



McLean Area Branch
AAUW of Virginia

News

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Branch Website

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

March 2020
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March Branch Meeting & Potluck Dinner

Tuesday, March 17, 2020, 6:00 pm
McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Drive, McLean, VA

Attend the McLean Branch meeting and Annual Potluck dinner! Bring a friend and/or spouse.

The Branch will celebrate supported AAUW National Fellowship and Grant recipients. The students will be attending and speaking about their academic achievements and how the grants have helped them accomplish their dreams. The STEM essay contest winner will also be in attendance and will read her/his winning essay for the members.

The evening's guest speaker, author **Stephanie Deutsch**, will discuss her book, *You Need a Schoolhouse*. The book tells the story of the Rosenwald schools that were started for the children of former slaves and other impoverished African Americans by philanthropist and Sears, Roebuck and Company owner **Julius Rosenwald** and early civil rights figure **Booker T. Washington**. This inspiring book investigates how an act of generosity changed the lives of so many generations of African American children.



What to Bring

If your **last name begins** with:

A-G: dessert

H-P: main dish

P-Z: side dish / salad

*Feel free to bring a bottle of wine to share.
Remember to bring appropriate serving
pieces labeled with your name.*

Branch Board Meeting: March

Our Branch Board meeting is:

Monday, March 9, 10:00 am - noon
McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Drive, McLean, VA

All branch members are welcome.

Presidents' Message

We look forward to seeing members at the Branch annual potluck dinner. We also encourage members to attend the Virginia State Conference, April 17-19, at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites in Alexandria. The State Conference, *Celebrating Visionary Women*, will commemorate 100 years of women's suffrage, the accomplishments of these courageous women, and the 55th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act that enabled women of color to vote. This conference will truly be an invigorating and a significant event. Details of our exciting potluck dinner and the conference are in this newsletter.



**Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales
and Carol Mournighan,
Co-Presidents.**

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

Meet all four McLean Branch AAUW Funds fellowship and grant recipients at the **March 17 Branch meeting** and hear them speak about their work and goals.

The McLean Area Branch awards two fellowships and two grants annually to women who have demonstrated exceptional projects or work in their designated fields. McLean Area Branch endowments fund these projects.

The 2019-2020 endowed fellowship and grant recipients are:

American Fellowship **Kristal Brown**, Ph.D., Virginia Commonwealth University, focuses on obesity in African American women.

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 with interactive STEM projects.

International Fellowship **Singmila Shimrah**, Ph.D., George Mason University, specializes in women, peace and security, focusing on peace building and conflict resolution in Myanmar and India.

Career Development Grant **Monica Kimaro**, B.S., Nursing, Stratford University. Monica will be completing her second bachelor's degree in nursing and will concentrate on medical needs of people in Africa.

Elaine Lailas
Mafalda Marrocco
Co-Chairs, AAUW Funds

Book Sale Update

Mark your calendar for the 2020 Annual Used Book Sale

September 11-13
McLean Community Center

Sun Trust Bank, now named Truist, in **Vienna**, will continue to be the collection and sorting site. All are welcome to help with sorting.

Sorting for books donated during the winter, Truist's third floor

Thursday, April 16
Friday, April 17 July 11

Collections are on Saturdays

May 2
June 6
July 11
August 8
9:00 am -1:30 pm

If you can volunteer on any of those dates, please call **Diane Alden** at 703-356-7452.

Mafalda Marrocco has already organized category leaders. If you are interested to work on a specific book category, contact **Mafalda** at [mafaldam717 at gmail.com](mailto:mafaldam717@gmail.com). Training sessions will be scheduled in April or May.

If you're unable to help with sorting and collection, there are other volunteer jobs available. This includes publicity efforts led by **Juanita Cullen**. To help, contact her at [cullenjuanita at gmail.com](mailto:cullenjuanita@gmail.com). Everyone in the Branch should plan to get involved in some aspect of the book sale. For more information, contact **Betsy Schroeder** at icu43 at cox.net

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



2020 AAUW of Virginia State Conference

Mark your calendars for the 2020 AAUW of Virginia State Conference, **April 17-19, 2020**, at the **Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites**

Alexandria-Old Town, where 100 years of women's suffrage in the United States will be celebrated.

Many events are being planned to ponder and

celebrate what the courageous women of a century ago have achieved for the generations of women that came and will come after them to benefit from and build upon their efforts. The Commonwealth of Virginia becoming the 38th and final state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) will also be celebrated.

Since the Conference is in nearby Alexandria, it would be great if many Branch members could attend, even if just for part of the conference. The Conference registration fee is \$95.00 and includes Saturday's lunch and a snack. The Branch will subsidize Branch members' registration fees.

Complete Conference information and the registration form was included in the Spring AAUW issue of *Virginia Vision* which branch members should have received by email. Email **Carol Mournighan** at clmourn@gmail.com to have a copy forwarded to you if you did not receive it. Alternatively, visit <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/conference-2/> for details and <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/2020-aauw-of-virginia-state-conference-registration/> to register online.



AAUW Greatest Needs Fund Fundraiser

The Raffle Basket Fundraiser has become a **fun tradition at the Virginia State Conference**. Baskets will be raffled with winners announced on Sunday, April 19 at the conference. The McLean Area Branch will donate a basket filled with items relating to Virginia Women.

If you know of a woman owned Virginia business, please request the owner to consider contributing to our basket. Additionally, if you have **books authored by Virginia women or items about Virginia women**, please **consider donating** them. Contact **Carol Mournighan** (571-334-1433 or clmourn@gmail.com) for more details. Donations should be received by April 1, 2020.



National

Despite the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) introduction almost 50 years ago, the United States today lags behind [85 percent](#) of countries around the world with constitutions that guarantee equal rights for women.

On January 15, both houses of the Virginia General Assembly voted to approve the resolution to vote for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). More than 40 Virginia AAUW members, including three McLean Area Branch members, were in the Capitol to observe the votes.

From 1972 up until January 15, 37 States approved the amendment. However, 38 States are required to approve it to be sent to Congress for its consideration. Virginia General Assembly's vote to ratify the ERA enabled this to happen.

The new issue to address is the deadline imposed by Congress for the states' approval of the ERA. An original seven-year deadline was later extended by Congress to June 30, 1982. When this deadline expired, only 35 of the necessary 38 states had ratified the amendment.

Recently, in the US House of Representatives, Virginia Representative, **Jennifer Wexton** wrote:

I had the distinct honor ... of presiding over the House chamber while we voted to remove the ratification deadline for the Equal Rights Amendment.

Four years ago, when I was a state senator, I saw politicians in Richmond block my resolution to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. But Virginia women persevered, knowing that progress was possible. With this vote, the House—composed of a historic number of women in Congress and under the leadership of Speaker **Nancy Pelosi**—is affirming that there should be no deadline on gender equality. Now, the Senate must follow suit and vote to remove the deadline so that the nation can formally recognize the inherent equality of all people—regardless of sex or gender. I voted today in Congress to remove the ratification deadline because there should be no arbitrary expiration date for equality. The American people have spoken, and it's time we demonstrate that equality under the law applies to everyone.

There is an argument that Congress has the final say on the date and that it can remove the deadline. Democrats in the House and Senate have introduced [legislation](#) this session that would do that. But there isn't [legal consensus](#) that this would work, and opponents have seized on this lack of clarity. The Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) addressed both of these arguments in its opinion: "We conclude that when Congress uses a proposing clause to impose a deadline on the States' ratification of a proposed constitutional amendment, that deadline is binding and Congress may not revive the proposal after the deadline's expiration."

In addition, three States — South Dakota, Alabama and Louisiana — in December [filed a federal lawsuit](#) seeking to block the amendment. One of their arguments is that five States have tried to take back their ratification — a move called rescission. Supporters of the ERA point out the Constitution also doesn't explicitly say that rescission is allowed. The OLC declined to weigh in on this: "[I]t is unnecessary for us to consider whether the earlier ratifications of the ERA by five state legislatures were validly rescinded." The attorneys general in the most recent three States to ratify the ERA, Virginia, Nevada and Illinois, filed a lawsuit in an effort for the constitutional amendment to be recognized as the 28th Amendment after missing a congressional deadline.

The Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel said this month that Congress has the authority to impose a deadline and the only way to ratify the amendment is to start the process over again. Justice **Ruth Bader Ginsburg** recently expressed this opinion: *A valiant effort and it will continue.*

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Virginia Update Gerrymandering in Virginia

One Virginia 2021, the organization that supports the end of gerrymandering, states that the only way to get real, lasting reform in Virginia is to amend the State Constitution to take the redistricting process out of the hands of the legislature. In February 2019, the General Assembly passed the "first read" of an amendment that would establish the first ever Virginia Redistricting Commission that would be made up of eight legislators and eight citizens with a citizen chairperson, selected by retired judges. The proposed voting district maps would require the votes of six legislators and six citizens to pass. The legislature would have an up or down vote on the Commission's plan.

As of this writing the Virginia Senate has passed the constitutional amendment and the enabling legislation. The House of Delegates has passed the enabling legislation and is expected to vote on the amendment. Procedural rules are available at onevirginia2021.org. The voting public plays a vital role. A referendum is on the ballot in November 2020, and voters will have the final say on abolishing gerrymandering in Virginia.

Presidential Primary

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



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.

Special Interest Groups | March

Bridge Group The bridge group will meet on **Monday, March 9, 10:00 am**, at the home of **Nancy Richardson, 44860 Audubon Sq., #114, 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, March 10, 9:30 am**, at **Star Nut Gourmet, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean** and/or **Tuesday, March 24, 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, March 13, 9:30 am**, at the **McLean Community Center** to discuss ***Bellevue: Three Centuries of Medicine & Mayhem at America's Most Storied Hospital*** by **David Oshinsky**. **Betsy Reddaway** 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 will meet on **Monday, March 16** at the home of **Mary Lou Melley, 1925 Freedom Lane, Falls Church, VA 22043**. The book to be discussed is ***First: Sandra Day O'Connor***, by **Evan Thomas**. All are welcome. If you plan to attend, contact **Mary Lou Melley**, [maryloumelley at gmail.com](mailto:maryloumelley@gmail.com).

Great Decisions

Great Decisions will meet on **March 17 at 9:30 am** at the **McLean House Community Room, 6800 Fleetwood Road, McLean, VA**. The topic for discussion is India and Pakistan, Chapter 2 in the book. All are welcome to attend. For more details, contact **Angela Ehemann**, [acehemann at verizon.net](mailto:acehemann@verizon.net) or 703-893-3578.

Connections Calendar | March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2		4	5	6	7
8	9 Branch Board Meeting, 10:00 am, McLean Community Center ----- Bridge Group, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Nancy Richardson's House	10 Current Events Group, 9:30 am, Star Nut Gourmet	11	12	13 Morning Lit Group, 9:30 am, McLean Community Center	14
15	16 Evening Lit Group, 7:30 pm, Mary Lou Melley's home	17 Great Decisions, 9:30am, McLean House ----- Branch Meeting & Potluck, 6:00 pm, McLean Community Center	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Current Events Group, 9:30 am, Star Nut Gourmet	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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)



**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