



Volume XLI Issue 3



President's Pen

Here's what happened in October...

- **Sidney Johnson, League of Women Voters (LWV)** educated us on Non-Profit VOTE: "Reaching the Underrepresented Populations Across America". In the upcoming months, we will investigate how best to utilize the resources of the Non-Profit VOTE organization to encourage voter registration and voting. 2016 being a Presidential election year will prove to be an exciting venture for us now that we have a valuable partnership with the LWV.
- Our group toured **The Museum of the Shenandoah Valley** in Winchester, VA. Several docents led us through the exhibit "Cut" featuring Hollywood Film Costumes, the Glen Burnie Historic House and the lush 6 acre Glen Burnie Gardens that included several "Follies". Mary Zane and Judy Skirbunt are considering a return visit in the spring when there will be a new exhibit on display and the gardens will be in full bloom.
- Six volunteers from our branch assisted with **the Fairfax Candidate Meet & Greet** at RCC Hunters Woods that featured School Board Chair Pat Hynes and County Supervisor - Hunter Mill, Cathy Hudgins. Pat and Cathy answered questions for nearly an hour. Several candidates for other elected offices were in attendance. They were asked to introduce themselves and some spoke for a few minutes about their platforms. We teamed with LWV on this event and we plan to team again in 2016. Thanks to Mary Kornreich, Judi Polizzotti, Judy Skirbunt, Judi Ornoff, and Sharon Greene for their time and assistance. (I was there too ☺)

- **AAUW Theater Party:**



"It was a rousing success! "Shrek" was a fabulous show that entertained both children and adults. The Reston Players' Production was very professional with a great cast, creative costumes and set design. I think everyone who was there really enjoyed it. In addition, between ticket sales



and our bake sale, we raised \$483 towards our local scholarship fund while providing some visibility for AAUW within the Reston Community. Thank you to all who bought tickets and invited family and friends to join them. Thank you to Gail, Maureen, Mary Z., Stephanie, Judy S., Carol I., Roberta, Jackie and Janine for bringing items that were sold at the bake sale. The award for the most creative creation goes to Janine for decorated Shrek marshmallow pops and Jackie for uber-decorated green cupcakes. Actually, all the items proved very popular. It was almost a total sell-out! We owe a very special thank you to Maureen Dwyer for coming early to set-up and staying through intermission to sell and clean-up. Her help was most appreciated!" **Judi Ornoff**

Spotlight on a member...

This month the spotlight is on Judi Polizzotti who joined our branch in 2012. Prior to her association with Reston-Herndon, she held several AAUW branch and state positions including Branch President in the state of Connecticut. Judi along with Judy Skirbunt chairs "Great Decisions". Although I have not attended one of their monthly meetings as yet, the feedback is tremendous about attendance and **robust** discussions. Not only is Judi a member of Lobby Corps that includes traveling weekly to the Hill when Congress is in session but she recently signed on to mentor a student at Forest Edge Elementary School as part of our Mentor Program. She attends all if not most of our various branch activities. On a personal note, in both 2013 and 2014, I had the pleasure of working under the leadership of Judi on "STEMtastics" and on the Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee. Judi is a powerhouse of experience, enthusiasm, and engagement.

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



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Here's what is about to happen...

- **Monthly Speaker Program & "Friendsgiving Luncheon", Nov. 14, 2015, 12:30-3:00PM at Reston Community Center Lake Anne** that includes:

Pot Luck Holiday Buffet - Please bring a favorite family dish that you have enjoyed over past holidays to share with others. There are no alphabetical assignments for buffet foods. **Be sure to include the food item you will bring on the Evite RSVP.**

Speaker - Lynne Garvey Hodge will perform as abolitionist and suffragette, "Angelina Grimke". For those members who are Book Group participants, Lynne's presentation will resonate with you since "The Invention of Wings" by Sue Monk Kidd was a recent Book Group selection. If you have not read this book, please consider doing so before the Luncheon as it will certainly enhance your experience on the 14th.

Raffle Baskets - Raffle tickets will be available for purchase. This year's baskets (which help fund our local scholarship) will surely appeal to all! To name a few...Books, Gourmet, Entertainment, Body and Soul, Children's Literature....

HELP US FILL A BASKET!

- ***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 Group Chairs, 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.



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AAUW Funds - As in past years, there will be donation boxes for the various AAUW areas of concentration, e.g., Legal Advocacy, Educational Opportunities, Public Policy, etc. National urges us to consider donating to the "Unrestricted Fund" that helps financially support program initiatives. Read more about AAUW Funds at: <http://www.aauw.org/resource/how-to-support-programs-aauw-fund-diagram/>

Donations to Artemis House will be gratefully accepted. This is a shelter for victims of domestic violence, sex and human trafficking. Their needs are many and to help them in an impactful way in November, we are focusing on personal hygiene: shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste (all full sized). Please bring whatever you can spare to help this shelter.

- **Monthly Speaker Program, Nov. 19, 7:00pm, Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306. (Near Sherwood Hall Regional Library).** The AAUW Mount Vernon Branch has invited Northern District branches to hear Lisa Maatz, AAUW VP-Government Relations, speak on the latest AAUW public policy work. All will be interested in hearing about her recent experience testifying before a House Committee on college campus violence. There will be updates on Capitol Hill and the Supreme Court preview call on October 15, as well as other up-close and personal observations about AAUW staff actions to carry our organizational priorities.

As always we have our monthly Book Group and Great Decisions meetings in December. Be on the look-out for emails about dates and locations as well as website updates.

Here's what to look forward to in 2016...

- **Monthly Speaker Program, Saturday, January 23, 2016, 10:00AM-Noon:** There will be a film on Human Trafficking at the Reston Community Center Lake Anne. Speaker(s) will be announced at a later date. Look for an Evite in mid-December.
- **Monthly Speaker Program, Saturday, February 6, 2016, Noon-3:00PM:** Rachel Yarnell Thompson, author of "Marshall, A Statesman Shaped in the Crucible of War". Ms. Thompson will speak about "An Officer and a Gentleman: Three Years in the Company of George C. Marshall". Her focus will include her journey in learning about Marshall while being a docent at his museum home in Leesburg, VA and her experience of writing his biography. This will be a luncheon meeting at Café Montmartre at Lake Anne. Each guest will be able to order from the regular menu. Look for an Evite in early January. In the event of inclement weather, the event will be rescheduled for Saturday, February 20.
- **Monthly Speaker Program, Thursday, March 26, 2016, 6:30-8:30PM:** We will hear from our NVCC-Loudoun Campus Liaison and NVCC students who will share their experiences at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) in May 2015 at the University of Maryland. This was a three day event that included over 50 workshops focusing on life after college, meeting inspiring role models along with networking opportunities and receiving information about graduate schools and potential employers. This will be a dinner meeting at Kalypso's at Lake Anne. Look for the Evite in mid-February.
- **Virginia State Conference, April 15-17, 2016,** that will be held at the Hyatt Dulles, Herndon. This conference puts the spotlight on the Northern District of which we are a part. You will not want to miss it. 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.



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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>. We are finally making progress on our website. Check it out!

Gail Parsons
gailiff90@gmail.com