



McLean Area Branch  
AAUW of Virginia

# News

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## Branch Website

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

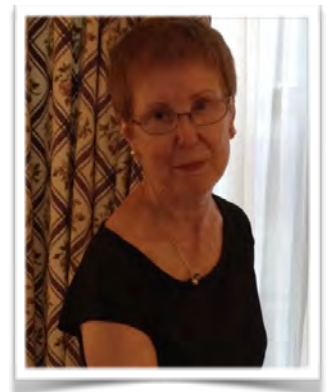
February 2021  
Volume XLX  
Number 5

## February Branch Meeting

*A Guide to Navigating the Pandemic*  
**Michele A. Romano, M.D.**

Saturday, February 6  
10:00 am - Noon  
Via **ZOOM**

This **Dr. Michele A. Romano**, a Board-Certified Family Physician, was in private clinical practice from 1987 until her retirement in 2015. **Dr. Romano** was also an Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Population Health at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), Richmond, Virginia, during this period. She also served as the Chairman of the Department of Family Medicine and a member of the Medical Executive Committee at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital in Northern Virginia. **Dr. Romano** was a Registered Nurse for 12 years prior to medical school with a specialty in critical care. She opened the first Critical Care Unit in the interior of Alaska in Fairbanks in 1969 and served as its first Head Nurse. She then supervised the Critical Care Units at Retreat Hospital in Richmond, VA for six years. **Dr. Romano** was regularly named as a Top Doc by *Washingtonian* magazine. **Dr. Romano** has served on the Board of Trustees of the Medical College of Virginia Foundation, on the VCU Board of Visitors, and the VCU Health System Board. She is a member of the American Academy of Family Practice. She received her RN at Trumbull Memorial Hospital in Warren, Ohio; BA in Biology at the University of Tennessee; and MD at VCU.



The ID and password for the **ZOOM** meeting will be sent in an email blast from **Aroona Borpujari** a few days before the program. For inquiries please contact **Carol** or **Naz**.

## Branch Board Meetings: February

Branch Board meeting is:

Wednesday, February 10, 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.

## Presidents' Message

We look forward to 2021 with hope for a better year. Americans are being vaccinated; we have a new President and Vice President; and the Georgia elections have been decided. Now the real work of 2021 begins.

AAUW National and State organizations are emphasizing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Our Branch meetings have reflected this theme, and our Literature groups have included books with similar subject matters. But we need to do more.

The National AAUW organization has posted a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion toolkit, <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/>. You can also find this information at [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) and search Toolkit. Please visit this wonderful resource to see what each of us can accomplish as individuals and as a Branch. We now have the opportunity and the tools to act and ensure that all individuals who are different from us are accepted and celebrated and given the same opportunities to realize their own potential.



**Naz Basit and Carol Mournighan, Co-Presidents.**

## Virginia State Conference

The AAUW Virginia 2021 state conference will be held virtually from **March 13-15**. The theme for this year's conference is *Women Make the Difference!* The schedule is follows:

- **Saturday, March 13, 10:00 am to 12:30 pm and from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm**
- **Sunday, March 14, 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 pm**
- **Monday, March 15, 3:00-5:30 pm**

Program details will be in the March newsletter and on our Branch website. Conference registration is free.

## Directory Update

A mid-year directory update will be distributed soon. If you have any changes to your current contact information, please contact **Pam Bacher** at [pbacher at outlook.com](mailto:pbacher@outlook.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.

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.

## Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee, **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales** (Chair), **Carol Langelier**, and **Diana Parsell**, presents the following slate of board officers for approval by the membership. Each officer will serve a term of two years beginning July 1, 2021, except for the Board Secretary who will serve a one-year term.

- **Co-President:** **Sue Christie**
- **Co-Vice-President of Program:** **Mafalda Marrocco**
- **Co-Vice-Presidents of Membership:** **Diana Parsell** and **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales**
- **Treasurer:** **Lynne Glikbarg**
- **Board Secretary:** **Betsy Reddaway**

Election of new board officers will take place at the March Branch meeting.

## Member Spotlight

### *Peggy Stotz - Our Member Who Dared to be Different*

When the newsletter at Ashby Ponds, a senior living community in Ashburn, Virginia, began a four-part series on women residents who “dared to be different in their career pursuits,” it featured our Branch member, **Peggy Stotz**. **Peggy** was selected for her volunteer “career” lobbying Congress for almost 20 years as a member and chair of the AAUW Lobby Corps. She joined our Branch in 1988 and quickly became a Lobby Corps member, later serving as the chair for several years. Lobby Corp is an every Thursday commitment during the months Congress is in session.

The 1990’s proved both a challenge and a success for Lobby Corps. It included lobbying to achieve the Family & Medical Leave Act in 1993, which was during **Peggy’s** time as the chair. As **Peggy** says, it was rewarding and satisfying to represent AAUW’s issues and priorities to policymakers, especially when there were successes.

**Peggy** dared to be different because in the 1980’s and 90’s lobbyists were predominantly men who were paid to do the job. AAUW’s Lobby Corps and **Peggy** were lobbyists when Congress itself was also male dominated; and succeeded. Much of that success can be attributed to **Peggy’s** leadership and commitment to the Lobby Corps and AAUW. She was a role model. **Peggy** was succeeded as chair by Branch member **Mary Lou Melley**.

Thank you to **Peggy** for leading as a lobbyist and to **Mary Lou** for following in **Peggy’s** footsteps.



### 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 Funds

### McLean Area Branch's 2020-2021 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. This year there are three endowment award recipients. One of our recipients received two awards. The recipients have been asked to speak at our April Branch meeting, which will be conducted via [ZOOM](#) on **April 13 at 7 pm**. We look forward to hearing about the valuable work of these recipients. The 2020-2021 endowed fellowship and grant recipients are as follows:

**American Fellowship** **Tesneem Aikiek, Ph.D.**, studies Islamic Law at Georgetown University. Dr. Aikiek is researching how Muslim jurists identify multiple forms of harm in marriage and divorce, focusing on emotional and sexual harm. After completing her doctoral program, she looks forward to teaching and contributing to nonprofit community research and engagement.

**International Fellowship** **Heather Chidarara, L.L.M.**, Master of Law, is at Georgetown University. Chidarara's studies focus on international women's rights. Previously, she practiced as an attorney in South Africa, with experience in property law, commercial and civil litigation. Her goal is to advance the cause of women in Africa.

**Research & Projects/Career Development Grants** Both of these are sponsoring **Rhian O'Rourke, M.B.A.** She is pursuing an M.B.A/M.A. in Government at Johns Hopkins University and is undertaking a health-care concentration that studies the intersection of public policy, health-care legislation, and health-care management. Her research focuses on public-policy reforms that increase access to health care for people experiencing disability and marginalization. After graduation, **Ms. O'Rourke** aspires to serve as a health-care public-policy researcher and advocate.

## Connect with the Branch on Social Media!

Our Branch has recently joined Facebook and Instagram. You can find us using username@aauwmclna or these links:

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

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

**Grace Hamilton, Branch  
Social Media Chair.**





## From AAUW

AAUW joined with the nation's leading women's organizations in a response to the assault on the U.S. Congress, saying, 'the deadly attempt to disrupt the work of the U.S. Congress was the inevitable result of years of hateful and divisive rhetoric'. In addition, **Kim Churches**, the CEO of AAUW, recently communicated to members that, during the violent invasion of the Capitol, AAUW's National office, the personal safety of the staff and their families was at risk. AAUW, with gender justice and equity organizations, demanded that President Trump and his enablers be held accountable for their actions. **Kim** asks us to actively engage in efforts to defeat white supremacy. There is a new AAUW Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion toolkit available and A Racial and Social Justice Working Group recently established, headed by the AAUW Board Chair.

Here is the message for the new year from **Kim Churches**.

'Despite the global pandemic, social unrest, threats to our democracy and the worst economic downturn in decades, AAUW has stayed focused on our mission: When the COVID-19 crisis hit, our national office staff pivoted quickly to working remotely and, unlike many other nonprofits, we were able to keep our belts tightened, avoiding furloughs and layoffs. We are proud of all that our dedicated team accomplished over the past months and we look forward to what's in store for the promising years ahead.'

Below are some numbers quantifying accomplishments of AAUW in 2020, indicating what will continue in 2021.

- **142 colleges and universities**, including **29** minority serving institutions and Historically Black Colleges and Universities have been **offered AAUW's Start Smart training**.
- **62,400 letters** were sent, through the **two-minute activists' program**, to elected official calling for action on AAUW priorities such as comprehensive COVID-19 relief, the Voting Rights Advancement Act, the Paycheck Fairness Act, removing the deadline for the ratification of Equal Right Amendment, and more.
- **\$70,000** in the **Legal Advocacy Fund** went toward supporting five active cases.
- **65 Voter Guides** on candidate positions in key federal races for the 2020 elections were produced and distributed.
- **250 recipients** received nearly **\$3.9 million in AAUW fellowships and grants** for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Members of the AAUW Lobby Corps will have had a Zoom meeting in January to discuss AAUW's priorities in the new Congressional session. It will continue to operate in a virtual environment.

## Commonwealth of Virginia

The new session began January 13 and is planned to be a 30-day session. Because of COVID-19, the House will meet virtually, and the Senate will have a hybrid approach of in-person and virtual committee meetings. Some legislation to be considered include the COVID-19 response, another consideration of the budget, early voting, and teacher pay. What may be addressed, according to Delegate **Rip Sullivan**, include campaign finance reform, affordable housing, and health care exchange. The governor recently announced his intention to support the abolishment of the death penalty.

**Denise Murden**, Public Policy co-chair AAUW-VA announced that lobbying in Richmond will also be virtual. Priorities include paid sick leave and salary history bans. However, **Rip Sullivan** stated that paid sick leave proposals may initially include only essential workers during the pandemic.

**Mary Lou Melley, Public Policy Chair**

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

## Special Interest Groups | February

**Bridge Group** The Bridge Group probably will not meet face-to-face again until later 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** — **February 9** and **23**. 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 at gmail.com](mailto: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, February 12 at 10:00 am** to discuss *The Bread Givers*, by **Anzia Yeziarska**. The discussion will be led by **Carol Mournighan**. If you would like to attend and are not a regular member, contact **Betsy Reddaway**, [pbreddaway at verizon.net](mailto:pbreddaway@verizon.net), to receive a Zoom invitation. All are welcome.

**Evening Lit Group** The Evening Literature Group will meet **Monday, February 15 at 7:30 pm** to discuss *A Long Petal of the Sea*, by **Isabel Allende**. The discussion will be led by Aroona Borpujari. Please contact **Lynne Glikbarg** at [lynneglik at aol.com](mailto:lynneglik@aol.com) if you are interested in either of these meetings.

### Great Decisions

The new session of Great Decisions begins **Tuesday, February 16 at 9:30 am**. There is still time for members to join the group. Contact **Angela Ehemann**, [acehemann at verizon.net](mailto:acehemann@verizon.net) or 703-893-3578 for more details and information on obtaining the discussion book that we will be using. The first topic is *Global Supply Chains*. Everyone is welcome to attend a meeting to decide if you would like to join the group.

# Connections Calendar | February

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

**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  
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**AAUW Website | [www.AAUW.org](http://www.AAUW.org)**