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Newsletter

August 2025

**YOUR BRANCH NEEDS YOU!**

**PARTY PLANNERS NEEDED FOR FRIENDSGIVING**

We will not be able to celebrate Friendsgiving unless at least two members step up right away to organize the event. Contact Janine to volunteer.

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED**

With the passing of our dear friend Roberta Sherman, we need an Editor for our bimonthly newsletter. Contact Janine to volunteer.

**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

**Janine Greenwood**

Dear Members

It appears that our branch is approaching an inflection point. This year, we lost three long time members, Shirley Finkelstein, Glenna Paukstis, and Roberta Sherman. Other long-time members have moved and cannot continue to be actively engaged. As you can see from the Membership report below, membership has seriously declined over the last eight years. Declining membership creates multiple problems. First, fewer members result in less revenue from branch dues. Second, fewer and aging members mean that we have fewer people willing to step up to leadership roles. Current branch leaders are seriously overburdened. Third, fewer members mean that we are hesitating to book programs because we cannot guarantee audience turnout.

Fewer programs mean fewer opportunities to recruit new members leaving us in a potential branch death spiral.

In the fall, I will be sending you a branch survey to assess how you feel about our future. In the interim, I ask that members who were on Roberta’s education committee contact me and see if we can revitalize that group to figure out a community need in the area of education that we can fill with our limited resources.

Take care,

Janine

**PUBLIC POLICY**

**Postcarding:**

We have postcards to encourage voter registration and voting in the Virginia General Election and have ordered 120 addresses. There will be two group postcard writing events:

Thursday, September 11 at the Lake Anne Tea House at 3PM

Monday, September 29 at 11:30 AM in the Café Montmartre patio

If you would like postcards to do on your own, let Janine know.

**Elections:**

For those of you who live in Virginia CD 11, early voting has begun for the Congressional seat vacated on the death of Gerry Connolly.

**Fairfax County Government Center**

12000 Government Center Pkwy, Conference Room 7, Fairfax, VA 22035

[**Google Map**](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2F6d46b6dab.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001H84lNty0OzotkQ8ewz_GTNUlqD7ue0sjmAsX_GRKIeFQ4XpA_H85osyYLjCVViNnXlH-54quKg14aUYS3uekTMliwKaqb9livsHn0IHN6IKqdyAqT9Fa97BRbR2mu1elbyT9b7lmlTBDhPWDasgngX8QQLIC6TigY7dJIAb1b-O--QMjrzr0o26HhbWjc_aOYgKSG6LA43tCdVTo37WnQYzU-h-0I4CsaHyKAhf9hZS4Zg7ilVjkJpEqQ0PcUiA426YVs2oGVmcukVpsBgL5anqsFe7DkXUXbv03ub3lNntmFJS-6O2XXq-yEqYyUjAonoYL0e7i9wIQkIWULMBRTst0M93grBCKyiO0JRoMJElHOhiLfkrJfJCV6mQn0drKlb9rta0hG-YsMHpsSX_jCt28mW4pMMQOK-Ud5yGbdOe6xgpCojx8JgNjB2IMwg2gHLj9P42-Ssaothg7njGuUAvHC_7DHonSwsg86IEgNNHtNMrzxjNRk1Aff2jv_UPxpf2r8nf-SEWhopc8aQIW4Zn51ew7F6sWLC15i5F_vcFzy7qL-YpB_tI5jNAemcQVXBhpTftsWR0lFDUseV1ghw%3D%3D%26c%3DtszYogS2IeaFO8nUmtYVS53-wEbz_KrNEDKCrA_iM5YU_Jy3FuKX7Q%3D%3D%26ch%3DQXFr6pFOhyQmKWFhLrZTig74iZtDl5YUGN2hdqKv2eXEYRTO9R1Tzw%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7C%7C52330b2e7c3b4a7941ac08ddcc298050%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638891200803040482%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2BupoIt10bCVEXRCQhS2hkhu%2BlRBKAD9%2BezlOkDZg%2FwQ%3D&reserved=0)

**Open July 25 – September 6**

Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturdays (August 30, September 6): 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

CLOSED Monday, September 1 (Labor Day)

**North County Government Center**

1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, VA 20190

[**Google Map**](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2F6d46b6dab.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001H84lNty0OzotkQ8ewz_GTNUlqD7ue0sjmAsX_GRKIeFQ4XpA_H85osyYLjCVViNnu5ZUgc2nFcF3riDnGzDAE-MEsIj69MVsqusVAW8BhxW7bxP5KNcmOGSFJBbDZRVgvL3sXP4e9pLuJwGVlWmgL3_UrACirQyuJJwSXe-Eb2fQfx25jPKjiv06Qll4HcWMqU7k-wkOEe6_Iqc0xwRiewhLj-7UdgNKikeWrywjS6badvUP1zkowEehGFEnsxW7jUi2Fd1p5kpMsGuUAWg4HWxrUrxF9_qfZK6r2e9dJk0_JZA0M68V5w1FCiSSYRkYKNrPjOqSeVIkCcGNhuA2VuWkhdZC-ZUwbiSrpkOWPdJsxPtiymF5ceZizDbTV973D9lZDUo9ixxtEcbgRWJ-KCrzcY67Hbu-dTul8ahgx1imZtpJgqxS8-A6cZOIDutbbV6UKm6TKngjo9fWeTQYXraVeLA0r14MciJKSQg41MY-I7KHCZXFncRxQlT17EoJoT7CiF2WcIQ5sGyRsRpdi_m5YfLPd4fAzyZ4rSyOSgLD7MgVifwLDOOC8fXTH_wMAj4ZaN1Uv-Y%3D%26c%3DtszYogS2IeaFO8nUmtYVS53-wEbz_KrNEDKCrA_iM5YU_Jy3FuKX7Q%3D%3D%26ch%3DQXFr6pFOhyQmKWFhLrZTig74iZtDl5YUGN2hdqKv2eXEYRTO9R1Tzw%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7C%7C52330b2e7c3b4a7941ac08ddcc298050%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638891200803050754%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=aEbQNDZOaZ8hTWyBJPkGFEVv0ObTA0%2FZZGW09nvnm3k%3D&reserved=0)

**Open July 25 – September 6**

Monday – Friday: 1 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Saturdays (August 30, September 6): 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

CLOSED Monday, September 1 (Labor Day)

The General Election Day is Tuesday, September 9 at all the usual polling places.

**U.S. Department of Education Cites Fairfax Schools**

The U.S. Department of Education said Friday that policies in five Northern Virginia school districts allowing transgender students touse bathrooms and otherfacilitiesthat match their gender identity violate federal law and urged the districts to rescind the policiesor risk punishment.

The findings come aftertheagency [launchedinvestigations](https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2025/02/14/northern-virginia-transgender-school-investigation/) into the Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William school districts in February when theconservative group America First Legal — founded by deputy White House chief of staff Stephen Miller — filed a complaintalleging that the districts were violatingTitle IX, the federal law banning sex discrimination in schools.

The district policies, the complaint alleged, provided“greater rights to students whose ‘gender identity’ does not match their biological sex than it does to students whose ‘gender identity’ matches their biological sex.”

AAUW will be watching this matter closely. We are also watching the attacks by the Administration against the University of Virginia and George Mason University.

**FINANCE**

Our Branch operates on a fiscal year which ended on June 30, 2025. As of that date, we saw the following:

FY 24-25 Expenses: **$504.26**

FY 24-25 Income from Dues: **$449.38**

Checking Balance: $3,697.56

Savings Balance: $1,460.25

A draft 2025-6 budget is attached.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Current Paid Members:32**

**Lifetime Members: 4**

**Members in Grace: 12**

Many members of our branch have memberships that expire on June 30, 2025. If you are one of those, you should have received an email from National with the subject: AAUW Reset, Renew, and Remain in Good Standing.  The email provides a link to renew and (sorry!) you will probably need to change your password again to renew.  Renewal for National, state and branch is $104, but only $30 if you are already a Lifetime Member.  Please do try the online system first but if that is impossible for you, you can send a check for $104 payable to Reston-Herndon AAUW to Ruth Ruttenberg, 7444 Spring Village Drive, Apt 317, Springfield, VA 22150

**LUNCH BUNCH**

Members will get together for lunch on Wednesday, September 3 at Burtons. The address is 21434 Epicer Plaza, Sterling Va.  20164. Make a left turn onto Potomac View and a right at the first light it is in the shopping center with Harris Teeter. Please let Carol Flicker know if you plan to attend.

 **BOOK GROUP**

Because of members’ summer schedules, book group was suspended until September.
Here is our new schedule:

September 17: The Elements of Marie Curie, by Dava Sobel,

**NOTE date change because of Rosh Hashanah**

Oct. 22: The Indigo Girl

Dec. 3: Tell Me Everything

**PROGRAMS**

**SAVE THE DATE**

The **Northern District meeting**is **November 1, 12:00pm- 2:30AM** at the **Pohick Regional Library,  6450 Sydenstricker Rd, Burke.**  Shirley Marshall will be talking about her book, *A Radical Suffragist in Washington D.C. The book*features letters from Elizabeth Kalb Green who worked and lived at the National Woman's Party Headquarters from 1918 to 1921.  Her book will be available for purchase.  After Shirley’s talk, we will have a short break and then a business meeting where branches can talk about upcoming events.

**PROGRAMS** continued

We are working on two programs with the Fairfax libraries and public schools. Watch for updates soon.

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

President 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,

Book Group Alyse Goldman & Carla Heymsfeld

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging Patty Hagan

Newsletter

Public Policy Shyamali Hauth

Website; Samantha Polon

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-*