



Reston-Herndon Area (VA) Branch

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

President's Pen

As we slide into May and June, it is hard to fathom that we are nearing the end of another AAUW branch year. Our 50th Anniversary Celebration, over a year and a half in the making, was a great success last month and capped another successful year. On behalf of the entire branch, I wish to thank each and every one of you who have served the branch in some capacity: chaired a subcommittee, attended activities/events/programs and supported the branch financially with your dues and contributions. We look forward to continuing our emphasis on public policy initiatives and lobbying, service activities, social events and the friendships we have made as we plan for the 2019-2020 year. Please try to attend the end-of-the-year business meeting, election of officers and fun party at Roberta Sherman's home on Thursday, June 13, at 6 p.m. No restaurants, no payments required to attend. We will ask everyone to bring "potluck" finger food or a dessert to share. Mark your calendars now; this event should be great fun for everyone.

Cheers, Dianne



OH What A Day!

THE RESTON-HERNDON AREA 50th ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON was held on Sunday April 28, 2019, from 12:00 – 3:30 p.m. at Wildfire Restaurant in Tysons Galleria. After a fun-filled hour of socializing, perusing the 13 "time-travel" displays created by current members for this event and reconnecting with friends, Judi Ornoff, event co-chair, opened the program with a warm welcome. Judi recognized the many past-presidents and guests in attendance.

President Dianne Mero brought greetings from the branch and shared a personal commendation message and a Certificate of Honor from AAUW CEO Kim Churches. Leslie Tourigny, AAUW-VA state Co-president presented a delightful congratulatory message from the State. Dianne gave a heartfelt toast to the branch and its continued success. After a delicious family style luncheon, Marion Stillson, co-chair, introduced Keynote Speaker, Senator Jennifer Boysko, who gave an inspiring message about empowering women and how this issue has touched her personally. Dessert was served accompanied by a very interesting and entertaining slide show covering the 50 years of the branch produced by Judi Ornoff. Marion Stillson introduced two "founding mothers" of our branch, Gail Osberg and Barbara Naef, who shared reminiscences about the earliest days of the branch. Dianne closed the program with a look ahead and expressed sincere appreciation on behalf of the branch to all who made such a wonderful afternoon possible.

To view some of the pictures of the event, please see the "Recent Activities" tab in the top banner on the branch website homepage at <https://restonherndon-va.aauw.net>. To learn more about our branch history, 1969 – 2019, click on the 50th Anniversary Celebration (in light blue) in the middle of the homepage on the branch website.



Past President's Photo

Photo taken by John Lovaas and Judy Skirbunt

MEMBERS

Membership News - Ilene Banker, Membership Vice President:

Two Free National Memberships: We have two free National Memberships worth \$59.00 to give away. Sign up your daughter, niece or granddaughter and pay only \$30.00 for State and Local dues. Let's work together to increase our membership family. Deadline to claim a membership is June 15. E-mail me at ilene.banker@gmail.com with your referral.

Save The Date: "CHICO's New Member Recruiting Event" will be at Reston Town Center Chico's on Saturday, July 13 at 1:00 PM. There will be Refreshments, Discounts and Raffles. We need 10 members who like to have fun and are willing to pick an outfit and walk around inside Chico's during our recruitment event. Please consider helping out and e-mail me if you are interested. Whether you bring a new member or not, please come and shop on July 13 as you will receive an additional 10% discount above the going sale price.

Reminder To Renew: I will be sending out another round of invoices on May 15. Please use the easy online system to renew your membership via credit or debit card; otherwise, you may send your renewal check for \$89.00 to Ruth Ruttenberg, Branch Treasurer at 1767 Wainright Drive Reston, Virginia 20191. The deadline is September 30.

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.



2020 AAUW Virtual Convening

AAUW is excited to announce plans for a series of virtual events in 2020 that will mark the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote, inform our members and supporters in a critical presidential election year, and move us all closer to a fully fair future for women and girls. The various virtual programs will spotlight the work you and others are doing on behalf of AAUW to ensure women and girls everywhere have equal opportunities to learn, lead and earn the salaries they deserve. In January, we'll launch "A 2020 Vision for Equity," which will bring together a panel with leaders from politics, business and beyond to share their insights about the progress we've made in women's equity and the future of our movement. Although there will be **no in-person national convention or major convening in 2020**, we understand the importance of bringing women together to network and support AAUW and its mission—and our outreach will be designed with those goals in mind. AAUW's decision to focus on virtual events in lieu of an in-person convening was guided by the AAUW National Convening Task Force and approved by the board of directors. The task force conducted a rigorous review of conventions, conferences and other events on gender equity taking place around the nation, with the goal of finding options that would ensure that more members can participate. Less than 1 percent (734) of AAUW members attended our last National Convention in 2017. While these gatherings are a rich part of our legacy and a unique opportunity for networking, the Task Force evaluated ways to convene that could engage many more members and supporters in our mission to achieve gender equity and enable financial sustainability. All four of the most recent AAUW National Conventions have operated at a financial loss, and the deficits from the 2015 and 2017 meetings were substantial. The Task Force evaluated ways to convene members that would not pull resources away from our core work of creating lasting change for women and girls. We are looking forward to celebrating our progress in 2020 and working with you to ensure a future of equity for all.



AAUW National Election

Your voice and your vote are vital to AAUW's future that's why it is so important for you to participate in the 2019 AAUW National Election to elect members to our board of directors and set AAUW's Public Policy Priorities. Online voting is open until 6:00 pm ET on May 14, 2019. Find your ID and PIN in an email sent on April 1. Can't find the email? Contact Connect at 800/326-2289. You can find more information about the candidates for the AAUW Board of Directors and the 2019–2021 Public Policy Priorities on the AAUW website.



Our Officers at Work:

Northern District Meeting

Dianne Mero, President; Janine Greenwood, VP; Ilene Banker, Membership VP and state Membership VP, Cyndi Shanahan, represented the Reston-Herndon Branch at the Northern District Spring Meeting on Saturday, April 13, at the Fairfax Regional Library. The main focus of the meeting was “new program ideas” and outreach for inclusiveness and diversity to support the National strategic plan and the goals of AAUW-VA. Excellent discussion took place and many ideas were shared among the participants

State Conference

Janine Greenwood represented our Branch at the 2019 State Conference at the Vinton War Memorial in Vinton, VA. Also Branch members and State Officers Cyndi Shanahan (VP Membership) and Maureen Dwyer (Recording secretary) were in attendance.





Work Smart

The **AAUW Work Smart Negotiation Program** is free online for anyone looking to learn how to negotiate a salary increase or promotion. Share with everyone you know!

Work Smart is designed to show you:

- How to identify and articulate your personal value
- How to develop an arsenal of persuasive responses and other negotiation strategies including how to get a raise or promotion
- How to conduct objective market research to benchmark a target salary and benefits
- About the wage gap, including its long-term consequences

Why is negotiation so important? AAUW's research on the gender pay gap shows that, one year out of college, women are already paid significantly less than men. Women who work full time take home 80 cents for every dollar a full-time male worker is paid. And over a lifetime, those lost potential earnings add up.

Women who negotiate increase their potential to earn higher salaries and better benefits packages. By negotiating fair and equitable salaries, you'll be better able to pay off loans, buy the things you want and need, and even save for retirement.

The Work Smart program has already trained more than 30,000 women, and nearly all participants report increased knowledge, skills, and confidence in negotiating. To learn more go to <https://www.salary.aauw.org/>



YOU ARE INVITED TO... "A Conversation with Delegate Ken Plum" on **May 15, 2019** at 11:00 a.m. at Café Montmartre, Lake Anne Plaza. Delegate Plum will offer his musings on the recent Virginia General Assembly Legislative Session. Attendees are invited to stay for lunch and socializing after the presentation. Questions? Contact Janine Greenwood, Branch Vice-President, at janinegrnwd@hotmail.com



June 13 End of Year Potluck Dinner/Business Meeting AND Elections at 6:00 pm at the home of Roberta Sherman, 2950 Timber Wood Way, Herndon, VA 20171. Members are asked to bring light finger foods (hor d'oeuvres) and /or desserts. We will collect new undergarments (large sized panties, bras, sports bras) and menstrual items for the organization "Braws." More information to come.

Adopt A Spot - Fran Lovaas, Chairperson



In 2008, the Reston/Herndon Branch of AAUW revived the Branch Adopt A Spot Program and began to clean up the path and roadway along North Shore Drive, from the Uplands Pool to Wiehle Avenue. This path was chosen because it abuts Forest Edge Elementary School where our Branch Mentoring Program took place for many years. Three times a year (one time in the Fall and two times in the Spring) six to twelve AAUW volunteers head out to pick up trash and recycling along this pathway. The Reston Association provides the trash grabbers and the trash and recycling bags. The whole exercise only takes a little over an hour. The volunteers are always provided with some goodies from the Reston Farmers Market at the end of the trail.

We plan to do our next clean-up on **May 25** at 4:00 pm. If you are interested in joining us, or if you need more information please contact Fran Lovaas at franlovaas@comcast.net or call (703) 463-6554. It's also always good to know that you are helping to take care of Mother Earth.



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:

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

In April, we discussed "European Populism and Immigration." A group of 12 members considered the impact of populism and immigration in Europe and compared it to the current US administration policy and its treatment of immigration and populism.

On **May 15**, we will discuss "Decoding US-China trade". The meeting will be held at Stratford House. Parking is available in the back of the building or on the side streets of the Courts buildings that are not reserved. When you enter the building, use the keypad to find my name and code. Enter the code and it rings my cell phone and I will buzz you in .

The 2019 Foreign Policy Briefing Book is available on fpa.com under Great Decisions. It is also now available for a Kindle and Nook. All members and friends are welcome.



Lobby Corps - Mary Zane and Judi Polizzotti Co-Chairs

In April between the two-week recess, members lobbied for the "Be Heard Act: Workplace Harassment" legislation in both the Senate and the House. One of the aspects of this legislation is to close some of the loopholes in the Civil Rights Act of 1964. An example of this legislation is to include discrimination against LGBT and older workers and to apply it in workplaces with 15 employees or more.

Members will continue to lobby every Thursday that Congress is in session throughout the year. Periodic training is held for new members. Join us in this important effort.



2019 Reston- Herndon Area Branch Calendar

Branch Meetings/Events:

May 15 - Ken Plum debriefing of the legislative session will be at 11:00 am at Cafe Montmartre, Lake Anne Plaza After Ken's presentation you are welcome to stay for lunch.

June 13 – Annual Business Meeting/Elections/Light Refreshments at 6:00 pm at the home of Roberta Sherman, 2950 Timber Wood Way, Herndon VA. (more details to come in email blast.)

July 13 - "Chico New Member Recruiting Event" at Reston Town Center Chico's at 1:00. (see article in the newsletter.)



Other Meetings/Events Of Interest:

May 16 - 7:00 pm Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation Distinguished Speaker Series Presents: Sandy Grimes author of Circle of Treason - Uncovering Aldrich Ames.

Sandy Grimes is a former career CIA operative who was instrumental in the investigation and eventual arrest of one of America's most notorious traitors, Aldrich Ames. Ames, a career employee of the CIA, revealed the identities of numerous American assets to the Soviets during the Cold War resulting in a number of deaths. This will be a wonderful companion piece to our book group discussion of Quantum Spy.

June 12 - At noon, an informal lunch in the deli at Great Oak Clubhouse in the Ashby Ponds retirement community, Ashburn, will be held for present and former AAUW members now living in Loudoun County to meet and mingle. To RSVP and get directions, contact Marilyn Silvey at 571-918-0317 or MarilynSilvey@comcast.net.

July 27 - AAUW - VA Summer Leadership Meeting, Harrisonburg, VA

September 13-15 - McLean AAUW Used Book Sale at McLean Community Center. The sale benefits scholarships for women. Collections dates are Saturdays from 9-1: **May 4, June 1, July 13 and August 3** at Sun Trust Bank, 515 Maple Avenue East, Vienna, VA. Questions: aauwbookfair@gmail.com 703-527-4206

April 17- 19, 2020 (tentatively) - The 2020 AAUW VA Conference in the Northern District, most likely Alexandria.



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.

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: 2:15 – 4:15 pm, Wednesday, June 5

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
Ashby Ponds	Marilyn Silvey	marilynsilvey@comcast.com
Website	Dianne Mero	aauwreston@aauw.net

Northern District Representatives:

Kate MacLeod bobmacleod@verizon.net and Sara Anderson sfpaaauw6382@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

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.*

Vision: *Equity for all.*

Values: *Nonpartisan, Fact-based, Integrity, Inclusion and Intersectionality*

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*