



McLean Area Branch
AAUW of Virginia

News

Co-Presidents

Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales
703.973.0925
myrtlehencor at gmail.com

Carol Mournighan
703.821.081
clmourn at gmail.com

Membership Co-VPs

Sue Christie
703.300.2779
suechristie at gmail.com

Barbara Sipe
703.356.2385
bfs4000 at aol.com

Editors

Cheryl Scott Williams
301.518.2773
cherylswilliams at verizon.net

Marie Briones-Jones
703.346.6386
brionesjonesm at yahoo.com

Judy Lettes
703.407.3910
judy.lettes at gmail.com

Branch Website

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

McLean Area Branch | May Business Meeting



Monday, Friday, May 15, 2020 Branch Business Meeting Via ZOOM

Forty-one McLean Area Branch members attended the May Business virtual meeting and elected the following slate of Branch officers:

- Co-President: **Naz Basit**
- Co-Program Vice-Presidents: **Milia Ali** and **Mimi Gronlund**
- Branch Secretary: **Ruth Raymer** and **Phyllis Provenzano**



Branch Board Meeting: June

A joint Board meeting of old and new members will be held via ZOOM:

Monday, June 8, 10:00 am

A link to the meeting will be provided

All branch members are welcome to attend.

If you're not a board member and would like to attend the meeting, email **Myrtle** at [myrtlehencor at gmail.com](mailto:myrtlehencor@gmail.com), so she can send you an invitation.

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Presidents' Message

Because the 2020 McLean Branch Book Sale has been cancelled, the Branch board developed book sale fundraising alternatives. One effort is the letter you recently received asking for donations. The Fundraising Committee is also working on other projects. Some members have asked why we give to AAUW Funds. The following article provides a compelling answer.

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



Why We Support AAUW Funds

Branch policy is to give 50% of book sale proceeds to AAUW Funds. A question that arises, especially among newer members is, "What are AAUW Funds and why do we give to them?" The following is an adaptation of an earlier article by Branch member **Nancy Richardson**, who has 36 years of experience with our book sales. **Nancy** has served many times as chair and twice as Branch president.

Many members think local scholarships and awards provide more visible community outreach. It also gives the Branch more control over use of the money it raises to inspire young girls, and give women in need the financial support that enables them to return to college to complete their degrees.

Others point out that McLean Area Branch has contributed more than most at the national level. The Branch has supported AAUW research into learning and has built four AAUW ongoing endowments that support post-graduate education for women. It has long been felt that AAUW's support for post-graduate education is a strong driver of systemic change because the women selected to receive funds are among the best and the brightest, whose future work may significantly impact millions of people.

The work of AAUW includes support for female college educators justifiably seeking but denied tenure, redress for discrimination, and justice in sexual harassment cases. Often women are not able to stand up alone against a college or university's money and power. Recently AAUW expanded this support to women in the workplace. McLean Branch has regularly contributed funds for this work as well.

AAUW also has a series of far-reaching projects aimed at young women, such as those focusing on STEM education, landing a good job, negotiating fair pay, learning how to run for office, and more. What a boost for this population!

Our Branch is not independent of AAUW. We subscribe to the organization's mission, goals, and efforts to support women and girls. Without AAUW we would simply be a small group with relatively little clout and no ability to help women and girls at the national level. Through its extensive network, trusted national reputation (especially on Capitol Hill), and multiple diverse efforts to support women and girls, AAUW gives our Branch life, and a highly respected one at that.

Let us continue to support the many talented women and girls who've come before our Branch and wowed us with their determination and accomplishments. Let's never forget the true source of our widest reach to ensure the greatest success for women, AAUW.

AAUW Funds Named Honorees for 2019

For each \$500 donation to AAUW Funds, the branch may select an honoree to be recognized by AAUW of Virginia for service to the branch or community. The following are our honorees:

- **Trianthe Dakolias** for the numerous years she has audited the Branch's finances.
- **Steve Hibbard** for the coverage of our 50th Anniversary celebration in the *Connection*.
- **John Kelley** for his coverage in the *Washington Post* and local news channel of our annual book sale.
- **Scott McCaffrey** for the coverage of our book sale in the *Sun Gazette*.
- **Nina McViegh** for generous work in organizing numerous boxes of historical materials for our archives.
- **Tom McViegh** for generous work in organizing numerous boxes of historical material for our archives.
- **Diana Parsell** for contacting the Washington news media and obtaining media coverage for the book sale.
- **Betsy Schroeder** for five years of service as the chair of the book sale.
- **Caroline Pickens** for chairing the 50th Anniversary Committee and arranging for George Mason University to maintain our archives.
- **Michael Uribe** for the many years of generosity in providing a space for the storage, sorting, and boxing of books for our annual book sale.



In Memoriam

Ellie Carle
Robert Clark
Anne Studner
Frieda Tatum

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.

2020 Fundraising Initiatives

A committee is working to find alternate ways to raise money in lieu of our annual book sale. All funds raised will go to AAUW Funds and our local scholarships program, as stated in our Branch policies (50/50). Everyone should have received a letter from the committee requesting donations. **We ask contributions to be sent before June 30**, but will accept any time thereafter. We are incredibly grateful for the generous donations that we have already received. Allocation decisions are made in October.

Additional initiatives are being considered. New member, **Grace Hamilton**, will help us with social media platforms and the possibilities that brings. In fact, we may have something exciting to announce in June.

Another ongoing source of income for the Branch is through our Amazon link on our website:

www.mclean-va.aauw.net. Go to the first page on our website, click on the icon. It will take you to the Amazon website. Proceed as normal. Our Branch gets a percentage of the sale in return.



After all proceeds have been received, the board will vote on withdrawing money from our Vanguard investment account to supplement local scholarships and STEM programs. This money was not earned from book sales and can be used in any way that benefits the Branch and its programs.

More information will be coming as new fundraising ideas are developed. We do not anticipate to raise the same level of funds that was earned from our most recent book sales. We feel, however, that these efforts will allow us to raise money to continue our mission of supporting women and girls in all aspects of equal opportunity.

Membership Renewal

It's membership renewal time. Renewals can be done online at www.aauw.org with a credit or debit card. You will need your member number and password to log in or create an account.

For those who prefer to renew by check,

Make the \$85 check to the:
McLean Area AAUW Branch

Mail to:
**McLean Branch Treasurer
9113 White Chimney Lane
Great Falls, VA 22066**

If you have questions or need assistance, contact Membership Co-vice presidents, **Barbara Sipe**, [bfs4000 at aol.com](mailto:bfs4000@aol.com), or **Sue Christie**, [suechristie at gmail.com](mailto:suechristie@gmail.com).

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.

Connect with the Branch on Social Media!

Now more than ever our Branch is committed to finding more ways to connect with members and build our community. We are excited to announce that the Branch has officially joined Facebook and Instagram. You can find us using username @aauwmclna on these links:

[fb.me/aauwmclna](https://www.facebook.com/aauwmclna)

<https://www.instagram.com/aauwmclna/>

Supporting this effort is Branch Social Media Manager, **Grace Hamilton**. **Grace** is a third generation AAUW McLean Area Branch member and joined this past fall. She graduated in 2019 from Miami University's Farmer School of Business, earning a degree in Supply Chain & Logistics Management with a minor in Global Health Studies. Her research in college was centered around the importance of unearthing people's unique voices and stories to advance change. **Grace** has dedicated a lot of time to learning about our Branch's rich history and thinking creatively about how to share it on a virtual platform. She is excited to share the stories of Branch members and help reach a broader audience. In the coming days and weeks, she will send out information and resources about social media and how you can be a part of our new initiative. If you have any questions, comments, or ideas about social media, please feel free to email **Grace** at aauwmclean.sm@gmail.com.



zoom Tips And Reminders

All branch in-person meetings and activities are occurring on **ZOOM**. It is user friendly. Below are some tips/reminders on using **ZOOM** when you receive the email invitation to join a meeting or activity.

1. To join the video chat, click on the provided link and, when prompted, indicate that you want to join with computer audio. The meeting number and password are provided in the link. Type in when indicated to do so.
2. You might be asked to download the free **ZOOM** software—please say yes (this is often the case the *first* time you log on with an I-phone or Android).
3. If for some reason you are not able to join with video, you can dial into the call and experience it as if it were a conference call. We will be able to hear you so feel free to speak up (and mute when not speaking).
4. The “controls” for your experience can generally be found by touching the screen or hovering your mouse around the outer edge—and they appear as a banner with options like mute through the image that looks like a microphone; similarly, the camera image turns video on/off (though video usually happens automatically).
5. When a person speaks, there will be a yellow border around the speaker's screen; please consider muting yourself if not speaking (but don't forget to un-mute so we can hear you when you wish to speak).
6. Please look for the option (around the edge of the screen) “Gallery View” so that you can see who's joined the session; the other option is “Speaker View” where you will see your image and just the person who is speaking.

We look for to seeing you at **ZOOM** meetings.

High School STEM Awards Recipients Announced

Four female students have been selected as the recipients of the Branch's Science and Math Achievement Awards for 2020. For the past seven years, the McLean Area Branch has partnered with counselors at local high schools to give these achievement awards to female students finishing their junior year. Each award consists of a certificate and a \$100 check. The Branch instituted the awards to encourage young women to pursue educational opportunities related to STEM.

The awards criteria include a demonstrated record of overall academic success and a distinguished record of achievement in either math or science. Career center counselors at the schools manage the process of selecting the students. The following students received the 2020 awards:

- McLean High School – Math: **Eleanor Richard**
- McLean High School – Science: **Katherine Cox**
- Langley High School – Math: **Victoria Li**
- Langley High School – Science: **Fay Shuai**

Because we are not holding Branch events due to Covid-19, the certificates and checks were mailed to the students. We plan to invite them to a future Branch event.



Eleanor Richard, recipient of the 2020 Math Achievement Award at McLean High School, shown with her certificate.



Fay Shuai, recipient of the 2020 Science Achievement Award at McLean High School, shown with her certificate.

A Special Thank You from the Recipient of the 2020 Math Achievement Award at Langley High School...

Thank you so much for this recognition and support! I am beyond honored to be a part of this, and to be a part of the message of women's equal role in the community.

As for the check, I will donate it all to Fueling Lifesavers, an effort I have been gathering for the past two months that works to deliver hearty meals to our tireless frontline health workers battling COVID day in and day out. These health workers face insufficient supplies, uncertainty day in and day out, and all the while are reacting firsthand for our public health - it just pains me to think of them without warm meals. So far, we have delivered over 200 meals, and right now we just hope we can gather more community support for the thousands of health workers battling thousands of cases just in our neighborhoods. I can just only do so little myself, but together we can do so much!

Thank you for your attention; it means a lot!

Warmly,
Victoria Li



Action: The Census – Make sure you have filled out your census form, whether the short, or, for some, a longer, follow-on form, on paper or on-line:

<https://2020census.gov/>

View response rates here:

<https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html>



Plan Ahead for November Voting

The Virginia General Assembly recently passed measures to make voting easier in the State. Some of these include absentee voting that doesn't require an explanation, the expansion of accepted IDs, a state holiday on election day, automatic voter registration, high school voter registration and same day voter registration, and improvement in the absentee voter process.

Important dates to remember:

November General Election: November 3, 2020

Early walk-in voting begins (locations vary): September 19, 2020

Deadline to register to vote: October 13, 2020

Deadline to request absentee ballot by mail: October 27, 2020

Early walk-in voting ends: October 31, 2020



To vote by absentee ballot, go to vote.elections.virginia.gov and the citizens portal. Identify yourself to verify your voter registration information and to either update the information or obtain an absentee ballot.

AAUW-Virginia Public Policy chairs expressed support for voting by mail and other measures to make voting easier. We continue to support get-out-the-vote measures and coordinate with the League of Women Voters of Virginia.

Virginia – Effects of Covid-19

Virginia Senator **Janet Howell** wrote that it was heart-breaking to realize that all the progress the State had made in funding teachers' pay, early education, human services, economic development, and climate change vanished. Eighty budget items were placed in a bloc with the designation 'un-allotted' because of the pandemic's impact on the budget.

AAUW Lobby Corps

Kate Neilson, Director of Public Policy, hosted a **ZOOM** session with past and current chairs of the Lobby corps. **Letty Bustillos**, the new Federal Policy Manager, will be coordinating the Lobby Corps. She held a **ZOOM** session for all lobbyists on May 21 and discussions included training and operations, with an emphasis on grass roots activities and webinars. Given the constraints of traveling to the Hill, the Corps will examine opportunities for alternative ways to impact legislation.

All scheduled Special Interest Group meetings will be conducted via ZOOM.

Special Interest Groups | June

Bridge Group The date and place of the next meeting will be announced later.

Morning Lit Group The Morning Literature Group is soliciting book suggestions for the upcoming five months.

- All book recommendations should be sent to **Betsy Reddaway** at pbreddaway@verizon.net, no later than **June 2**. Members may send up to three suggested titles, including authors' names and a notation of fiction or nonfiction for each title.
- **Betsy** will distribute the list of book recommendations on **June 8**.
- The group will meet on **June 11 at 10:00 am** as a dry run to test the book selection voting process.
- The book selection meeting will be **June 12, at 10 a.m.** An invitation link will be sent in advance of both meetings.

If you have questions or need additional information, contact **Betsy Reddaway**.

Current Events Current Events will meet on **Tuesdays, June 9 and 23, at 9:30 a.m.** All members are invited to bring your favorite news item to discuss. If you want to participate for the first time, be sure to send your email address to **Mary Lou Melley** (maryloumelley@gmail.com). An email reminder will be sent a few days prior to the meeting and a follow up sent the day before the meeting with the link to participate.

Evening Lit Group The Evening Literature Group will meet **Monday, June 15 at 7:30 pm**. The book to be discussed is *Where the Crawdads Sing*, by **Delia Owens**. The group will be selecting books for the fall. Send suggested titles to **Cheryl Williams** at cheryllwilliams@verizon.net no later than June 12. Anyone interested in participating in the meeting, please contact **Diana Parsell**, parselldb@aol.com. All attendees will be sent an invitation link prior to the meeting.

Great Decisions The Great Decisions will meet **Tuesday, June 16 at 9:30 am**. The discussion will be on **Chapter 5, Relations with the Northern Triangle (Central America)**. The group will continue to meet during the summer on **July 21, August 18, and September 15**. Group members will receive reminders of future topics and meeting details. If you plan to participate, notify **Angela Ehemann** at Acnhemann@verizon.net or 703-893-3578, so a virtual invitation can be sent. The Foreign Policy Association has made accompanying videos available to anyone who's interested at www.fpa.org/great-decisions.

Connections Calendar | June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Morning Lit Group <i>book suggestions due</i>	3	4	5	6
7	8 Branch Board Meeting, 10:00 am, via ZOOM	9 Current Events Group, 9:30 am, via ZOOM	10	11 Morning Lit Group <i>Dry Run</i> , 10:00 am, via ZOOM	12 Morning Lit Group <i>book selection</i> , 10:00 am, via ZOOM --- Evening Lit Group <i>book suggestions due</i>	13
14	15 Evening Lit Group, 7:30 pm, via ZOOM	16 Great Decisions, 9:30 am, via ZOOM	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Current Events Group, 9:30 am, via ZOOM	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Save the Dates

- July 21: **Great Decisions**, 9:30 am
- August 18: **Great Decisions**, 9:30 am

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.



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**

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