



Volume XLII Issue 1

**President's Pen**

AAUW throughout Northern Virginia is off to a tremendous start with programs, events and opportunities to fortify our mission to empower women and girls. Add to that the many social activities available to foster old and new friendships. Take comfort in that our Reston-Herndon Area Board has been busy over the summer to ensure that we are providing members a return on their investment in AAUW. As you read about upcoming events, you will note that there are many venues to engage, “give back”, and be personally fulfilled. Before getting to upcoming events, let me offer a few personal perspectives.

When I became Branch President in 2015, I was feeling challenged to continue the momentum that had been established by past Co-Presidents, Cyndi Shanahan and Maureen Dwyer. They had reenergized the branch on so many levels with particular emphasis on Human Trafficking, partnerships with local non-profits, refocusing our scholarship efforts and bringing balanced business acumen to our efforts. To follow them was a daunting task. I would not have been able to undertake next steps without the help of Roberta Sherman who is our Branch VP. According to our bylaws she has oversight of all that goes on. And she has done that extremely well.

Through the volunteer commitment and passion of our members, I believe we have continued momentum and we have ventured onto new paths to add more impactful goals. Albeit that we suffered a loss with the passing of Bea Malone this summer, we are coordinating Monthly Programs through a committee. The same process is underway for Membership and Arts & Culture (formerly known as Cultural Diversity). If any member would like to serve on any of these committees, we welcome you with open arms.

In spite of our leadership vacancies, we have a strong program curriculum to offer over the next several months coupled with our on-going “institutions” such as Lobby Corps, GOTV, Great Decisions (now at two locations), Book Group, Mentoring (with a feasibility study for mentoring at Loudoun school), Adopt-a Spot aimed at local community “clean-up”, and a new initiative to create a “STEAM Club” for 3rd grade girls at a local school. Additionally we are in the planning stages of a study series called “Safe Haven” that educates us on the signs of human trafficking in our communities and what steps we can take as ordinary citizens. We have so many opportunities to make a difference at the local level.

Due to the enthusiasm and dedication of Marilyn Silvey and Cynthia Hausdorff, we have a footprint in Ashby Ponds that boosts our Loudoun membership to 33 which is more than 30% of our overall membership. Cynthia recruited interested parties to establish a monthly Great Decisions group at Ashby Ponds that brought in 7 new members. We welcome all our Ashby Pond members and promise to bring more events to Loudoun. We look forward to recruiting more Loudoun members through the efforts of Garima Singh.

Thanks go out to Cyndi Shanahan who coordinated a women’s clothing drive over the summer for Artemis House and to our members who made donations of: 15 pajamas; 30 pairs of underwear; 12 flip flops; and 15 slippers.

We now have a member “Buddy” system in place that is geographically structured. Expect to hear from your personal “Buddy” periodically starting in October. The purpose is to ensure that all our members know about up-coming events and to encourage attendance. Plus it is a great way to stay “in touch”. To



Reston-Herndon Area (VA) Branch

Volume XLII Issue 1

date we have fourteen volunteer "Buddy" callers and I expect a few more to join this effort in the next few days. Thank you volunteers!

Here are the 2016 events to look forward to including activities sponsored by other branches...

Thursday, September 15, 6:00-9:00PM – Public Policy Symposium featuring AAUW National's Katie Simon, Associate Director of Field Operations and members of Lobby Corps. Dinner meeting at Gregorio's in Reston. See current Evite for more information. Reservations are a must.

Friday, September 16, 9:00AM-7:00PM, Saturday, September 17, 10:00AM-6:00PM, Sunday, September 18, Noon-4:00PM – McLean Area Branch Book Sale at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Don't miss this since there will not be a book sale in 2017,

Tuesday, September 20, 2-3:30PM – Afternoon Tea & Desserts at "Carry to Full Term" House in Haymarket. The cost is \$25 and is fully tax deductible. The Evite was sent on September 4. We will be arranging carpools.

Tuesday, September 20, 2:30PM – Great Decisions-Ashby Ponds, Cardinal Clubhouse, Music Room,

Wednesday, September 21, 7:00PM – Great Decisions-Reston, North County Government Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston.

Thursday, September 22, 11:00AM-3:00PM – GOTV Voter registration - NOVA-Loudoun Campus. Eleven volunteers have signed up for this outing.

Saturday, September 24, 8:30AM-3:00PM – Senator Mark Warner's Virginia Women's Conference in Richmond, VA. Here is the link for more information. <https://www.warner.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2016-virginia-women-s-conference> . If you are interested in attending, please contact Judi Polizzotti judipoli86@gmail.com or Mary Zane mpz_06@verizon.net.

Wednesday, September 28, 2:15PM – Book Group - My Brilliant Friend – Elena Ferrante, Herndon Senior Center; **Thursday, September 29, 7:00PM** – Book Group - My Brilliant Friend – Elena Ferrante. Location to be announced.

Sunday, October 2, 2:30-4:30PM – The Vienna Area Branch is hosting a Wine Tasting Fundraiser for AAUW Funds. The tasting will be presented by a professional sommelier and will include 6 wines with appropriate light bites. Reservations are required by September 30. Email Diane Hoyer dhoyer@hotmail.com or call her 703 421-0564. The cost is \$35 with check payable to Vienna Area AAUW. Tax deduction forms will be distributed that day. Location is the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton.

Saturday, October 8, 4:00PM – Adopt-a-Spot Outing - A message from Fran Lovaas: For all you Adopt a Spotters and Adopt a Spotter Wantabees! Hope you had a fun summer - I know I did! Now I am ready to get back to trail cleaning. I am planning a trip down the trail from Uplands Pool to Wiehle Avenue. The weather should be cool then and the fall leaves should be coming out - a nice time to walk in the woods. Please let me know if you can join me for this adventure. For more information contact Fran at franlovaas@comcast.net or call me at **(703)318-9628**.



Reston-Herndon Area (VA) Branch

Volume XLII Issue 1

Thursday, October 13, 7:00-9:00PM – NCCWSL Forum featuring AAUW National's Bethany Imondi, Educational Events Manager, along with a panel discussion by recent NOVA student 2016 conference attendees at NOVA – Loudoun Campus, Building LC Room 102K. NCCWSL stands for the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders. Look for an Evite in late September.

Saturday, October 22, 2:00PM - Northern District Meeting at the King's Park Library "Gender Bias in Politics--Is It Real?" Most of us would say, "Yes," but you might be surprised at the how and when. It's a timely subject and also fits with AAUW's latest research on "Bias and Barriers." We will feature Melissa Richmond, VP of Running Start (a non-partisan organization that trains young women to run for office), and Melissa Jackowski, campaign services manager for TargetSmart Communications (which provides data-driven solutions to campaigns) and former AAUW Grassroots Advocacy Manager. Both women have incredible backgrounds in politics and electoral campaigns. Watch for more details in early October.

Monday, October 24, 2:00-4:00PM - Fairfax Candidate Meet & Greet, RCC Hunter Woods. We are teaming with the League of Women Voters as volunteers. Open to the general public. More information will follow.

Saturday, November 12, Noon – 3:00PM - Holiday Luncheon featuring Rosemary Tran, Author, Business Woman and Philanthropist at Clyde's Willow Creek, Broadlands, VA. Raffle Baskets will be on display to support our annual scholarship. The cost of the luncheon is \$24.25 plus tax and tip totaling \$30. Look for an Evite in mid-October.

Saturday, December 10, 2:00PM Matinee – "Carousel" at Arena Stage. This is a scholarship fundraiser and is SOLD OUT!

If you can't find something of interest to you from this calendar, email me:-)

Gail Parsons
gailiff90@gmail.com

Did you know that your old Printer Cartridges can earn \$\$\$ for our branch?

Don't throw those old printer ink cartridges away. Instead put them in a bag and drop them off at MaryPat Sampson's home or bring them to a branch meeting! Each cartridge has a value of \$2.00 that our branch can earn. Last year your efforts raised \$240. We are counting on you to continue this year as every little bit helps!

Drop-Off: **MaryPat's porch... 13364 Point Rider Lane, Herndon, VA 20171, or bring them to a branch meeting.**

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