHYYEYGZG>



RSVP you and your number of guests to Irene McGhee via email by **November 12**.



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 [Use this link](#) 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.

**A POST ELECTION
CONVERSATION WITH
REPRESENTATIVE
GERRY CONNOLLY**



Monday, December 2 at 5 p.m. on Zoom



SPONSORED BY:

Alexandria Branch
Arlington Branch
Falls Church Branch
McLean Branch
Mt. Vernon Branch
Reston-Herndon Branch
Vienna Branch

ADVANCE REGISTRATION HERE:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IbHEq8JMTUmEPCp1MxPquQ
