



U P D A T E S

Volume 66

February 2025

Issue 6

President’s Message

Cathleen Boivin, Co-President

The month of February has two holidays. First, is Valentine’s Day which florists love as it, and Mother’s Day, are their main source of income for the year. I’m sure the chocolate vendors are equally into the celebration. Schools don’t close, businesses stay open, but it’s a holiday where we can celebrate love for special others. The second one is Presidents’ Day. A holiday honoring George Washington’s birth on February 22 was passed by Congress in 1885, and was the first federal holiday to honor an individual’s birth date. A law was passed in 1971 to celebrate not just Washington, but other presidents on the third Monday of February. Since the holiday falls between Lincoln’s birth on February 12 and Washington on February 22, it became known as Presidents’ Day.



As far as I know there are no official ways to commemorate this holiday although the retailers offer special incentives on that weekend. When I was younger, I used to bake a cherry pie in honor of Washington. And yes, I know that the whole chopping down the cherry tree and the, “I cannot tell a lie” fable was dreamed up by Parson Weems and is not factual. But if we are recognizing presidents and their achievements, I’d like to single out our longest-lived president, Jimmy Carter. No matter what you think of him as President, or what he did and didn’t achieve during his four-year administration, I think we can all agree that he and his wife, Rosalynn, spent the remainder of their lives doing volunteer work and endeavoring to make the world a better place.

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*

This month, I'd like to recognize volunteers. As you know, volunteers are the backbone of AAUW. Our members are well-educated and active women who have a lot to give to others. I'm amazed by the abilities and experiences of our members who joined AAUW because they want to be involved in furthering the opportunities open to women.

As a teacher, I mentored several students from disadvantaged or low-income socio-economic backgrounds. They were concerned about their chances to get into and pay for college. They and their families understand that the way to achieve their potential is through higher education. I had some young women students join the military after graduation so they could fund further study; a few of whom entered, then graduated from the military academies. Some began at community colleges as they are less expensive and have more flexible hours. But it takes organizations like AAUW to support the goals of these girls.

As an organization, we are particularly interested in giving our young women a leg up. AAUW sponsors various initiatives to encourage young women to seek appropriate education then jobs in science fields. We mentor them on how to negotiate salaries and we advocate equal pay for equal work. We offer scholarships and so many other ways to enable women to seek better work situations and pay. As a nation we need the talent and knowledge of all our citizens. As the old TV commercial used to say, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste."

This fall our AAUW volunteers addressed and wrote millions of postcards encouraging people to vote. They worked at voting locations, they offered transportation to voters, etc.

Many of our members have now joined our Lobby Corps. This group encourages law makers to support legislation that guarantees equal opportunities for all Americans.



<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/5-star-program/?emci=779337c3-63da-ef11-88f8-0022482a9579&emdi=637a598b-88dd-ef11-88f8-0022482a9579&ceid=31611060>

I'd also be remiss if I didn't recognize the fire fighters from our country and many others who are laboring to contain the fires in California and save homes and communities. These people are volunteers. Where would we be without them?

I believe that many of us joined AAUW to make a difference by furthering the cause of gender equity. We know that our young women must break through the barriers that prevent them from achieving their potential. And, as you know, the ERA has still not been officially passed and formally added to the Constitution even though it states that every American citizen is entitled to the same rights regardless of sex.

So, what can you do? As an AAUW member you can volunteer your time or expertise in many ways. Check out these links for volunteer opportunities and information:

Volunteer Match: <https://www.volunteermatch.org/search/org921440.jsp>

AAUW Recent Webinars: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/webinars/>

Become a Two Minute Activist: <https://secure.everyaction.com/t79k4XW2qE6zElzj0xIKA2>

Springfield-Annandale Branch Website: <https://sprann-va.aauw.net/>

Thank you for being a member of our Branch and supportive of the AAUW mission.

Branch Program Meeting – February 7 – Zoom

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



Jon White

Jon White, NOAA expert on climate, is our featured speaker for the Zoom meeting on Friday, **February 7**, 10:00 A.M. Some topics affected by climate change are food insecurity, fish farms, rising water levels, plastics, storm water pollution, and loss of seaweed and reefs and their effect on the food chain. As normal citizens and consumers, most people want to know what they can do to help our planet and our relations with nature and the scientific community. Mr. White plans to address these concerns. Read his biography at the end of this newsletter. Watch your email for your Zoom invitation.

Branch Program Meeting – March 15 – Live

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

Join us Saturday, **March 15**, 12:00 to 3:00 P.M., at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke, to meet guest speaker, Dr. Serwat Perwaiz. Dr. Perwaiz’s topic is “Paths to Empowerment: Afghan Women, Economic Growth, and Regional Insights (2001–2021)”. The discussion focuses on economic empowerment of women in Afghanistan, with a regional perspective.

Dr. Perwaiz is a foreign policy professional with over 20 years’ experience in international affairs. She has worked with US government agencies and international organizations, including United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of State, the Department of Commerce, the United Nations Development Program, and others to inform policy makers on relevant domestic and international issues. Her areas of expertise include democracy and governance, economic growth, and locally-led development.

Dr. Perwaiz earned her Doctor of International Affairs and Master of International Public policy at the Johns Hopkins University, Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies. She has a Juris Doctor from the American University Washington College of Law. She has studied Nuclear Nonproliferation through the National Nuclear Security Administration’s annual program with Brookhaven National Laboratory on the international nonproliferation regime. Dr. Perwaiz lives and works in the National Capital Region.

We request our guests bring an international finger food, sweet or savory, which does not require heat or refrigeration.



Dr. Serwat Perwaiz

AAUW-VA 2025 State Conference and Centennial Celebration

Sandy Lawrence

Don't let time run out to register for the AAUW-VA Saturday, **March 29** State Conference,

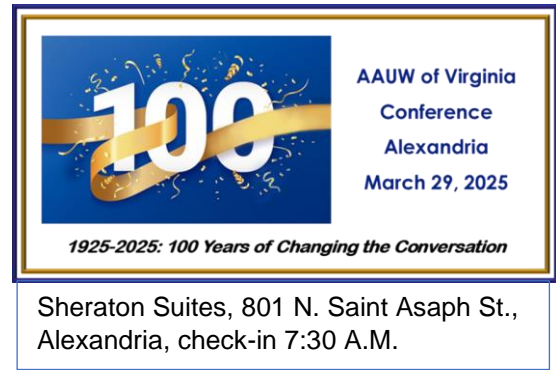
“1925-2025: 100 Years of Changing the Conversation”

Registration received by **February 25** is \$100; after that date, registration is \$125.

To register and view the listing of all activities, go to:

[Conference | AAUW of Virginia](#)

We are taking orders on Conference Mugs and Centennial Stemless Wine Glasses. They make great presents for you or other Branch members or speaker gifts for the next year. They must be preordered and can be purchased as part of the conference registration process. Refer to the flyer at the end of this newsletter for hotel room reservation information.



The AAUW Greatest Needs Fund Baskets Fundraiser Are Back!

Due to popular demand, the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund Baskets Fundraiser is returning during the 2025 AAUW-VA State Conference. This fundraiser provides a social venue, friendly competition, and an opportunity to raise funds to further AAUW's mission of promoting equality for women and girls. Baskets created by Branches will be raffled off, and the winners will be announced at the close of the conference on Saturday, March 29. A Branch may submit one or more themed baskets for the raffle.

The rules to participate are simple: Prior registration is necessary for entry. Provide the number of baskets your Branch will enter and their titles or themes. Use the following link to register your basket information by the deadline: Friday, February 28.

[Register baskets here!](#)

- Attach a 4"x6" card to each basket giving the title, a brief description, and the name of the contributing Branch.
- All items must be in the Baskets Display Room at the Sheraton Suites by 7:00 P.M. on Friday, March 28.

Raffle tickets for the baskets will be available during the Conference at a cost of \$7 for 1 ticket, \$15 for 3 tickets, or \$30 for 7 tickets. Winners or a proxy must be present at the end of the conference to pick up their baskets.

Direct any questions to Phyllis Yoshida, pgyosh@aol.com.

100 Pairs of Socks

Earlier this year, AAUW-VA's President, Lane Stone, encouraged branches to provide 100 of anything to donate in celebration of our centennial. Springfield-Annandale's Board decided to purchase 100 pairs of men's and women's socks. They were delivered on January 13 to the Eleanor U. Kennedy Shelter, 9155 Richmond Highway, Fort Belvoir. This shelter is affiliated with New Hope Housing, Inc.

100 Pairs of Men's and Women's Socks
Given to Eleanor U. Kennedy Shelter for the Homeless
Springfield-Annandale Branch



Irene McGhee, Judy Titterton, Michelle Hook, Volunteer Coordinator, and Susan Burk

Public Policy

Susan Burk, Public Policy Chair

State Lobby Day

More than forty AAUW-VA members descended on Richmond on January 16 to lobby on behalf of AAUW's public policy priorities. Our state lobbyists were able to visit many offices to discuss paid family and medical leave, reproductive rights, full funding for public schools and other issues. The 2025 legislative session is a short one and will adjourn "sine die" (to adjourn indefinitely) on February 22.

The General Assembly already has passed three constitutional amendments to protect abortion and marriage rights, and automatically restore voting rights to people who have completed felony sentences. As part of the multiyear amendment process, the measures will need to be passed again next year, after which they will be sent to the voters in 2026. FYI: The Virginia Constitution has been amended 15 times since 2006.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB)

DEIB/A (A is the White House term for "Accessibility") is in the crosshairs of the new Administration. Federal offices have already begun closing DEI and related offices government-wide. Colleges and

universities that receive state and federal funding are under scrutiny. And as we've seen reported, large companies including Target and Walmart are rapidly abandoning DEI programs. Target also has abandoned any efforts to support Black businesses. We are being bombarded by unsettling news daily and more frequently. We probably all know someone who has been directly affected by the rapid and extensive policy changes. I do!

AAUW and AAUW-VA continue to be unwavering in their support of diversity, equity, and inclusion. We recognize the need to attract and retain members and to celebrate the diversity that all individuals bring. Members of AAUW have long raised awareness through their impactful initiatives, programs, and research. Take a moment to review AAUW's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Toolkit: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/dei-toolkit/>

Refer to the end of this newsletter for more information on the Toolkit.

AAUW Proposed Revisions to Public Policy Priorities for 2025-27

AAUW has solicited comments from members on its proposed revisions to its public policy priorities. I am still working through them, but offer the following on DEI:

2023-25 Public Policy Priorities (selected paragraphs)

“Basic to all of AAUW's public policy efforts is the understanding that true equity requires a balance between the rights of the individual and the needs of the community. AAUW opposes all forms of discrimination and supports constitutional protection for the civil rights of all individuals.

AAUW believes in the need to end white supremacy and address structural and systemic racism. Efforts to improve racial, ethnic, and gender justice must be embedded into every initiative. This includes working to eradicate intersectional bias and creating a culture of involvement, respect, inclusion, and connection, where the richness of diverse ideas, backgrounds, and perspectives is fully appreciated, understood and utilized.”

2025-27 Public Policy Priorities – Proposed

AAUW positions are shaped by our commitment to equity by being nonpartisan, evidence-based, experience-driven, inclusive, and intersectional. AAUW opposes all forms of discrimination based on age, disability, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, religious beliefs, pregnancy or parental status or socioeconomic status, and supports constitutional protection for the civil rights of all individuals. AAUW believes in the need to end white supremacy and address structural and systemic racism. Efforts to advance racial, ethnic, and gender justice must be embedded into every policy initiative.

COMMENT: Although more concise, the proposed priority captures the main points of the previous statement.

State Conference

As one of your AAUW-VA Co-Vice Presidents for Program, I'm getting more and more excited about our March conference! While there seem to be a million things to do, we have a strong team that includes Leslie Tourigny, Alexandria; Sharon Zackula, Falls Church; and our own Sandy Lawrence. Conference registrations are rolling in from all over the Commonwealth. Springfield-Annandale now has eleven members registered for the Conference and several of them have volunteered for various conference tasks. Thank You!!

I am coordinating our basket for the Greater Needs Fund raffle at the conference. The theme is “A Holiday in Provence.” If you have anything to donate consistent with this theme, let me know. The raffle baskets are back by popular demand. Additionally, there will be drawings for First Time Conference Attendees, and the longest and the newest members.

We have a jam-packed program and some surprises. It will certainly be a battery-charging event!

Any questions, contact Sandy Lawrence or Sharon Zackula.



Help Wanted – Seeking Board Members for 2025-2026

Deborah Dodd, Debbie Gilligan, Co-VPs for Membership

It does seem early to be talking about 2025-2026. Still, it is time to start planning for the next Springfield-Annandale AAUW Membership Year – 2025-2026. In the Spring, members will be voting on candidates to fill the vacant board positions of President, Vice President for Programs, and Treasurer.



Volunteers are needed to step into these important roles. Those members who have served so ably for several years have decided not to run again. The position of President has recently been shared by two members, as has the position of VP for Programs. Sharing these positions has worked well. Ask a friend to work with you. It is especially rewarding to work together on the Board.

The Springfield-Annandale Branch is an active, vibrant branch. It is one of only two in the state of Virginia to be awarded 5 Stars for meeting all the criteria outlined by

National AAUW. If the Branch is to remain a model for other branches in the State, enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers are needed to serve on the Board. Serving on the Board is a rewarding opportunity to participate in shaping the future of the Branch with other dedicated Board members.

Consider volunteering for one of these positions. If you have any questions about the responsibilities of a specific Board position, one of the members currently serving in that position would be happy to speak to you. Co-VPs for Membership could also answer any questions you may have. We hope that you will consider stepping forward to fill one of these important positions. Contact Debbie Gilligan or Deborah Dodd to sign up.

Spring Fling – May 9

Ann Sauberman, Coordinator

The Springfield Golf and Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, is the place to be on **May 9**, 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Our committee is currently working on acquiring a speaker and, we will send out information about the menu shortly. Watch for this upcoming information in your inbox.

The Silent Auction committee, chaired by Debbie Gilligan, is working hard to plan a wonderful event. It is important to remember that the Spring Fling is our Branch's main fund raiser. We need to support the many essential National AAUW programs which supports equity for women and girls.

Silent Auction Committee

Debbie Gilligan, Coordinator

The Committee is planning on silent auctions for gift baskets*, [desirable jewelry](#), [elite scarves](#), [high-end handbags](#), and gift cards** for Spring Fling on May 9. Also, an exciting [50/50 Money Raffle](#).

It's a New Year and time to clean out that closet and donate your jewelry, scarves, and handbags to the Committee! You can drop off your treasures at Debbie Gilligan's or Ann Sauberman's house.

*Gift Baskets Ideas

Spring Garden Basket, Italian Delights, Your Wellness Spa, Beach Time, Baby Goodies, Time for Book Worms, International Immersion, your ideas, your friend's ideas, you get the picture.

You can volunteer to provide items for these baskets, or [create a basket](#) with your friends. Think about what you would like to win in a basket. Judy Titterton is providing a Chocolate Dreams basket. Contact her if you would care to join her in her quest.



**Gift Cards

While you're out and about, why not stop by your favorite restaurant, spa, grocery store, apparel store, and [ask for a Gift Card Donation](#)? The business letter is at the end of this newsletter. Make a few copies and keep them in your car for when you are near your favorite business.

[We need you to think about what you can do to make this happen.](#)

Purchase your 50/50 Money Raffle tickets as you enter Spring Fling. The [Winner](#) receives one-half of the total take for this fundraiser.

- 1 Ticket is \$5.00
- 5 Tickets are \$20.00
- 10 Tickets are \$30.00



If we all pitch in, we can make the Spring Fling Auction the most successful ever!

Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group next meets via Zoom, Thursday, **February 6**, 7:00 P.M., to discuss *Clementine: The Life of Mrs. Winston Churchill*, by Sonia Purnell. Beth Von Holle is the scheduled reviewer. This is different than what is posted in the Directory. *West With Giraffes*, by Lynda Rutledge, is the book now scheduled for **March 6**. Contact Debbie Gilligan for more information.

Morning Book Group

The Morning Book Group meets on Thursday, **February 13**, 10:00 A.M., for a review of *The Color of Air*, by Gail Tsukiyama. Irene McGhee will host and review the book.

The next meeting is Thursday, **March 13**, 10:00 A.M., for a review of *Solito: A Memoir*, by Javier Zamora. Betty Sheehan will host and Wendy Cleland-Hamnett will review. Contact Wendy Cleland-Hamnett or Deborah Dodd for more information.

Movies at Midweek

Bev Wise and Helen Cassidy, Movie Mavens

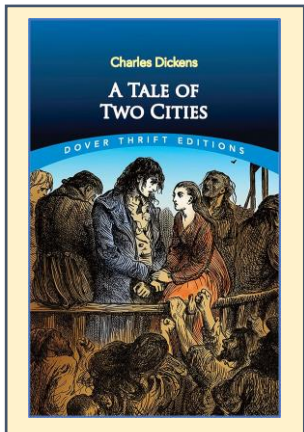
Movies at Midweek now meets on the second Wednesday of the month.

The next meeting of Movies at Midweek is **February 12**. Watch your email on the Friday preceding for the movie selection.

BRANCH CALENDAR

February 6, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group – Zoom	page 9
February 7, 10:00 A.M.	Branch Program Meeting – Zoom	page 3
February 12	Movies at Midweek	page 9
February 13, 10:00 A.M.	Morning Book Group – Live	page 9
February 24	<i>UPDATES</i> articles due	
March 6, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group – Zoom	page 9
March 13, 10:00 A.M.	Morning Book Group – Live	page 9
March 15, Noon	Branch Program Meeting – Live	page 3
March 28-29	State Conference, Alexandria	page 4
May 9	Spring Fling	page 8

Famous Exits



“It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done;

it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known.”

A Tale of Two Cities, Charles Dickens

The June 2025 edition of the *Springfield-Annandale UPDATES* newsletter will be my last as Editor. - Judy Titterton

Articles for March UPDATES due February 24

Biography of Rear Admiral Jon White, USN

Rear Admiral Jon White, USN (retired) enjoyed a distinguished 32-year career as an oceanography and meteorology officer in the US Navy, culminating in his assignment as Oceanographer and Navigator of the Navy. This position included leadership of the Navy's Task Force Climate Change and extensive federal and international engagement topics related to national security and global prosperity.

Following his Navy career, White served as President & CEO of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership (COL) until his retirement in 2021. COL is a non-profit corporation that represents ocean science and technology organizations from academia, industry, and the non-profit sectors.

White has extensive experience in working with Congress and federal agencies of the U.S. government to advance policy specific to the ocean, weather, and climate. He is an accomplished speaker and writer and has given interviews across traditional and social media including *60 Minutes* and *Reddit AMA*. He serves as an advisor and consultant to governmental and non-governmental organizations from local to national levels.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Oceanographic Technology from the Florida Institute of Technology, and a Master of Science degree *with distinction* in Oceanography and Meteorology from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School.





**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 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.

The following is the introduction to the Toolkit:

AAUW seeks to promote inclusion and awareness for all members to create an equitable, sustainable and inclusive membership reflective of today's world.

AAUW is dedicated to helping members become more comfortable sharing their perspectives outside of diversity trainings and to address diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in all aspects of their work and lives. We seek to encourage ongoing dialogue that will inspire all members to bring these values to their personal and professional interactions. Within AAUW, our goal is to turn these conversations into actionable goals and strategies for each branch. We seek to help members understand how inclusion factors into every decision made in the branch and in their lives. AAUW hopes to bring inclusion to the workplace, including transparent advancement and opportunities for development.

The AAUW Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) resources aim to identify best practices for promoting diversity, equity and inclusion within AAUW. These resources present guidelines for how AAUW branches, national members, student members and individual members can demonstrate an understanding of AAUW's mission, values, goals and strategic plan. It is meant to start the inclusion conversation. We encourage all members to seek ways to incorporate inclusive practices into their branches and daily life.

As Maya Angelou said, "In diversity, there is beauty and there is strength." AAUW respects and celebrates the diversity of our members and those differences form the backbone of our organization. These resources are one way to show others how to bring together differences for positive change through inclusive practices.

Thank you for your efforts. We hope to help create positive change.



Spring 2025

Dear Business Owner,

The Springfield-Annandale Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) is having a benefit luncheon on May 9, 2025 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 have a featured speaker and will conduct a SILENT AUCTION. 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 100+ people will attend this fundraising event, which will be held at the Springfield Golf and Country Club.

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

Debbie Gilligan
Silent Auction Committee
Springfield Annandale Chapter, AAUW
8908 Glade Hill Rd. Fairfax, VA 22031
debbiegilligan@verizon.net
703-503-2905
<https://sprann-va.aauw.net/> Tax Id# 54-6058154

Bearer of Letter is: _____