



Volume XLII Issue 3

**President's Pen**

If 2017 rolls out as 2016 did, we should have an exciting and action packed time ahead for our branch.

I apologize for the lack of a December newsletter but my asthma got the better of me and not much got done in December. Fortunately, most of our fall activities were completed by the end of November and we had a few dates already posted for upcoming January events.

With a look back to 2016, I want to thank our members for their generosity at the November Holiday luncheon. We raised \$660 for our annual branch scholarship. When coupled with our Arena Stage fundraiser, we were able to send \$1500 to NVCC to cover the 2018 \$1000 scholarship and a \$500 advance for 2019. If we continue on the same trajectory in 2017, we expect to fully fund 2019 and certainly build towards 2020.

Now for the latest news...

Women's March - Inauguration Weekend – You should have received an email about AAUW's official delegation to the Women's March starting at 10:00am on January 21 at Independence Avenue and Third Street SW (right in front of the U.S. Capitol). You can sign up to receive more news about the march and other weekend activities by clicking on the email message icon. If you did not receive the email, please let me know and I will forward it to you.

A message from Roberta Sherman, Branch VP about Board openings...

It's that time again when we start thinking about our board for 2017-18. Although we have six months before a new board takes over, we would like you to start thinking about which office you might appeal to you. As of now, we have four important positions to fill: President, Vice President, Membership Chair and Programming Chair.



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Ruth Ruttenberg and Sharon Gillman will be staying on the board as Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

As most of you know, AAUW's national conference will be held in DC on June 14-17. AAUW VA State Board will be helping out with registration costs by giving each branch \$400. We have also set aside \$500 in our budget to help defray costs for two individuals attending the conference. To that end, we will offer \$400 to the President Elect and split the additional funds between two Board members, sitting or new Board Members whose term will begin July 1. This of course presumes that these Board members have registered for the conference.

Serving on the Board is an exciting way to help further AAUW's vision and a fun way to make new friendships. The official nominating committee will be meeting in January, but for now, please consider stepping up to one of these positions. Remember that all Board positions can be shared positions. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Gail. We look forward to hearing from lots of you!

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Membership Update - In spite of our success in recruiting new members (thirteen since July) there were nineteen members who elected not to renew leaving us with a net loss of 6. As with any organization like ours, we expect a certain level of churn each year. In some cases, other competing activities limit the amount of time available. A few members are relocating out of the area. We made a concerted effort to reach those who had not responded to our emails including the utilization of our "Buddy System". We will continue recruitment efforts and hopefully all of us can encourage family and friends to join, particularly when they hear about our mission and the activities we offer. We will be sending out a branch directory via email. Since the printed directory was eliminated several years ago, there have been many requests to restart publication. The printing costs can be prohibitive so we are sending a word document by email that will list the members and their contact information. Look for it the week of January 1.

Branch Study Series on Combating Human Trafficking (HT) – Last September a small group of members began a study series to focus on statistics, resources and legislative initiatives to enable us to take effective actions in the war against HT. The group began by viewing informational videos produced by Gail Hambleton, Vice President of the Global Peace Foundation-USA. Following the viewings over a course of two meetings, we brain stormed ways in which we could heighten awareness in our communities and schools. Additionally State Delegate Jennifer Boysko attended our third meeting and alerted us to proposed legislation, Senate Bill No. 828, that State Senator Wexton along with co-sponsors has submitted for the upcoming General



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Assembly. This bill focuses on family life education curriculum related to the prevention, recognition and awareness of child abduction, child abuse, child sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse to be taught in grades K through 12. Although the language does not specifically cite HT as a target, we have communicated our support of the bill to Senator Wexton and have asked that there be a consideration of alternative language addressing the educational efforts in the context of HT. Several members of our group will be attending the State Lobby Day and there will be a concerted effort to make sure that our HT legislative priorities are on the agenda. We are also aware of a State Senator considering legislation addressing robust safe houses in cases of HT. One of the group members has met with Fairfax County Police Dept. Detective Bill Wolfe who is the sole resource in this area pursuing HT cases to understand the criminalization of HT victims.

There are many opportunities for us to make small inroads that hopefully will lead to more impactful outcomes. Thanks to Marion Stillson, our meeting host, Mary and Al Zane, Judy Skirbunt, Cyndi Shanahan, Roberta Sherman and Judi Polizzotti for their time and efforts. We will resume our monthly meetings after State Lobby Day and plan next steps. If you would like to join us, please contact gailiff90@gmail.com

Upcoming 2017 events... Please be on the lookout for EVITES to our activities. Please RSVP to these invitations as it is the best way for us to manage the logistics of an event. We appreciate your help in ensuring we have the appropriate accommodations for our members.

Wednesday, Jan. 11 – Tour & Tea – The Freeman Store & Museum in Vienna. Have tea with Elizabeth Cady Staton. The famed abolitionist and suffragist will share stories of the women's rights movement prior to the Civil War. A traditional English tea will include sandwiches, assorted sweets, scones and a bottomless cup of tea. We were told you don't have to eat lunch before coming. The cost is \$30 which also includes a tour of the new exhibit at the Freeman Store and The Road to Women's Rights.

Two emails advertising the event were sent and there are still a few openings. Since reservations were to be secured by receipt of your \$30 check by JANUARY 2, please contact Carol Flicker carolflicker@gmail.com as soon as possible to work out those logistics.

Sunday, Jan. 22, Noon – “Bellissima” Presentation by Chuck Tampio, Tucson Museum of Art & Luncheon at Gregorio’s in Reston.



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The very first portraits by the Italian painters of the renaissance featured stylized images of women and ever since, the image of the feminine has been practically an obsession with Italian writers and artists. Italy is an extremely visual culture and central to that culture is the place of the woman. From the Venus in pre-Christian times, to the Madonna, to the family Mother, to the movie bombshells of the second half of the last century, the Italian woman continues to be an object of fascination and wonder. *Bellissima* explores these images and shows the seamless progression in art from the Madonnas of the early renaissance, to the birth of Venus, to the portraits of aristocracy to Sofia, Gina, Claudia and so many others. A special highlight of this presentation features four remarkable, but scarcely known female Italian artists. **Look for the Evite in the next few days!**

Saturday, Jan. 28 – Learn how “Guest House” Helps Women in a Joint Meeting with Giving Circle of HOPE from 10:00am-Noon.

Location: Refractions, 8th Floor, 11911 Freedom Dr., Reston, VA 20190 - right above Talbots.

Want to understand more about criminal justice and why it is such a hot topic? Come join us to hear from former clients' of Friends of Guest House. Guest House helps Northern Virginia women successfully reenter the community from incarceration. Guest House is the only group in NOVA providing reentry support that is *both* comprehensive (housing, jobs, healthcare and family/community connection) *and* tailored to women's unique needs. Through the Guest House Speakers Bureau, these women are professionally trained to deliver talks about these highly personal and important topics that spans substance abuse, incarceration, trauma and the challenges of re-entering society after being released from prison. There will be a Q&A following the speaker presentation.

Guest House would be ever grateful if you would bring a donation:

- Underwear in all sizes (especially larger sizes) is always a critical need. Women come out of prison and show up at Guest House often with only one pair of prison issued underwear.
- BJ's gift cards as they grocery shop there weekly grocery.
- Smart Trip cards for the women to get to jobs.

Thank you for whatever you can donate. . **Look for the Evite the week of January 1!**

Wednesday, Feb. 1 – VA State Lobby Day - This is an important opportunity to learn about Virginia's proposed legislation (see link below) and participate in lobbying for our public policy priorities. It's a chance for you to make a difference in the issues we care about. It's an incredible sight when we, a large cadre of AAUW members, descend on the Virginia General Assembly together.



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The Virginia General Assembly will meet in Regular Session in Richmond from January 11-February 27, 2017. You'll be able to find out lots of useful information about the lawmakers and proposed legislation at the following websites: <http://virginiageneralassembly.gov> and <http://lis.virginia.gov>.

Leslie Tourigney, State VP-Public Policy is currently firming up the agenda. However, you should expect that the day's agenda will begin early (8:30 am or earlier) and should wrap up after lunch. As in the past, those who are interested can join the League of Women Voters (and perhaps other groups) at lunch. Details will follow.

Members from the AAUW Greater Richmond Branch will graciously be opening their homes to host any of our participating members who arrive on January 31, 2017. You can expect a home cooked dinner! Please contact either Judy Polizzotti or Mary Zane if you would like to stay overnight as they are coordinating the information for the branch. In addition let them know if you plan to drive down on Feb. 1st since car pools will be in play.

Judipoli86@gmail.com
mpz_06@verizon.net

Saturday, Feb. 4 – Scholarship Fundraiser – “Roe” - Theater Matinee at Arena Stage – Sold out!

Saturday, Feb. 18, Noon – Lunch and a Presentation on a personal perspective of today's China based on a 2016 visit. This will be at a local restaurant. **Look for the Evite the week of Jan. 16th!**

Friday, Mar. 3 – Docent Led Tour of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Museum, 1776 D St. Washington, DC. The cost is \$5 per person. A new exhibit “An Agreeable Tyrant – Fashion after the Revolution” has just opened. Tour lasts approximately 45” and we will plan a lunch at a nearby restaurant. Reservations must be made by Feb. 2. **Look for the Evite the week of Jan. 1!**

Thursday, Mar. 16, 7:00pm – Presentation by Author, Laura Zelman, “In My Father's Words: The World War II Letters of an Army Doctor”. Listen to the author's journey in publishing letters between her parents during WWII while her father was serving overseas. Location: No. County Govt. Center, Reston **Look for the EVITE the week of Feb. 20th.**



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Thursday, Apr. 20, 7:00pm – Presentation by Na'ama Gold who is with Technion, an Israeli government "supporter" or "facilitator" for high-tech start-ups. Technion is currently building a facility on Roosevelt Island--off Manhattan--in conjunction with a university to nurture and develop high-tech innovations. Na'ama will speak about her youth in Israel, the education system and how promising youth are channeled through their Army service. Location: No. County Govt. Center, Reston **Look for the EVITE the week of Mar. 20th!**

Saturday, Apr. 22, Noon – Mother-Daughter-Granddaughter Luncheon, Mon Ami Gabi Restaurant, Reston. What a great opportunity to introduce your daughters and granddaughters to AAUW and in particular our Reston-Herndon branch. We will have a featured speaker, Paula Young Shelton, author of "Child of the Civil Rights Movement". Paula, daughter of Civil Rights activist Andrew Young, brings a child's unique perspective to an important chapter in America's history. Paula grew up in the "deep south", in a world where whites had and blacks did not. With an activist father and a community of leaders surrounding her, including Uncle Martin (Martin Luther King), Paula watched and listened to the struggles, eventually joining with her family—and thousands of others—in the historic march from Selma to Montgomery. **Look for the EVITE the week of Mar. 20th.**

Wednesday, Apr. 26, Noon Matinee – Scholarship Fundraiser - Arena Stage, Washington, DC.

INSIGHTFUL COMEDY-DRAMA **SMART PEOPLE**



By Lydia R. Diamond
Directed by Seema Sueko
Kreeger Theater

Do belief systems stem from our environment? Are some prejudices hard-wired into us? With barbed wit, Lydia R. Diamond (*Stick Fly*) explores the unavoidable nature of cultural bias and other sticky subjects in the controversial and fiercely funny new play *Smart People*. Four intellectuals — a doctor, an actress, a psychologist, and a neurobiologist studying the human brain's response to race — search for love, acceptance and identity in a complex world where political correctness comes face-to-face with cold hard data.



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Tickets would normally be \$63 (including fees) however we are offering them at \$53.50. We have a block of 10 seats available. Please contact gailiff90@gmail.com if you wish to purchase tickets no later than Mar.15th.

Details on the May General Membership Meeting and Dinner are under development.

June 14-17 – AAUW National Convention – Washington, DC – Go to www.aauw.org and click on the heading “Convention”. The next page will have information about registration, agenda, speakers, etc. There are discounts on convention costs based on when you register. The earlier you register, the more cost effective!

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at upcoming events.

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