



### President's Pen

Greetings Reston-Herndon Branch Members & Friends,

It's hard to believe that last week we closed out the first quarter of our 2017-18 year. The new Executive Board has settled in: the Branch goals for the year were developed, each member's opinions were sought on a variety of topics via an all-member survey, a balanced operating budget was adopted for FY18, and a well-attended first Branch program was held with great success. Our on-going activities, such as Book Group, Great Decisions and Lobby Corps are back in business and membership is increasing. We offer "kudos" to Fran Lovaas (and John!) for organizing the Adopt-a-Spot program each year. The first cleanup has taken place with plans for two more in the spring. Thank you, Fran, John, and the other dedicated volunteers for your commitment to this important community activity. Scattered throughout this newsletter are items relating to Branch current events as well as plans for future activities, with an emphasis on those which will take place between October and December of this year – please take a look at the offerings and consider joining other Branch members at some of the activities, events and volunteer possibilities made available by the hard work of your Board of Directors and ad hoc committee chairs. I hope to see you soon at one of these events!

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.

- In 1975 we had about 100 members. The Educational Study Group wrote and published a handbook of information for new residents on the Fairfax County Public Schools serving Reston and distributed the handbook through local realtors.
- Also in 1975, Reston was one of the hostess branches for the State Convention held at the Tyson corner Holiday Inn. At the convention, the Chapter celebrated its 50th Anniversary. One of the optional activities was a tour of Reston given by our members and a reception was held thereafter at GRACE.

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

#### **Judy Skirbunt - Vice President Programming:**

Judy has lived in Reston since 1977. She retired from the Fairfax County School system in 2011 after teaching for 22 years at South Lakes High School. Over the years, Judy taught history, government and peer mediation, served as the Social Studies Department Chair, and was the South Lakes Teacher of the Year twice.

Before she went back to teaching, she co-managed the Baliles for Governor campaign for Centreville District (now Hunters Woods) in 1985 and also managed a campaign for Fairfax County Supervisor, Martha Pennino. Judy was also the Governor's Appointee to the State Board of Psychology for four years.

Judy first joined AAUW in 1983 and renewed her active membership when she retired in 2011.

**Ilene Banker - Vice President Membership:**

Ilene was born and educated in New York City. She earned her undergraduate degree in Philosophy and Education from Queens College, CUNY and a Masters Degree in Educational Psychology from New York University. Additionally, Ilene has an Endorsement in Educational Administration from the University of Virginia in grades K-12. Before becoming a teacher in New Jersey and a teacher and public school administrator in Virginia, she worked for Chase Manhattan Bank and Merrill Lynch as an HR specialist. In retirement, she works as a PALS Reading tutor for Loudoun County Public Schools and assesses Second Language Learners for English Proficiency.

Ilene is married to Charlie and they have two grown daughters who are both pursuing graduate degrees. Ilene has been a branch member since 2013.



**Branch Meeting October 12** - Introduction of our 2017-18 NVCC Scholarship Recipient - Brittany Whitfield

Speaker: **Olga Hernandez**, League of Women Voters Fairfax Area, served as past-president of both the Virginia State League of Women Voters and the Fairfax Area League of Women Voters

Our meeting will meet at the Reston Community Center at Hunters Woods Shopping Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston at 7:00 p.m. **NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE!**

Ms. Hernandez will address the upcoming November Election and other election issues. This location is handicapped accessible. For more details, call the venue directly.

**November 4** - Holiday Friends Giving Luncheon - Basket Raffle

Speaker: : Linda Harris Sittig, award winning journalist, noted author and dedicated historical blogger will speak on *HOW HISTORY CREATES STRONG WOMEN* while telling several stories from her books. Linda is an adjunct professor at Shenandoah University, a free lance writer, blogger and published author. She is also a former public school reading specialist and consultant in Fairfax and Loudoun counties. She will have books available for purchase and signing .

Our meeting will be held at Mon Ami Gabi, Reston Towne Center, 11950 Democracy Dr, Reston 11:30-3:30

Lunch is \$30.00 (includes gratuity and tax)

Send your check payable to *AAUW Reston-Herndon Branch* to Treasurer **Ruth Ruttenberg, 1767 Wainwright Dr., Reston, VA 20190** no later than **OCTOBER 15, 2017.**

FYI: Dining selections - made at the luncheon - will be a choice of Quiche Lorraine; Chicken, Brie, Apple Sandwich and Frites; or Salmon Salad (Spinach and Baby Kale). Dessert choices are: Profiterole, Chocolate Mousse, or Crème Brûlée. Coffee, Tea and Soft Drinks are included.

This location is handicapped accessible. For more details, call the venue directly.

**Report on our 2017 Member Survey Janine Greenwood, Vice President**

Many thanks to all the members who participated in our survey. Forty-four members responded; a nearly 50% response rate of active members who received the survey. Although we have a strong core of long time members (39%) a nearly equal number (34%) have been members for fewer than four years.

**Top Reasons for Membership in Order (Based on Top Three Rankings)**

- Friendship
- Learning Opportunities
- Monthly Programs
- Public Policy Engagement
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Engagement with AAUW National

**Top Program Interests in Order**

- National Public Policy
- State/Local Public Policy
- Author Presentations
- Women's History

**Meeting Location Preference**

Public spaces with one or two restaurant meetings a year

**Mobility Challenges**

Twenty percent of respondents reported some level of mobility challenge

**Arts and Culture Program Top Preferences**

- Museums
- Historic Sites

**Top AAUW Public Policy Issues Priorities Interests**

- Employment Discrimination
- Funding Public Education
- Voting Rights

This information has been shared with the entire Board – particularly those who help create our wonderful schedule of programs and activities. Your input will help shape our branch. The Board plans to conduct a follow-up survey in 12 to 18 months to see how we are meeting your preferences and expectations. Again, thank you for participating!

**AAUW: In It for Life? Make It Official.**

Empower generations to come through your lifetime membership in AAUW! Join or upgrade your existing membership today and receive a letter of recognition, a certificate, and a lapel pin that you can wear proudly knowing that you've put your values into action. Lifetime membership in AAUW is a one-time, fully tax-deductible gift of \$980

**Did You Know...**

Our fiscal year ended on June 30 and that meant that annual dues (\$79 of which \$46 is tax deductible) was due. Did you know that out of that amount the Branch only receives \$15 to sustain our group. We work with limited funds, therefore, we appreciate your generosity with our raffles and other fund raising activities

**Our Newest Legacy Member:**

At our September Branch meeting, Nancy Thompson became our latest Legacy Member. Marion Stillson, Former Branch and Chapter President as well as Legacy Member "pinned" Nancy and both Patsy Quick and Sandy Lawrence, VA State Presidents, were on hand to congratulate Nancy as well.



*Welcome*

**Membership News - Ilene Banker, Membership Vice President:**

A new member get together was held on October 2 at Glory Days Restaurant in Northpoint Shopping Center, Reston. This was an opportunity for our newest members to meet each other and the Executive Board in an informal and relaxed venue. Invitations were also extended to all members who joined in early 2017. Each attending member was given a certificate for a free appetizer as a courtesy of Glory Days Restaurants.

Welcome our New Members:

Michele Probst  
Esther Friedman  
Adele Denny  
Janet Griffith  
Joanna Friedrich  
Elise Donaldson  
Janice Faulk  
Dee Myers  
Joyce Sanders  
Linda Bailey  
BJ Schuchman  
Mary Ann Little

Please continue to refer your friends and family to join our Branch. I can be directly contacted at [Ilene.Banker@gmail.com](mailto:Ilene.Banker@gmail.com) for membership information.

**Branch Name Tags...**

As a reminder, laminated name tags are available on the AAUW website. Go to [aauw.source4.com](http://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. It is a great way to introduce you to an unfamiliar face and make them feel welcome. If you would like to print your own membership card to use as a name tag at no cost to you, go to the AAUW website and print your card there. Plastic holders will be provided by the Branch. To access your membership card, follow these steps. You will need your membership number. If you are not sure of your AAUW ID number, contact Ilene Banker, Membership VP at [Ilene.Banker@gmail.com](mailto:Ilene.Banker@gmail.com). Start by going to the AAUW website at [aauw.org](http://aauw.org)  
Click membership tab on top  
Under branch members click on rejoin  
Now Log into the MSD now  
Click on Enter Membership Data Base  
Click on to Print Your Membership card

**NEW BRANCH POLICY:** Non-member participation in AAUW Reston-Herndon Events and Activities

*The following AAUW Reston-Herndon Branch policy was approved at the Fall Quarterly Board of Directors meeting (9/5/17) and adopted by the Executive Board at its September meeting (9/15/17).*

For the purpose of membership enticement and recruitment, the AAUW Reston-Herndon Branch encourages guest attendance at all Branch activities, such as Book Group, Cultural Arts, Great Decisions, monthly programs, and special events.

All meetings (Executive Board, Board of Directors, Branch membership meetings) are always open to members and guests. In addition, outside participants are welcome at the afternoon Book Group, held at the Herndon Senior Center, and all AAUW Reston-Herndon fund-raising activities.

In fairness to Branch members, a policy has been adopted that places a limit of two guest visits per year to Branch-sponsored activities. As members' dues support Branch activities, all guests will be given information about Branch memberships and be encouraged by their host and the chairperson of the event to become a member.

This Non-member Participation Policy does not effect spouses, significant others, partners, or individuals assisting a special needs member.

**Branch Solicitation and Acknowledgement Letters**

On occasion, our members have the opportunity to request consideration of support from local businesses and community organizations and receive contributions to support our mission and goals. As a result, the Reston-Herndon Executive Board has approved the use of a standard letter of solicitation to describe our organization and explain how our Branch utilizes these contributions. A second letter has been prepared to be used as a written acknowledgement of a contribution. The clarification that our Branch is a 501(c)(4) organization is an important component of the letters and meets IRS requirements. Until we are able to get the letters into a link on our website, a template can be obtained from Janine [janinegrnwd@hotmail.com](mailto:janinegrnwd@hotmail.com) or Dianne [dpmero2@gmail.com](mailto:dpmero2@gmail.com). If you need assistance with the personalization your letter, you are encouraged to contact one of us. Please forward a copy of any letter that goes out in the name of the Branch to Dianne so we can include your contact in our official records.

**From Our Public Policy Team - Mary Zane and Judy Polizotti**

Opt in to AAUW's Two-Minute Activist Mobile. This exciting tool will allow AAUW to send more timely and targeted communication straight to your cell phone via text message. That means we can provide you with more strategic opportunities to take action. Sign up online or text the word "AAUW" to phone number 21333 now to join.

**Book Group Members:**

Please send your suggested titles with a brief description to Shirley for voting for the 2018 book selections at [shirley.finkelstein@comcast.net](mailto:shirley.finkelstein@comcast.net)

**From the Cultural Arts Team - Roberta Sherman and Carol Flicker**

On October 2, seventeen members enjoyed brunch at Amphora Restaurant and a tour of the grounds and house at Sully Plantation. Our costumed guides told us about the residents who lived and work on the plantation while focusing on the role of the women. Our next outing will be some time in January. In the meantime, plan to attend the holiday luncheon on November 4.

**Current Events - OCTOBER**

Oct 12: October Branch Meeting – 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Reston Community Center, Hunter Woods Shopping Center, 2310 Colts Neck Rd, Reston (see notice)

October 18: Great Decisions – 7:00 p.m. Reston Community Center, Hunter Woods Shopping Center, 2310 Colts Neck Rd, Reston (see Evite)

October 21: Northern District Meeting- Saturday, October 21, 1:30-4:15 p.m. George Mason Library is at 7001 Little River Tnpk, Annandale (see notice)

October 25 & 26: Book Groups - *The Last Days of Night* by Graham Moore

**Current Events - NOVEMBER & DECEMBER**

November 4: (Saturday) Friends Giving Luncheon – 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Mon Ami Gabi, Reston Town Center, 11950 Democracy Dr. Reston (see notice)

November 7: Election Day – Don't forget to vote. Have a conflict? Apply for an absentee ballot!

November 15: Great Decisions – 7:00 p.m. Reston Community Center, Hunter Woods Shopping Center, 2310 Colts Neck Rd, Reston (see Evite)

No November Book Groups Due to Thanksgiving – see early December entry.

December 6 & 7: Book Groups – *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi

**Wonderful Opportunity:****AAUW Virginia State Officers Call for Nominations**

Four opportunities for service on the state board are open for 2018-20: President (candidates must have previously served on AAUW of VA Board of Directors), Vice President for Program, Vice President for Public Policy, and Vice President for Communications. From October 1 to December 1, 2017, the Nomination Committee will accept submittals from individuals and/or branches. The term of office for each position is July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2020. For more details, see the AAUW Board of Directors' Handbook at <http://aauw-va.aauw.net> (select resource library). Each AAUW VA member will vote online or by ballot following the 2018 State Conference, April 20-22.

**Other Meetings of Note:**

- **Virginia Northern District Meeting** - Saturday, October 21 1:30-4:30 George Mason Regional Library. Kim Churches, AAUW's new CEO, will bring us up to date on AAUW and tell us her vision for AAUW's future as the premier organization for women's equity and education and a Q & A. You will also hear about the outstanding and exciting branch and state events on the horizon. There is a full agenda, so arrive about 1:15 for refreshments and be ready to start right at 1:30. The George Mason Library is at 7001 Little River Tnpk, Annandale, with a large room for all of us.
- **SmartBrief Education's 4th Annual STEM Pathways Summit** October 20, 2017  
This **FREE** summit is great opportunity for members who may be interested in assisting with STEM curriculum for elementary girls, but want to learn more about the topic. Bringing together the top STEM specialists and experts from education, government and industry, SmartBrief Education's Annual STEM Pathways Summit is a one-day event that explores real-world ways to address the issue of students' STEM skills gaps and guide them toward careers in STEM fields. This year, participants will learn about cutting-edge practices, trends, resources and tools. Attendees will develop a STEM toolkit, build a learning network with colleagues and share success stories and lessons learned, all while getting the latest strategic insights in STEM. The Summit is free, but fills up on a first-come-first-served basis.. Learn more and register at <http://info.smartbrief.com/STEMSummit2017>
- **McLean Branch - McLean's 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Used Book Sale** - The McLean Area AAUW Branch will host its annual Used Book Sale on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, October 6-8 at the Spring Hill Recreation Center, 1239 Spring Hill Road, McLean, VA Friday 9-7; Saturday 10-6; and Sunday 12-4 (when most books are \$10 a bag and specially priced books are half-price). Spread the word! Nationals fans:, there will be a raffle of a signed Max Scherzer jersey and cap. Our tickets of \$10 or 3 for \$20 for the jersey and \$5 or 3 for \$10 for the cap are a bargain. These are listed online for \$400 and \$200.



### 2017-18 Reston- Herndon Area Branch Calendar

#### Programs

- 10/12/17 *Speaker* - Olga Hernandez, League of Women Voters Fairfax, Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods Shopping Center, 7-9 pm, 2310 Colts Neck Rd
- 11/04/17 *Holiday Luncheon*: Mon Ami Gabi, Reston Towne Center, 11950 Democracy Drive, Reston  
*No program* in December  
*No program* in January
- 2/03/18 *Saturday - Joint Meeting*: Giving Circle of Hope and NCWC
- 3/08/18 *Program* – Healthy Options
- 4/12/18 *Speakers* – Judi Polizzotti and Roberta Sherman discuss China
- 5/10/18 *Panel*: Public Policy Topic on Education, 7 – 9 pm, Reston North County Government Center, 7-9 pm, 12000 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston
- 6/14/18 *Annual Meeting and Dinner*

#### Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting Schedule

Dates: December 5, 2017; February 27, 2018; June 5, 2018

Location: Upstairs Conference Room, Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace St, Herndon

Time: 3:30 p.m.

#### Book Groups

Afternoon - 4<sup>th</sup> Wed (2:15 p.m.) at Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace St, Herndon

Evening- 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs (7:00 p.m.) at various locations or members' homes (check e-blasts for specifics each month)

#### Great Decisions

3<sup>rd</sup> Wed from 7 -9 p.m. at 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)



**Board of Directors 2017-18**

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
Cultural Arts	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
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

Branch Website: <http://restonherndon-va.aauw.net> VA3035

AAUW VA Website: <http://aauw-va.aauw.net>

AAUW Website: [www.AAUW.org](http://www.AAUW.org)

Branch Facebook Page: Reston-Herndon Branch of AAUW