



Volume XLII Issue 2

**President's Pen**

September included a successful Public Policy Symposium that featured AAUW National's Katie Simon, Associate Director of Field Operations and members of Lobby Corps, Becky Gaul (Vienna Branch), Sandy Lawrence (State Co-Pres.) and Ziona Bates (E-Student). Forty-two members and guests heard the latest news on Public Policy efforts and personal perspectives from our Lobby Corp panel. Thanks to Judi Polizzotti and Mary Zane for their efforts in making this an informative and engaging event.

Membership recruitment efforts were plentiful throughout the month of September and early October that included a fashion event at Chico's in Reston Towne Center. Since July 1, I am delighted to announce that we have twelve new members. The first year of membership is an important introduction to AAUW and in particular to the branch. Now that we have a member "Buddy" system in place, we will ensure that new members feel welcomed and encouraged to participate in the many activities that are available.

Other benchmark events took place in September: our Ashby Ponds' members launched their Great Decisions discussion group; the Reston-Herndon group met as well; and, another GOTV effort took place at NVCC-Loudoun Campus.

To our existing members who have already renewed their memberships for 2016-17, THANK YOU. To those who have not, please let me know if there is any reason why you have not renewed. There are many terrific events on the horizon that you can enjoy by renewing. You may renew on-line www.aauw.org or mail a check (\$79 payable to AAUW Reston-Herndon Area Branch) to Treasurer, Ruth Ruttenberg, 1767 Wainwright Drive, Reston, VA 20190-3438. Don't wait another day.

Just last week, we hosted a forum at NVCC-Loudoun Campus to further publicize and educate our branch and NOVA's female students about the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). This is an AAUW annual program held at the University of Maryland. We were fortunate to have AAUW National's Bethany Imondi, Educational Events Manager, explain the program. Additionally we heard from students who attended the 2016 event. What was an amazing happening that evening was our reconnection with three young women who attended Forest Edge Elementary School while Roberta Sherman was Assistant Principal, two of whom were in our Mentor Program. Judy Skirbunt met up with former students of her's from South Lakes High School. There were other NOVA students who sought out both Roberta and Judy knowing they were on campus that night. Needless to say, there were big smiles and lots of hugs in the conference room. This was an example of the circle of life at its best.

Although NCCWSL was the focus that evening we took the opportunity to promote AAUW E-Student membership. We will be following up with our school liaison to help build student membership.

The other day I received a notice from National that Marion Stillson has joined the AAUW Legacy Circle. I asked Marion to share her thoughts on why this step was an important one for her:

"Any member can join the AAUW Legacy Circle by promising a donation to AAUW in her will. I felt I could do no less for an organization which has transformed my life. My close friends, after forty years, are AAUW members. Serving in the Lobby Corps sparked my desire to become an attorney. Being elected Branch and then State President confirmed that I could lead, despite my mobility impairment. At the national level, I worked hard to include "disability" in AAUW's definition of



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inclusion, and then served as an AAUW Diversity Trainer---a mind-bending experience. I happened to be elected as national Public Policy Director during President Clinton's term, and through AAUW met both President Clinton and the then-First Lady. Traveling officially to many state AAUWs, I was awed by the caliber of our members everywhere. AAUW is a transformative organization which you should support every way you can."

Thank you Marion for all you have and continue to do for AAUW.

Here are the 2016 events to look forward to including activities sponsored by other branches...

A Woodbridge Branch upcoming event "The Queen Bee Syndrome," with GMU professor Karen Hune - Thursday, October 20, 2016, at 7:00 pm at the McCoart Building, Cedar Creek Room, Prince William Parkway, 1 County Complex Court, Woodbridge, 22192.

George Mason University Adjunct Professor Karen Bune will present the "The Queen Bee Syndrome". It is often said that women help women in the workplace. However, in many cases that becomes only a myth when the Queen Bee Syndrome evolves. Possible hostile and destructive behavior may occur when supervisor and those in leadership positions become insecure, envious, and intimidated by accomplishments and positions of those with whom they work and/or supervise. Lasting undesirable consequences may occur and cause profound victimization.

Adjunct Professor Karen L. Bune teaches victimology in the criminal justice department at GMU. Ms. Bune serves as a consultant for the Office for Victims of Crime, U.S. Department of Justice, and she is a nationally recognized public speaker and trainer. Ms. Bune is Board Certified in traumatic stress and domestic violence. She has received Diplomate status by the American Academy of Traumatic Stress Experts and the National Center for Crisis Management—a designation of specialization in one's field. She serves on the Institutional Review Board of the Police Foundation. Ms. Bune has worked in public service for 36 years and has been recognized with numerous awards.

Thursday, Oct. 27 – Tour of Oatlands Historic House in Leesburg - This property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Tour starts at 1:15PM with a Brunch at Tuscarora's Mill at 11:00AM. Email carolflicker@gmail.com.

Saturday, October 22, 2:00PM - Northern District Meeting at the King's Park Library

"Gender Bias in Politics--Is It Real?" Most of us would say, "Yes," but you might be surprised at the how and when. It's a timely subject and also fits with AAUW's latest research on "Bias and Barriers." We will feature Melissa Richmond, VP of Running Start (a non-partisan organization that trains young women to run for office), and Melissa Jackowski, campaign services manager for TargetSmart Communications (which provides data-driven solutions to campaigns) and former AAUW Grassroots Advocacy Manager. Both women have incredible backgrounds in politics and electoral campaigns. Watch for more details in early October.

Monday, October 24, 2:00-4:00PM - Fairfax Candidate Meet & Greet, RCC Hunter Woods. We are teaming with the League of Women Voters as volunteers. Open to the general public.

Saturday, November 12, Noon – 3:00PM – Holiday Luncheon featuring Rosemary Tran, Author, Business Woman and Philanthropist at Clyde's Willow Creek, Broadlands, VA. Raffle



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Baskets will be on display to support our annual scholarship. The cost of the luncheon is \$24.25 plus tax and tip totaling \$30. Look for an Evite the week of October 17th.

Saturday, December 10, 2:00PM Matinee – “Carousel” at Arena Stage. This is a scholarship fundraiser and is SOLD OUT!

Saturday, Jan. 28 – Joint meeting with Giving Circle of HOPE beginning at 10AM at a local Reston business location featuring a “Guest House” speaker who is a woman who was previously incarcerated and has made a successful transition back into society. Look for an Evite in December.

Saturday, Feb. 4 – Theater Matinee at Arena Stage. We have another opportunity to fund raise for our local scholarship and to see a compelling production of “ROE” based on the landmark 1973 Supreme Court case “Roe vs. Wade”. The play focuses on a young, brilliant, courageous woman lawyer who argued the case and the single woman plaintiff seeking to end an unwanted pregnancy. With shocking turns and surprising humor, the play illuminates the difficult choices women make and the passion each side has for its cause. The regular price would be \$83 per ticket and we are offering seats at \$65 per ticket, a savings of \$18. Please email gailiff90@gmail.com no later than 10/31 to make your reservation.

Saturday, Feb. 18 – Presentation on a personal perspective of today’s China based on a 2016 visit beginning at Noon at a local restaurant. Look for Evite in January.

Friday, Mar. 3 – Docent Led Tour of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Museum, 1776 D St. Washington, DC. The cost is \$5 per person. A new exhibit “An Agreeable Tyrant – Fashion after the Revolution” has just opened. Tour lasts approximately 45” and we will plan a lunch at a nearby restaurant. Reservations must be made by Feb. 2. Look for more details in an Evite in late December.

June 14-17 – AAUW National Conference – Washington, DC – Be on the lookout for Emails from National in the coming months.

Please note that this newsletter is for October and November. The next newsletter will be published in December. If you are interested in becoming our new Editor, please contact me.

One last acknowledgement goes to MaryPat Sampson who for years has collected recyclable printer ink cartridges to raise money for our branch. She is moving out of the area and we will miss her. Thank you MaryPat, for serving on the board, mentoring and the many other areas in which you contributed to the branch,

Gail Parsons
gailiff90@gmail.com