



PRESIDENTS' PEN

The 2022-23 year has gotten off to a good start. We have had two exciting programs and two Cultural Arts events since our last newsletter that were well received. The September program was on women of note in the history of Herndon and the October program was on Unconscious Bias presented by our DEI Committee. Both of these were very informative with excellent speakers and discussion. The September cultural outing was a walk through Meadowlark Gardens in Vienna where our own Joyce Senger educated us on the plants and trees we were seeing. In October we had a tour of Dodona Manor in Leesburg which was delightful. Each was followed by a lunch. In November we have Friendsgiving, the details of which are in this newsletter. We are thrilled to have Ken Plum scheduled to speak with us about his State of the Commonwealth on December 8. See details in the newsletter.

All of our committees have been active in planning and executing events and discussions that are thought provoking and enjoyable as you see in this newsletter. We have also participated in state discussions with other branches in Virginia on public policy and membership. If you are interested in participating in the planning and execution of these committees, please contact the appropriate committee chairs listed in this newsletter.

We are still looking for a Historian for our branch. We have a lot of material from our many events and programs and would love to have someone who can pull this material together to provide a picture of our past and keep the focus into our present and future. This is a key position that can be accomplished from home. It doesn't have to be performed by one person. Perhaps a couple of our members could work on this. Please let Cyndi or Judy know if you are interested and/or just want more information on the position.

We're looking forward to seeing you all at Friendsgiving! We'd love you to bring a friend along with you.

We wish you a wonderful holiday season in November and December and look forward to the New Year!

Judy Helmich and Cyndi Shanahan



Let's Meet for Coffee

Wednesday, Nov. 9, 10 am -- Meet for coffee or breakfast at the Silver Diner on Loudoun County Parkway, Ashburn. Please RSVP to Lynne Chernin (703-203-3916) or Marilyn Silvey (571-918-0317.)

Programs - Jeanine Greenwood

AAUW Reston-Herndon Invites You to Celebrate with Us

Saturday, November 19, 2022, at Noon

Mon Ami Gabi

Reston Town Center

Speaker: Caroline Griswold Short, Generation Hope

Generation Hope supports teen parents in college as well as their children through holistic, two-generation programming.

Three Course Lunch with Choice of Entrée:

Vegetable Quiche

Steak Frits

Salmon with Kale and Spinach

\$45 per Person

RSVP with Entrée Choice to Janine Greenwood

by November 10

Check Payable to Reston-Herndon AAUW to:

Ruth Ruttenberg

BRING A GUEST AND INTRODUCE HER TO OUR BRANCH

BASKET RAFFLES

Upcoming in December:

Del. Ken Plum “The State of the Commonwealth of Virginia” December 8, 2022, at 3PM by Zoom. Del. Plum is in his 42nd year of service representing the 36th District in the Virginia House of Delegates. He is a retired teacher and school administrator, having been employed by the Fairfax County Public Schools for nearly 30 years. His many years as a delegate and as a member of the community always provide very valuable insights as we move into the new legislative year in January. Many of you will remember these presentations which were an annual part of our Branch calendar in the “before time” and we are happy to be able to continue this tradition by Zoom.



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!!

Membership

MEMBERSHIP NEWS: Judi Polizzotti

Membership

AAUW National has decided to extend the date for 2022-2023 membership to November 30th. Currently, we have 69 members per the roster from the National community hub. I have received the list of AAUW National members in Northern VA and will reach out to them to join our branch and/or attend a function. I also contacted members who haven't renewed for exit interviews and either they decided to renew or I never heard back from them.

We are encouraging members to bring a friend to our events. We hope to have more in person cultural and program events in 2023.



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.



BOOK GROUP

Alyse Goldman and Carla Heymsfeld

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, December 7. There will be no November meeting.
December: *No Ordinary Time*, by Doris Kerns Goodwin

If you would like to get a head start on next years' books here is the list for 2023

Jan: Rough Draft, by Katy Tur
Feb: Horse, by Geraldine Brooks
March: Susan, Linda, Nina and Cokie, by Lisa Napoli
April: Lessons from the Edge, by Marie Yovanovitch
May: Killers of a Certain Age, by Deanne Raybourne
June: Gender Queer, A Memoir, by Maia Kobabe
July: Personal Librarian, by Marie Benedict
August: Rose Code, by Kate Quinn
Sept: Shy...Memoirs of Mary Rodgers, by Mary Rodgers Guettel
Oct: Left on Tenth, by Della Ephron
Dec: Diamond Eye, by Kate Quinn



Roberta Sherman, Chair

As has been reported previously, the education committee has decided to continue with the essay contest for a cash prize to two Juniors; one at South Lakes HS and the other at Herndon HS. We will start advertising the contest in January. In addition, we have also decided to contribute to the food pantry at NOVA Loudoun campus. At our meetings, we are asking members to bring items that are of need to the meeting and then Cyndi will take the items over to the college. We realize that we have a little hole in that we do for education as we do not have any programs for elementary schools. After investigating a few organizations and visiting with them, the group decided that we should support She Believes in Me an organization located in downtown Herndon. They have a number of programs that you can volunteer in. Go to this website at <https://shebelievesinme.org> I do know they have a food bank and monthly activities for the girls that we can participate in. They have a sign up genius for your convenience. If you remember, one of their leaders spoke to our group a few months back. The education committee is always looking for volunteer opportunities so if you know of any local ones, please contact me, Roberta Sherman



Diversity Equity Inclusion, Stephanie Abbott, Carol Bradley, Ilene Banker

On September 29, 2022, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee offered a 90 minute session on Unconscious Bias led by facilitator Patty Hagan. Patty is an HR professional with years of experience conducting Equity Training with the Geological Survey.

Twenty - three members participated in an interactive session focusing on exploring and understanding biases, which may or may not be conscious when relating to people of different races and ethnicities.

Viewing video vignettes, discussing our reactions and then having an opportunity to be in smaller break out rooms where we further discussed sensitive questions, made for an engaging opportunity to learn more about our own behavior as we relate to others.

Members surveyed after the session were very pleased with the session and look forward to continuing our branch focus on DEI.



GREAT DECISIONS - Judi Polizzotti, Co-Chair

Great Decisions

In October, we discussed "US Drug Policy and Latin America ." We learned a lot about the current status of the war on drugs, its effectiveness and the cost of the program. On November 16th, we will discuss "US Industrial Policy" at 7:00 pm . It will be a virtual meeting on Zoom and the link will be forwarded to members.



PUBLIC POLICY- Co-Chairs Lynn Chernin and Judy Schretter

Thank you to all those members and non-members who helped us write postcards for the "Reclaim Our Vote" project. Our branch prepared and mailed over 300 cards.

Mark your calendars to attend the annual AAUW Virginia Lobby Day in Richmond on January 19, 2023. In addition to meeting with legislators, a reception with women lawmakers is scheduled for the evening of January 18. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hampton

Inn for those who plan to attend both events. More information about all these events will be forthcoming. Your support of this event is a great way of demonstrating AAUW's involvement in what is happening in our state.

On December 8, 2022, Delegate Ken Plum will address our branch on the "State of the Commonwealth." This will be a very timely talk to hear about the issues that will be discussed at the next session of the Virginia General Assembly in January. Watch for more information from the Program Committee about this meeting.

Cultural Events - Roberta Sherman, Carol Flicker, Joyce Senger

The cultural arts group has been busy these last few months. On September 8 we ventured out to Meadowlark Gardens. Little did we know we had our own horticulturist among us - Joyce Senger. She pointed out unusual plants and other items of interest. We could not have chosen a more perfect day - a bit overcast, but not too hot! We all had a lovely lunch at the Old Brogue in Great Falls after our visit.



Meadowlark Gardens

On October the group ventured out to Dodona Manor, the estate of George C. Marshall in Leesburg. George C. Marshall a military man who had planned to spend his retirement at the estate was called back to duty after WWII to deliver the Marshall Plan. His house appeared to be a very livable home. If you did not know exactly where it was (behind a strip mall) you would still be riding up and down Route 7. After a lovely tour provided by two docents, we had a wonderful at Toscarora.



Dodona Manor

Watch your email account as we are planning a theater party for either late February or March at Next Stop our local theater in Herndon. They have two plays of interest: 40 Plays for America's First Ladies and The Cake. Stay tuned for more information.

SPOTLIGHT ON.....New member Susan Baime



Susan Baime moved to Reston from Williamsburg two years ago after her husband died to be near her daughter and a sister. More recently, she joined AAUW, in which she had been a member in New Jersey years ago.

"I remembered it as an organization of intelligent women with left-of-center political views, and I went online and found this branch. I've taken part in some meetings in person, including walking near Lake Anne and, virtually, learning about women leaders in Herndon, and I've met some members at the Silver Diner."

Now Susan is taking part in the branch project of writing postcards supporting local candidates. She hopes to get more involved in campaign work.

"I volunteered in political campaigns when I lived in New Jersey, and I wrote a letter that got published--which resulted in a call from a candidate for the state assembly who asked me to be her press secretary, and I accepted. She won, but was not re-elected.

I learned that getting involved at the local level is so important and so easy for volunteers; candidates higher up can afford to hire professionals and do."

She also coordinated a statewide lobby day working with women's organizations.

Originally from New Jersey, Susan earned a B.A. from Nazareth College of Rochester, an M.A. from Rutgers University, and an M.B.A. from Fairleigh Dickinson University. She had a series of jobs from 1980 to 2020, including a tour guide at Jamestown Settlement near Williamsburg. Most of the other positions she held were in corporations in New Jersey and Susan laughs that they "are the least interesting about me, I just worked to help pay my bills." One job she liked was teaching.

"I was an adjunct professor and taught evening courses in management at Fairleigh Dickinson and really enjoyed it. The adult students were highly motivated and kept awake, unlike bored undergraduates."

After her husband retired, the Baimes moved to Williamsburg, where they lived for 15 years. She liked it there, but says it is "not really a college town, but a town with a college in it." Now she is enjoying the ethnic diversity of Reston and especially the farmers market each Saturday.

In the wider scene, Susan is especially glad to see the nationwide changes in the greater diversity of gender and race of students enrolled in colleges and working in previously male-dominated professions.

"One of my eight grandchildren is at a medical school where 60% of the students are women and many students are non-white. She does not realize how different this is from how it used to be."

2022-2023 Leadership

Co-Administrators
VP Finance
VP Membership

Cyndi Shanahan & Judy Helmich
Ruth Ruttenberg
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