



Reston-Herndon Area (VA) Branch

PRESIDENTS' PEN

President's Message

Our theme for this year is Engagement in Support of AAUW's Mission. We will strengthen our branch member's engagement through consistent and targeted support of the mission and focus of our AAUW organization. Our mission is Gender Equity and Economic Security; and our focus areas are Economic Security, Education and Advocacy.

Your board has been extremely busy planning for a wonderful year of programming and engagement. Our public policy team, cultural arts team, education committee, program committee and book and Great Decision group leads have all been planning in support of what you have told us is important, as well as, the state and national priorities.

Our plans include:

- Learning more about our community and women leaders right here at home, exploring our implicit biases so that we can be more aware and caring citizens, learning about nonprofits in our area that serve those who are helping young people be successful.
- Our Cultural Arts team has a full calendar of great ways to connect with each other while enjoying the culture that our region has to offer.
- Public policy is focused on getting out the vote this fall and will move to support the state's lobby day initiatives and other priorities over the course of the year.
- Programs cover a wide array of priorities for AAUW, from DEI (Diversity Equity Inclusion) focus to our continued focus on understanding what our state leaders are doing and how they are focused on AAUW's priorities, and having a bit of fun connecting with each other
- The education committee will continue our efforts with NOVA while exploring other nontraditional ways of supporting college, elementary and high school students.
- Keeping in touch with each other through our reading and active discussion with our Book Group and Great Decision team is another highlight.

Each of these committees and teams would love to have you join them to help direct and plan our branch activities.

We also want to ensure that we have a complete picture of our past, and keep that focus into the present and future. Please consider becoming our Historian for the Branch. This is a key position that can be accomplished from your home. The key skill needed to be successful in this position are organizational acumen. We are attempting to move our on-going records to a paper format because we have found that electronic formats become obsolete quickly, so being compute savvy is not required.

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

Judy Helmich and Cyndi Shanahan



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 next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday October 19th at 7:00 P.M. and the discussion will be on "Drug Policy in Latin America". It should be an interesting briefing and discussion. The article is in the Foreign Policy Association briefing book for 2022 available on fpa.org. There are two more topics in this year's briefings.

All are welcome!



BOOK GROUP

Alyse Goldman and Carla Heysfeld

Book group meets the fourth Wednesday of the month. Our next meeting is Wednesday, September 28.

September: *Vanishing Half*, by Brit Bennet

October: *Hamnet*, by Maggie O'Farrell

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



Diversity Equity Inclusion

September 29 at 7 PM via Zoom

Have you ever caught yourself assessing a situation and then realized you were drawing conclusions based on your preconceived concepts? I think we all have. To learn more about this habit, our branch DEI team has been planning our branch meeting about Unconscious Bias. We will be asking participants to think about and evaluate their own experiences. Of course your verbal participation will be voluntary. This meeting will not be open to nonmembers.

We are very fortunate to have as our speaker and facilitator Patty Hagan whom many of you met at our annual meeting in June. Patty grew up in Northern Virginia and attended George Mason where she earned her BA in history. Later she earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration from GWU. She spent most of 36 years in Federal service in EEO (Equal Employment Opportunity.) She was the first Diversity Manager for the U.S. Geological Survey where she influenced changes in hiring, promotion, and development practices affecting the composition of the workforce. Patty continued her passion for healing racism by helping to start the Social Justice Team at her church in January 2018. She is also an active participant in the Institute for Women Centered Coaching's Mastermind Group on Transforming Systemic Racism to Systemic Love.

We are asking members to **RSVP to Ilene Banker at Ilene.Banker@gmail.com**.

Membership

MEMBERSHIP NEWS: Judi Polizzotti

On Wednesday September 14th at 2:00 pm, I'm scheduling a virtual meeting with anyone interested in contributing their thoughts on membership. Details on the attached links page. We will focus on having in person gatherings that present AAUW's mission and why one should join. These gatherings would be available to all current and future members. Our effort will address retention of existing members and attracting new ones. Anyone who like to participate in this discussion can join us. This effort is important to the life of our Branch. This is one option for membership but I'm open to all suggestions. Please let me know if you're interested in participating.



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](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.



Spotlight on.....New member SHYAMALI ROY HAUTH
by Marilyn silvey

Shyamali Roy Hauth is currently the Legislative Director for Multimodal Transportation, Public Safety and the Arts in the office of Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter Alcorn.

"I love what I do, which is helping to make things better for our community members through improving safety measures for pedestrians and cyclists, ensuring our roads and transit systems are effective, and working with residents to create vibrant, activated and safe neighborhoods. We are still 'carcentric,' but things are changing, and transit, walking and biking are becoming more popular ways to get around. I also work with the police on ways to deter crime and create a safer community."

Shyamali also has a yoga business and teaches Celtic harp music. She was formerly a college professor, a Japanese-English interpreter at a company in Japan, the only woman officer in an Air Force fighter squadron, and a construction inspector.

Born in India, Shyamali came to the United States in 1966 as an infant when her parents came to study at the University of Oregon. Both earned PhDs, her father in cultural anthropology and her mother in American English literature, and became university professors. Though retired, her mother still teaches part time at Evergreen State College and owns and operates an Indian classical dance company.

"I joined AAUW, after learning about the organization from a friend, because as the daughter of educators and an educator myself, I have always had a warm spot in my heart for education."

Shyamali says her parents were among the first Indians to come to the United States after immigration opened up for Asians and since then things have changed dramatically here.

"Only a very small group of Asians came here until 1965 when the Immigration and Nationality Act changed everything. When we came, there were no places to buy Indian food. We were fortunate to be given a host family with whom we are still good friends."

After graduating from high school, Shyamali joined the US Air Force and stayed in for 10 years, during which time she earned her BA and MS degrees. She has lived in Oregon, Washington, South Carolina, Mississippi, Texas, Florida, Nebraska, New Jersey, Alabama, Illinois and Virginia, as well as in India and Japan. She is married and the mother of four grown children. Her husband is retired from the Air Force and works in Reston.

As a college professor in Washington, Shymali taught courses in leadership and team building, English, and speech and communication. While in Japan, she started a yoga business, Mahari Yoga, that she continues in Reston, providing private instruction. She learned to play the Celtic

harp and became involved in music while living in New Jersey. Currently she is on the board of the Reston Chorale, and she has played the harp at the group's annual garden fundraiser.

Shyamali is involved in many organizations with nine organizations in which she has leadership positions and 17 more in which she is an active member. She says she now gives the largest amount of time to the Faith Alliance for Climate Coalitions ("They approach climate change from a creation standpoint and their success record is phenomenal in helping to reduce greenhouse gases") and to the Democratic Asian Americans of Virginia. She is also active in other Fairfax County Democratic party organizations and was a candidate for Hunter Mill District Supervisor in 2019, losing to her present boss. She hopes to be more involved in politics in the future.



PROGRAMS Janine Greenwood - Program Vice President

We have a number of special events and programs in September and October, most of which are described elsewhere in this newsletter. See the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee section for details on our special program on **Unconscious Bias** with facilitator Patty Hagan September 29, 2022 at 7P.M.

Save the date of November 19, 2022 for FRIENDSGIVING! We will gather at Mon Ami Gabi in Reston for lunch to celebrate our Branch and enjoy our annual basket raffle fundraiser.

Cultural Events:

Thursday, September 8, 2022 11:00 a.m. - Join us as we walk through Meadowlark Gardens. Although we will not have an organized tour, it will be nice to connect with friends as we meander through the gardens. After the walk, we plan to bring lunch and eat on the picnic tables outside the main entrance. Entry fee is \$3.00 for those 55+ and \$6.00 for adults. Please RSVP Roberta Sherman (see address in the links page) to let us know if you will attend so we will wait for you. Rain date Wednesday, September 14

We are also planning a tour of **Doddona Manor** in Leesburg for Thursday, October 20. More details will be coming as the date nears.

Recent Programs - In July and August we have had two programs that complimented each other. Our first program led by a guide from the Reston Museum was a walking tour of Lake Anne in Reston. In August, we had a speaker from the Herndon Historical Society talk to us about the women who shaped Herndon yesterday and today. Both were wonderful.



PUBLIC POLICY- Co-Chairs Lynn Chernin and Judy Schretter



Early Voting Starts Soon:

Voting starts on Friday, September 23. You can vote at the Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 2/3 weekdays 8-4; Saturdays: September 24, October 29 and November 4 from 9-5 and Sunday, October 30 1-5.

You can also vote at North County Governmental Center weekdays 1-7; Saturday, September 24, October 29 and November 5 from 9-5 and Sunday, October 30 1-5. More locations will open starting October 27.



Community Programs of Note:

1. The Herndon Historical Society is Pleased to Announce a Special Presentation

The Caboose Comes to Town!

Please join us for this free presentation on

Wednesday, September 28, 7:00 PM

in the Herndon Historical Society Depot Museum, 717 Lynn Street

Our special guest speaker is Lea Coryell, former Historical Society president who had a direct hand in obtaining and renovating the Herndon caboose in 1989-90. He will share his unique perspective as to how the Historical Society obtained the caboose for the town of Herndon in 1989, and how it was later renovated, showing unique photographs and videotape from that time period.

2. **The Herndon Historical Society Special Exhibit...**

“Sights and Sounds of Early Herndon”

ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon, Virginia, October 6th to 27th, 2022. Come see never seen before historic photographs and artifacts of the Town of Herndon from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Free Exhibit Reception: October 14, 6:30 PM.

3. The Loudoun Coalition on Women and Girls (LCWAG) annual **Girl emPower Summit** is led by girls, for girls across the Northern Virginia region.

Young women ages 12-18 will explore the theme of *Breaking Boundaries and Embracing Change* with peers and speakers who are experts in the fields of leadership, mental health and wellness, college and career prep, and STEM for change.

Thanks to our key sponsors at Amazon Web Services (AWS), the summit is free to all attendees! Register to attend! Saturday, September 24, 2022; 10-1 Northern Virginia Community College, Loudoun Campus

4. NCNW Back to School Supply Drive:



ncnw
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN, INC.

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

ACCEPTING DONATIONS YEAR ROUND
DROP OFF ITEMS AT THE NCNW BOOTH AT THE RESTON
MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL ON SEPT. 17, 2022 FROM 11 AM - 6 PM
AT RESTON TOWNCENTER, 11900 MARKET ST IN RESTON, VA

ITEMS NEEDED:
PENCILS, PENS, MARKERS, CRAYONS, COLORED PENCILS, HIGHLIGHTERS,
NOTEBOOKS, BINDERS, FOLDERS, CALCULATORS, CLOROX WIPES, COMPOSITION
BOOKS, TAPE, GLUE, STAPLERS, RULERS, ERASERS, PAPER, STICKY NOTES, ETC.

RESTON-DULLES, NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN, INC.
FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL INFO@NCNWRRESTONDULLES.ORG
DONATIONS SUPPORT SCHOOLS IN FAIRFAX AND LOUDOUN COUNTIES
EMAIL US TO SCHEDULE DONATION PICK-UPS IF UNABLE TO MAKE 9/17 EVENT

5.

Honest Conversations with Former VA Secretary of Education Atif Qarni and Friends
Debunking the Lies spread about Virginia Public Education by the Right Wing

Join us for our First Event Featuring:



VA Senator Louise Lucas
*President pro tempore of the Senate of Virginia
Chair, Senate Education and Health*



VA Senator Ghazala Hashmi
*Chair, Senate Subcommittee
on Public Education*



VA Senator Mamie Locke
Chair, Senate Rules Committee



VA Delegate Elizabeth Guzman
Member, House Education Committee

Register for the Virtual Panel Scheduled for Thursday, September 8th at 7:00 pm EST
<https://tinyurl.com/qarni>



2022-2023 Leadership

Co-Administrators	Cyndi Shanahan & Judy Helmich
VP Finance	Ruth Ruttenberg
VP Membership	Judi Polizzotti
VP Program	Janine Greenwood
Secretary	Alyse Goldman
AAUW Funds	Stephanie Abbott
Adopt-a-Spot	Fran Lovaas
Cultural Arts	Carol Flicker, Joyce Senger, Roberta Sherman
Book Group	Alyse Goldman & Carla Heymsfeld
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion	Stephanie Abbott, Lynn Chernin
Great Decisions	Carol Ann Bradley, Ilene Banker
Newsletter	Judi Polizzotti & Judy Skirbunt
NOVA Liasion	Roberta Sherman
Public Policy	Jean Ann Linney
Website	Lynne Chernin & Judy Schretter
Zoom and Updates	Dianne Mero
	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.*

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*