



Reston-Herndon Area (VA) Branch

The AAUW Mission Statement: *AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.*

AAUW Diversity Statement: *In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.*

President's Pen

As we move into the last part of March 2019, great excitement and anticipation is mounting around the major celebration of the founding of our branch 50 years ago. I would like to re-emphasize the importance of this milestone, not only to the long-time members of the branch, but also to our newer members who have an unprecedented opportunity to learn more about the rich history of the branch and the importance of this organization to the schools and community-at-large over the years. We promise a very pleasant social setting where you can mingle, meet other members and see evidence of the 50 years of dedication of this branch to improving the lives of woman and girls. A delightful lunch is guaranteed, as well as an excellent speaker. If this doesn't convince you, then I invite you to come, just for the fun of it!!

It doesn't matter how long you have been a member, I encourage each of you to attend, if you are able, to support your branch and the hard-working team who have planned a great event JUST FOR YOU! You still have time; the date is April 28 – reservations are due by March 20 – see details in this newsletter.

Looking forward to seeing all of you soon,

Cheers, Dianne

A handwritten note in cursive script that says "Thank you".

A big thank you to those who sent sympathy cards, called me, and came to the memorial service for my husband B.J in February. It was wonderful to see so many of you there even when I have not been able to attend many AAUW events for a while. The longstanding friendships and support for each other during difficult times are important parts of our branch and I am so appreciative. Marilyn Silvey

MEMBERS

Membership News - Ilene Banker, Membership Vice President:

New Member Gathering at Glory Days: Thank you Glory Days Grill at Fox Mill Shopping Center for hosting our AAUW New Member gathering on January 28. This was a great opportunity for our Executive Committee to meet and personally welcome our newest members: Trisha Derr, Jean Ann Linney, Alice Nerenstone, Naseema Sait and Saulat Pervez to our AAUW Reston-Herndon Branch. Dianne Mero, Janine Greenwood, Cyndi Shanahan, Judy Skirbunt and Ilene Banker presented the many opportunities that new members have to get involved in branch offerings such as Work Smart, Book Club, Great Decisions, Lobby Corps, Arts and Cultural Events and informative meetings. If members would like to refer their friends or family for membership, we can offer a reduced fee at this time. Questions, please contact me at Ilene.Banker@gmail.com.

Second Call for Nominations: Ilene Banker, Chair

The nominating committee is in the process of identifying members to serve on the Executive Committee for the 2019-2021 membership year. We are in need of Branch members to serve on the Executive Committee or as a Subcommittee Chair. The following positions are open: President, Vice President, VP Programs, Treasurer and Secretary. Please contact Ilene Banker, Ilene.Banker@gmail.com, by April 5.



Members Helping Members

Did you know that Reston-Herndon Branch keeps a small fund set aside for any member who wants to participate in an activity but cannot afford it? The Branch does not want any member to refrain from being active because of financial concerns. Members can contribute to the "Members Helping Members" fund at any time. Contact the Branch treasurer, Ruth Ruttenberg, to contribute or to seek help. All information is confidential.

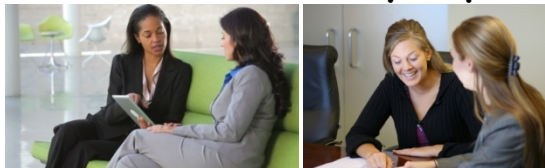
Members Supporting Members

We often have requests to keep members apprised of serious illnesses/deaths in the family within our branch community. Your help is needed with this issue. Please provide the names, contact information (especially important if the individual not at home) and any additional information she permits when you become aware of those who are in need of our support due to personal circumstances. Please provide all information to our secretary, **Sharon Gilman** at sagilman@gmail.com. The branch members will be notified as soon as possible. Please support those individuals who are in need with cards, meals, visits, etc.

Medical Issues

Lynn Jordan is currently in rehab after emergency knee surgery last month. Lynn can be reached at lynnjordan@aol.com.

AAUW of Virginia Conference Saturday, April 6, Vinton, Virginia



We invite you to join members from around the state when we meet in the lovely Roanoke Valley for the annual AAUW VA Conference.

The focus of the Conference is diversity and inclusion. The keynote speaker will introduce the focus and define it for us. The afternoon workshops will involve participatory activities which will raise our awareness of bias, privilege, and judgment that permeates our society. The approach to our learning is new and different. Everyone will come away from this conference with a better understanding of some of the issues facing citizens in our state.

Come Friday and enjoy some specially planned activities before the conference on Saturday. Stay at the Hampton Inn and Suites, Roanoke Airport
5033 Valley View Blvd. North, Roanoke, Virginia, 24012. Call 1-540-366-6300 or toll free at 1-800-560-7809 for reservations. This conference is an excellent time to have fun, eat a meal, and find fellowship with members from around the state. You don't want to miss the opportunity to share what is going on in your branch. Join us for this once-a-year event!

An online registration form is on the state website: <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/conference/>
Please click here for more conference information and mail-in registration form: <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/files/2019/02/2019-Conference-Roanoke-BrochureFINAL.pdf>



2019 AAUW-VA Upcoming Election and Voting Process

We are voting to fill the following three officer positions for two-year terms beginning July 1, 2019: Vice President for Finance, Vice President for Membership and Branch Development, and Recording Secretary. The 2019 Voter Guide contains information on the candidates running, the voting process, and timeline. Note that even if a candidate is running unopposed, it is critical that you vote. You will be voting online and an online ballot will be emailed to your email of record. Voting will open on April 13 and closed on May 4 at 11:59 p.m. Check your "Junk" or "Spam" files if you do not receive a ballot online. Questions: contact to Leslie Tourigny (ltourigny@gmail.com) or Sandy Lawrence (sandyaauw@juno.com)

This March, Get #5WomenYouKnow to Do Work Smart Online!

This Women's History Month, let's make salary inequity a thing of the past. Do you have a friend or family member who is applying for a new job or promotion and worried about how to ask for fair pay? Join AAUW in getting five women you know to sign up for Work Smart Online, our free salary negotiation course that teaches women how to ask for the salary and benefits they deserve. And encourage them to tell five women they know, too! Visit salary.aauw.org to get started and show us how you're spreading the word by using the hashtag #5WomenYouKnow on social media.

Gender Pay Equity Forum

The Reston-Herndon Branch Leadership Team attended the Forum at Temple Rodef Shalom on February 10, 2019.



L-R: Ilene Banker (Membership VP), Janine Greenwood (VP), Deborah J. Vagins (AAUW Sr VP of Public Policy and Research), Dianne Mero (President), Judy Skirbunt (VP Programs), Susan Burk (AAUW-VA Co-Vice President for Public Policy)



Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration - Marion Stillson and Judi Ornoff, Chairs

The deadline for reservations is March 20!

This year, our AAUW branch is 50 years strong! We will have a wonderful lunch celebration on Sunday, April 28, which you will not want to miss! If you are a long-time member, come to see friends who moved away but who are returning to celebrate from as far away as New Mexico and California! Former members Bobbi Bash, Judy Bates, Lynne Chernin, Abbie Edwards, Karin Formoso, Lyn Kagey, Barbara Naef, Leslie Seigmund and Carol Ward have already said they will attend. If you are a recent member, come to see table displays showing our fabulous achievements over the years!

At Wildfire restaurant at Tyson's II, we will have a social time while appetizers are passed. A cash bar will be available. There will be a three-course, sit-down lunch served family-style. The main course includes chicken and fish options with vegetarian available on request. The price is \$50. Your reservation will be confirmed when Judy Skirbunt, 2213, Spinnaker Lane, Reston, VA 20191, receives your check (made out to Reston-Herndon AAUW). Our deadline is March 20.

We will have Delegate Jennifer Boysko as our keynote speaker with a slide show of Branch photographs.



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

Below is a list of the books we will be reading in the coming year:

- March: Mrs. Sherlock Holmes by Brad Ricca (Women's History Month Selection)
 April: Pachinko by Min Jin Lee
 May: Quantum Spy by David Ignatius
 June: How the Irish Saved Civilization by Thomas Cahill
 July: Harvey Milk by Iris Federman
 August: Varina by Charles Frazier
 September: Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman
 October: Warlight by Michael Ondaatje
 December: Light on Snow by Anita Shreve

Great Decisions - Judi Polizzotti The second March meeting will be March 20 when we will discuss the Middle East: Regional Disorder.

In January, we completed the 2018 topics with a discussion of "Global Health," Progress and Challenges." Members were surprised to learn that there is a rise of Non Communicable Diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, cancer and heart disease in the developing world.

The 2019 Foreign Policy Briefing Book is available on fpa.com under Great Decisions. All members and friends are welcome.

Lobby Corps - Mary Zane and Judi Polizzotti Co-Chairs

Lobby Corps (LC) enthusiastically resumed activity on January 10 asking Members of the House to co-sponsor the Paycheck Fairness Act. There was new energy in the air as the 116th Congress began: newly elected members...new staff...and our renewed dedication to our mission, Equity-Equality-Education and Research to advance women.

On January 31, current and new members of regional LC met at AAUW HQ for a three hour training session. Approximately 50 attendees were inspired and updated with messages from Kim Churches, CEO; Deb Vagins, senior VP for Public Policy and Research; and Pam Yuen, Senior Government Relations Coordinator for Public Policy. Our branch is proud to have eight currently active members of LC.

February 7th marked a unique day of activism in Richmond. Two of our members joined forces with other AAUW branch members for a hard hitting Lobby Day solely to garner support for VA to be the 38th State to vote for the ERA. We were joined by coalition partners and not alone in our "ask". Unfortunately, it was not to be.

Our last two LC sessions were held at the House where we worked in pairs and asked Members (#96) to cosponsor acts that promote work-life balance (Healthy Families Act) and the Minimum Wage Act. Hopefully, YOU are part of the 2 Minute Activist and will support these endeavors from your computer or smart phone.

OneVA2021, the redistricting/Gerrymandering dismantling plan that AAUW VA Public Policy supports and endorses is moving forward.



On Feb 26, the House Education and Labor Committee approved the Paycheck Fairness Act. The committee approved one amendment with minor and technical changes and defeated several harmful amendments that would have undermined the goals of the legislation. The Paycheck Fairness Act remains strong and now advances to the House floor, where the full House of Representatives will vote on its passage. AAUW advocates ensured that Congress made this critical pay equity legislation a top priority, and we continue to advocate for swift passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act to help close the gender pay gap. Contact your members of Congress today and urge them to swiftly pass the Paycheck Fairness Act!

Cultural Arts - Carol Flicker and Roberta Sherman Co-Chairs

Fifteen members and guests from our Branch visited Cherry Hill in Falls Church. We enjoyed meeting and listening to Mrs. William Blaisdell an Abolitionist from MA who moved to Falls Church so that her husband could pursue his dream of becoming a farmer. She told us about her family and life on Cherry Hill from 1856 to 1870, After our visit with Mrs. Blaisdell, we were treated to a lovely tea and tour of the house. What a wonderful day. We are always open to suggestions for future trips. Email Carol at carolflicker@gmail.com or Roberta at shermanrs1@aol.com with your suggestions.





2019 Reston- Herndon Area Branch Calendar

Branch Meetings:

April 2 - Branch recognizes Equal Pay Day

April 28—*Special Event*: 50th Anniversary Celebration *Time*: 12:00 noon *Location*: Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, McLean (See article regarding 50th Anniversary in Newsletter for more details.)

May 15 - Ken Plum debriefing of the legislative session, *Time*: 11:00 am *Location*: Cafe Montmartre, Lake Anne Plaza After Ken's presentation you are welcomed to stay for lunch

June 13 – Annual Business Meeting/Elections/Light Refreshments *Time* 6:00 pm *Location* TBA



Other Meetings/Events Of Interest:

April 13 - The Northern District spring meeting will take place on Saturday, April 13 at the Fairfax Regional Branch of the Fairfax County Library. The meeting will begin at 1 pm. This will be a gathering aimed at branch presidents, program and membership VPs, but everyone is welcomed. It will be a workshop/discussion of what's been working well in your branch, and a chance to share ideas with other branches. Please mark your calendars now. More information will be coming as the date gets closer. Kate MacLeod Northern District Co-Rep bobmacleod@verizon.net



Regularly Scheduled Groups

Book Groups – 4th Wed (2:15 pm) at Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace St, Herndon 20170 and 4th Thurs (7 pm) at Scrawl Book Store, 11911, Freedom Dr, Reston

Great Decisions – 3rd Wed (7 – 8:45 pm) An Evite will be sent each month with location.

Lobby Corps – Every Thursday when Congress is in session

Board of Directors 4th Quarterly Meeting –*Location*: Upstairs Conference Room, Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace St, Herndon, *Time*: 2:00 – 4:00pm, May date TBA

Board of Directors 2018-19

President	Dianne Mero	aauwreston@aauw.net
Vice President	Janine Greenwood	janinegrnwd@hotmail.com
VP Finances	Ruth Ruttenberg	kennruth@comcast.net
VP Membership	Ilene Banker	ilene.banker@gmail.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
NVCC Liaison	Janine Greenwood	janinegrnwd@hotmail.com
Public Policy	Judi Polizzotti	judipoli86@gmail.com
	Mary Zane	mpz_06@verizon.net
50th Anniversary	Judi Ornoff	judiornoff@gmail.com
	Marion Stillson	mbs@point0.net
Ashby Ponds	Marilyn Silvey	marilynsilvey@comcast.com
Website	Vacant	send items: aauwreston@aauw.net
AAUW VA VP Membership	Cyndi Shanahan	cyndi9817@gmail.com
AAUW VA Secretary	Maureen Dwyer	maureen.22066@gmail.com

Northern District Representatives:

Kate MacLeod bobmacleod@verizon.net and Sara Anderson sfpaauw6382@aol.com

AAUW VA Board Members:

www.aauw-va.aauw.net/aauw/board/ **State Board Liaison to Reston-Herndon Branch:**

Susan Burk, Public Policy VP - burksu@aol.com

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