



PRESIDENTS' PEN

Our first order of business as your new co-administrators is to thank each of you for the honor of serving you in this role. We also want to thank each of the members of our active and engaged Board of Directors. We definitely would not be successful without the engagement and involvement of each of these women.

Covid has been challenging in many ways over the past year, and looks to continue to challenge us. We will continue to persevere, maintain and grow our relationships both within the branch and outside through partnerships with other branches and like-minded organizations. Other than our Friendsgiving gathering, for the remainder of 2021, our meetings will continue to be held via Zoom. We want to acknowledge that this is the safest way for us to stay connected, even when we would love to greet each other personally.

We hope that through the year the theme of building relationships will become alive for you as members in our branch. Here are a few examples of how we are actively engaging:

- We provided a free membership to the president of Reston-Dulles NCNW. We have been in relationship with this organization for many years, and we want to maintain it by having this key position as a member of our branch. Cypriana McCray holds this position again for 2021-22. Please be sure to greet Cypriana when you next see her.
- Friendsgiving gives us the opportunity to re-connect with each other in person safely outside before the weather turns too cold to do so. We hope you will be able to join us on Saturday, September 11 to kickoff our focus on relationships! Details on page 5.
- On October 9 at 10 a.m. we will be participating in the Northern District Zoom meeting.

Also in an effort to get to know you better and to have you get to know more about the branch, we continue to invite you to join us in our Board meetings. They are on Zoom and are so easy for you to attend part or all of the meeting. This is where we make decisions both tactical and strategic about the future of the branch. Please plan to attend these whenever you are able. We really would like to hear your voice at the table!

Another challenge we are taking up this year is to become a Five-Star branch for the second year in a row. The criteria has been fine tuned a bit for the coming year with a much greater focus on diversity, equity and inclusion. By maintaining our Five-Star recognition, we ensure that we are aligned with the mission, vision, and values of AAUW.

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

Judi Polizzotti and Cyndi Shanahan



Janine Greenwood sent the following to the previous board and one of its members thought her thoughts were important to share with the entire membership:

I thought I would wait until the last day of my “reign” to write and thank you all for your indefatigable work and support over the last two years. Our successes and contributions to AAUW and our community has taken the work of all of us. None of what we accomplished would have happened without the work of each and every one of you. You have my undying gratitude.

This morning I began reading the book “The Barbizon: The Hotel That Set Women Free.” Although the hotel opened in 1928 in the era of our mothers, the book reminded me once again of the seismic changes our particular generation of women have witnessed. Yes, we stood on the shoulders of those who came before us but, after the 1950’s, we really were faced with reinventing our role in our families, in the workplace, and in society. Role models and mentors were thin on the ground. For myself, I came of age in a small mill town in that pivotal year of 1968. The “revolution” of the sixties certainly supported thinking outside conventional norms, but women were still seen as handmaids to this revolution. As I went off to college and then moved to New York for graduate school I knew I wanted to be “liberated” but had no idea what that meant, how I could do that, and hard it would be. I also had no idea that it was a fight I would still be fighting in 2021.

Which brings me to AAUW. Like many of you, I am concerned about the future of our organization and sometimes wonder if it will be able to outlive us. The younger generation defines equity more broadly. I support that. As “The Barbizon’ points out even in its introduction, the women it “set free” were white and middle class. That is neither right nor fair. What concerns me is that if we do not have someone focusing on women’s equity issue we will never resolve all that has become even more apparent over the last 18 months: the systematic inequity built into a nation that puts the caretaking burden only on the shoulders of all women. I do not say that the issue of women’s inequity is more important than our many massive societal inequities – but I do believe it needs its own voice. For many years, AAUW has been a big part of that voice.

I think you all know how disappointed I was about the outcome of the vote on the degree requirement. Our organization needs to stand for and with all women. The vote makes us appear like the Barbizon – a place for middle class white women. And the reality is our members are aging women. The continued degree requirement is just one more barrier to attracting younger, diverse women who could contribute to our future.

So, the bottom line is, we need to keep fighting. All we do to build our sisterhood community is important and keeps us strong for the continued fight. Stay strong, stay active, stay engaged and reach out. Those of us who devoted our Thursdays to Lobby Corps will be keeping everyone in the loop on new opportunities to move the federal legislative agenda. Our new leadership is committed to keeping us engaged on the Virginia front. And I’m looking forward to programs that keep us prominent as a voice in our community. Let’s make connections and tell our friends. In the words of the immortal RBG “Fight for the things that you care about...”

MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP NEWS: Ilene Banker, Membership VP

Our membership is currently at 81. Sadly, we lost three wonderful members over the last several weeks, Karin Formosa, Barbara Hampton Barclay and Florrie Cohen. May their memories be for a blessing.

Our new co-administrators had a great idea and that was to offer two free memberships to the administrators of the League of Women Voters. The more we look to collaborate with our sister organizations such as the League of Women Voters and the National Council of Negro Women, the more resources and activities we can offer each other during these challenging times as we navigate the pandemic. Our newest members are Pat Fege and Anu Sahai joining Cypriana McCray. President of the Dulles Section National Council of Negro Women.

Please note: There are only a handful of current members who have not yet renewed. Please send your dues to Ruth Ruttenberg. Make your check for \$92.00 to AAUW.

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 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.



WEBSITE RESTON-HERNDON BRANCH

Our branch has a lively and active website loaded with a treasure trove of branch related information, including member email addresses and contact information in the “Members Only” section (entry code: VA3035).

Search <https://restonherndon-va.aauw.net> or Google Reston-Herndon AAUW to learn about National and State priorities and to keep up with local branch activities. New members, especially, may want to browse the various tabs, articles, and photos posted and keep up to date on calendar events and upcoming programs. Every attempt is made to update the branch website every two weeks – so stay tuned!!

**BOOK GROUP****Alyse Goldman and Carla Heymsfeld**

Our Zoom meetings continue at 2PM on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Upcoming books:

Sept: Eleanor, David Michealis

Oct: Book of Lost Friends, Lisa Wingate

Dec: This Chair Rocks, Ashton Applewhite

If you are interested in getting ahead on your reading or want to purchase the books, here are the upcoming books for 2022.

January: *Beautiful Ruins*, by Jess Walter

February: *The Night Watchman*, by Louise Erdrich

March: *Bossypants*, by Tina Fey

April: *Nomadland*, by Jessica Bruder

May: *Anxious People*, by Frederick Bachman

June: *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, by Isabel Wilkerson

July: *Mrs. Dalloway*, by Virginia Woolf

August: *I Feel Bad About My Neck*, by Nora Ephraim

September: *Vanishing Half*, by Brit Bennet

October: *Hamnet*, by Maggie O'Farrell

December: *No Ordinary Time*, by Doris Kerns Goodwin

GREAT DECISIONS - Judi Polizzotti, Co-Chair

On Wednesday September 29 at 7:00 pm on Zoom, we will discuss China and Africa our 5th topic in the Foreign Policy Association Briefing Book. Due to Yom Kippur, the date has been moved to the last Wednesday. I believe that this will be an interesting and relevant topic as China is making significant investments in Africa.

Books are available on fpa.org. The film is on Vimeo for \$3.99.
<https://vimeo.com/ondemand/gd21>

PROGRAMS**Janine Greenwood - Program VP**

**AAUW Reston-Herndon Friendsgiving Picnic
The Pony Barn, Steeplechase & Triple Crown, Reston
September 11, 2021**

11:30 AM**Deadline to Register Friday, September 3 at Noon**

Our lunch will be catered by Cameron's. A local restaurant and chocolate shop providing work and training opportunities for young adults with intellectual challenges.

<https://every1canwork.com/>

Every1 Can Work is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Just another way we can support our community.

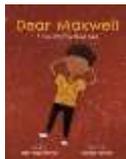
Box lunch selections include cookies and a chocolate

- Turkey Pesto Sandwich
- Hummus Sandwich
- Asian Chicken Salad

Please make your reservation and indicate lunch selection by email: to Janine Greenwood
Per person \$30. Mail check payable to Reston-Herndon AAUW to:

*Ruth Ruttenberg
1767 Wainwright Drive
Reston, VA 20190*

**We will have exciting baskets for our scholarship fundraiser raffle!
The Pony Barn is an open outdoor picnic shelter with plenty of room for social
distancing.**

October 6 at 4PM via Zoom - Conversation with author Tara Hewan

Join us as we converse with Author Tara Hewan about her just released book "Dear Maxwell: A Conversation About Race"

Ms. Hewan, is a Loudoun County parent and the author of a new children's book, *Dear Maxwell, A Conversation About Race*. She is the founder of Liberation and Justice, a collective committed to educational equity, culturally responsive practices, and identity affirming spaces. She has served as an educator for over 20 years.

An evite was sent to all members which included the Zoom link. I'll also send a reminder that week with the link. All are welcome. I hope to see you then.



Public Policy - Judy Polizzotti and Mary Zane Co-Chairs

Ratification of CEDAW the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women is an AAUW Public Policy Priority . Fairfax County is considering a resolution in support of CEDAW. Communities across the country have passed a similar resolution. If you would like to join me (Judy Polizzotti) at the virtual meeting of interested parties on September 14 at 7:15 pm, let me know and I'll forward the details.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) again has offered us opportunities to work with their members to register voters this year. To be able to volunteer to do voter registration, you are required by state law to get credentialed each year after July 1. This involves watching a brief video (40 minutes) and then filling out an attestation. When you fill out the attestation you can list AAUW-VA or LWV Fairfax Area as your affiliated organization. If you are able to sign up for a shift (see Sign-Up Genius forms below).

Link for 2021 training : <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/registration-drives/voter-registration-training-video/>

Link for affidavit of training: <https://fs28.formsite.com/vaelect/3rdpartyvoterreg/index.html>

The LWVFA has an exciting program of Voter Registration events at all Fairfax County Public Libraries on September 28. Please take a look at their Sign-Up Genius for the Library Program to see if there are any venues/times that work for you. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d48afa82fa7f94-national1>

The League also will be sponsoring voter registration events at summer and fall farmers markets and food distribution sites. Here is the link to the Sign-Up Genius for those events:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0d48afa82fa7f94-farmers>

Lobby Corps From Kate Nielson AAUW National Senior Director Public Policy, Legal Advocacy and Research: "Yes, lots of transition. In addition to Kim's departure, our federal policy manager, Letty Bustillos left in June. I will be able to provide more information on the possibility of Lobby Corps reconvening after Labor Day once we start to transition back to the office and I have more staff capacity. But as I said in my last email, I cannot promise that we will resume in-person lobbying this year. I appreciate your eagerness, but in large part the circumstances are out of my control. I just checked in with two staff members on the Hill to ask their opinion and was told their offices are only taking virtual meetings, and while guidance is supposed to be updated in the fall, with the Delta variant running rampant, they are skeptical of changes. Please know that once we are able to safely and effectively lobby, we will figure out a way to resume."

SUPPORT BRAWS BACK TO SCHOOL COLLECTION DRIVE

Our children are headed back to school!but, 1 in 4 students have struggled to purchase period products in the past year due to lack of income.

Please make sure that every child has the supplies they need to return to school confident and healthy - by helping BRAWS!

Here is our Amazon List. Please order a box – or a few – and we thank you for your kindness!

. HERE IS WHAT WE NEED MOST:

- ~Always radiant size 1-5
- ~Tampax pearl regular and multipack
- ~Tampax Radiant regular, super, and multipack
- ~U by Kotex clicks regular, super, and multipack

THANK YOU!

If you prefer you can bring your donation of supplies to Friendsgiving and we will deliver to BRAWS.

NORTHERN DISTRICT MEETING

SAVE THE DATE!

October 9, 10 am-12 noon

We once again will have a virtual Northern District meeting.

Program: **Meg Tuccillo** of the Arlington Branch will present a video from **Jada Pinkett Smith's "Red Table Talk" program** on relations between women of color and white women.. After the video, we will have a facilitated discussion using break-out rooms and then come back together to discuss.

Business meeting:

After the program we will have updates from some State Board members. We will also learn about the revised "Shape the Future" membership discount and how your branch can use it to increase membership.

A representative from each branch will give a short update on upcoming branch activities and announce any special programs to which others are invited.

More information on registration and zoom link to follow.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE



The education committee met in July and will meet again on September 13 at 10:30 at the home of Roberta Sherman - 2950 Timber Wood Way, Herndon. We are always looking for others to join. Email Roberta at shermans1@aol.com if you plan to attend and for directions.

We will discuss our scholarships and a new incentive - a diversity prize for high school students at South Lakes and Herndon High Schools. To fund the diversity prize, we are considering applying to AAUW for a mini-grant. Below is information that we discussed at our last meeting.

How our scholarship should be structured:

The requirements for the scholarship will remain the same with a little tweaking. They are: full time or part time student, demonstrate financial need, be in good standing, have successfully completed 12 credit hours or more, be a returning student, be in STEAM field and submit an essay on "The importance of gender equality and how it has affected me or someone I know." The only difference here was to add the A to STEM. We would like to increase the amount to \$2000 a year.

Other Educational/Diversity Projects to consider:

From the Springfield Branch: Diversity Award - Each Spring the branch honors a Junior girl from the four high schools in our area – Annandale High School, Lake Braddock Secondary School, Lee High School and West Springfield High School – who has made a significant contribution to multi-cultural understanding in her school. The award is given to a Junior so she can put it on her college applications and scholarship applications and to encourage her to continue with her efforts. Award recipients have included girls who planned cultural fairs, researched and wrote about various cultures represented in the school, tutored, held events for Downs Syndrome students and mainstream students, introduced fellow students to their home countries through collections for orphanages and school construction, started a foundation to benefit low income preschoolers, and many more.

We discussed this program and really liked it and would like to put our own spin on it. From reading this blurb from their website, it appears that there is no money that goes with it. We would like to fund the awardees' project having some kind of cap. This is where we plan to ask AAUW for funds through a mini grant.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



We are looking forward to the time when we can have an in person tour of the Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture. Meanwhile there are ongoing online events that look interesting.

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/events/ongoing-tours-and-activities>



- September 11 Friendsgiving 11:30 Pony Barn in Reston (see article for details)
 September 13 Education Meeting 10:30 Roberta Sherman's home 2950 Timber Wood Way, Herndon
- September 22 Book Group 2:00 Eleanor on Zoom
 September 23 Streaming Group 3:30 Feminists: What Were They Thinking on Netflix on Zoom
- October 6 Conversation with Tara Hewan 4:00 on Zoom
 October 9 Northern District Meeting 10 am on Zoom
 October 12 Board Meeting on 2:00 pm Zoom
 October 27 Book Group Book of Lost Friends 2 pm on Zoom
- March 26 **2022 Annual State Conference Part 1- Saturday, March 26, 2022, in-person** at the Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Valley Conference Center, Harrisonburg, VA
Part 2- Saturday, April 30, 2022, Virtual Annual Business Meeting



Note: All zoom links to our meetings and activities will be attached to the newsletter email and you will receive an email with links at the beginning of each week when we have a Branch program or meeting.



FROM OUR SISTER BRANCHES:

As you are probably aware, this huge book sale raises thousands of dollars for AAUW Funds and our three local scholarships for women returning to college. We know that many of our sister AAUW members come to our book sale because we've seen you there! We are again having an alternative fundraiser to help us. Nats pitcher Max Scherzer has given us seven signed items: 1 baseball, 3 bobbleheads, and 3 baseball cards (Erica Scherzer is an AAUW member). For every \$20 contributed, there is an opportunity to have one of the items. And a person may donate multiples of \$20 to enhance the opportunity. You may have neighbors and family members who would also like to join in for a Max Scherzer signed item but also to support women's education. We'd love your help. If you would like to contribute to this, donations can be sent to McLean Branch AAUW, P.O. Box1002, McLean, VA 22101. Be sure to include your full name, address, and phone number so we can contact you if you are lucky. The owners will be selected randomly by a computer program. Donations through the branch's P.O. box may be made until September 1. Thank you

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*