



Volume XLI Issue 2

**President's Pen*****Here's what happened in September...***

- ***Ken Plum, VA House of Delegates helped launch our monthly speaker program*** with a legislative update. As evidenced by the attendance count, Ken is a respected delegate. His presentation was informative, engaging and entertaining. We experienced a "first" at this event because Garima Singh recorded it. The video is available for viewing with a link on our website <http://restonherndon-va.aauw.net> (Click on "Our Endeavors", click on "Monthly Speaker Programs", click on "Recent Monthly Speakers"). Our plan is to film future speaker programs and continue to post them to the website. For members who cannot attend an event, this is an easy way to stay current on the various topics featured.
- Our ***"Get Out The Vote" (GOTV) efforts resulted in 93 voter registration packets being distributed to NOVA students at the Loudoun Campus.*** Each packet contained a stamped envelope addressed to the appropriate State Elections Board based on the student's county of residence. We are confident that these fine students mailed their registration forms. Mary Kornreich, Cyndi Shanahan and our registration volunteers made all this possible. We hope to host another NOVA GOTV event in 2016.
- An effort to ***create awareness and education on Human Trafficking*** took place at NOVA-Loudoun Campus. Cyndi Shanahan hosted 15 students to view a film on this heart wrenching subject. We were fortunate that Ashley Maakestad, a Director at Artemis House, was able to speak about HT victimization. Artemis House is a shelter that provides refuge to victims on many levels. We are awaiting a list of needs from Artemis House so that our branch can establish an on-going collection of donations to assist their efforts. We are planning a similar event for our branch on January 23rd with details to follow.
- As you may remember, last spring we hosted a Meet & Greet in Loudoun County with a goal to expand our footprint. Both the Leesburg and Ashburn branches have disbanded in recent years. As a local branch we can offer former AAUW members in these communities the opportunity to re-engage. ***A recent pot luck dinner for our Loudoun members created a great venue for them to socialize.*** Thanks to Carol Flicker who finalized all the logistics. Several Loudoun members brought friends who are in the process of becoming members. Thanks also to Beth Balmer who continues to recruit in Reston-Herndon with periodic Meet & Greets at local restaurants.
- Due to the excellent planning of Shirley Finkelstein and Ellen Rugel, ***the joint Book Groups' Discussion and Dinner was a huge success with 33 in attendance.***

News about a member...

Congratulations to Marion Stillson and her husband as they recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Dear friends of theirs, Debra and Mark Stappel, made a donation to our branch local scholarship in their honor. What an impactful way to acknowledge this significant milestone and help a local scholar.

Spotlight on a member...

In continuing with my goal to recognize the volunteers that attend to all the "behind the scenes" effort, this month the spotlight is on Judi Ornoff who is celebrating her 40th year as an AAUW member. I met Judi in 2004 through the Mentor Program at Forest Edge Elementary School. Since that time I have watched Judi contribute to the branch on many levels of volunteerism. She served as Branch President, chaired Cultural Diversity, and she coordinated Theater Parties to support our local scholarship. She continues to mentor and provide tactical support to the Mentor Program. I must add that she has held these various leadership roles for multiple years. With all those committed hours, how did she find time to read and participate in the Book Group?

Thank you Judi for all you have done and continue to do for AAUW.



Reston-Herndon Area (VA) Branch

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Here's what is about to happen:

- **Monthly Speaker Program, Oct. 8, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.** - Sidney Johnson, League of Women Voters, Non-Profit VOTE: Reaching the Underrepresented Populations Across America at the Walker Nature Center, Glade Dr., Reston. Please be sure to respond to the Evite.
- **Culture/Diversity Event, Oct. 15, 2015** - Tour of the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, Winchester, VA. If you would like to participate and have not already signed-up, please contact Mary Zane mpz_06@verizon.net as soon as possible.
- **AAUW Action Fund Capitol Hill Lobby Corps Open House, Oct. 15, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.** - Members and their guests interested in learning more and joining Lobby Corps are invited to the offices of AAUW, 1111 16th St., NW, Washington, DC. Lunch will be provided. In order to maintain an accurate head count, all guests should RSVP using the following link: http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50796/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=4163
- **Fairfax Candidate Meet & Greet, Oct. 24, 2015, 2:00-4:00 p.m.** - RCC Hunters Woods. We are teaming with the League of Women Voters as volunteers. Open to the general public.
- **Scholarship Fundraiser Theater Party, October 25, 2 p.m. Matinee.** If you have not signed up for "Shrek", you may be able to still get tickets. Please contact Judi Orloff judiornoff@gmail.com as soon as possible. Even if you do not attend the show, you can still help with baked goods and/or selling refreshments at the intermission. Please contact Judi for more information.
- **Monthly Speaker Program & "Friendsgiving Luncheon", Nov. 14, Noon** - Suffragist Presentation by Lynne Garvey Hodge performing as Angelina Grimke at RCC Hunters Woods. Look for the Evite this month.
- **Virginia State Conference, April 15-17, 2016**, that will be held at the Hyatt Dulles, Herndon. Planning is underway and each branch has been assigned specific tasks. As we scope out our responsibilities we will be recruiting volunteers over the next few months.

We look forward to seeing you at any or all of these events. Bring a friend! Always be sure to check the website for the latest information: <http://restonherndon-va.aauw.net> Please note that our website is currently undergoing a refresh. Streamlining, simplifying and satisfying are our goals. Bear with us. (Please thank Lynne Mulston EVERY time you see her as she has devoted hours to this endeavor.)

Membership renewal time is almost at an end...

For those who have renewed, please accept our thanks. For those who have not, please renew on-line or send a \$79 check (payable to AAUW Reston-Herndon) to Ruth Rутtenberg, 1767 Wainwright Drive, Reston, VA 20190. **Don't wait another day.**

Gail Parsons
gailiff90@gmail.com

Local Scholarship Update

Here are excerpts from the thank you note we received from our 2015 scholarship winner, Shabnam Shukrulla, a NOVA-Loudoun student, pursuing a degree in Biology.

"I am very proud to be selected as one of the recipients of your scholarship... I am going to be majoring in Biology. I plan to pursue a career in which I will be able to reach out and help others by being a positive member of my community, and therefore I have decided to get my masters as a Physician Assistant."

"My future goals are to become a doctor who helps needy, and I want to slowly start a small charity and then expanding it to help the patients in countries with poor health."

"The financial assistance that will be provided to me can help me in many ways...I will be able to concentrate on my education and not worry about the expenses... furthermore I won't need to work to pay for my classes and that would give me more advantage to finish my degree quicker and a step close to my goal."



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"This generosity of yours is a great example of giving back to the community, which is my future goal. Your generosity might not be seen by others, but it is seen by me, and it means a world to me!"

How You Can Ensure That We Can Continue to Grant Our Local Scholarship

As our scholarship winner so graciously acknowledged, our \$1000 scholarship can play an important role in helping a student focus on their studies and mitigate their financial challenges. \$1000 pays for two 3 credit courses at NOVA and leaves a residual amount to cover the cost of textbooks. It is an impactful contribution in helping educate women in STEM fields.

For the past few years it has been our tradition to help fund this scholarship through our basket raffles. At our "Friendsgiving Luncheon" on November 14, there will once again be basket raffles. More information about this fun event will be forthcoming in the next week or so. But this is how you can participate beforehand and ...

Help Us Fill a Basket!

Step 1: Review the theme baskets described below.

Step 2: Pick a basket/s that you would like to help fill.

Step 3: Notify the appropriate basket organizer of the item that you will donate **by October 15**. They will provide information regarding collection of your donation.

Note: **We will be happy to purchase items on your behalf if you would prefer to make a cash donation.**

- **Gourmet Basket** of wine, chocolates, jellies/jams, crackers, specialty olives, "boutique" olive oil, marinades or other creative non-perishable foods.
 - Organizer: Cyndi Shanahan cyndi0915@aol.com 703 709-5817
- **Entertainment Basket** of movie tickets and local casual dining gift certificates.
 - Blocks of discounted movie tickets can be purchased at Costco.
 - Do you frequent a local restaurant or coffee shop where you could ask for a donation of a gift certificate?
 - Organizer: Gail Parsons gailiff90@gmail.com 703 915-1893
- **Body & Soul Basket** of specialty soaps, bath oils, body lotions, spa and/or nail salon gift certificates
 - Do you frequent a spa or nail salon where you could ask for a donation of a gift certificate?
 - Organizer: Maureen Dwyer maureen22066@gmail.com 703 759-7244
- **Family Entertainment Basket** of books and strategy games.
 - Our Book Groups are coordinating this basket so if you are a group member, Shirley Finkelstein and Ellen Rugel are the organizers.
- **Child's Activity/Library Basket** filled with children's classics, Newbery and Caldecott winners, modern children's literature and strategy games. For those of you unfamiliar with the term, strategy games are thinking games for children of all ages. Some of the more popular are Quirkle, Othello and Blokus. Barnes & Noble is brimming with hundreds of these games. Our strategy games basket was a real hit two years ago.
 - Organizer: Jackie Gladstone jagstoner@aol.com 703 620-4521

Please know that whatever you choose to do to help "fill a basket", either with an item or cash donation, or by simply purchasing raffle tickets, the branch greatly appreciates your support. Judging from the reactions of past winners, we are confident that sharing in the bounty of the baskets will definitely enhance your enjoyment of the Friendsgiving luncheon.
