



Reston-Herndon Area (VA) Branch

Volume XLVI Issue 7



President's Pen

As the old saying goes, tempus fugit! To think that our 2015-16 fiscal year is about to end, I am motivated to ensure that plans for 2016-17 are underway. As a branch we were proud to present impactful initiatives and events and the goal is to keep the momentum going.

With just a quick look back to the past year, our monthly programs were well attended and diverse in content:

- State Legislative Update by Ken Plum
- Tutorial on Non-Profit Vote by Sidney Johnson, LWV
- Theatrical Characterization of Angelina Grimke by Lynne Garvey Hodge
- Human Trafficking Symposium featuring speakers from NOVA Human Trafficking Initiative, Global Peace Foundation and Artemis House
- Author, Rachel Yarnell Thompson: "Marshall, A Statesman Shaped in the Crucible of War"
- Discussion on 2004-2014 statistics for female college enrollment and course completion coupled with observations of a recent NCCWSL attendee and NOVA-Loudoun Campus participation plans for the 2016 NCCWSL event.
- Presentation by Chuck Tampio, Educator and Docent at the Tucson Museum of Art, on American Memory in Stone and Steel: Monuments of Tragedy and Triumph

Add to this impressive list, the Cultural/Diversity outings, the monthly Book Group, GOTV efforts at NOVA-Loudoun, monthly Great Decisions forum, our Lobby Corps presence on the Hill and the theater outings that help support our scholarship. Thanks to the many volunteers who made **everything** happen.

The State Conference in April was energizing, informative and entertaining. The Northern District Planning Committee did an exceptional job and our branch was well represented at the Help Desk as well as in attendance. Look for our group photo on our website.

Our 2016 Scholarship Winner is **Christina Smart** who is a student at NOVA-Loudoun. Here is an excerpt from her note of thanks:

"I am currently majoring in Pre-medicine focusing on anatomy and physiology. With the help of this scholarship, I am now able to take my college expenses into my own hands. The financial assistance you provided will allow me to concentrate more of my time on studying and learning. This scholarship is not only important to me but to my parents, as well. I have an older sister



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who attends college and a younger brother who will be graduating from high school in a year, so this scholarship really helps with my college expenses.

I am so blessed and thankful for the help you have provided me. Your generosity and thoughtfulness is inspiring and well appreciated. With your help, I am one step closer to conquering my goals and achieving my dreams.”

We are looking forward to hosting Christina at a future branch event. Thanks to our membership for their fundraising and making our scholarships possible.

At our June 23rd annual business meeting we will be holding elections for the following slate of branch officers:

- VP - Roberta Sherman (1 year term)
- Treasurer – Ruth Ruttenberg (2 year term)
- VP-Membership – Garima Singh (2 year term)

Thanks to Judi Polizzotti and Mary Zane for agreeing to co-chair Public Policy.

Vacancies remain for:

- Arts & Culture Chair (formerly known as Cultural Diversity). This function involves planning 4-5 events a year that typically include a visit to museum or historical site. This position can also be led by co-chairs.
- Newsletter Editor. There are typically 9 monthly issues although this year there will have been 7 issues.

Lots of resources are available to help volunteers fulfill these responsibilities, so please consider a chance to support the branch and have fun at the same time. Anyone who is interested may contact me on 703 915-1893 or gailiff90@gmail.com.

Over the summer months, we will be undertaking several initiatives that include:

- A membership drive to be launched in September;
- A small group study series on how to abolish Human Trafficking;
- A feasibility study to create a STEM project at Forest Edge Elementary School; and,
- A tutorial on our Lobby Corps efforts and the utilization of “Two Minute Activist” that is available on our website.

If you are interested in participating in any of these initiatives, please contact me on 703 915-1893 or gailiff90@gmail.com.

We are always looking for more program opportunities...so please contact Bea Malone bmalone1ara@yahoo.com with ideas and/or referrals. Our plans thus far are to host:

- State Legislative Update (September);



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- Panel discussion composed of 2016 NCCWSL attendees and a representative from AAUW National on AAUW's involvement (October);
- Presentation by local business woman, philanthropist, activist, author, Rosemary Tran Lauer (November); and,
- Yoga/Rei-ki Class (January)

Thursday, June 23, 6:30-9:00PM, Annual Business Meeting & Monthly Speaker Program

Gregorio's Trattoria
1428 North Point Village Center
Reston, VA 20194

Please join us for our last program of the year that will begin with a group dinner in the private room at Gregorio's Trattoria. The menu will include a choice of pasta (3 options) or chicken (2 options), a Garden or Caesar Salad, Garlic Bread and a refillable non-alcoholic drink at an all-inclusive price of \$22 per person plus tax and gratuity.

Following dinner we will have a brief business meeting to elect candidates to 3 Board positions and to hear about upcoming branch initiatives.

The evening will close with a presentation by Ms. Veronica Li, a Vienna resident, who was educated at the University of California, Berkley and Johns Hopkins University. She is the author of "Confucius Says", a novel that focuses on filial piety as a sacred duty that requires extreme sacrifice on the part of the young. When the protagonist's parents become too old and feeble to live on their own, she takes them into her home and life. Ms. Li has been a speaker at several AAUW branches and has received rave reviews.

Book Group – 2016 Selections

Be sure to check out the website for meeting details. <http://restonherndon-va.aauw.net>.

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

The next newsletter will be in September. Have a great summer!

Gail Parsons
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