



McLean Area Branch AAUW of Virginia

News

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May 2017
Volume XLVI
Number 5

Dinner with Her Majesty's Ambassador

Please join us at our annual dinner on **May 24** at the River Bend Country Club to hear our speaker, **Ambassador Alexandra Hall Hall**, who most recently served as **Her Majesty's Ambassador to Georgia**. The ambassador spent **30 years as a career diplomat** in the **British Foreign Office, serving in Bangkok, Bogota, Delhi, and Washington** before her appointment as ambassador to Georgia from 2013 to 2016. She is **currently a Senior Fellow at the international affairs think-tank, the Atlantic Council**.

Her London-based assignments included work on the Middle East Peace Process, UN Humanitarian Affairs (refugees, conflict, and war crimes), and two years as Head of the Foreign Office's Human Rights Department. She also spent two years on the British equivalent of the National Security Council and two years on exchange with the US State Department working on democracy promotion in the Middle East.

Ambassador Hall Hall will speak about being a female in a male-dominated profession as well as her experiences as ambassador in Tbilisi, Georgia, a beautiful and fascinating country many of us know little about other than the capital is not Atlanta. She will also be happy to answer questions about her work in human rights and the Middle East.



Ambassador Alexandra Hall Hall

The May 24 date is a bit later than usual, but we had to fit into the ambassador's schedule.

Spouses and friends are welcome and encouraged.

AAUW McLean Area Branch Spring Dinner

Wednesday, May 24 6:30 p.m., Dinner served at 7:00 p.m.

River Bend Country Club

375 Walker Rd., Great Falls, VA 22066

RSVP by May 17

(see page 8 for reservations)

2016/2017 Executive Board

Co-Presidents

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Board Secretary

Betsy Reddaway
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Branch Secretary

Adarsh Trehan
703.356.8368
adatrehan@gmail.com

Branch Website I

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

AAUW Highlights in 2016

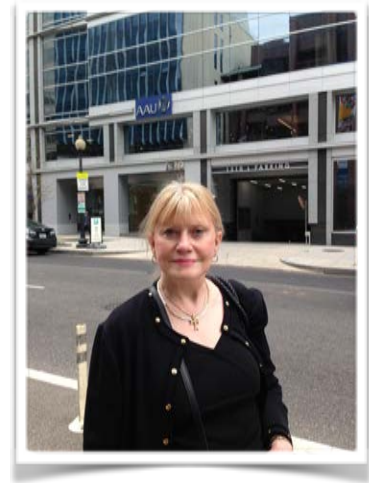
- \$3.7 million awarded in fellowships and grants in 35 countries
- 12,480 women trained to negotiate their salary through Start Smart and Work Smart
- 200,000 message sent on behalf of AAUW to state & federal legislators

AAUW Makes a Difference!

McLean Branch Web Page

Jane Schmiedekamp has volunteered to take over management of our web site. She met with Toni DeGuzman at National headquarters to begin learning the ropes. Please send her anything that should go on our web site such as event dates and places. We know that people are looking at our web site for information so let's help Jane make us look good.

Many thanks to Mary Anne Graham for her work on the web site!



Jane Schmiedekamp at AAUW National headquarters.

From the Editors

Newsletter Deadline the 15th of Each Month

The McLean Area Branch News is published September, November, February, April, and May. A shorter update, NewsBits, is published in October, December, January, March, and June. New deadline: 15th of the month.

We ask for your indulgence as we get into the rhythm of newsletter production. Dorothy or Fran edit submitted articles before handing the text over to Judy for layout, so there is less leeway for slippage. We hope to extend the deadline once we feel more on top of things.

Please send your news as a Word attachment to Dorothy, Fran, and Judy. Photos are always welcome! Thank you.

The Editors

Dorothy Hassan dshassan@aol.com

Fran Sullinger fsullinger@verizon.net

Judy Lettes judy.lettes@gmail.com

Presidents' Corner

Our Mission

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Since our founding in 1881, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day—educational, social, economic, and political.

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

Our Vision

We bring people together for the common goal of breaking through educational and economic barriers for women and girls.

The statements above are quotes from our National AAUW website. And yet we still have the barrier of educational preparation. The issue of member eligibility is again up for vote at our **2017 National Convention June 14-17** in Washington, DC. The question is whether to admit members who have not completed a college education. We would like to strongly advocate for making this change. Our organization has grown far beyond the bonds of common educational background. We are more mission driven, in education for girls and women, human rights, work place equity, etc. Since we opened membership to men in 1987 our demographics have not significantly changed. We are still a predominantly female organization that has gained the support of like-minded men. We can and should further expand our membership by being open to all like-minded women, ones who support our mission. We should not discriminate, but be open to all who want to work on behalf of the principles we support.

On a practical level it would eliminate the awkward questioning of prospective members. Having served as a Membership VP Betsy can tell you how embarrassing it is to raise this issue or to tell someone that they are not eligible for no other reason than a lack of a college degree. Who are we to judge other people as incapable of sharing our mission when they are motivated to do so?

Elections will be held for National board positions and proposed changes to the bylaws, Public Policy Program, and resolutions. You will need your Voter Pin which will be emailed to you or you will find it on your Spring AAUW Outlook. **Members can vote online. Voting began April 17. You can also request a paper ballot until May 4 by calling 800-326-2289. And must be postmarked by May 29.** You will need to know your member ID number. Online voting ends on June 15. Branches with over 40% of eligible members voting will be honored. Let's show them that we are responsible members!

Aroona and Betsy

Aroona Borpujari and Betsy Schroeder, Co-Presidents

McLean Area Branch Attends the Virginia state AAUW meeting in Charlottesville

The Virginia State AAUW annual business meeting was held in Charlottesville on April 1, 2017. McLean members in attendance included **Aroona Borpujari, Margie Broderick, Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales, Mary Lou Melley, Caroline Pickens** and **Betsy Schroeder**. The keynote speaker was **Dr. Sidney Bland**, professor emeritus of American history at James Madison University and first male member in the Virginia division of AAUW. His topic was the women's suffrage movement. He is currently on the board of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial, which is raising money to build a memorial in Lorton, Va.

The AAUW branches of Virginia raised a total of \$113,986.06 in donations for AAUW funds. This represents an increase of \$14,505.82 over last year. **The McLean branch contributed the highest donation - \$23,054.16.** We were followed by the Virginia Beach, Falls Church, Reston-Herndon, and Mount Vernon branches.

The McLean Area Branch was awarded a Grow Your Membership certificate for increasing its membership through extraordinary efforts resulting in an increase in membership from 2016 to 2017. In addition the branch was awarded a check in the amount of \$75.

Caroline Pickens was awarded a certificate of appreciation for identifying significant issues related to the proposed amendments to the AAUW Bylaws, which ensured that the rights of the members were retained to vote on changes to the Public Policy Program.



McLean branch members: Aroona Borpujari, Betsy Schroeder, Mary Lou Melley, Margie Broderick, Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales, and Caroline Pickens.



Suzanne Rothwell, VA State Bylaws Chair, and Caroline Pickens.

AAUW Hires A New CEO

AAUW has hired a new CEO, **Kimberly Churches**, who will begin on June 1, 2017. Most recently Kimberly comes from the Brookings Institution. Prior to that she has worked at the University of Denver, the University of North Florida and the American Heart Association. She has extensive experience in the education and nonprofit worlds. She earned a BA at Florida State University in English Education and the Certified Fund Raising Executive affiliation in 2002.

New Branch Operating Budget Approval Process

At the March annual meeting the branch members voted to amend the branch bylaws to move the annual operating budget approval from the September meeting to the June joint board meeting so that the budget for the fiscal year starting July 1 would already be in place. **As members, you will have the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed budget as follows:**

- At the May board meeting the board will review the proposed operating budget for the coming fiscal year and approve distribution to the members for review and comment.
- Following the May board meeting, the proposed budget will be sent to all branch members via email and also posted on the branch website. **Please watch for this email.**
- There will be a period of no less than 10 days and no more than 2 weeks designated, during which members can send any comments or questions to the Treasurer, who chairs the Budget and Finance Committee. The committee will answer your questions and respond to comments as appropriate.
- The final version will then be prepared for review and adopted at the June joint meeting of the outgoing and incoming board members.

Notes from April Board Meeting

1. National AAUW is offering a system to invoice members by email for payment of dues, which could serve as a useful reminder to pay before July 1.
2. The Board discussed stepping up our “public face” at such events as McLean Day. Visual display formats were reviewed and will be considered, including the development of snappy graphics and displays for use with outside groups.
3. McLean Area Branch received special recognition at State convention for growth in membership. (Plus a check for \$75.)
4. We looked at the proposed AAUW Bylaws amendment to open up membership to any who support the goals and mission of the organization. Board members offered their individual opinions on the matter, which will be presented to all AAUW members for a vote this spring.
5. Book sale location is still to be determined.
6. **Jane Schmiedekamp** will take over management of the Branch website



Vision I Near and Far

On Equal Pay Day, some Branch members gathered to discuss a national problem: overall, women have to work all year and into the next year, until April 4 to be exact, to earn the amount of money that men have earned in a year. At a recent Current Events meeting, discussions covered the science behind the statistics of the pay gap, shared workplace discrimination that they had experienced, the story behind the Lily Ledbetter legislation, as well as current efforts to improve the status of working women.

Senator Patty Murray (WA-D) has introduced the current Paycheck Fairness Act in the Senate. Recently, members of the Lobby Corps were able to visit every Senator's office to ask for co-sponsors. The Act is a much-needed update of the 50-year-old Equal Pay Act, closing loopholes and strengthening incentives to prevent pay discrimination. It protects job seekers from having to disclose their salary history and prohibits employer retaliation against workers who inquire about employers' wage practices or disclose their

own wages. It clarifies acceptable reasons for differences in pay by requiring employers to demonstrate that wage gaps between men and women have a business justification and are the results of factors other than sex.

On the House side, after lobbying, all the Democratic Representatives and one Republican are now co-sponsors of the same Paycheck Fairness Act.

We learned that another current Senate bill, the Workplace Advancement Act, would establish misleading rules that create additional burdens and risk for workers who discuss pay. It invites employers to fire first and ask questions later, making it difficult for an employee to prove that she was talking about pay for the purpose of determining equal pay for equal work. Lobby Corps members urged Senators to oppose this bill.

There is some good news for women at work now. A recent survey indicates that a majority of small business owners support paid family leave programs and support the Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act, which would create a national paid leave insurance program. In Washington DC, Mayor Muriel Bowser launched the AAUW Work Smart salary negotiation program in the District of Columbia. This program will train more than 15,000 women how to evaluate, negotiate, and articulate their worth confidently in the job market.

(continued on Page 7)



Members hold the Pay Day candy bars to add to the message. Pictured are Aroona Borpujari, Mary Lou Melley, Rebecca Horahan, Adriana Bianchi, and Diane Alden.



Most of the members who attended Equal Pay Day.



(continued from Page 6)

Another positive note in the news: New York State is set to be the first state to cover residents' tuition at public 4-year universities.

Meanwhile, up close, in the Virginia Assembly, the legislative session has ended. However, Governor McAuliffe vetoed many of the bills that passed both houses. It resulted in the Virginia Assembly's reconvening for a 'veto session' on April 5.

McAuliffe has vetoed a record 40 bills. Among them six education-related bills such as one which would allow the State Board of Education to create regional charter schools without the permission of local school boards. The governor also rejected legislation to expand access to weapons, which would allow 18-year-old active members of the military to apply for concealed handgun permits and switchblades. Another bill would have prevented voter fraud by requiring voter

registrars to verify with the Social Security Administration that the name, date of birth and Social Security number of voter registration application. The governor also rejected the bill which would have cut off state funds for Planned Parenthood. Another bill would have allowed domestic-violence victims to carry a concealed weapon without the usual permit or training.

To override a veto the Republican-controlled Assembly must muster a two-thirds majority in both the House and the Senate. Because the Democrats hold 34 seats in the House and 19 in the Senate (out of 40), McAuliffe did have the votes to sustain his vetoes.

Finally, again, a plea to be aware of the voting in Virginia and in the County this year. It's important not just for the state, but also as a bellwether for the nation. Keep a lookout for some important primaries, too. One is June 13. Remember in Virginia anyone may vote in the primary no matter the voter registration: Republican, Democrat or Independent.

(Sources include AAUW's Update, web site, Lobby Corps briefing paper, and the Washington Post.)

Mary Lou Melley

Two Minute Activist

Encourage your friends and family to get involved with AAUW through the 2-minute activist. Anyone (member or non-member) can sign up for the 2-minute activist.

<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>

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



AAUW McLean Area Branch Spring Dinner

Wednesday, May 24 6:30 pm, dinner served at 7:00 pm
River Bend Country Club 375 Walker Rd., Great Falls, VA 22066

Guest Speaker | Alexandra Hall Hall

British Ambassador to Georgia 2013-2016 and Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council

Menu

Salad

Baby arugula and greens with sliced strawberries, sliced toasted almonds, raspberry dressing

Choice of Entrée

Greek-style chicken brochettes with grilled asparagus, herbed orzo, and lemon-oregano reduction

or

Grilled salmon garnished with mandarin orange segments with grilled asparagus and basil risotto

or

Twirl of linguini garnished with artichokes, roasted peppers, and wild mushrooms with asparagus and a mornay sauce

Dessert

Lemon layer cake garnished with strawberry and raspberry sauce

Reservations All Members & Friends are Welcome!

Name _____

Entrée Choice _____

Name _____

Entrée Choice _____

Name _____

Entrée Choice _____

Cost: \$44 per Person (Cash bar available)

Make Check payable to AAUW – McLean Area Branch



RESERVE BY MAY 17
to Margie Broderick, 7040 Arbor Ln, McLean

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR



MAY 20, 2017

Please offer to help promote AAUW to our community ~ just tell folks what we do! We will have a table in a tent (out of the weather!) and are only asking 2 HOURS of your time (choose either 11 a.m.-1p.m. 1-3 or 3-5). It is a lot of fun (even if it rains!), makes you feel good, and is in a great atmosphere filled with friendly people.

Sign up with a friend! You will be glad you did ~

**Just call or email Margie Broderick *by MAY 8th*
703.883.8027 or margiebroderick@aol.com**

Benefit of Reading Newsletter Online!

When you click on any underlined turquoise text, you go directly to that site. Try it | <http://mclean-va.aauw.net>.

Membership

Renewal

It's May. Time to start renewing our memberships and reaching out to others. Renewals are easy to do through our McLean AAUW website: www.mclean-va.aauw.net. Look under Membership.

Give A Grad A Gift

For anyone who knows a person who will be graduating this year, or graduated last year - please consider the Give A Grad A Gift program where the graduate can be given a free membership to AAUW National for one year. <http://www.aauw.org/resource/give-a-grad-a-gift/>

Student Memberships

Many of you live near colleges and universities that are affiliates with AAUW. Please remember that students can join AAUW National through an e-student program for free, if they go to an affiliate college/university. They can join for only \$17 if they go to a college/university that is not currently an affiliate. <https://ww2.aauw.org/student-join/>

Membership Application & Renewal Form AAUW McLean Area Branch

Name:

Address:

Home Phone:

Mobile Phone:

email:

Colleges and Degrees (1st listed goes on AAUW national record):

Interests:

Signature: _____

ANNUAL DUES (Check one):

New or Renewal \$75*

Paid life membership \$26

Dual Member \$75
(Nat. & state dues pd. at McLean Area Branch)

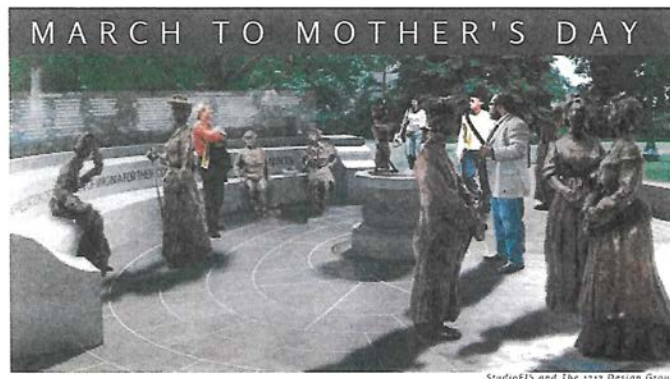
Dual Member \$11
(Nat. & state dues pd. at _____ Branch)

*Consists of \$49 for national, \$15 for state, and \$11 for branch;
\$46 of national dues is tax deductible.

Please send check payable to AAUW McLean Area Branch to
McLean Area Branch Treasurer, P.O. Box 1002, McLean, VA
22101. You may also pay dues online at the national AAUW
website: <http://www.aauw.org>.

Richmond Women's Memorial I Mother's Day March Sunday, March 14

A fundraising "March to Mother's Day" is being held Mother's Day to support the Virginia Women's Memorial in Richmond. You can honor special women with a donation. More information is available at www.VirginiaLegacy.com.



Studios and The 1717 Design Group

WOMEN'S MONUMENT ON VIRGINIA'S CAPITOL SQUARE

The Women's Monument Commission in partnership with the Virginia Capital Foundation and the 2019 Commemoration present the March to Mother's Day fundraising campaign.

Honor the special woman or women in your life by making a donation today. To learn more or donate visit:

VirginiaLegacy.com

VOICES FROM THE GARDEN

Voices from the Garden is the first monument of its kind in the nation recognizing women's achievements. Voices encompasses twelve bronze statues of significant women from the state, surrounded by a glass panel, etched with names of other noteworthy Virginia women.



Connections

Current Events

Do you think you'd enjoy sharing information, opinions, and laughs with Branch members? Bring some news that you find interesting to Current Events.

First Tuesday Mornings | May 2

Star Nut Gourmet, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean at **9 a.m.** Everyone is invited, but RSVP to **Mary Lou Melley** (maryloumelley@gmail.com)

Last Tuesday Mornings | May 30

Eat breakfast together for breakfast at the **McLean Family Restaurant** at **9 a.m.** Everyone is invited, but RSVP to **Suzanne Watts** (scwatts1cox.net)

Bridge Group

May 8 | The bridge group will meet **10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** at **Corinne Mertes' home**. Contact **Barbara Carr**, barbaralcarr@msn.com. Telephone | 703.356.3127.

Morning Lit Group

May 12 | Program (or book) and location yet to be determined.

June 9 | Book selection luncheon at Kazan Restaurant in McLean. Contact **Reed Isbell** (rwisbell@verizon.net).

Great Decisions

May 18 | Join us for a discussion of our next topic, Saudi Arabia in Transition. We will meet at **9:30 a.m.** in the **McLean House party room**, hosted by **Ruth Raymer**. Hope that you can join us. If you wish to join the group, call me for more information, **Angela Ehemann** | 703.893.3578! | 703.893.3578.

Branch Spring Dinner | **Ambassador Alexandra Hall Hall**

May 24 | **6:30 p.m.** River Bend Country Club, 375 Walker Rd., Great Falls, VA 22066

May Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Current Events	3	4	5
	7	8 Bridge Group	9	10	11	12 Morning Lit Group
14	15	16	17	18 Great Decisions	19	20
21	22	23	24 Spring Dinner	25	26	27
28	29	30 Current Events Breakfast	31			

Date	Time	Event	Location
Tues, 2	9 a.m.	Current Events	Star Nut Gourmet
Mon, 8	10 a.m.-noon	Bridge Group	Corinne Mertes' home
Fri, 12	9:30 a.m.	Morning Lit Group I <i>TBD</i>	TBD
Thur, 18	9:30 a.m.	Great Decisions I Saudi Arabia in Transition	McLean House Party Room
Wed, 24	6:30 p.m.	Spring Dinner with Ambassador Alexandra Hall Hall	River Bend Country Club
Tues, 30	9 a.m.	Current Events Breakfast	McLean Family Restaurant

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

**For membership information call
Sue Christie
703.241.5646
or
Barbara Sipe
703.356.2385**

Do you have any AAUW McLean Branch news, updates or information you wish to share with our local community?

Please email your publicity materials no later than three weeks before you wish to have it posted in our local newspapers |

Marie Briones-Jones (brionesjonesm@yahoo.com) and Cheryl Scott Williams (cherylswilliams@verizon.net)



**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