**The AAUW Mission Statement:**

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

**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 socioeconomic status.

Please read these updates for important information concerning planned events for our branch. We hope that you are staying safe while you shelter at home. We are hard at work making plans for the resumption of our branch activities once this period of national emergency is over.
PRESIDENTS’ CORNER
Fellow AAUW members, welcome to a new day! While we are sequestered there are still things we can do to stay engaged as we stay well. As Judy Baldwin suggested, be a virtual advocate! There are many projects on hold that could use our donations, including the www.suffragistmemorial.org! We could request absentee ballots for upcoming elections! Stick a stuffed bear in your window for a small child’s amusement! Call a fellow member/friend to remind them that you are here for them! Read a book on climate change or gardening or women’s rights (the library’s ebooks are available)! Vote in the state AAUW election online! We’ll be back together soon, stronger than ever. Stay well; stay safe.

Nancy Miller
Co-President

UPCOMING ELECTION FOR BRANCH OFFICERS
The branch nominating committee has compiled a slate of officers for 2020-2021. According to our by-laws, the president, program vice-presidents, and treasurer are elected in odd numbered years and the membership vice-presidents and secretary in even numbered years. A photo and brief bio about each nominee is featured below. You will receive an email for Survey Monkey shortly. Please vote! The new or reelected officers will be installed at our next meeting.

Nominees for Membership VPs: Sharon Orenik and Marcy Leverenz (2 yr term)

Nominees for Program VPS: Irene McGhee and Ann Sauberman (to serve out a one year term)

Nominee for Secretary: Cathie Boivin (2 yr. term)
Please note that we still need a branch historian and someone to oversee the By-Laws. These positions are appointed by the co-presidents. Please contact Judy Baldwin or Nancy Miller if you are interested in either position.

Nominees for Vice Presidents for Membership – 2020-2022

**Sharon Orenick**

I lived in the Chicagoland area. I moved to Fairfax two years ago. I have belonged to AAUW for many years. My undergraduate degree is from Purdue University. My masters in social work is from Indiana University. I was a Licensed Clinical social worker. I have worked in many areas of social work. I was a legal advocate for a domestic violence shelter. I worked in Criminal Justice. I was a certified Hospice and Palliative care social worker. I was a consultant for several Assisted Living facilities. I taught Geriatric Social work at Valparaiso University. I supervised social work and psychology students from local universities.

I am also a certified National Guardian.

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**Marcy J. Leverenz**

A proud alumna of Parkland College and the University of Illinois, Marcy is a retired dental hygienist, for 30 years she worked in private practices, teaching and establishing a dental clinic in a nursing home in Illinois, focusing on geriatric dentistry and was President of the Illinois Dental Hygiene Society Champaign-Urbana Chapter. She joined AAUW in 1974 and has held the Arlington Branch offices of President, Vice President for Membership, Vice President for Programming, Newsletter Editor, coordinated the Arlington Branch’s effort with the Lunch Bunch to help underserved older and immigrant girls to complete high school, and assisted the branch’s efforts to give scholarships to those girls. The branch appointed her Public Policy Chair because of her 12-year commitment to AAUW’s Lobby Corps by coordinating the Lobby Corps members in their advocacy efforts. After moving to Springfield, she has enjoyed many of the Springfield-Annandale activities and would like to be more involved.
Nominees for Vice Presidents for Program – 2020-2021

Ann Sauberman

Originally from New York, first from Manhattan and then Great Neck, Long Island, I attended Ohio State University for two years and graduated from Queens College in NY. My husband, Harry, and I moved to Northern Virginia after our son was born to follow a job opportunity.

AAUW became an important part of my life. I actually joined twice. The first time was shortly after I moved to Virginia. It was a great opportunity to meet interesting women and become active in the community. I served on the board in many responsibilities including being President. When my two kids were teenagers, My life switched to both earning my master’s degree from UVA and becoming a history teacher at Hayfield High School and later at West Springfield High School. As I got close to retirement, I rejoined the Springfield-Annandale branch of AAUW. In the last 12 years I have enjoyed many wonderful experiences, including being Membership Vice-President, and President. Recently, I have served as AAUW Funds Chair, selling White House Ornaments and helping organize the annual Spring Fling. In the last three years I have also enjoyed participating in The AAUW Lobby Corps. AAUW has been an important part of my life.

Irene McGhee

I was born in Adams, Massachusetts, a small New England town with Quaker roots, of about 12,000. This was also the birthplace of a strong AAUW role model, Susan B. Anthony! My education, included a private school in Conn. and college in Washington D.C. where I settled myself, living in the District, in Maryland, and finally in Springfield, Va. where my husband and I grew our 3 children. I worked in biomedical research at various labs in the area and at the Blood Bank at NIH, which pioneered open heart surgeries, and had a career in Real Estate. In 2013, I rejoined AAUW Springfield/Annandale Branch. I have enjoyed having a voice in Lobby Corps, and joining the State and Federal Lobbying efforts for AAUW. I have been Membership Co-Chair for 4 years and enjoyed recruiting and interacting with our many interesting and talented members. I am running for Program Co-VP in a year, when programs may not look normal. However, keeping in touch and getting our Branch to support and implement the Strategic Initiative Plan and Mission of AAUW is my goal, if I am elected. We can really and truly get through these rough times and stand with all women who have always helped to shape the future.
Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Cathie Boivin

I was born in Texas, but became a global nomad as a teen when my parents, siblings, and I moved to Istanbul, Turkey for my father’s job. Later, I moved back to Turkey, then to England, with my husband and two daughters before becoming a permanent resident of Virginia. I obtained a Bachelor’s and a Master’s degree in History from George Mason University before becoming a World History teacher at West Springfield High School. I was named Virginia’s National History Day Teacher of the Year in 2009 and was one of twelve national finalists for the PBS Teacher of Merit Award. I joined AAUW after my retirement from teaching in 2015 and joined the Springfield-Annandale branch board as secretary in 2016. I’ve been the Newsletter (Updates) Editor since 2018. I love the varied activities offered by AAUW and the opportunities within the AAUW mission to help improve the lives of women. I feel very fortunate to be a member of this group of intelligent and dynamic women.
AAUW STATE ELECTIONS

You should have received an email on April 26 with your ballot for Virginia AAUW officers, public policy priorities and a by-laws amendment.

Candidates for state offices are:
Co-Presidents - Suzanne Rothwell and Leslie Tourigny
Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy - our own Susan Burk and Denise Murden
Vice President for Program - Nadine James
Vice President for Communications - Patsy Quick

The by-laws amendment eliminates the provision granting a half price reduction of the annual state dues for anyone joining between January and March. The board found that this discount is rarely used and the “Shape the Future” discount is a better bargain. While National has discontinued its half price discount, someone who joins after March 15 at a public event can take advantage of the $29.50 "Shape the Future" discount which is good until June 30 of the following year.

The state voters guide with biographies of all the candidates, the list of public policy priorities and the explanation of the proposed by-laws amendment can be found at https://aauw-va.net/files/2020/03/Voter-Guide-2020-E.pdf

Submitted by Judy Baldwin
PROGRAM NOTES
UPDATES

As you already know our “Spring Fling” originally scheduled for March 21 was postponed to September 26, 2020 and renamed “Fall Fest.” At our virtual Board Meeting on April 14, the board decided to wait until our next board meeting scheduled on July 7, to discuss if it is still feasible to have our Fall Fest at the Springfield Golf and Country Club on September 26. Hopefully, we will have more information by July. We also decided to wait before ordering the 2020 White House Ornament, honoring John F Kennedy. At the moment, there are too many uncertainties to know what we can safely plan.

We will keep you informed and let you know our final decision by Mid July.

Marguerite Metzler
Ann Sauberman

Other Program News!!

Please note: The end of the year program and dinner scheduled for June 18 at the Army-Navy Country Club has been canceled.

Our Inclusion Award winners are near and dear to our hearts. We currently plan to honor them and show you their amazing projects in November if all goes well. Meanwhile, each winner has received their certificate and scholarship check. Judy Baldwin recently sent you the names and project descriptions from each worthy recipient of this award.

Thank you for your patience during these difficult times for the nation.
Our Annual Inclusion Awards - The 2020 award winners were:

Abia Zahir – Annandale High School
Hannah Lee – Lake Braddock Secondary School
Amrite Singh – Lee High School
Nicole Bidon – West Springfield High School

Student Inclusion Award Committee: Judy Baldwin, Helen Cassidy, Betty Marie Fields, Ann Sauberman

Public Policy Report

GOTV: Challenges and Opportunities

Your constitutional rights are not paused during a national crisis, but the constraints imposed by the pandemic will be a factor during the upcoming state and national elections. As a result, voter access to the polls is receiving heightened attention.

AAUW supports vote by mail; on-line registration; early voting; no excuse absentee voting; and in-person voting with proper health precautions – anything to make voting easier and more accessible.

Facilitating Virginia voters’ access to the polls was a focus of the recently concluded Virginia legislative session. As a result, Virginia’s state legislators passed, and Governor Northam signed a number of major legislative steps to make it easier to cast a ballot, measures that look especially prescient in light of the current health crisis. These measures include:
(1) No-excuse absentee voting effective July 1 and no-excuse early voting 45 days prior to an election:
(2) Elimination of the requirement for a picture ID at the polls;
(3) Designating election day as a Virginia state holiday;
(4) Implementing automatic voter registration for individuals accessing service at a DMV office or DMV website; and
(5) Same day registration (not effective until Oct. 1, 2022).

Virginia will have state primaries and local elections in June. The on-line application for an absentee ballot for the June elections makes provision for COVID-19. Get your application for an absentee ballot in now and you can avoid the polls.

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which granted so many women the right to vote, we will be focusing on how we can help educate our community about the changes that have been made in Virginia to facilitate voters’ access to the polls. Your vote is your voice!

Closing the Gender Pay Gap

As you know, we focused on closing the gender pay gap during our State Lobby Days this year. Of the four bills on the table this year, one made it to the finish line and was signed by the Governor into law on April 22, 2020. **House Bill 622 (Hurst, Levine, Simonds) prohibits an employer from discharging or taking other retaliatory action against an employee who discloses or otherwise discusses their own wages or other compensation.** This is a step in the right direction. Legislation to raise the minimum wage in Virginia also was passed but implementation will be delayed until May 2021 due to the economic impact of COVID-19. Progress is progress, though, and we are gratified to see these measures adopted.

**Submitted by Susan Burk**
AAUW NEWS FROM PATSY QUICK, VP FOR COMMUNICATIONS

Check out our new AAUW Website! This is the first major update to the website in 12 years! The nature and use of the new site is based on research regarding current best practice. The webinar that launched the new website should be posted on the national website soon. Below are some important points to know:

The new website has the same address as the old. (https://www.aauw.org/)

- Not all aspects of the new site have been completed, so some clicks will take you to the old website, for now.
- The website has been streamlined from 15,000 pages to 250 pages, as a result of a year-long analysis of the old site.
- It is ADA AA for members with visual disabilities. That means there is high contrast in color, which you will notice.
- “Membership” is found on the menu bar at the far right top of the homepage. “Membership” is where you will find all information relevant to branches and members, such as resources and tools, the Five Star Program, benefits, etc.
- The Member Services Database (MSD) link is located under “Membership.” Currently the MSD links back to the old website. Nothing about MSD has changed yet. We will be notified in the fall (2020) when MSD has been revamped.
- There are 3 other main topics on a menu bar at the top of the homepage that provide information about AAUW: Explore the Issues (Strategies for Education, Workplace & Economic Equity, & Leadership), Get Empowered (AAUW programs like NCCWSL and Work Smart) and Take Action (2-Minute Activist, Donate)
- To “SEARCH,” click on the magnifying glass icon, which is left of the “DONATE” box on every page of the website. Because everything has been streamlined, searching for something on this new site should be much easier than on the old site.

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT BRANCH SITE-RESOURCES WEBSITES?

- Links to National that remain on the new website will work.
- Some links to National may not work because they are not on the new website. (It was determined that they were not relevant, not used, or out of date.)
- Branch and state website issues/changes will be communicated to us later.
MEMBERSHIP NEWS – Renewals

Ladies, the Springfield-Annandale Branch of AAUW is strong and growing. We currently have 68 members registered and paid through June 30, 2020. It is time to renew membership for this exciting and special year. You will be receiving an e-mail for online renewal from AAUW on or about May 1, 2020. You can do your own online payment through the instructions given and monitor your membership on the site OR you can still pay with a check to our Treasurer Sharon Draper, who can register this for you. Her address is in the directory, but just in case: Sharon Draper 6913 Pacific Lane, Annandale, Va. 22003 Please be assured that the Board is committed to keeping you informed and safe during this time of COVID-19. We will be sending out updates regarding our upcoming meetings as the circumstances demand. The cost for renewal is $86.00 for the National, State, and Branch dues. New members can still join using Shape the Future by qualification at $56.50. If you have any further questions please contact Irene McGhee or Terry Graham, Co-Chairs for Membership till June 30th!

A renewal form is attached for those who prefer to renew by check.
HOW TO ENTERTAIN YOURSELF DURING ISOLATION!

How are you spending your time while at home? Many of our favorite TV shows are now going on hiatus and who knows when there will be new episodes. Did you know that you can stream current films that you would normally see at Cinema Arts Theatre in Fairfax by going to cinemartstheatre.com? (For those of you who join our Movie Wednesdays each month, this is our theatre.) If you opt to view films this way, you will be helping keeping a local small business afloat and enjoying quality entertainment at the same time.

This is the latest from owner Mark O'Meara.

Hello there,

Well, we are working hard to offer "curbside concessions" now. Just call 703-978-6853 when you get to the parking lot and we will bring your goodies to your car. Cash only for curbside. We've added beer and wine sales, too!! $3 large popcorn, $2 for all size drinks, candy, ice cream.... set up your movie time atmosphere!!

We have two new movies for you to screen at home starting this Friday!!! First, is Driveways starring Brian Dennehy (who, sadly, passed away last week) and is about a lonely youngster forming a sweet relationship with grumpy neighbor Dennehy. I can't wait to see this one. It is 100% on RT. It is not rated, runs 83 minutes and will cost $12 for a viewing, which we get to split with the distributor!!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-j1p-U7nKw

Our second opener is BEYOND THE VISIBLE - Hilma af Klint. This is a Bio-documentary about a special abstract artist who rocked the art world. It is also rated 100% on RT, runs 94 minutes and will also be $12 per viewing. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGw9sAxhXXw

This will bring our total offerings to 19 films!!! Please spread the word on this deal, to everyone you know, no matter where in the world!!! My buddy in Switzerland rented a film, saying "I'd rather give you the money, than I-tunes."

It seems, industry wide, we could be opening in June or July. We will work hard to keep social distancing, and ways to buy concessions with little contact, etc. We will be cleaning all the time, working over seats between shows. Keep us in your thoughts!! I must say, we have seen so much love and caring for our survival. Just so encouraging and heartfelt. People have bought gift cards and then offered to grab an apron and go to work!! Please know we appreciate it, big time!!

Hope to see you, soon.

Mark
www.cinemaartstheatre.com
www.facebook.com/cinemaartstheatre