



## Annual Meeting

As voted on at our annual meeting on June 21, the following members were elected or appointed to the 2021-23 Board. We are trying something different this year. Instead of having a President, we will be having co-Administrators who will serve as liaisons to National and State. As you can see, we have an opening in Vice President. If you are interested, please contact our administrators.

### **Leadership 2021-23 except as indicated**

#### **Elected Officer Positions:**

Co-Administrators for a One Year Term: Judi Polizzotti and Cyndi Shanahan

Vice President: OPEN

Treasurer: Ruth Ruttenberg

Secretary: Alyse Goldman

Membership VP: Ilene Banker

Program VP: Janine Greenwood

#### **Non-Elected Positions:**

Public Policy: Judi Polizzotti and Mary Zane

Cultural Arts: Roberta Sherman and Carol Flicker

Book Group: Carla Heymsfeld and Alyse Goldman

Great Decisions: Judi Polizzotti and Judy Skirbunt

NOVA Liaison: Jean Ann Linney

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Stephanie Abbott, Carol Ann Bradley and Lynne Chernin

AAUW Funds: Stephanie Abbott

Newsletter: Roberta Sherman

Website: Dianne Mero

Zoom and Weekly Updates: Janine Greenwood

# MEMBERS

### **Membership News - Ilene Banker, Membership Vice President**

We welcome Paula Rubinoff and Susan Baime to our Reston-Herndon Branch.

Paula has a BA in Economics and Accounting and an MBA in Organizational Development from UCLA. Paula resides in Oakton.

Susan has a BA Nazareth College of Rochester. MA from Rutgers and an MBA from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Susan resides in Reston Town Center.

We will be planning a Zoom get together with our newest members and the Leadership Team in September so that they will be introduced to our many activities and get to meet some other members in a smaller setting.

Total membership: 85. Renewals 53 to date.

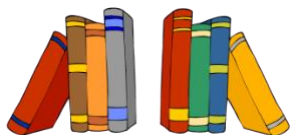
**Reminder:** Please send your dues to Ruth Ruttenberg. Make your check for \$92.00 to AAUW. Ruth's address is 1767 Wainright Drive, Reston, Virginia 20190. If you would like me to send you another online invoice, I would be happy to do so. It is very easy to renew online!

### **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 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, visits, etc.



Note: All zoom links to our meetings and activities will be attached to the newsletter email and you will receive an email with links at the beginning of each week when we have a Branch program or meeting.



### **From Our Book Group Facilitators**

**Alyse Goldman and Carla Heymsfeld**

Our Zoom meetings continue at 2PM on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Upcoming books:

July: I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelu

August: Instructions for a Heat Wave, Maggie O'Farrell

Sept: Eleanor, David Michealis

Oct: Book of Lost Friends, Lisa Wingate

Dec: This Chair Rocks, Ashton Applewhite

This year we will be voting for our book choices a little earlier as we want to have a book basket for the Friendsgiving in September. Below are the book choices. Regular book club members received this list, but so that our new members who might be interested in book club have the opportunity to vote and those who have lost their list, I am including it in the newsletter. If you want a more complete description of each book, email either Carla, Alyse or Roberta and we can send it to you.

We need 11 titles, since we don't meet in November. We decided to have 5 fiction, 5 NF, which includes Biography, and 1 classic. One of the NF books will be our March Women's History Month selection, so be sure to vote for at least one of the women's biography/memoir books in the NF section. Votes must be received by July 12.

Choose 5 Fiction, 5 Nonfiction, (include at least 1 biography/memoir of a woman), and 1 Classic.

**Please send your choices to Alyse Goldman and Carla Heymsfeld:**

[alysegoldman818@gmail.com](mailto:alysegoldman818@gmail.com); [heycarla@comcast.net](mailto:heycarla@comcast.net)

**Choose 5 Fiction:**

1. *It's Just Lola* by DixianeHallaj (Not available in the library)
2. *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins 400 Pages
3. *The Guest Book* by Sarah Blake 576 Pages
4. *Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennet 352 pages
5. *Beautiful Ruins* by Jess Walter 337 pages
6. *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride 370 pages
7. *The Four Winds* by Kristen Hannah 464 pages
8. *Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys 100 pages
9. *Hour of the Witch* by Chris Bohjalian 416 Pages
10. *Disappearing Earth* by Julia Philips 272 pages
11. *Anxious People* by Frederick Bachman 352 words
12. *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell 384 words
13. *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich 451 pages

**Choose 5 NF: Please vote for at least one of the women's biography/memoir.** (One of the first 3)

1. *The Triumph of Nancy Reagan* by Karen Tumulty 669 pages
2. *Bossypants* by Tine Fey 227 pages
3. *I Feel Bad About My Neck: And Other Thoughts on Being a Woman* by Nora Ephram 160 pages.
4. *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah 304 pages
5. *Lucky – How Joe Biden Barely Won the Presidency* by Jonathan Allen 528 pages
6. *No Ordinary Time* by Doris Kerns Goodwin 759 pages
7. *Zero Fail: The Rise and Fall of the Secret Service* by Carol Leonnig 832 pages
8. *Nomadland* by Jessica Bruder 273 pages
9. *The Daughters of Kobani* by Gayle Tzemach 288 pages
10. *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson 496 pages

11. *The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race* by Walter Isaacson 560 pages
12. *Splendid and Vile* by Eric Larson 608 pages

**Choose 1 Classic:**

1. *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury 256 pages
2. *1984* by George Orwell 328 pages
3. *Mrs. Dalloway* by Virginia Woolf 214 pages
4. *Middlemarch* by George Eliot 880 page



Our branch has a lively and active website loaded with a treasure trove of branch related information, including member email addresses and contact information in the “Members Only” section (entry code: VA3035).

Search <https://restonherndon-va.aauw.net> or Google Reston-Herndon AAUW to learn about National and State priorities and to keep up with local branch activities. New members, especially, may want to browse the various tabs, articles, and photos posted and keep up to date on calendar events and upcoming programs, such as our annual Friendsgiving get-together and scholarship fund-raising event scheduled for **Sat. Sept 11** at the Pony Barn in Reston. Leading up to this event, more info will be sent in membership communications and posted on the website. Every attempt is made to update the branch website every two weeks – so stay tuned!!



**Quarterly  
Board of Directors  
Meeting: 7.13.21**

Please join your Reston-Herndon Branch Leadership Team for the first Board of Directors Meeting of the 2021-22 year. This Zoom Meeting will be held on **July 13, 2021, at 10:30 am**. All branch members are encouraged to attend and participate as we kick off the new year. The Zoom link is on the links page and you will receive an email with the link at the beginning of the week of the meeting. We hope to see you there!



### Program Information - Janine Greenwood - Program VP

As usual, we will be taking a break from monthly branch programs over the summer but are very excited that we will be kicking off the year with an outdoor Friendsgiving on Saturday, September 11 at 11:30 AM. Because we know everyone will want to catch up after lockdown, we are not planning a formal speaker. You will get more information and a chance to select your box lunch in August. We will be doing a basket raffle to raise money for our scholarship. Please save the date and be sure to attend.

The Streaming Group will meet on Zoom on Thursday, July 15 at 3:30 PM to discuss Adu, a film on Netflix about a child migrant in Africa. Information on Book Group is elsewhere in this newsletter and Great decisions is taking a break until September.

In weeks when we have meetings or programs, I will be sending an email update with Zoom links on Sunday or early Monday. If you know of local events that would be of interest to our members, you are welcome to send them along and I will include them in the update.



### Adopt A Spot

The AAUW Adopt a Spot group met at the Uplands Pool in May and we cleaned the trail and road area along North Shore Drive from the Uplands Pool to Wiehle Avenue. We had a good time socializing and walking in the woods while picking up trash and recycling. Participants as pictured below from left to right, are Terry Loveman, Cole Loveman, Fran Lovaas, Janine Greenwood, Stephanie Abbott and Betty Podol.



Spotlight On:  
Judith Helmich



Judy Helmich had long been involved in so-called “women’s issues” – such as child care, working to pass the ERA, equal employment opportunities and getting benefits for part time workers – before she found AAUW, or it found her, 20 years ago.

But first let’s fill in some details. Judy grew up near Pittsburgh, PA, and earned a BS in math and economics at Bethany College, a private liberal arts college founded in 1840 in Bethany, WVA. She moved to New Jersey to work, met and married her husband Hank, and they both got their masters degrees in public administration at NYU. After graduation, they moved to Reston.

Judy worked part time at Northern Virginia Community College, as head teacher of the drop-in child care program for students. Early on she joined the Fairfax Child Care Association to continue her work on her passion of child care for all working mothers and was newsletter editor, then went on to represent the Association on the Fairfax County Child Care Advisory Council of the Office for Children. By then the Helmichs had a daughter and a son of their own, so she knew the difficulties of getting good child care firsthand.

“We worked on training for both day care and in-home childcare, standards for both and lobbied long and hard for before and after school childcare, which was non-existent at the time. It was a hard sell in the beginning but soon grew to be quite popular.”

Moving to full time employment, Judy entered the Information Technology (IT) field and began working for the Fairfax County government in 1979, retiring as an IT program manager in 2002. The year before she retired, a colleague, Sonja Vaughan, then a member of our branch, invited Judy to a meeting where she found – and joined - a group of women with similar interests.

“I enjoyed meeting people who had similar interests to mine and were working hard to make them a reality. I’ve made many friends and have enjoyed working with this wonderful group of people.”

In the past 20 years, Judy has held four branch offices as part of a team: co-membership chair, co-program chair, co-president with Stephanie Abbot and then Judi Orloff from 2010-2012, and co-cultural chair. A major branch activity was hosting a five member Russian delegation plus interpreter the week before the Obama election in 2008.

“I hosted the interpreter the entire time, and all the delegation and our branch members on election night and we watched the results together. We all had a wonderful time with this project.”

In the early 2000s, Judy had a major change in her life – the death of her husband. Several years later, she met and married a widower, Stu Parsley, who joined Judy in some AAUW branch activities.

“We both participated in the GEMS (Girls Excelling in Math and Science) annual program and were both mentors at Forest Edge Elementary School. And Stu has attended several AAUW state conferences with me and has enjoyed getting to know members of our branch.”

These days, Judy and Stu travel as much as possible.

“We each have two children, and nine grandchildren between us, and we spend our time between the mountains and the beach with family and friends. Spending time with grandchildren brings a special joy.”

But Judy has not given up AAUW.

“One of my favorite activities was always the annual Lobby Day in Richmond, and I hope we’ll be able to return to having that. And I will certainly keep up my interest in, and support of, all the issues that AAUW continues to work for!”



### AAUW of Virginia Marks the 25th Anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court VMI Decision and Supports a Robust Response to the VMI Equity Audit and Investigation

As we mark the 25th anniversary of the June 26, 1996, landmark Supreme Court decision *United States v. Virginia et al.*, which struck down the long-standing male-only admissions policy of the Virginia Military Institute (VMI), the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Virginia speaks out about the continuing need for action to make VMI a truly inclusive institution.

AAUW of Virginia applauds VMI graduate Governor Ralph Northam and the other state leaders who ordered an outside investigation into VMI’s climate and culture. The detailed findings of the resulting report, “Marching Toward Inclusive Excellence: An Equity Audit and Investigation of the Virginia Military Institute,”

As a state-supported institution, VMI must uphold its responsibility to Virginia’s taxpayers by taking swift and robust action to remedy the abhorrent practices that discriminate against minority, female, and LGBTQ cadets that attend VMI. AAUW of Virginia will watch to see if VMI and our lawmakers take the necessary actions to ensure that the diversity, equity, and inclusion climate at VMI is one that ensures every cadet, no matter their gender, race or sexual orientation, is ensured an equitable and safe education.

Read the entire AAUW Virginia statement here:

<https://aauw-va.aauw.net/files/2021/06/AAUW-VA-statement-on-VMI-final-6-28.pdf>

**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*