



*From left: Lydia Rees, science award, Marshall High School; Emma Fan, math award, Marshall High School; Kathryn Howley, math award, McLean High School; Gulenay Saydahmat, science award, McLean High School; and Peg Stotz, McLean Area Branch Achievement Award Committee member.*

## Branch Recognizes High School Students for Math and Science Achievements

At our opening event for 2015-16 held on Sunday, Sept. 27, our branch recognized four students from McLean and George C. Marshall High Schools. These students were awarded science and math achievement awards, which are funded through proceeds from the branch's annual used book sale and consist of a certificate and a check for \$100 for each honoree.

Two students from Langley High School, not in attendance, also received the award for 2015: Lyric Yu, math award, and Morgan Kuligowski, science award.

*Peggy Stotz*

## November Program Thrills

Members were enthralled at our Nov. 17 branch evening. The McLean Symphony and local talent were featured, thanks to *Bob and Diane Alden* who arranged to have the guests.

Dingwall Fleary, conductor and music director of the McLean Symphony, described the emergence and current status of the Symphony. And then the members were treated to two selections by fourth grade violinist, Serenna Semonsen. She has won first-place prizes and performed at Carnegie Hall in New York. Her performance was truly outstanding and she's only 9 years old!



## Public Policy: Struggles and Results — Not All Good

### Federal

Congress needs to pass a funding bill by Dec. 11. AAUW and its coalition members continue to urge the Congress to promote education and economic security, opposing cuts to the Pell grant program; defend civil rights urging the protection of Violence Against Women Act; protect women's health by supporting funding for the Title X family planning program; and reject ideological riders that threaten the strength of the budget agreement and risk government shutdown.

These are just a few of the many issues important to AAUW members.

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### Virginia

In two months the Virginia General Assembly will gather for its 60-day even-year session. Although it will focus on adopting the biennial budget, there are issues important to Northern Virginia. The General Assembly will look a lot like its 2015 predecessor, as the Nov. 3rd elections resulted in no change in the composition of the state senate (21-19) and a gain of one seat for the Democrats in the House of Delegates (34 out of 100 seats).

Please email AAUW to receive the *Washington Update* and the *Action Network* newsletters. The *Network* always says to 'urge your member of Congress to promote job creation and economic security, defend the civil rights of Americans and protect women's rights.' All you have to do is click on the underlined 'urge your members...' and it will automatically lead to the option for emailing AAUW's/your sentiments directly to your elected officials.

*Mary Lou Melley (Sources include direct quotes from AAUW Action Network and the Sun Gazette November 19-25)*

### Shirley L. Tennyson

The branch recently learned that Shirley Tennyson died at her home in Vienna, Virginia, on Jan. 23, 2015. She was a long time branch member and an AAUW life member, originally joining in 1954. She graduated from the Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon). She married in 1944, and during WWII she worked at a Westinghouse lab in Bloomfield, New Jersey, unaware until the end of World War II that her work was for the Manhattan Project.

She was active in her church, Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, AAUW, Girl Scouting, and playing and teaching tennis. She is survived by her sister, three daughters, and three grandchildren.

## What's Happening this Month?

### Tuesday, December 1

**9 a.m. Current Events:** So many issues these days in the news. If you would like to share your information with branch members and enjoy insightful discussions, come to the Star Nut Gourmet, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean. Bring your topic and RSVP to Dawn Schulz ([portia11@verizon.net](mailto:portia11@verizon.net)).

**1 p.m. Branch Board Meeting** in the community room at McLean House

### Wednesday, December 2

**Deadline for Reservations** to the Holiday Luncheon, contact Aroona Borpujari, 703/556-9693.

**League of Women Voters of Virginia** pre-session Women's Legislative Round Table in Richmond

### Friday, December 11

**9:30 a.m. Morning Literature** at the McLean Community Center, to discuss *The Art Forger*, by B.A. Shapiro.

In January we'll discuss *The Boys in the Boat*, by Daniel James Brown. Please note that we have switched these two books on the schedule after the branch directory was published.

If you're thinking about joining us, please come to our next meeting and introduce yourself to someone. All members are welcome to attend.

### Saturday, December 12

**Noon. McLean Area Branch Holiday Luncheon** at the River Bend Country Club, 375 Walker Road, Great Falls, VA. "You Go Girl," Gary Lloyd, award-winning storyteller and two-term president of the Virginia Storytelling Alliance.

### Monday, December 14

**10 a.m – 2 p.m. Bridge Group** at Betsy Schroeder's home. Please contact Barbara Carr ([barbaralcarr@msn.com](mailto:barbaralcarr@msn.com)) if you would like to play or for more information.

### Sunday, December 20

**Deadline for the January newsletter**

### Tuesday, December 29

**9 a.m. Current Events Breakfast** for all branch members at the McLean Family Restaurant at 9 a.m. Please RSVP to Suzanne Watts ([scwatts1@cox.net](mailto:scwatts1@cox.net)).

## MCLEAN AREA BRANCH 2015/2016

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