A blue and orange logo

Description automatically generated



**President’s Pen**

When you read this newsletter, we will be a little over two weeks from the beginning of early voting in Virginia for one of the most consequential elections of our lifetime. It has been so inspiring to see the engagement of the members of our branch and across Virginia in getting out the vote and voter registration. Hope to see even more of you at our post-carding party on September 10 at 3PM. See details under Public Policy.

AAUW Virginia is working on Voter Guides for the Congressional races in the upcoming election. We will have guides for the districts covered by our branch, and they will be available later in September. AAUW is strictly nonpartisan, but we are not nonpolitical, and our voter guides reflect our assessment of whether candidates can be expected to support our public policy priorities. We will let you know in the Weekly when the voter guides are ready. Please read them carefully and share them with your family and friends.

This month, Virginia AAUW will be hosting an exciting multi-state **AAUW Atlantic Regional Conference Connecting Voices from the Everglades to the Northern Border.** Registrations and hotel reservations are now closed. Look for reports on this event in future communications

Carpool available if you plan to attend.

Many of us are enjoying having Book Group live and in person and having a chance to share lunch before the meeting. Deepest thanks to Alyse Goldman and Carla Heymsfeld for their continued dedication to leading this important Branch activity. You are always welcome to join the group for lunch and catch up with old and new friends even if you have not read the book. We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month but not this September. More details are in this newsletter.

It will be great to get together for Friendsgiving this year on November 9. Be sure to save the date. We will have a speaker from Cornerstones and plan to reintroduce the basket raffles. Whatever the results of the election earlier that month, it will be great to get together and support each other.

Warm regards,

Janine Greenwood

**Membership**

**Don’t Forget to Renew Your AAUW Membership**

Many of us have recently received our request to renew our annual membership.  AAUW National is renewing on a rolling calendar year from your initial renewal date or if you were a member when the new software was implemented a few years ago from June 30.

You may find that when you renew your membership through AAUW.org that you need to reestablish your password.  Don’t let that be a barrier to your renewal process!  There has however been no change in the annual dues for any level of our organization.  Annual dues to be a member of Reston-Herndon branch of AAUW remain $102.  The breakdown of this is $72 for National and $15 each for our state organization and our branch.

If you have issues renewing or you would like to renew via check.  Please send your check payable to Reston-Herndon AAUW to Ruth Ruttenberg at her new address at 7444 Spring Village Drive, Apt. 317, Springfield, VA 22150

**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. 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 Janine know if there are any errors. Thanks, Dianne

PUBLIC POLICY



[This Photo](https://courses.lumenlearning.com/usgovernment/chapter/reading-the-powers-of-national-government/) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)

Our own Shyamali Hauth was at the very exciting Democratic National Convention. Participating in a convention for a political party is a great way to be part of our democracy. Ask Shyamali about her experience next time you see her.

Our Branch Get Out the Vote Post-carding got off to a great start in August.

Seven members wrote over 130 postcards and other members are working on cards at their homes. Thank you to everyone who has participated so far.

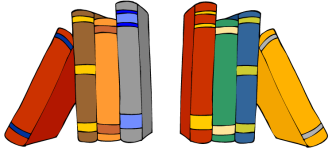
Our second party will be Tuesday, September 10 at 3PM in the patio of Café Montmartre at Lake Anne, Reston. Markers will be available but please feel free to bring your own.  The restaurant is closed on Tuesdays but has generously allowed us to use their patio. Bring your friends – all are welcome. Please let Janine know if you are coming or if you would like to work on postcards at home.

Our next Public Policy Program will be on September 11 at 4PM. Arina van Breda, Director of Voter Registration for the LWV of the Fairfax Area will talk about the LWV voter registration work and how you can get involved. Many members are already also League members, but you don’t have to join the League to participate in Voter Registration. Here’s active AAUW and League member Stephanie Abbott and friends at a LWV registration event:

A group of women wearing matching shirts

Description automatically generated

And don’t forget that early voting in Virginia starts on September 20. Information of Fairfax County places and hours is here: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/early-voting> and Loudoun County information here: <https://www.loudoun.gov/voteearly>



**BOOK GROUP Alyse Goldman and Carla Heymsfeld**

It’s that time of year again. We’re getting ready for next year and need your suggestions of books you would like to read in 2025. Please send your suggestions to Alyse or Carla or you can send them to Janine, and she’ll pass them on.

Please note some book club changes for the rest of this year. **There will be no book club in September** but please note our special Tea Party on the normal Book Club Date under Programs. In October. 23rd, we'll do the September book, Heaven and Earth Grocery Store (James McBride). We skip November, so the next date will be December 4th, and we'll do History of Home Economics (Danielle Dreilinger). We'll do the Dec. book, The Lost Manuscript, (Cathy Bonidan) in January, 2025,

The Book Group meets monthly at Reston Used Book Store Lake Anne at 2PM and we usually gather for lunch before 12:30. Join us!

October 23: Heaven and Earth Grocery Store, by James McBride

No book group in November:

December 18: History of Home Economics, by Danielle Dreilinger

January 22: The Lost Manuscript, by Cathy Bonidan

A group of people around the earth

Description automatically generated**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

Patty Hagan, Chair

The National DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) meeting in August was mostly focused on AAUW’s DEI Toolkit<https://www.aauw.org/?s=DEI+toolkit>. This is an excellent resource for information about discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability and sex. It also has information on socio-economic issues, marriage, immigration, and how to start a difficult conversation. I encourage people to go read this and see all the wonderful information included there.

At that meeting, people in some states said they have had to stop using DEI because of state mandates. They are now using ‘Common Ground’ for their programs. Most of us agreed we want to continue using DEI and not let it be used as a tool implying people are being hired only because of who they are, and not because of what they know.

The meeting also discussed Moms’ for Liberty, <https://www.momsforliberty.org> again. This group is focused on banning books. They are also against schools that mention [LGBTQ rights](https://www.bing.com/search?q=LGBT%20rights%20in%20the%20United%20States%20wikipedia&form=WIKIRE), [race, ethnicity](https://www.bing.com/search?q=Race%20and%20ethnicity%20in%20the%20United%20States%20wikipedia&form=WIKIRE), [critical race theory](https://www.bing.com/search?q=Critical%20race%20theory%20wikipedia&form=WIKIRE), and [discrimination](https://www.bing.com/search?q=Discrimination%20in%20the%20United%20States%20wikipedia&form=WIKIRE) in its curriculum. They believe that DEI is “un-American”. Several DEI meeting attendees have dealt with Moms for Liberty at school board meetings. The group is very organized and is known for arriving at meetings early and taking all the speaking times! It’s recommended that we be aware of this group and show up strong if we learn they’re going to attend any school meetings.

Hispanic Heritage Month kicks off on September 15 and goes through October 15. The theme this year is “Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future Together.” It reflects the spirit of innovation, resilience, and unity that define the Hispanic experience in the US.

October ushers in National Disability Employment Awareness Month. This year’s theme is “Access to Good Jobs for All.” In addition to the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990), technology has made it easier for many people with disabilities to hold jobs that had previously denied them.

**A blue sign with white text

Description automatically generated**

**Tuesday, September 10 3:00 pm Post-carding** A pile of papers with writing on them

Description automatically generated

We had a very successful post-carding party where seven members wrote over 130 postcards.  Thank you to everyone who participated.  Our second party will be Tuesday, September 10 at 3PM in the patio of Café Montmartre at Lake Anne, Reston. Markers will be available but please feel free to bring your own.  The restaurant is closed on Tuesdays but has generously allowed us to use their patio.

**Wednesday, September 11 4PM on Zoom Voter Registration with the League of Women Voters**

Arina van Breda, Director of Voter Registration for the LWV of the Fairfax Area will talk about the LWV voter registration work and how you can get involved.

**Wednesday, September 25 (in lieu of the book group meeting) Tea Party**

We will gather at the Elden Street Tea Shop at Lake Anne in Reston for a Tea Party at 2PM. Please let Janine know if you plan to attend.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**FRIENDSGIVIN***G* November 9 at 11:30 AM

**POST ELECTION BRIEFING WITH REP. GERRY CONNOLLY**

December 2 at 5PM on Zoom

****

**Cultural Arts**

**Sunday, October 20 at 2:00 Theater Party NextStop Theater in Herndon**

These days we really need a good laugh about politics.  We would like to get group tickets for:

**POTUS: Or behind Every Great Dumbass are Seven Women**

**Trying to Keep Him Alive**

When the President of the United States makes an unbelievably offensive comment in a very public forum the female members of the White House Staff must resort to drastic measures of damage control to deal with the pandemonium that follows.

We will go to a matinee on Sunday October 20 at XXPM.  Tickets are $36, and we would need a group of at least 10

Please RSVP to Roberta Sherman at [shermanrs1@aol.com](mailto:shermanrs1@aol.com) so we know we have enough people to get the discount. Once I have the needed amount, I will send information as to how you can secure your tickets.

**2024-25 Reston Herndon Area AAUW Board of Director**

Administrator Janine Greenwood

VP Finance Ruth Ruttenberg

VP Membership Vacant

VP Program Vacant

Secretary Stephanie Abbott

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

Newsletter Roberta Sherman

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***](about:blank) ***VA3035***

***AAUW VA Website:*** [***http://aauw-va.aauw.net***](about:blank) ***AAUW Website:*** [***www.AAUW.org***](about:blank) ***Branch Facebook Page: Reston-Herndon Branch of AAUW***