



Reston-Herndon Area (VA) Branch

PRESIDENTS' PEN

Relationships and connections is our theme for this year. We are all connected together through the mission, vision and values of AAUW. We are also striving to ensure that we have personal connections with each other even as Covid seems to be keeping us from seeing each other in person. Friendsgiving was the first of many ways we hope you will feel connected with members of the Reston-Herndon AAUW. It was so very wonderful to see you who were able to join us in person, and to give and get hugs and good wishes!

The Board has been busy not only with wonderful programming, but also making plans for the remainder of the year. Additionally, other members have come up with and are making great things happen. Here is just a little of what has already happened this fall and what is planned in the future:

- We have actively worked on public policy issues.
 - We are members of a coalition led by the League of Women Voters and call on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to support the CEDAW human rights resolution for gender equity. CEDAW is the UN Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women.
 - Many of you wrote Reclaim Our Vote postcards to encourage voting in support of our state wide efforts.
 - Plan on joining in lobbying at the state level this winter! It is a blast, and always thrilling to see our sister members from across the state and our state wide representatives!
- We have taken on two significant educational equity initiatives:
 - Increased scholarship support at Northern Virginia Community College.
 - Developed an inclusion essay program for South Lakes and Herndon High Schools based on a program developed by Springfield/Annandale branch. We submitted and were awarded a mini-grant to partially fund this program. This program will be coming up in the spring – so look for more information to come!
- We held branch level programs as well as group gatherings for Book Group, Streaming Group and Great Decisions. Even though we see you through a screen it is great that some many of our members are able to participate in these programs in the comfort of their own home!
- At the branch administration level we are:
 - submitting appropriate paperwork to ensure we continue with our 5-star designation. We all feel that we are well situated to gain this recognition again!

- starting a succession planning process to ensure branch leadership is strong in the future. If you are interested in participating or being a part of the leadership team, please reach out to either of us – we'd love to have you help lead our branch in whatever way works best for you.
- continuing our focus on connections and relationships with NCNW and League of Women Voters. The Presidents of each group have been awarded free membership in our organization.
- coordinating small lunch groups to ensure we stay connected.

Join a board meeting! While we're still on Zoom take this opportunity to be at home in comfy clothes and be a voice at our table. We want to hear your thoughts, opinions and suggestions. Come and find out how we're reaching out to the community and working with coalition partners. Ask some important questions you always wanted to know. Bring a glass of wine and some cheese and crackers and share your ideas.

We look forward to our year ahead, and thank you each for the support you provide to us, the board and the branch.

Judi Polizzotti and Cyndi Shanahan

AAUW WEBSITE RESTON-HERNDON BRANCH

Our branch has a lively and active website, <https://restonherndon-va.aauw.net>, loaded with a treasure trove of branch related information, including member email addresses and contact information in the "Members Only" section. Entry code for the "Members Only" section is on the links page.

You can learn about National and State priorities as well as keeping 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. Every attempt is made to update the branch website every two weeks – so stay tuned!!

GREAT DECISIONS - Judi Polizzotti, Co-Chair



Our meeting was held on October 20th where we discussed the "Two Koreas" and the impact of China as the South's largest trading partner. On Wednesday November 17th we'll examine the "WHO". A relevant topic in the time of COVID 19.

This will be our final discussion for 2021. The remaining topic will be discussed in January 2022.



PROGRAMS

Janine Greenwood - Program VP

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 11:30 AM Museum of Jewish Heritage for a virtual guided tour entitled *Love Thy Neighbor: Immigration and the U.S. Experience*. This tour examines the Jewish immigrant experience in the United States through the exploration of language, work, community, and social activism, using artifacts from the Museum's collection. The tour is provided through the Museum's Zoom account and preregistration by email to Janine Greenwood is required. Deadline is Saturday, November 13.

Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 3PM A conversation with Renee Gorman CEO of **She Believes in Me** and Herndon based nonprofit. She Believes In Me (SBIM) provides vulnerable children with nutritious food, which changes their day. Then, volunteers teach them how to handle conflict, manage emotions, overcome setbacks, and build meaningful relationships, which changes their future. Particularly interesting for those who participated in our mentoring program.

STREAMING GROUP

Tuesday, November 9 at 3:30, "This Changes Everything" a documentary on Netflix about how Hollywood discriminates against women. It is about jobs, pay, hiring and the way women's roles have been fewer and less strong than men's. The film also deals with Black woman and how they are treated even worse.



Note: All zoom links to our BRANCH 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.

MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP NEWS: Ilene Banker, Membership VP

Our membership is 79 members strong. We are reaching out to 35 unaffiliated National and State members to consider joining our local branch. You may see them attending one of our Zoom events to get a feel for our branch.

Please continue to ask your friends and family to consider joining our Reston-Herndon group. If they attend a zoom meeting, we can offer them a discounted rate.

As we look forward to the future, I would love to have another member work with me on membership. It's a wonderful way to make new friends. Please contact me at ilene.Banker@gmail.com if you have interest or would like more info.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season!

**BOOK GROUP**

Alyse Goldman and Carla Heymsfeld

Our next book group meeting will be on Wednesday, December 1 so we do not conflict with Thanksgiving plans. Our book for discussion will be:

This Chair Rocks, by Ashton Applewhite

For the upcoming year our book choices will be:

January: *Beautiful Ruins*, by Jess Walter

February: *The Night Watchman*, by Louise Erdrich

March: *Bossypants*, by Tina Fey

April: *Nomadland*, by Jessica Bruder

May: *Anxious People*, by Frederick Bachman

June: *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, by Isabel Wilkerson

July: *Mrs. Dalloway*, by Virginia Woolf

August: *I Feel Bad About My Neck*, by Nora Ephraim

September: *Vanishing Half*, by Brit Bennet

October: *Hamnet*, by Maggie O'Farrell

December: *No Ordinary Time*, by Doris Kerns Goodwin



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 is 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.



PUBLIC POLICY- Judy Polizzotti and Mary Zane Co-Chairs

November 2 is Election Day!! Here are some tips as you go off to vote:

- Absentee **ballots submitted by mail** must be **postmarked November 2 or earlier and received by noon on November 5.**
- Absentee **ballots submitted in person** must be received **by 7 p.m. on Election Day, November 2.**
- **Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day** for those who have not early voted.
- **Curbside assistance is available for voters 65 years and older and those with a physical disability.** Park in the assigned spot and follow the directions on the sign. It may be helpful to have someone along who can go inside and find an election officer to help. They will bring a ballot to the car and seal it after you complete it.
- Encourage your friends and family to vote and offer assistance if they need it.

Spread the word about voting: "When women vote, they change the conversation."

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Reston Community Center Hunters Woods Center Stage:

- Sunday, November 14 - 3:00 p.m. Equity Matters Moving Forward to Equal Justice - Judas and The Black Messiah Free - contact: Paul Michnewicz 703-390-6167 or paul.michnewicz@fairfaxcounty.gov
- Saturday, November 20 - 8:00 p.m. Akua Allrich and The Tribe - The Dancing Light: Celebrating The Warmth of Winter \$15 Reston/\$20 Non-Reston

There has been so much said about **The1619 Project** that you might want to review it for yourself.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/08/14/magazine/1619-america-slavery.html>

The podcast version "1619" is available on Apple and certain other sites where you get your podcasts.

**OTHER BRANCH AND AAUW-VA PROGRAMS:**

ADVANCING RACIAL AND SOCIAL EQUITY IN ALEXANDRIA Speaker: Jaqueline Tucker, Race and Social Equity Officer for the City of Alexandria
Saturday, November 20, 10:30 am Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Parker's Lane, Alexandria. The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information contact Mt. Vernon AAUW AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com

2022 AAUW-VA Annual State Conference

- **Part 1- Saturday, March 26, 2022, in-person** at the Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, Harrisonburg, VA
- **Part 2- Saturday, April 30, 2022, Virtual Annual Business Meeting**



AAUW Funds

Each of you decided to belong to AAUW, an organization that began in 1881 for the advancement of women. What did this organization accomplish this past year to meet this Mission:

- AAUW Advances Equity For Women And Girls Through Advocacy, Education, Philanthropy, And Research
- 30,000 people participated in 35 free AAUW webinars featuring career tips, advice on activism, interviews with thoughts leaders and other educational offerings
- 29 minority-serving institutions, including 18 Historically Black Colleges and Universities now offer AAUW Start Smart training, raising the number of hosting institutions to 142
- \$3.6 million was awarded to more than 200 recipients for the 2020-2021 academic year with the goal of advancing educational opportunities for women around the globe
- 62,400 letters were sent to elected officials urging immediate action on COVID relief, paid leave benefits, voter access, and other key AAUW public policy priorities
- Five cases AAUW supports to fight workplace discrimination, Title IX violations, and pay inequity.
- 180,167 women have been trained in salary negotiation skills through Work Smart and Start Smart programs to date.
- 227 media outlets have featured AAUW's work in 2020, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, Newsweek, U.S. News & World Report, NBC News, and more.
- 260 Fellowships and Grants totaling \$5 million have been given to women and community projects for the 2021-22 academic year.
- One new learning community launched: AAUW's Equity Network offers leadership training to early and mid-career participants who are committed to social justice. Members and supporters bolstering our mission of advancing women and girls in research, education, and advocacy

As you plan your end of the year charitable donations, please consider making a donation to AAUW with a note on the memo line for the Greatest Needs Fund. Say "Thank You" for all the things AAUW has done this year for members and the population at large by going online at [AAUW.org](https://www.aauw.org) and making a donation.

Board of Directors 2020-21

Co-Administrators	Judi Polizzotti Cyndi Shanahan
Vice President	Vacant
VP Finances	Ruth Ruttenberg
VP Membership	Ilene Banker
VP Program	Janine Greenwood
Secretary	Alyse Goldman
AAUW Funds	Stephanie Abbott
Adopt-a-Spot	Fran Lovaas
Cultural Arts	Roberta Sherman Carol Flicker
Book Group	Carla Heymsfeld Alyse Goldman
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion	Stephanie Abbott Carol Ann Bradley Lynne Chernin
Great Decisions	Judi Polizzotti Judy Skirbunt
Newsletter	Roberta Sherman
NOVA Liaison	Jean Ann Linney
Public Policy	Judi Polizzotti Mary Zane
Ashby Ponds	Marilyn Silvey
Website	Dianne Mero
Zoom and Weekly Updates	Janine Greenwood

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.*

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