



Reston-Herndon Area (VA) Branch **The AAUW Mission Statement:** *AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.*

### **President's Pen**

Our November 16 Friendsgiving event was one of the best attended ever! Because of your generosity and the fabulous baskets, our basket raffle achieved \$900 – almost completely funding our scholarship budget for next year. Thanks to everyone whose hard work and generosity made this event such a fabulous success.

I have been in touch with NOVA and they are in the process of selecting our scholarship recipient for this year. I will let you know as soon as the winner is identified. Also remember that we have a working group of members who have just begun to meet to think about how we engage with the local education community. See the article within the newsletter regarding their work thus far.

There is a lot going on in our branch including the tea on Monday, December 16. It should be great fun and will include some updates on happenings at our National organization and here in Virginia. Details on this and all other upcoming programs elsewhere in this newsletter.

I am attempting to create a list of where all our branch items reside. I have the basic President's files, the large banners and the boxes and related items for Friendsgiving. I also have our microphone and amplifier. Would you please email me a list of what you have? We would particularly like to know where the 50th Anniversary display boards are located. Thank you!

Do take a look at all the updates on our branch website including fun pictures of recent events. Our website continues to be singled out by AAUW VA as a model.

On the Public Policy front, I'm happy to report that LobbyCorps remains a vital part of AAUW's outreach to Congress. We met twice in November and will be on "the Hill" again on December 5. I am always so incredibly proud of the number of LobbyCorps participants from our branch. Virginia AAUW will be holding its own lobby day in Richmond on January 15 to talk with our new legislators about the ERA and paycheck fairness. More information included within the newsletter.

My warm wishes to you and your family in this festive holiday season.

Janine

### **AAUW Rolls Out Biggest Board Match Ever**

AAUW's board of directors is kicking off this giving season with its largest match in our organization's 138-year history. From now until December 31, the board will match — dollar for dollar — every donation we receive up to \$68,800. So please make your donation before year-end to qualify for the match and participate in our branch drawing for the Virginia suffragist print.



The following merchants were generous in supporting our recent Friendsgiving Luncheon by donating items to our raffle baskets. Please make an effort to patronize these establishments:

**Piero** - Franklin Farm

**Mon Ami Gabi** - Reston

**Glory Days Grill** - Fox Mill Herndon

**Pinky Nails Tina** - Franklin Farm

**Cooper Hawk and Winery** - Reston

**Barnes and Noble** - Fairfax

**Franklin Mint Books**

# MEMBERS

## Membership News - Ilene Banker, Membership Vice President

**Welcome:** We are so happy to welcome the following new members into our Reston-Herndon Branch: Paula Gershen, Kathleen Vollbrecht and Luci Martel.

**Fashionistas:** We will hold another CHICO's recruiting event January 18 at 1 pm at the Fairfax Corner location just in time to get the after holiday markdown sales with an extra discount for AAUW members.

**Please** plan to ask a friend, neighbor or family member to consider joining at the event and their annual dues will be reduced to \$59.50.

## 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, Alyse Goldman, at [alysegoldman818@gmail.com](mailto:alysegoldman818@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.



## Education Committee

The education committee had its first meeting and three items were on the agenda : Scholarship, Mentoring and STEM programs. Information from other Virginia branches was gathered about their education programs and discussed. We had a lively discussion on the topics and will meet again to solidify our proposals for the future. Thank you to Fran Lovaas, Mary Ann O'Connor, Judi Polizzotti, Diane Mero and Paula Kaye for lending your expertise to this committee.



**From Our Book Group Facilitators  
Aylse Goldman and Carla Heymsfeld**

December: Light on Snow by Anita Shreve (Note the meetings will be Wednesday afternoon December 4 and Thursday evening, December 5)

Our new books for the upcoming year are:

January: ***A Better Man*** by Louise Penny

February: ***City of Girls*** by Elizabeth Gilbert

March: ***Code Girls*** by Liza Mundy

April: ***Where the Crawdads Sing*** by Della Owens

May: ***Becoming*** by Michelle Obama

June: ***Olive Again*** by Elizabeth Strout

July: ***A Woman of No Importance*** by Sonia Purnell

August: ***Northanger Abbey*** by Jane Austen

September: ***Moment of Lift*** by Melinda Gates

October: ***Free Food for Millionaires*** by Min Jin Lee

December: ***A Well-Behaved Woman*** by Therese Ann Fowler



**Great Decisions - Judi Polizzotti**

We have one more topic to discuss, "The State of Diplomacy" which will be not be held until January as December is a busy month for all. An Evite will be sent with the particulars as the date nears. As always, all are welcomed.

You can pre-order the briefing book for 2020 now through the Foreign Policy Association [fpa.org](http://fpa.org) or in January through Amazon Kindle or Barnes and Noble Nook for a reduced price. Just enter Great Decisions 2020. It's not available yet but should be by the first of the year.





Judi Ornoff and Janine Greenwood presented a book of our early history to the Virginia Room of the Fairfax Library to librarian Laura Wickstead.



### December Meeting

Since January became too busy a month for the Program Chairs and the January weather was of concern, we decided to move up the Branch Update and tea to December. Join us for an informative, fun afternoon. Learn about what is happening in National and our Branch while socializing with other Branch members and drinking tea and eating sweets. Please save Monday, December 16 at 2:00 pm for this event to be held at the home of Roberta Sherman, 2950 Timber Wood Way, Herndon, VA. RSVP to Carol Flicker at [carolflicker@gmail.com](mailto:carolflicker@gmail.com) Looking forward to seeing you then.



On October 22, Kim Churches presented a webinar to branch and state presidents. It was highly informative and should be viewed by everyone. It has now been posted at AAUW.org. <https://www.aauw.org/event/2019/10/our-path-forward/>



### Public Policy - Mary Zane and Judi Polizzotti Co-Chairs

Save the date for our first AAUW-VA State Lobby Day on Wednesday, January 15, 2020 in Richmond. Following the recent state election, AAUW sent congratulatory letters to every delegate and senator who will be serving in Richmond next year and has received a number of great responses acknowledging our efforts and expressing interest in working with us in the future.

Last year AAUW-VA joined the massive state-wide effort led by *VARatifyERA* to secure Virginia's ratification of the ERA. Delegate Carroll Foy and Senators McClellan and Locke dropped ERA resolutions on 11/18/19 and there are indications that ERA will be one of the first actions taken up by the 2020 Virginia General Assembly.

AAUW-VA will be focusing on closing the gender pay gap/pay equity during our Lobby Day. We will be meeting with Governor Northam on January 15. We encourage you to let us know if there are particular delegates/senators that you would like us to visit. A reception for women legislators will be hosted by AAUW the evening before Lobby Day on January 14 from 6-8 at the Commonwealth Strategy Group. All lobby day participants are invited to attend.

If you plan on attending, hotel rooms have been reserved at the Omni Hotel as well as housing provided by members of the Richmond Branch. For more information, contact Janine, Mary or Judi.

If the weather prevents our travel to Richmond, we will plan to meet there on January 22, 2020.



### What does AAUW Say About Upcoming Supreme Court Cases?

What does AAUW have to say about some cases before the Supreme Court?

- Does a landmark federal civil rights law protect gay, lesbians, and transgender people from employment discrimination? Does employment discrimination on account of sex include sexual orientation? AAUW policy states and promotes equitable employment access and advancement, free from system barriers and biases that includes enforcement of employment discrimination statutes.
  - Can the Trump administration strip protection from 'Dreamers'? AAUW supports vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights.
  - Will the court restrict abortion rights? AAUW supports self-determination of one's reproductive health decisions.
  - Can states bar aid for religious schools? AAUW supports adequate and equitable funding for quality public education for all students. It opposes the use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary education and to charter schools that do not adhere to the same civil rights and accountability standards as required of other public schools.



### Turning on the Light for Human Trafficking Victims

The human trafficking intervention team from AAUW of Alexandria branch has been striving to light a flame and help rescue human trafficking victims. Their team now consists of: Dr. M. Elizabeth Hendrix, Ms. Diane Schrier, Ms. Lane Stone, Dr. Gail Kalin, Ms. Lalitha Mani, and Dr. Dev Mani. They have partnered with Chief Michael Brown and Commonwealth Attorney Bryan Porter of Alexandria, Virginia as well as the Northern Virginia Community College's Braden Women's Center and John Carter, a film director and producer.

At the recent VA AAUW Conference they presented information on the global and Virginia issue, plus a rescue tool that they are developing, the AAUW Angel App with an Angel Alert. The AAUW Angel App will have three buttons for people to use to silently contact 911, a trained investigator, and/or report any warning signs of human trafficking to the authorities. The Angel App can start an Angel Alert as well. If it is an emergency, the person can hit an emergency button which will alert 911 to their emergency and start a tracker on their phone.

The Alexandria Branch is seeking additional funding for the Angel App and had asked other branches to indicate that they support this important effort. Their branch board has voted that they will be listed as a supporter of Alexandria's grant application to AAUW National.

For more information you can contact Dr. Hendrix at [mhendrix1105@gmail.com](mailto:mhendrix1105@gmail.com).



#### Branch Meetings/Events

- December 16** Update and Tea
- January 18** Fashion Show Chico Fairfax Corner at 1 pm
- 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

**Other Meetings/Events Of Interest**

- December 5** OneVirginia 2021's roundtable discussion regarding gerrymandering and creating fair districts for all of VA. 7:30-9 pm at the Geroge Mason Regional Library. For more information contact Daela Tipton at [daela.tipton@onevirginia2021.org](mailto:daela.tipton@onevirginia2021.org)
- January 15** State Lobby Day Richmond
- April 17-19** The 2020 AAUW VA Conference celebrating the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage will be held in Alexandria at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites. Watch for updates.

**Regularly Scheduled Groups**

- Book Groups** – 4<sup>th</sup> Wed (2:15 pm) at Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace St, Herndon 20170 and 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs (7 pm) at Scrawl Book Store, 11911, Freedom Dr, Reston
- Great Decisions** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed (7 – 8:45 pm) An Evite will be sent each month.
- Lobby Corps** – Schedule will be forthcoming

**Board of Directors 2018-19**

|                 |                  |                           |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| President       | Janine Greenwood | janinegrnwd@hotmail.com   |
| Vice President  | Vacant           |                           |
| VP Finances     | Ruth Ruttenberg  | 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   |
| Public Policy   | Judi Polizzotti  | judipoli86@gmail.com      |
|                 | Mary Zane        | mpz_06@verizon.net        |
| Ashby Ponds     | Marilyn Silvey   | marilynsilvey@comcast.com |
| Website         | Dianne Mero      | dmeroaaauw@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](http://www.AAUW.org)

**Branch Facebook Page:** *Reston-Herndon Branch of AAUW*