



Reston-Herndon Area (VA) Branch

The AAUW Mission Statement:

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

President's Pen

Dear Reston-Herndon Branch Members & Friends,

We have had many fun and interesting activities following the holidays into 2018. Our first newsletter of the new year was distributed at the beginning of January, thanks again to **Roberta Sherman's** deft work. **Roberta** and **Carol Flicker** organized a wonderful outing to Gunston Hall; if you haven't been there, we highly recommend this short trip with a tour in the warm weather. At our January Board of Directors quarterly meeting, we saw an excellent presentation of the vision for AAUW of our new CEO, Kim Churches, by **Judi Polizzotti**, **Mary Zane** and **Janine Greenwood** (Kim's presentation is available on-line). Also, don't forget, members are invited to ALL branch meetings, events and activities. Our Book Groups enjoyed discussing *Hillbilly Elegy* (thank you, **Shirley Finkelstein** and **Alyse Goldman**) with **Deede Snowwhite** assisting with facilitation at both meetings. Our New Members Dinner was a huge success and all of the credit goes to Membership VP **Ilene Banker's** outstanding organizational, management and interpersonal skills. Welcome to all of you and I hope to meet those who were unable to attend at an upcoming function. Our Saturday morning joint meeting with NCNW and the Giving Circle of Hope was well attended and informative. We hope to continue this tradition while we work to increase our relationship and partnership with NCNW. We are grateful to **Carol Ann Bradley**, a member of our branch and the Reston-Dulles Section of National Council of Negro Women, who has been a faithful proponent assisting both groups in these efforts. The Executive Board continues to reach out to other individuals and organizations to broaden our membership and partnerships. Several branch members recently participated in an AAUW Webinar on Inclusion and Diversity to explore new ways to approach this goal. We are pleased to see that Great Decisions has found a home for the remainder of the year at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reston (UUCR) on Wiehle Ave. If interested in discussing US foreign policy, please join this lively group at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. We appreciate all the time and effort Co-Chair **Judi Polizzotti** puts toward this group and are so happy that she has worked out this fabulous location and we are grateful for UUCR's generosity.

There is still time to think about attending some of the upcoming AAUW functions. In this newsletter you will find an invitation to the AAUW Northern VA District meeting on March 3 and a potentially outstanding branch program on Healthy Options on March 9 organized for you by Program VP, **Judy Skirbunt** (see articles and calendar); in addition, the Book Groups' dates and books for the year are listed and a short note about the Great Decisions Discussion Group is included.

Finally, please review the Call for Nominations posting for the branch Treasurer position (elected officer) and Communications Chair(s). For new members, these opportunities are a great way to meet members and learn about the branch, state and national roles. For current members, it is satisfying to participate in moving the branch forward in position of leadership to

guide the collective branch effort. We need you, your skills and your fresh ideas! Please consider helping.

With wishes for everyone to stay healthy during this flu season,
Dianne

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

Judi Polizzotti - Judy is a native of Connecticut and graduated from Southern Connecticut State University and Fairfield University with Bachelors and Masters in Arts History. She worked as an account manager for Verizon in White Plains New York and was an Adjunct Professor in Academic Skills Development at Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Judi also was a member of the Monroe Congregational Church UCC Board Outreach and a Committee Member of the Monroe Connecticut Democratic Group. Judi has been an active member of AAUW, first in Connecticut as the past president of the Bridgeport-Fairfield Branch and then State Board VP of Membership. Once she moved to VA, she became active in our Branch and is co-chair of our Public Policy Committee and leads our Great Decision Group.

Mary Zane - Mary was born in Brooklyn, New York and grew up in Massapequa Park on Long Island. She went to nursing school in NYC at St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing in Manhattan. It wasn't too long after graduation that that she married her trig tutor Al. Al's military-related career took her to Pensacola, VA Beach, Sicily, back to Brooklyn, London, and Rhode Island before finally arriving in Oak Hill for a 4 year tour...and that was 25 years ago. All along the way she worked in Pediatric Ambulatory Care positions and raised three active sons. She had always been intrigued by AAUW. One day an ad caught her eye; mentors were needed for elementary school girls at Forest Edge and her AAUW journey began. For the last four years, she has enjoyed the challenges of Lobby Corp under the Public Policy umbrella. Other activities in her "retirement years" include part time employment at a retirement community in Sterling, volunteer work at the Washington Regional Transplant Community, at their church and many afternoons at their grandson's soccer games.

Membership News - Ilene Banker, Membership Vice President:

As of February 1, the Herndon-Reston Branch was at 104 members strong! We have four active life time members and two members belonging to two branches. Within 2017, we gained 25 new members. Keep referring your friends, neighbors, and relatives.

On January 30, nine of our newest members and the Executive Board, as well as, Alyse Goldman and Cyndi Shanahan, enjoyed a dinner at a Piero's Corner Italian Restaurant in Herndon. We are so happy to welcome new members Reesa Belin, Jennifer Boudrye, Elise Donaldson, Janice Faulk Vicki Elsbernd, Laura Thomas, Dee Mays, and returning members Joyce Sanders and Mary Schaefer.

We all enjoyed getting to know each other as well as providing an opportunity for new members to get a good overview of all the programs and activities offered by our Reston-Herndon Branch.

Meeting Accessibility Policy

The Reston-Herndon Branch of the AAUW is committed to making our events accessible to all our members. We will schedule events at locations that are accessible for members with mobility challenges except when cancellations or site unavailability necessitate rescheduling. When an event like Book Group is scheduled on a regular basis on more than one day and time, at least one of the meetings will be accessible and we will use our best efforts to ensure both are accessible. For members with access questions specific to their individual mobility needs, we encourage them to contact the venue directly to get the best and most accurate information to ensure their needs are met.

Members requiring preferred seating to address visual, hearing or mobility issues during the meeting itself should contact the organizer listed for the meeting or event directly.

We regret that liability issues make it impossible for the Branch to arrange rides or personal physical assistance by members for mobility assistance. Members are encouraged to arrange carpools on their own.

For a listing of the accessibility of the venues we use most often, contact the venue directly or contact Janine Greenwood, Branch VP, for a copy of our most used venues. The listing is also now available on our branch website which can be accessed by following the a few simple steps:

- Open the branch website (restonherndon-va.aauw.net)
- Locate the menu tabs across the top of the **HOME** page
- Click on: **ABOUT US**
- Scroll down to click on: **About Our Branch**
- See section: **Reston-Herndon Area Branch Meeting Accessibility Policy**



It is never too soon to begin planning to attend the 2018 AAUW of Virginia Conference!

Changing the Climate for Women and Girls

April 20-22, 2018

Portsmouth Renaissance Hotel

Hotel Reservations 855-214-4563

**Group Rate \$129 \$5 per night parking 100% Water view rooms
Indoor pool, whirlpool, sundeck, and complimentary exercise facilities
Watch for more information and conference registration form in the
VISION**

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Our Branch has two positions to fill for the next term of 2018-2020:

Treasurer and Communications Chair

The Job Descriptions follow.

TREASURER - Elected**Primary Responsibilities**

- As Branch Finance Officer, oversee the branch fiscal operations;
- Process dues of New memberships and renewals;
- File necessary forms with AAUW National and State offices and annual IRS filings;
- Prepare Treasurer reports and yearly budget and work with the Board to develop a budget that supports the Programs and activities described in the Branch's strategic plan;
- Maintain a list of paid members;
- Record financial transactions using "Quicken:" and
- Retain all financial statements in good order, IRSforms (990EZ forms) and correspondence, paid checks, deposits, contracts and other financial supporting documents consistent with best practices and state laws.

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR - Appointed (NOTE: This can be an individual or by committee)**Primary Responsibilities**

- Assist the President, the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors with the identification of various items of interest to our members;
- Communicate with media outlets and other relevant groups;
- Post information, as appropriate, in local establishments (i.e. libraries, coffee shops, etc.);
- Coordinate with the webmaster;
- Assist with the maintenance of a fresh and up-to-date Facebook page.

We are fortunate to have an active branch on many levels. Thank you to those members who have stepped up to leadership roles over the years.

If you are willing to serve or know someone who would be willing to serve, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee:

Ilene Banker – ilene.banker@gmail.com

Judy Skirunt – judy.skirbunt@gmail.com

Ruth Ruttenberg – kenruth@comcast.net

(Note: We would love to keep Ruth but unfortunately her "Term Limits" prevent this.)

Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration - Marion Stillson and Judi Ornoff, Chairs

In 2019, our Branch will celebrate its 50th. Anniversary-probably in April, 2019. Now, in 2018, is the time to dig out any Branch photos, articles or any memorabilia from under your bed or in your filing cabinet! If you will lend/donate them, they will be used to compile our accomplishments. Please contact Judi Ornoff or Marion Stillson, who will arrange to deliver your historical materials to the right person. Thank you!



Program Reminders:

March 8 – **HEALTHY OPTIONS**- 7:00 p.m. Reston Government Center

A panel of speakers will include:

- **Michele Wirth with Snap Fitness in Franklin Farm** will address the importance of exercise and good exercises for strengthening quads, hips and back.
- **Holly Anderson with Reston Hospital** will speak on nutrition and also address nutritional needs for pre-diabetics.
- **Marcia Childress, Program Director, Rise Well-Being Center**, will speak to the wide range of benefits for people of all ages and health status of **mindfulness, meditation, and yoga**. She will also demonstrate a few simple practices and a one minute breath guidance.

From Our Book Group Facilitators - Shirley Finkelstein and Alyse Goldman:

Below is a list of the books we will be reading for the upcoming year:

March: *Senator Hattie Caraway: An Arkansas Legacy* by Nancy Hendricks – nonfiction - This AAUW Woman's History Month selection tells about the first female U.S. Senator. and *The firebrand and the First Lady : portrait of a friendship : Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt, and the struggle for social justice* by Patricia Bell-Scott - non-fiction

April: *Manhattan Beach: A Novel* by Jennifer Egan – fiction – In Brooklyn during the Depression, young Anna Kerrigan must learn the identity of a mystery man who seems to be crucial to the survival of her family.

May: *Anything is Possible* by Elizabeth Strout – fiction – The novel is based on the small-town characters introduced in Strout's *My Name is Lucy Barton*.

June: *In the Language of Miracles* by Rajia Hassib – fiction – An upper-middle class Egyptian American family experiences a tragedy that tears their lives apart.

July: *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood – classic - The lives of women are no longer their own as they become breeders for the upper class in a dystopic society. This novel was made into a recent award-winning series on Hulu.

August: *Clementine: The Life of Mrs. Winston Churchill* by Sonia Purnell – nonfiction – A deeply researched account that tells Clementine Churchill's life story, including a surprising account of her relationship with Eleanor Roosevelt.

September: *The Girls* by Emma Cline – fiction – In Northern California during the violent end of the 1960's, a lonely and thoughtful teenager becomes involved with a group of girls and their charismatic cult leader.

October: *The Outskirts of Hope* by Jo Ivester – memoir – A physician and his family move to Mississippi to treat the poor. The author's mother is the focus of this memoir.

December: *A Column of Fire* by Ken Follett – historical fiction – In Elizabethan England Protestants and Catholics vie for power and royalty and commoners clash. The novel is set in Knightsbridge, the town depicted in *Pillars of the Earth* and its sequel.

From Our Great Decisions Facilitator - Judi Polizzotti:

New location for Great Decisions is in the library of the United Universalist Church of Reston (UUCR) located at 1625 Wiehle Avenue, Reston. Our meetings now will be held at the church on the third Wednesday of the month for the remainder of the season through June. Parking is in the lot at the church and you will enter from the left entrance. The meetings will be held in the downstairs library to the left and there is an elevator that we may use. All members are welcome to attend! Judi Polizzotti, Co-chair of Great Decisions, generally sends a reminder and request for an RSVP to the branch membership as the date draws closer. New members may want to consider attending one of the discussions.

Other Meetings of Note:**Workhouse Arts Center**

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the imprisonment of Suffragists at the Lorton Workhouse - a turning point in the movement to secure voting rights for all women in the US - the Workhouse Arts Center is creating a new museum that will honor the unsung heroines of the Women's Suffrage movement. The Lucy Burns Museum is in the final phase of its campaign to open. More than two million dollars have been raised to date to support the project. Now one of the last empty buildings on the Workhouse campus has been completely renovated. The challenge is to help raise additional funds to build and install the exhibits.

Donations of all sizes are welcome. Potential donors who desire to view the newly renovated space may participate in a tour on: Sunday, March 4 at 3:00 pm. Please see the website at <http://www.workhousearts.org/lucyburnsmuseum/> for more information about this project, tours and donations

Giving Circle of Hope

Website: <http://givingcircleofhope.org>

Mission: The Giving Circle of HOPE creates positive change in Northern Virginia through engaged and collective philanthropy.

Fundraising Event: *Empty Bowls* - April 20, 2018

Description: Annual evening to raise awareness of food insecurity and to raise funds for one of its nonprofit partners, "Food for Others." Sponsors and donors provide handcrafted pottery bowls, delicious soups, breads, and desserts along with entertainment, education, and advocacy in a festive atmosphere.

Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon

Time: 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

NCNW Reston-Dulles Section - (National Council of Negro Women)

Website: <https://ncnwrestondulles.org>

Fundraising Event: *Afternoon of Jazz* - April 15, 2018,

Description: Fun, fellowship and performances by the Earl Ivey Ensemble

Live Music, Food, Door Prizes, Vendors, 50\50 Raffle

Bechtel Conference Center, 1801 Alexander Bell Drive, Reston

Time: 3:00 - 6:00 pm

Tickets: \$60.00/per person (includes free drink ticket)

NOTES FROM OTHER BRANCHES

AAUW Mt Vernon Branch and AAUW Alexandria Branch Annual Fundraiser - We invite you to attend the Little Theatre of Alexandria's production of HARVEY written by Mary Chase produced by Rachel Alberts and Bobbie Herbst directed by Frank Pasqualino May 1, 2018, 7:00 PM. Join us for a performance of HARVEY based on the Mary Chase, Pulitzer Prize winning play. Enjoy our reception starting at 7:00 PM in the "Green Room!" Performance begins at 8:00 PM. Proceeds benefit AAUW Educational Funds! Contact Ronnie Gunnerson, ronniegunnerson@gmail.com Tickets are \$35 each
The Little Theatre of Alexandria 600 Wolfe Street Alexandria VA 22314 703-683-0496

Springfield/Annandale Branch will host their annual Spring Fling on Saturday, March 24 from 11-2:30 at the Springfield Golf and Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Cost is \$40 per person. Guest speaker is US District Judge Leonie Brenkema who will speak on "Judging in Difficult Times From Road Rage to Terrorism. For reservations and more information contact Rose Clark at SpringFlingAAUW@gmail.com

STEMtastics 2018 - STEMtastics is a program of hands-on STEM workshops sponsored by Vienna, McLean Area, Springfield-Annandale and Fairfax City AAUW Northern Virginia branches for middle school girls (and some boys) and will be held on March 10 at NOVA Annandale. Anyone interested in volunteering can sign up at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0e45aba92ea7fc1-stemtastics2> . If you have additional questions, please contact Marlene Chivavibul at marlenechiv@yahoo.com.

Northern District Meeting -

The March 3 Northern District Meeting will be at the KINGS PARK LIBRARY from 2-4 pm. The program starts promptly at 2:00 so come early, about 1:30, to grab refreshments, visit, and get settled. The program will focus on Start Smart/Work Smart, which is being launched as a state-wide VA AAUW project at the April conference and is also starting in our Northern District. Start Smart/Work Smart is unique to AAUW, focuses on empowering women's pay equity and negotiating skills, and plants the seeds for prospective AAUW membership. Come hear what these workshops really are, how a branch gets involved and/or supports, and how a college is involved. The McLean Area Branch will share their actual experience at Trinity University, and we'll hear from the state about the state-wide launch. We hope to have every branch involved in some way, big or small. This is a perfect niche for AAUW and our branches, especially in our Northern District with our wealth of colleges and governments. See you March 3.

Human Interest Story submitted by the Greater Richmond Branch

Read about a local girl who is getting a lot of attention concerning her efforts for the passage of the ERA in Virginia.

Click the link below and scroll down to "Local Powhatan girl involved in Equal Rights Amendment" and click on that.
http://www.richmond.com/news/local/central-virginia/powhatan/powhatan-today/local-powhatan-girls-involved-in-equal-rights-amendment/article_07ef203e-fb9d-11e7-a0b9-ff975530f870.html



2017-18 Reston- Herndon Area Branch Calendar

Programs

- 3/08 *Program – Healthy Options* panel, 7- 9 pm, Reston North County Government Center, 12000 Bowman Towne Drive. This meeting will feature experts speaking on the topics of nutrition, exercise, and healthy lifestyles through mindfulness, yoga and meditation.
- 4/12 *Program Speakers* – Branch members, Judi Polizzotti and Roberta Sherman, will share their experiences with *A Visit to China*, 7-9 pm, Reston North County Government Center, 12000 Bowman Towne Drive
- 5/10 *Panel Discussion– Workforce Paths* - from 7- 9 pm, Reston North County Government Center, 7-9 pm, 12000 Bowman Towne Drive
- 6/14 Annual Meeting and Dinner – Hold this Date! Details to be Announced Soon.

March Events

- 3/3 Northern District Meeting, (1:30 arrival) 2:00-4:00pm, Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Rd, Burke
- 3/20 Last Day for State Conference Group Booking Rate (see article)
- 3/21 Great Decisions, 7 pm, United Universalist Church of Reston, 1625 Wiehle Ave, Reston
- 3/28 and 29 Book Groups

Coming Events

- 4/10 Equal Pay Day
- 4/20-22 State Conference – Portsmouth Renaissance Hotel

Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting Schedule

Final Date: June 5, 2018 at 3:30 p.m. at Herndon Senior Center, Upstairs Conference Room, 873 Grace St, Herndon

Book Groups

Afternoon - 4th Wed (2:15 p.m.) at Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace St, Herndon
Evening- 4th Thurs (7:00 p.m.) at Scrawl Book Store, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston

Lobby Corp

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

2017 AAUW Membership and Donations for Income Tax Deduction Purposes

AAUW national membership dues of \$49 are deductible as follows: \$46 is tax deductible as a charitable contribution, and \$3 is not deductible because it supports the AAUW Action Funds Section 501(c)(4) Lobby Corps and get-out-the vote activities. Branch dues are NOT tax deductible. In addition, Dianne has a listing of donations (through December 31, 2017) from our branch members. If you have lost track of your contributions for the year, but wish to deduct them, she can give you the date of the donation, the fund targeted and the amount contributed. Contact her at dpmero2@gmail.com. You can also contact Cheryl Spohnholtz, state (VA) AAUW Fund/Legal Advocacy Chair at sponzie80@cox.net for all of your donation information through the end of the calendar year.

AAUW Dues increase

As you are probably aware, the AAUW Board of Directors voted in June 2017 to raise national dues for the first time in a decade. Effective March 16, 2018, National dues will now be \$59. Paid Life Membership remains at \$980 until March 16, when it goes to \$1,180. Paid Life Membership is fully tax deductible.

For more information about this issue, please go to the national AAUW website at AAUW.org

Cultural Arts Outing:

On a dreary Wednesday afternoon nine AAUW members joined together for a tour of Gunston Hall and grounds. We learned so much from our engaging guide who focused on the women in George Mason's life; his two wives and eldest daughter Nancy. Join the cultural arts group for our next activity. Look for an email in the coming weeks for particulars.



**February 3, 2018 Joint Program Giving Circle of Hope and NCNW**

The Giving Circle of HOPE, in concert with Reston-Herndon Branch of AAUW and NCNW Dulles Section, presented a joint program on February 3, 2018, *Unknown Americans: Giving Voice to the Immigrant Experience*. Amidst the national debate on immigration, there are real people whose lives are directly impacted - our own neighbors who only dream of safe and secure living environments, the right to work and the ability to care for their families. To help us gain a great understanding of the issues and to further foster community, Just Neighbors shared how their organization is providing hope and dignity to our immigrant population. Information about the *Mason DREAMers* was also shared, as well as a personal account of the obstacles faced and the struggle to achieve the American dream by a Giving Circle of Hope client.

Many of these organizations can use volunteers and donations. Below is one such group.

Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area
Refugee and Immigrant Services (RIS) Program
Accepts specific Home Supply Items for refugees and monetary donations
Website: <http://lssnca.org>

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

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

AAUW Website: www.AAUW.org

Branch Facebook Page: Reston-Herndon Branch of AAUW

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	Shirley Finkelstein	shirley.finkelstein@comcast.net
	Alyse Goldman	alysegoldman@icloud.com
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
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50 Anniversary	Judi Ornoff	judiornoff@gmail.com
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