



President's Pen

Greetings to the Reston- Herndon Branch Members and Friends,

The 2017-18 Executive Board has been hard at work during the Branch's summer interlude planning for the coming year. I hope you will enjoy, and find informative, our first newsletter, as it is packed with relevant information, announcements, the 2017-18 calendar - with significant dates already determined and described in detail from Sept through Dec to aid you in your personal planning - and even some fun tidbits. All of this is available to you through the efforts of Roberta Sherman, our new newsletter editor, with the help of the Board of Directors and other members who kept track of important items for the Branch over the last few months. On behalf of the Branch, the Executive Board would like to thank Roberta, who apparently never rests, for volunteering her time and expertise to ensure that we have an excellent newsletter. I hope you will follow Roberta's example and volunteer for one of the committees, the Mentor Program, and/or Lobby Corp. Also, please take time to read the Branch Goals, take the upcoming survey, and plan on attending as many of the events as you can; I know you will enjoy them as much as I have. I will be back in touch with all of you through the "Reston-Herndon Happenings" email blast later this month.

Best, Dianne

Our 50th Year:

Spring 2019 will mark the 50th year of the Reston-Herndon Branch of AAUW. In each Newsletter, we will provide you with interesting facts about our Branch.

- February 14, 1969 the Reston Branch received its official charter with fifteen charter members.
- The Branch almost disbanded in 1972 due to lack of interest and participation. After help from nearby Branches by 1973 the Branch could function again and Gail Osberg, a present member, was elected President.
- 1973 the Branch chose the association topic "Women Search for Self". They produced a bibliography of non-sexist books for children which attracted nationwide attention and requests from various parts of the United States.

Meet Our Executive Board - Each month we will highlight two of our executive board members:

Dianne Mero - President:

Dianne was born and educated in Plainfield, IL. She earned her undergraduate degree in Biology from Illinois State University, a Masters in Educational Administration from UNC-Chapel Hill and her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from American University. A teacher and public school administrator for 35 years in several school districts, in her retirement, she manages an education-consulting firm and does volunteer work. Formerly an officer in the AAUW Rockville (MD) branch, Dianne has enjoyed the many activities and services of the Reston-Herndon Branch since joining in 2015. Dianne lives in Oakton with her husband, Jim. They have three adult children and two grandchildren.

Janine Greenwood - Vice President:

Janine Greenwood recently retired as a attorney. The first twenty years of her career were as legal counsel to television news organizations and the second twenty as counsel to nonprofit organizations which provide support services to higher education. She has a BA from the University of Pittsburgh and an MS Journalism and JD from Columbia University. Her husband is Ralph and between them they have four children and four grandchildren. She has been a branch member for three years and participates in Lobby Corps, book group and Great Decisions.

**AAUW Reston-Herndon Area Branch
2017-2018 Goals**

The Executive Board has adopted the following Branch goals for the 2017-18 year:

Goal #1 Adopt a Collaborative Approach for Executive Board and Board of Directors

In order to recognize, honor, and employ the many talents of each member of the Executive Board and Board of Directors, the leadership team - as the elected/appointed and volunteer leaders of our Branch - will employ a collaborative approach to task completion and problem-solving as the group works toward the common goals of AAUW and the Branch. In that light, each leader must not only be committed to mentor and encourage each other and be patient, empathetic and reassuring, but also be respectfully decisive on issues of importance to the Branch.

Goal #2 Diversity and Inclusion

The Reston-Herndon Branch is committed to the AAUW Diversity Policy: "AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of sex, gender identity, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class." Work will continue on encouraging and supporting

more diversity within our Branch by emphasizing outreach through targeted recruitment activities, creating new partnerships and sponsoring activities and events with other appropriate organizations. In addition, the Board will undertake a self- review on inclusion to ensure that events and meetings are inclusive for all Branch members.

Goal #3 Member Interests Input Survey

A survey shall be developed and sent to each Branch member to seek input regarding the direction they would like to see the Branch take in the next few years. The vehicle will be anonymous through the “Survey Monkey” instrument; a 100% response will be encouraged, so we may hear everyone’s voice. The results will be shared with the membership, while the Board of Directors will be responsible for analysis, recommended actions and implementation of plans based on this input.

Goal #4 Programs Status

Book Groups, Great Decisions and Lobby Corps continue to be popular with Branch members. The Mentor Program at Forest Edge Elementary School will continue with increased attention from the Branch leadership in an attempt to recruit additional mentors and rebuild the program. While rebuilding, the current mentors will work toward maintaining the program’s original focus, which balances the needed academic support (“tutoring”) with true mentoring (“establishing a relationship”). Interested members and/or a committee will explore the possibility of additional programs, such as a pilot STEM/STEAM program. To increase communication with the newest members, the efforts currently being put into the maintenance of the Branch “Phone Tree” will be converted to a focus on the orientation and inclusion of new members. A starting point will be a “Meet and Greet” opportunity to familiarize those who became members in 2017 with the mission and goals of AAUW and the Branch, the many programs, events and activities available and an opportunity to meet the Branch leadership team and other Branch members. For the current year, the Branch Human Traffic Committee will be discontinued. The original aim of the project - to learn and understand the facts about this heinous social issue and provide opportunities to increase awareness - has been achieved to the Branch’s capacity. Should further opportunities to assist arise in the future, the Branch will be open to exploring ways to be helpful.

Goal #5 NVCC –Scholarship & Loudoun Area

The partnership between AAUW Reston-Herndon Area Branch and the NVCC – Loudoun Campus will continue, as per the current agreement, into the 2019 academic year. During the 2017-18 term, a liaison from the Executive Board will provide continuity and communication with the college; the partnership agreement will be re-examined to ensure that the Branch’s original goals are being reached; and the Branch will explore the possibilities of a change, an expansion or a re-focus of the scholarship. A report will be made to the Board for possible action by April 2018. Concerted efforts will be made to include all Branch members living in Loudoun County in all Reston-Herndon Branch activities, as well as to support and encourage activities within Loudoun in locations such as Ashby Ponds or at Northern Virginia Community College – Loudoun Campus. Membership recruitment efforts in this area also will be emphasized.

Branch Meeting September 14 - Ken Plum Virginia House of Delegates

Our meeting will be held at the Reston Government Center Building on Bowman Town Drive at 7:00 p.m.

Ken Plum, Virginia House of Delegates, 36th District will be our featured speaker and will address legislation relating to AAUW's Public Policy Goals. Topics on the agenda are gun violence, diversity and Inclusion, sexual health, equity in salary and benefits, quality and affordable child care, voting rights and affirmative action, and reproductive health decisions.

NCNW has been invited to join us at this meeting.

AAUW Fall Membership "Meet and Greet" Event

Current Members: Please reach out to a friend and bring her/him to learn more about our AAUW Reston-Herndon Branch and the important role AAUW has in empowering women and girls.

When: Saturday, September 9, 2017

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Where: Mon Ami Gabi Restaurant, Reston Town Center, 11950 Democracy Drive
Coffee/Tea and Breakfast Pastries

If your guest attends and signs up at the event with a check, you both will receive a special treat. New members can join at a reduced dues rate of \$54.50.

Please RSVP to Ilene Banker, Membership Vice President at CIBANK@aol.com

Branch Name Tags...

As a reminder, laminated name tags are available on the AAUW website. Go to aauw.source4.com. You will see ShopAAUW; go to wear AAUW and the name tags are there. They are \$8.00. We highly recommend that each member order one and wear it to every branch event. The name tag is a great way to introduce you to an unfamiliar face and make them feel welcome.

On That Note Welcome Our New Members:

MaryAnn Little
Mary Blissard
Betty Jane (BJ) Schuchman
Diane Marinaro
Jackie Brown
Cheryl Sella
Lynn Jordan

Annual Dues...

Our fiscal year ended on June 30 and that meant that annual dues (\$79 of which \$46 is tax deductible) is due. If you have not paid as yet, you may either renew on the AAUW website www.aauw.org or mail a check payable to AAUW Reston-Herndon Area Branch to Ruth Ruttenberg, Treasurer, 1767 Wainwright Dr., Reston, VA 20190.

From Our Public Policy Team - Mary Zane and Judy Polizotti

Take action on issues impacting women and girls by joining AAUW's Action Network. All it takes is two minutes and an internet connection! Reaching out to your legislators is important, even if they agree with your position. Legislators need to know they have your support. As a Two-Minute Activist, you will receive urgent email notices when your advocacy is needed most. We'll provide all the tools you need to call or send messages to your members of Congress or write letters to the editor for your local newspapers, <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>

AAUW has also just added a mobile tool to enable you to be connected to the offices of members of Congress by telephone. Just text AAUW to 213-33 to sign up for text alerts.

Tuesday, August 29 is a special election for the vacated school board seat on the Fairfax County School Board. There has not been much publicity about this election, but it is an important one which could determine school policy for the next few years. No matter what your political leanings are, please make sure to vote on Tuesday, August 29.

Mentors Needed for Upcoming School Year

Judy Christofferson, Reston-Herndon AAUW Mentoring Program Coordinator

Mentoring Program Overview

Our AAUW chapter has been mentoring a group of girls at Forest Edge Elementary School for many years. There are other volunteer mentors at the school, but our program is unique in that we meet as a group. Our focus is on being a supportive and safe adult in the girl's life. Although we enjoy helping the girls with homework and projects, it is clear to us that just being there is what matters.

Program Is In Jeopardy: We Need More Volunteers

One of the counselors at Forest Edge Elementary School emailed me last June, that she would reach out to me this coming school year to see if we had recruited more mentors. She will have no trouble finding girls who want to participate in our program. While the need for mentors remains high, at this time we have mentors for only three girls this coming fall. ***Without at least 5-7 weekly mentors, the chapter program cannot continue. Please check your schedule and see if you can spare 45 minutes each week that school is in session to mentor a girl..***

Mentoring Rewards

Both mentors and girls find the experience rewarding and fun. Mentoring is a wonderful opportunity to help a young girl and learn a lot about yourself in the process. The time flies by because we only have 45 minutes together.

In a recent email to me, Judi Ornoff said about her mentoring experience: "I have been a mentor since the program began in 2003 or 2004. I have mentored 7 girls during that time. Our focus was both social and academic. I was very gratified that after 4 years, Husna learned all her multiplication tables. Fatima, who I co-mentored with Lynne Mulston, still keeps in touch with both of us by email, and is doing very well in middle school....I have found that the girls develop a camaraderie that is very positive, brought about by our birthday and holiday celebrations and craft projects."

Further Information

Mentoring begins usually a few weeks after the start of the school year. We mentor after school from 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. on each Tuesday school is in session. Co-mentoring a girl with another person is an option for those who can't be there every week. We also have substitutes. If you have any questions or are interested in becoming a mentor, please email: judy@crc-law.com

Help Wanted:

- Vice President of Communication - This interesting and exciting Executive Board position is currently open. The job description includes assisting the President, the Executive Board and the Board of Directors with the distribution of various items of interest to our members; communicating with media outlets and other relevant groups; posting information, as appropriate, in local establishments (i.e., libraries, coffee shops, etc); coordinating and helping the newsletter editor and webmaster, and assisting with the maintenance of a fresh and up-to-date Facebook page. We guarantee full support for this important position, as we are committed to achieving broader exposure for the excellent work of our organization. Brush off your college club and PTA publicity skills, you are needed! This an opportunity to get to know many more wonderful women in R-H AAUW, plus we have a lot of fun. Contact Dianne at dpmero2@gmail.com.
- Important Position Needs Filling: Chair/Co-chairs sought to lead a one-time "self-review" of our Branch's inclusion practices with a final report/recommendations to the Board. (Branch Goal #2 – contact Dianne Mero at dpmero2@gmail.com or Janine Greenwood at janinegrnwd@hotmail.com)
- Volunteer as a mentor with our Mentoring Program at Forest Edge Elementary. Help make a young girl smile (and you, too)– it feels great! (See Mentoring article in this newsletter – contact Judy Christofferson at judy@crc-law.com)

- Join the committee to explore implementing a new STEM/STEAM program at an area elementary school. Let's try reaching the girls early and watching their potential bloom. (Branch Goal #4 – contact Dianne Mero at dpmero2@gmail.com)
- Let's Celebrate! Support the effort to celebrate our Branch's 50th Anniversary in 2019 by joining the planning committee. Encourage your friends – you'll have fun looking back over the last 50 years – it's guaranteed! (See 50th Anniversary-related items in this newsletter – contact Dianne Mero at dpmero2@gmail.com)
- Become an appointed member of the Board of Directors as the official Loudoun Branch Representative. Help review and make recommendations scholarship, support increased inclusion of the members who are Ashby Ponds residents, help plan AAUW R-H activities in Loudoun area and make sure your neighbors have a voice in Branch discussions and decisions. (Branch Goals #2 & #4 – contact Janine Greenwood at janinegrnwd@hotmail.com)

From the Cultural Arts Team - Roberta Sherman and Carol Flicker

What a glorious day, Wednesday, August 9th turned out to be, Nineteen members, spouses and friends joined us for the first outing of this year at the Udvar Hazy Museum in Chantilly. When we asked for a tour that would focus on women in aviation and space we were not prepared for the wonderful guide, Emily Wankier we had. Emily went over and above what we expected with stories, photographs and great descriptions of past and present women who shaped the air and space field. You can see from the pictures below what a wonderful time we all had. Look for a blast or email about our future events.



Did You Know:

Legacy Circle Information: You can provide AAUW with funds by leaving a legacy. By remembering AAUW National in your estate plans you can help guarantee the continued important work that AAUW does. It is our pleasure to tell you that our member Nancy Thompson has become the latest member of the Legacy Circle and will receive her Legacy Circle pin at an upcoming Branch meeting.

Member Survey (Goal #3): Watch your inbox for a survey invitation from Janine Greenwood in the next few days. Thanks in advance for your participation. Your insights are critical to Branch success.

2017-18 Reston- Herndon Area Branch Calendar

- 9/14/17 Speaker: Ken Plum, Virginia House of Delegates, 36th District
Reston Government Center, 7-9 pm, 12000 Bowman Towne Drive
- 10/12/17 Speaker - Olga Hernandez, League of Women Voters Fairfax
Reston Government Center, 7-9 pm, 12000 Bowman Towne Drive
- 11/04/17 Holiday Luncheon Mon Ami Gabi
Reston Towne Center 11950 Democracy Drive, Reston
- No program in December
- 1/11/18 TBA
- No program in February
- 3/08/18 TBA
- 4/12/18 TBA
- 5/10/18 TBA
- 6/14/18 Annual Meeting and Dinner

Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting Schedule

Date: September 5, 2017, December 5, February 27, June 5 Time: 3:30
Location: Upstairs Conference Room, Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace St, Herndon

Book Groups – Afternoon - 4th Wed (2:15 pm) at Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace St, Herndon 20170 **Evening**- 4thThurs (7 pm) at Reston Used Books, Lake Anne Village Center, 1623 Washington Plaza N or Members homes (check Blasts for specifics)

Great Decisions – 3rd Wed (7 -9 pm) Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Rd, Room 5; Start date: 9/20; includes December

Lobby Corps – Every Thursday when Congress is in session - Metro to Capitol Hill (approx. 8 am – 12 pm)

Mentor Program – Every Tuesday at Forest Edge Elementary School (3:30 – 4:30; Sept - June)

Board of Directors 2017-18

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|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| President | Dianne Mero | dpmero2@gmail.com |
| Vice President | Janine Greenwood | janinegrnwd@hotmail.com |
| Treasurer | Ruth Ruttenberg | kennruth@comcast.net |
| VP Membership | Ilene Banker | CIBank@aol.com |
| VP Program | Judy Skirbunt | judy.skirbunt@gmail.com |
| Secretary | Sharon Gilman | sagilman@gmail.com |
| Adopt-a-Spot | Fran Lovaas | franlovaas@comcast.net |
| Arts & Culture | Roberta Sherman | shermanrs1@aol.com |
| | Carol Flicker | carolflicker@gmail.com |
| Book Group | Ellen Rugel | ellenrugel@aol.com |
| | Shirley Finkelstein | Shirley.finkelstein@comcast.net |
| Great Decisions | Judi Polizzotti | judipoli86@gmail.com |
| | Judy Skirbunt | judy.skirbunt@gmail.com |
| | Cynthia Housdorff | chausdorff@juno.com |
| | Marilyn Silvey | marilynsilvey@comcast.net |
| Mentoring | Judy Christofferson | judy@crc-law.com |
| Newsletter | Roberta Sherman | shermanrs1@aol.com |
| NOVA-Loudoun Liaison | Janine Greenwood | janinegrnwd@hotmail.com |
| Public Policy | Judi Polizzotti | judipoli86@gmail.com |
| | Mary Zane | mpz-06@verizon.net |
| Website | Lynne Mulston | lynne.mulston@gmail.com |

Welcome to the first Newsletter of the 2017-18 year.

As Newsletter editor, I will try and keep you informed with all pertinent information on a monthly to semi-monthly basis. If there is any information you need before the regular publication of the newsletter, Dianne Mero will be sending "Blasts" from time to time. If you would like to have something in the Newsletter, please email me at shermanrs1@aol.com Feedback is always welcomed and I look forward to hearing from you.

Remember for the latest news regarding the Reston Herndon Branch check out our website at restonherndon-va.aauw.net The code to enter is VA3035.

Roberta Sherman, Newsletter Editor