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# U P D A T E S

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Volume 66

April 2025

Issue 8

## President’s Message

Cathleen Boivin, Co-President

This month I’d like to talk about communication. It does seem that I get fewer personal letters via the postman (i.e. “snail mail”) and many more emails. While certainly efficient, I rather miss the handwritten missive, but I’m willing to go modern with the electronic form of reaching out. I finally gave up our landline and am at the mercy of carrying a cell phone everywhere I go. I feel like it’s an electronic tether, but it works as long as it’s charged up. It has also necessitated buying garments with pockets.



If you are like me, you start your day with information. You check your phone, your tablet, or your morning paper for the latest news. I read the *Washington Post* over my breakfast tea and toast and I love to wake my sleepy brain up with the crossword puzzle (even if it is the *L.A. Times* version because the *Washington Post* one went defunct years ago.) However, we are now witnessing a significant change in how we get our news. More and more newspapers and magazines are folding their printing operations in favor of online copies. I am in favor of keeping up with current events regardless of medium, but I do regret the inevitability of giving up my printed paper. I guess it falls under the heading of progress.

I am also an avid genealogist. While I’m researching the various branches of my family tree, I rely heavily on the written word. I have copies of newspaper articles from yesteryear, death certificates, letters, and other pieces of written history which help me understand the lives of relatives I never knew. Sometimes I wonder

**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*

how difficult it will be for future historians as there are increasingly fewer pieces of printed information for them to reference.

When I taught World History, I emphasized the historical importance of the printing press especially during the Reformation, as everyone was encouraged to read religious materials in the vernacular, not in Latin or Greek. Books and other printed materials became affordable and attracted readers from the growing middle classes. It radically changed the world by increasing literacy for both men and women. Women had long lacked a real voice in political matters. As you all know, they had no representation in legislative bodies and were unable to vote.

By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, new ideas of government began to surface and be discussed by the intelligentsia. Their ideas influenced our democratic form of government without a monarch. Women slowly became more involved in the public sphere.

I recently became aware of a woman who was very influential during the American War of Independence. Little was known about her until recently. Some letters have surfaced authored by Clementina Rind (now housed in the National Archives in London.) The daughter of a minister, Clementina (nee Grierson) Rind, arrived in Annapolis in 1756. She was well educated and literate. She married William Rind in 1762 and he had initially been apprenticed to the *Maryland Gazette*. This publication was suspended in 1765 after it published letters and articles critical of the 1765 Stamp Act. The couple then moved to Williamsburg, Virginia where they set up a printing press and published the *Virginia Gazette*. Interestingly the masthead stated, "Open to all parties, but influenced by none." The paper had 600 subscribers, among them was George Washington.

Their print shop also published books, and pamphlets, and the *Virginia Almanack*. The *Virginia Gazette* and the *Virginia Almanack* included articles and activities that would appeal to women. The Rinds became active in publishing patriotic materials. William Rind died in 1773 and Clementina assumed ownership of the paper. Her paper published the debates from both sides of the political situation in the American colonies. Clementina Rind became one of the most powerful women in Virginia. In 1774, she was selected by the House of Burgesses to be the sole printer for the colony. Her press also published "*A Summary View of the Rights of British America*," authored by Thomas Jefferson which became "the basis of the Declaration of Independence." She left behind a number of influential letters, pamphlets, books, and articles that helped lead the colonies to independence and set into motion a wave of world changing events that promoted freedom and a free press.

Are you thinking, "Well, that was then and this is now"? We are living in a country with some marked differences in political opinions and the limits of political control. Now is the time to weigh in on those topics that are important to you and your family. You can write letters to your representatives as they were elected to represent us, their constituents. Women do have a voice in government and rights under the law.

I hope that you read the Public Policy emails and the articles in our Branch's newsletter, and emails from National AAUW and AAUW of Virginia. They frequently give you mailing and email addresses plus phone numbers for legislators.

For an article on the life of Clementina Rind, see *Smithsonian Magazine*, "History: Newly Discovered Letters Illuminate the Life of a Female Printer Who Published Revolutionary Texts and Pushed the Colonies Toward Independence," by Alexandra Cox, March 10, 2025 <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/tag/250th-anniversary-of-america/>

## International Women's Day Celebration

Ann Sauberman, Co-Presidents

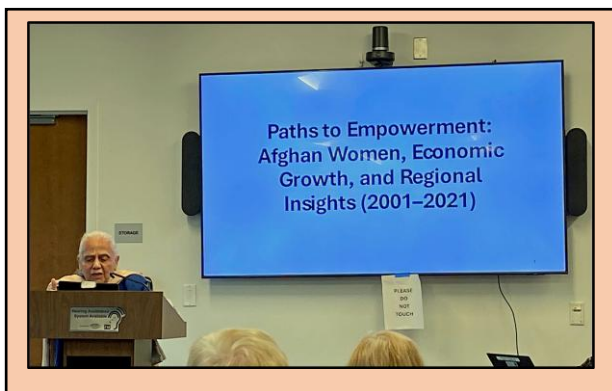
Our Branch celebrated International Women's Day at Pohick Regional Library on Saturday, March 15. Branch members were asked to bring sweet or savory finger foods with an international flair to share with other members and guests. The highlight of the afternoon was a presentation from Dr. Serwat Perwaiz, a foreign policy professional with over 20 years' experience in international affairs. She has worked with US government agencies including United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Nations Development Program.



The main theme of her talk was the advances for women in Afghanistan from 2001-2021. Dr Perwaiz spent time living in Afghanistan and learning about the lives of women. Before 2001, women received very little education or economic opportunity. They were not allowed to travel or work without a male escort. They had very little independence. Then during the Afghanistan war and US influence, schools began to open for girls and slowly women could drive and work outside the home. Women could begin to speak their opinions. Some women were able to go to college and be economically empowered. Women even could

own their own small businesses. This abruptly changed again in 2021 with the fall of the United States military and power in Afghanistan. Women now had to dress all covered up and many girl's schools shut down. Women had to retreat to their homes. Most women were now totally economically dependent on the men in the family. The Taliban returned and with their new power, the rules reverted to the restrictive and religious traditions.

Dr. Perwaiz answered many questions posed by the audience. She then asked Dr. Waqas Mahmood, Mussaret Sheikh's son, to join her and answer more questions. Dr. Mahmood was the Director of



Operations for Deloitte in Afghanistan for three years and was able to share many of his observations of the power over the lives of women.

This program was very successful thanks to Irene McGhee and Amy Crolus, program Co-Vice Presidents for Programs, and Mussaret Sheikh, a Branch member who was responsible for both recommending and introducing Speaker Perwaiz.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award Meeting – Live

Judy Baldwin

The Inclusion Award Scholarship Meeting is **April 24**, 7:00 P.M., at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. We have five high school honorees; two from Lake Braddock, one each from Lewis, Annandale, and West Springfield High Schools. They and their families are invited to attend this event. Light refreshments will be served.

### Department of Education Action

AAUW of Virginia President, Lane Stone states: AAUW opposes the dismantling of the Department of Education, in no uncertain terms. Let Congressman Scott know. [Read our letter here](#). Let your senators and representative know how you feel. For further information, <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/aauw/directors/publicpolicy/>.

### Public Policy

Susan Burk, Public Policy Chair

It has been a tumultuous few months (or is that an understatement?). Many of us who are veterans of public service have watched in horror as agencies and institutions we know well and value are eliminated or viciously down-sized. We all have neighbors, family, and friends who are finding themselves unemployed after distinguished careers in public service. Most recently, action was taken to dismantle the Department of Education. AAUW's relationship with that Department extends to its support of Title IX, student loans and other issues. Those who have had children needing special education services know how tough it is to get approved for "services." The Education Department has been very important to this effort.

AAUW National is making clear that it is not prepared to pull its punches in the face of these actions, will continue to support DEI, and equity for women and girls in all areas. The following is AAUW's statement on the President's Executive Order to dismantle the Education Department (emphasis added):

Washington, D.C. — The American Association of University Women (AAUW) unequivocally condemns President Trump's executive order "Improving Education Outcomes by Empowering Parents, States, and Communities" dismantling the U.S. Department of Education.

"This reckless and shortsighted action threatens to gut vital protections that ensure equal access to higher education and will have devastating consequences for students — especially women, students of color, and those from low-income backgrounds — who rely on federal oversight for their right to an equitable education," said Gloria L. Blackwell, CEO of AAUW. "Eliminating the Department of Education would decimate federal civil rights enforcement, slash protections against gender-based discrimination, and roll back decades of progress toward making higher education accessible and affordable. This decision is not about streamlining government; it is about stripping students of their rights and futures."

Consequences of this action may include:

- Low-income students may lose vital federal financial aid that makes it possible to earn their degrees;
- Survivors of sexual harassment and assault on campus may see more Title IX cases dismissed and drastically weakened pathways to justice;



- Students with disabilities could be left without critical safeguards to protect and enforce their rights in schools.
- LGBTQ+ students who experience harassment and discrimination could face unsafe environments without their schools being held accountable;
- Student loan borrowers may be more vulnerable to abuse by predatory for-profit colleges and noncompliant servicers while facing unaffordable repayments

AAUW urges Congress to speak out against this move and protect the Department from any further cuts that could hinder enforcement of federal civil rights laws protecting students and preserving access to higher education. The cost of inaction is too high, and the futures of millions of students — especially those from marginalized communities — hang in the balance.

In response to these coordinated and continuing attacks on education in America, AAUW is launching [The Defend Higher Education Fund](#) to enable AAUW to elevate the critical higher education issues impacting women, mobilize advocates across the country, provide strategic resources to students, staff and faculty on campus, and fuel investments in the infrastructure and technology necessary to move our mission forward.

Support to this fund ensures AAUW can effectively fight on behalf of women on campuses across the country and ensure that AAUW remains a trusted and powerful voice for equity.

## 2025 Equal Pay Day Calendar

Started by the National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE) in 1996, the goal of Equal Pay Days is to raise awareness about the ongoing gender pay gap and how the pay gap varies significantly among different communities, particularly for women of color.

- All Women’s Equal Pay Day – March 25
- Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Women’s Equal Pay Day – April 7
- Moms’ Equal Pay Day – May 6
- LGBTQIA+ Equal Pay Awareness Day – June 17
- Black Women’s Equal Pay Day – July 10
- Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) Women’s Equal Pay Day – August 28
- Latina Equal Pay Day – October 8
- Disabled Women’s Equal Pay Day – October 23
- Native Women’s Equal Pay Day – November 18

## Gender Pay Gap Data

The Equal Pay Day Calendar encompasses a cross-section of women, including those who work part-time or seasonally, to represent how the gender pay gap impacts diverse communities. A more inclusive approach ensures that we can advocate on behalf of all women in the workforce.

- Disabled working women (including seasonal and part-time workers) are paid, on average, 50 cents for every dollar paid to non-disabled men and 72 cents for every dollar paid to disabled men in 2023.
- Latinas working full-time, year-round were paid 58 cents, and all earners (including part-time and seasonal) were paid 51 cents for every dollar paid to non-Hispanic white men in 2023.
- Native women working full-time, year-round, were paid 58 cents, and all earners (including part-time and seasonal) were paid 52 cents for every dollar paid to non-Hispanic white men in 2023.
- Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) women working full-time, year-round, were paid 65 cents, and all earners (including part-time and seasonal) were paid 61 cents for every dollar paid to non-Hispanic white men in 2023.
- Black women working full-time, year-round were paid 66 cents, and all earners (including part-time and seasonal) were paid 64 cents for every dollar paid to non-Hispanic white men in 2023.
- Moms working full-time, year-round, were paid 74 cents, and all earners (including part-time and seasonal) were paid 62 cents for every dollar paid to dads in 2023.
- White women working full-time, year-round were paid 80 cents, and all earners (including part-time and seasonal) were paid 73 cents for every dollar paid to non-Hispanic white men in 2023.
- Asian American women working full-time, year-round, were paid 94 cents, and all earners (including part-time and seasonal) were paid 83 cents for every dollar paid to non-Hispanic white men in 2023.
- LGBTQIA+ people\*: The U.S. Census Bureau does not currently collect the necessary information to provide specific data. AAUW supports improving data collection on LGBTQIA+ communities through the American Community Survey.

Sources:

U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce. American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B20017(C, H, E), 2023, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACS1Y2023.B20017?q=B20017>.

Accessed on November 14, 2024

Bureau, U. C. (2023). PINC-05. Work Experience-People 15 years old and over, by Total Money Earnings, Age, Race, Hispanic Origin, Sex. Census.Gov. <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/cps->

## 2025 Virginia General Assembly

We are still sorting through the results of Governor Youngkin's actions on the many bills that went to him for approval. The following are some lowlights:

Paid Sick Days – Vetoed

Paid Family and Medical Leave – Vetoed

Minimum Wage Increase – Vetoed

Access to Contraception – Amended to allow prescribers to opt out for religious reasons.

## 2025-2026 Board Members

Deborah Dodd, Debbie Gilligan, Co-VPs for Membership

The current officers will be returning. Cathie Boivin and Ann Sauberman will remain as Co-Presidents. Amy Crolius and Irene McGhee will stay on as Co-Vice Presidents for Programs, and Irene will mentor Beth Boivin to take over for next year. Sharon Draper will stay on as Treasurer. We are still looking for someone to volunteer to be mentored by Sharon for the Treasurer's job for next year.

## 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 PayPal. A flyer with all the information is at the end of this newsletter.

Make your reservations and payment no later than **April 26**.

Send your food choices and a list of those friends or family members you would like to sit with to Rose Clark [SpringflingAAUW@gmail.com](mailto:SpringflingAAUW@gmail.com).

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 Silent Auction will include: good costume jewelry, designer scarves and handbags, gift cards, gift baskets and a 50/50 Raffle. Tickets for the raffle are \$5.00 each with no limit on quantity. So far, we have enough gift baskets, but we really need gift cards and good costume jewelry donations. The business letter for gift cards is at the end of this newsletter.

The deadline for accepting donations is **April 28**

Hand in your donations to the any of the following Silent Auction Committee members: Debbie Gilligan, Ann Sauberman, Karen Flann, Sallie Williams, Susan Burk, Katherine White, Ginny Wells, Judy Titterton, Lisa Schumate, and Jo Dominges. The Silent Auction Committee meets for a final time on April 30.

## Programs Report

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

Branch Picnic – Sunday, **June 1**, Occoquan Regional Park, 9751 Ox Road, Lorton, Pavilion 4.

We are aiming for **June 4**, 7 :00 P.M., to hold a planning meeting at Pohick Regional Library, Burke, for members to provide input for suggested programs for 2025-2026.

## Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Group next meets via Zoom, Thursday, **April 3**, 7:00 P.M., to discuss *The Woman Who Stole Vermeer*, by Anthony M. Amore. Judy Titterton will review. *Famous Father Girl: A Memoir of Growing Up Bernstein*, by Jamie Bernstein, is the book scheduled for **May 1**. Susan Burk will review. Contact Debbie Gilligan for more information.

To prepare for the 2025-2026 reading selections, Evening Book Group members must submit the name of two books with a very short descriptive paragraph. Your recommendations should be available through Fairfax County Public Libraries (FCPL)\*. A varied selection of topics and genres is desirable. Note: while recent best sellers may be appealing, FCPL usually has a long waiting list. Email your choices to Cathie Boivin prior to the **May 1** meeting. She will compile the selections for your consideration and the group will vote on them via email. A Potluck Dinner is planned for **June 5** to close out the current reading year.

## Morning Book Group

The Morning Book Group meets on 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 the book.

The next meeting is Thursday, **May 8**, for a review of *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*, by Jamie McBride. Wendy Cleland-Hamnett will host and Helen Cassidy will review. Contact Wendy Cleland-Hamnett or Deborah Dodd for more information.

Books selections for the 2025-2026 year will take place on **June 12** at a luncheon Deborah Dodd's home.\*

\*An FCPL library card will garner you a library card with the Alexandria Library (The Alexandria Library extends free library card privileges to residents of Arlington, Charles, District of Columbia, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Montgomery, and Prince Georges counties) and the Arlington Public Library (The Arlington Public Library provides free library cards to the District of Columbia, City of Alexandria, City of Falls Church, Fairfax County, Loudoun County, and Prince William County residents). Log on to these library websites to sign up. – Judy Titterton

## 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 **April 9**. Watch your email on the Friday preceding for the movie selection.

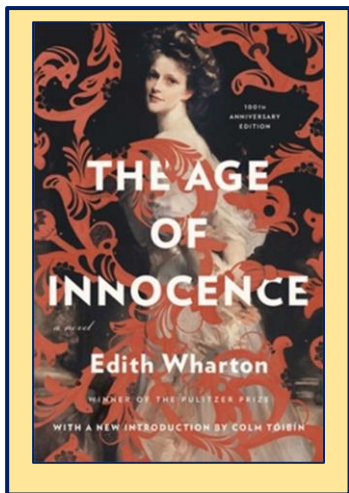


## BRANCH CALENDAR

April 3, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group – Zoom	<a href="#">page 8</a>
April 9	Movies at Midweek	<a href="#">page 8</a>
April 10, 10:00 A.M.	Morning Book Group – Live	<a href="#">page 8</a>
April 24, 7:00	Inclusion Awards Meeting – Live	<a href="#">page 4</a>
April 25	<i>UPDATES</i> articles due	
April 26	Spring Fling Registration End Date	<a href="#">page 7</a>
April 28	Silent Auction Items Acceptance Date	<a href="#">page 7</a>
May 1, 7:00 P.M.	Evening Book Group – Zoom	<a href="#">page 8</a>
May 8, 10:00 A.M.	Morning Book Group – Live	<a href="#">page 8</a>
May 9	Spring Fling	<a href="#">page 7</a>

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### Famous Endings



When they arrive, Archer informs his son, Dallas, that he doesn't want to see Countess Olenska after all, and sits outside on a nearby bench as Dallas goes inside. He fantasizes about what is going on in Countess Olenska's rooms as he sits outside on that bench and looks up at her open windows. When a servant comes out to close the shutters, as if it had been the signal he waited for,

Newland Archer got up slowly and walked back alone to his hotel.

*The Age of Innocence*, Edith Wharton

***Articles for May UPDATES due April 25***

Springfield-Annandale Branch  
of AAUW of Virginia

presents **Spring Fling**

Friday, May 9, 2025

11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Springfield Golf and Country Club  
8301 Old Keene Mill Rd, Springfield 22152



**Guest Speaker: Juliana Valencia**  
Emmy-Award winning reporter in two languages for News 4 and Telemundo 44, and part of the News 4 Today team and a regular fill-in Anchor

Make your reservation no later than **April 26** to:  
Rose Clark [SpringflingAAUW@gmail.com](mailto:SpringflingAAUW@gmail.com)

Let Rose know of your luncheon meal choice:

- Chicken Piccata with lemon sauce
- Filet of Salmon with citrus beurre sauce
- Pasta Primavera

Coffee, tea, and iced tea are included

Also include Table Buddies ("seat me with") names and email addresses

**Tickets are \$50.00**

Pay By Check

\$50 check made payable to *Springfield-Annandale AAUW*

Mail to Rose Clark, 330 S. West Street, #303, Alexandria, VA 22314-5928

Pay By PayPal +\$1.49 charge

<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/5GRTDEC9JTYP>

*Silent Auction  
11:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.*





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: \_\_\_\_\_