



McLean Area Branch
AAUW of Virginia

News

Co-Presidents

Carol Mournighan
703.821.1081
clmourn at gmail.com

Naz Basit
703.356.6365
nazbasit at yahoo.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>

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April Branch Meeting

Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity: The Status and Goals of AAUW

*Cyndi Shanahan, Chair
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Virginia AAUW*

Tuesday, April 13
7:00 - 9:00 pm
Via ZOOM

Cyndi Shanahan currently serves as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I) Chair of AAUW, Virginia. In this role, she coordinates with Virginia branches to raise awareness of DE&I and promote programming at the branch and state level. **Cyndi** has taken on the role of coordinator of other AAUW state DE&I chairs so that work across the nation can be leveraged. Previously, she served as the Membership Vice President for Virginia AAUW for the past four years.



Prior to her roles on the state board, **Cyndi** held leadership positions in the Reston-Herndon branch as co-president and program chair. She led facilitated sessions to improve membership demographics, program alignment, and strategic plan. **Cyndi** has been excited to lead a positive relationship with the Loudoun campus of Northern Virginia Community College.

Currently retired, **Cyndi** spends her consulting and volunteering time with several nonprofits working to empower women in the Northern Virginia area. A graduate of Jacksonville State University with a BA and the University of Alabama with an MA, **Cyndi** has been a resident of Virginia for more than 30 years. She also spends a good deal of time with her grandchildren who live within walking distance of her home.

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: April

Branch Board meeting is:

Wednesday, April 14, 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

Newsletter articles are sent to our newsletter volunteers by the 15th of the month prior to publication. This means that we are writing the President's message for the April newsletter in the middle of March, Women's History month. As we write, we think about all the amazing trail blazers who made enormous sacrifices to pave the way for future generations of women. Their selfless contributions unlocked possibilities for women scientists, politicians, educators, policy makers, doctors, engineers, and bankers.



Naz Basit and Carol Mournighan, Co-Presidents.

It is inspiring to hear about women in the forefront of vaccine development for the Pandemic and in the historic *Perseverance* landing on Mars. While we celebrate our victories, we know that there still is a lot of work to be done. AAUW is at the frontline fighting for issues important to women and girls.

Our April Branch meeting will be a discussion on Equity, Inclusion and Diversity and a celebration of the Fellowship/ Scholarship recipients.

Looking forward to warmer brighter days ahead. Happy April to all!

Membership Renewal

It is membership renewal time. You may renew online or by check. Branch treasurer, **Lynne Glikbarg**, is sending an invoice 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.

Branch Scholarship Update

To comply with the requirements of Title IX, public universities can no longer advertise external scholarships for a single gender. Our Branch policy is to award scholarships to women; therefore, we can no longer grant scholarships to George Mason University or other public universities.

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.

2021 Fundraiser

We were looking forward to a September book sale, but the book sale/fundraising committee determined that a book sale in 2021 is not feasible. The decision was based on the concern that many people may still not be vaccinated by then. In addition, our sorting site, Truist Bank (formerly Sun Trust) in Vienna, is closed to the public for the foreseeable future.

To continue our goal of raising funds for AAUW and local scholarships we are recommending two initiatives similar to last year's.

The first is an internal member donation campaign. Last year, our members generously contributed more than \$11,000. This phase will be open **May 2 until July 1**. Donations should be mailed to **Aroona Borpujari** at 1225 Meyer Court, McLean, VA 22101. Checks should be made out to McLean AAUW with 2021 fundraiser on the memo line.

The second is a public GoFundMe campaign. We will again offer Washington Nationals gear signed by **Max Scherzer**. For every \$20 donated, a participant will have one chance to own a signed item. The lucky owners will be randomly selected. This campaign will run **July 2-August 20**. Additional information will be in future newsletters and on our website.

The fundraising committee members are **Naz Basit, Anita Booth, Marge Degnon, Deborah DeMasi, Christina Hamilton, Grace Hamilton, Myrtle Corrales-Hendricks, Margaret Hines, Carol Langelier, Mafalda Marrocco, Nina McVeigh, Tom McVeigh, Carol Mournighan, Caroline Pickens, Phyllis Provenzano** and **Betsy Schroeder**. Contact **Betsy Schroeder** with any questions at [icu43 at cox.net](mailto:icu43@cox.net).

Great Decisions Spotlight

The Great Decisions group's meeting in March focused on the problems in the Persian Gulf region. The discussion touched on the history of U.S. involvement and where that involvement stands today. The topic is complex as are the dynamics of the region and how individual players have contributed to a region with constant unrest and war.

Our group learns from provided reading and video and the input of members who have had such wide experiences from having worked or lived internationally. While we may not change foreign policy, we come away more educated and look forward to the topics to come.

All Branch members are all welcome to join us.

Connect with the Branch on Social Media!

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

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

STEM Essay Contest Winners

The winners of the 2021 STEM Essay Contest sponsored by the McLean Area Branch were announced and recognized during the Branch event held via Zoom on March 16. The contest was open to 7th and 8th grade students (girls and boys) at local public and private schools. The students were asked to discover and publicize women who made a difference in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields, but who did not receive recognition for their contributions while alive and whose contributions are not well known even today. Each essay described a selected woman's contribution and its impact, as well as why the student chose her.

The Branch received a record number of entries for this year's contest. There were 47 completed submissions, compared to 18 in each of the two prior years. The winners of the contest are:

- 1st Place: **Zoe Robell**, Longfellow Middle School (7th Grade)
- 2nd Place: **Michelle Liu**, Longfellow Middle School (7th Grade)
- Honorable Mention: **Carter Kunz**, The Langley School (7th Grade)
- Honorable Mention: **Brendan Li**, Cooper Middle School (7th Grade)

The students and their parents were invited to the March 16 event. As part of the awards ceremony, the 1st place winner, **Zoe Robell**, read her essay on **Grace Hopper**, computer scientist and United States Navy rear admiral who was an early developer of high-level programming languages. Other women who were the subjects of the winning essays are **Chien-Shiung Wu**, a Chinese American physicist who worked on the Manhattan project and has been nicknamed the "Chinese Madame Curie," and **June Almeida**, a Scottish virologist who discovered a group of viruses in 1966 that were later named the coronavirus.

Fourteen volunteers from our Branch served as judges: **Pam Bacher**, **Marie Briones-Jones**, **Marlene Chivavibul**, **Dorothy Hassan**, **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales**, **Sherry Joslin**, **Nina McVeigh**, **Tom McVeigh**, **Ruth Nowjack-Raymer**, **Judy Page**, **Caroline Pickens**, **Betsy Schroeder**, **Barbara Sipe**, and **Adarsh Trehan**. The essay contest was managed by a steering committee, consisting of **Marlene Chivavibul**, **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales**, and **Betsy Schroeder**, together with **Judy Page**, STEM Chair.



Women highlighted in the STEM Essay Contest: **Grace Hopper (1906-1992)**, **Chien-Shiung Wu (1912-1997)**, and **June Almeida (1930-2007)**.



STEM Essay Contest winners with Branch members at March 16th event: top row, from left, **Judy Page**, STEM Chair; **Carol Mournighan**, Co-President, and **Brendan Li**, Honorable Mention; second row, from left, **Zoe Robell**, 1st Place; **Michelle Liu**, 2nd Place; and **Carter Kunz**, Honorable Mention; third row, **Naz Basit**, Co-President.

"Hi, I am a seventh-grader from Cooper Middle School. Thank you for hosting this essay contest. I had a lot of fun writing and researching my female STEM pioneer. Thank you so much for connecting students during these difficult times."

"Thank all the judges and anyone who contributed to this meaningful contest! My daughter has learned tremendously through researching, writing, thinking, and polishing her work. Thank you for offering the kids such a great opportunity to learn and think!"



Congressional News

On March 3, the House passed For the People Act, HR1. The partisan vote was 220-210. It was received in the Senate on March 11. The bill will expand the right to vote with automatic voter registration online and same day registration. It would end partisan and racial gerrymandering in favor of independent redistricting commissions and would provide more transparency by holding elected officials accountable and require candidates to provide financial disclosures.

The Paycheck Fairness Act lives again in the House as HR7. In response to Lily Ledbetter Supreme Court denial of her equal wages, this bill will close loopholes that have weakened the law allowing employers to justify paying workers unfairly. It would create robust remedies for those who have suffered discrimination and prevent employers from retaliating against workers who discuss or disclose their wages. It would prohibit employers from relying on salary history to set wages and provide data collection, research, and training. The recently passed Covid Relief bill will help improve the loss of jobs by women.

In March, Federal Judge **Rudolph Contreras** dealt a blow to all those advocating for the Equal Rights Amendment. He ruled that the deadline to ratify the ERA “expired long ago” and three states’ recent ratifications of the amendment arrived “too late to count.” Virginia, Illinois, and Nevada had sued the archivist of the United States last year to “carry out his statutory duty” of publishing and certifying the ERA as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution. Five states had also intervened to rescind their ratifications of the ERA between 1973 and 1979. Virginia Attorney General **Mark Herring** said he is not giving up this fight and will consider all options moving forward.

Twenty Lobby Corps members met virtually again and are taking actions to communicate legislative issues and support by email and social media, including responding to Facebook and newsletter messages from legislators who support our issues.

Virginia AAUW and Virginia Commonwealth

AAUW Virginia Public Policy Co-Chairs **Denise Murden** and **Susan Burk** gave a thorough review of the legislation passed in the General Assembly and its future strategies, such as joining with coalitions, to become more effective. We could also help to support business that continue to pay sick leave for their employees.

The final session of the General Assembly closed February 27. Members in the House passed a resolution for a committee to study and make recommendations on campaign finance reform. Several environmental bills passed include clear car standards, a clean energy plan, and a polystyrene ban.

Guidelines and standards will be developed for teaching computer science. Nationwide, Virginia joined the group of states that has banned capital punishment.

The state budget passed that includes increased teacher salaries, recovery grants for K-12 school, grant funding for childcare services, increased student aid at colleges and universities, increased pay and sick days for personal care workers, tax relief for many businesses, renter’s protection extension, and increased the reserve fund by \$900M to maintain AAA bond rating.

This year in Virginia, citizens will have the opportunity to vote for their state delegate, the governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general. In June, Democratic primaries will be held for many offices and Republicans will hold conventions.

Mary Lou Melley, Public Policy Chair

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

Special Interest Groups | April

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.

Morning Lit Group The Morning Literature Group is meeting **Friday, April 9 at 10:00 am** to discuss *Deacon King Kong*, by **James McBride**. The discussion will be led by **May Socas**. 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.

Current Events Current Events will meet on the second and fourth **Tuesdays** of the month at **9:30 am — April 13 and 27**. 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 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.

Evening Lit Group The Evening Literature Group will meet **Monday, April 19 at 7:30 pm** to discuss *Mozart's Starling*, by **Lyanda Lynn Haupt**. The discussion will be led by **Anita Booth**. Please contact **Anita Booth** at [anitasbooth at gmail.com](mailto:anitasbooth@gmail.com) if you are interested in attending and are not a regular member.

Great Decisions

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 being used. The next meeting is **Tuesday, April 20 at 9:30 am** and the topic to be discussed is *Chapter 3, Brexit*.

Connections Calendar | April

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

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)



**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