



**Vol 49, Number 3 ~ Woodbridge, VA Branch Newsletter ~ January 2022**

**Calendar of Events**

<b>February 12<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Saturday</i>	<b>Annual "Looking to Spring" Luncheon</b> <i>Madigan's Waterfront</i>	<b>noon</b>
<b>February 19<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Saturday</i>	<b>Beginning "Difficult Conversations" Discussion group</b> <i><u>Hillbilly Elegy</u>, by J.D. Vance</i>	<b>10 am</b> <i>zoom</i>
<b>March 5-12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>PW-Manassas Regional Science Fair Virtual Judging</b> <i>More Information &amp; Contacts in newsletter</i>	
<b>March 26<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Saturday</i>	<b>AAUW-VA State Conference in Harrisonburg</b> <i>Program &amp; Registration information – link to website on page 12</i>	

**Presidents' Message**

We hope that you are all safe, well, and keeping toasty! The month of January has flown by with many priorities and issues post winter break that needed addressing. However, we both have read books and wish to get the book discussion groups' parties started! Our branch and many other groups had book groups prior to covid restrictions where folks met in person; many more virtual book groups have occurred in the last two years. Yes, we realize that through our branch members' other organizations, book groups may be abundant.

Rather than do a survey, we decided to just put a date and time and book from our mini-grant project- and those who can and wish to join in can do so. We picked Hillbilly Elegy, by J. D. Vance; a film came out last year with Glenn Close as a main character that some folks may have seen as well. Joyce's husband, Doug, is working on some questions for participants to address to give a focus to the discussion. Susan will set up the zoom for the 19<sup>th</sup>, so let her know if you would like to join us and she'll send you the link with the questions.

We "missed" our annual January movie theater event- we can do it in February. Several branch members are looking through collections and what is available to view for free online on themes of gender equity, women's history, and/or human rights. If you have a suggestion, let one of us know and we will add it to our list. We will let you know what is chosen so we can watch ahead of time and have a zoom program to review, discuss, and enrich our women's history gallery- similar to what we did last year with "Finish the Fight".

One event we can have "on time" is our annual Looking Toward Spring luncheon at Madigan's Waterfront in Occoquan- February 12<sup>th</sup> at noon. RSVP to Susan by the 11<sup>th</sup> at noon and she can get our tables!

CHECK OUT OTHER EVENTS FROM OTHER BRANCHES & DISTRICTS & OUR STATE, too, that are included in this newsletter. Please contact us with ideas and suggestions for branch activities!

**Irene Cromer & Colleen Hauser, *Branch Co-Presidents***  
**[irenecromer1@verizon.net](mailto:irenecromer1@verizon.net) & [colhauser13@gmail.com](mailto: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. (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

Sandy, Colleen, and Susan attended the AAUW-VA forum moderated by state co-chairs for public policy- Denise Murden and Susan Burk (our former northern district co-chair) on Tuesday evening, January 25<sup>th</sup> with State Senator of district #2 Mamie Locke, retired dean of Hampton University. It was quite informative and gave the good turnout of 53 participants from across Virginia a lot of excellent information on current goings-on in our General Assembly. Issues important to AAUW and AAUW-VA include: pay equity, paid sick leave and the category designated by insurance for paid family leave, a ban on salary history- bills and their details were shared.

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.

Join your Southwest District sisters and others for an informative and enjoyable program to meet:

**AAUW-VA President Nominee for 2022-2024: Lane Stone**

**Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-4 pm**

Lane is an active and contributing member of her Alexandria Branch, serving as past Co-President and current newsletter editor. Also, she was a former College/University Chair for AAUW VA. She is a prolific writer and published author of several mystery novels. Check out her website for a preview: [www.LaneStoneBooks.com](http://www.LaneStoneBooks.com) This will be a Zoom event so no need to travel. No reservations necessary. Link will be sent out closer to the event. Let Susan know if you wish to attend though, so she can send you the link. [Smbaauw@gmail.com](mailto:Smbaauw@gmail.com)



Engage with your legislators often throughout the session by email and phone. When you contact your legislator, please let Susan Burk or Denise Murden know. The easiest way to contact them is to use the online contact form at: <https://forms.gle/qG18czsHb1D4pdZq6>

Has Your District Changed? With the court's approval of latest redistricting effort, your district may have changed. To find your district: <https://www.vpap.org/redistricting/voter-impact/?date=2021-12-29&emci=b50fdd6d-276c-ec11-94f6-0003ffc5857e&emdi=a3204f70-9d6c-ec11-94f6-0003ffc5857e&ceid=2905913>

Focus this newsletter has been on our state. Check your inbox for updates from AAUW's national network.

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

## DECEMBER FESTIVITIES & MEET-UPS FOR JANUARY into FEBRUARY

Our second annual Holiday Zoom-Ins were @ 1 pm on zoom- on both December 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>. Last year's activities- sharing recipes for snacks and family holiday traditions and choral reading of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas were reprised. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, co-president Irene welcomed - Susan, Karen (zooming from Oklahoma), Shelly-Ann, Monica, Barb & Elizabeth B. (home from work in the Middle East for the first time in 2 years), Kristina, and Barbara & John. Shelly-Ann shared her grandmother's recipe and family traditions in Jamaica.



On the 18<sup>th</sup>, co-president Colleen welcomed- Lyndsay (zooming in from Atlanta), Sandy, Lillian G., Susan, Eileen, and 2021 AEW honoree & guest, Gretchen. Lillian & her husband, John, happily shared their garb which earned them smiles and applause! In addition, nine members, family members, and a national AAUW member guest had dinner at Madigan's Waterfront in Occoquan on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> @ 4 pm- Sandy, Susan, Irene, Barb B., Eileen, Joyce with Doug & Ross, and Rev. Charlotte (presenter for 2021 AEW and a national AAUW). We changed our plans for the 16<sup>th</sup> for dinner to attending the funeral home for Mary's husband, Alex.

<https://mountcastle.net/obituary/alexandria-king/>

There will be meet-ups for meals by "neighborhoods" – Lake Ridge & Mid-County at Ruby Tuesday's, Manassas in Old Town 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. 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!

## HOT OFF THE PRINTER- OUR NEW 2021-22 BRANCH COLLAGE PHOTO!!



Cassidy McDannell, Nancy Sorenson, Eileen Thrall, Katherine Nelson-Tracey, Lillian Garland, Kristina Crossley, Elaine Cash, Lillian Orlich, Chalet Jean-Baptiste, Diane Mucci, Molly Lynch, Marlene Norton, Betty Covington, Rose Quint, Patty McCoart, Andrea Brothers, Suzanne Harvey, Barbara Ondo, John Starsiak, Karen Wolf, Mary King, Joyce

Eagles, Sandy Lawrence, Susan Bardenhagen, Dorothy Salesses, Kelli Areklett, Julie Dzikiewicz, Irene Cromer, Jeanette Rishell, Louise Morello, Brenda Lewis, Paige Epler, Shelly-Ann McNish, Barbara Blindauer, Tara Lateef, Lucy Adwoa Afful, Nancy Savage, Elizabeth Blindauer, Lyndsay Wilshaw, Pam Epler, Tammy McDannell, Colleen Hauser, Alison Thimblin, Monica Nichols, Marion Lobstein, Leah Tolliver, Suhani Pant, Ashley Areklett



## MEMBER NEWS & UPDATES



There have been many changes to schedules and plans since March of 2020, the summer of 2021 to now and, beyond bodes more of the same uncertainty. *Glimpses of summer and grandchildren are always welcome!*

**Leah** shares her family vacation with her youngest son and his family in Florida in October. **Colleen's** family welcomed her first grandson on her side of the family- Robert, born December 5<sup>th</sup>! He is also family pet approved.



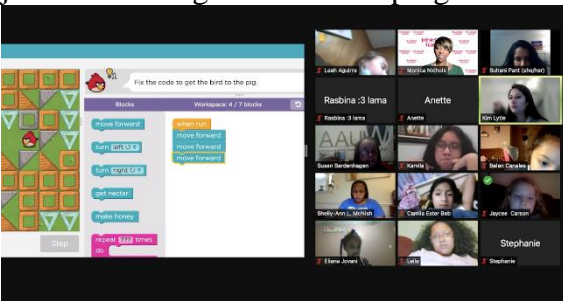
**Shelly-Ann** has joined **Barbara & John** and **Kristina's** family in the audience at the Hylton Performing Arts Center to support **Susan, Andrea,** and Kristina's son Tucker as members of the Manassas Symphony Orchestra.

Sadly, my 95-year old father passed on January 7<sup>th</sup> surrounded by comfort from all four sisters (photo from 2016). He had a brief bout of covid's negative appetite and fatigue that left him quite weak. I did have ten days beginning Christmas week of quality time- watching Wheel & Jeopardy, the Kennedy Center Honors program, "That's Entertainment" with dancers and musicals, and lots of British murder mysteries- which I add to my treasured memories. We had a private family prayer service and military burial (with a Navy chaplain, taps, and a bagpiper) on January 15<sup>th</sup> with a celebration of life planned for May. My youngest sister had digitized our family albums a few years ago and all four daughters contributed to the obituary narrative. There's a lot of history of the late 1920s and 30s of NYC in the photos tab.



<https://www.schepfamily.com/memorials/arthur-bardenhagen/4826804/obituary.php>

**Marion** and George headed to their RV campgrounds in Florida in early December and arrived safely. Their traveling companion for over 18 years and thousands of miles across the US and Canada, Inky the cat, lived a full life but succumbed to the pain and weakness of cancer and kidney disease on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Inky joined us during branch zoom programs from 2020 through 2021.



**Suhani** and her colleague from MITRE have been presenting a session on coding for the GREAT Math Minds program since October, and will continue through April. **Lucy**, PWCPs business teacher, and **Marion**, professor emerita of NVCC and botanist, will be presenting their STEAM careers also for this branch-supported program, in February and for Arbor Day respectively. Lucy supported her middle school students for SUCCESS! conferences and planned to present in 2020, Marion was a presenter in the 1990s. Lucy was a 2019 awardee and Marion a 2020 awardee for the American Education Week- Honoring Our Educators.

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

### BRANCH BUSINESS: Woodbridge AAUW Budget for 2021-2022 Supported by Membership

Thank you to the members who voted online through our secretary and the quorum of members on the December 11<sup>th</sup> Holiday Zoom-In- for approving our budget for the 2021-2022 year. Your board members appreciate your support.

## *EQUITY, & INCLUSION*

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/plug-play-dei-programming/>

**For the first time in its 224-year history, the U.S.S. *Constitution* has a woman captain. Billie J. Farrell, 39, is the 77th commanding officer of the United States Navy's oldest commissioned warship, also known as "Old Ironsides."** Her appointment took place during an official ceremony in Boston on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Farrell relieved John Benda, who'd served as the ship's captain since February 2020.



"To be the commander of [the ship], and have ties to the heritage of our Navy and our country, is just an unbelievable experience," Farrell tells Veronica Stracqualursi of CNN. "And to be the first woman to do it is also special because there are so many women serving our country right now, and so I get a chance to represent them." According to her Navy biography, the career officer graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2004. She previously served as the executive officer aboard the Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser U.S.S. *Vicksburg*. {*Smithsonianmag.com, David Kindy 01.27.2022*} *Note from our member, retired Navy CDR, Sandy, "I have toured the ship several times, although not when women were allowed to serve on it."*

**On Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, AAUW-VA's DEI Chair, Cyndi Shanahan moderated an excellent panel on "Creating Inclusive Spaces".** There were only 100 spaces, which filled within a few minutes of Sandy & Susan logging in. It was an excellent session. Below is a link to the recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHYFDV2XYRc>

The question that the panelists were responding to at the beginning was:

Do you agree with the AAUW definitions for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging? Can you expand on them to provide more context? *Patsy Quick sent the slides in a power point. If you would like to view these, please e- me and I will forward, [smbaauw@gmail.com](mailto:smbaauw@gmail.com)*

### **Greater Richmond Branch's Program: February 12 at 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM**

Bon Air Presbyterian Church, 9201 W. Huguenot Rd N. Chesterfield 23235. A mask is preferred.

The meeting will also be on Zoom \*\*.

### **LGBTQ+ Boundaries & Terminology: How to Respect, Understand, and be Inclusive of Queer Identities**

**Presenters: Dr. Erica Brown-Meredith**, Longwood University Social Work Assistant Professor & Program Coordinator of CLASP (Collaborating with Lancers for Student Success)

**Megan Feuti**, Longwood University Social Work Intern

This presentation will explain and identify LGBTQ+ identities including gender and sexuality. It will demonstrate how to respectfully refer to people who identify as transgender in social settings as well as explain the difference between biological sex and gender.

\*\* To get the link email Kathy Kelley at: [kathyAAUW21@gmail.com](mailto:kathyAAUW21@gmail.com)

## AAUW Community Action Grants for 2021-22

We can be proud of past and present branch members who are sponsors and grantees of the AAUW Community Action Grants programs. From 2021-22's recipients, we celebrate two:

### Community Action Grant Recipient with "our" branch's *Susan Nathanson Fairey's Grant Funding* (with 16 additional sponsors)

**Recipient:** [After-School All-Stars](#)

**Project Director:** Daniela Grigioni

**Award Year:** 2021-22

**Award:** Community Action Grant

**Location:** Washington, District of Columbia

**Term:** One-Year

**Project Name:** Girls in STEM

After-School All-Stars' mission is to provide underserved young students with opportunities to explore their own potential. The program works with populations that are extremely underrepresented in the professional fields of science, math and technology. The problem begins with lack of exposure and self-confidence, so that passion is not ignited and personal potential remains untapped. After-School All-Stars provides girls with a space to explore, develop a passion for science and gain self-confidence through engaging STEM programming and mentorship.



**Recipient:** [Pink Space Theory](#)

**Project Director:** Monica Nichols, (Woodbridge Branch Member)

**Award Year:** 2021-22

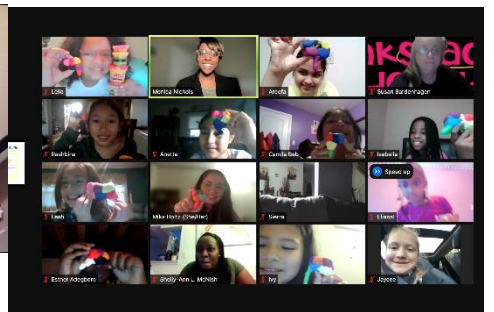
**Award:** Community Action Grant

**Location:** Woodbridge, Virginia

**Term:** One-Year

**Project Name:** G.R.E.A.T. Math Minds Afterschool Enrichment Program

Pink Space Theory exposes, engages and empowers girls with STEAM learning to prepare them for their future career paths. The G.R.E.A.T. Math Minds program builds girls' math confidence and abilities through an advanced math curriculum, tutoring and exposure to women in engineering and physical-science careers. G.R.E.A.T. stands for: Girls who are Responsible for their thoughts Excited about learning new things and not afraid to Ask questions and Take risks.



**Pink Space Theory's GREAT Math Minds Program has 16 students from two PWC elementary schools who have been attending 3x a week after school to gain confidence in their Math skills and meeting female speakers in STEAM career fields each Friday session. Enjoy the photos of the students!**



## STEM & STEAM from Suhani & Susan

The 2022 **Prince William-Manassas Regional Science Fair** will be a virtual event again this year, with online judging taking place between March 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> when judges review abstracts, students' video presentations, record their notes, and meet on zoom to determine awardees. We need a team of at least 4-6 people to review the projects for consideration for our over 24 years of involvement project. Please contact Suzanne [Harvey.suzanneL@gmail.com](mailto:Harvey.suzanneL@gmail.com) or Susan [smbaauw@gmail.com](mailto:smbaauw@gmail.com)

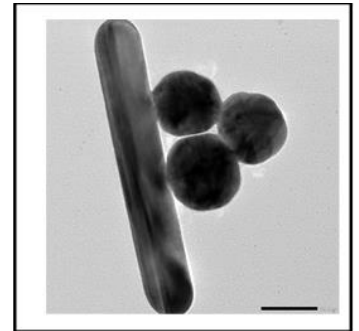
*We LOVE sharing about our members, too!!*

**Imparting a Lifetime of Microscopy Experience – American University’s Andrea Blake Brothers**

<https://www.jeolusa.com/APPLICATIONS/REALab-Customer-Stories/American-University>



**Andrea has been a SUCCESS! Conference presenter for many years, a VAST STEAM presenter, a branch member, a 2019 American Education Week- Honoring Our Educators awardee, and also a violinist with the Manassas Symphony with Susan. The photo on the right was taken by Andrea with an electron microscope.**



**It took her 155 days, but 19-year-old Zara Rutherford accomplished her goal: to become the youngest woman to fly solo around the world.** Last week, her plane touched down in Kortrijk, Belgium, completing a globe-trotting trip that spanned five continents and 28,000 nautical miles, report Taylor Haney and Scott Neuman for NPR. “I made it,” the British-Belgium native told reporters upon her arrival at Kortrijk-Wevelgem Airport, per Tamara Hardingham-Gill of CNN Travel. Her journey was expected to take three months but lasted two months longer due to poor weather and visa problems. Rutherford departed Belgium on August 18 in a Shark UL plane, a two-seat ultralight plane equipped with extra fuel tanks, two radios and a parachute. Along the way, she landed in 41 countries, staying in some for weeks at a time while waiting for flying conditions to improve or for entry approval at her next destination.



“The hardest part was flying over Siberia—it was extremely cold and if the engine was to stall I’d be hours away from rescue. I’m not sure I would have survived,” she says at a press conference, according to BBC News. {David Kindy, 1.24.2022 *Smithsonianmag.com*}

**AIAA Daily Launch 12/7/2021 NASA Reveals 10 New Astronaut Candidates For Future Missions:** On 12.6, NASA revealed the four women and six men who “comprise the U.S. space agency’s 23rd group of astronaut candidates since the original Mercury 7 were chosen in 1959 and the first to be recruited since the start of NASA’s Artemis moon program.” The new class of 10 “was narrowed from a pool of more than 12,000 applicants.” Florida Today (12/6) reports that the candidates are Nichole Ayers, 32, Marcos Berrios, 37, Christina Birch, 35, Deniz Burnham, 36, Luke Delaney, 42, Andre Douglas, 35, Jack Hathaway, 39, Anil Menon, 45, Christopher Williams, 38, and Jessica Wittner, 38. The Daily Mail (UK) (12/6) reports that the 23rd class of new astronauts has been deemed the “Artemis Generation.” CNN (12/6) reports that this is “**the first time NASA has required their astronaut candidates to hold a master’s degree in a STEM field.**” The New York Times (12/6) reports that NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said, “Alone, each of these candidates certainly has the right stuff, but together, they represent exactly the creed of our country – e pluribus unum – out of many, one.”

## Alma Thomas as an Artist, Civil Rights Advocate, and Lifelong Learner

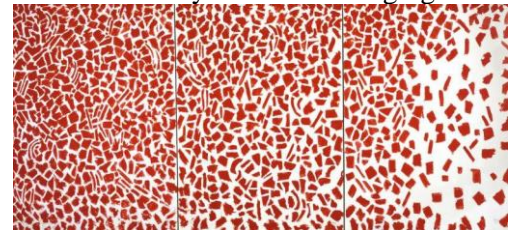
What if the world was changing all around you and you could catch the most exciting, inspirational, and beautiful bits on canvas? While facing change and challenge, artist Alma Thomas found beauty all around. Alma Thomas was an integral part of the Black art world during her lifetime. She is known for her contributions to developing Black artists and her own abstract, nonobjective painting style. Inspiration was everywhere for artist Alma Thomas; her work, which combined her interests in history, science, nature, and music is joyfully multi-faceted.

Thomas was part of the Great Migration. She was born into a middle-class African American family in Columbus, GA in 1891. Her family left their garden-ringed house in 1907, a year after the [Atlanta Massacre](#). They moved to Washington, D.C., where there was a strong Black middle class as well as access to higher education but de facto segregation was still common. As a student in D.C., Thomas excelled in math and architectural drawing. Later, she attended Howard University (Fine Arts, 1924) and Columbia University Teacher's College (1934). While working as a full-time art teacher, Thomas attended American University where she studied painting (MFA, 1960).

Throughout her adulthood, Thomas contributed to the Black community through the arts and advocacy. In 1936, Thomas founded a club for her predominantly Black students at Shaw Junior High School. They met on Saturdays to explore art and visit museums. Later, Thomas shaped D.C.'s art scene by assisting with the purchase of the townhome that would become one of the first Black-owned galleries in the U.S., where the work of artists of all races was exhibited side-by-side. At 73, she marched side-by-side with other members of the Civil Rights Movement at the [March on Washington](#).

"I was born at the end of the 19th century, horse-and-buggy days, and experienced the phenomenal changes of the 20th century machine and space age. Today not only can our great scientists send astronauts to and from the moon to photograph its surface and bring back samples of rocks and other materials, but through the medium of color television all can actually see and experience the thrill of these adventures." -Alma Thomas, 1972

Thomas found inspiration through music, nature, science, and the changing circumstances in her life. For example, Thomas listened to a wide assortment of music and even titled her works in musical styles as wide-ranging as chants, concertos, and rock and roll. She blended this interest with inspiration from the natural world around her. Take her 1976 [Red Azaleas Singing and Dancing Rock and Roll Music](#), for example. She trained herself to see familiar plants, like the holly tree outside her home studio, anew: "There are six patterns in there right now that I can see. And every morning... the wind has given me new colors through the windowpanes."



Science also sparked Thomas's creativity. Between 1968 and 1972, NASA conducted 11 space flights and two moon landings. Thomas created at least 14 known paintings inspired by these feats. Like the scientists she admired, Thomas also had to problem-solve and innovate. As a petite elder with arthritis, she needed assistance to stand, her arms ached, and her fingers were gnarled. She wanted, however, to paint on big canvases. So, she changed her studio practice and painting style to meet her needs. After getting help to purchase supplies and stretch canvases, Thomas wedged herself between two tables for support. She laid a canvas in front of herself and rotated it to reach all sides. The style she's best known for ("Alma's Stripes") evolved as her arthritis progressed. When applying pats of color became painful, she used arcs and irregular shapes instead.

Due to her curiosity and resolve, Thomas was the first Black woman artist to have a solo exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art in 1971. In 1972, she reflected: "One of the things we couldn't do was go into museums, let alone think of hanging our pictures there. Look at me now." {*Smithsonianmag.com, Elizabeth Dale-Deines & Gwen Manthey, 01.27.2022*}

**Clara Barton Epitomized the Heroism of Nurses** - Two hundred years after her birth, her pioneering commitment to public health has only become more salient. Half a century before she founded the American Red Cross, Clara Barton had her first nursing experience at age 11, when her older brother fell off a barn roof. For nearly two years she remained at his bedside, applying leeches and dispensing medicine. He made a full recovery from serious cranial trauma.

Born on Christmas Day 200 years ago, in North Oxford, Massachusetts, Clara was a timid child. "In the earlier years of my life I remember nothing but fear," she wrote in her 1907 autobiography. But her brothers trained her to be "a superb rider and a crack shot with a revolver," writes historian S.C. Gwynne, and soon she longed to be a soldier. Instead, she began teaching school when she was 17 and eventually founded schools of her own, one in her home state and another in New Jersey, then moved to Washington, D.C. to work as a clerk at the U.S. Patent Office (in the building now the National Portrait Gallery)- she was one of the few women.

The week after the Civil War broke out in April 1861, Barton began nursing Union soldiers at an improvised



camp inside the U.S. Capitol in the Senate chamber, and soon took her skills to the front lines. At the Battle of Antietam, she was giving water to a soldier when a bullet tore through her sleeve, killing him. She also accepted a young man's plea to extract a bullet from his face. "I do not think a surgeon would have pronounced it a scientific operation," she later wrote, "but that it was successful I dared to hope from the gratitude of the patient." A surgeon who was also tending to the wounded that day coined her famous epithet in a letter to his family: "In my feeble estimation, General McClellan, with all his laurels, sinks into insignificance beside the true heroine of the age, the angel of the battlefield."

Barton also worked to improve the fortunes of formerly enslaved people, drafting them as nurses in battlefield hospitals and teaching them to read. Near the end of the war, President Abraham Lincoln approved her proposal to open the Missing Soldiers Office, where she identified 22,000 Union servicemen who had died in captivity and notified their families. She also launched a lecture tour, delivering more than 200 speeches about her war experiences to raise money for relief efforts. A tiny woman, just five feet tall, in lace collars and crinolines, she shared platforms with Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison and Sojourner Truth. In December 1868, she lost her voice, and her doctor advised her to take a break from lecturing and travel to Europe. There she and began volunteering for the International Red Cross in Switzerland in September 1869.

Her time there was a revelation. She was awed by "the work of these Red Cross societies in the field, accomplishing in four months under their systematic organization what we failed to accomplish in four years without it," she later said. As she began petitioning the U.S. government to recognize a domestic chapter of the international organization, she showed the same resolve that had driven her work on the battlefield. President Rutherford B. Hayes turned her down in 1877; Barton had spent the past five years building national support for the agency. In May of 1881, she established the Red Cross on her own with a small staff. Four months later, forest fires tore through Michigan, leaving 500 dead and thousands more homeless. Without waiting for federal recognition, Barton used the new agency to issue appeals for help nationwide, raising enough money, food and supplies to aid 14,000 survivors. The Red Cross was officially incorporated in Washington, D.C. the next month. Barton led the agency for the next 23 years, aiding countless victims of floods, hurricanes, tidal waves and typhoid fever, as well as those wounded in the Spanish-American War. She died of pneumonia in April 1912 at the age of 90, three days before her agency rushed to aid survivors of the *Titanic*. {*Smithsonianmagdaily.com*, by *Kate Bolick*, 12.2021}



**Gabby Giffords Knows What Political Violence Can Do - On the 11th anniversary of her shooting, and a year after Jan. 6, the former congresswoman reflects on how political violence changed her life** It was unusually cold in Tucson, too, eleven years ago this week, the morning Giffords showed up at local Safeway to meet with constituents. One year into her third Congressional term, Giffords was a rising Democratic star: the youngest woman ever elected to Arizona's state senate, the first Jew to represent Arizona in Congress, and the third woman Arizonans had sent to Washington in the state's entire history. The New York Times even floated her name as a contender to be the first female president. All of that was before a gunman opened fire on her and a crowd of others gathered in the supermarket parking lot that morning, injuring 17 people and killing six...

I had to relearn how to do everyday things that once came easily for me, things that I had taken for granted. I'll never take walking and talking for granted again. I'm proud of myself — and grateful for the incredibly talented nurses, doctors, and therapists who helped me, and who continue to help me — for all of the progress I've made. I'm especially proud of relearning the French horn and celebrating my bat mitzvah, where I played "Amazing Grace"! Aphasia presents new challenges each and every day, but I take them one day at a time and move ahead...

This year, like every year, Giffords will return to the Safeway parking lot on January 8, where she'll leave flowers. Then she'll hike the Gabe Zimmerman trail, a two mile loop named for a staffer of hers who was killed that day. When the anniversary has passed, she'll move ahead: practicing and studying and setting new goals for herself. Last year, at age 51, Giffords celebrated her bat mitzvah. This year, Giffords — once fluent in Spanish — will restart lessons in an effort to regain those skills. ...

**What has it been like learning a new instrument and what, if any, difference has practicing made in other parts of your life?** I actually played French horn as a young girl—I started taking lessons when I was 13. It's been wonderful to pick this instrument up again as part of my recovery. Playing "America" as part of the 2020 Democratic National Convention was a high point of my recovery journey. Both the song itself and the speech that accompanied it took so much practice! I truly believe in the power of music to inspire and heal. Sometimes it's easier for me to sing words than it is to speak them, and there's nothing I love more than getting everyone around me to start singing too! "Don't Stop Believing" is one of my favorites. {*RollingStone.com*, *Tessa Stuart*, 01.07.2022; photo by *Maria Tomo*, Getty Images}

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

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.

**1945: Katherine Burr Blodgett** January 10, 1898-October 12, 1979 - Inventor of "invisible glass," which improved the efficiency of lenses used in submarine periscopes and aerial cameras. 1<sup>st</sup> woman to be awarded a doctorate in physics from Cambridge University.

**1981: Juanita M. Kreps** January 11, 1921-July 5, 2010 - First woman U.S. secretary of commerce and the first economist to hold the post. Vice president of Duke University. First woman director of the New York Stock Exchange.

**1997: Marilyn Horne** January 16, 1934 - Acclaimed opera singer. **Marilyn was honored at the AAUW Convention in LA.** (SMB)

**1974: Edith Green** January 17, 1910-April 21, 1987 - Democratic member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Oregon. Served 10 terms from 1955-74. Known as the "Godmother of Title IX."

On January 7, 1955, Marian Anderson became the first African American soloist to perform with the Metropolitan Opera. Anderson fought against many racial barriers throughout her career, becoming a trailblazer in the arts world. After being denied access to a prominent Washington, D.C., venue, she performed an outdoor concert at the Lincoln Memorial that First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt helped organize, and later sang at the same location for the March on Washington in 1963.

On January 11, 1935, Amelia Earhart made the first non-stop solo flight from Honolulu, Hawaii, to Oakland, California, becoming the first person to travel by plane from the islands to U.S. mainland. In 1932, she became the first woman to complete a solo transatlantic flight, and she would go on to break many records in aviation, paving the way for future women pilots.

On Jan. 26, 1890, Nellie Bly set a world record by circumnavigating the globe in 72 days. The intrepid reporter's adventure notably outpaced the fictitious trip taken in Jules Verne's *Around the World in 80 Days*.








**Lunar New Year 2022 brings the Year of the Water Tiger-** Over a billion people in China and millions around the world will celebrate Lunar New Year on February 1<sup>st</sup>. The start of the holiday coincides with the date of the new moon in Asia, which will fall at 05:46 UTC on 2/1. It'll be 1:46 pm in Beijing and 12:46 am EDT. Lunar New Year is a time to honor ancestors and to be with family. On a 12-year cycle, those born in 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, and 2010. Does this include you or family members?

## 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>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 + Book Discussion Groups</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 an approved 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>☞ Ensure a branch public policy chair is appointed who collaborates with the state public policy chair. <b>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>☞ 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. <b>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 2022 – ~~dates are not available yet...~~

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.*

## **VA AAUW State Conference, Harrisonburg- 1 Day Drive-In March 26, 2022 & Part II, Virtual Business Meeting April 30, 2022**

<https://aauw-va.aauw.net/conference-2/> link to information & brochure

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)

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