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**FOCUS**

Volume 49, No. 1

September -October 2022

**Lunch and Outing**

**Saturday, October 1, 12 noon -2 p.m.**

**Lunch hosted by Padmini Chilappagari**

**23872 Welch Ridge Pl., Aldie, VA**

**Outing: Tour Aldie Mill Historic Park**

**RSVP to Padmini by Friday, September 16**

A special afternoon awaits us on Saturday , Oct. 1, at the home of Padmini Chilappagari and her husband Srinivas Chepuri. Padmini has generously offered to provide lunch for us at her Aldie home, instead of our having a Lunch Bunch at a restaurant. Everyone is welcome to come chat with your friends and catch up on summer news as you enjoy the lunch. The menu will be provided by email later.

Padmini, our branch webmaster, joined the Fairfax City Branch shortly before the pandemic began, so many of you have not met her. This is your opportunity to find out about her impressive positions in 2017 at the AAUW national office. As Senior Website Associate, she was responsible for handling 500 branch sites. As the Site Resources manager, she instructed AAUW directors on how to create and manage their Tech Trek websites. Her experiences led her to become an AAUW member dedicated to our mission. Her new-member bio appeared in the March 2020 Focus:

<https://fairfaxcity-va.aauw.net/files/2020/08/Mar.-2020-Focus-Final.pdf> .

After lunch, you may tour the fascinating Aldie Mill Historic Park (free admission), which is located about 6 miles west on Rte. 50 from Padmini’s home. Built between 1807 and 1809, the Aldie Gristmill was once the largest factory of its kind in Loudoun County. The restored gristmill’s tandem metal waterwheels are fully operational. There will be grinding demonstrations on Saturday between 12:00-5:00. You can expect to spend about 45 minutes. Learn more at <https://www.novaparks.com/parks/aldie-mill-historic-park> .

Please **RSVP** by Friday, September 16 to Padmini (padmini89@gmail.com; 571-762-9396). We’ll notify members of those who plan to attend, so you can make your own carpool arrangements. If you know only after Sept. 16 that you can come, please inform Padmini. She probably will be able to accommodate you.

*Directions from Fairfax to Padmini’s house at 23872 Welch Ridge Pl., Aldie:*

Take US 50 West. Take a slight right (north) onto State Route 616. Turn left onto Welch Ridge Pl.

Details: As you drive west on US 50, you’ll encounter the community of Stone Ridge. State Route 616 (Fleetwood Rd. on the right) is about a mile farther. (Rte. 616 is named Lenah Mill Blvd on the south side of Rte. 50.) Turn right onto Rte. 616 and continue for about 0.5 mile. Turn left onto Welch Ridge Pl.

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**President’s Letter**

Dear Fairfax City Branch AAUW members,

I hope you are all doing well. This summer has not gone as I had hoped, as both my husband and I have been sick. As of now, my husband spends almost all his time in bed, as it hurts to sit or stand.  He's been told he has "walking pneumonia," but it hurts too much to walk.

But... let’s talk AAUW!

As some of you know, AAUW has meant so much to me for the past almost 40 years!  I was talking last night about how I spent 10+ years attending all-weekend state board meetings.  I was secretary, Northern Virginia District rep, Public Policy co-VP, and co-president for AAUW of Virginia.  At the local level - at Springfield/Annandale before I moved to Fairfax - I was president, newsletter editor and involved in many projects and special interest groups. I'd HATE to let something that has meant so much to me dissolve. Small contributions by many members make a big difference. I hope that by keeping the Fairfax City Branch active, others might get some of the enjoyment that I do from belonging to such a wonderful organization.

I am now extremely involved with WILPF, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.  Besides serving as national secretary, I am basically doing for the Jane Addams branch, a 250+ member virtual branch, what I do for Fairfax City AAUW.  I try to keep people involved, the biggest job being to format and send on the relevant e-mails I get.

Even though we don't have a Program VP (want to volunteer?), I believe that Fairfax City AAUW members can stay very involved with AAUW due to national, state, Northern Virginia, and local branch in-person and virtual programs.  One's schedule could be very full with AAUW!

But, talking about meeting in-person, there is a Springfield/Annandale meeting that we've been personally invited to and a luncheon for Fairfax City Branch members coming up.  Also, the Fairfax City AAUW will be 50 years old in 2023! *Will you serve on a committee to work on our 50th Anniversary* *celebration?*  If you can contribute, please let Dottie or Kelly or me know!

With thanks to all for your continued membership in a great organization that has strived for women since 1881,

Dianne Blais, President

AAUW Fairfax City Branch

dianneblais at aol.com

703-830-1998   (cell: 703-300-7937)

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**Saturday, October 22, 2022, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. on ZOOM**

**AAUW All-District Meeting**

**AAUW’s CEO Gloria Blackwell**

**Gloria Blackwell,** AAUW’s Chief Executive Officer,will speak to all four AAUW of Virginia districts by Zoom. This program will provide a unique opportunity to meet our new CEO and find out about the operations and goals of AAUW. Gloria’s presentation will be followed by some short presentations. Then each of the districts will hold their own district meeting in a Zoom breakout room. Further information, including registration information for the All-District Meeting, will be provided later.



**Save the date**: AAUW of Virginia’s Northern District meeting, **Saturday, February 25, 2023.**

**The AAUW Diversity Statement**

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race**,** religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

***FORMIDABLE: American Women and the fight FOR EQUALITY: 1920-2020***

Speaker: **Elisabeth Griffith**, author

**Saturday, September 17, 2022, 1:00 p.m.**

**Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke, Virginia**

Co-Sponsored by the AAUW Springfield/Annandale Branch and FCPL

The distinguished speaker is author Elisabeth Griffith, who will relate the story of the both Black and White women’s struggles for equality since the passage of the 19th Amendment, in her new book *FORMIDABLE:**American Women and the fight FOR EQUALITY: 1920-2020*.

**Elisabeth Griffith,** earned her PhD from The American University with an undergraduate degree from Wellesley College. She has been a Kennedy Fellow at Harvard’s Institute of Politics and a Klingenstein Fellow at Columbia Teachers College. Dr. Griffith has spent her career working for women’s rights as an activist and an academic, teaching women’s history at the secondary and college level and has written for The New York Times, The Washington Post, and professional journals. She is currently teaching courses in women’s history at the Smithsonian Associates and Politics & Prose. She is the author ofIn Her Own Right: The Life of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, which was the inspiration for Ken Burns’ PBS documentary, ***Not For Ourselves Alone*.** Dr. Griffith will discuss her latest book, FORMIDABLE, which chronicles the efforts of white and Black women to advance sometimes competing causes. In this riveting narrative, Dr. Griffith integrates this fight to achieve equality. Signed copies of ***Formidable***will be available for purchase after the meeting.

The *Washington Post* review is at:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2022/08/12/an-inclusive-look-womens-history-beyond-white-activists/>

**Saturday, September 17, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. ON ZOOM**

**Virginia Elections: Voter Access? Will my Vote Count?**

**Panel Discussion**

Co-sponsored by the Mt. Vernon and Alexandria AAUW Branches and the Fairfax County Public Library/Sherwood Regional Branch

Representatives from the City of Alexandria, the League of Women Voters, and the American Civil Liberties Union will discuss potential topics such as

• Any changes to Virginia election laws

• Voting rights for former felons

• The proposed Right to Vote Amendment to the state constitution

• Importance of poll watchers—how to connect to a poll watcher group

**Advance registration is required. Use this link and find the registration button at the bottom:** [**https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/9346770he**](https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/9346770he)

**Get Out the Vote Activities with the League of Women Voters**

As the Northern District Co-Representatives, we’ve been in contact with the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Fairfax to determine which of their already scheduled Get Out The Vote (GOTV) activities our members can support. One major activity we can do is to help **staff voter registration drives.**

In conjunction with **National Voter Registration Day**, on **September 20, from 1:00- 4:30 p.m.,** there will be LWV-sponsored voter registration and voter information in-person events at all branches of the Fairfax County Public Library. Volunteers are asked to commit to at least a 2-hour shift. AAUW members can sign up at signupgenius.com/go/20f0d48afa82fa7f94-national2. There will be a place to designate AAUW affiliation once a member has signed up. Those volunteering will be notified of a Zoom pre-event orientation.

**IMPORTANT:** Before participating in any voter registration event **members must complete training**, using this link <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/registration-drives/voter-registration-training-video/> . It’s pretty quick to complete the training and get added to the State Department of Elections' list of individuals who can participate in third-party voter registration drives. Members who completed training in previous years need to retake training for 2022.

Susan Burk and Leslie Tourigny

AAUW-VA Northern District Co-Representatives



**How did your Elected Representatives Vote? Find out!**

Here is a useful tool for those of interested in researching how our legislators voted at every level of government: <https://myreps.datamade.us/>

If you go to https://myreps.datamade.us/ and put in your address, you’ll see who your representatives are at the local, county, state, and federal levels. To the right of each named individual, there is a column labeled “links” where you can click for more information about them. You will probably have to do more searching after that, but you can find a lot of information. At the local level, it may take you to a general webpage for “city council,” for example, but somewhere there should be agendas and meeting minutes that record how they voted. There is a contact button if you want to contact the legislator.

Depending on what you are looking for at the state level, you might also want to try using:

<https://lis.virginia.gov/> . There are various ways to search that system.

Denise Murden, Co-VP for Public Policy, AAUW-VA, provided this information.

**Election information: www.vote411.org**

**Www.Vote411.org** is a useful source of comprehensive election information. Links to the Department of Elections make it easy to check your registration, register to vote, verify your polling place, and apply for an absentee ballot. Closer to election day, the LWV posts candidate information and their responses to questionnaires, as well as candidate forum schedules. Find out what’s on the ballot and much more!



**Wise Gals: The Spies Who Built the CIA And Changed the Future of Espionage**

**Speaker: Nathalia Holt, author**

**Tuesday, September 20**, **7:00 to 8:30 p.m., both on Zoom and in-person**

Arlington Historical Society

Best-selling author Nathalia Holt will talk about four women who were critical in helping build the new organization now known as the CIA–including Adelaide Hawkins, who made Arlington her home starting in World War II.

Adelaide and Mary Hutchison, Eloise Page, and Elizabeth Sudmeier, called the “wise gals” by their male colleagues because of their sharp sense of humor and even quicker intelligence, were smart, courageous, and groundbreaking officers at the top of their class, instrumental in both developing innovative tools for intelligence gathering—and insisting (in their own unique ways) that they receive the credit and pay their expertise deserved.

If you plan to attend via zoom, please register using this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdDLINwJVHjiegSH0WPhW2d5T3rL\_nmQAWhkOB6i-Vz-tGBlA/viewform?usp=sf\_link by Monday, September 19. On Tuesday morning, September 20, the day of the event, AHS will send you the Zoom access link to use for virtual attendance via Zoom.

To attend in-person and for additional information, visit: <https://arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org/events/wise-gals-the-spies-who-built-cia-and-changed-the-future-of-espionage/> .

McLean AAUW

invites you to shop their

JEWELRY SALE

featuring gently used items in a range of styles

Items on offer include vintage, contemporary, ethnic, and one-of-a-kind pieces.

September 17, from 9:00 to 1:00

in parking lot of

McLean Community Center

1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean

**Member News**

**Salutations to Olga and Bob Burns**

Best wishes and many thanks go to Olga and Bob Burns as they transition to their new home at a Kendal retirement community. Olga has been a core member of the Fairfax City Branch for decades. The many pool parties Olga and Bob hosted at their home over the years provide us with many fond memories. We’ll miss Olga and Bob!

Here are some thoughts Olga emailed to me recently:

*Well, believe it or not, we have a moving date!  Sept. 23.  So much to accomplish before then. I wake up with my head swirling with all the things that need to get done.*

*I would very much like to keep in touch with friends. For now, we will be keeping our email address but plan to switch soon. I’ll let you know.*

*Our address will be 23 Ingleton Circle, Kennett Square, Pa. 19348 - the mushroom capital of the country! Friends are most welcome to come and visit us and tour Longwood Gardens. The area is quite pretty, and those gardens are spectacular.*

*I'm sure I'll never find a more congenial group of women than I've known in our AAUW.  May we all, in these twilight years, focus on what really matters to us and spend our time pursuing whatever that is.*

*Olga Burns*

**Member Update**

Josephine “Chepi” DiCalogero, 9712 Doulton Ct., Fairfax, VA 22032

Cdicalogero47@gmail.com, (C) (703) 801-6065

**New Baby!** **Congratulations, Padmini!**

On July 15 Padmini Chilappagari and her husband Srinivas Chepuri became parents of an adorable baby girl, Nyra.

Padmini is our branch webmaster and a Fairfax City Branch board member. Before our 2020 Virtual Book and Author Event, Padmini set up a GoFundMe page, which was instrumental in receiving many donations to our scholarship fundraiser. Thank you, and congratulations, Padmini ad Srinivas!



Note: For security, to reduce hacking, we replaced the @ in email addresses with “ at ”. To contact the members, reconstruct a usable address by deleting “ at ” and inserting @.

**“Night Owls” Literature Group Fall 2022**

The “Night Owls” literature group will meet at **12 noon** on **Tuesday, September 20** at Jan Humphrey’s home, 3604 Gawaine Ct, Annandale. PLEASE rsvp to Jan by Friday, Sept 16(dandjhumph at aol.com; 703-573-6253). We will be reading *Apples Never Fall* by Liane Moriarty.

We will meet again on October 18 to discuss *The Rose Code*, a novel by Kate Quinn. In November we will be meeting on the 15th to discuss *Meet Me at the Museum* by Anne Youngson. As we move forward, we will make decisions on our books and hostesses for our upcoming discussions.

The hostess will provide a light lunch or refreshments. Although we have moved our formerly evening meetings to daytime, we have not yet changed the name of the group. We welcome new participants to any of our discussions.

Kelly Espy



**Calendar**

**September 16, Friday, deadline to RSVP to Padmini for October 1 Luncheon**

September 17, Saturday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., McLean AAUW gently used Jewelry sale

September 17, Saturday, 1 p.m. *FORMIDABLE: American Women and the fight FOR EQUALITY: 1920-2020.* Pohick Regional Library

**September 20, Tuesday, 12 noon, Night Owls literature group**

September 20, Tuesday, 1-4:30, LWV voter registration drive at public libraries

September 20, Tuesday, 7-8:30 p.m., *Wise Gals: The Spies Who Built the CIA And Changed the Future of Espionage*

**October 1, Saturday, Lunch at Padmini’s, 12 noon – 2; Outing, Aldie Mill Historic Park**

**October 18, Tuesday, 12 noon, Night Owls literature group**

**October 22, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., AAUW All-District Meeting on Zoom**

**November 15, Tuesday, 12 noon, Night Owls literature group**

**AAUW Fairfax City Branch Adopted Budget, 2022-2023**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **BUDGET 2021-2022** | **ACTUALJuly 1, 2021-June 30, 2022** | **ADOPTED BUDGET 2022-23** |
| **INCOME** |  |  |  |
|  Branch dues: 20 members @ $13\* | 260.00 | 312.00 | 273.00 |
| Scholarship Fund | 1,000.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| AAUW Greatest Needs Fund, branch & membership donations | 840.00 | 290.00 | 290.00 |
| Party Receipts | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Donations to Branch Operations  | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Other Income (transfer from Bank of America to United Bank) | 0.00 | 100.00 | 0.00 |
| **Total Income** | **2,100.00** | **702.00**  | **563.00** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **EXPENSES** |  |  |  |
| Dues to AAUW of Virginia Northern District | 10.00 | 0.00  | 10.00 |
| Scholarship awards | 1,000.00 | 0.00  | 0.00 |
| AAUW Greatest Needs Fund Donation  | 850.00 | 1,390.00  | 875.00 |
| President | 15.00 | 0.00  | 15.00 |
| Program | 0.00 | 30.40  | 0.00 |
| Zoom Account | 160.00 | 157.40  | 160.00 |
| Hospitality (except 50th anniversary party) | 250.00 | 188.41  | 150.00 |
| 50th Anniversary Party | 0.00 | 0.00  | 250.00 |
| Archive Branch Records | 100.00 | 0.00  | 100.00 |
| Other Expenses (transfer to United Bank from Bk of America)  | 100.00 | 100.00  | 100.00 |
| **Total Expenses** | **2,485.00** | **1,866.21**  | **1,660** |
|  **Total Income -Total Expenses**  |  |  | **(1,097)** |

\*Branch dues: Two AAUW honorary life members do not pay branch dues.

Membership as of 9/2/2022: 21 renewed + 1 new + 2 honorary life members =24. Two members have not yet renewed.

Checking account balance on 8/30/2022 was $4442.74.

**AAUW—FAIRFAX CITY BRANCH**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Membership is open to all graduates who have a two year or a more advanced degree from an accredited institution. AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership.

Please complete the application below and mail it with your check to the treasurer.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Degree: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ College: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Field: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Year:\_\_\_\_\_

Degree: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ College: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Field: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Year:\_\_\_\_\_

DUES: $95 ($67 national, $15 state, $13 branch) for membership through June 30, 2023.

TRANSFERS from National Membership (Member-At-Large), the dues you owe may differ.

 If MAL expiration date is in 2022, pay National, state, & branch dues. Dues are $95.

 If MAL expiration date is in 2023, pay only State & branch. Dues are $28.

 If known: MAL Membership expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AAUW ID #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Tax deductible portions of the National dues: For dues of $95, $64 of the national dues are deductible.

Contact: Dottie Joslin, Treasurer, j.joslin3 at verizon.net; 703-591-9035.

PAYMENT: Make check payable to *AAUW—Fairfax City Branch*.

Please send this form and your check to the treasurer:

DOTTIE JOSLIN

11110 DEL RIO DR

FAIRFAX, VA 22030-5339

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**The AAUW Mission Statement**

*AAUW advances equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.*

**Fairfax City Branch Website:** <http://fairfaxcity-va.aauw.net/>

**Officers:**

President: Dianne Blais

 Dianneblais at aol.com

Secretary: Joyce Grimes

joyce\_grimes at cox.net

Treasurer: Dottie Joslin

 j.joslin3 at verizon.net

AAUW Funds and Scholarship:

 Paulette Miller

 psmiller10847 at verizon.net

Newsletter Editor:

 Dottie Joslin

 j.joslin3 at verizon.net

Communications and Website:

 Padmini Chilappagari

 padmini89 at gmail.com

**Interest Group Chair:**

Night Owls: Paulette Miller

 psmiller10847 at verizon.net

