



McLean Area Branch
AAUW of Virginia

NewsBits

McLean Area Branch 2016/2017

Co-Presidents

Aroona Borpujari
703.556.9693
aborpujari@cox.net

Betsy Schroeder
703.356.4352
icu43@cox.net

Membership

Sue Christie
703.241.5646

Barbara Sipe
703.356.2385

NewsBits is published in October, December, January, March, and May. New deadline|15th of the month.

The Editors

Dorothy Hassan
dshassan@aol.com

Fran Sullinger
fsullinger@verizon.net

Judy Lettes
judy.lettes@gmail.com

Distribution

Barbara Carr
barbaralcarr@msn.com
703.356.3127

October 2016
Volume III
Number 1

47th Used Book Sale!

We are thrilled to announce that the book sale grossed a little over \$51,000. Yes, you heard that correctly—an increase of almost \$10,000 over previous years. Many thanks to all of the members who contributed to this year's success. We continue to build on our experience to create a more profitable event. Unfortunately we will be losing the McLean Community Center for at least 2017. If you have any ideas about sites for next year's book sale or you are willing to help



Women in Politics | Is Gender Bias Real?

All branch members are invited to the annual Northern District meeting, Saturday, October 22, 2 p.m., King's Park, 9000 Burke Lake Road, in Burke, not far from Braddock Road and the Beltway.

- A panel featuring Melissa Richmond, vice president of Running Start (a non-partisan organization that trains young women to run for office and that launched Elect Her in collaboration with AAUW), and Melissa Jackowski, former AAUW Grassroots Advocacy Manager and now Campaign Services Manager for TargetSmart Communications. Interestingly, both worked on previous presidential campaigns: Richmond for Mitt Romney and Jackowski for Joe Biden. A fitting topic for this election year as well as AAUW's most recent research report, "Bias and Barriers."
- Meet and greet old and new friends from other branches
- Hear what's going on with AAUW of Virginia and in other district branches
- Refreshments, too!

Susan Burk and Caroline Pickens
Northern District Co-Representatives

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.

Price. Selection. Convenience.
amazon.com





Election Time!

Yes, there will be an election on November 8. Be informed and vote. Here's some information:

Ballot | Fairfax County

President and Vice President – vote for one pair only:

- Democratic Party (D) | Hillary Clinton, Tim Kaine
- Republican Party (R) | Donald J. Trump, Michael R. Pence
- Libertarian Party (L) | Gary Johnson, Bill Weld
- Green Party (G) | Jill Stein, Ajamu Baraka
- Independent (I) | Evan McMullin, Nathan Johnson

Member – House of Representatives

- 8th District | Donald Beyer (D), Charles Herrick (R), Julio Gracia (I)
- 10th District | LuAnn Bennett (D), Barbara Comstock (R)
- 11th District | Gerry Connolly (D)

Two Proposed Amendments

Prohibit nonmembers of a union from being denied the right to work

Exempt from taxation the property of the surviving spouse of a law enforcement officer, firefighter, or EMT killed in the line of duty

Three Referendum & Bond Issues

Meals Tax | 70% revenues to Fairfax County Public Schools

Bonds of \$107M for park facilities, and \$85M for the cost of human services facilities

Absentee Voting

McLean Governmental Center: Saturdays 9 to 5 from October 1 through November 5. Monday thru Friday 2 to 8 pm from October 17 to November 4.

AAUW Promotes Our Public Policy on Capitol Hill

On September 7 about 35 members visited the new headquarters on L St. for a Lobby Corps Open House, gathered in small groups to discuss “why lobby?” and heard Lisa Maatz, Vice President of Government Relations, describe the present and future outlook of relevant legislation in Congress. Suzanne Gould, archivist, provided some history and a tour of the new facilities.



Members of the public policy staff, including Anne Hedgepeth, former liaison to the Lobby Corps

Film and Discussion on Gun Violence Prevention

Save the Date: Thursday, October 27, 7 p.m., McLean Community Center

A free community screening of **“Under the Gun”** followed by a panel discussion will be presented by the League of Women Voters, Fairfax Area; the League of Women Voters, Falls Church, and the Fairfax County Council of PTAs.

Overview

We’ve reached a fever pitch in the debate over gun violence prevention. Rising concern can be attributed to the increased frequency of mass shootings and concern with homeland terrorist attacks. Despite the high

public opinion for action, lawmakers have yet to act.

Executive produced and narrated by Katie Couric and directed by Stephanie Soechtig, the film debuted at the Sundance Film Festival. It examines why, despite the increase in gun-related fatalities and the outpouring of shock and outrage that comes with them, America has failed to respond with meaningful action, the opposing sides failing to find common ground. The film offers a timeline enriched with news headlines and archive footage, showing how the issue has evolved since Martin Luther King Jr. and the Kennedy brothers were shot. This history is blended with the impact of gun violence told through the lens of families in Newtown, Aurora, Isla Vista, Tucson and Chicago.

"Following the massacre at Sandy Hook, I was confused by the disconnect between public opinion (over 90 percent of Americans supported universal

background checks) and public policy," Couric said in a statement. "I hope this film will help people have a better understanding of how we got to this point."

A panel discussion following the screening will include Matt Bennett of “Third Way” (a DC based centrist think tank). Having spent more than 16 years in gun violence prevention following the Columbine mass shooting, Mr. Bennett served as an advisor to the Sandy Hook families after Newtown. He is widely recognized for his expertise on the politics and challenges within the gun debate. You can find his 2013 essay at

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/essays/2013/sandy-hook-promise-gun-safety>

Bridge Group Contributes to Scholarships

We are pleased to report that the bridge group’s

contribution this year for AAUW programs and scholarships was \$100. The group meets second Mondays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a short break for our brown bag lunches. We meet in members’ homes. We consistently have two tables.

If you would like to join, please contact|

Barbara Carr,
barbaralcarr@msn.com,
703/356-3127.

What's Happening this Month?

Sunday, October 2, 2 p.m., *Arena Stagers* attend Lillian Hellman's "The Little Foxes." To join or carpool, please contact Elaine Lailas, 703-779-8679, 305-281-5787, Elailas@aol.com

Tuesday, October 4, 9 a.m., *Current Events* meets First Tuesdays at Star Nut Gourmet, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean. Everyone invited. Please RSVP to Dawn Schulz, portia11@verizon.net

Friday, October 14, 9:30 a.m., *Morning Lit*, McLean Community Center, to discuss Solvig Eggerz's novel, "Seal Woman." All are welcome. No reservations necessary

Saturday, October 22, 2 p.m., *AAUW Northern District Meeting*, "Gender Bias in Politics—Is it Real?" King's Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. (No Branch meeting this month.)

Sunday, October 23, 2 p.m., *Arena Stagers* attend "The Year of Magical Thinking" with Kathleen Turner

Tuesday, October 25, 9 a.m., *Last Tuesday of the Month Breakfast*, McLean Family Restaurant. Everyone invited. Please RSVP to Suzanne Watts, scwatts1@cox.net

TBA, *AAUW Funds Allocation Committee* meets at Naz Basit's home, 918 Ridge Drive, McLean 22101, 703-356-6365. For information please call Elaine Lailas 703-779-8679



McLean Area (VA) Branch
7020 Hector Road
McLean, VA 22101

Branch Website | <http://mclean-va.aauw.net>

AAUW VA Website | <http://aauw-va.aauw.net>

AAUW Website | www.AAUW.org