



McLean Area Branch
AAUW of Virginia

News

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Branch Website

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

February 2020
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February Branch Meeting

A documentary film, *Refusing to Be Enemies: the Zeitouna Story*

Saturday, February 15, 2020, 10:00 am
McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Drive, McLean, VA

Refusing to Be Enemies: the Zeitouna Story is a 58-minute documentary film that profiles a self-formed group of 12 women calling themselves "Zeitouna," the Arab word for "olive tree." These six Arabs and six Jews weave an unusual and intimate tapestry of sisterhood. Their ages span 40 years -- some are American born, others are immigrants, one is a Holocaust survivor, and another is a survivor of the Nakbah's terror. Filmmaker **Laurie White**, a founding member of Zeitouna, used her camera to chronicle the fragile process of the group's learning and dialogue on the Middle East conflict. The film does not attempt to answer questions of right and wrong, or how to break the current deadlock. Instead, it offers living proof of how the journey of personal discovery may pave the way to socio-political transformation and peace.



Branch Board Meeting: February

Our Branch Board meeting is:

Monday, February 10, 10:00 am - noon
McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Drive, McLean, VA

All branch members are welcome.

Turning Point Suffragist Memorial

Branch members have **donated \$1,590.00** to the memorial which entitles us to have our branch name placed on the donor wall. If anyone still wants to donate, make your check out and send to the

Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association
5400 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039

Write McLean AAUW on the memo line.

From SHARE

Dear Members of the AAUW Mclean Area Branch,

This letter gratefully acknowledges the receipt of your **generous \$1,900.00 charitable gift** made on December 8, 2019.



Your **generous support** for SHARE has been truly instrumental and critical in many ways. Our food pantry and clothing room are regularly restocked, and we are able to continue to purchase fresh produce and meat through the Capital Area Food Bank at a very low cost. Twelve months a year we provide partial financial support to many local families faced with inadequate funds to meet utility and rent payments.

The ability to help individuals in a time of need means a great deal to all the volunteers here at SHARE and to our client families. Many of these clients are from the ranks of the working poor experiencing low wages, reduced hours of work, or unemployment. It is through people like you that we are able to fulfill our mission of providing emergency assistance to the less fortunate in McLean, Great Falls, Pimmit Hills and nearby communities.

Your gift is making a difference to many families. All of us at SHARE truly appreciate your generosity. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this donation. The entire amount is a charitable gift and this letter serves as your receipt.

Sincerely,

Molly Hockman
Co-Treasurer, Share, Inc.

Important Big News

January 15, 2020 is a truly historical day!

The resolutions in the Virginia House and Senate to ratify the ERA passed in both chambers!

Our members, **Mary Lou Melley**, **Caroline Pickens**, and **Janet Taylor** witnessed the Senate voting.

In 1972, Mary Lou was present in the US Senate when the ERA was approved and now, 48 years later, she witnessed the passage in the Virginia Senate.

This is a great day for women and for Virginia!



Branch members Mary Lou Melley, Janet Taylor, and Caroline Pickens at the AAUW reception for women members of the General Assembly #47611.

Member Update

Long time Branch member, **Luz Meloy**, passed away on January 12, 2020, in Ashburn, VA. **Luz** was an AAUW life member and had been active in Great Decisions among other Branch activities. A memorial service is planned for **Friday, February 7, 2020, at 1:00 pm at Ashby Ponds, 21170 Ashby Ponds Blvd, Ashburn, VA 20147.**



Branch Meeting Inclement Weather Policy

Cancellation or delay of Branch meetings held at Fairfax County facilities or the McLean Community center shall be determined according to the following policies:

- **Daytime Meetings.** If the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) open two hours late or if the schools are closed, the meeting will be cancelled. If the schools open one hour late, the meeting will begin one hour later than scheduled.
- **Evening Meetings.** If FCPS after-school activities and evening classes are cancelled, the meeting will be cancelled.
- **Weekend Meetings.** IF FCPS school activities are cancelled, the meeting will be cancelled.

Events scheduled at private homes or restaurants shall be cancelled or delayed at the discretion of the Branch members responsible for the events.

Directory Update

A digital directory update will be sent to all members in February. If your postal or email address has changed since September 2019, please email your information to **Pam Bacher**, [prbacher at outlook.com](mailto:prbacher@outlook.com) no later than **February 3, 2020**.

Editors' Note

Our Branch has been informed that in order **to protect our members' email addresses from being hacked**, we should **remove the "@" in email addresses** and **substitute the word "at."** Whenever an email address appears in our newsletter or our website, it will be written as follows: [helenday at gmail.com](mailto:helenday@gmail.com). Apparently, it is the "@" sign that enables hackers to access email accounts.

Simply copy the phrase into an email "To" line, replace the word "at" with the "@" sign, and remove all spaces to re-construct a usable email address.

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



December Holiday Luncheon Photo Gallery



Naz Basit, Rep. Jennifer Wexton, Milia Ali



Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales, Naz Basit, Rep. Jennifer Wexton, Milia Ali, Carol Mournighan



McLean Area Branch's 2019-2020 Fellowship and Grant Recipients

The McLean Area Branch awards two fellowships and two grants annually to women who have demonstrated exceptional projects or work in their designated fields. All four of these projects are funded with endowments that our Branch has set up over the years.

The American Fellowship (endowed at \$75,000) and the International Fellowship (endowed at \$100,000) were the first established. Research & Projects Grant endowments (each endowed at \$35,000) followed, which consist of the Career Development Grant for women pursuing a new career or completing one and the Community Action Grant for projects. The two fellowships and the Career Development Grant make it possible for recipients to complete their education. The Community Action Grant is for an individual or a group to create and fund a project benefitting girls.

At least three of the four endowment award recipients will speak at our March Branch meeting. We look forward to hearing about the valuable work of these recipients.

The 2019-2020 endowed fellowship and grant recipients are as follows:

American Fellowship **Kristal Brown**, Ph.D., Virginia Commonwealth University, focuses on obesity in African American women. Her project is Examining the Role of Perceived Racial Discrimination in Obesity-Treatment Disparities Among African American Emerging Adult Women.



International Fellowship **Singmila Shimrah**, Ph.D., George Mason University, specializes in women, peace and security, advocating for women's inclusion, participation and leadership in decision making in peace talks and peace processes. She focuses on peace building and conflict resolution in Myanmar and India



Community Action Grant **Brittany Greer**, B.A., International Affairs from Florida State University. Her project, Rosie Riveters, works through Fairfax Community Center's After-School and Summer Programming and provides hands-on and interactive STEM programs for girls ages 4 to 14.



Career Development Grant **Monica Kimaro**, B.S., Nursing, Stratford University. Monica will be completing her second bachelor's degree in nursing and is planning to use her acquired skills to support herself and her two children as well as to touch the lives of people in Africa where medical services are so greatly needed.



Elaine Lailas
Mafalda Marrocco
Co-Chairs, AAUW Funds



National

Paid Family Leave For countless years, AAUW members have urged legislators in Congress to initiate and support Paid Family Leave. The United States is the only developed nation in the World that doesn't legislate paid family leave for workers.

For nearly three decades, the Family and Medical Leave Act has provided certain Federal employees 12 weeks of unpaid leave for birth or adoption or addressing serious family medical needs. Even this minimal baseline was tough to establish, with the legislation vetoed twice before getting passed by **President Bill Clinton** in 1993. Detractors feared it would raise taxes and hurt businesses. It only ensured that persons taking leave would be able to return to their jobs at the same level and salary.

In the private sector in 2019, only 17 percent of civilian workers could get paid time off from work to care for a new child or ill family members. Eight states have passed laws that require workers or their employers to pay into state paid leave funds through payroll contributions. Large employers are offering more weeks of paid leave to employees trying to meet family obligations, caring for an elderly parent or sick child and coping with the death of a family members.

The AAUW volunteer Lobby Corps has lobbied for the Paid Federal Employee Family Leave Act, introduced by **Rep. Carolyn Maloney** (D-NY). Now Congress has written and approved a bill that for the first time will provide paid leave for the federal government's estimated two million civilian employees following the birth, adoption or fostering of a child.

While this agreement is an incredible win for families, it is not perfect. It does not cover paid leave for medical reasons or cover employees outside the federal government. The permanent chair of the Committee on Oversight and Reform stated that all Americans—whether they work for the federal government or a private company—should have access to comprehensive paid family and medical leave. We will continue fighting for all hardworking Americans in the years to come to make this a reality.

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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, or socioeconomic status.



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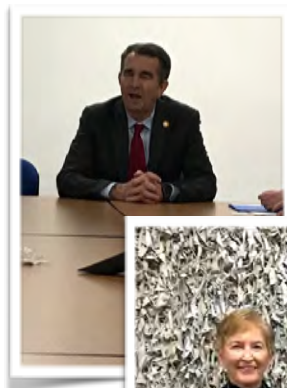
Virginia Update

As a result of the recent election, the General Assembly now has a majority of Democrats. They are eager to pass bills long denied them. These will include climate-change legislation, the Equal Rights Amendment, gun-safety bills, reproductive-rights protection, and redistricting reforms. Legislators from Northern Virginia are introducing the bills.

More than 40 AAUW members in the state traveled to Richmond on January 14 and 15. They hosted a reception honoring the women of the 2020 General Assembly. The following morning, **Governor Ralph Northam** addressed the group. Members visited the offices of senators and delegates, urging them to support and vote for the Equal Rights Amendment and pay equity for women.

Senator Jennifer Boysko has introduced the Virginia Equal Pay Act. Others have introduced bills prohibiting questions about salary history. Another bill prohibits an employer from acting against an employee who shares or discusses theirs or another's wages. The Federal Paycheck Fairness Act addresses these inequities and the AAUW Lobby Corps has supported its progress through Congress, but it has not passed.

2 day agenda includes session with Governor Northam and Senate gallery seats to observe the final vote for the resolution to approve the Equal Rights Amendment reaching the required 38 states. Branch members Caroline Pickens, Janet Taylor, and Mary Lou Melley.



Presidential Primary

March 3, 2020 is the date that Virginia residents will vote in the Democratic presidential primary. Absentee voting is allowed.

Special Interest Groups | February

Bridge Group The bridge group will meet on **Monday, February 10, 10:00 am**, at the home of **Mary Ellen Weber**, 44714 Audubon Sq., #502, Ashburn, 20147. Contact **Barbara Carr**, [barbaralcarr at msn.com](mailto:barbaralcarr@msn.com), 703-356-3127 for information.

Current Events The Current Events group will meet on two dates this month to give members a choice and provide more opportunity for discussion. Meet on **Tuesday, February 11, 9:30 am**, at **Star Nut Gourmet, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean** and/or **Tuesday, February 25, 9:30 am**, also at **Star Nut Gourmet**. All branch members are invited to attend and bring an article or web link to share for the discussion. No RSVP is necessary. *It's suggested that attendees purchase \$10 of products at Star Nut in return for occupying their back table.*

Morning Lit Group The Morning Literature Group will meet **Friday, February 14, 9:30 am**, at the **McLean Community Center** to discuss *On Canaan's Side*, by **Sebastian Barry**. **Carol Mournighan** will lead the discussion. All are welcome. For more information, contact **Betsy Reddaway**, [pbreddaway at verizon.net](mailto:pbreddaway@verizon.net).

Evening Lit Group

The Evening Literature group is not meeting in February. The next meeting is **March 16** at **Mary Lou Melley's** home. The book to be discussed is *First: Sandra Day O'Connor*, by **Evan Thomas**.

Great Decisions

The first meeting for the new session will be on **February 18 at 9:30 am** at the **McLean House Community Room, 6800 Fleetwood Road, McLean, VA**. The topic for discussion will be **Climate Change**. All are welcome to attend. If you wish to purchase a book or for more details, contact **Angela Ehemann**, [acehemann at verizon.net](mailto:acehemann@verizon.net) or 703-893-3578.

Connections Calendar | February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Branch Board Meeting, 10:00 am, McLean Community Center ----- Bridge Group, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Mary Ellen Weber's House	11 Current Events Group, 9:30 am, Star Nut Gourmet	12	13	14 Morning Lit Group, 9:30 am, McLean Community Center	15 Branch Meeting, 10:00 am, McLean Community Center
16	17	18 Great Decisions, 9:30am, McLean House	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Current Events Group, 9:30 am, Star Nut Gourmet	26	27	28	29

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
703.300.2779**

**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:

Sultana Parveen (sultanarp at [gmail.com](mailto:sultanarp@gmail.com))



**McLean Area (VA) Branch
P.O. Box 1002
McLean, VA 22101**

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

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

AAUW Website | www.AAUW.org