



Reston-Herndon Area (VA) Branch

Volume XLI Issue 4

**President's Pen**

Happy New Year! 2016 is going to be an exciting year for AAUW and certainly for AAUW Virginia and our branch. As you will read in this issue, there are informative, inspiring and invigorating events planned for the next several months. Our menu of upcoming programs has something for everyone.

For a moment, I will look back to our November "Friendsgiving" Luncheon. I can only speak for myself but I felt this was a heart- warming branch event. With over 45 in attendance not only did we raise significant monies for AAUW Funds and our local Scholarship, we enjoyed a cornucopia of food and entertainment. We witnessed time travel as our presenter, Lynne Garvey Hodge, catapulted us into the mid- to late 19th century to share Angelina Grimke's abolition and suffragette experiences. Add to all of that, we were happy to distribute plentiful raffle baskets to seven winners. Thanks to the generosity of our members and local vendors, each basket was valued at a minimum of \$100 and in some cases in excess of \$400. Thanks to all who participated. It was an amazing day.

Now get your calendar out and sign-up for:

Sat., Jan. 23, 10:00AM-Noon, Monthly Speaker Program:

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

In keeping with our tradition to inform and educate on Human Trafficking particularly as it relates to our community we are pleased to host a symposium along with the Giving Circle of Hope and NCNW. ***We have extended the invitation to other community groups so please be sure to RSVP to the Evite released January 7 to ensure you have a reserved seat at the Reston Community Center- Lake Anne.***



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Symposium Speakers

Jen Pool, Communication Director - 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.**

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

Date: Saturday, January 23, 2016

Time: 10:00am – Noon

**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.



How can you help combat Human Trafficking?

An important message from Leslie Tourigny, VP-Public Policy, AAUW-Virginia

Last year many of our branches engaged in activities to increase awareness of the epidemic of human trafficking. These activities included connecting with local organizations assisting survivors of human trafficking, advocating for anti-human trafficking legislation, meeting with public officials and lawmakers, presenting programs concerning human trafficking, collecting signatures for our human trafficking petition, and having six Letters To The Editor (LTEs) published in newspapers around the Commonwealth, i.e. *Sun Gazette*, *Fairfax Times*, *Daily News Record*, *The Virginian-Pilot*, *Alexandria Times*, and *AlexandriaNews.org*.

Thanks to our advocacy efforts and those of other organizations and individuals, in a rare show of bi-partisanship, our General Assembly passed a human trafficking bill during the last session. This was a HUGE step forward, and we hope that we are able to build on this foundation and see additional legislation introduced in the upcoming 2016 General Assembly Session to address assistance to survivors of human trafficking.

January 11, 2016, is Human Trafficking Awareness Day, which is only two days before the 2016 Virginia General Assembly Session convenes. Once again, this presents a unique opportunity for us to draw public attention to human trafficking and the need for the General Assembly to pass legislation to provide assistance to survivors *by writing LTEs in January*. By nature, LTEs are short so it won't take long to write one. Here's some how-to information on writing LTEs:
<http://www.aauw.org/resource/how-to-write-a-letter-to-the-editor/>

Also, the research has been done for you. Take your pick of information to include in your LTEs from AAUW resources: <http://www.aauw.org/resource/quick-facts-on-human-trafficking/>, <http://www.aauw.org/2013/11/15/human-trafficking/>, and <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/aauw-issues/human-trafficking/> Also, here are links to some of the letters published last year. Although some of the information is out-of-date, it gives you an idea of what got published:

Please send copies of/links to any letters published to ltourigny@gmail.com.

Editor's Note: Congratulations to Leslie as she had her personal LTE published [alexandrianews.org: http://www.alexandrianews.org/human-trafficking-victims-need-our-assistance/](http://www.alexandrianews.org/human-trafficking-victims-need-our-assistance/).

Where will the next letter be published?



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Thurs., Jan. 28, 10:00AM-2:00PM

GOTV Voter Registration at NVCC-Loudoun Campus

Presidential Primary Election Day in Virginia will be **March 1, 2016, and Tuesday, February 8, 2016, is the last day on which a person may apply to vote in the Presidential Primary. This gives us another large window of opportunity to encourage student registration.** Last Sept. we distributed registration packets of forms and stamped addressed envelopes to 93 students. We hope to exceed that number in this new effort.

Wed., Feb. 3

State Lobby Day

We will attend Virginia state lobbying day and garner support for petitions with publicity and informational meetings, including making them available on our web site. We expect to start at 8:30am or earlier and wrap up after lunch. If you plan to participate, please notify gailiff90@gmail.com **before Jan. 22, 2015** as we need to provide your name and email to coordinators. Look for more information on car-pooling and the day's agenda in the next few days. The Greater Richmond Branch will be offering up beds for members who arrive in Richmond the day before Lobby Day on Feb. 2. Please let gailiff90@gmail.com know if you would like to arrange accommodations **no later than Jan. 15.**

As an aside, Carol Stephens, President of the Greater Richmond Branch, wants me to pass on that the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond will be featuring a spectacular exhibition of Rodin's sculptures until March 13, in case you want to jam-pack one of your visits to Richmond in February.

<http://vmfa.museum/exhibitions/exhibitions/auguste-rodin/>



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Sat., Feb. 6, Noon-3:00PM, Monthly Speaker Program:***Rachel Yarnell Thompson, Author***

Ms. Thompson, author of "Marshall, A Statesman Shaped in the Crucible of War" 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 the 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. Please RSVP to the Evite released January 4. In the event of inclement weather, the event will be rescheduled for Saturday, February 20.***

Tues., Feb. 16,***Centennial Rally, Richmond***

AAUW of VA is participating, along with the League of Women Voters of Virginia, our Greater Richmond Branch, Women Matter (pro-ERA group), Women's Equality Coalition (of which we are a member) and NOW, among other groups. The rally commemorates a rally held by Suffragists 100 years ago on the steps of the State Capitol in Richmond, as well as highlights the need to pass the ERA. There will be a Vigil & Gathering beginning at 10AM on the Virginia Capital Steps and the Bell Tower followed by a luncheon at the Library of Virginia. If you want to attend the luncheon, please register and pay in advance at this link <http://www.vanow.org/rally>

Fri., Feb. 19, 10:30AM Cultural Diversity:***Renwick Gallery Tour***

The Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum houses one of the finest and most extensive collections of contemporary craft and decorative art. ***Please RSVP to the Evite that was released January 3.***

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



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electronic education record exchanges, handling more than 1.2 billion education 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. Additionally, we are awaiting confirmation of a speaker from National to educate us on the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) to be held in May 2016 at the University of Maryland. This is a three day event that includes 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.***

April 15-17

Virginia State Conference: Dulles Hyatt, Herndon, VA

This conference puts the spotlight on the Northern District of which we are a part. 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.

- **Make your hotel reservations today. The room rate is a bargain at \$99 (plus tax) a night with breakfast included. Some rooms can accommodate three but only two breakfasts per room.**
- **Book today at <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/aauw2016>**
- **This is a luxury hotel with free parking and easy access. For those so inclined there is a fitness facility and walking paths.**

Other Branch News

White House Holiday Policy Briefing

Judi Polizzotti

On Thursday December 10th, AAUW Lobby Corps members attended a White House briefing at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. Representatives of diverse organizations from NOW to the Hispanic Bar Association filled the room to capacity.

David Simas Assistant to the President opened the briefing stating that the "Central job of the President is to reflect moral values". He added that our economic direction and energy production has improved in the last seven years. All of the presenters conveyed the President's message by sharing personal stories. David's was that "if it wasn't for



the immigration act of 1965” that allowed his father to immigrate, he wouldn’t be here. He added, to remember your story and how politics affected you and tell your story.

In terms of foreign policy, he described the approach as centered on “American power to build consensus with global diplomacy first”. ISIS has an apocalyptic world view and wants a global war. But, “if we send troops into Syria, what happens after we win?” There are no simple solutions.

Domestically, to address our broken politics, we need to “return to the core”. By focusing on our responsibility to each other in our “global interconnected social media driven world”, we build consensus. But, in the key area of women and family issues we will work on our own.

Alissa Ko, Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, discussed working with the individual states to elevate the minimum wage. Some of the President’s domestic legislative agenda for the remaining term are: Paid Leave, Universal Pre-K, free college tuition, and immigration.

On immigration, Ginette Magana shared that her father immigrated from Mexico with nothing. Today, there are 42 million foreign born residents in the US. Of these, 8 million are ready to become citizens through naturalization. The President’s Task Force on New Americans is working through advocates to integrate immigration status and improve detention facilities.

Elias Alcantara presented the White house policy on criminal justice. There are 2.2 million people in the US prison system. The focus is on prevention, through programs such as My Brother’s Keeper a workforce development program. Reforming the use of solitary confinement is another critical agenda item.

Bess Evans, Senior Policy Advisor on the Domestic Policy Council described that through the Affordable Care Act 17.6 people have gained access to healthcare. Currently, the Healthy Community initiative works with local communities to increase local awareness and enrollment. Mental health parity in coverage gap but does not translate to access to medical facilities.

Gun violence prevention will be approached through executive actions currently to increase background checks and then to work with congress to “close the terror gap”.



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Jenny Kaplan and Ashley Keenan discussed the White House Fellows Program and its commitment to leadership and public service by developing the next generation of grassroots leaders.

Maureen Dwyer and I were both inspired by the articulate young presenters and their enthusiasm at being part of the administration.

Great Decisions 2016 **Judi Polizzotti**

We are excited about our topics for 2016: Rise of ISIS, Middle East Alliances, Future of Kurdistan, Migration, The Koreas, and Cuba and the US. We believe that these are relevant foreign policy areas in these changing and difficult times and will generate an interesting discussion.

Briefing books were ordered for those who signed up earlier. Anyone who would like to join us, can order the books from the Foreign Policy Association website **fpa.org**.

At the first meeting on January 20th at 7:00 pm at the Hunters Woods Community Center, room 5, Judy Skirbunt will lead the discussion on Climate Change. All subsequent meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of the month at the same time and location.

All are welcome! We hope to see you there. An evite will be sent to all members with the details.

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>

January:	Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania – Erik Larson
February:	Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde – Robert Louis Stevenson (classic)
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



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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

Spotlight on a member...

This month the spotlight is on Fran Lovaas who chairs the “Adopt-a-Spot” branch effort. Fran and her recruits clean up the area around Uplands Rec Area in Reston several times per year. Fran has been a member since 1999. I first met her when I signed up for the AAUW Mentor Program at Forest Edge Elementary in 2004. She has mentored many young ladies through elementary school and continued supporting them in Middle and High School. Fran is my inspiration as she is involved in the community on many different fronts. Not only does she take a significant role in many AAUW projects, e.g., STEM, she is a major supporter of the Reston Farm Market. Whenever AAUW has an initiative, just look over your shoulder and Fran will be there.

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

Gail Parsons
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