

AAUW of Virginia Reston Herndon Branch

August 2023



Editor' Note - Due to many issues during the month of July, our regular newsletter did not get out. An abbreviated one-month newsletter is being sent out for August. You will also notice a new masthead. My computer crashed with all my previous newsletters so a new one was created. Enjoy this newsletter. Roberta Sherman, Editor



President's Pen

We are listening to you and hearing what you want our branch to focus on. Thanks to each one of you who completed our survey in June! We are using that information and more to plan the first meeting of our program year. We encourage you to attend our meeting in the afternoon of Wednesday, September 27 to work together to create the plans and a strategy for our 2023-24 program year and beyond!

In advance of that meeting and with your survey input, your board has been extremely busy planning for an engaging fall. 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 to you, as well as the state and national priorities.

To further our plans with the input of our September meeting, each of our 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. Several of you indicated in your response to our survey that you would be willing to serve on a team to organize our historical information. Please contact Dianne Mero who has agreed to coordinate the team so that she knows that you are interested in working on this team. The team will evaluate our historical information and determine what we need to keep, in what format.

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

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Cyndi Shanahan



MEMBERSHIP NEWS- Judi Polizzotti, VP Membership

Currently, 52 members have renewed their membership for 2023. For those who have not, we value your membership and hope that you will continue to be part of our branch. We hope to have an in-person event to reconnect following a long hot summer.

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 President Cyndi Shanahan. The branch members will be notified as soon as possible. Please support those individuals who are in need with cards, meals, visits, etc.

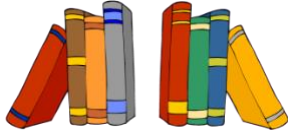


GREAT DECISIONS - Judi Polizzotti, Co-Chair

Our meetings are suspended for the summer and will continue on Wednesday September 27th, when we will discuss "Global Famine."
Have a great summer, see you then.

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BOOK GROUP Alyse Goldman and Carla Heymsfeld

Book group meets the fourth Wednesday of the month on Zoom. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, August 23 at 2:00.

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



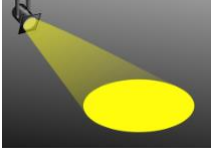
WEBSITE RESTON-HERNDON BRANCH - Dianne Mero

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

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Janine Greenwood



Janine Greenwood has long believed in -- and worked for -- the goal of equality for women.

Since joining AAUW 10 years ago, after retiring from a 40-year career in law and journalism, she has held or now holds major positions in our organization: former president of the Reston-Herndon Area Branch and volunteer lobbyist for the AAUW Action Fund, current member of the national Governance Committee and VA state Co-Vice President of Public Policy.

Janine earned a MSJ (Master of Science in Journalism) degree in 1972 and a JD (law) degree in 1976, both at Columbia University.

"Ruth Bader Ginsberg was on the law faculty then and showed me what needed to be done in our society and what was possible. And Fred Friendly, who had been a CBS producer, was on the journalism faculty and mentored me and showed me how to get our message out."

Columbia had one of the first clinical programs on gender discrimination law. Janine had the opportunity to work on a case to improve working conditions for women at the Readers' Digest magazine.

After graduation, Janine continued to seek to improve conditions for women through her work as legal counsel at Westinghouse broadcasting in New York, investigative news producer at KPIX Television in San Francisco, and legal counsel at Metromedia Corporation in Los Angeles and Boston.

As for her present jobs in AAUW, she finds being the state Co-Vice President for Public Policy the most challenging.

"It's an incredibly tough job. Politics are so polarized and many of AAUW's policy priorities are under attack. Between the retirements and redistricting, it's very difficult to get to know all the candidates and write the voter guides for offices."

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Another challenge is serving on the national Governance Committee and redrafting the AAUW bylaws.

"Rewriting bylaws is what they do to retired lawyers," Janine laughs. "We were able to do the first major redo of the bylaws in many years."

Janine is looking forward to returning to regularly visiting Capitol Hill with the AAUW Action Fund Lobby Corps, which began in July.

"It feels so good to travel into DC with members of our branch, meet up with women from other branches, and roam the halls of Congress to spread the AAUW message."

Covid made many organizational changes in AAUW at all levels. In our branch, Janine started online activities including a film discussion group, similar to a book group, which was very successful.

"Zoom was a great way to get together during the pandemic and it makes meetings accessible to everyone," she said. "But I hope we will continue to have more opportunities get together in person now."

In addition to her involvement in AAUW, Janine teaches courses at OLLI, the Osher Lifetime Learning Institute, in Reston, including on the wage gap for women.

Originally from Pittsburgh, where she co-founded a "future lawyers club" in high school, Janine earned a BA at the University of Pittsburgh. She has since lived in Dublin, New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Boston and now Reston, "which I love." She has a daughter, three stepchildren (two in Utah and one in Thailand), and four granddaughters, to whom she regularly sends feminist books. In her spare time, she reads a lot, likes to garden, and takes pottery and exercise classes. And she enjoys travelling with her husband, Ralph, who at 84 plays competitive basketball in the Senior Olympics.



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

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PUBLIC POLICY- Shyamali Hauth, Chair

Supporting Voting in the Upcoming Election

Members, the Virginia election this November will be a critical test of our Public Policy priorities. All 140 seats in the legislature are up for grabs. There are two things you can do:

GOTV Postcards -- Branch members have been great in the past about writing postcards to encourage voting. Please sign up to write nonpartisan postcards to voters. You will be supplied with cards, stamps and labels. All you need to do is let your imagination and artistic flair run wild. Contact Shyamali Hauth at shyamalihauth@gmail.com to sign up and we will get the supplies to you or for even more fun, sign up for a post carding party. Marilyn Silvey is hosting a post card party for our Loudoun members. Tuesday, August 29, at 2 pm at the Ashby Ponds retirement community in Ashburn. Shyamali Hauth will host a post card party in Reston on August 31 at 5. Location TBD.

Voter Guides -- AAUW of Virginia is doing Voter Guides for the Virginia Senate races. With redistricting and legislative retirements, many voters will not have enough information about the positions candidates have taken on our key Public Policy Priorities. If you would like to help in this research, please contact Janine Greenwood.

Lobby Corp is up and running. We have some wonderful members who would be delighted if you would join them as they lobby for legislation that is a priority of AAUW.



Pictured: Stephane Abbott, Maureen Dwyer, Janine Greenwood and Mary Zane

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We have been looking ahead to the fall. With all the attention given to many of our public policy priorities in the news lately, coupled with the fact that every seat in our General Assembly is up for election in the November General Election, the focus of the fall Northern District Meeting is on AAUW's Public Policy and Advocacy Agenda. We are fortunate to have joining us, Meghan Kissell, AAUW Senior Director, Policy & Member Advocacy; and Janine Greenwood, AAUW-VA Co-VP for Public Policy. (One of our members!) As always, there will be time for branches to share important information, and once again, we will be collecting donations for Generation Hope and Women Giving Back.

Northern District Meeting

Saturday, September 23, 2023

10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library

5005 Duke Street, Alexandria

Meet and hear our speakers:

**Meghan Kissell, AAUW Senior Director, Policy & Member
Advocacy**

Janine Greenwood, AAUW-VA Co-VP for Public Policy

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2023-2024 Leadership

Administrator	Cyndi Shanahan
VP Finance	Ruth Ruttenberg
VP Membership	Judi Polizzotti
VP Program	Judy Helmich
Secretary	Vacant
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	Patty Hagan
Great Decisions	Judi Polizzotti & Judy Skirbunt
Newsletter	Roberta Sherman
NOVA Liasion	Jean Ann Linney
Public Policy	Shyamali Hauth
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*