
AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION
OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

*A History of the
Springfield-Annandale Branch
AAUW of Virginia*

1955 - 2005

Celebrating 50 Years!

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BRANCH PRESIDENTS THROUGH THE YEARS

Springfield-Annandale Branch

AAUW of Virginia

1955-56	Marge Baxa (<i>temporary chairman</i>)
1956	Jackie Werner
1956-57	Barbara Taylor
1957-58	Norah Miller
1958-59	Dr. Gloria Brennan
1959-60	Barbara Dolliver
1960-62	Lucille Venafrá
1962-64	Dr. Helen Hackman Wechsler
1964-66	Luella Murri
1966-67	Dottie Sohl
1967-68	Ann K. Millar
1968-69	Mimi Pellettieri
1969-71	Ellen Griffée
1971-72	C. J. Rathke
1972-73	Elaine Lailas
1973-74	Julie Squier
1974-76	Dotti Rossi
1976-78	Ann Sauberman
1978-80	Judy Wright
1980-82	Connie Dillman
1982-84	Joan Nelson
1984-86	Ruth Nagy
1986-88	Betty Ann Van Matre
1988-90	Judy Wright
1990-92	Paulette Miller and Carol Clark
1992-94	Cathy DeWolfe and Martha Boone
1994-96	Joanna Shows and Ginny Fant
1996-98	Patricia Kittock
1998-2000	Dianne Blais
2000-2001	Virlinda Snyder
2001-2002	Ercell Binns
2002-2003	Gwynette Peterson
2003-2004	Patsy Carr
2004-2005	Helen Cassidy
2005-2006	Judy Wright and Suzanne Bottoms

HISTORY

Springfield-Annandale, Branch, AAUW of Virginia

1955-1965

In 1955, Springfield was a "far-o"ut suburb of Washington, D.C. where new homes with yards were attracting young families. When Marge Baxa moved with her husband Ed to what is believed to be the second house built in Springfield, she saw the need for an organization to monitor the educational needs of their children and the many others in the new community. She had never been a member of AAUW, but had been impressed with the association's work during a visit to the old national headquarters building on I Street when she was a WAVE stationed nearby.

So, Marge contacted division and association officers, held a couple of meetings in her home with like-minded women, talked to women in the community, and spent hours on the organizational details involved. Finally, the first meeting was held March 15, 1955 at Garfield Elementary School and the Springfield Branch joined the Virginia Division in the Fall of that year. Marge served as temporary chairman until Jackie Werner was elected the first president, and she became the publicity chairman.

Meetings were announced by postcard and articles in the Springfield *Independent* and preceded by potluck suppers. There were 40 members by the end of the first year. They voted to oppose the Gray Amendment which would have called a state constitutional convention to close the Virginia public schools, part of the "Massive Resistance" to integration.

The first branch newsletter appeared for August/September 1957 and by December the branch had grown to 50 members. Active study groups included Arts, International Relations, Education and Social Studies. Members wrote the Board of Supervisors urging the building of a long-needed youth detention center without delay. And they sponsored "Anastasia" produced by the Springfield Footlighters, raising \$50 toward the building fund for the new national association headquarters. Other fund raising efforts made them the second branch in the state and among the first dozen in the country to meet their quota of \$10 per person.

By 1958-59, members were protesting the School Board's decision to put all first graders on half-day sessions as a solution to limited classroom space for a rapidly growing school population. To combat a teacher shortage, the branch helped convince the University of Virginia and George Washington University to offer education courses in Springfield. And the branch mounted an effort to get the Governor to call a special session of the General Assembly to enact legislation to reopen closed public schools.

By 1960, the new national headquarters building was open, Mass Media had become an area wide committee instead of a study group, and "Emerging Nations - Africa South of the Sahara" was the topic for an area workshop. In

1961, members collected foreign language materials for Lee and Annandale High Schools and sponsored a poetry reading for 4 to 10 year olds every third Saturday of the month at St. John's Methodist Church.

In 1963, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors fired the School Board. Members quickly sent a letter to the Board deploring the firings and asking for appointment of an independent School Board with staggered four year terms, a system eventually adopted and which continued until the advent of an elected board. Also in this year, the branch's name changed to Springfield/Annandale, reflecting the many members living in Annandale.

The branch favored an increase in teacher salaries and urged passage of a bond issue for additional school construction. They supported the opening of a diagnostic clinic for mentally retarded children which branch president Helen Wechsler had proposed in her capacity as Assistant Health Director of Fairfax County.

The 1964 national convention brought about a requirement that each branch study at least one of four topics designated by the Association. Springfield/Annandale chose "The American Family in a Changing World." At the Fall area workshop, branch members presented a panel discussion on "The Educated Woman as a Member of the Community."

After an in-depth study, the branch made a concerted and successful effort to convince the Board of Supervisors to adopt ordinances regulating child care centers and private pre-schools. Members secured positions on the Fairfax County Council on Youth and the Citizens Advisory Committee established by the School Board to study and evaluate school curricula. The branch also made recommendations to the Virginia State Board of Education as well as the Fairfax County School Board.

1965-1975

The decade opened with new homes spreading outside the Beltway along a two-lane Braddock Road and new classrooms being added at the rate of one and a fourth per day in the county. Springfield/Annandale Branch members were concerned about "Law and the Citizen" and the Fall area workshop topic, "Mobilization of Community Resources to Raise the Level of All Children." On Candidates' Night in 1965, members were reminded to ask questions about the "bothersomes" of Virginia and were asked to give at least an hour on election day to the party of their choice.

In 1966, Connie Hertzler prodded the consciences of members on the issue of the delinquency of children under the age of 16. One choice of study topic was "Part-time Educational and Job Opportunities for Women; How the College Educated Housewife Can Return to Her Career or Prepare For a New One."

Kindergartens would finally become a reality in the Virginia public schools in 1968-69 and members wanted to be involved in their planning and development. In May of 1966, the Virginia State Division passed a resolution urging the Governor to make permanent the Virginia Commission on the Status of Women and the Springfield/Annandale Branch was recognized for having the greatest increase in membership among the Division's 31 branches.

A new directive for study groups from the General Director stated that the groups did not have to be made up of "10 women meeting twice a week for four months ... it could be three women keeping together over the phone, ... four professional women thinking and talking about the topic with their professional colleagues and sharing their findings afterward."

Norah Milner became the branch's first state division officer and served as implementation chair for the study of "Revolution in Modern China." The education study group focused on the public kindergartens, recommendations for the school system budget, and ways volunteers could aid schools. Budget discussions for 1966-67 focused on how best to spend the \$10 dues.

After a 1967 program on "Women's Rights in Virginia," the branch decided to send representatives to early meetings of the Consumer Council of Northern Virginia. At that time, Virginia was one of the few states with no legislation for the protection of consumers. Interest groups included Music, Science, and The Underachiever, focusing on the underachieving student. Newsletters of the time described members as "enthusiastic" and "cooperative." A "readers' alcove" began to appear regularly in newsletters with short commentaries on books of interest to members. Significant pieces of legislation that occupied member's attention were truth in lending and civil rights bills. Fair housing became a focus in the late 1960's. Branch member Adelaide Stegman was elected Virginia division President while Marge Baxa and Norah Milner were included in the 1967 edition of "Outstanding Civic Leaders of America"

Highlight of the 15th anniversary celebration in 1970 was the appearance of comic Mark Russell. A questionnaire on members' interests and efforts to organize carpools were efforts to increase members' participation. Members were concerned with "The Changing Complexion of High Schools in Fairfax County with Special Reference to Rebellion, Drugs, and Student Attitudes."

"Action" was by byword with programs on "The Busy Woman's Guide to Action in Fairfax County," "Action Through Coalition," "Action is Our Bag," and "Action for Clean Water." The rallying cry was "Is Caring Enough?" Treatments for troubled youth, the need for low and moderate income housing, and consumer issues were also topics of interest.

By the early 1970's, the environment and pollution had surfaced as major issues. Working on setting county goals, addressing the issues of child abuse, health

care, water quality and transportation occupied members' time. The format for the Education Watchdog Committee was set. A committee published a "Pre-school Guide" and applauded its appearance in a local newspaper. Members argued for school counselors at the elementary level and a gourmet group began.

Branch presidents in Northern Virginia began to meet informally to discuss issues of common concern, the beginning of what became in 1978, the Northern Virginia Interbranch Council, the first such group in Virginia. Members were fired up over the Equal Rights Amendment, saw the beginnings of the MUW Monitoring Corps, joined an Alliance for the Eradication of Venereal Diseases, and set up a resource list of telephone numbers for emergency needs.

At the September 1974 general meeting, a panel of doctors, an attorney, a police officer, and a member of the National Organization of Women's Rape Task Force discussed the topic of rape. The main point that emerged was that only a very small percentage of rapists were convicted.

1975-1985

The third decade began with topics such as "The 21st Century- Deciding Now," "Economic Facts of Life - Living With Less," "The ERA," "Investing for the Future," "Death with Dignity," "New Careers," school bonds, and "How to Make Gingham Flowers and Butterflies." Dotti Rossi, Judy Wright, Ellen Griffie, Elaine Lalias, Eleanor Johnson, and Kristin Moyer all served the Virginia State Division as officers or committee chairs.

In 1977, branch members along with other Virginia Division members promoted the passage of the ERA with an Equality Day march in the District. General meeting topics included gardening, a slide show/lecture on Africa, and "Women as Agents of Change." After a long tradition of sponsoring movies and stage productions as fund raisers, the branch presented the Bob Brown marionettes to benefit MUW's Educational Foundation Programs.

The following year, Dr. John Davis, Superintendent of Fairfax County Schools, spoke to the branch. Other programs included crafts and hobbies, school lunches, politics, money management, and "Food - an International View." Study groups included "The Politics of Food," and "Redefining the Goals of Education"

The Fairfax County Council of the Arts presented the first meeting of 1979 and other topics included "What is a System - A Guide on How to Look at Power, Resources, etc.," money management, energy alternatives, and problems of the aging. Branch membership peaked at 200. Members shared their abilities in a talent night with dancing, arts, and crafts. In the Spring, the branch entertained a

group of visiting Libyan women and again the Bob Brown Marionettes helped raise money for EFP.

The 1980, the Virginia Division Convention in Alexandria voted to hold the next convention in a state that had ratified the ERA, which would exclude Virginia. Members hosted the tea that followed the Division's tour of Capitol Hill. Three former branch officers were involved in the convention as state officers: Elaine Lalias as outgoing Division president, Judy Wright as outgoing Division treasurer, and Dotti Rossi as invoking program vice-president.

Members of four Northern Virginia branches wrote "The Connection - a Guide to Effective Involvement in Fairfax County Public Schools" and published with the help of an EFP grant. Cathy Belter was one of the project directors. In the Spring of 1980, the branch contributed non-sexist books to the libraries of Edsall Park and Garfield elementary schools. General meeting topics included stress management, the hospice movement, part-time work, Northern Virginia history, and "The Law and Virginia Women." Members became short order cooks for a day, turning out quantities of submarine sandwiches that were sold to benefit EFP.

Members celebrated the silver anniversary of the branch with a 25th birthday luncheon in December of 1980 at Evans Farm Inn in McLean. Featured speakers were Bobbi Wright, Virginia Division President; past branch presidents Marge Baxa, Helen Wechsler, and Dotti Rossi; and Eleanor Johnson who presented a poetic branch history. Another historic anniversary came in 1981 with the AAUW Centennial Convention in Boston. Several branch members attended, staying in dorms at MIT. At the next national convention two years later, former branch president Elaine Lalias was elected national vice president.

General meetings in the early 1980's were held at the Parkwood Baptist church until a move to Kings Glen Elementary School in 1982. Programs covered a wide range of topics including women's health, cable TV, publishing a play, arms control, a candidates' night, home computers, changing careers, aging parents, gardening, the legal status of women in Virginia, child abuse, stress, art of Central America, and U.S. intelligence systems. Virginia House of Delegates members Vivian Watts, Gladys Keating and Marian Van Landingham presented their views on Virginia issues of special concern to women.

Study groups focused on women's issues, public education, technology, finance, national security, literature, theater, bridge and gourmet dining. The Education Watchdog committee studied local educational issues and continued to present its findings to the Fairfax County School Board and to school administrators. School boundaries, computers in the classrooms and minority achievement were major issues. The committee also taped books for use by learning disabled students and helped coordinate volunteer efforts for schools with special needs.

Two investment clubs were operating and branch members monitored drunken driving cases in the county courts as well as providing birthday greetings and refreshments to the Burke Lake Gardens home for the elderly. Members assisted the county in efforts ranging from pothole mapping to voter registration, from contributing books to school libraries in honor of Women's History Week to helping initiate the Women's History Coalition of Fairfax County and the Widowed Persons' Service of Northern Virginia.

Judy Wright, Suzanne Bottoms, Dotti Rossi, Joan Nelson and Cathy Belter served the Virginia Division in elected and appointed positions while the newsletter, publicity, and special projects were recognized by the Division. Events including a bar-b-que, a fashion show and desert, a MEMCO store inventory, a theater party, and a fashion program at Garfinckel have raised funds for EFP. Members attended the Washington *Post* Book and Author luncheon and many tours including the Voice of America, and the Recombinant DNA Laboratory at the National Institutes of Health. Another highlight was the gourmet group's annual Luau.

HISTORY

Springfield-Annandale, Branch, AAUW of Virginia

1985-1995

The 30th Anniversary of the Springfield-Annandale Branch of AAUW was celebrated on November 16, 1985. Dr. Nancy Joyner was the guest speaker using the topic "What Will We Do For An Encore, The next 30 Years?" As we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the branch on September 23, 1995, the challenges of our society continue to demand our best thinking as we once again seek to create solutions for extremely complicated problems.

Ruth Nagy, president of the Branch in 1985, was quoted in the April 23rd edition of the Alexandria Gazette, "We have no trouble recruiting new members." She noted that her group had members ranging in age from early 20's to 65 plus. "Anyone who is a college graduate is welcome to join." The reporter who interviewed Ruth Nagy went on to write "that

AAUW's success may be that it maintains the precarious balance between traditional, stay-at-home women and the modern, working women. The women's group promotes education for women, lobbies for bills, sponsors candidate nights and has a risk and profit investment club where women have their stock holdings evaluated. Springfield-Annandale branch of AAUW also sponsors gourmet dinners, bridge games and outings to museums and embassies. But more important, members say, is that the branch enables intelligent women to meet together."

Programs for the decade included Meg Villarreal of the corporation for Public Broadcasting who talked about what role women play in television and whether television programming has changed as women have become more involved. Kristin Moyer, our Division president, explained the "new AAUW", networking our needs and joining together to make us stronger and more able to "Share the Power, Share the Pride." Dr. Carl T. Nissen supported AAUW's national issue, "Promoting Individual Liberties", with the program "Secular Humanism: What's Wrong with the Wizard of Oz?" A joint meeting with the Falls Church Branch was held. Reviewing the legislative situation at the state and national level and child care initiatives in Fairfax County were discussed. Our programs also included such issues as day care, battered women, drunk driving, latchkey children as well as a presentation tracing women's accomplishments, lifestyles and dress from 1900 to the present.

Cultural activities included excursions to the National Museum of Women in the Arts, the Renwick Gallery, The National Gallery of Art (to see the special exhibit on Matisse's Moroccan art), and a tour of the Octagon House Museum to view Hidden Treasures. Branch members were also involved with Great Decision discussing different subjects each month. As part of our Branch's celebration of Eleanor Roosevelt's 100th birthday, the members of the board approved a motion to purchase a tree in her honor. During this decade, our branch members continued to enjoy gourmet dinners.

Our branch was very active in the community during this decade. We passed a motion to support the Fairfax County School Bond Referendum of 146.1 million dollars, the largest bond referendum in county history. We participated in the Burke Lake Garden's monthly birthday parties. Education Watchdog continued to be active. We observed a pilot project that was designed to deliver highly individualized instruction in reading and math employing the computer. We also participated in a poll regarding proposed local taxes. AAUW members served as watchdogs sitting diligently through the school board meetings, examining the facts

and keeping the branch informed. Both Morning and Evening Lit Groups enjoyed a diverse group of books.

EF projects included fund raisers at theaters, art auctions, Macy's Charity day, Entertainment books, and a fall fashion show. Thirty names gifts were given to branch members during this decade as well as in memory of Georgia Vallery, Association Vice President and mother of Suzanne Bottoms.

A number of our members were honored. Nancy Joyner was appointed Chair of the Association Equity Action Committee by the AAUW Board of Directors. Norma Ragland was appointed a member of the Civil Services Commission by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. During this decade, Pat Parrish and Suzanne Bottoms were named Outstanding Woman of the Year by the Springfield-Annandale Branch, in recognition for their outstanding and dedicated effort in promoting the purposes of AAUW and education in Fairfax County.

The Springfield-Annandale Branch was named a 5-Star Branch both at the State Convention and at the Association meeting held in Orlando. Joanna Shows concluded our 1985-1995 history with the following paragraph. "Serious changes lie ahead for the Branch, but with a solid core of committed members, the next decade can bring major revitalization to the Branch. We in this Branch have the unique privilege of having a solid historical foundation of creative problem solving passed on to us by women who, 40 years ago, faced a rapidly changing world just as we do today. When these comment are read 10 years from now (2005), let it be said that the Springfield-Annandale Branch of AAUW certainly knew what it took to learn from the past with one eye on the future as they face the challenges of 1995."

HISTORY

Springfield-Annandale, Branch, AAUW of Virginia

1995-96

In September, the branch celebrated its 40th anniversary at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. Members and former members shared memories of the past. Marge Baxa (charter member of the branch), Barbara Chambers, Karen Jameson, and Louella Murrie recounted branch involvement in both state and local issues of great concern to both women and children. They realized that the struggles they endured 30 to 40 years ago were the same ones facing the group in 1995. Marge Baxa challenged the group not to be threatened by the political and social agenda of today, but to go forth and meet the challenge.

Guest speakers and programs for general meetings throughout the year included (1) Sharon Bulova, Braddock District Superintendent, who talked about the Fairfax County agenda and accomplishments; (2) representatives from PAW (People are Wonderful), a multicultural group from Lake Braddock High School, who discussed the benefits of cultural diversity; (2) a representative from the national headquarters who informed members of everything they needed to know about EF; (3) Gail Harris, National Literacy Council, who described the work of the Council and invited members to consider volunteering; (4) Dr. Carolyn Davis, OB/GYN, who discussed "Menopause and Hormone Replacement Therapy;" and (5) Karen Pettibone of Burke, a quilter for 15 years and a member of Quilters Unlimited of Northern Virginia, who told how she uses quilting patterns to teach math concepts.

Branch members attended the AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Corps Open House in October and learned how the Corps assists in changing AAUW's legislative priorities into Congressional action. In November, they attended the Interbranch Council meeting composed of 13 Northern Virginia branches and learned how to influence public policy through the branches.

Other events during the year were a holiday brunch in December at the Springfield Hilton Hotel which included musical entertainment and door prizes; an Authors Wine and Cheese Party at Martha Boone's in April (proceeds designated for EF); and a visit to Hillwood Museum and Gardens in May where Installation of Officers took place prior to the tour.

The 71st Annual State Convention was held in Chesterfield in April attended by several branch members. They heard a former AAUW intern and current Director and Co-Researcher of an AAUW EF project called "Keeping Chinese Girls in School" tell of his experiences.

In May, branch members attended Capitol Hill Lobby Day and declared that it was a "hands-on experience like no other."

The year was closed out with the annual NEW BOARD/OLD BOARD pot-luck dinner where officer responsibilities changed hands and members reflected on accomplishments of the year.

We were sorry to lose two of our most dedicated members in 1996 who were:

MARY MARGARET ("Mickey") MORRIS - - - May 13, 1933 - April 20, 1996

MARGARET SCHLEGELMILCH - - - - - August 26, 1918 - May 4, 1996

HISTORY

Springfield-Annandale, Branch, AAUW of Virginia

1996-97

General meeting programs emphasized voter education and political issues. These included (1) Joyce Eagles, from the Woodbridge Branch, who visited in September and shared her ideas about voter education strategies useful to AAUW; (2) Ann Hershner, Co-President of the Arlington Branch, who spoke on "Political Issues of Interest to AAUW in the Upcoming November Election." (3) In November, three area teachers shared their insights regarding acceptance and promotion of diversity in our local community and society in general. (4) In December, we met at Pat Kittock's home where wrapped gifts were exchanged. (5) In January, we learned about "Gender Equity in Mathematics" presented by Suzanne Bottoms, branch member. Her research showed that girls confident in their ability to do mathematics starts dropping in the sixth grade and continues to decrease relative to boys throughout high school. (6) The Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) was spotlighted in February with a video showing the programs the fund supports. (7) In March, Marion Stillson, former state president, discussed the "Report on the Status of Women" which compares women in Virginia to those across the country. This program provided insight about the plight of women as leaders and decision makers. (8) In April, Eleanor Saslaw, recipient of an AAUW grant presented a program regarding girls in the classroom. She suggested that we continue to focus on the tools and activities available to help achieve a gender-equity society.

Other ways our branch contributed to the community were participation in the (1) Interbranch Education Watchdog Committee. This group follows educational issues that affect all (parents and non-parents alike). They keep on top of issues being considered by the School Board and serve on various School Board advisory committees where AAUW's advice is respected. (2) Women's Issue Conferences sponsored by Congressman Jim Moran. (3) Second Annual Town Meeting on "Speaking Out to Stop Violence Against Children and Women" held on the George Mason University campus.

Several cultural interest activities were planned such as a visit to the rare book library at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville in December and a tour to the National Museum of Women in the Arts in April.

The branch agreed to participate in the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY project. That meant that members were responsible for clean up on Olley Road in Fairfax three times a year.

The 72nd Annual State Convention was held in Lynchburg in April attended by several branch members.

The branch made another generous contribution to EF and ended the year on a high note, looking forward to more involvement and educational programs in the future.

HISTORY

Springfield-Annandale, Branch, AAUW of Virginia

1997-1998

In the September issue of the branch newsletter, President Pat Kittock listed the goals she wanted to highlight during the year and explained the importance of a group effort in achieving them. These included: increasing membership, achieving community visibility, and developing friendships. These goals supplemented the continuing goals and activities of AAUW on a nationwide basis.

It was noted that membership had increased by 5 percent. This was accomplished by inviting prospective members to a newcomer's luncheon where a speaker discussed a variety of career fields and what the future holds for women seeking professional excellence. The branch also invited potential members to a tea and to monthly meetings so they could become aware of the positive impact by AAUW on the local and national levels.

Achieving community visibility required members to volunteer in a variety of ways. Members joined efforts in the Read-Across-America project sponsored by the National Education Association and the Virginia Education Association to make "Read to Kids" day a success. They also contributed to The Reading Connection (TRC) by providing mentors and books to children living in shelters. They answered phones at the WETA studios during their drive to fund educational programs. They worked with the Girls Scouts to provide supplementary education that helped young girls build character. Members also adopted a highway and agreed to keep two miles of Olley Lane in Fairfax County litter free. In the Sister-to-Sister program, mentors worked with girls 12-16-year s of age who needed advice about their concerns and ways to expand their interests.

Our branch was recognized as a vital force in the community and achieved a 5-Star Status Recognition Award at State Convention.

Money was raised and given to national AAUW projects such as:

- ◆ LAP - by a book sale which provided \$1,560.
- ◆ EF - by two luncheons and the sale of community entertainment books which resulted in \$1,800.
- ◆ General Fund - by the sale of White House ornaments.

Members were given various ways to have fun and opportunities to develop friendships by attending teas, luncheons, monthly bridge meetings, and the ever-popular book groups (one in the morning and one in the evening).

At general meetings, guest speakers provided a variety of information on interesting topics to promote better understanding of social issues and keep current with others.

HISTORY

Springfield-Annandale, Branch, AAUW of Virginia

1998-1999

The Annandale-Springfield Branch continued to effectively pursue national Association goals and important local projects and activities.

All agreed that the social time prior to each general meeting and the pot-luck meetings in December and June were important ways to foster friendships and attract new members. A half-price dues offer, if paid in January, also attracted new members.

Fundraising activities, primarily in support of the Educational Foundation (EF), continued and included the sale of White House ornaments, entertainment books, AAUW license plates, and a spring yard sale.

Several members attended the AAUW of Virginia Convention in Charlottesville in April where a Six-Star Status Recognition of the branch was achieved. Moreover, three members were honored at the convention as a result of a \$1,675 contribution by the branch to EF. In June, members also participated in the national AAUW Convention which took place in Washington, DC.

Cultural activities and other events for members included:

- ◆ The Elizabeth Campbell Lecture Series which featured the American architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, and the Pope Leighey House at Woodlawn Plantation in Alexandria.
- ◆ A museum visit, with lunch, and a city tour of Washington, DC.
- ◆ A brunch, followed by a ballet production at George Mason University (GMU).
- ◆ Theatre productions at Arena Stage and the Springfield Community Theatre.
- ◆ Congressman Jim Moran's one-day conference on women's health issues.

Information on AAUW legislative matters and Congressional public policy issues of interest to women were sent to members via e-mail.

Most of the community service activities mentioned in previous years were continued.

Community visibility was enhanced this year by the following:

- ◆ The collection of Giant store receipts to be given to local Alternative Schools to buy needed educational equipment.
- ◆ In cooperation with GMU, provided a day-long Sister-to-Sister Summit on the Fairfax campus. Young high school-aged girls were invited to take part in the meeting and share their problems with growing up in today's world. The girls expressed great appreciation to the community for taking the time to plan such an event.

HISTORY

Springfield-Annandale, Branch, AAUW of Virginia

1999-2000

We began our year with 65 members and the glow of receiving recognition as a five-star branch for the second year in a row. By year's end, we had received six-star status. At our fall luncheon, Nancy Joyner reported on State Convention and issues important to AAUW of Virginia and how individual branches may be affected by these changes.

Activities for both social interaction and fundraising began with a "Theatre Party." Later, the sale of entertainment books, White House ornaments, AAUW license plates, a yard sale, and donations to the Virginia \$75,000 Diamond Donors Program in support of EF and a Scholar in Residence program occupied our time, talent, and resources.

We continued to help with voter registration, participation in the AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Corps, Adopt-A-Highway, and the Sister-to-Sister program. A tea was also held to entertain prospective members, welcome new members, and get better acquainted with current members.

We embarked on an association with a local AAUW-TV program called "On the Go With AAUW" which is broadcast three times a month. We were invited to watch the filming, give ideas for programs, and provide other input.

At our general meetings, a diverse number of guest speakers presented important and informative topics to make us more aware of social issues and to keep us up to date on AAUW priorities and missions.

Our Public Policy Chair alerted members throughout the year on certain bills being considered by the Virginia General Assembly and provided phone numbers so that members could contact their legislators about their concerns and opinions.

Members supported other branches in the district by attending their programs, fundraisers, book fairs, and other special events.

Our morning and evening literature book groups, as well as the bridge group, continued to enjoy regular gatherings and to share friendships together.

For our Spring State Convention, we were able to honor four members due to a contribution of \$2,000 to the EF fund. Honorees were: Dianne Blais, Virilinda Snyder, Mary Kay Johnson, and Joanne Rose.

By the end of the year, we were delighted to have 76 members in our branch - an increase of 15 percent!

HISTORY

Springfield-Annandale, Branch, AAUW of Virginia

2000-2001

Some of the outstanding general meeting programs included Dr. Jackie Rankin, "All About Body Language." She coined the acronym PUSH, Powerful, Unconscious, Silent, and Honest. In October, Dr. Cynthia Roman of George Washington University spoke on the importance of mentoring in today's business world and schools. Sharon Bulova, Braddock District Supervisor, described the "Impact of Elections on Local Politics" and reviewed county budget issues. In January, State President, Neola Waller visited and updated us on AAUW membership, finances, outlook, etc. She commented that the Association was not necessarily meeting the needs of its members and currently was not financially well off -- relying too heavily on dues for revenue. Nevertheless, she declared that we were making a difference in Virginia with 38 active branches. Carol Osborn, a Creative Memories Consultant, talked to us about the important role women play as family historians. Roxanne Smith described the experiences of her uncle and aunt who were passengers aboard the Titanic in 1912. Marge Baxa, charter member of the branch, told about the efforts in 1955 to establish the organization in our area.

Other events included the Women's Issues Conference in September sponsored by Congressman Jim Moran. Specialist spoke about health issues, education, job training, and the future of Social Security and Medicare. Ginny Fant set up an AAUW table at the event and talked to attendees about Association membership. In November, branch members attended a Book and Author luncheon sponsored by the Fairfax City Branch which was not only entertaining, but also helped raise funds for educational scholarships.

A small, but enthusiastic, group of branch volunteers participated in a project at Poe Middle School, Annandale. They agreed to serve as counselor, advisor, friend, and tutor to young girls at risk at the School. With Pat Kittock as the coordinator and Suzanne Bottoms as facilitator a variety of activities and field trips were planned.

Fifteen branch members helped with the on-air pledge drive at the WETA-TV studios in Shirlington (assisted by Joanne Rose, a WETA employee and branch member).

Virlinda Snyder continued to collect books for the World Bank. The books are distributed to countries in need of literature to study and read.

State Convention was held in Staunton on April 27 - 29, with the theme "Shape the Future with AAUW of Virginia." Four branch members were honored as result of a \$2,000 contribution towards the Educational Foundation by the branch. Those honored were: Judy Baldwin, Kathy Joyner, Gwyn Peterson, and Virlinda Snyder. Once again, the branch raised the funds by the sale of White House ornaments and community Entertainment Books. At the convention, the branch newsletter (Mary Sue Nelson, Editor) was awarded second place in the appropriate category.

Three of our members were DIAMOND DONORS, contributing \$1,000 each towards the 75-year celebration of AAUW in the Commonwealth. Contributors were: Mary Kay Johnson, Virlinda Snyder, and Judy Wright. The state goal was \$75,000.

HISTORY

Springfield-Annandale, Branch, AAUW of Virginia

2001-2002

Special events and activities throughout the year proved to be informative, fun, and creative. Moreover, we continued our annual fundraising efforts to benefit EF with the sale of White House ornaments and entertainment books.

During the year, our Public Policy Chair provided monthly reading lists and we discovered a new way to enjoy books through an ON-LINE BOOK CLUB called "Adente!"

At a luncheon, the Metro Area Mass Media (MAMM) honored media personalities by giving awards for excellence in broadcasting to Diane Rehm, Maureen Bunyan, Judy Mann, and Robert Aubrey Davis, all well known in the Metropolitan Washington, DC, area.

A new fundraiser began in March this year with a fashion show at the lovely Country Club of Fairfax. The show featured clothes from Chico's and branch members served as models for the occasion. The event ultimately involved a large number of our members and community friends and proved to be financially beneficial. The ticket sale reached about 180.

In April, four members were honored at the 77th Annual State Convention in Norfolk. This was possible because of a \$2,000 contribution to EF by the branch. Those honored were: Helen Cassidy, Ercell Binns, Mary Miglia, and Carol Flood. Moreover, the newsletter, Mary Sue Nelson, Editor, was awarded first place in the appropriate category.

Though we began the year with 65 members, by February we had reached the impressive total of 80.

HISTORY

Springfield-Annandale, Branch, AAUW of Virginia

2002-2003

Highlighting the year was our choice of a well-prepared and dedicated President, Gwynette Peterson, the first African American to lead the branch.

To benefit EF, the annual sale of White House ornaments and entertainment books continued.

Mason District Supervisor, Penny Gross, initiated KALEIDOSCOPE to help improve the relationships between multicultural people in our Northern Virginia area. The sessions showed how much more we are alike, than different.

Once again, we planned and executed a spring fundraiser at the Country Club of Fairfax. The event was a fashion show, with clothes by Draper's and Damon's, combined with a silent auction. It proved to be a happy occasion and provided much-needed revenue for the branch.

In April, eleven members attended the State Convention in Roanoke. We were proud to have one of the largest representations for the 2003 event. Erzell Binns, branch member, was Co-Organizer of the convention. Honored with EF name grants were: Martha Boone, Nancy Joyner, Ruth Thorpe, and Marianne Worrell.

For the second year, the branch received PLATINUM recognition from the Association.

HISTORY

Springfield-Annandale, Branch, AAUW of Virginia

2003-2004

We were fortunate to enjoy many outstanding programs and speakers during the year. They included a luncheon in October featuring branch member Nancy D. Joyner, Ph.D., who chose as her subject "Reinventing Yourself, Reinventing AAUW." She advised women to be positive, have a plan, consider different options, be creative, communicate, and to maintain their energy and enthusiasm. In November, Keith Apple, who works with Virginians Against Handgun Violence, visited. His organization is not trying to stop gun shows, but enforce laws already in effect by furthering background checks. A holiday tea was held at the Fort Belvoir Officers Club in December. Larry Graham spoke in January. His theme was: "It takes a lot of money to be poor in Fairfax County." He described what life is like for low-income people. Many who leave welfare and enter the job market are not able to make ends meet. Helping those families to become self-sufficient is a top priority. In February, Eileen Kugler, author of "Debunking the Middle Class Myth" described how she and several teachers and parents at Annandale High School, in addition to county personnel, executed a strategy to help the culturally diverse student body learn to better communicate with each other and, therefore, to reverse potential explosive situations. In May, Laura Fieldman visited and talked about "What's Hot and What's Not - Social Security and Medicare Past and Present. Laura uses her skills as a former teacher to educate seniors and activists across the country about this topic.

Our very special student recognition program was held in April. Joanna Shows, committee chairman, presented five students with a certificate and monetary award for their efforts towards promoting multicultural relationships in their high schools and communities. Awards were made based partly on their academic records. The students were seniors at Annandale, Robert E. Lee, West Springfield, Lake Braddock, and Thomas Jefferson high schools.

For the third year in a row, the branch held a fashion show in March at the Country Club of Fairfax. The fundraiser included a luncheon and silent auction and featured clothes from Draper's and Damon's. Branch members served as models. Co-chairmen of the event were Lou Mosier and Helen Cassidy. The fundraiser resulted in much needed funds for the branch to be used for scholarships and other AAUW needs.

We were once again reminded of the importance of Title IX. Since 1972, Title IX has protected students from sex discrimination at federally-funded schools and universities.

The AAUW of Virginia Convention was held at the Hyatt Hotel, Dulles in April. Theme was "FLYING HIGH - Women Achieving Success." Ercell Binns, branch member, was chairman of arrangements, assisted by other branch and Northern Virginia AAUW members. The Springfield-Annandale Branch had the largest representation (15) at the convention of any other Virginia branch. The branch also retained its distinction as a DIAMOND branch.

In June, Nancy D. Joyner, branch member, was elected State President, AAUW of Virginia.

HISTORY
Springfield-Annandale, Branch, AAUW of Virginia
2004-2005

This proved to be an important year for the branch. It could well be described as a time for evaluation, dedication, and celebration. It was evident, that the group felt a marked pride as it entered its 50th year!

For starters, the Executive Board examined its ongoing projects and decided to continue two of its most profitable undertakings: the sale of White House ornaments in the fall and the spring fundraiser in March. Further, Co-Presidents Elect, Judy Wright and Suzanne Bottoms, circulated a much-needed survey to members and received useful comments and suggestions on which to base future programs and activities.

In October, 15 branch members attended the Northern District meeting which featured a well-informed guest speaker, Dr. Leslie Wolfe, whose topic was "Human Trafficking," a global problem effecting women and girls.

The branch also acquired a dedication to its established activities such as the two book clubs and the bridge meetings, each of which continued to draw members. Other projects were adopted which reflected the AAUW mission. Public Policy Chairs, Karen Fiann and Ruth Thorpe, arranged numerous Voter Registration opportunities to ensure more local citizens were able to vote in the November 2nd general election. Several members participated in the monthly KALEIDOSCOPE meetings sponsored by Mason District Supervisor, Penny Gross; the purpose was to promote diversity in the Annandale community. But, our proudest moment came in April when the branch presented awards to four area high school students who had helped achieve better multicultural relationships in their schools. It was noted that this annual project has begun to attract public attention. In April, the branch was fortunate to have a panel of local authors visit and discuss their books exploring the subject of diversity. The authors were: Eileen Kugler, Trudie Edlund, and Jackie Bong-Wright.

At the 80th State Convention in April, our branch honored four members with EF name grants. They were: Helen Cassidy, Betty Van Matre, Jackie Stephens, and Terry Graham. We're happy to say that once again, the branch met the criteria to retain its recognition as a DIAMOND branch.

We are also proud to have several members serving in State positions: Nancy D. Joyner, State President; Mary Sue Nelson, Recording Secretary; Patsy Carr and Dianne Blais (former branch member), representatives for the Northern District.

In June, many branch members participated in the national AAUW convention in Washington, DC. The theme for the event was PURPOSE, POWER, PROGRESS. At the convention, a significant change was made to the bylaws allowing anyone with an associate degree or its equivalent to join AAUW.

By the close of the year, preparations were underway for the 50th anniversary celebration of the branch which the membership is genuinely anticipating.

RECENT EF HONOREES

by the Springfield-Annandale Branch, AAUW of Virginia

2005

Helen Cassidy
Betty Ann Van Matre
Jackie Stephens
Terry Graham

2001

Judy Baldwin
Kathy Joyner
Gwyn Peterson
Virlinda Snyder

2004

Patsy Carr
Lou Mosier
Nancy O'Day
Jonna Shows

2000

Dianne Blais
Virlinda Snyder
Mary Kay Johnson
Joanne Rose

2003

Martha Boone
Nancy Joyner
Ruth Thorpe
Marianne Worrell

1999

Virlinda Snyder
Roberta Smith
Mary Sue Nelson

2002

Ercell Binns
Helen Cassidy
Mary Miglia
Carol Flood

1998

Pat Kittock
Elaine Reese
Diane Yim

*These members were honored at State Convention in April of the identified year
as a result of contributions to the Educational Fund (EF) by the branch.
Each listed member represents a \$500 donation to the fund.*