



**McLean Area Branch**  
AAUW of Virginia

# NewsBits

## McLean Area Branch 2016/2017

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## Presidents' Corner

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at our annual holiday luncheon on December 10 at noon. It is a time to rejoice in the many accomplishments of our branch and to be thankful for the efforts of the individuals who make up our membership. All of that hard work put our branch in the "Top 50 Branches" in the country!

Congratulations to our three new **honorary life members** for their dedication and commitment to AAUW |

**Nan Finken, Peggy Stütz and Elaine Lailas**

We plan to take a photo of them and our other honorary life members at the holiday luncheon and include it in the January newsletter |

**Mary Ann Curry, Marion Guerber and Luz Meloy**

Happy holidays to you and your families.

Aroona and Betsy

**Aroona Borpujari and Betsy Schroeder, Co-Presidents**

## 'Tis the Season of Giving

At this year's Holiday Luncheon you will once again have the opportunity to make your personal contribution to members of our own community who are in need during this Season.

**Share of McLean** is our local all-volunteer non-profit organization which assists several hundred families with groceries, gifts, and other necessities to help brighten their Holiday.

The McLean AAUW Branch always is more than generous with the gifts they offer every year and Share is extremely grateful for our kindness. If you wish to contribute this year, please bring your donation to the luncheon in the form of **either a personal check or a grocery store gift card**.

After the luncheon, it is always a joy to bring our donation to Share and see their smiles of appreciation, realizing that they will then be able to do even more for those who need help the most.

**Margie Broderick**

### Holiday Luncheon

**December 10th**

**Reserve by December 1st**





## Election Aftermath

Lisa Maatz, the vice president of government relations and advocacy, has a message for us following the Trump win for the presidency.

If you have read the election results in some states, you will see that some issues received support on that level: minimum wage increase and gun control measures among them.

The message is that we will work with the Trump administration and elected leaders of both parties at every level on issues impacting women and girls.

You can take part in delivering that message by joining the **Volunteer Lobby Corps**. First, come to AAUW for an **orientation**, scheduled for January. The specific date will be determined later. The orientation will also include a briefing on the outlook for the coming Congress; this may be of interest to many of you whether you join or not.

Mary Lou Melley, Public Policy Chair  
[maryloumelley@gmail.com](mailto:maryloumelley@gmail.com)

**'It is now, after an election, that the real work begins. AAUW will find common ground with the Trump administration and the new Congress on issues that are important to women and working families. Women want progress on issues that affect them, and AAUW intends to be a fair critic and a valued ally. Most importantly, in true AAUW fashion, we will not hesitate to speak truth to power.'**

Lisa Maatz

## Vote NO!

**One of the proposed amendments to the AAUW Bylaws removes from the Bylaws the authority and right of the members to approve the biennial Public Policy Program.** These are the priorities the members have approved as the basis for all our public policy work, a vital part of AAUW. This amendment means that only the national board would create and approve the PPP. It also means that the Lobby Corps, the member volunteers who go up to the Hill every Thursday Congress is in session, would no longer be able to go to a Congressional office and state that the public policy position they are lobbying on carries the approval of the 150,000 members of AAUW. Since a number of McLean Area Branch members are in Lobby Corps, this is of great concern to them. It also affects our lobbying in Richmond.

All of us will be voting on the proposed Bylaws amendments next spring. (You will also be voting on candidates for the AAUW Board and the 2017-19 Public Policy Program.) **At the Nov. 15 branch meeting, the members voted to oppose this amendment.** Our statement of opposition will be posted on the AAUW website, and you may state your opposition, too, **before Dec. 5.** Go to [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) and click on "time is running out to comment on the bylaws." Then click on "Comment on the Bylaws." Then scroll down to Article XIII. Meetings of the Membership, Section 4. Voting. You can click to see all the comments left to date and put in your own comment. **Above all, vote "no" on this amendment when we all get our ballots in early 2017.**

Caroline Pickens

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### If You Shop at Amazon

Next time you make a purchase from Amazon, first go to our branch website, <http://mclean-va.aauw.net>, click on the Amazon link at the bottom of the home page and make your purchase. Amazon will give our branch up to a 10% rebate.

## STEM Awards Ceremony

The McLean Area Branch recognized six local high school girls with STEM awards at the branch kick-off event held on September 25 at the McLean Community Center. The **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Excellence Award** was presented to **Mandy Smith**, a sophomore at **Langley High School**, for a project she prepared jointly with **Oksana Vickers** on "The Effect of Desalination Method on Overall Efficiency." The project was presented at the Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair held last spring. Oksana received her award at last May's annual dinner meeting.

Five students from McLean, Langley, and Marshall High Schools were recognized with **Science and Math Achievement Awards**. The students receiving the 2016 awards were: **Lauren Hassi, Math Achievement, McLean High School**; **Caroline Lewis, Science Achievement, McLean High School**; **Inga Schlier, Math Achievement, Marshall High School**; **Emma Barberis, Science Achievement, Marshall High School**; and **Emily Wallach, Math Achievement, Langley High School**. The **Science Achievement Award, Langley High School**, was presented earlier this year to **Emily Stranne**. All of the students discussed their strong interest in pursuing STEM fields in their high school curriculum, as well as plans for their college studies.

The high school awards process was managed by a committee comprising **Margaret Hines (Marshall HS contact)**, **Margie Broderick (McLean HS contact)**, **Barbara Sipe (Langley HS contact)**, **Peggy Stotz**, and **Judy Page (STEM chair)**. Career center counselors at the schools were provided with the criteria for award eligibility from our Policies and then managed the process of selecting the students.

**Judy Page**

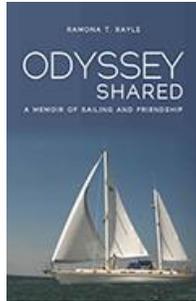
STEM awards were presented by Judy Page, STEM Chair, far right, to six local high school students at the branch's 2016-2017 kick-off event. Students receiving the award are, left to right: Lauren Hassi, Mandy Smith, Caroline Lewis, Inga Schlier, Emily Wallach, and Emma Barberis. Emily Stranne was not able to attend the event.



## Authors in our Midst!

**Ramona Rayle's** book, *Odyssey Shared, A Memoir of Sailing and Friendship*, was published in

November. The story began in 1972 when she and her husband Bob lived in Greece for three years and became close friends with a couple whose three children were perfectly matched in age with the Rayles' three boys. As the two families planned their return to the U.S., they discussed returning to Greece after they retired—aboard their own boat.



Their dream was realized 20 years later—after four years of labor on their jointly owned 50-foot boat and testing the waters with short sailing trips—when they departed from Point Lookout on the Chesapeake Bay in July 1991. Their route took them north to Halifax, Canada, across the Atlantic to Gibraltar, to several Mediterranean ports, Tunisia, summer in the Greek Islands, the Aegean Sea, west to the Canary Islands, then a harrowing return

and rescue at sea; they finally arrived home in April 1993.

*Odyssey Shared* is based on the journals Ramona kept during her two-year adventure as crew on the two-masted Gulf Star 50 that became their home at sea. The journals were mostly written as she kept night watch and sometimes during extended stays in port. Those notebooks stayed closed for many years. More than a decade ago, she decided to take a writing class to determine if her observations of the conflicts among the crew and the characters and cultures encountered during two years of travel would make a worthy story. Her intention was to share the memory of their remarkable journey only with family and close friends. However, after people read various chapters, they encouraged her to publish more widely, recognizing the intimate tale of adventure at sea, friendship put to the test, ancient civilizations and colorful characters was one that others would want to read.

*Odyssey Shared* is available from [www.wordassociation.com](http://www.wordassociation.com).

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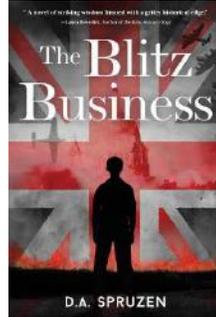


Ramona Rayle at her book launch

## Authors in our Midst!

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**Dorothy Hassan's** latest novel *The Blitz Business* was published by Koehler Books in August of this year. She writes under her maiden name D. A. Spruzen. "I had a fantastic book launch party at "One More Page Books" in Arlington, VA in September. Over 50 people came, listened to my reading, and asked lots of good questions. The store sold out of their stock of *The Blitz Business*! A big thank you to all who came."



*The Blitz Business* opens in London's East End on December 29, 1940, when the Blitz is at its worst. Jamie is almost 15, has mild retardation and lives with his grandmother and cousin Roy as a virtual shut-in. He wanders away from home and soon finds himself in the midst of circumstances beyond his comprehension. He survives many harrowing predicaments, including one that tests his courage when someone he loves is in mortal danger. He feels hope and despair in

turn as he struggles to make his way after a confusing evacuation to the Hampshire countryside.

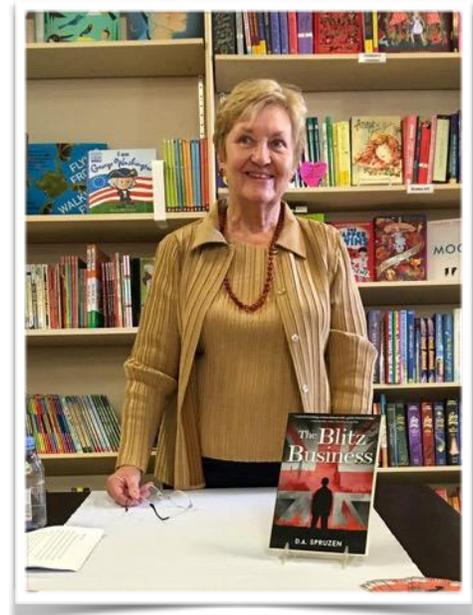
In spite of a life of deprivation, Jamie learns and grows over the next year, endearing himself to just about everyone he meets, some of whom will fight for his right to lead a normal life. But the authorities have their own ideas about his proper place, his past is still not entirely behind him, a German spy's mission intrudes, and things get out of hand.

Dorothy served on the board of Langley Residential Support Services for ten years and has first hand experience with the prejudice and suspicious attitudes suffered by those with intellectual disabilities. She learned that acceptance and understanding, not to mention exposure to the good things our world has to offer, are crucial to their enjoyment of a rich and fulfilling life.

Her poetry collection *Long in the Tooth* (guess what that's all about!) was published by Finishing Line Press in 2013. Dorothy's books are available on Amazon.com, from the publishers, or through her website: [www.daspruzen.com](http://www.daspruzen.com).

**Betsy Schroeder**

Dorothy Hassan (D. A. Spruzen) at her book launch at One More Page Books



## November 4, 2016 Board Meeting Notes

At the Nov. 4, 2016, AAUW Board Meeting, the following topics were discussed |

### 1. Amendments to Branch Policies

To establish **accrual accounting** as the system for Branch's financial record-keeping

To create a **Conferences and Conventions Committee**, to review the upcoming leadership opportunities available for Branch leaders and members to attend, and

To distribute funds available for leadership training, conferences and conventions in an equitable manner.

### 2. Amendment to Branch Bylaws (to be presented to membership for a vote)

To develop the annual budget and have it approved at the joint Board meeting in June (rather than at the September Branch meeting).

### 3. Discussion re various options for location of 2017 Book Sale

4. Discussion about membership recruitment, including targeted age groups, programs and approaches for recruitment, AAUW programs such as Start Smart and Work Smart.

5. Presentation of recommendations from the Allocations Committee, concerning uses of 2016 Book Sale proceeds in 2016-2017 – approved by the Board, for vote by membership.

Betsy Reddaway

## Recent Action on Bylaws

AAUW recently restated its bylaws to ensure compliance with D.C. law and IRS procedures, as well as to modify a number of inconsistent provisions.

As a result, the Branch Bylaws Committee revised the Branch bylaws to comply with those modifications, as mandated by AAUW. This action does not require any action by Branch members. The date of the revision is 10/15/16. This version is now available on the Branch website.

<http://mclean-va.aauw.net>

## Does Anyone Remember Carol Burris?

Carol Burris was an activist who founded Women’s Lobby in the early 1970’s. She worked with other women’s organizations, including AAUW and NOW, to pass important legislation relating to women’s issues, including Title IX. One of my writing workshop students worked with Carol for a few years and is gathering an anthology of essays written by those familiar with her work. Unfortunately, Carol burned all her papers before she died, although records of her testimony on Capitol Hill endure. If any of you knew Carol, or knew of her, please contact me. The writer is determined that Carol’s dedication and achievements will not be forgotten.

**Dorothy Hassan**  
[dshassan@aol.com](mailto:dshassan@aol.com)



Carol Burris from Washington Women’s Lobby at the Nevada Women’s Conference in Las Vegas, June 17, 1977. University of Nevada, Las Vegas University Libraries Photo

## December/January Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Location
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### December

Tues, 6	9 a.m.	<b>Current Events</b>	Star Nut Gourmet
Fri, 9	9:30 a.m.	<b>Lit Group  </b> Between the World and Me – Ta’Nehisi Coates, moderator Betsy Reddaway	McLean Community Center
Sat, 10	Noon	<b>Holiday Luncheon</b>	Riverbed Country Club
Mon, 12	10 a.m. to 2 p.m.	<b>Bridge Group</b>	Betsy Schroeder's home
Tues, 27	9 a.m.	<b>Breakfast</b>	McLean Family Restaurant

### January

Tues, 3	9 a.m.	<b>Current Events</b>	Star Nut Gourmet
Sat, 21	10 a.m.	<b>Branch Meeting</b>	McLean Community Center
Tues, 31	9 a.m.	<b>Breakfast</b>	McLean Family Restaurant

### A Reminder

- In January and February, our branch meetings will take place on Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. at the Mclean Community Center.
- On January 21, the speaker will be Karenne Wood, Director of the Virginia Indian Heritage Program, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.
- On February 18, a program about pandemics will be presented.