



Reston-Herndon Area (VA) Branch

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

President's Pen



Happy autumn to all. I have been thinking of our Suffragette foremothers in light of the anniversary of women's suffrage and how hard they worked to get us the vote. One of the things that supported their efforts was their organization and their support of each other. In groups, we are much more powerful than we are alone. We still have much to accomplish and we and our daughters and granddaughters will continue to need AAUW.

I know that we all get an endless number of calls to make donations to important causes from nonprofits to political candidates. I ask, however, that you think seriously about making a donation to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund. Our dues only represent a tiny fraction of the AAUW budget. A donation, in whatever amount your budget allows, will enable AAUW to continue the fight for equality for future generations.

There are three ways you can donate:

- On line at <https://ww2.aauw.org/donate-gift-new/?treatment=DEFAULT092019&AppealCode=F20SPDPOP0919>
- By mailing a check made out to AAUW to our Treasurer Ruth Ruttenberg, 1767 Wainwright Dr., Reston, VA 20190
- By bringing a check to our Friendsgiving lunch on November 16.

As a small additional incentive, we will have a drawing among those who have donated by year's end for a canvas mounted print of the above picture of the brave Virginia women above who fought to get us the right to vote.

Don't forget our special morning meeting on October 15 with Representative Kerrie Delaney, Federal Lobby Day on October 17, and Friendsgiving on November 16. My thanks to all the members who are working hard on our signature Friendsgiving event. I

was traveling and unable to attend, but I understand our September membership event was a great success.

On a personal note, I will be teaching an OLLI course here in Reston "The War that Changed Bermuda" on October 30 and November 6. My focus is the deep roots between Virginia and Bermuda and how World War II was a turning point for the rights of women and the island's black citizens. If you would like to attend and to learn more about OLLI, send me an email at janinegrnwd@hotmail.com.

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Janine



Our First Branch Meeting of the Year

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, October 15, for our first branch meeting of the year at 11:30 at Cafe Montmartre at Lake Anne. Karrie Delaney, VA Delegate 67th District, will present information about the upcoming legislative year and its challenges. She will also share the challenges of being an elected Mom with young children means in today's world. It should be interesting and informative. Bring friends and family whether Karrie is you delegate or not. We look forward to seeing all of you. Please feel free to stay for lunch after Karrie's presentation.



From Our Book Group Facilitators Alyse Goldman and Carla Heymsfeld

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

October: Warlight by Michael Ondaatje

December: Light on Snow by Anita Shreve

Please get your suggestions for our book list for the coming year to Alyse or Carla by the end of the month so that we compile a list for the coming year.



Adopt A Spot - Fran Lovaas Chair

The Adopt a Spot group will meet at the Uplands Pool on Saturday October 19th from 3:30 to 5:00. We will clean the trail again from the pool to Wiehle Avenue and then have a little snack from The Reston Farmers Market. Please call me at 703-463-6554 or email me at franlovaas@comcast.net if you wish to join us or if you have questions

MEMBERS

Membership News - Ilene Banker, Membership Vice President

Thank you to the over seventy percent of our current membership that have renewed to date. Your responsiveness ensures the robust continuation of our vital women's organization during the current financial woes that are impacting the organization on a National Level.

Many thanks to our Reston-Herndon AAUW Leadership team for their participation at our September 14, 2019 "Meet and Greet" held at Mon Ami Gabi in Reston Center. This event provided an opportunity for recently joined members to meet other new members and the Board of Directors and learn about our Branch. Kudos to Judi Polizzotti for facilitating and the following members participating: Natahlia Bishop, Carol Flicker, Alyse Goldman, Dianne Mero, Roberta Sherman and Mary Zane. Lastly, thanks to Mon Ami Gabi, Reston for providing a lovely room, great service, delicious pastries, coffee/tea for our members and free coupons for a future dessert at the restaurant.

As a result of this successful recruitment event, we are so happy to welcome the following new members into our Reston-Herndon Branch: Phyllis Kaye, Nancy Lech, Barbara Burleson and Mary (Molly) Dunn. In our last newsletter Lara Finley's name was inadvertently left off the list of our new members. We welcome all our new members and hope to see you at many of our upcoming events including our first meeting on October 15 at Monemarte in Lake Anne.





Retired Educator? Interested in an Education Committee?

Our branch has always been interested in education and has had many programs over the years that have helped our local schools. We had a wonderful mentoring program at Forest Edge ES for over 13 years, participated in the STEM programs both in Reston and when it moved to Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale and have given scholarships to students at our two High Schools - South Lakes and Herndon. Recently, we redirected that money to a female student at Northern Virginia Community College, Loudoun Campus who was majoring in one of the STEM areas. Right now should we consider a new direction? Continue giving scholarships to NOVA or go back to the high schools or even go into the elementary schools to support students who demonstrate qualities that reflect our goals? Should we restart a mentoring program? Should we partner with another branch for a STEM program? We are looking to form an Education Committee to discuss the direction of our Branch in supporting education. The committee is anything you want it to be and only needs to meet a couple of times to make a recommendation. Don't worry, you don't have to chair anything, but just be a part of this new dynamic committee. If you have any interest, please contact Janine Greenwood at janinegrnwd@hotmail.com



Great Decisions - Judi Polizzotti

Our next meeting is on Wednesday October 30th at 7:00 pm at 11776 Stratford House Place Reston. The topic will be the U.S. and Mexico Partnership Tested. In September, the group discussed Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics. It was a fascinating informative topic and learning experience; one that the briefing suggests could facilitate the rise of Russia and China. An evite will be sent to all members for the October meeting. All are welcome. The briefing book is available on foreignpolicy.org



Public Policy - Mary Zane and Judi Polizzotti Co-Chairs

Lobby Corps - We will meet on Thursdays, October 17, 31 and November 14.

October 17th is Virginia Federal Lobby Day - a once a year opportunity to experience a Lobby Corp day on the Hill and see how this impressive 40 years plus program works. You will be briefed and guided before we visit six legislative offices in either the Senate or the House. You will be accompanied by a Lobby Corp veteran. Members who would like to participate will meet at the Wiehle Metro between 7:45 and 8:00 am. We go to Capitol South and then meet with AAUW staff who will brief us on the legislation at either the Longworth Cafeteria if we're meeting with the House or Dirksen if we meet with the Senate. Walking is involved especially if we go to the Senate. You may opt to arrive by any other means, but arrival timeliness is important for the 9:30 briefing in either the House or Senate. We are typically finished before or by noon. Please contact Mary at mpz_06@verizon.net or 703-401-5321 if you have any questions or concerns and to let her know as soon as possible if you are interested in joining our Lobby Corp Crew on the 17th. This is an exciting opportunity to participate in visiting congressional offices in support of AAUW's public policy priorities.



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Friendsgiving Luncheon

When: Saturday, November 16 - 11:30 am
Where: Red's Table - South Lakes Shopping Center, Reston, VA
Cost: \$35

What could be more appealing than spending a beautiful Fall afternoon with friends, overlooking scenic Lake Thoreau, enjoying delicious food and being captivated by the stories of a member of the Smithsonian senior staff as she informs us of the role of women at this world-renowned institution? Please plan to join us on Saturday, November 16 at 11:30 as we celebrate the upcoming holidays with our annual Friendsgiving luncheon at Red's Table in Reston. The cost of the luncheon is \$35; the menu selections will be forthcoming in an October Evite. Our guest speaker, Ms. Julissa Marengo Otero, Assistant Secretary of Communications and External Affairs at the Smithsonian, will share some of her extraordinary experiences. Just to tantalize you, her first assignment was with the Obamas when their portraits were unveiled at the Smithsonian Portrait Gallery. And of course, Friendsgiving wouldn't be complete without the awesome baskets raffle. Look to your emails for an evite to this wonderful event. Hope to see you there.



Branch Meetings/Events

October 15 at 11:30 at Cafe Montmartre at Lake Anne - Karrie Delaney VA Delegate 67th District will present The Upcoming legislative year. It should be interesting and informative. We look forward to seeing all of you. Please feel free to stay for lunch after Kerrie's presentation.

October 24 at noon - Board Meeting at the home of Judi Polizzotti's home - 11776 Stratford House Place, unit 50, Reston, VA. All are welcomed.

November 16 at 11:30 - Friendsgiving Luncheon - Red's Table - Our Speaker will be Julissa Otero, Assistant Secretary of Communications for the Smithsonian Institute. Look for evites and news blasts as the date nears for this fantastic event!

December No Meeting

January 6 AAUW Update and Dessert Venue TBA

February 3 Cultural Arts Outing to Library of Congress

March 7 Meeting at Mon Ami Gabi - Speaker Professor Beverly Bennett-Roberts Professor at University of the District of Columbia. She will follow up on her last workshop with us on Diversity. Please note that this meeting will be on Saturday morning at 9 am. Desserts and coffee and tea will be provided. More details will appear in later newsletters as the date nears.

April 22 Cultural Arts Outing Hillwood-tours of the mansion, garden and lunch

May Business Dinner/Pot Luck Date TBA



AAUW News of Interest

- There are a number of job and intern vacancies at AAUW National. More info can be learned at this link: <https://www.aauw.org/who-we-are/jobs/aauw-jobs-and-internships/>
- Use AAUW's GEICO Benefit to Save Money and Advance Equity for Women and Girls - Because you're a member of AAUW, you could save money and give back to advance equity! When you simply call for a quote and mention AAUW, GEICO pledges to donate to us. To discover how much you could save, you can visit <https://geico.com/org/AAUW> , call 800.368.2734, or schedule an appointment with your local agent.



Other Meetings/Events Of Interest

October 14 - Dedication of the Virginia Women's Monument 11 am to 12:30 pm. This event will be held in Capitol Square, Richmond rain or shine. If you would like to attend, contact AAUW VA Co-Presidents Leslie Tourigny ltourigny@gmail.com and/or Carol Stephens caterstephens69@icloud.com for group coordination.

October 19-20 - Inova 81st Annual Ladies Board Rummage Sale Saturday and Sunday from 10-4, Morven Park Equestrian Center, 41580 Sunday Morning Lane (Tutt Lane/Rt 15 entrance), Leesburg, VA Proceeds Benefit INOVA Loudoun Hospital & Nursing Scholarship. More information 703-771-2985 or ladiesboard.org

October 24 - Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation's Distinguished Speakers Series presents - David Keegan, Former career foreign Service Officer and Deputy Director of the American Institute in Taiwan and Director of State Department's Office of Taiwan's policy will present "China: The challenge for the US"

November 13 - Jeffrey Bennett, Astrophysicist and Educator will present "Global Warming: Science and Politics."

Both presentation will be at 8:00 pm at Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Avenue, Reston, VA

October 26 - Northern District Meeting, Thomas Jefferson Library, 7415 Arlington Blvd., Falls Church. Program starts promptly at 1:15.

Please mark your calendars now to attend the Northern District's fall meeting. There will be several interesting and informative presentations you will not want to miss.

- Tremayne Parquet, the Director of Advancement at AAUW National Headquarters, will bring us up to date on some of the recent changes at National.
- Leslie Tourigny, the Virginia Co-President, will discuss what's going on in the state, including the state conference which will be held in Northern Virginia in April, 2020.
- Cyndi Shanahan, the Virginia State Board representative for Diversity and Inclusion will talk about this new position and how the branches can contribute to this initiative.
- Representatives from the Alexandria branch will present the program they have been developing over the past year to deal with Human Trafficking issues, and what other local branches can do to support their efforts.
- Please bring announcements to share with all of us on your branch's upcoming programs and events!

April 17-19 - The 2020 AAUW VA Conference will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage and the advancement of gender equity for women and girls in the past 100 years. The conference will be hosted by the Northern District and be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in **Alexandria - Old Town, 625 First Street**. The Winter/Spring 2020 issue of *Vision* will have the complete conference guide and registration information. King or Double Rooms are available for \$129 per night plus tax for April 17 and 18. Also, in case you want to build a mini-vacation around the conference, the hotel will offer the same rate for 2 days before and after these dates. To make guest room reservations, use this link: [American Association of University Women of Virginia](#). The group code is AAU. If you want to park in the hotel garage, ignore any references to \$20 per day for parking. The hotel is giving us a special rate of \$8 per night



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 – See schedule in their article in this Newsletter

Board of Directors Meetings - October 24 at the home of Judi Polizzotti - 11776 Stratford House Place, unit 501, Reston, VA

Board of Directors 2018-19

President	Janine Greenwood	janinegrnwd@hotmail.com
Vice President	Vacant	
VP Finances	Ruth Rutenberg	kennruth@comcast.net
VP Membership	Ilene Banker	ilene.banker@gmail.com
VP Program	Carol Flicker	carolflicker@verizon.net
	Roberta Sherman	shermanrs1@aol.com
Secretary	Alyse Goldman	alysegoldman818@gmail.com
Adopt-a-Spot	Fran Lovaas	franlovaas@comcast.net
Cultural Arts	Roberta Sherman	shermanrs1@aol.com
	Carol Flicker	carolflicker@gmail.com
Book Group	Carla Heymsfeld	heycarla@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
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	Mary Zane	mpz_06@verizon.net
Ashby Ponds	Marilyn Silvey	marilynsilvey@comcast.com
Website	Dianne Mero	dmeroaauw@yahoo.com

Northern District Co-Representatives: Kate MacLeod and Sara Anderson

State Board Liaison to Reston-Herndon Branch: Susan Burk 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