



## Springfield–Annandale Branch

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# U P D A T E S

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Volume 66

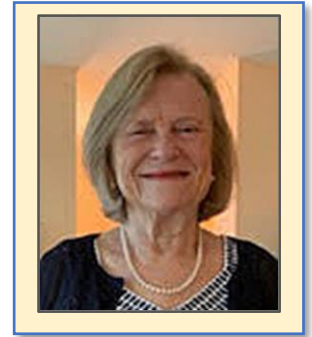
March 2025

Issue 7

### President's Message

Ann Sauberman, Co-President

We all have been watching and learning about the vivid examples of climate change. Raging fires in Los Angeles followed by destructive mud slides and huge hurricanes in North Carolina and the East Coast have been featured in both newspapers and TV news. The threats to all of us, on ignoring or not actively attacking the causes of climate change, will hurt not just us locally or nationally, but throughout the world. We know that burning fossil fuels and cutting down forests are increasing the earth's climate and the earth's temperature. This adds enormous amounts of greenhouse gases to those naturally occurring and affect global warming. On February 7, our Branch had the opportunity to meet on Zoom, Rear Admiral Jonathan White (Retired), and learn directly what is happening to our oceans and waterways.



Admiral White's passion for oceanography and the Navy began early in life, thanks to the influence of his mother and a Navy diver who lived next door. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Oceanographic Technology from the Florida Institute of Technology, and a Master's Degree in Oceanography and Meteorology from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School. Then he spent 32 years as an Oceanographer and Navigator in the Navy. Following his Navy career, Admiral White served as President and CEO of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership (COL). COL is a non-profit corporation that represents ocean science and technology in universities, industries, and non-profit sectors. Admiral White has extensive experience

**President's Message** continues on page 2.

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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*

in working with the U.S. Government to advance policies specific to the ocean, weather, and climate.

During his talk, Admiral White explained the effects of global warming and the increase of CO<sub>2</sub> in the oceans. These facts alone are killing fish and destroying potential food supply. This will result in global starvation. CO<sub>2</sub> produced by human activities like burning coal, oil, and gas, are the largest contributors to global warming. Other destroyers to the environment are methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases, which are greatly adding to ocean temperature. As the oceans become warmer, hurricanes also increase their negative effect. Each year, as the temperature increases, hurricanes become more dangerous and cause death and increased destruction of property. Admiral White presented many slides and charts to show how the increases of these gases are directly changing our climate and the quality of our lives.

Admiral White described many changes that we need to make in order to stop the adverse condition of our oceans and the destructive effect on the world. The nations of our globe must work together to decrease the dependance on coal, oil, and gas. Renewable energy sources must be developed. They must stop deforestation, decrease livestock farming, and the dumping of dangerous chemicals in our lakes, rivers, and streams. The dumping of plastics is also extremely dangerous to our oceans. Investments in renewable energy sources like wind, solar, and thermal must be greatly increased. The two suggestions that impressed me the most was the huge project of planting vegetation in the ocean and the development of safe nuclear energy. The plants would absorb the great quantities of carbon dioxide and produce oxygen. This would be a very useful way to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> and provide food for ocean wildlife. As for nuclear energy, I was shocked

to learn that if we substituted fusion instead of fission, nuclear energy would not be as unsafe and would not produce tons of waste materials with very long half-lives. As I was growing up, nuclear power was considered the most unsafe and dangerous form of energy. But in his presentation, Admiral White showed that when we were able to use the fusion method, atomic energy would be a solution to replace fossil fuels. Much research and development is still needed.

As I close this message, I would like to thank Irene McGhee and Amy Crolius, Co-Vice Presidents for Programs for arranging this very interesting and thought- provoking Zoom meeting. Admiral White presented much depth on climate change and was willing to answer our many questions. He encouraged us to be very active and limit our use of plastics, join carpools, and recycle among other energy saving

techniques. Even though right now it appears the Federal government is not concerned about changing our carbon foot print and working with the nations of the world to improve climate change, we must not give up. We need to read, study, and advocate for positive action.

Climate change is too important for us to cede.



## Branch Program Meeting – March 15 – Live

Irene McGhee, Amy Crolus, 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. Serwat Perwaiz

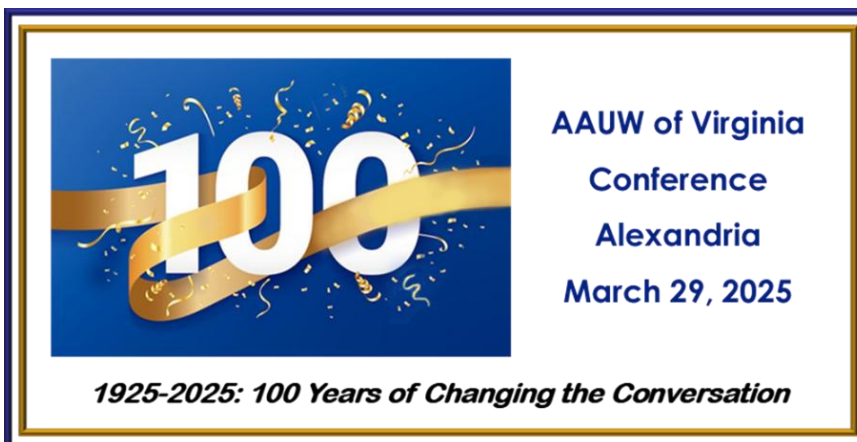
Dr. Perwaiz earned her Doctor of International Affairs and Master of International Public policy at the Johns Hopkins University, Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies. She has a Juris Doctor from the American University Washington College of Law. She has studied Nuclear Nonproliferation 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.

## AAUW-VA 2025 State Conference and Centennial Celebration

AAUW-VA Saturday, **March 29** State Conference,

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



Sheraton Suites, 801 N. Saint Asaph St., Alexandria, check-in begins at 7:30 A.M.

Due to the overwhelming response, we have reached full capacity and registration has been closed. Since the typical fear of conference organizers is making the minimum, the organizers are happy with the response but very disappointed they cannot accommodate more people.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Judy Baldwin

Thomas Jefferson High School has been added to the schools we contact so there are now five. Applications are due **March 14** and the Committee will meet **March 21** to select the winners. Awards will be given at the **April 24** meeting at the Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. More information to come – watch this space.

## Public Policy

Susan Burk, Public Policy Chair

The Virginia General Assembly adjourned Sine die (without setting a day to reconvene) on February 22. It was a busy session with some 3,000 bills considered during less than two months. The following bills of importance to AAUW-VA passed the House and Senate and are headed to the Governor's desk for signature, amendment, or veto:

**HB 1921:** This bill requires employers to provide paid sick days to all workers in Virginia. Passed the House 51-47; Passed the Senate 21-16.

**HJ 2/SJ 248:** Constitutional amendment would automatically restore voting rights for people convicted of a felony after their sentence. Passes the House (must be approved again in 2026 to be placed on the ballot for a vote by VA voters.)

**HB 1928:** Minimum wage. Increases the minimum wage incrementally to \$15.00 per hour by January 1, 2027. The bill codifies the adjusted state hourly minimum wage of \$12.41 per hour that is effective January 1, 2025 and increases the minimum wage to \$13.50 per hour effective January 1, 2026 and to \$15.00 per hour effective January 1, 2027. The bill requires the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to establish an adjusted state hourly minimum wage by October 1, 2027. Passed the House 50-46; Passed the Senate 21-19).

### Failed

**SB 1122:** Paid Family and Medical Leave. Passed Senate 21-18; Killed on House floor 49-48 (2/3 required to pass).

For a detailed list of bills passed this session, go to: <https://lis.virginia.gov/> .

## Virginia Budget Highlights

The General Assembly reached a compromise on the FY 26 budget which has been sent to the Governor for signature, amendment, or veto. The combined budget would give a one-time 1.5% bonus for state supported local employees. It includes reporting requirements if the Federal Government reduces federal grants. It removes a limit on how many of a local school division's support staff are funded by the state, and raises per pupil spending to \$8,662 in FY 25 to \$8,983 in FY 26, according to the Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis. The conference report maintained an additional \$25 million for a child care pilot program and a \$1,000 bonus for teachers and other instructional positions.

## Establishment of Emergency Committee to address impact on workers, local economies, and critical state programs of the purge of federal workers and cancellation of programs.

Virginia House Speaker Don Scott (D-Portsmouth) has assembled a bi-partisan emergency committee to explore the challenges posed by the Administration's actions. Virginia is home to more than 144,000 federal employees. Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads are home to the largest concentrations of federal workers, but experts expect federal job losses to impact the entire state. The Governor has acknowledged the impact of the President's job cuts but, according to the *Virginia Mercury*, has defended the moves as necessary to eliminate "inefficiency and bloat." Federal dollars reportedly make up one third of Virginia's total state budget, largely supporting Medicaid, public education, SNAP benefits, and transportation. The emergency committee plans to hold a series of meetings across the state to hear from local officials and impacted communities. The following are members of the Emergency Committee:

Anne Ferrell Tata, R-Virginia Beach

Josh Thomas, D-Prince William County

David Bulova, D-Fairfax County (chair)

Robert Bloxom, R-Accomack County (vice chair)

Bonita Anthony, D-Norfolk

Ellen Campbell, R-Rockbridge County

Joshua Cole, D-Fredericksburg

Michael Feggans, D-Virginia Beach

Hillary Pugh Kent, R-Richmond County

Marcus Simon, D-Fairfax County

Tony Wilt, R-Rockingham County

Vivian Watts, D-Fairfax County

The Governor has introduced a job search website for Feds who have lost their jobs in this "downsizing" effort: <https://virginiahasjobs.com>

## Seeking Board Members for 2025-2026

Deborah Dodd, Debbie Gilligan, Co-VPs for Membership

We are still looking to fill positions for Co-Program Director, and Co-President and Treasurer. Amy Crolus is staying on as Co-Program Director and Irene McGhee will stay on, but would like to have someone that she will mentor with the idea that they would take over next year.

Cathie Boivin will continue as President and Ann Sauberman will stay on as Co-President asking that someone volunteer to be mentored by her to take over next year. Sharon Draper will remain as treasurer, but we are also looking for someone to be mentored by her to take over next year. Contact Debbie Gilligan or Deborah Dodd to sign up.



## Membership Update

Deborah Dodd, Debbie Gilligan, Co-VPs for Membership

Springfield-Annadale  
Branch has 55 members

We are pleased to announce two new members to our Branch! A Big Welcome to Beth Boivin M.Ed., SHRM-CP, a Special Project Manager to the Chief of Human Resources Officer for the Fairfax County School System, and Xiaoyu Tao who teaches part time at Duquesne University of

Pennsylvania and George Mason University here in Fairfax. Xiaoyu is working on her PhD from the University of Indiana in Pennsylvania. These two women are wonderful additions to our Branch.

## 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 featured speaker is Juliana Valencia. Ms. Valencia is an Emmy-Award-winning reporter in two languages for News 4 and Telemundo 44. She is part of the News 4 Today team and a regular fill-in anchor.

Since Valencia joined News 4 in 2019, she has reported on many historic moments such as the January 6 insurrection, Supreme Court rulings, and the funeral proceedings of Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sandra Day O'Connor. Working early mornings, Valencia was one of the first journalists on the scene of the Key Bridge accident in Baltimore and provided coverage for the entire week. Read more about Ms. Valencia here: <https://www.nbcwashington.com/author/juliana-valencia/>



Juliana Valencia

A big Thank You to Beth Boivin, our new Branch member, and NBC4 Anchor, Jummy Olabanji for their assistance in securing Ms. Valencia.

The cost for this event is \$50 and can be paid by check, or credit card on Eventbrite, or Pay Pal. A flyer with menu choices and further information will be sent via email shortly.

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

We now have nine gift baskets that we are working on. We really need our Branch to work on getting gift cards, and thinking about donating designer scarves and handbags along with good costume jewelry as well as fine jewelry. The Business Letter for acquiring gift cards is attached at the end of this newsletter.

For our Spring Fling auction to be successful, we need your support! The next Silent Auction Committee meeting is on Wednesday, **March 19**, at 1:00 P.M. at Debbie Gilligan's home. Join us and/or bring your donations there!

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, **March 6**, 7:00 P.M., to discuss *West With Giraffes*, by Lynda Rutledge. Debbie Gilligan is the scheduled reviewer. This is different than what is posted in the Directory. *The Woman Who Stole Vermeer*, by Anthony M. Amore, is the book scheduled for **April 3**. Judy Titterton will review. Contact Debbie Gilligan for more information.

## Morning Book Group

The Morning Book Group meets on 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 the book.

The next meeting is Thursday, **April 10**, 10:00 A.M., for a review of *The Mountains Sing*, by Nguyen Phan Que Mai. Jo Domingues will host and Betty Sheehan 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 **March 12**. Watch your email on the Friday preceding for the movie selection.

## BRANCH CALENDAR

March 6, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group – Zoom	<a href="#">page 7</a>
March 12	Movies at Midweek	<a href="#">page 7</a>
March 13, 10:00 A.M.	Morning Book Group – Live	<a href="#">page 7</a>
March 15, Noon	Branch Program Meeting – Live	<a href="#">page 3</a>
March 19, 1:00 P.M.	Silent Auction Meeting	<a href="#">page 6</a>
March 26	<i>UPDATES</i> articles due	
March 28-29	State Conference, Alexandria	<a href="#">page 3</a>
April 3, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group – Zoom	<a href="#">page 7</a>
April 10, 10:00 A.M.	Morning Book Group – Live	<a href="#">page 7</a>
April 24	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Meeting	<a href="#">page 4</a>
May 9	Spring Fling	<a href="#">page 6</a>

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### Famous Exits

Gunfighter Shane (Alan Ladd) has beaten the bad guy and brought justice to the West, but as he gets on his horse, young Joey (Brandon De Wilde) sees blood dripping from Shane, his arm limp as he rides off.

What follows is one of the most quoted closings in movie history — Joey shouting out,

"Shane! Come back!"

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



***Articles for March UPDATES due March 26***





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: \_\_\_\_\_