



McLean Area Branch
AAUW of Virginia

News

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Branch Website

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

March 2021
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March Branch Meeting

Law Enforcement and Equity

Steve T. Descano,

Fairfax City and County Commonwealth's Attorney

Tuesday, March 16

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Via **ZOOM**

Steve T. Descano, a veteran and former federal prosecutor, is a West Point graduate. **Steve** was a helicopter pilot during his Army service before putting himself through law school. Later, he became a federal prosecutor under the Obama Administration, specializing in complex financial crimes of both national and international scope.

After his work in the Justice Department, **Steve** went on to serve his community as a board member for NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia as well as the Fairfax County NAACP's first nominee to the County's Police Civilian Review Panel.

Steve previously worked to help families throughout the region as the Chief Operations Officer and General Counsel at Paragon Autism Services, Northern Virginia's premiere provider of Applied Behavior Analysis therapy for children with autism.

Since taking office in 2020, **Steve** has embarked on a groundbreaking reform agenda. He has implemented policies that make our community safer while addressing racial and socioeconomic inequities in our criminal justice system, stemming the tide of mass incarceration, and elevating a holistic, values-based approach to prosecution over a reflexively punitive one.

Steve lives in Burke Centre with his wife, **Ryanne**, and eight-year-old daughter **Charlotte**.

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 Mournighan** or **Naz Basit**.



Branch Board Meeting: March

Branch Board meeting is:

Wednesday, March 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

Spring is coming! Later this March, we will celebrate the vernal equinox marking the end of winter and the beginning of spring, when daylight will last longer than darkness, temperatures will rise, and vegetation will come to life again. After almost a year, the COVID-19 case numbers are dropping across America and the death rate is declining. More vaccines are now available, and Fairfax County is getting them in residents' arms.



Naz Basit and Carol Mournighan, Co-Presidents.

While Americans are beginning to come together, racism still holds many people of color back. Our **March 16 program** will feature **Steve Descano**, Commonwealth Attorney for Fairfax City and County. He will talk about **reforms that are being implemented to provide equity under the law to all our residents**. The **March Branch meeting will also feature STEM Essay Contest** winners from a local middle School and the **election of Branch officers**.

The **AAUW Virginia State Conference** will be held on **March 13-15** via Zoom. Please check out details about the conference in the newsletter and plan to attend.

Virginia State Conference

Plan to virtually attend the annual **AAUW Virginia State Conference**, which will include the state's 96th Annual Business Meeting. In addition to the important business meeting, the program includes an exciting variety of speakers who will cover AAUW mission-related topics and lead discussions on those topics. The program is described in the full brochure at the following link:

<https://aauw-va.aauw.net/files/2021/02/Conference-Brochure-Vision-Final-Revised-002.pdf>

On **Saturday, March 13**, there will be morning and afternoon sessions, while on **Sunday, March 14**, and **Monday, March 15**, there will only be afternoon programs.

The conference program and business meeting are free, but **please register in advance for each day you want to attend by using the registration links below**. You will be sent Zoom links for each day. Even though there will be two sessions on March 13, there will only be one Zoom link for that day.

Day 1: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TveFAYLQROO_WQuBgfzSgQ

Day 2: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nreRC7-HQ--eVNndZzz58w

Day 3: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_69wqwPnSQDy67ks-yacJfg

Contact AAUWofVA@gmail.com if you have any questions or problems with the registration links.



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.

Membership Renewal

It is membership renewal time. You may renew online or by check starting March 16. Branch treasurer, **Lynne Glikbarg**, will send an invoice in the next several weeks with a link to the National site and all the information you will need to renew. If you renew by May 1 your name will be entered into a drawing for a free membership. Your membership continues the Branch support for women returning to college and the opportunity to participate in outstanding Branch programs.

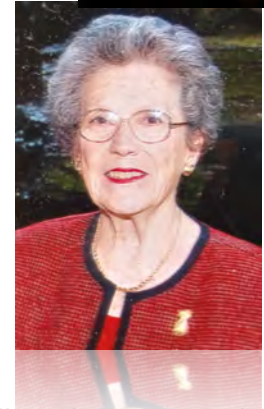
In Memoriam

Remembering Connie Small

Connie Small, a longtime member of McLean AAUW, passed away in January at home in Vienna at age 88. **Connie** grew up in Massachusetts and earned a BA in French from Mount Holyoke College and an MA in Linguistics. She was the first in her family to go to college. Connie graduated early from Mount Holyoke to marry Leo her husband of 67 years, who survives her. She and Leo raised five children while living on three continents.

Connie enjoyed many AAUW activities including Great Decisions, International Hospitality, and the Book collection and Sale. For many years, the McLean International Hospitality Group met weekly from September to May to help welcome diplomatic spouses living in the McLean area. The Arlington and McLean AAUW branches participated in a program to assist diplomatic families posted to the Washington, DC area that resulted in the creation of the Branch Hospitality Group. **Connie** received the names of families who were moving to the McLean area, introduced them to the Mclean AAUW Hospitality group, and shared McLean Community Center packets for newcomers. Many diplomatic wives enjoyed close relationships with McLean AAUW members. Throughout her life Connie enjoyed helping others. She loved working on the AAUW Book Sale, working with Meals on Wheels, and singing with the New Dominion Chorale. Her motto was, "A stranger is just a person you haven't met yet." She will be missed. If you would like to send a note to her family, mail to:

Leo Small & Family
1421 Rosewood Hill Drive
Vienna, VA 22182



AAUW Funds

2020-2021 Fellowship and Grant Recipients to speak at April Branch Meeting

Two of McLean Branch's AAUW Funds recipients, Tesneem Aikiek and Heather Chidarara, will speak at our April Branch meeting, which will be conducted via Zoom on **April 13 at 7 pm**. Our third recipient, Rhian O'Rourke, is unable to join us, but will send an account of her work and goals to be read at the meeting. We look forward to hearing about the valuable work of these recipients.

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

The work of our 2020-2021 endowed fellowship and grant recipients is described below:

American Fellowship **Tesneem Aikiek, Ph.D.**, in Islamic Law at Georgetown University, 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, at Georgetown University, focuses her studies 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 grants support **Rhian O'Rourke, M.B.A.**, in her pursuit of an M.B.A./M.A. in Government at Johns Hopkins University. Her work focuses on healthcare, studying the intersection of public policy, health-care legislation, and health-care management, with emphasis on public-policy reforms that increase access to health care for people experiencing disability and marginalization. After graduation, she 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.instagram.com/aauwmclna/>

**Grace Hamilton, Branch
Social Media 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/>.



From AAUW

Kim Churches, with **Kate Neilson** and Public Policy staff, has been active working with **President Biden's** transition team, producing AAUW's policy statements and legislative priorities and sending letters to all members of the 117th Congress. The online AAUW Action Network provides AAUW members with an easy way to send messages to our Senators and Representatives.

Some of the bills showcased, include the Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act, the Minimum Wage Act, and The Paycheck Fairness Act.

AAUW has worked for decades to pass the landmark Paycheck Fairness Act to advance pay equity. The House of Representatives passed the legislation with bipartisan support during the 116th Congress. The bill has already been reintroduced in the 117th Congress with broad support, but quick action is needed to get this critical bill to **President Biden's** desk so he can sign it into law.

Using AAUW's Action Network, I emailed a message to Virginia's senators and my representative in support of the Minimum Wage Act that would raise the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 per hour to \$15 per hour over four years. **Senator Warner** replied to this message saying,

“during an unprecedented economic and health crisis that has pushed millions of workers to the brink of poverty, the least we can do is ensure that our minimum wage is a living wage. I am an original cosponsor of this legislation.”

In January, the Public Policy staff presented an hour-long overview of current policies and future actions to members of the Lobby Corps on **Zoom**. Lobbying will be virtual only. As a follow-up, **Becky Gaul**, chair of the Lobby Corps, held an informal **Zoom** gathering of Lobby Corps members on February 4. More than 20 members attended, renewed their friendship, shared news, and expressed ideas for outreach to state presidents and approaches to successfully lobbying remotely. The Lobby Corps will continue to meet remotely the **first Thursday of each month at 11 am**. **Becky** will follow up with staff at AAUW to share the ideas discussed.

Commonwealth of Virginia

The legislative session has been extended and many bills are slated to be considered. Crossover Day is when the House and Senate each send their approved bills to the other chamber for consideration and voting has just taken place.

Some significant bills have already been passed by both houses and await the Governor's signature. These include abolishing the death penalty, facilitation of the COVID-19 vaccine, marijuana legalization, the Voting Rights Act, marriage equality, and restoration of rights to felons.

Denise Murden and **Susan Burk**, AAUW-VA co-chairs for public policy, have been emailing members asking them to send messages to State elected officials in support of a number of these bills and others.

Mary Lou Melley, Public Policy Chair

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 | March

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** — **March 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** at 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, March 12 at 10:00 am** to discuss *A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II*, by **Sonia Purnell**. The discussion will be led by **Ruth Nowjack-Raymer**. 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.

Evening Lit Group The Evening Literature Group will meet **Monday, March 15 at 7:30 pm** to discuss *Pelosi*, by **Molly Ball**. The discussion will be led by Betsy Schroeder. Please contact **Betsy Schroeder** at icu43@cox.net if you are interested in attending and are not a regular member.

Great Decisions

The new session of Great Decisions started in February and runs through September. There is still time for members to join the group. Contact **Angela Ehemann**, acehemann@verizon.net or 703-893-3578 for more details and information on obtaining the discussion book being used. The next meeting is **Tuesday, March 16 at 9:30 am** and the topic to be discussed is *The Future of Persian Gulf Security*. Everyone is welcome to attend a meeting to decide if you would like to join the group.

Connections Calendar | March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Current Events Group, 9:30 am, via ZOOM	10 Branch Board Meeting, 10:00 am, via ZOOM	11	12 Morning Lit Group, 10:00 am, via ZOOM	13 Virginia State Conference, 10:00 am & 3:00 pm via ZOOM
14 Virginia State Conference, 3:00 pm via ZOOM	15 Virginia State Conference, 3:00 pm via ZOOM --- Evening Lit Group, 7:30 pm, via ZOOM	16 Great Decisions, 9:30 am, via ZOOM --- Branch Meeting, 10:00 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	31			

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**

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

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

AAUW Website | www.AAUW.org