



McLean Area Branch
AAUW of Virginia

News

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Branch Website

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

December 2020/January 2021
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December Branch Meeting

Saturday, December 5, 2020
Noon, Via ZOOM

Bringing people of diverse culture and ethnicity together, and cultivating healing for generational, gender, and racial trauma through Art.

This dynamic presentation will be led by **Brinda Guha**, a trained Indian Classical Kathak dancer for more than 20 years. **Ms. Guha** has performed in the United States, India, England, and Spain. She has trained in a variety of dance traditions and choreographed for many national stages. **Ms. Guha** is represented by CESD Talent Agency and is pursuing artistic direction, performance, and arts education. Her dream of having art meet activism was realized when she created WISE FRUIT NYC, a seasonal live arts organization established in 2017 and dedicated to honoring select women-led organizations. Between live performances, WISE FRUIT NYC functions as a community-led space for beginner tools in social justice. In her day job, **Ms. Guha** works as the Symposium Coordinator for a dance service organization based in the values of justice, equity & inclusion: Dance/NYC.

The meeting ID and password will be sent by an email blast from **Aroona Borpujari** with the Zoom invitation from **Carol Mournighan** or **Myrtle Hendricks**. Hope you can all join us.



Presidents' Message

The Holiday Season is quickly approaching and soon the year 2020 will be a fading memory. The year has been filled with many challenges: the pandemic, social isolation, a stressful election, and for some of us personal losses. While we all miss physical and social contact during this pandemic, electronic communication through Zoom, while not ideal, has allowed us to meet and speak with each other. We have been able to have Branch meetings with celebration of our scholarship winners and dynamic presentations by great speakers. Many of our small groups such as Great Decisions, Current Events, and Morning and Evening Lit groups still meet to discuss the world around us and the world of books. All are welcome! You only need to contact the leaders to receive a link. If you have any trouble finding the contact information, co-presidents **Naz** and **Carol** are more than happy to help.

Naz, Carol and the Mclean AAUW Board's wish for you is a Happy Holiday, no matter how you celebrate and a 2021 filled with friendship, joy, good health, and peace.



Naz Basit and Carol Mournighan, Co-Presidents.

January Branch Meeting

Saturday, January 9, 2021
10:00 am, Via **ZOOM**

More to the Movement: Women of Color in the Struggle for the Vote

Elizabeth A. Novara is the American Women's History Specialist for the Library of Congress Manuscript Division. In celebration of the 19th Amendment's 100th anniversary, **Ms. Novara** co-curated *Shall Not Be Denied: Women Fight for the Vote*, an exhibition that is now on display in the Library's Thomas Jefferson Building, and developed the presentation *More to the Movement: Women of Color in the Struggle for the Vote*. In her role as the Library's American Women's History Specialist, she provides reference service, creates collection displays, enhances online research resources, and acquires materials related to women's history for the Manuscript Division. Some of the woman suffrage materials she works with include the records of the National Woman's Party, the Papers of Susan B. Anthony, and the Papers of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Before joining the Manuscript Division in January 2019, **Ms. Novara** was the Curator of Historical Manuscripts at the University of Maryland, College Park. She holds an MLS in Archives Management, an MA in History, and a graduate certificate in Women's Studies. She is currently pursuing a PhD in American history at the University of Maryland, College Park. Her dissertation will be on women's political activism in Maryland from the 1890s to the 1920s, with a focus on black women's political engagement.



The meeting ID and password will be sent by an email blast from **Aroona Borpujari** with the Zoom invitation from **Carol Mournighan** or **Myrtle Hendricks**. Hope you can all join us.

Branch Board Meetings: December and January

Branch Board meeting are:

Wednesday, December 9, 10:00 am - noon

Wednesday, January 13, 10:00 am - noon

Via **ZOOM**

*The meeting link, ID, and Password will be emailed by **Carol Mournighan** or **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales** the day before the meeting. Branch Board meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month.*

Connect with the Branch on Social Media!

Our Branch has recently joined Facebook and Instagram. You can find us using [username@aauwmclna](https://www.facebook.com/aauwmclna) or these links:

fb.me/aauwmclna

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



Grace Hamilton, Branch Social Media Chair.

In Memory: Suzanne Watts

With her recent passing, we celebrate the memory of **Suzanne Watts**, a member of the McLean Branch of AAUW since July 1979. **Suzanne** was born on June 1, 1921, in Midland, VA and grew up on the family dairy farm. She attended James Madison University and after graduation began her 30-year teaching career in Fairfax County Public Schools. In retirement, **Suzanne**, and her husband George, who died in 2006, remained active members of the McLean Community.

Throughout her life—as an elementary school teacher, wife, mother, grandmother, and friend to so many—she brought people together. **Suzanne** was a good friend, and she loved being with people. She and George were original members of the River Bend Country Club; and thanks to her the Branch was able to enjoy many lunches and dinners there.

She enjoyed Branch activities including Great Decisions, Breakfast Club, Current Events Group, and the Morning Literature Group. **Suzanne** was a leader and a manager. She encouraged members to help sort the books collected for the Used Book Sale and then organized some responsibilities and followed through during the sale. The aprons were her primary domain.

Many members found **Suzanne** impeccably dressed and well spoken. She was also frank, direct, and truthful. **Suzanne** managed that without being rude or condescending. She was regal but warm, welcoming, and always lent a hand. One member said she wanted to be just like **Suzanne** when she grew up. **Suzanne** will be missed and not forgotten. Her family is planning a private interment at Arlington National Cemetery Columbarium. If you wish to send a note to her family, mail to:

**The Watts Family c/o Cameron Watts
77 Charles Parish Drive
Poquoson, VA 23662**



STEM Essay Contest

Call for Volunteer Judges and Steering Committee Members for Third Annual STEM Essay Contest



In Spring 2021, the McLean Area Branch will sponsor its third annual STEM Essay Contest open to 7th and 8th grade students (girls and boys) at local public and private schools. The contest will challenge a student to discover and publicize a woman who made a difference in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics, but who did not receive recognition for her work. Each student is asked to explain why the woman was selected and what the impact of her STEM contribution was.

We plan to give out a first-place award (\$100), a second-place award (\$50), and two Honorable Mentions (\$25 each). We will contact schools in January and make the application available via email to the schools and on our website. The deadline to submit essays is **February 12, 2021**.

This is a call for Branch members to serve as volunteer judges for the contest. If you are interested, please contact **Judy Page** (judypage@gmail.com or 703-847-1950). **Judging will take place between February 14 and March 1.** The judges will be asked to rate the essays on a set of criteria and rank their top choices.

In addition, a few members are solicited to serve on the steering committee. This group will meet twice via Zoom -- in December to review the contest guidelines and application form and in March to finalize the choice of winners based on the judges' inputs.

The winners will be invited to the Branch meeting on **March 16**, with the first-place winner reading his or her essay. March is Women's History month, and we are using this event to help celebrate it.

2021 Fundraiser Request

As 2020 winds down, we are looking toward our fundraising efforts for 2021. Although signs of progress in confronting the virus are encouraging, there is no certainty yet that we can safely have a book sale next year. With that in mind, we are asking all members to think about alternative fundraising activities. The 2020 event with the signed baseballs was remarkably successful. We would like to match that effort but with different themes. Please send your thoughts and suggestions. Let us know too if you wish to be part of the fund-raising coordination group by emailing **Nina** and **Tom** at nt.mcveigh@gmail.com.

AAUW Funds

The McLean Branch AAUW Allocation of Funds Committee met via ZOOM to discuss and recommend allocation of money raised from the Special Fundraiser this Fall. Total funds collected during the 2020 Fundraiser totaled \$24,867. In accordance with our AAUW Policies, 50 per cent, \$12,433.50, is to be allocated to AAUW Funds, as a responsibility of participation in the National AAUW organization. The other 50 per cent, \$12,433.50, will go to Branch local scholarships, awards, and conferences.

In addition to the Fundraiser, \$1,000 was donated specifically for George Mason University. To ensure that the scholarships to all three local universities, Marymount, Trinity, and George Mason remained at the \$5,000 level the Board voted to supplement with funds from the branch reserve account for a total of \$1,351.50. The High School Awards for STEM excellence to McLean and Langley High School girls in their junior year will receive \$300 for each school. The Stem Excellence Award will be \$100.

The McLean AAUW Board Members voted to support the recommendations of the Allocations Committee. Branch Members will vote to support the Allocation of Funds for 2020 at the December Branch meeting.

Allocation Committee Members are **Elaine Lailas** and **Mafalda Marrocco**, co-chairs, **Betsy Schroeder**, **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales**, **Betsy Reddaway**, **Juanita Cullen**, **Judy Page**, **Janet Taylor**, **Triante Dakolias**, **Sultana Parveen**, Branch Co-Presidents—**Naz Basit** and **Carol Mournighan**, ex-officio, Fundraiser Treasurer—**Aroona Borpujari**, ex-officio, Branch Treasurer—**Lynne Glikbarg**, ex-officio, **Caroline Pickens**, Virginia AAUW Funds Chair, ex-officio.

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.





On your ballot you choose the electors for the president and vice president. Then what?

On **Monday, December 14, 2020, at noon**, the 13 electors for the winning party in Virginia will assemble at the state capital to vote for the nominee of that party for president and vice president. All the Virginia electors must vote for the presidential and vice-presidential candidates who received the most votes during the General Election, voting for each office separately. Recounts and disputes within the states must be solved by **December 8**.

Each state sends its results in a sealed envelope to the president of the Senate, who is the vice president of the U.S., and other federal officials. The sealed envelopes are opened on **January 6** and the votes counted in a joint session of the next Congress.

How are the electors chosen?

Virginia's electors are chosen at the national conventions of the parties. The parties must give their elector names to the State Board of Elections 74 days before the General Election. Only the winning slate will vote.

All electors nationwide are members of the Electoral College. Its members come together in their own states on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December every four years to vote for the president and vice president. The term "College" was added early in the 19th century. Each state's number of electors is based on its number of representatives plus two for each senator. Total state electoral votes add up to 535 (435 representatives plus 100 senators). The District of Columbia has three for a total of 538 Electoral votes. The winning candidate must get half of 538 plus 1 = 270 votes.

Most states require their electors to cast all their votes for the candidate who got the most votes in the General Election. In 2020, the Supreme Court ruled that states may require that. Maine and Nebraska give two votes to the winner of the statewide vote but give the rest to the winner in each congressional district.

What If there is a "Contingent Election?"

- The new House of Representatives chooses the next president if no candidate gets 270 votes. Each state gets one vote. The candidate must get 26 votes to win.
- The representatives from each state decide how that state will vote. They are not bound by the winner of the popular vote in their states.
- The new Senate chooses the next vice president if no candidate gets 270 votes. The winner must get 51 votes.
- If no presidential candidate received 270 votes, the person selected by the Senate as Vice President will serve as President until the House chooses a President.
- If no one receives 270 votes and neither the House nor the Senate elect a President and Vice President, the Speaker of the House, who is next in the line of succession, becomes Acting President on **January 20** until the House elects a President. That has never happened.

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Why do we have electors instead of choosing the president directly?

Electors were created by the Founding Fathers as part of Article II, Section 1, Clause 2 of the Constitution (amendments added later). The founders did not want direct election of the president and vice president because they felt the voters would not know enough about all the candidates to make wise decisions. Initially, legislatures chose the electors, but since early in the 19th century the parties chose them.

The founders thought that only educated white men of property should vote. White men who did not own property gradually got the right to vote. The 15th Amendment gave Black men the right to vote in 1870; the 19th Amendment gave women that right in 1920. The Voting Rights Act in 1965 prohibited some state efforts to hinder Black citizens voting. However, concerns still exist about equal access to voting. The founders compromised when devising a system to elect the president. They thought if Congress chose the president, the individual would agree to Congress’s wishes. If the people voted directly, there was a risk that they might elect someone who wanted too much power. To balance large states with small states, each one got two electors in addition to the number of representatives.

Mary Lou Melley, Public Policy Chair

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.



You can find many useful resources on our state website: <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/diversity-inclusion-equity/>.

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.

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

Special Interest Groups | December & January

Bridge Group The Bridge Group probably will not meet face-to-face again until sometime in 2021. In the meantime, we may arrange to have members of the group play some bridge online, date, and time to be announced.

Current Events Current Events will meet on the second and fourth **Tuesdays** of the month at **9:30 am** — **December 8 and 22; January 12 and 26**. All members are invited to bring your favorite news item to discuss. If you want to participate for the first time, 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.

Morning Lit Group The Morning Literature Group is meeting **Friday, December 11 at 10:00 am** to discuss *Mozart's Starling*, by **Lyanda Lynn Haupt**. The discussion will be led by **Angela Ehemann**. If you would like to attend and are not a regular member, contact **Betsy Reddaway**, pbreddaway@verizon.net, to receive a Zoom invitation. All are welcome.

At the November meeting the group selected the following titles for the remainder of the year:

- **January 8:** *Pelosi* by Molly Ball; Discussion Leader-**Reed Isbell**
- **February 12:** *The Brea Givers* by Anzia Yezierska; Discussion Leader-**Carol Mournighan**
- **March 12:** *A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II* by Sonia Purnell; Discussion Leader-**Ruth Nowjack-Raymer**
- **April 9:** *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride; Discussion Leader-**May Socas**
- **May 14:** *The Overstory* by Richard Powers; Discussion Leader-TBD

Evening Lit Group The Evening Literature Group will meet **Monday, December 14 at 7:30 pm**. *Please wear your Holiday jammies and come prepared to discuss your favorite holiday books*. The group will also meet on **January 18 at 7:30 pm** to discuss *The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History* by **John M Barry**. Please contact **Lynne Glikbarg** at lynneglik@aol.com if you are interested in either of these meetings.

Connections Calendar | December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 Branch Meeting, Noon, via ZOOM
6	7	8 Current Events Group, 9:30 am, via ZOOM	9 Branch Board Meeting, 10:00 am, via ZOOM	10	11 Morning Lit Group, 10:00 am, via ZOOM	12
13	14 Evening Lit Group, 7:30 pm, via ZOOM	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Current Events Group, 9:30 am, via ZOOM	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Connections Calendar | January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Morning Lit Group, 10:00 am, via ZOOM	9 Branch Meeting, 10:00 am, via ZOOM
10	11	12 Current Events Group, 9:30 am, via ZOOM	13 Branch Board Meeting, 10:00 am, via ZOOM	14	15	16
17	18 Evening Lit Group, 7:30 pm, via ZOOM	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Current Events Group, 9:30 am, via ZOOM	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](mailto:sultanarp@gmail.com))



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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