



Vol 49, Number 2 ~ Woodbridge, VA Branch Newsletter ~ November/December 2021

**Calendar of Events**

<b>November 14<sup>th</sup></b> <i>See inside for news!</i>	<b>Third Annual American Education Week- "Honoring Our Educators" Program</b>	<b>3 pm</b> <i>on zoom</i>
<b>December 11<sup>th</sup> &amp; 18<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Saturdays</i>	<b>Second Annual Holiday Zoom-Ins</b> <i>Sharing, Contests, Door Prizes + More</i>	<b>1 pm</b> <i>on zoom</i>
<b>December 12<sup>th</sup>, Sunday</b> <b>December 16<sup>th</sup>, Thursday</b>	<b>Madigan's Waterfront Dinner</b> <i>Renewing a branch annual event</i>	<b>4 pm</b> <b>5:30 pm</b>
<b>+ More DECEMBER FESTIVITIES!</b>		

**Presidents' Message**

As this newsletter travels to your inbox, we hope that you had a nurturing holiday whether you had dinner at home, shared cooking preparations, or traveled to see family and friends. Both of us were home with family.

*From our first newsletter for the branch's 49<sup>th</sup> year are words that continue to be in our hearts:*

*We've been checking in with so many of our branch members and learned that perseverance and resilience are even more challenging conditions to work toward, given the pandemic and life-changing events. For several of us- with health issues and/or job & career changed environments over the last twenty-one months- frustration is not always finding solace. Yet, support from family and friends, and your branch colleagues, should be there for you. Please know that we will continue to champion for you and each other.*

We both virtually attended the "American Education Week- Honoring Our Educators" program on November 14<sup>th</sup> and were so happy to see branch members presenting, receiving honors, and knowing that several members, alumnae, and friends were also "in the house". For the third year in a row, we have paid tribute both in memoriam to those who have enriched our region as educators and advocates for education and many more who **"carry the torch"** as teachers and advocates for our community and the future leaders. Susan will share the materials and links from the 11.14.2021 event "under separate cover".

**DRUM ROLL, PLEASE! 🎵** We've heard from many branch members with suggestions for December's festivities, most importantly opportunities to both meet and reconnect. **There will be cookie and goody baskets in a progressive drive & stop to members who wish to continue nestling at home.** And, yes, by popular demand **on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> and December 18<sup>th</sup> @ 1 pm-** a zoom-in for all far and wide with costume contests & door prizes, sharing of recipes and family traditions, choral reading of "Twas the Night", and more. Irene will attend the 11<sup>th</sup> and Colleen on the 18<sup>th</sup> and you all can attend both!

**We look forward to getting together.**



**Irene Cromer & Colleen Hauser, Branch Co-Presidents**



## 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. (Please refer to the last page of the newsletter for 2021's) We seek support from the Prince William Board of County Supervisors for an equal pay resolution. Advocating for this for many years, we endured scorn and misogynist statements at citizens' time, 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 & National Working Together for Common Goals

The AAUW –VA VPs for Public Policy, Susan Burk and Denise Murden, conducted a zoom meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup> for branch public policy chairs and other interested members. The purpose of the meeting was to prepare for the upcoming Virginia legislative session.

AAUW – VA three main public policy priorities are:

1. Paid Sick Leave – Sen. Jennifer B. Boysko has reintroduced bill (SB1) for this session.
2. Paid Sick Days – Modest bill was passed last year, unknown what will be introduced this session. Four AAUW members, including myself, met with Senator Richard Saslaw on Oct 20 to seek his support of both measures.
3. Work Place Harassment – Delegate Vivian Watts plans to reintroduce her bill concerning this issue.

State Lobby Day is **January 19, 2022**. Currently we plan to lobby in person, but could switch to virtual. On the evening of **January 18<sup>th</sup>** we will again host a reception for all Virginia female legislators. More information to follow but put these dates on your calendar today. Meanwhile what can you do?

1. Engage with your representatives at all levels of governments. Request a meeting, send emails, make phone calls. Our legislators want to hear from us.
2. Track bills with the Virginia Legislative Information System (LIS). You can access LIS and much more information at <https://viriniageneralassembly.gov/>
3. Sign up for the 2 Minute Activist at <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>
4. Attend the AAUW Public Policy Webinar on Dec 15. More information to follow. Our AAUW Virginia Public Policy co-chairs will be reaching out to branches in the months ahead to help us with these efforts.

On November 22, public policy representatives on the Fairfax City, Reston-Herndon, Springfield-Annandale, Vienna, and Woodbridge AAUW Branches met by Zoom with Congressman Gerry Connolly. All of these Branches include portions of his 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. As expected, much of the discussion centered on the Build Back Better Bill which has passed the House and is now at the Senate – particularly the provisions that support childcare and paid family leave. Paid leave and childcare are critical AAUW policy priorities. Congressman Connolly emphasized the need for continued work by us at the Virginia statehouse to ensure that the stimulus money from the Federal government and the existing Virginia surplus be used to invest in education, equity and other critical needs. A recording of the hour-long meeting is available here: [https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ZF\\_VLVCLnbl6JDR0t24sJobxJ1Et1Ifl521vVF1p175FwQ-9yFtafs1VHYuQXUZ-.rdc9c6MpKslwOhnl](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ZF_VLVCLnbl6JDR0t24sJobxJ1Et1Ifl521vVF1p175FwQ-9yFtafs1VHYuQXUZ-.rdc9c6MpKslwOhnl) Passcode: ZaF=@Y4&

**Important action items came out of the meetings:** even though our Virginia Senators support the Build Back Better Bill, it is important that they hear from constituents about how vital these provisions are for women and families. We need their strong advocacy as the bill proceeds through the Senate. You can reach our Senators through these two links: <https://www.warner.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactpage> and <https://www.kaine.senate.gov/contact/share-your-opinion> .

**Sandy Lawrence**, Public Policy Chair [sandyaauw@juno.com](mailto:sandyaauw@juno.com)

## DECEMBER FESTIVITIES!

Our second annual Holiday Zoom-In will be @ 1 pm on zoom- on both December 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> - with last year's activities- sharing recipes for snacks and family holiday traditions, contests with door prizes for costumes +, choral reading of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, and creating new verses for the 12 days! In addition to the two dinners at Madigan's Waterfront in Occoquan on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> @ 4 pm and Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 pm. There will be meet-ups for meals by "neighborhoods" – Lake Ridge & MidCounty at Ruby Tuesday's, Manassas in OldTown at Okra's, Western County/Warrenton at Blue Ridge Seafood, Montclair/Dumfries/Triangle at the Great American Steak House off 234 that Dorothy and Eileen recommend, north & western residents at the Amphora Diner (now in Herndon), and others based on at least two of us getting together. We already have some RSVPs for the 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> events and look forward to receiving many more after you've ready through the details in this newsletter. There are five members who will be delighted to be part of our branch elves delivering cookies and treats on the progressive sharing drive & stop to share! Let Susan know if you have items to include! Leah, Marlene, Ali, Dorothy, Susan, and Suzanne have been planning to meet for lunch at different spots since the summer- it's time to set dates!

## AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK – Honoring Our Educators 2021

Our third annual program honored eleven community leaders and educators on Sunday afternoon, November 14<sup>th</sup> @ 3 pm, as a zoom webinar. For our inaugural program in 2019, we honored over 60 people and included tributes to those honored at the *SUCCESS! Conference* since 1991. In 2020, under the pandemic restrictions, we presented a virtual webinar and honored eleven people, four in memoriam including branch member, Toni Hill. Eleven educators & educators @heart were honored this year- two in memoriam including Woodbridge Branch member **Shirley Vasy**, a 25-year PWCPs teacher and community activist. Shirley transferred to the Harrisonburg branch in 2010, continuing her AAUW activism. She died in October of 2019. Branch Member **Eileen** presented her tribute, including that Shirley was her son's teacher and a notable story about pink flamingos dressed in holiday garb on her lawn... 😊 **Betty** Bardenhagen knew Susan would be a teacher from her first day of kindergarten. Sadly, she died twenty years ago due to early onset



Alzheimer's disease. In addition to support from the *Greater Manassas Branch*, we have community leaders of our branch and our three jurisdictions of PWC, Manassas, and Manassas Park; current educators; *SUCCESS! Conference* sponsors; and more to help us honor another "class" of worthy people.



**Illana** Naylor has presented many times at the *SUCCESS! Conference* since the 1990s in her role as a nurse and public health awareness through environmental education, is a community leader in inaugurating and coordinating the "Unity in the Community" program with the International Day of Prayer. **Cathy** Drummond is an engaging music teacher with Manassas City Schools and the music director of the Upper Room Theatre Ministry, in which Susan's violin playing was led by her baton in the pit orchestra. Retired Principal who was awarded "Principal of the Year" and current adjunct instructor at Shenandoah University, **Brenda** Lewis, was presented by **Susan** and Brenda's sister, Gloria. Both sisters are sorors of member Mary of *Delta Sigma Theta*, 2019's AEW supporter and longtime sponsor of the *SUCCESS! Conference*. Brenda is an ambassador with the *Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals*. Principal **Chris** Tsang has championed our members' – **Tara and Rose** – children in middle (our Science Fair winners, also) and high school community support projects by hosting them at Neabsco Elementary School; our new member **Shelly-Ann** teaches there and is the teacher leader of **Monica's** Pink Space Theory's GREAT Math Minds project that was awarded an AAUW Community Action grant. We honored **Monica**, too, for all of her efforts through *Pink Space Theory!* **Rebecca** Barnes is the founder and publisher of *Prince William Living*; articles celebrating the STEAM camps & HEAL outreach at Neabsco, Pink Space Theory's programs. She rejuvenated the former Commission for Women's Awards with Influential Women Honorees and has provided copies of the March issues of *PWL* each year for all of the students and presenters at the *SUCCESS! Conference*. **Natasha** Schuh-Nuhfer presented awards and roses to the STEM educators and *SUCCESS!* presenters at the 2019 AEW program and was honored in 2021 as an educator of teachers and the Science Coordinator for

NOVA SySTEMic, a major corporate sponsor of SUCCESS! Her tribute was presented by member **Diane** and 2020 honoree **Zuzana** Steen of Micron, another major sponsor. **Jan** Sutton has supported the SUCCESS! Conference as a presenter and sponsor of materials, resources, and HS/parent driving workshops since 1995. She co-founded the Prince William Professional Networkers (Rebecca is a member!) and is active with both the PW and Fauquier Chambers. **Gretchen** Almstead is a former PWCPS teacher, who like Shirley graduated from Radford College when it was only for women. We included notes about **Cassidy** graduating from Radford University nearly fifty years after Shirley and Gretchen; Cassidy's brother/**Tammy**'s son is working on his Bachelor's degree there in Sports Management. Full circle, generations- much to celebrate! Each of the nine honorees spoke about how they are members of teams and organizations that empower and connect people. Shirley's son, Shaun, shared wonderful remembrances of his mom being his teacher in PWC and the flamingos (recently found in storage, so they may reappear? 😊) and how much his mom enjoyed being active for causes in which she believed.

## MEMBER NEWS & UPDATES



From our American Education Week program, we garnered two new branch members. **Brenda** has been a National AAUW member since 2010 and is pleased to become part of our branch. She was honored in the program as a Principal of the Year, a creative force of the Manassas African American Heritage Festival, and a life member of the *National Congress of Negro Women* and *Delta Sigma Theta*. **Shelly-Ann** has been working with Monica, Sandy, and Susan since the summer to plan and lead the teaching of the GREAT Math Minds Program, beginning in October through April. She is from Jamaica and is impressed by our members she's met and what we do. *{Photo is from a guest speaker Friday session.}*



This year we've had four marriages our members wish to share with us! **Lyndsay**, who joined our branch in 2014 when she was pursuing graduate work, remained with our branch while in Richmond at VCU and is now stationed in Savannah, ready to zoom again for our 12.11 event. Before completing her final months-long Army intelligence school in Missouri, she and her fiancée Jessica got married in mid-March. *{Photo is from 2021 summer vacation with Lyndsay's family}* **Julie**, artist and presenter with the Workhouse, and new member from this spring, is such a happy mom of the bride for her daughter, Kate. Both Kate and her dad, Joe, supported Julie's first program and our first zoom with the branch. Kate, the Seaside Center Manager &



Curatorial Associate at the Bruce Museum in CT, presented an awesome program which I attended virtually in April. *{Photo of parents of the bride, whose dress is hinted at next to her father}* **Dorothy's** great niece was married on November 13<sup>th</sup> and our member so delightfully got to spend wonderful family time with relatives she hadn't seen in many years. *{Her photo is of Champagne Wall-a delightful wedding practice-find the flute with the medallion which contains your name and table number. Find your place and be ready to toast the happy couple.}* Alumna, **Ali**, celebrated the marriage of her son in October. Ali is looking forward to getting together at Ruby Tuesdays. *{She chose a reception photo with the happy parents and their son, with her new daughter-in-law and her bridesmaids.}*



### ***Mazel Tov! and Best Wishes to All!***

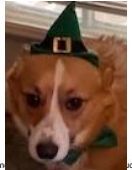
In thanksgiving we were able to share with families and friends. **Tammy, Cassidy, and Susan** posed after talking teacher before turkey. **From Colleen:** Happy thanksgiving to all! It is a happy one for me! My treatment is working and my cancer is receding. I still have treatments to go. But, it certainly is happy news! God Bless One and All! Thank you for your prayers! **Karen** traveled back to Oklahoma and shared dinner with neighbors, as she endeavors to visit all of the places she and her father would have visited within a day trip's distance or an AirB&B overnight site, working to complete her dad's bucket list.





**Irene** is joyful to share her "horse grandmother role" with Fia expecting her first foal in April. **Suzanne** and Chuck will be parading their Corgis (who we "met" at the first holiday zoom-in) in Irene's neck-of-the-woods at the Middleburg Christmas Parade on Saturday. On a tearful note, almost a year after **Susan** lost her 9 year old kitty to cancer, **Sandy's Sid** died the Sunday before Thanksgiving. We miss both of them nudging us to interrupt zoom meetings.

*Please share your news and photos for the January Newsletter!*



Sid the cat died this morning with me and then laid on his side for two, but it looked like he was breathing. The next time I looked, he was dead. He will be missed, he was such a great cat



**Susan Bardenhagen, Membership/Program VP** [smbaaauw@gmail.com](mailto:smbaaauw@gmail.com)

## *EQUITY, & INCLUSION*

*A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions  
and the roots spring up and make new trees. — Amelia Earhart*

**Love and magic have a great deal in common.  
They enrich the soul, delight the heart. And they both take practice. -- Nora Roberts**

*People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out,  
but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within. -- Elizabeth Kübler-Ross*

**Amplify their voices. Don't speak for them! ~ Reverend Palmer, St. Michaels City, MD**

*Diversity is being invited to the party. Inclusion is being invited to dance.  
Belonging is being asked to help select the music. ~ Constance Hope {AAUW Webinar 12.2.2021}*

AAUW has a DEI Toolkit and Videos of Webinars that are both informative and useful for individuals and groups wishing to effect a change to "Inclusive Spaces". This link will connect you to access:  
<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/plugin-play-dei-programming/>

11.17.2021 Today, *The Legal Defense Fund* announced that President and Director-Counsel Sherrilyn Ifill will pass the leadership torch in the spring of 2022 after nearly a decade leading the organization through its greatest period of growth and transformation. Janai Nelson, LDF's current Associate Director-Counsel who has worked alongside Ms. Ifill for nearly eight years, will become the next President and Director-Counsel of the storied organization founded in 1940 by Thurgood Marshall.

**Jane Goodall still has hope for humans** - At a time when bad news — the pandemic, climate change, racial injustice — feels overwhelming, it can be surprising to hear from an optimist. Jane Goodall may be best known for her work studying the chimpanzees of Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania, but her efforts to promote conservation through the Jane Goodall Institute also have focused on people, primarily through anti-poverty and youth education programs. Her latest contribution toward helping humans avoid self-destruction is [The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times](#). In her book, co-written with Douglas Abrams, Dr. Goodall outlines the four things that give her hope: human intellect, the resilience of nature, the power of young people and the “indomitable” human spirit. But I haven’t spoiled the book for you. The reason to keep reading (or listening to Dr. Goodall narrate part of her audiobook, which I recommend) is that Dr. Goodall shares stories from her own life experiences and the people she has encountered to make her case for hope. *{Excerpt from New York Times, Wellness Feature, 10.21.2021- Tara Parker-Pope}*

## STEM & STEAM from Suhani & Susan

**NASA astronaut Jessica Watkins will be the first Black woman to complete a long-term mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS) for the forthcoming SpaceX Crew-4 launch, the space agency announced in a statement. The launch is scheduled for April 2022 and will be Watkins's first voyage into space. She will be the SpaceX Crew-4 team's mission specialist.** Joined by NASA astronauts Kjell Lindgren, Robert Hines, and European Space Agency (ESA) astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti, Watkins will complete a six-month science mission in the ISS's microgravity laboratory and serve as the team's mission specialist.



A feat she hopes will set an example to children of color. "Particularly young girls of color, to be able to see an example of ways that they can participate and succeed," Watkins tells the *New York Times*' Joey Roulette. "For me, that's been really important, and so if I can contribute to that in some way, that's definitely worth it."

Watkins earned a bachelor of science degree in geological and environmental sciences from Stanford University and completed a doctorate program in geology at the University of California, Los Angeles, Robert Lea reports for *Newsweek*. Watkins studied landslides on Mars and other surface processes on the Red Planet during her doctorate study. During her Watkins interned for NASA at the Ames Research Center and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). "Those experiences were really what helped shape me as a scientist and an explorer," Watkins said in a statement.

Soon after completing her doctorate, Watkins worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the California Institute of Technology. She was a member of the science team that worked on planning missions for NASA's Curiosity Rover. While at CalTech, Watkins was selected for NASA's Astronaut Candidate Class in 2017, where she was trained on ISS operating systems and spacewalk simulations. Aside from completing her mission on the ISS, Watkins is among the 18 astronauts selected to join NASA's Artemis team who will be the first to step on the moon since the Apollo missions 50 years ago, reports Meghan Bartels for *Space.com*. The Artemis program will include the first woman and the first person of color to reach Earth's natural satellite. **From *Smithsonian's Daily Correspondent- Elizabeth Gamillo, November 19, 2021;***

**Photo: NASA/Bill Ingalls**

**In 19th-Century New England, This Amateur Geologist Created Her Own Cabinet of Curiosities-** A friend of Henry David Thoreau, Ellen Sewall Osgood's pursuit of her scientific passion illuminates the limits and possibilities

placed on the era's women. On Christmas Day in 1839, 17-year-old Ellen Sewall received gifts from two suitors who happened, unfortunately, to be brothers- John and Henry David Thoreau... (She did not accept either's proposal.) At some point around a decade after they first met, Henry, who would go on to become a Transcendentalist philosopher and the author of *Walden*, sent Osgood another gift: an intricately built box designed to hold rocks and minerals. Now housed at the Concord Museum {*photo credit*}, this box—and the collection of specimens within it— was the product of her lifelong interest in geology and her friendship with the now-famous Henry. {*Because women weren't expected to have such interests, the collection box had been attributed to her husband until recent research revealed the true owner.*}



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Intriguing in its own right, Osgood's romance with Henry also offers an unexpected glimpse into how middle-class women pursued their passion for science during the 19th century. Henry's own interest in geology has been well documented by scholars who highlighted his work surveying the depths of Concord's Walden Pond and collecting specimens. But Osgood's comparatively overlooked collection reveals how she developed her own distinctive scientific practice, offering a tangible record of how women of the period found ways to pursue education beyond the classroom. Nineteenth-century women were rarely able to participate in professional scientific communities or contribute to natural history museums. (*This trend even applied to such figures as Jane Kilby Welsh, who published a popular textbook on geology, and Orra White Hitchcock, who illustrated her husband's geology textbooks and produced enormous classroom drawings for his Amherst College lectures.*) Instead, most women found alternative ways to study science, creating collections at home or participating in informal networks centered on obtaining and exchanging objects.

Osgood became interested in geology as a teenager. At the age of 13, she began attending the Roxbury Female Academy in Massachusetts, where she studied a wide range of subjects, from Latin and German to geography, natural history, astronomy and chemistry. This curriculum was common for middle- and upper-class women at the time. While young men often received a classical education, young women were more likely to receive basic training in science; then considered a "girl's subject," according to historian Kim Tolley, these educational practices would shift a few decades later to make science a more male-dominated field, much like STEM today. In letters to her parents, Osgood shared her growing enthusiasm for her scientific studies. Taught by Benjamin Kent, a graduate of the Harvard Divinity School, she

studied astronomy with “magic lantern” projectors—a popular form of entertainment in Victorian parlors. Osgood described “a very pleasant and quite instructive evening” spent viewing slides of lunar and solar eclipses and the transit of Venus. She also wrote enthusiastically about the “interesting experiments” she’d observed in her chemistry class...

The fact that Osgood’s collection survives intact—or at all—is notable and perhaps inseparable from her lifelong friendship with a famous writer. Both the opal and the wooden box have long been characterized by their connections to Henry, but they also provide a rare and tangible record of how Osgood herself studied natural history and maintained her own collection. By rethinking these objects in relation to their owner, modern observers can more clearly see the informal methods and social networks through which she managed to pursue her interests in science—and imagine how many other women did the same. *Excerpted from SmithsonianMag.com, Reed Gochberg, 11.19.2021*

### **A 1787 letter that finds Catherine the Great strategizing about how to get the Russian public inoculated against smallpox is going up for auction next month -**

“[O]ne of the most important [tasks] should be the introduction of inoculation against smallpox, which, as we know, causes great harm, especially among ordinary people,” the Russian empress wrote to Count Pyotr Aleksandrovich Rumyantsev. “Such inoculation should be common everywhere.” The missive includes ideas about how to accomplish this goal, including setting up lodging in abandoned monasteries and convents for people who traveled from afar to get inoculated.

At the time the letter was penned, smallpox posed a devastating global threat. In the absence of vaccines, the disease killed three out of every ten people who contracted it, per the CDC. Known as variolation, the inoculation method promoted by Catherine was far more dangerous than modern vaccines, involving the introduction of the smallpox virus itself into people’s bodies. It was only in 1796 that British doctor Edward Jenner began experimenting with using the far less deadly cowpox as a form of vaccination against smallpox. To inoculate people through variolation, doctors cut incisions in healthy people’s arms and introduced small amounts of material from the pustules of an individual suffering from the disease. The method carried about a 2 to 3 percent risk of death, versus the natural smallpox death rate of 30 percent.

Performed correctly, variolation provided immunity against the disease—but it came with risks: namely, “[t]oo potent a dose and the patient would contract a dangerous case; too little and they wouldn’t produce antibodies.” Similar protective procedures existed in parts of the Ottoman Empire and Africa, but when introduced in Russia in the 18th century, many people opposed them. “Doctors howled against the insane novelty, preachers howled at it from church pulpits,” wrote Russian historian Sergei Soloviev. “Catherine decided to put an end to the Russian public’s hesitation by her own example.” And so, in 1768, Catherine had the English doctor Thomas Dimsdale travel to St. Petersburg to inoculate her and her son, the future Paul I, against smallpox. “Just in case the procedure failed, and she died, Catherine prudently provided the doctor with protection against any reprisals by her subjects, and she ordered that a mail carriage should be kept ready for him, as he might need to leave the country in a hurry.”

Catherine’s interest in vaccination was part of her broader desire to spread Enlightenment ideals... Hailing from a noble but impoverished Prussian family, she rose to power by marrying the grandson of Peter the Great and organizing a coup against him just months after he took the throne in 1762. Over more than three decades in power, Catherine led aggressive military actions, organized major artistic and cultural projects, and attempted—unsuccessfully—to abolish Russia’s feudal system. The empress promoted vaccination with the distribution of printed material and a ballet, *Prejudice Defeated*, which celebrated the victory of science over superstition. Nevertheless, inoculation against smallpox remained far from universal during her reign. *{excerpted from 10.24.2021, Smithsonianmag.com, Livia Gershon}*

## **BRANCH BUSINESS**

Your branch board has put together our 2021-2022 budget and voted unanimously to accept the draft to forward to the branch members for their voting. It appears on the next page of the newsletter. You can compare to the 2020-2021 budget and see new line items for Science Fair, one time contribution to AAUW's 141<sup>st</sup> "birthday" and preparation for our 50<sup>th</sup> "birthday". We need to have at least 25 of our members to vote (half the membership).

**PLEASE EMAIL SUHANI, OUR SECRETARY, WITH YOUR VOTE. [Pant.suhani97@gmail.com](mailto:Pant.suhani97@gmail.com) by FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support.**

**Woodbridge AAUW Proposed Budget for 2021-2022 (approved by Branch Board 12.03.2021)**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Proposed 2020-21</b>	<b>Actual 2020-21</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Proposed 2021-22</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>			<b><u>Income</u></b>	
\$12 Dues from 42 Members	504.00	540.00	\$12 Dues from 49 Members	588.00
United Bank Cash on hand 6.30.2021	n/a	716.47	United Bank Cash on hand 11.30.2021	963.47
Grants & Initiatives from VA- AAUW: Membership Award & Mini-Grant for "Starting Conversations"	325.00	306.31	Grants & Initiatives from VA- AAUW- "Bridging Generations" Mini-Grant	300.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>829.00</b>	<b>1574.78</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1851.47</b>
<b><u>Expense Budget</u></b>			<b><u>Expense Budget</u></b>	
Officers	70.00	50.00	Officers- Postage, Recognition Awards	50.00
State Conferences	115.00	n/a	State Conferences (drive-in 03.26.2022)	115.00
Programs	100.00	100.00	Programs- Zoom cloud storage for Special Programs, door prizes for BINGO & other incentives- <b>Pink Space Theory</b>	100.00
Insurance	185.00	190.00	Insurance	200.00
Newsletter printed copies	50.00	50.00	Newsletter printed copies	50.00
Membership	50.00	50.00	Membership- postage, brochures	50.00
State Dues- Shape the Future and e-grad students, payable to AAUW-VA	0.00	90.00	State Dues- Shape the Future and e- grad students, payable to AAUW- VA	90.00
Directories	100.00	132.50	Directories	150.00
Northern District Dues	10.00	10.00	Northern District Dues	10.00
SUCCESS! Conference	100.00	0.00	SUCCESS! Conference	100.00
Science Fair Prizes & Awards- for 2019 (not reimbursed) <b>and</b> 2020	Not addressed	189.00		
Science Fair Cash Awards, addendum approved by Board 03.20.2021	Added by Board	120.00	2022 Science Fair Awards & Prizes (for virtual, in-person, or hybrid format)	100.00
			<b>Preparation for Branch's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration 1972-2022</b>	50.00
Library of 4 Titles with 6 books each for "Starting Conversations" (VA-AAUW mini-grant)		288.31	Letter Writing Materials & Postage, Docent & Tour Fees for Turning Point Suffrage Memorial & Lucy Burns Museum (VA-AAUW mini- grant funded)	300.00
			<b>140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Donation to AAUW 1881-2021</b>	140.00
Contingency		304.97	Contingency	246.47
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>1574.78</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1851.47</b>



## HERstory/THEIRstory: Writing Women & the Under-Represented into History for NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

The AAUW Achievement Award is presented to an individual whose record of achievement in any scholarly or professional field spans 20 or more years. Through this award, AAUW publicly recognizes the highest standards of service in the public and private sectors. The award underscores the significant accomplishments of those who advance the goals of AAUW and is presented biennially at the AAUW National Convention. A new monthly feature of our newsletter will be highlighting those women who have been honored. The editor thanks Karen for collecting the dates for the women listed on AAUW's site. She had to use a naturalization record, a ship entry, and a Social Security to research the information I requested! The first date is the year in which the person was honored. We will continue our Women's Herstory programs in February and March, and play Women's History BINGO- adding some women from this roster each time. Let us know if you have met the person, studied them, or were in attendance at an AAUW National Convention when they were honored.

1958: **María Rosa Lida de Malkiel** November 7, 2010-September 25, 1962 - Philologist. Teacher of Greek, Latin, and medieval and modern Hispanic literature at American universities and the University of Buenos Aires. Published studies on the survival of classical antiquity in literature.

1993: **Wilma Mankiller** November 18, 1945-April 6, 2010 - First female chief of Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.

2001: **Rita R. Colwell** November 23, 1934 - First woman director of the National Science Foundation.

1949: **Helen C. White** November 26, 1896-June 7, 1967 - President of AAUW. First woman to chair the University of Wisconsin, Madison, English Department. Member of the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO.

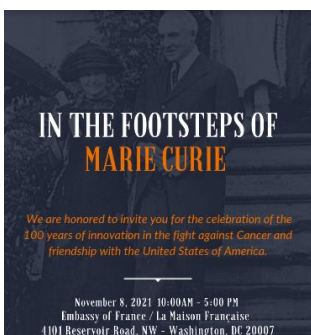
1966: **Dora J. Dougherty** November 27, 1921-November 19, 2013 - Pilot and member of the Woman Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) program during World War II and the Whirly-Girls, an international association of women helicopter pilots. As a human factors aeronautical engineer, researched pilot performance and cockpit design. Helped to legally validate WASP service as active duty military service, allowing women pilots from World War II to gain veteran's status and benefits.

1955: **Rosemond Tuve** November 29, 1903-December 20, 1964 - First woman professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania. Scholar of medieval and Renaissance literature and the poets Spenser, Milton, and Herbert.

1984: **Joan Ganz Cooney** November 30, 1929 - Co-founder and former chair and chief executive officer of the Children's Television Workshop, which produces *Sesame Street* and other children's programming; received Kennedy Center Honors in 2019.

1983: **Grace Murray Hopper** December 9, 1906-January 1, 1992 - U.S. Navy rear admiral. Co-inventor of the computer language COBOL. Upon retirement was the nation's oldest active-duty officer; was part of Sandy's promotion ceremony in the Navy!

1978: **Margaret Mead** December 16, 1901-November 15, 1978 - Cultural anthropologist. Second woman president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Curator emeritus of the American Museum of Natural History and outspoken leader of the feminist movement.



**11.08.2021: Honoring Marie Curie-** In 1920, the Association of Collegiate Alumnae (the predecessor to AAUW) identified a groundbreaking scientist they wanted to support: Madame Marie Curie. Members helped raise funds to purchase a gram of radium for Curie to use in her research at a cost of \$100,000. The Marie Curie Radium Fund was so successful that it raised an additional \$56,000 over the required amount- the surplus of which established a fund that continues to support women scientists today. On November 8, 1921, Scientist & Soon to Be Nobel Laureate Marie Curie made an historical visit to the United States, with her two daughters, invited by a journalist, Mrs. Meloney, **to receive the radium**. One hundred years later, the descendants of Marie Curie and Mrs. Meloney met in Washington, DC at the Embassy of France to the US, to celebrate this centennial. Newly appointed AAUW CEO






Gloria Blackwell was a guest speaker. The celebration was hosted by *The Curie Institute* in Paris. In 1958 AAUW created the Educational Foundation, which continued the work of a fellowship program that had been in place since 1888 with one of its recipients being Curie. {Editor's note- in attempting to collate the historical documentation of this event, I found different details. Please use this link to get "the whole scoop". <https://ww3.aauw.org/article/when-marie-curie-needed-radium/> and this one for the continued funding <https://institut-curie.org/actualite/publication/institut-curie-developing-artificial-intelligence-tool-diagnosing-cancer-un> }

# AAUW Continues Branch 5-Star Recognition Program

7.1.2021 – 06.30.2022

*Our plans are written in this color and goal swirls are highlighted to show our intent. Please help support your board's wish to maintain our 2019-2021 "Five Star" status! Thank you!*

**Green highlighted means we have accomplished the requirement.**

 <b>Programs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Host at least 4 mission-based programs that align with the AAUW national strategic plan. <b>SUCCESS! 2022; Continue "Finish the Fight" Programs; Support "GREAT Math Minds" +</b></li> <li>☞ 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. <b>American Education Week- "Honoring Our Educators" 2021 with Greater Manassas Branch ++</b></li> </ul>
 <b>Advancement</b> <i>(3 of 5 criteria needed for star)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ \$30 per capita (member) gift raised for greatest needs, during FY22 (7.1.2021-6.30.2022). <b>Gifts from 1.1.2021-6.30.2021 count toward state named gift honorees for our branch- each @ \$500.</b></li> <li>☞ Increase your Greatest Needs giving in FY21 by 25%.</li> <li>☞ <b>Retain 90% or more of your branch membership and submit annual dues by September 30. We had 93% and 95% by 10.31 Thank you!</b></li> <li>☞ Increase the Legacy Circle Members in your branch by 10%.</li> <li>☞ Make a contribution in honor of AAUW's 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary to the Greatest Needs Fund. <b>This is a possible budget item for 2021-22.</b></li> </ul>
 <b>Communications &amp; External Relations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ All existing websites and social media accounts use current AAUW branding and have 3-5 postings with a Diversity, Equity, &amp; Inclusion focus in FY22. (Mission statement and logo are up to date.) <b>Our branch collage photo is #1!</b></li> </ul>
 <b>Public Policy &amp; Research</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ <b>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.</b></li> <li>☞ <b>Ensure a branch public policy chair is appointed who collaborates with the state public policy chair. Sandy continues her active role!</b></li> <li>☞ <b>Host at least one event where there is an opportunity to sign up for Action Network. We have two new branch members after the 11.14 AEW event- one National who transferred and one "brand new". Both for "Action"!</b></li> </ul>
 <b>Governance &amp; Sustainability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ <b>Branch board develops and uses strategic plan that aligns with AAUW national strategic plan.</b></li> <li>☞ <b>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. Our 2020 plan brought three branch members to leadership. We need to do even more!</b></li> <li>☞ <b>Appoint a Diversity &amp; Inclusion officer to lead diversity an inclusion planning on behalf of the branch with the support of the board. We would like a co-officer to co-lead with Susan Bardenhagen to support equitable representation.</b></li> </ul>

## 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)~~

It takes Latinas almost an entire extra year of full-time, year-round work to be paid the average annual earnings of white men. Learn the unfair truth about Latinas and the pay gap and fight for #LatinaEqualPay. <https://www.aauw.org/latinas-and-the-pay-gap/>

*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 2021's DATES for the 2022 calendar WILL SHOW GAINS FOR ALL WOMEN.*

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

**VA AAUW State Conference, Harrisonburg- 1 Day Drive-In March 26, 2022**

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>

Northern District Co-Representatives: **Sara Anderson** [sfpaaauw6382@aol.com](mailto:sfpaaauw6382@aol.com) and **Sandy Lawrence** [sandyaauw@juno.com](mailto:sandyaauw@juno.com)

AAUW of Virginia homepage <http://aauw-va.aauw.net>