



PRESIDENTS' PEN Judy Helmich and Cyndi Shanahan, Co-Administrators

We are winding down the AAUW year and continuing to blossom out of the covid times. We feel confident that for the remainder of this year and moving forward we will continue to meet more in person and experience more community within our AAUW lives.

A huge thank you to everyone who has served on the Board this year! We could not have a branch without you. Many of the leaders are coming back again next year, and we thank you for that. Rolling off this year are:

Public Policy Chairs Judy Schretter and Lynne Chernin, and
DEI Chairs Stephanie Abbott, Ilene Banker and Carol Anne Bradley.

Also, Alyse Goldman will be relinquishing her role as Secretary, but remains on the board as Book Group co-chair, and Judy Helmich will move from Co-Administrator to Program VP with your approval.

Please be sure you have marked your calendars and are planning on coming to the business meeting that we are holding on June 8 at Cafe Montmartre. It is always a wonderful time! The food is great, the company even nicer and the location cannot be beaten. We will have a short business meeting and lots of fun. Be sure to check out the slate of officers listed in this newsletter.

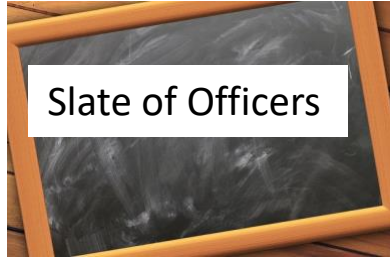
Fall Activities

We have already started planning our fall activities and will have loads of information to share with you at the business meeting. High on our list are a meeting with our state legislators who will be stepping down from their position, our annual Friendsgiving, and a picnic and membership input event.

Check out the rest of this newsletter for other cultural events, book group activities and Great Decisions discussion that you can attend for wonderful conversation and to connect with our fellow members.

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

Judy Helmich and Cyndi Shanahan



Proposed Slate of Officers 2023-2024 to be voted on:

Position	Candidate	Term
Administrator	Cyndi Shanahan	1 year
Treasurer	Ruth Ruttenberg	2 years
Secretary	Open	
Program VP	Judy Helmich	2 years
Membership VP	Additionally, No Vote Required Judi Polizzotti	1 year left



BOOK GROUP Alyse Goldman and Carla Heymsfeld

Book group meets the fourth Wednesday of the month. Check weekly announcements for meeting place and lunch plans.

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



GREAT DECISIONS - Judi Polizzotti, Co-Chair

The next meeting of Great Decisions will be May 17 at 7pm. It will be on Zoom. The discussion will focus on the fourth topic of the Great Decision Book - Economic Warfare and US Policy. Look for the weekly notices for more information. All are welcome. Please join us.



PROGRAMS

Janine Greenwood, VP Programs

Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 4 PM - Meet Lisa, Author & Owner The Organizing Mentors

Come hear from Lisa, owner of The Organizing Mentors and author of 17 Spatulas and the Man Who Fried an Egg, which is about how to reclaim your space mentally and physically. Lisa will tell us about her LITL system and speak about how she and her team compassionately help people reclaim, downsize and organize their space. We will enjoy each other's company, have light refreshments and listen to some of Lisa's stories! Her stories will make you laugh, cry and generally understand compassionately why we hold on to things we do. Feel free to invite a friend to come along with you.

Meeting will be at Cyndi Shanahan's home. You received a Punchbowl invitation from her with details or you can RSVP directly to Cyndi.

Thursday, June 8 at Noon ANNUAL MEETING

We will return to Café Montmartre in Reston for our Annual meeting. Watch your email in early May for your invitation. We will vote for officers and talk about our plans for the upcoming year. Be sure to attend.



Note: All zoom links that are needed for virtual meetings will be included in an email at the beginning of each week when we have a Branch program or meeting.



In April, a group of us were entertained by the play at NextStop - "The Cake." It dealt with a woman's religious beliefs and her making the cake of her dear friend who was gay. It made us laugh, cry and more importantly think.

We would like to schedule an outing to Hillwood Estates as they are presenting a program entitled "Determined Women Collectors, Artists and Designers at Hillwood." This special exhibition will explore the innovating and intrepid collectors, artists, and designers within Hillwood's collection, those who set an example for Marjorie Merriweather Post and future women by making a place for themselves and overcoming obstacles through their determination to succeed. We will probably go Wednesday, June 14, but need drivers before we can schedule the event. If you are willing to drive, please let Roberta Sherman know and we can go from there.

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.



As a reminder, members who send AAUW group emails please list the email addresses to those receiving them in the bcc line and not in the cc line. This should be done to protect the privacy of members who do not want their email address broadcast widely.

Membership

MEMBERSHIP NEWS- Judi Polizzotti, VP Membership

You should have received an email from National regarding your membership. If you renew your membership before it expires on June 30, 2023, you will receive a free, one-year subscription to Ms. Magazine.

As a member whose branch participates in online processing, you can pay all of your dues - branch, state and national at one time. Here's how:

To pay online: Visit the [AAUW Login page](#). If you have visited the Community Hub before and have already established an account you can log into your Personal Snapshot. If you have not, click, Forgot Your Password located below the blue login button at the bottom of the page. Enter your email address that we used to send you this message, then click Reset Your Password to receive a login email from infosf@aauw.org. If you don't receive it in 5-10 minutes, email connect@aauw.org. PLEASE DO NOT CREATE A NEW ACCOUNT. After you receive the login email, enter your email address and "Create and Confirm your Password" to access your Personal Snapshot.

Once you are in your Personal Snapshot, click RENEW at the bottom of the screen to renew your national, branch and state memberships! Dual members should self-renew ALL memberships at once. College/University representatives whose national membership is covered by the school should email connect@aauw.org to request a special code before renewing.

To pay by check: As always, you have the option of making a check payable to your AAUW branch and mailing it to our treasurer - Ruth Ruttenberg.

Whichever way you decide to renew your membership, I hope you will take pride in knowing that our work together is making a real difference in the lives of women and girls!

Honorary lifetime members CANNOT self renew online; paid lifetime members will be able to self renew and should receive the renewal email. Paid lifetime members pay state and branch dues, but honorary lifetime members do not pay either of those.



PUBLIC POLICY- Co-Chairs Lynn Chernin and Judy Schretter

PUBLIC POLICY INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING ELECTIONS

In November, all 140 seats in the Virginia General Assembly will be up for election. Following the last census, new districts were drawn for the first time by nonpartisan experts under the supervision of the Virginia Supreme Court.

This year will bring about the biggest turnover of membership in the House of Delegates and Senate than in any other election year. Currently, in the 100-member House, there are 35 Republican incumbents planning to run for re-election and 31 Democratic incumbents, leaving 34 open seats, or just over a third of the House, to be filled by new members. In the 40-member Senate, 13 seats are held by Republican incumbents running for re-election and 16 Democrats running for re-election, leaving about a quarter of the Senate or 11 seats to be filled by new members. It was clear this year that the makeup of the Virginia General Assembly is critical to AAUW's public policy priorities.

As part of the redistricting process election districts were renumbered. To find the numbers of the House and Senate districts in which you reside, go to <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov>. If you have recently moved, be sure to update your voter registration information so you will be able to vote.

Primaries will be held on Tuesday, June 20, to determine some nominees. Please be sure to vote. Early voting is scheduled beginning on May 5, 2023, and goes through June 17, 2023. In Fairfax County, in person early voting is available at the Fairfax County Government Center and the North County Government Center in Reston. In Loudoun County, early voting will be held at the Office of Elections in Leesburg, at the Claude Moore Recreation Center, and at the Dulles South Recreation Center. Please check online for the hours these locations are open.

In addition to selecting members of the Virginia General Assembly, this year we will also select members of the County Board of Supervisors, School Board members, Commonwealth Attorneys, and Sheriffs. We recommend the website for the Virginia Public Access Project, (<https://www.vpap.org/>) as a way to keep up with what is going on locally as well as throughout the Commonwealth.

Education Committee Update Roberta Sherman



Due to travel and other family obligations, the essays received were not given to the readers in time for the winners to be announced for this newsletter. Unfortunately, we did not receive any essays from South Lakes High School, but did receive five wonderfully written essays from Herndon High School. I was so impressed with this year's applicants. They all wrote interesting essays that had me believe the future will be in good hands. Please be on the lookout in the next few weeks in a separate email with the details of our essay contest winner.



WEBSITE RESTON-HERNDON BRANCH - Dianne Mero

Looking for something in particular about our branch?

Our branch website can be found at <https://restonherndon-va.aauw.net> (or by searching 'Reston-Herndon AAUW' in your web browser). This site is a great "back-up" to this newsletter (edited by Roberta Sherman) and the weekly branch highlights (thanks to Janine Greenwood) which are both sent to all branch members. You can make sure your email address is up to date in the National database by reviewing your AAUW Hub "Snapshot" page information or check with Membership VP, Judi Polizzotti, and you will also receive all AAUW of Virginia member notices. In addition to timely posting of branch activities, events, and mission-related information, on the website you can learn about local, state and national AAUW priorities and how to become involved at each level. Additionally, there are various articles and photos posted and a current calendar of events and programs in case you have misplaced or wish to double-check information about branch events. The website also has a restricted "*Members Only*" section, requiring an entry code [VA3035], with member contact information including individual email addresses of members and officers and other branch information. Give it a look and while you're there, verify your contact information and let Judi know if there are any errors. Thanks, Dianne



Diversity Equity Inclusion

On April 24, 2023, AAUW held a webinar on Celebrating Diversity. It will be on the AAUW website soon where you can watch it yourself. In the meantime, here are some highlights from the program.

May is “Celebrate Diversity Month.” This was established in 2004 as a way to recognize and honor the diversity experienced in everyday lives. Diversity isn’t just about Black and white. There are many aspects of diversity including people of all races, colors, nationalities, creeds, gender identifications, ages, and abilities, as well as the intersectionality of these. Think about diversity as being invited to the party and inclusion as being asked to dance. We are all stronger together.

Suzanne Young from Rockland County, NY AAUW said they’ve been focusing on DEI since 1988. They do an annual lunch during Black History Month partnering with Black sororities. They also work with the NAACP, Hispanic groups, Haitian Pride and other local organizations. Their outreach has resulted in their membership including 31% women of color and 1 man.

Karen Francis and Sue Shineman represented St. Louis, MO AAUW. They’ve focused on DEI for 5 years and the first activity was a discussion of the book, *Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving. They then developed their “Inclusion Infusion” program. This provides an introduction to DEI in short, simple to understand activities.

Check out the AAUW.org website for this program to be posted soon.

In June 1977, the U.S. House of Representatives recognized a week in May as Asian Pacific Heritage Week. It was expanded to the entire month of May in 1992 and included Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. It honors the many contributions and accomplishments of people from those backgrounds. The theme for this year’s celebration is “Advancing Leaders Through Opportunity.” The link for this year’s Presidential Proclamation is: tinyurl.com/r3xrpdey.

We encourage members to learn more about Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, most of whom were absent from our history books.

The national Inclusion and Equity Committee invites all AAUW members to participate in a virtual workshop on Wednesday, May 10, from 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm ET in preparation for World Day for Cultural Diversity (observed on Sunday, May 21). This workshop provides a hands on learning opportunity for AAUW members to explore aspects of diversity and intersectionality. Please join us on May 10!

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Workshop: Diversity and Intersectionality

link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FYzrX3CIR0KbFMZiY5cxTg

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 Carol Ann Bradley, Ilene Banker
Great Decisions	Judi Polizzotti & Judy Skirbunt
Newsletter	Roberta Sherman
NOVA Liasion	Jean Ann Linney
Public Policy	Lynne Chernin & Judy Schretter
Website	Dianne Mero
Zoom and 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.*

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*