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**President's Pen**

Snow does not deter us in our efforts to educate our community. The Human Trafficking Symposium has been rescheduled to Saturday, March 12 at the RCC Lake Anne. Several other local organizations will be attending this event and I am hopeful that our branch will be well represented.

Another rescheduled activity is student voter registration at NVCC-Loudoun Campus on Tuesday, April 12. Several volunteers have signed up and we are always appreciative of additional branch members helping out. Please let me know if you would like to volunteer gailiff90@gmail.com.

As all of you know, our State Conference is in April at the Dulles Hyatt. More information on the conference follows. A note of thanks goes to Cyndi Shanahan who handled the "Sign-up Genius" application for us. We are in charge of the Help Desk with a need of 14 volunteers. As of today, we have 11 commitments. Thank you to those who "signed up" so quickly. It is going to be a great event.

Status of Board Positions:

There will a few Board position vacancies for the 2016-2018 term of office. Having served on the Board for a few years I have made many friends and have enjoyed the camaraderie of working with talented and committed women. I encourage everyone to think about a leadership role within the branch as the rewards are plentiful.

VP-Roberta Sherman has graciously agreed to continue in this oversight position for 2016-17 pending election at the June business meeting

VP-Membership - Thanks to Beth Balmer for her service over the last 2 years. Moving forward I recommend that this position be held by Co-VPs. Its scope has expanded now that we are recruiting in Loudoun County. I want to ensure that we appropriately allocate resources to retention and recruitment efforts across our footprint.

VP-Program - Bea Malone will graciously continue as she has one year remaining on her term (2016-17).



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VP-Communications - This is currently a vacant position. Responsibilities include setting communication strategy that maximizes the impact of our website, newsletter and Facebook page. It may sound like a daunting responsibility but there are many members available to help.

Secretary - Sharon Gilman will graciously continue as she has one year remaining on her term (2016-17).

Treasurer - Ruth Ruttenberg has graciously agreed to “re-up” for another term (2016-18) pending election at the June business meeting.

To recap we have ***upcoming vacancies for Membership and Communications.***

We are fortunate that several Committee Chairs are continuing in their respective roles. At this time we know there will be a ***vacancy in the Cultural/Diversity function*** beginning July 1. This is a fun position in that it involves coordinating 5-6 visits to historic locations, fine arts venues, etc. Thanks to Mary Zane and Judy Skirbunt for their work that included trips to the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley and the Renwick Gallery. They have a few more activities planned over the next few months.

Please contact me gailiff90@gmail.com, shermanrs1@aol.com, or beth.balmer1@verizon.net if you have any questions about the positions ***or better yet to commit to one!***

Over the next few months, we have several diverse activities on the horizon:

Sat., Mar. 12, 10:00AM-Noon, Monthly Speaker Program:

Human Trafficking Symposium

**Become Informed, Become Engaged, Become Accountable
End Human Trafficking in our Community**

**Location: Lake Anne Recreation Center
1609 Washington Plaza N, Reston**

Date: Saturday, March 12, 2016

Time: 10:00am – Noon



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Sponsored by: AAUW Reston-Herndon Branch, Giving Circle of HOPE and NCNW

Please bring donations of canned/dry goods for the Artemis House pantry and \$10-\$15-\$20 gift cards for Artemis House residents to use for phone calls, grocery, pharmacy and other miscellaneous expenses.

Symposium Speakers

**Jane Leibbrand, Crisis Response Team,
NOVA Human Trafficking Initiative**

Topic: What Human Trafficking Looks like in NOVA

Barbara Amaya, SeraphimGlobal Senior Human Trafficking advisor, award winning author of Nobody's Girl, advocate, survivor

Topic: Her personal story. What is happening today for girls in NOVA? What is happening in legislation?

Gail Hambleton, VP Global Peace Foundation - Safe Haven Campaign

Topic: What Safe Haven means for survivors. With initiatives in education and awareness, how can we end HT in our community?

Ashley Maakestad, Assistant Director - Artemis House

Topic: The story of people at Artemis House that provides shelter for victims of domestic and sexual violence, stalking and human trafficking.

Thurs., Mar. 24, 6:30-9:00PM, Monthly Speaker Program:

***Afet Dundar, Associate Director,
National Student Clearinghouse Research Center***

Dr. Dundar will address lessons learned from statistics on women in higher education. The National Student Clearinghouse (a nonprofit formed in 1993) is the trusted source for and leading provider of higher education verifications and electronic education record exchanges, handling more than 1.2 billion education



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record transactions annually on behalf of its more than 3,600 participating higher education institutions, which represent 98 percent of all students in public and private U.S. institutions. Graduate schools and potential employers. *This will be a dinner meeting at Kalypso's at Lake Anne. Look for the Evite in the next few days.*

April 15-17 State Conference (April 15-17), Dulles Hyatt

This is a highly anticipated event. The conference brochure was sent via email to all branch members last week and the Winter/Spring *Vision* issue (also distributed via email) contains all the pertinent information about registration and hotel reservations. The agenda looks to be stimulating and informative. I encourage each of you to attend.

The conference theme is *Women Leading*. Here are a few highlights:

- Friday night we start off with a Washington-style Salon, featuring cider tasting (the latest trend), musical entertainment from a clarinet duo, and an impressive photo display with tips and tidbits from the photographer. In between the presentations, attendees may enjoy finger foods and socializing.
- On Saturday Rebecca Norlander (WA), our dynamic AAUW Board visitor, will address us at lunch, followed by a choice of workshops and minibreaks.
- Our 2016 Woman of Achievement will be the highlight of the Saturday night banquet featuring Dr. Kathryn Thornton, former astronaut and now a UVA professor of aerospace engineering.
- The "Women Breaking Through" panel on Sunday will feature the quarterback of the national champion Divas who is also a homicide detective, the first female elected sheriff for Fairfax County, and a naval aviator and Rear Admiral who was in the first graduating class of women from the Naval Academy.

Thurs., May 5, 7:00-9:00PM, Monthly Speaker Program

American Memory in Stone and Steel:

Monuments of Tragedy and Triumph

This is a dynamic multimedia presentation that reveals the secrets behind our nation's most important monuments and memorials. Chuck Tampio, a docent at the Tucson Museum of Art, has broken attendance records



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throughout the country, educating audiences on how to understand the unique meaning of public and civic art. Memorials in Washington, DC and throughout the country are proliferating at an unprecedented rate. Tampo explores the impulse behind the phenomena and clarifies the significance of our most beloved, as well as the most unfamiliar, monuments. Art in the built environment may be even more engaging than that on museum walls. Attendees consistently report that they will never look at the most familiar memorials the same way again. Evite will be released in April. This event will be held at Cornerstones in Reston.

Thurs., June 9, 6:30-9:00PM, Monthly Speaker Program and Branch Business Meeting

Veronica Li, Author of “Confucius Says”

Ms. Li, a Vienna resident, who was educated at the University of California, Berkley and Johns Hopkins University, will speak to us about “Caring for Aging Parents”. She has been a speaker at several AAUW branches and has received rave reviews.

The program will include a branch business meeting that includes election of Board Members. Although we have held a pot luck dinner in the May/June time frame in past years, we are investigating dinner restaurant options. If you have any suggestions, please contact me gailiff90@gmail.com or Bea Malone bmalone1ara@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events at other Northern District Branches

Tues., Apr. 26, 7:00PM Theater Event – “To Kill A Mockingbird”

Join the Alexandria and Mt Vernon AAUW Branches to see a performance of this classic story set in Alabama during the Great Depression. Based on Harper Lee’s Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird* follows the journey of Jem and Scout Finch, whose father has been appointed to defend Tom Robinson, a black man framed for a crime he didn’t commit. As the trial progresses, Jem and Scout witness their community in a tense tug of war between justice and racism. This timeless classic compels us to take an honest look at our nation’s past and our moral responsibility to each other.



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Ticket proceeds support AAUW's Educational Funding and Awards programs (<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards/>)
 Tickets are \$30.00 each, \$12 is tax-deductible.
 Contact Ginger Chamberlain for tickets, gbcAAUW@gmail.com
 Become a Patron by donating \$10 or more to our fundraising effort.

A reception starts at 7:00 PM in the Green Room.
 The performance starts at 8:00 PM with a 15 minute intermission.
 Buy Raffle tickets at \$5 each or 3/\$10 to win one of 6 beautiful gift baskets!

Other Branch News

Great Decisions

On February 17th, 9 members of our Great Decisions group discussed U.S. Cuban relations. It was a relevant topic with the announcement of the President's future visit and the beginning of commercial flights this year. Our next topic is International Migration which will be led by Garima Singh on March 16th at 7:00 pm in the Reston Community Center at Hunters Mill. All members are welcome. Please come and join our informative discussions. An evite will go out to all members the first week in March.

Book Group – 2016 Selections **Shirley Finkelstein and Ellen Rugel**

Be sure to check out the website for dates, times and locations.
<http://restonherndon-va.aauw.net>.

March:	Soldier Girls: The Battles of Three Women at Home and at War – Helen Thorpe (AAUW selection for Women's History Month)
April:	The Little Paris Bookshop – Nina George
May:	The Hare with the Amber Eyes – Edmond de Waal
June:	The Boys in the Boat – Daniel James Brown
July:	The Secret Chord – Geraldine Brooks
August:	All the Light We Cannot See – Anthony Doerr
September:	My Brilliant Friend – Elena Ferrante
October:	The Nightingale – Kristen Hannah
December:	In the Unlikely Event – Judy Blume



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Spotlight on a member...

I am being a little sneaky this month in my selection of a member on whom to shine the spotlight. Roberta Sherman is away for several weeks on a South American adventure. I don't have to worry about her objecting to my words of praise since she did not see the draft of this newsletter. I first met Roberta in 2004 through the Mentor Program at Forest Edge when she was Assistant Principal. Even before becoming an AAUW member she was the inspiration for our branch to launch this program that is now in its 14th year. Following her retirement she became an AAUW member and immediately jumped into the leadership role of VP-Membership. People still talk about her enthusiasm and recruitment of new members, many of whom have stepped up to various leadership roles over the years. She chaired the Monthly Tape group that subsequently evolved into the Movie group. This is her second year as VP with oversight responsibilities for all of our committees. This past year has been a joy to work directly with her. I have had the benefit of her commitment, guidance, wisdom and humor. Even more importantly, Roberta sets the gold standard for participation and support of branch activities.

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

Gail Parsons
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