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**President’s Pen**

By the time you are reading this, it will be Election Day. I was listening to a group of pundits on NPR today who opined that it could be a week or even more before we have a final result. The last few months leading up to this election have been a very stressful time. We hope and pray that, whatever the outcome, the transition will be peaceful.

Shyamali Hauth and I represented our branch at the AAUW Atlantic Seaboard Conference in October. It was a very exciting and high-energy event with members from Maine to Florida. The hurricane that swept the southern states that weekend and complicated travel did not dampen members’ enthusiasm. There will be another conference in two years, and I encourage you to think about attending.

I hope you have registered for two important events which are featured on the Programs page. The first is our annual Friendsgiving on November 8 and the second is our Post-Election Briefing with Congressman Gerry Connolly on December 2. I’m looking forward to seeing you in person at the first and virtually at the second.

Stay well and safe

Janine Greenwood

President, Reston-Herndon Branch



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**Public Policy**

Shyamali Hauth, Chair

**National Policy Updates**

With Congress on recess through the election, state Public Policy leaders and Meghan Kissell discussed FY25 federal appropriations and Title IX. National has supplied two new resources:

* + [Title IX factsheet](https://www.aclu.org/documents/title-ix-fact-sheet) from ACLU
  + [List of schools covered by Title IX injunction](https://www.ed.gov/sites/ed/files/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/list-of-schools-enjoined-from-2024-t9-rule) as of 9/13/24 (Notethese are individual schools, not school districts)

**Virginia Lobby Day**

AAUW-Virginia will once again hold a Lobby Day in Richmond to give members an opportunity to advocate to state lawmakers. The event will begin on the evening of Wednesday, January 15 with a meeting and dinner and continue on January 16 will the actual lobbying. Discount group hotel rooms will be available, and you are welcome to skip the overnight and just come for lobbying on Thursday.

**AAUW Lobby Corps**

Lobby Corps will be taking a break in November and December and will resume in January. There will be a training session at the National offices on December 2. At the moment, we do not have a time, but watch weekly notices to see when it will be.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Right now, we have forty branch members and several more in the renewal process.

Please check your own membership status at AAUW.org and ensure that you are current. You may find that when you renew your membership through [AAUW.org](http://aauw.org/) that you need to reestablish your password.  Don’t let that be a barrier to your renewal process!  There has been no change in the annual dues for any level of our organization.  Annual dues to be a member of the Reston-Herndon branch of AAUW remains $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 7444 Spring Village Dr., Apt. 317, Springfield, VA 22150. NOTE this is a new address.

Please let Janine or Ruth know if you need help or information.

A stack of two dollar bills

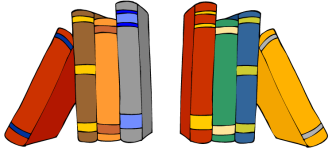
Description automatically generated**AAUW Funds -** Stephanie Abbott Chair

The focus of AAUW is “Economic Security, Education and Advocacy.” This is important work, especially now as we see many of the gains of the past being reversed or threatened. Title IX is being challenged. Programs that help women get ahead financially are being challenged. There is much we can do as members. We can give of our time and/or give money.

**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



**BOOK GROUP Alyse Goldman and Carla Heymsfeld**

Our next book group meeting will be Wednesday, December 4 at the Reston Used Book Store in Lake Anne at 2:00. Note that we do not meet in November and with all the festivities of December we move our November book group to the beginning of December. This year since we did not meet in September here are the remainder of the books for this year and January:

December: History of Home Economics by Danielle Dreilinger

January: The Lost Manuscript by Cathy Bonidan

The nomination of books for next year will close today November 3

We need 10 titles, since we don’t meet in November, and we’re reading a 2024 book in January. So, 5 fiction, and 5 Non-Fiction, which includes Biography. Vote for at least one biography for our Women’s History Month (March) selection. Keep in mind as you make your choices, in your opinion, which titles would provide grist for a great discussion? Does length matter to you? We’ve included page counts.

Email your choices to Alyse Goldman and Carla Heymsfeld:

alysegoldman818@gmail.com; heycarla@comcast.net

**Fiction: choose 5**

1.  **Gaudy Night,** by Dorothy Sayers. 591 pgs

2.  **Becoming Madame Secretary,** Stephanie Dray. 524 pgs

3.  **The Secret Life of Sunflowers,** by Marta Molnar, 356 pgs

4.  **The Wyndham Case,** by Jill Paton Walsh, 228 pgs

5.  **The Women**, by Kristen Hannah, 472 pgs

6.  **The Music of Bees**, by Eileen Garvin, 333 pgs

7.  **Remarkably Bright Creatures,** by Shelby Van Pelt, 368 pgs

8.  **The House is on Fire**, by Rachel Beanland, 383 pgs

9.  **The Spectacular**, by Fiona Davis, 368 pgs

10. **Lady Tan’s Circle of Women,** by Lisa See, 357 pgs

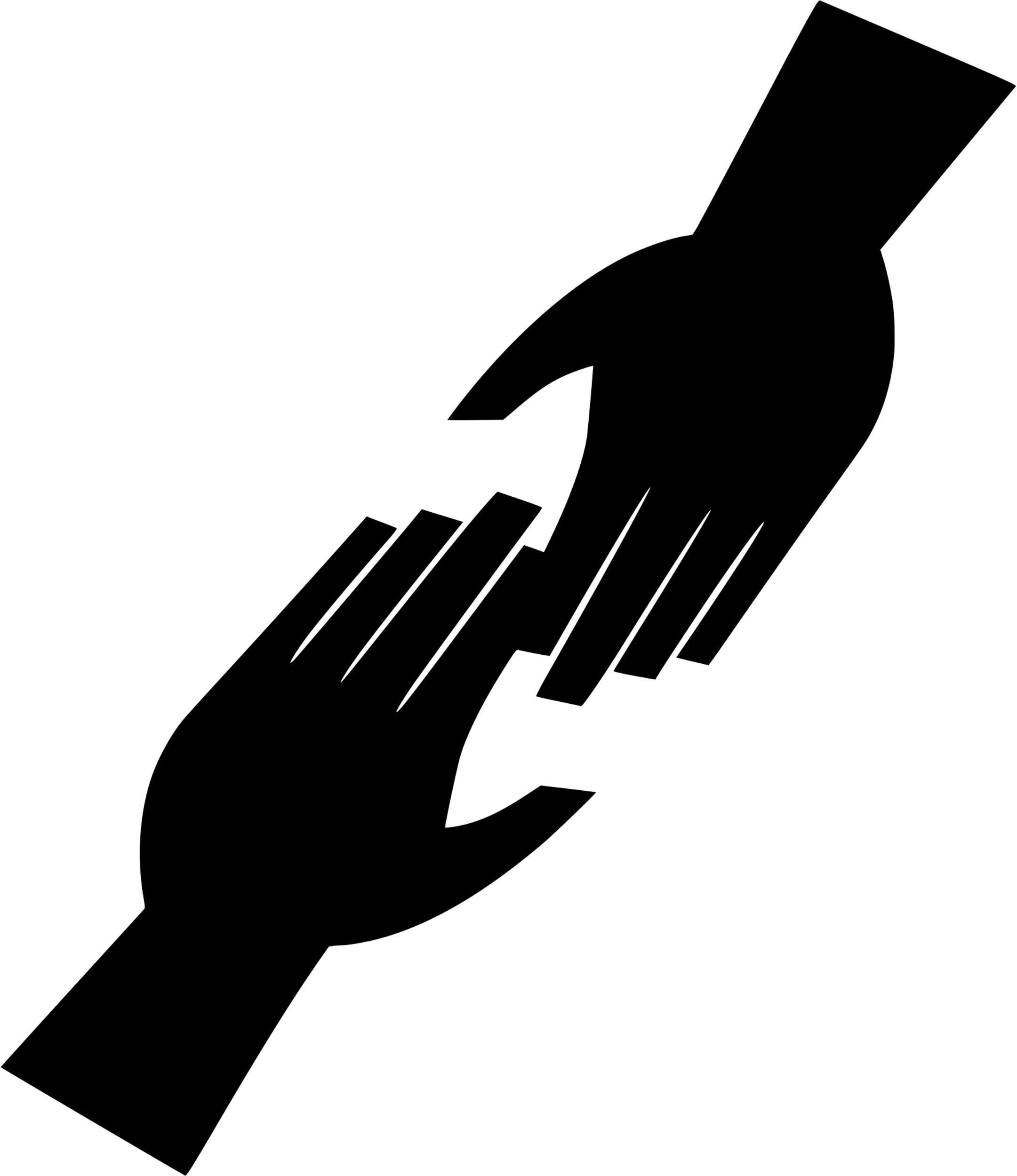
11. **Tell Me Everything**, by Elizabeth Stout, 327 pgs

12. **The Henna Artist,** by Alka Joshi, 392 pgs.

13. **The Indigo Girl,** by Natasha Boyd, 345 pgs

**Non-Fiction/Biography:** Choose 5, at least 1 Biography

1. **Lovely One**, by Ketanji Brown Jackson, 418 pgs
2. **Normal Women**, by Phillippa Gregory, 687 pgs
3. **The Education Wars**, by Jennifer C. Bershire and Jack Schneider, 192 pgs
4. **While Lies,** by AJ Baime, 400 pgs
5. **Glacial,** by Chelsea Henderson, 460 pgs
6. **This Chair Rocks**, by Ashton Applewhite, 300 pgs
7. **The Art of Power,** by Nancy Pelosi, 343 pgs (Bio)
8. **Something Lost, Something Gained,** by Hillary Clinton, 334 pgs (Bio)
9. **The Elements of Marie Curie,** by Dava Sobel, 336 pgs, (Bio)
10. **Be Ready When Luck Happens,** by Ina Garten, 317 pgs (Memoir)

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**National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)**

For 39 years, AAUW has had the honor of bringing thousands of college women to the Washington, DC area for leadership training, inspiration, and networking at NCCWSL.

Hosting NCCWSL comes at a high cost, but the financial support has not risen to meet the challenge. Ultimately NCCWSL costs are unsustainable for the health and long-term viability of AAUW.

That’s why I’m heartened to share that NCCWSL is not going away. Beginning in 2025, NCCWSL will be organized and administered by NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education.

We encourage you to continue to promote NCCWSL to college women in your local communities. AAUW will have a presence at the conference, as a speaker, exhibitor, presenter and promotional supporter. What will change is the administrative, financial and programmatic oversight and planning — NASPA will be responsible for the planning and execution of the conference moving forward. Registration, as an example, will be made available via NASPA’s website and registration platform rather than through AAUW.

The decision to make this change was carefully considered and we see many benefits to this new arrangement. We are very proud of NCCWSL’s 39-year legacy and have provided more information on this transition on our [website](https://click.everyaction.com/k/96356681/509732745/145992494?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwNS8xLzc2OTU1IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogImI1Y2ZhNTVkLThmOTgtZWYxMS04OGNlLTAwMGQzYTk4ZmE2YiIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAiamFuaW5lZ3Jud2RAaG90bWFpbC5jb20iDQp9&hmac=uFRPKUyqmmoN3Di_vLObbw1dIOFEFEx0ntPyJzII01M=&emci=b2617db0-c097-ef11-88ce-000d3a98fa6b&emdi=b5cfa55d-8f98-ef11-88ce-000d3a98fa6b&ceid=946865).

AAUW will continue focusing on sustainability in our fight for women’s and girls’ equity. Thank you for your continued commitment to our mission of uplifting women and girls.

**A blue sign with white text

Description automatically generatedR-H AAUW Friendsgiving**

**Reserve your place by Monday, November 4**

**Special speaker from Cornerstones**

Saturday, November 9, 11:30 AM

Gregorio’s Trattoria

1428 North Point Village Center, Reston

**Entrée Choice Of:**

Polo Francese with Pasta

Seasonal Vegetable Pasta

Salmon Salad

**Dessert Choice Of:**

Double Chocolate Cake

Cannoli

1. **Email Janine with your menu choices for entrée and dessert**
2. **Send check for $36 payable to Reston-Herndon AAUW to Janine Greenwood, 11423 S. Lakes Dr, Reston VA 20191**

As I'm sure you remember, every year at our Friendsgiving lunch, we raffle baskets filled with great goodies.  One of those baskets is filled with books. This year we want to try something new.  We ask that you donate one or two of your own favorite books that we can use to fill the book basket.  The donated books should be in very good condition and should be books that you really liked.  You can bring them to Carla's Condo (11776 Stratford House Place) and leave them with the concierge.  If you do this be sure you identify that it is for Carla in apartment 1104. Or you can drop them at Janine’s house 11423 South Lakes Drive.  If none of these works for you reply to this email and we’ll make other arrangements.  Reminder: No Book Group meeting in November.

**AAUW Webinar: Women’s Economic Security Post-Election** Join AAUW National Tuesday, Nov. 19 at 3 p.m. Eastern. We’ll be joined by Heather Boushey, a distinguished alumna of AAUW’s American Fellowships program who The New York Times called one of the “most vibrant voices in the field”. [Register now](https://click.everyaction.com/k/96268746/509447332/675317649?id=a0lQr000000wl8DIAQ&nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAwNS8xLzc2OTU1IiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjYxMDRlYzAzLWM4OTctZWYxMS04OGNlLTAwMGQzYTk4ZmE2YiIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAiamFuaW5lZ3Jud2RAaG90bWFpbC5jb20iDQp9&hmac=zmxeCL_TiZI0iqMbly-1EZcl9ueLqZhyc8UPgkj6OIA=&emci=de1ef853-f892-ef11-88ce-000d3a98fa6b&emdi=6104ec03-c897-ef11-88ce-000d3a98fa6b&ceid=31628022).

**POST ELECTION BRIEFING WITH CONGRESSMAN GERRY CONNOLLY**

Congressman Connolly is one of a few members of Congress with a 100% record of supporting AAUW Public Policy Priority Legislation

SPONSORED BY:

Alexandria Branch, Arlington Branch, Falls Church Branch, McLean Branch, Mt. Vernon Branch, Reston-Herndon Branch, Vienna Branch

December 2 at 5PM on Zoom

**Registration required to reserve your place:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_IbHEq8JMTUmEPCp1MxPquQ**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IbHEq8JMTUmEPCp1MxPquQ)

A group of people around the earth

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**Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging**

Patty Hagan, Chair

You might notice a slight change in the heading this month, DEIB. The view of the Virginia AAUW is to include Belonging in this name. This acronym now stands for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging. What’s the difference between “inclusion” and “belonging” you may be wondering. Someone can be “included” by being invited to a meeting. They’ll “belong” if their opinions are requested and listened to. That’s a big difference!

National’s DEIB goals for this year are focused on providing more resources for branches and Diversity Officers. And National stated that DEIB needs to be part of everything AAUW does.

Discussions at the National meetings included becoming change agents and becoming allies with other groups including NAACP, LWV, etc. Another suggestion was going to university alumni functions to educate people about what AAUW can do for them and their careers. Other ideas included using Aware2Act.org and Living Room Conversations: <https://livingroomconversations.org/>.

The Federal government recognizes November as Native American Heritage Month. This year’s theme is “Revitalizing Indigenous Connections.” The focus is on continuously honoring and renewing the knowledge, culture and contributions of our Indigenous people.

Other celebrations during these 2 months include:

* November 1: Diwali is the Festival of Lights celebrated by Hindus. It symbolizes the victory of light over darkness.
* November 13 -19: Transgender Awareness Week which focuses on the struggles, often life-threatening, faced by this group.
* November 21: Native Women’s Equal Pay Day recognizing that these Women must work nearly 23 months to earn the same as White, non-Hispanic men earn in 1-year.
* December 1: World AIDS Day recognizing the many people lost to HIV and those still being impacted by it.
* December 25: Christmas celebrated the birth of the son of God by Christians.
* December 25 – January 2: Hanukkah is the Celebration of Light recognized by Jewish people world-wide.
* December 26 – January 1: Kwanzaa began in the mid-1960’s to help connect African Americans to their heritage.

There are many more holidays and celebrations these next 2 months. That’s why saying “Happy Holidays” is the appropriate greeting unless you know someone and their beliefs.

And if you’re just looking for something fun to celebrate, December 16 is National Chocolate Covered Anything Day!

Happy Holidays everyone!

**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, Belonging 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***