



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

President's Pen Janine Greenwood

The most important thing you can do this month is to make a plan to VOTE in the November 3 election. One hundred years ago, our foremothers fought and suffered to get us the right to vote. This year, the Commonwealth of Virginia has given voters safe and easy options to cast their ballot. The details are available in the public policy section.

I was very happy this year to contribute to creating the AAUW Action Fund Voter Guides. These guides test the candidate's records and policy statements on issues critical to our members including pay equity, family leave, Title IX, voting rights and reproductive health. You can find guides for the Presidential, Senate and House races here:

<https://www.aauwaction.org/voter-education/voter-guides/>

Last week I tuned in to the AAUW National Board Town Hall. Over the next few months, our organization will be facing two issues:

- First, the National Board will be voting on a dues increase which is very necessary to meet the organization's expenses. Dues make up less than 20% of our budget, but the expenses of serving our members far exceed that amount. Grants can cover special projects and the endowment covers scholarships, but the expenses of serving our members and running the organization rely on dues. The increase under discussion is modest (one proposal is an additional \$10 for the year) deserves our support.
- The second issue is the degree requirement for membership. I know we have voted on this before but we cannot call ourselves an organization supporting equity and diversity while requiring a college degree for membership. This bylaw cannot be changed without a vote of the membership and you will be hearing more about this in the upcoming months.

I want to thank everyone who helped plan and participated in our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion events in September. The month is over but our work in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion will continue as a regular focus on Branch efforts. Please send me any suggestions.

With our programs and meetings going virtual, the Board decided to use some of the resulting unspent budget to support local education. We reallocated \$130 to purchase ten headsets for students at Terraset School in Reston who were struggling in their online education.

Finally, let us all take a moment to think about Ruth Bader Ginsberg and her contribution to women's equity:

"Think back to 1787. Who were 'we the people'? ... They certainly weren't women ... they surely weren't people held in human bondage. The genius of our Constitution is that over now more than 200 sometimes turbulent years that 'we' has expanded and expanded."

Let's expand it next by adding the ERA to the Constitution to cement her legacy!



OCTOBER BRANCH HAPPENINGS

Branch Program on Food Insecurity



On Thursday, October 22 at 3:00 pm Harmonie Taddeo Executive Director of Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) will talk with us about food insecurity and what WFCM has experienced in terms of households in need as well as what they do to assist these families. Since we are so close to the Thanksgiving season, we thought this would be a timely topic and see what we might be able to do to help families in our areas as WFCM is located right here in Chantilly VA. The zoom link is included in the zoom link sheet that is attached.



Great Decisions - Judi Polizzotti, Co-Chair

On Wednesday 9-16 we discussed the Philippines and the US. The group agreed that we gained a better understanding of the relationship between the two countries. While we enjoyed our Zoom discussion.

Artificial Intelligence AI will be our next topic for discussion on Wednesday October 21st at 7:00. It will be a virtual meeting and the link will be in the Evite sent to members. I'm looking forward to this relevant and interesting discussion.

Information and resources can be obtained on the Foreign Policy Association website fpa.org.



Book Group Alyse Goldman and Carla Heymsfeld

Our next book group will be over the internet via Zoom. Please see the attached page for the Zoom link for our meeting on October 28 at 2 pm. Book suggestions are now being solicited by our members. If you have any books you would like to recommend, please send your selections to both Alyse and Carla.

Upcoming books:

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

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

INFO

As you all know, all of our activities are now on Zoom. Since our Newsletter is published on the unsecured portion of our website, we will be attaching a separate attachment to the newsletter email with all the Zoom meeting ID numbers and passwords that you will need to access these activities.

**PUBLIC POLICY****Public Policy and Lobby Corps - Mary Zane and Judi Polizzotti Co-Chairs**

This election may be the most important of our lives. Please make a plan to vote either absentee by mail, early voting in person absentee or on election day. The following websites for Fairfax and Loudoun Counties have all of the information you'll need to make this important plan.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/>

<https://www.loudoun.gov/vote>

Candidates for the 10th District of the House of Representatives Forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters:

On October 5 from 7-8:30 pm the League of Women Voters will host a virtual candidates forum for the candidates running for the 10th District of the Virginia House of Representatives. The forum will present Jennifer T. Wexton, (D) Incumbent and Aliscia Andrews (R). If you wish to attend, please RSVP to www.lwv-fairfax.org/2020-candidate-forums

AAUW Virginia and League of Women Voters Support Redistricting Amendment**Virginia's Redistricting Commission Amendment Fact Sheet**

Uncovering the facts about government policies has always been difficult. In this day and age, the ease and pace with which information can be produced, shared and manipulated can make it especially difficult to discern what's real. Opponents of Virginia's Redistricting Commission Amendment often spread misleading information, whether intentionally or on accident, obscuring the purpose and impact of this historic redistricting reform. Here's a quick fact sheet on Virginia's Redistricting Commission

In summary, the proposed constitutional amendment is a bipartisan measure that represents the maximum amount of reform achievable in time for this decade's redistricting. The complete Fact Sheet is available here. <https://fairmapsva.org/faqs/> Have more questions? Feel free to reach out to daela.tipton@fairmapsva.org

MEMBERS

Membership News: Ilene Banker, Vice President of Membership

Latest statistics on our membership renewals July 1, 2020- June 30, 2021:

Records show that we have 93 active members which includes two dual memberships, 77 paid and 16 yet to renew. State records indicate we have 77 paid members and 16 yet to renew while national has five lifetime members, 75 paid members and 13 yet to renew. On September 30, all members who have not renewed will be dropped from the database by National.

DID YOU KNOW?

Our branch has recently advertised for new members in several local community blogs in the hope of reaching a more diverse membership. Next Door reaches 40 communities and we hope to attract new members by inviting them to any Zoom meeting to see what we are all about. Therefore, you may be seeing faces you do not know during our sessions. We hope we will be able to expand our membership by these community outreach sites.

ALL MEMBERS, PLEASE READ AND CONSIDER

As you all know, our Board of Directors is entirely composed of volunteers who have stepped up in the service of our branch to help facilitate day to day operations, communications, programs including Diversity and Inclusion, partnership with National Council of Negro Woman (NCNW) and outreach to our communities.

In May, several positions will become open since those members have served two consecutive terms or others Board members may want to step down. President, Vice President, Membership Vice President, Program Vice President and Secretary are several positions that will be opened for next year.

If you would like to volunteer for any position or assist on a team with others either in a co-role or on a team, please let one of the Board members know or contact me directly, ilene.Banker@gmail.com. for more information. You can also look at our AAUW Reston-Herndon website for job descriptions.

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 need our support due to personal circumstances. Please provide all information to our secretary, Alyse Goldman, at alysegoldman818@gmail.com. The branch members will be notified as soon as possible. Please support those individuals who are in need with cards, meals, etc.

EQUITY



AAUW'S LONG HISTORY OF EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Did you know that AAUW has been working for equity and equal rights for **100 years**? After all, AAUW was founded for the express purpose of fighting for women's equal access to education, especially higher education. Take a look at some actions from our amazing past:

- 1921 lobbied for independent citizenship for married women (!)
- 1922 lobbied for access to contraceptives for married women
- 1922 advocated to allow women in the diplomatic service
- 1935 lobbied to legalize the dispensing of contraceptive information by physicians
- c.1942 created a refugee aid fund for Jewish women refugees from Germany and other Nazi-held countries; helped Jewish women professors who had been fired find positions in the U.S.
- 1949 amended the national bylaws to clearly state all college women graduates were entitled to membership regardless of race or religion—16 years before the Civil Rights Act. (AAUW never prevented anyone from joining, but it became clear some branches were refusing membership to women of color. The bylaws were amended to make it clear branches could not do that.)
- 1962 established the African Educators Program that for almost 20 years gave African women educators, primarily high school teachers, professional development opportunities in the U.S. to address the shortage of teachers in Africa. Branches in the U.S. hosted these women.
- 1964 and 1965 lobbied for passage of the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act.
- 1969 created the Coretta Scott King Fund to support opportunities for black women to study African-American history and culture.
- 1969 began lobbying for a woman to be appointed to the Supreme Court (that only took 12 years—AAUW is persistent)
- 1972 instrumental in the passage of Title IX, co-authored by Patsy Mink of Hawaii, an AAUW member
- 1987 admitted men to membership (first proposed in 1979)
- 1983 after 7 years of lobbying and support, the Family & Medical Leave passed
- 1988 appointed a Diversity Chair to the national Board with a committee of diverse members.
- 1989 adopted AAUW's Diversity Statement: "AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability." All national, state, and branch publications must include this statement. (Later wording added gender identity, geographical location, and socioeconomic status and changed "creed" to "religious beliefs.")
- 1991 initiated the AAUW Initiative for Educational Equity with *Shortchanging Girls/Shortchanging America*, which was followed throughout the 90's and into this

- century by researched publications on bullying in schools, gender equity in STEM, discrimination in higher ed tenure, and 2015's *Bias and Barriers: Women in Leadership*.
- The more recent years have seen continuous work on equal pay and benefits for all women, fighting discrimination of women in higher ed and the workplace, and women's success in STEM fields. Today 2/3 of fellows and grant recipients are diverse, as is 52% of the national staff.

--Caroline Pickens



BRANCH WEBSITE

The Reston-Herndon Area Branch Website can be found at <http://restonherndon-va.aauw.net> (or put "Reston AAUW" in your search engine). The site is loaded with up-to-date information regarding your branch: messages, announcements and photos; important notices; calendar; recent and upcoming activities information; state and national links; task force, subcommittee and special project information; Executive, Board of Directors membership and email lists; WORK SMART on-line; the 5-Star Recognition Program and so much more!

A **MEMBERS ONLY** section can be accessed by clicking on the button found at the bottom of the **Homepage** which takes you to the sign-in page for members. Put the password on the attached link sheet in the password box and click **ENTER**. On this page, you will find links to branch by-laws, policies, job descriptions and the Succession Plan. The latest Membership Contact and Email Lists are also available as a Word PDFs. These are helpful if you need to find individual information on one person or a small group or just want to browse the list; however, because they are in the Word.pdf format, if you try to copy the lists, you will lose the original table format and will not be able to cut and paste or otherwise manipulate the contents. **Should you need copies of these lists as regular Word documents (Word.docx), please contact Dianne at: dmeroaaauw@yahoo.com.**

This is YOUR website, please let us know what you think! Forward comments, questions or suggestions to Janine (janinegrnwd@hotmail.com).

SPOTLIGHT ON Judi Ornoff**by Marilyn Silvey**

Ask Judi Ornoff why she has been a member of our branch for 45 years and you'll hear several reasons.

"AAUW has it all: the people, and the mission of education and equity for women, and lifelong learning, and providing different ways of doing good. It fulfills a lot of different needs – political, cultural, and social. When I joined, it was a way of meeting other women and talking about more than bottles and diapers. Plus, one's engagement can ebb and flow according to time you have to give to it."

And Judi has experienced all of these.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, and a graduate of Brooklyn College, Judi was a newly-married teacher when her husband's job brought them to Reston in 1971. She taught Life Science at Sterling Middle School for three years, then had two sons and became a full time mother. Therefore in 1975, she was glad to accept an invitation to an AAUW meeting from Lyn Kagey, a new neighbor. Judi says it changed her life.

"Early on, I attended meetings and participated in study groups which had two-year topics with materials furnished by our national organization. One I remember from the early 80s was 'Take Hold of Technology.' I was a member of the book group and also participated in some marches for reproductive choice and passage of the Equal Rights Amendment."

Then Judi got really involved.

"In 1984, Lyn was elected branch president and I was to be president-elect. But within three months of assuming office, Lyn's husband was transferred to San Diego, and I wound up serving as president for the remainder of 1984 and 1985. In 1986, I was chosen to be on the AAUW State Board as State Public Policy Chair, and I organized a statewide Lobby Day on Capitol Hill."

About that time Judi took a job as a property manager, and for the next 15 years she continued as a branch member but was too busy for any leadership role. During those years she was very busy running a business, raising her two sons and dealing with the illness and death of her husband.

"Then in 2001 I retired, remarried, and once again had the time to devote to AAUW. I was one of the original members of the Mentoring Group that worked one-on-one with girls at Forest Edge Elementary School. We did this weekly for about 10 years. It was a valuable program to give 'at-risk girls' an additional caring adult in their lives. We helped them improve their self-esteem and their social skills as much as their academic skills."

In 2011, Judi was co-president with Judy Helmich, for the second year of Judy's term. The following year, they served as co-chairs of the Cultural Committee, planning several trips to places around DC of particular interest to women. Judi went on to serve in this position for an additional two years.

In 2018, Judi and Marion Stillson were selected as co-chairs of the branch's gala 50th anniversary celebration. It was held at a Tyson's Corner restaurant with VA State Senator Jennifer Boysko keynote as speaker. Attendees included former member Lyn Kagey, who is still a close friend of Judi's.

"Lyn and I went to Patagonia together earlier this year, and I visit her in California a lot when I visit my two grandchildren there. I visit another former member, Jan Schmidt, there, too. In Reston, I play bridge with several former branch members. A number of the friends I made early in AAUW have become true lifelong friends."

These days, while missing in-person activities, Judi is active on line.

"I am most grateful for AAUW and the many Zoom events we have that keep me informed, entertained and social at this crazy time. But I do very much look forward to seeing everyone in person again!"



2020 Survey Response

Thanks to the 31 members who participated in our survey. Here's a summary of responses:

- Almost all participants were highly satisfied with programming during the pandemic.
- 90% said they have participated in our Zoom programs.
- Members feel the most important reason to continue membership is programs with speakers. Outings, public policy and book group tie for second place.
- Almost all said they would be willing to contribute to our scholarship fund in lieu of our Friendsgiving fundraiser.
- The most requested additional programs were ones with speakers.
- Nearly half of the respondents expressed interest in activities such as writing postcards for the League to get out the vote.



When sending emails to a large group of members, please list the emails for recipients in the "bcc" line. When responding to a group email, please make sure to reply only to the sender and **not** "reply all" unless the sender indicates differently. This would be greatly appreciated.



Other AAUW Programs

AAUW Northern District Virtual Meeting October 17, 2020 10 am – 12 noon

"What's My Privilege" - Identifying and Using Various Privileges for Good

The goal of this workshop is to provide attendees a deeper and broader understanding of racism and its effect on our society. Our speaker is Alicia Jones McLeod Executive Director, Challenging Racism

Ms. Jones McLeod comes to Challenging Racism from the Ellicott City Partnership where she led a "Main Street" organization responsible for marketing the area as a destination for shopping and dining. Prior to that she founded the Maryland Black Chamber of Commerce, which continues to raise the profile of black-owned businesses. Her tenure at each of her employers has been marked by the implementation of innovative ideas designed to raise the organization's profile and draw new supporters to the work.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Please email Sandra Lawrence at sandyaauw@juno.com or Sara Anderson at sfpaaauw6382@aol.com by Oct 15 to register. Include your branch and any branch position. You will then receive the Zoom login information.

After this interactive workshop there will be updates from AAUW of VA board members. We also have time set aside for branches to highlight upcoming programs and how they are dealing with social distancing. If you have questions please let Sandy or Sara know. Hope to see you there.

Mount Vernon and Sherwood Regional Library present:

Meet author Jessica Buchanan October 15, 4:00 p.m. Zoom

As a young woman in 2011, among Jessica's first thoughts when she was kidnapped by armed men in Somalia were "My life has changed forever. However this ends, good or bad, my life has changed forever. My work is changed forever." (NPR interview, May 2013

[https://www.npr.org/2013/05/14/183624076/insomalia-surviving-a-kidnapping-against-impossibleodds.](https://www.npr.org/2013/05/14/183624076/insomalia-surviving-a-kidnapping-against-impossibleodds)) We will hear about those changes and more. Jessica will discuss her novel "Impossible Odds" that recounts her kidnapping as an aid worker and her rescue by Seal Team Six.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/7048563> Zoom link and password will be sent after registration.

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
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	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

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