



Calendar of Events

**June 30th
July 1st** **2020-2021 AAUW Membership Year Ended
2021-2022 Membership Year Begins. *See inside* →**

August ** Book Discussion Groups Begin! **

August, 2021 **"Fieldtrip" to the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial,
Lucy Burns Museum, & Art Studios**
We are awaiting the completion of the memorial site to plan the date.

President's Message



Time to Pass the Torch

When I was elected as the branch president for 2019-2021, I assumed things would be similar to my first turn as branch president. Wow, was I wrong! Our last branch in-person event was the February 2020 lunch at

Madigan's in Occoquan. I think it was an omen of the future, as there were huge crowds for the Chocolate Walk and many of us missed the lunch because of a lack of parking.

And then the pandemic came. My initial thoughts were how the branch would continue without in person programs/events and would members renew. And while some things were put on hold, like the SUCCESS Conference, we found new ways to continue our mission to empower women and girls. Zoom became our friend! We did Science Fair judging virtually. We celebrated *American Education Week* with a virtual program that recognized teachers, school board members and other champions of education. We zoomed our holiday dinner with shared recipes and family traditions and had a contest of our special/"ugly" sweaters or outfits. These virtual programs were attended by people from Hawaii to the Middle East, with minimal technical difficulty. We also worked hard to become a 5-Star Branch, one of the first in the country.

And the concern of losing members was quickly proven wrong. In February 2018, we had 26 members. In February 2020 we had 36 members, and now we have 47 members. For the 20-21 year period, we were recognized by AAUW-VA for have the highest percentage of new members in the state.

All these successes were due to the hard work of our members, especially our VP of Membership and Programs, Susan Bardenhagen. I thank all of you. I know that you will continue this tremendous support to Irene and Colleen as they take over as Co-Presidents. As I pass the torch in this final volume 48th newsletter, another torch has been passed with the Olympics in Tokyo beginning. I can't wait to see everyone in person!



Sandy Lawrence

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Incoming Presidents Welcome Our 2021-2022 Year!

Notice no apostrophe in **Presidents** because we are two! We are so welcoming the lifting of restrictions and getting back to the "next normal" with meeting up again! That includes, of course, the re-establishing of get together dates and continuing our activity that makes us a 5-Star Branch. Kudos to Sandy as she passes the president's baton.

It is time to make the most out of 2021. We both hope not only to resume traditional socials but also stay mindful of our goals and ongoing branch projects. We also would invite all you reading members and families to support our Book Discussion groups and the upcoming Turning Point "Fieldtrip" in August to the Suffragist Memorial. Details will follow.

It's time to get outside, continue connections through zooming, and stay cool! Your board will have a virtual meeting in August to plan as a team for our branch. Here's to an exciting 2021-22 year!

Irene Cromer irenecromer1@verizon.net

Colleen Hauser colhauser13@gmail.com

Public Policy & Advocacy

Local

Our branch has led the way to seeking the Equal Pay Dates and adds to the calendar each year as more data is revealed. (see the last page of the newsletter for 2021's) We hope to seek support from the Prince William Board of County Supervisors for an equal pay resolution. We've been advocating for this for many years, endured scorn and misogynist statements at citizens' time presentations, and maintained and nurtured connections each year. Let's be confident that 2021-22 is the time! **Joyce, Eileen, Barbara B., Elaine,** and **Mary King** would like to add your voice to theirs. **Sandy** lives in Springfield, and as our Public Policy Chair, champions advocacy- so contact her if you have a contact with a BOCS in your magisterial district. **Susan B.** lives in Manassas City and prepares her statements based on the goal of the SUCCESS! Conference (for all our regional students) to ensure gender equity- which includes pay equity, too!



State

On the 25th anniversary of the landmark case in which the Supreme Court of the United States in a 7-1 decision struck down the male-only admissions policy of the Virginia Military Institute with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg writing for the majority, AAUW of Virginia makes this statement here: <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/files/2021/06/AAUW-VA-statement-on-VMI-final-6-28.pdf>

AAUW-VA works with several organizations on issues important to women and girls. AAUW-VA has recently joined with The Virginia Campaign for a Family Friendly Economy (Va-CFFE) and I attended a presentation by Va-CFFE members. Va-CFFE is working to build a better future for working people by fighting for smart policies like paid family and medical leave, paid sick days and quality, affordable childcare. Their current effort is to have a Paid Leave bill enacted in Virginia. This would provide up to 12 weeks of paid leave with a maximum of 80% of a worker's salary. To pay for this, both employee and employers would contribute .05% of the worker's salary to a fund managed by the Virginia Employment Commission. For more information, go to <https://familyfriendlyeconomyva.org> to learn how you can support this organization.

July Storybook from VA AAUW

Our [July Storybook](#) is live! Loud finger snaps to my NOVA storytellers who shared their stories this month: Allexus, Candace, Diana, Jamie (Arlington), Jamie (Culpeper County), Karen, Latoya, Lequita, Maria, Roxanne, and **Sandy** (our branch member). Detailing your lived experiences in service of building momentum for paid leave for ALL Virginians is my great honor. I appreciate and deeply respect each and every one of you for your advocacy. Together, we are POWERFUL! Our previous three storybooks are linked here: [April](#) | [May](#) | [June](#) [a special edition featuring candidates running for office this year.

Postcards for Paid Leave

We launched a new "Postcards for Paid Leave" campaign. You might be aware of how instrumental our very own Senator Warner has been in negotiations around the American Rescue Plan and the American Jobs Plan. Next, it's time for the American Families Plan. Earlier this week, we learned that Congress has nominally agreed to a \$ number -- now we wait for more details on how that number breaks down. While we wait, we hope you'll join us as we send postcards to Senator Warner's office! A few clicks and you're done. [Here](#) is the online form.

Special Shout Outs

Special thanks to storytellers Elizabeth (Falls Church), Shamila (Fredericksburg), and Chiquita (Newport News) for jumping on a few Zoom press conferences this month to tell their stories. We often have opportunities for you all to join us on special presentations to further your advocacy on issues having to do with winning an equitable, caring economy: paid leave, paid sick days, child tax credit payments, childcare including universal PreK, long-term care, education. Look out for invites and/or let me know you stand ready to further your advocacy efforts by joining us at events, virtually and/or in person. Hope you all tie up your July in ways that bring you joy.

National

Meanwhile, **Kate asks AAUW members to become a Two-Minute Activist.** This involves sending emails and texts to your legislators on equal pay, family leave, stopping sexual harassment, equality in education, and more. AAUW provides all the tools you need to call or send messages to your members of Congress. To learn more and sign up, go to: <https://www.aauw.org/act/> ***This opportunity is open to all- if you are one of our branch alumnae or friends of our branch and are interested, please contact me!*** Also, our **branch outreach for Two-Minute Activist contributes to our 5-Star program- hint!** 😊

International

"EQUALITY CAN'T WAIT" BY EMMA GOLDBERG 7.31.2021



A groundbreaking competition for gender equality concluded on Thursday with \$40 million awarded to four initiatives that advance the influence of women across the United States.

The New York Times

In Her Words

Where Women Rule the Headlines

The Equality Can't Wait Challenge — hosted by Pivotal Ventures (the investment company of Melinda French Gates) with support from MacKenzie Scott and Dan Jewett, and Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies — gave \$10 million to each of the four winners: a collaboration between New Mexico Community Capital and Native Women Lead; Girls Inc.'s Project Accelerate; Ada Developers Academy; and a coalition of partners formed by the National Domestic Workers Alliance and Caring Across Generations. The awardees were selected from a pool of more than 550 applications. Historically less than 2 percent of philanthropic giving has gone to initiatives specifically geared toward women and girls.

“We hope this sends a clear signal that philanthropy has a role to play in supporting these projects,” said Nicole Bates, director of strategic partnerships and initiatives at Pivotal Ventures. “It’s the first competition centered on gender with an award of this magnitude, and our hope is that this is now the baseline.”

Sandy Lawrence, Public Policy Chair sandyaaauw@juno.com

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS & BINGO CARD DONATIONS

Karen and Susan have initiated the membership renewal emails from National with your personalized link to renew. For those who pledged to join in our Women's History BINGO games at the January, February, and/or March program meetings, please recall that one card was \$3 and two for \$5. Many of you played and some of you promised to make a donation to AAUW's "greatest needs fund". Now is your chance to follow through on this pledge or join the branch's 2021 trend to reach fund-raising goals for the 2021 Named Gifted Honorees!

Using the link in the email, the total amount for membership for 2021-2022 (July 1st – June 30, 2022) will be \$89- \$62 national + \$27 state/branch. There will be another section to make a donation, where the default is for the "greatest needs fund". Here is where you can fulfill your BINGO pledge and/or add your choice of amount, which will be credited to our branch.

If you choose to pay by check through the postal mail, the email will also have Susan' address to mail your dues + any additional donation. Please, if you have any questions or encounter technology issues, contact either one of us. Thank you for supporting our branch's efforts to earn our 5-Star Renewal for 2021-2022!

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Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Unveiled!



After 13 years of sweat, tears, and fundraising, the virtual dedication of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial, in Lorton in Fairfax County's park, was held on May 16. The memorial will provide an overview of the entire movement, including African American suffragists who are often left out of the history books. More than a century after millions of women succeeded in their efforts to see the 19th Amendment passed, they are finally getting the recognition they deserve in America's only suffragist memorial to fully commemorate their accomplishment. On loan from the National Park Service is a length of the fence from in front of the White House where the "iron-jawed angels" protested and were then arrested. Branch fieldtrip planned for August, when the memorial site is completed. **Julie** will be assisting us with "fieldtrip" ideas; we hope that our branch portrayers, **Colleen** and **Lillian**, will be able to regale us with their period dress; **Susan B.** is making special purple and gold ribbons with pins for the attendees and Julie is keeping us posted on a tour. Please share additional ideas and suggestions for weekend dates that will work for you! ☺

Celebrating the Centennial of the 19th Amendment on July 10th with Music 🎵

JULY 10 6:30 pm. There was a free outdoor socially distanced concert in Vienna's Town Green, celebrating the 19th Amendment: Women's Right to VOTE. Cathy Ponton King & her bandmates are a well-known blues band. Display placards were placed around the green highlighting many suffragists. Researching history, Cathy she shared the suffragists, their sacrifices, and the history- for example, did you know that Virginia did not ratify the 19th amendment until 1952? Her band played two sets of





our blues and originals with the addition of legendary trumpet player, Curtis Pope, who played 40 years with Wilson Pickett, and also with the Isley Brothers. Curtis sang two of Pickett's hits and channeled the sound we remembered! Seated on blankets and lawn chairs, families and couples enjoyed the music. Earlier that afternoon, the AAUW Vienna branch organized a presentation and parade; two of their branch members were in the audience, along with Woodbridge member, Susan! Cafe Amouri sponsored the event. {photo credits to Cathy's friend, **Mike Landsman**, a geologist – STEAM for him! 😊}

MEMBER NEWS & UPDATES

Irene's green thumb has produced a second crop of potatoes in her garden! She continues to enjoy working with her horses and learning riding skills. Meanwhile, her great niece visited before bringing her family's newest fourth generation, baby Iris, into the world. **Susan B.** continues coordinating outreach with the *American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics- National Capital Section* with both the 2020 and 2021 awardees of six regional Science Fairs- which include "our" 2016 and 2017 awardee Eleanor and "our" twin sisters 2018 awardees Akita and Anika. It is rewarding to maintain connections! **Sandy** happily spent her birthday at a Potomac Nationals game, although "her" NY Mets were not the winners. With her knee injury getting better, she's been enjoying golf.



Andrea and **Susan** have joyously resumed rehearsals for the *Manassas Symphony Orchestra's* concerts 🎵 which are August 22nd at Locust Shade Park, September 5th at the Harris Pavilion in Manassas, and winds/brass at Arts Alive! on September 12th at the GMU Hylton Performing Arts Center. **Kristina's** son Tucker will be joining us, on violin. All three hope those branch members who have had season tickets in the past will renew for the upcoming season; plus, more of you in the audience are welcome! Presently, Kristina and her mom are doing college touring for Tucker's senior year at OPHS. Speaking of OPHS, our **Miss Lillian** was honored for all of her patronage over the years of Prince William County Arts Council's organizations with a nomination for the 2021 Kathleen Seefeldt Award for Arts Excellence. Also this year, The **Lillian M. Orlich** Scholarship honors one male and one female senior who attend Osbourn Park High School and demonstrate leadership, hard work and perseverance, integrity, compassion, and sincere desire to serve others, especially the youth of our society. The recipients are Ashish P. and Seemeen Hanan.

Barbara B. enjoyed her visit with family in Texas. She proudly shares photos of her grandchildren at a STEM camp! The future is in good hands, isn't it? **Dorothy** has been visiting with great-, grand-, and children on the east coast.



Monica is our newest member!

She contacted Susan B. in January of 2020 to get involved with the SUCCESS! Conference, worked with her organization *Pink Space Theory* to bring STEM outreach to girl students in Prince William County, and then asked Sandy and me to work with her application for the AAUW Community Action grant process- the rest will be history! We welcome her expertise both as an engineer and an educator.

Paige is in her second year of Master's coursework and has been hired by Johns Hopkins University; she will be living in Baltimore near campus. **Cassidy** will be team lead for fourth grade as she begins her second year teaching, now with an in-person class. We wish her the best! Meanwhile her mom **Tammy, Susan B., and Colleen** continue their Jeopardy fan status as the guest hosts and hostesses continue. Please let one of us know if you are also a Jeopardy fan- we are confident there are more among our branch members!



BRANCH PROJECTS



Marketing Math & Science for Girls Letter Writing Paige's list of eleven companies/corporations has those needing a wake-up call regarding their marketing efforts demonstrating gender bias. Those at the 01.23, 02.14, and 03.25 meetings and who have volunteered to have their names and email addresses included will receive a copy of the template letter and the list of the first round of companies. If you weren't able to attend any of the meetings and wish to participate add your name to the branch project roster, please contact Paige, also. Please continue to view ads, commercials, and other items for equitable or inequitable advertisements, and forward ideas to Paige- pepler@jhmi.edu and Mom Assistant, Pam- pcoan@gmu.edu. Paige's next step is to thank those who are positively marketing Math & Science to girls.

PINK SPACE THEORY and AAUW COMMUNITY ACTION GRANT

In the April newsletter, **Monica Nichols, of Pink Space Theory**, reported that the community action grant from AAUW was awarded. We can now happily report that we have a school, principal, and teacher on board to support the project- Neabsco Elementary School in Dale City! The program will be after school from October through April, three days after school for 1 ½ hours. Monica, Sandy, and Susan B. have been regularly meeting with the school staff to plan and coordinate.

Scholarship for Emily Jean Rishell

Again, thank you to all those who supported this project both financially and with input to its founding. This is a project we can continue and evolve our outreach. **The winner is Sarah Michelle who will be attending the University of North Carolina in the fall.** Currently, we are planning a meeting with Jeanette and her family. 😊



GENDER EQUITY in STEM & STEAM from Suhani & Susan

Caroline Herschel Medal to honor women astronomers

In the run-up to the annual meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society, the U.K.'s prime minister Boris Johnson announced an important new prize to honor the contributions of women astronomers. Read about it, and enjoy this list of prominent present and past women who studied the stars. https://earthsky.org/human-world/caroline-herschel-medal-to-honor-women-astronomers/?utm_source=EarthSky+News&utm_campaign=1c2897326a-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_02_02_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c643945d79-1c2897326a-395287813

A new prize to celebrate outstanding research by women astrophysicists was made public earlier this month (July 2021) by Britain's prime minister, Boris Johnson. It is the latest initiative to recognize the game-changing contribution of women in a field that is hugely dominated by men. The £10,000 [about \$14,000 USD] prize – to be given in alternate years to researchers based in the U.K. and Germany – was announced by Johnson to mark the final U.K. visit by Angela Merkel (a scientist by training) as German chancellor. The award is named for Caroline Herschel (1750–1848) who was a pioneer in astronomy at a time when women were rarely recognized for their contributions to the field.

In times past, a female astronomer was traditionally paired with a male astronomer: she carried out the deep-space observations and data analysis while her research partner wrote the academic papers and received the accolades. Thankfully, female astronomers are now in a position to stand alone in receiving the recognition they rightly deserve. However, there is much work to be done before they achieve parity with their male colleagues. Today in the U.K., 12% of professors, 18% of senior lecturers/readers, and 29% of lecturers in astronomy are women. In solar system science, women make up 21% of professors, 22% of senior lecturers/readers, and 27% of lecturers (see the 2016 Survey of Demographics and Research Interests of the U.K. Astronomy and Geophysics Communities for details). Girls comprise just one in five A-level physics entrants, a proportion largely unchanged for many years, and

women make up around 3/10 of undergraduate students in astronomy courses. Yet despite the clear odds against women space scientists rising to the top, an impressive number of remarkable female astronomers are now recognized for the mark they have left – or are still leaving – on the world.

Harriet Tubman, an Unsung Naturalist, Used Owl Calls as a Signal on the Underground Railroad

Many people are aware of Harriet Tubman's work on the Underground Railroad and as a scout, spy, guerrilla soldier, and nurse for the Union Army during the Civil War. Fewer know of her prowess as a naturalist. At the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park in Church Creek, Maryland, Ranger Angela Crenshaw calls Tubman “the ultimate outdoors woman.” She even used bird calls to help guide her charges, eventually helping some 70 people, including her parents and four brothers, escape slavery.

“We know that she used the call of an owl to alert refugees and her freedom seekers that it was OK, or not OK, to come out of hiding and continue their journey,” Crenshaw says. “It would have been the Barred Owl, or as it is sometimes called, a 'hoot-owl.' They make a sound that some people think sounds like ‘who cooks for you? Who cooks for you?’” That nugget comes to Crenshaw from the park’s historian, Kate Clifford Larson, author of the Tubman biography *Bound for the Promised Land*. “If you used the sound of an owl, it would blend in with the normal sounds you would hear at night. It wouldn’t create any suspicion,” Crenshaw says.



Harriet Tubman spent much of her young life in close contact with the natural world. Likely born in 1822, she grew up in an area full of wetlands, swamps, and upland forests, giving her the skills she used expertly in her own quest for freedom in 1849. Her parents were enslaved, and Tubman’s owners rented her out to neighbors as a domestic servant as early as age five. At seven, she was hired out again, and her duties included walking into wet marshes to check muskrat traps. Tubman also worked as a field hand, in timber fields with her father and brothers on the north side of the Blackwater River, and at wharves in the area. All of this helped when, later, Tubman made 13 trips back to Maryland between 1850 and 1860 to guide people to freedom. The abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison dubbed Tubman “Moses.”

“It was in those timber fields where she learned the skills necessary to be a successful conductor on the Underground Railroad,” Crenshaw explains, “including how to read the landscape, how to be comfortable in the woods, how to navigate and use the sounds that were natural in Dorchester County at the time.”

Being able to travel and navigate was paramount for people risking their lives for freedom, and that's why it helped that Tubman was an astronomer, too, says Eola Dance, former coordinator for the National Park Service’s Network to Freedom program. Like other freedom seekers, Tubman used the North Star and the Big Dipper to orient herself. “Tubman was leading family members as well as strangers from Maryland to Philadelphia, New York and as far as St. Catharine’s, Canada, by traveling at night, using science to find her way,” Dance says.

Botany proved another necessary skill; people used plants for food and other survival needs. “Whether it was using certain plant life to quiet babies, or it could be relieving pain or cleaning wounds, this was the type of knowledge that Tubman had,” Dance says. Travelers along the Underground Railroad would have also looked for vegetables such as okra, tomatoes, collard greens, and trapped animals, such as muskrats, she notes.

Tubman’s natural expertise also helped her after her Underground Railroad days when she served in the Union Army, says Dance. She arrived at Fort Monroe, in Hampton Roads, Virginia, in 1861. Her experience with the waterways she crossed repeatedly while shepherding freedom seekers was essential again. “If you’re thinking of traveling from Maryland through Pennsylvania, Tubman would have had to cross several rivers, creeks, and streams, and that would have been important not only directionally, but also something we don’t talk about as much: as in the way people were tracked,” Dance says. “Freedom seekers would have been tracked by dogs, and by traveling through the water and knowing these waterways, it would have aided them in throwing off their scent so that the dogs would not be able to find them.”

Combined, Harriet Tubman’s understanding of the human environment, surrounding landscapes, and wildlife prepared her for both the great and small tasks of the Underground Railroad and the Civil War. To Dance, what’s incredible is that Tubman began acquiring her expertise as a child, while doing what she had to do to just survive. “We don’t really think about what knowledge and skills she had to have,” Dance says, “in order to accomplish the impossible.” *From the Audubon.org News: Allison Keyes, Reporter, February 25, 2020*

BABE DIDRIKSON CLEARED THE SAME HURDLES WOMEN ATHLETES FACE TODAY

Women athletes have always had to clear high bars in order to be taken seriously. In the 1932 Olympic Games at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, Babe Didrikson’s bar was set at 5’5-and-a-quarter inches. That was what she would

need to clear in her competition against fellow American athlete Jean Shiley for the gold medal. The crowd held its breath as the “Texas Tomboy” ran for her build-up. Didrikson was gunning for a clean sweep, having won gold medals in her previous two events—the javelin throw and the 80-meter hurdles. She launched herself over the bar, and cleared it, setting a new world record as did Shiley. But Didrikson’s technique, officials determined, violated regulations. Though Didrikson argued that it was the same jump style she had used throughout the competition, the gold medal was ultimately awarded to Shiley. Still, the decorated athlete made her mark on sports history.

“Babe Didrikson is the greatest female athlete, in my opinion, of the 20th century,” says scholar Lindsay Parks Pieper of the University of Lynchburg, who has studied and written about the record-breaking athlete. The faces of Shiley, Didrikson and Eva Dawes—the gold, silver and bronze high jump medalists from 1932—glow with the joy of the games in a picture postcard recently uncovered among newspaper clippings in the Archives Center at the National Museum of American History. The artifact was “what we call ‘found in the collection,’” says Jane Rogers, a sports curator at the museum. Rogers was inventorying the archive’s paper materials when she recovered a cache of postcards. In the others, Didrikson can be seen leaping a hurdle, pushing past the finish line and receiving a gold medal for the 80-meter hurdle.

The 1932 Games, marred by the ongoing Great Depression, are not without parallel to the issues facing today’s Olympians in the upcoming games in Tokyo, where athletes are contending with a host of issues related to the ongoing pandemic. Questions that surrounded Didrikson’s gender and sexuality resonate today, too, as women athletes encounter strict scrutiny thanks to the new hormone regulations recently put in place.

Mildred Ella Didrikson was born in Port Arthur, Texas, to Norwegian immigrant parents. Her mother’s affectionate nickname for her, “Bebe,” eventually transformed into her famous moniker Babe—though the athlete claimed that she acquired it after hitting home runs like Babe Ruth in her childhood baseball games. “The Texas Tornado,” “Whatta gal Didrikson” and “Texas Tomboy,” as she was later dubbed by the press, was quick with a story of her athletic prowess—a trait that was often characterized as self-promotion and arrogance. Didrikson was, according to Pieper, “very colorful in her commentary, very boisterous, overzealous, and she knew that she was good.” Everything about her demeanor contradicted expectations for women athletes of the era, and Didrikson complicated what it meant to be a “gal” athlete. “She would show up and say, you know, who’s going to come in second today, Babe is here!” Didrikson biographer Don Van Natta Jr. told NPR in 2011.

The track and field star’s prowess in her chosen sports propelled her to the 1932 Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) championships, where she qualified for the Olympics in three different events (80m hurdles, high jump, and javelin). Of course, Didrikson claimed she could have competed in more events, but women athletes were limited to three. One of the postcards recovered by Rogers depicts Didrikson and Evelyne Hall’s photo-finish at the 80-meter hurdles. The runners can be seen side-by-side as they sped around the track and tore the ribbon in tandem. The dynamic moment captured in the photograph shows Didrikson elbowing past the ribbon while her competitor celebrates the tie. While their racing was extremely similar, their reactions after crossing the finish line diverged.

“Babe Didrikson is celebrating and saying, ‘I’m number one,’” says Pieper. The judges broke into a 30-minute debate to decide the winners. Didrikson’s athleticism certainly carried her across the finish line, but her confidence cemented her win, and she was awarded the gold. Both women set world records with their 11.7-second sprint. Hall ultimately claimed she lost the gold medal only because she was more reserved than Didrikson. In sports, as in broader society at the time, there was “a certain sense of what respectable womanhood looked like,” explains Pieper of Hall’s reticent demeanor.

Still, despite being a gold medalist, Didrikson was widely criticized for not fitting the “respectable womanhood” archetype. Pieper notes the harsh rhetoric she faced in the media, with the press labeling her “muscle moll” and suggesting she was a member of “the Third Sex.” Didrikson’s brash behavior along with her decorated athleticism challenged every imagined ideal for a woman athlete in the 1930s, when rigid gender categorization and expectations for women athletes mirrored broader societal stereotypes for women. “It’s almost as if, through the lens of sports, you can see society in that era,” Rogers notes.

The media treatment Didrikson received in 1932 carries an echo for today’s world athletics. The governing body for the Olympic Games introduced regulations on testosterone levels for female athletes in Tokyo. This rule has already excluded two teenage sprinters from Namibia. The move has been widely critiqued for disproportionately affecting Black women, as well as intersex and trans individuals.

“The policies that have been enacted claim to be more inclusive but have actually put parameters on ‘men’ and ‘women’ as categories more concretely,” says Pieper. In the context



of Didrikson's experience, she says that "I would argue that women [today] who do not uphold conventional femininity are still treated with this same derision, suspicion and cruelty that Babe Didrikson was facing in the 30s."

After the 1932 Games, Didrikson went on to become a star baseball player and golfer, marrying the wrestler and sports promoter George Zaharias in 1938. She spent the last few years of her life advocating for cancer research funding after her colon cancer diagnosis in 1953. The gold medalist and lifelong athlete died of the disease on September 27, 1956.

Didrikson's athletic career, and others' reaction to it, may remind Olympic participants and viewers in 2021 of the strict expectations women athletes have always been subject to, whether in the form of official regulations or societal pressures. Despite the media rumors and speculation that surrounded her, Didrikson should be remembered as an incredible, multitalented athlete, say those who study and write about her. "Whenever I asked my students about Babe Didrikson, they rarely know who she is, which is always a frustration," says Pieper. "I don't think she gets as much historical attention as she should." *By Gracie Anderson, intern with NYT "In Her Words" 07.21.2021*

→photo from August of 1947

On July 20, 2021- exactly fifty-two years after Apollo 11's landing- Wally Funk achieved her dream after SIXTY years of waiting....

It was 1961, and at the age of 22, Mary Wallace "Wally" Funk was the youngest of a group of 13 elite women pilots selected to undergo the same series of medical and psychological tests given to the seven men slated to travel to space as part of Project Mercury: NASA's first human spaceflight program. Known collectively as the Fellow Lady Astronaut Trainees (FLATs), Funk and the 12 other women consistently outperformed men who would go on to become astronauts and instant national heroes, like John Glenn and Alan Shepard. But, for a variety of reasons, including Cold War politics and good-old-fashioned misogyny, none of the FLATs ever made it into space. That is, until this morning, when, at the age of 82, Funk became the oldest person to travel to space — a full 60 years after proving she had what it takes to be an astronaut.

When Amazon and Blue Origin founder Jeff Bezos asked Funk to join him on his upcoming 11-minute suborbital spaceflight, she didn't think twice about the invitation, or her willingness to fly commercial. In fact, in 2010, Funk used her life savings to put a deposit of \$200,000 on a ticket for a future Virgin Galactic flight — a trip that she's still planning to take, her agent recently told *Insider*. Traveling to space has been a lifelong dream for Funk, and she had no plans to let her gender or age stand in her way.

Born in New Mexico in 1939, Funk's first exposure to the world of aviation came before her first birthday, when her parents brought her to a local airport and she had the opportunity to sit at the wheel of a Douglas DC-3, a propeller-driven airliner, *The Guardian* reports. As a child, Funk was interested in mechanics, and practiced flying by jumping off her family's barn wearing a Superman cape. Her official training began when she was a teenager, and she received her pilot's license at the age of 17. By the time she was 20, Funk was working as a civilian flight instructor at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. A year later, she set her sights on space.

After creating and conducting the medical and psychological tests given to the first astronaut candidates in the United States (all of which were men) in 1959, Dr. William Randolph "Randy" Lovelace II wanted to see how women would perform on the same exams. But according to Dr. Amy Foster, their research was rooted in science, rather than activism. "Because women tend to be smaller, they tend to weigh less, and that's a really important element of spaceflight," she tells *Rolling Stone*. "For every pound of cargo — and that means anything that's not equipment that you need — it essentially takes three pounds of fuel. So not only do women weigh less, women eat less food, women drink less water, and they use less oxygen — and that's all cargo. And so from a physiological standpoint, there is financial and technological benefit to flying smaller people."

Today, the group of women who participated in Lovelace's "Women in Space" program is widely known as the "Mercury 13" — a name that Foster says is a misrepresentation of the privately funded program, given that it wasn't actually affiliated with NASA's Project Mercury. "It has always been outside of NASA," she explains. "NASA wasn't funding it, they weren't monitoring it — it was not their program." In fact, because of the informal nature of the testing, the 13 women involved weren't given an official name, Foster says. The "FLATs" moniker emerged when Geraldyn "Jerrie" Cobb — the first woman selected to undergo the tests — used the term in the letters she sent to her fellow pilots inviting them to



the Lovelace Clinic, she notes. But even without a formal title or NASA affiliation, the FLATs made history. “These were women who, in the early 1960s, attempted to break the gender barrier in astronaut training in the United States,” says Dr. Janet Bednarek, an aviation historian and professor of history at the University of Dayton. “Sixty years ago, when someone said, ‘You can’t do that — you’re a girl,’ it was really true.”

Ultimately, Funk and the other FLATs answered Lovelace’s question of whether — in addition to reducing the amount of fuel required for a space flight — women could meet the physical and psychological challenges predicted to be a part of space travel. But despite performing as well as or better than the men of Project Mercury, the women were immediately met with opposition, including from then-Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, who scrawled “Let’s stop this now!” on a letter discussing the FLATs. In the summer of 1962, the FLATs received telegrams informing them that the next phase of their testing — advanced aeromedical examinations — had been cancelled, only days before they were to report to Pensacola, Florida. These tests required the use of military equipment and jet aircraft, but without the backing of NASA, the Navy refused to grant Lovelace and the FLATs use of their facilities.

Two of the FLATs immediately traveled to Washington, D.C. to make their case in front of Congress, and continued to be met with opposition. NASA representatives testified that women did not meet the qualifications necessary to become an astronaut, with Glenn going as far as saying that “the fact that women are not in this field is a fact of our social order.” In reality, NASA made it impossible for women to qualify as astronauts. “NASA, at that point, said they needed people with jet pilot experience,” Foster explains. “But the only way to access jets was through the military, and women were excluded from those roles in the military at the time.”

Undeterred by this setback, Funk continued her trailblazing career as a pilot, becoming the first woman to reach a number of aviation accomplishments, including completing the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) General Aviation Operations Inspector Academy course, working as an FAA field examiner, and serving as an air safety investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). She also never lost sight of her goal of space travel, applying to become a NASA astronaut four times over the next several years, though she was never selected. After retiring from the NTSB in 1985, Funk returned to her roots as a flight instructor. To date, she has logged more than 19,600 flying hours, and taught roughly 3,000 people to fly. *By Elizabeth Yuko, rollingstone.com 07.20.2021*

When (former astronaut) Sara Fisher, executive director of the International Women’s Air and Space Museum in Cleveland, Ohio, and her colleagues first heard that Funk would be making her historic trip to space, they didn’t believe it. “We honestly thought that it was a prank until we started seeing the news blow up here,.. Now, we can no longer say that none of the women became astronauts, because we are in this new era, and Wally is helping to pave the way.”

And that’s not the only history Funk made today: at 82, she became the oldest person to go to space — breaking the record Glenn set in 1998 at the age of 77. “The fact that this is a woman in her 80s getting a chance [to travel to space] is pretty extraordinary, and talks about not only her persistence, but also the changing ideas of aging,” Foster says. “And that Funk’s as fit to do this as anybody else.” Moreover, Bednarek sees a connection between the testing Funk went through as a FLAT in the early 1960s, and today’s commercial space tourism — both of which aimed to make space travel accessible to more people. “Wally Funk is kind of bridging two periods when people are trying to open up spaceflight to those beyond a certain group of very elite male military test pilots,” Bednarek tells *Rolling Stone*. “She was there in the 1960s, and here she is now in 2021, doing it as well.” Bednarek hopes that Funk’s trip to space will spark interest in careers in aviation in another generation — particularly among women, who she says are “still desperately underrepresented” in the field. “If aviation and aerospace are going to continue, it needs all the talent, all the brainpower, all the enthusiasm it can get,” she says. “And by not drawing on half the human population, they’re missing out on a lot.”

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to ALUMNA MEMBER & SUCCESS! CONFERENCE PRESENTER:



Brigadier General Clara Adams-Ender

She is a retired United States Army officer who served as Chief of the United States Army Nurse Corps from September 1987 to August 1991. She was the **first woman** to receive her master's degree in military arts and sciences from the United States Army Command and General Staff College. At her retirement she was the commanding officer at Ft. Belvoir, in northern Virginia.



Stepping into the batter's box in her Kenosha Comets uniform, rookie ballplayer **Marge Villa** could not have imagined this would be the game of a lifetime. It was warm that Wisconsin evening on **June 9, 1946**, but enthusiastic spectators had arrived in droves. Attendance at baseball games of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL) had tripled in the three years since the league's first game. The California-born Latina utility player was about to make history. That night the five-foot-two, 115-pound right-hander drove in nine runs and recorded 11 total bases, surpassing the performance of any other player in the AAGPBL. The stats may have put her in the league record books, but her charisma and charm had already made her a star in her community. Now her life's story is included in a new exhibition, "¡Pleibol! In the Barrios and the Big Leagues/En los barrios y las grandes ligas," now on view at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. And, women's softball is again "official" in the Olympics this time, after debuting in 1996 in Atlanta, but dropped in 2012 and 2016.



On June 19, 1983, astronaut **Dr. Sally Ride** became the first American woman to enter space.

On June 23, 1999, **Col. Eileen Collins** became the first woman commander of a space shuttle mission. (The mission? Launch the Milky Way's most powerful X-ray telescope.) Just four years earlier, she'd broken through another glass ceiling as the first woman to pilot a space shuttle.



06.23.1972 Today, we commemorate the **49th anniversary of the passage of Title IX** with the reintroduction of the Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA). AAUW advocates were key to the passage of Title IX, and we continue to fight today to realize the full promise of the law. We want a grand 50th anniversary celebration in 2022, so we must achieve significant wins this year: Congress must pass GEEA.

On June 28, 1866, **Helen Beatrix Potter** was born in South Kensington, London. The English writer, illustrator, conservationist, scientist and entrepreneur is remembered for her children's books, including the 23 Peter Rabbit tales.



Jessie N. Barringer, 87 of Broad Run, Virginia passed away on Monday, **July 5, 2021**. She was born in Manhattan, New York to the late Charles and Anna Nelson. Ms. Barringer retired as a manager for the Parking Violations Bureau of New York City and moved to Virginia in 1999. Jessie was a tireless advocate for Women's Rights and was a founding member of Prince William chapter of the League of Women Voters.

Ms. Barringer was preceded in death by her husband, Edward John Barringer and is survived by a daughter, Christine Barringer, of Broad Run, Virginia. No services are planned at this time. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Capital Caring Hospice, 24419 Millstream Drive, Aldie, VA, 20105. *Item contributed by branch member, Elaine-* "Jessie was a force for women's equality."






On July 6, 1907, the vibrant and imaginative painter **Frida Kahlo** was born in Coyoacán, Mexico. With her bold unibrow, which she included in her many self-portraits, Kahlo remains instantly recognizable today.



On July 19, 1848, **women's rights activists convened at Seneca Falls**, New York, for a convention that called for women's equality under the law, including a contentious demand to enfranchise women.

AAUW Continues Branch 5-Star Recognition Program

7.1.2021 – 06.30.2022

 Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Host at least 4 mission-based programs that align with the AAUW national strategic plan. ☞ At least 2 programs must have a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion focus and at least 1 program must be in collaboration with one or more branches in your state.
 Advancement <i>(3 of 5 criteria needed for star)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ \$30 per capita (member) gift raised for greatest needs. ☞ Increase your Greatest Needs giving in the last fiscal year by 25%. ☞ Retain 90% or more of your branch membership and submit annual dues by September 30. ☞ Increase the Legacy Circle Members in your branch by 10%. ☞ Make a contribution in honor of AAUW's 140th anniversary to the Greatest Needs Fund.
 Communications & External Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ All existing websites and social media accounts use current AAUW branding and have 3-5 postings with a Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion focus in FY22. (Mission statement and logo are up to date.)
 Public Policy & Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Conduct an annual meeting with a member of Congress, Governor, or a member of their staff around a strategic plan focus. Branches in the same state can work in coalition to achieve this goal. ☞ Ensure a branch public policy chair is appointed who collaborates with the state public policy chair. ☞ Host at least one event where there is an opportunity to sign up for Action Network.
 Governance & Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Branch board develops and uses strategic plan that aligns with AAUW national strategic plan. ☞ Branch board institutes a succession plan to ensure new ideas and perspectives are included in the future leadership. Your branch can use the template in Helpful Resource Links as a guide or your own existing plan. ☞ Appoint a Diversity & Inclusion officer to lead diversity an inclusion planning on behalf of the branch with the support of the board.

Moving Forward in 2021

Dates are based on 2019 U.S. Census data on median earnings for full-time, year-round workers. Because they are observances, adjustments may have been made to avoid weekends and holidays and 2020 reports. It is expected that next year, the data from 2020 will paint a regression of gains.

~~2.11.2020 ↓ 2.23.2021: Asian American Women's Equal Pay Day~~

~~(Asian Women v. White Men - \$0.87 (from \$0.90))~~

~~3.31.2020 → 3.24.2021: All Women's Equal Pay Day~~

~~(Women overall v. Men overall - \$0.82)~~

~~4.9.2020 ↓ 4.10.2021: White women's equal pay day (White Women v. White, non-Hispanic~~

~~Men - \$0.79)~~

~~6.4.2020 → 5.05.2021: Mom's Equal Pay Day (Moms vs Dads - \$0.75)~~

~~Latina mothers are paid \$0.46; Native American mothers are paid \$0.50; Black mothers are paid \$0.52; White, non-Hispanic mothers are paid \$0.71; Asian American and Pacific Islander mothers are paid \$0.90.~~

~~~ 5.15.2021: Women Artists Equal Pay Day (Women Artists v. Men Artists - \$0.74)~~

~~8.13.2020 → 8.3.2021: Black Women's Equal Pay Day (Black Women v. White Men - \$0.63)~~

~~10.1.2020 → 9.8.2021 !! : Native Women's Equal Pay Day~~

~~(Native Women v. White Men - \$0.60)~~

~~10.29.2020 → 10.21.2021 : Latinas' Equal Pay Day (Latinas v. White, non-Hispanic Men - \$0.55)~~

*The trend has been upward and improving from 2018, except in 2019 for Native American Women. At this point, there is no way to know how the effects of addressing COVID 19 will result in a change to the above dates. WE HOPE NEXT YEAR'S DATES WILL SHOW GAINS FOR ALL WOMEN.*

**PROPOSED DATE for SUCCESS! Conference: March 12, 2022 @ Marsteller MS** 

American Association of University Women's Mission:

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

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.

Woodbridge homepage: <http://woodbridge-va.aauw.net/>

AAUW homepage: <http://www.aauw.org>

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**Sandy Lawrence** [sandyaauw@juno.com](mailto:sandyaauw@juno.com)