



McLean Area Branch
AAUW of Virginia

News

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Branch Website

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

June 2021
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Number 9

Branch Joint Board Meeting: June

The joint Branch Board meeting is:

Wednesday, June 9, 10:00 am - noon
Via **ZOOM**

The June Branch Board Meeting will include current and new members but will not include the traditional joint board luncheon. 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

Being Co-President of AAUW Mclean Branch is a big responsibility, but more than that, it is a GIFT. Over the course of a year, **Naz** and I as co-presidents interacted with almost all the Branch members in some way. Branch co-presidents preside over the Board and Branch meetings and are an integral part of groups that make decisions for the Branch, such as the Allocations, Fundraising, and Program committees. Each co-president has been a part of one or more of these groups: STEM; Great Decisions; Literature Groups; Fundraising; Current Events; and Bridge. The Branch is now starting a Movie Lovers Group in the Fall.



Naz Basit and Carol Mournighan, Co-Presidents.

Every time we meet with Branch members, we feel uplifted. You are smart, engaging, interesting, competent, and giving; and enrich our lives in more ways than we could imagine.

This year **Naz** and I have become close friends as we sought to find ways to navigate the Branch through the pandemic and "**Zoomland.**" We looked forward to Board and Branch meetings because we got to be with our friends.

This is my last newsletter entry as co-president as my two-year term is ending. **Naz** will stay on for another year and will be joined by **Sue Christie** in the leadership role. I have no doubt they will do a fantastic job.

We hope to see you all in the Fall whether in person or by Zoom. Have a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer.

Carol Mournighan
Co-president with Naz Basit



From top left, clockwise -Corinne Mertes, Ruth Nowjack-Raymer, Juanita Cullen, Sherry Joslin were the lucky Amazon gift card winners at the May Branch Celebration.

Membership Renewal

To those who have renewed your membership, a big thank you. For those that have not, we hope you will renew your membership as we start a new year with the anticipation of seeing all of you soon. Members can renew online, the easiest way, or send a check made out to **AAUW-McLean Branch** to

Lynne Glikbarg, Treasurer
9113 White Chimney Lane,
Great Falls, VA 22066.

Membership dues are **\$88 for national, Virginia, and local.**

2021 Fundraiser

The first phase of our 2021 Fundraiser opened on **May 2** and runs through **July 1**. This is an internal member donation campaign. Branch member contributions should be mailed to

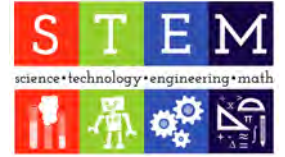
Aroona Borpujari
1225 Meyer Court
McLean, VA 22101

Make checks out to **McLean AAUW** with **2021 fundraiser on the memo line**. Last year, Branch members donated \$11,000 during this phase of our campaign.

The second phase to raise money for AAUW Funds and local scholarships will be launched on **July 1**. It will be an outreach to the public using several Nats baseball items signed by **Max Scherzer** as enticements. Details will be on the Branch website and Facebook page. Please share the information with your friends and family to spread the word. For more information or questions, please contact **Betsy Schroeder**, [icu43 at cox.net](mailto:icu43@cox.net).



STEM Excellence Award Announced at May Branch Event



Amna Imran, a senior at George C. Marshall High School, was selected as the 2021 recipient of our Branch's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Excellence Award. The STEM Excellence Award is given to a female student or team from a high school in the McLean area with an outstanding project in the engineering field entered in the Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair.

This year, the students participated in a Virtual Science Fair by submitting six-minute videos for the judges to review. **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales** and **Judy Page**, serving as judges for our Branch, reviewed videos for 11 projects to determine the winner. Judges were impressed by **Amna's** work on the project, *"The Relationship Between External Temperature and the Useful Power Output of a Small Electric Motor Lifting a Constant Mass to a Constant Height,"* including the video to describe the project. **Amna** was motivated to investigate this issue based on her experiences living in Pakistan until the age of 15. She plans to study bioengineering at the University of Pittsburgh starting this fall.

For the award, **Amna** received a Certificate of Merit and a check for \$100. In addition to receiving the AAUW STEM Excellence Award, **Amna** received five other awards for her project at the Regional Science and Engineering Fair, including one from the DC chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

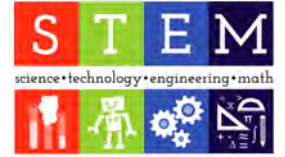
Amna Imran, 2021 recipient of the branch's STEM Excellence Award, is shown with her Certificate of Merit.



Amna Imran, top left box, was recognized for her engineering project at the branch's Zoom event on May 8th. She was introduced by STEM Chair Judy Page, shown in the box to the right of Amna.



High School STEM Awards Recipients



Six female students have been selected as the recipients of the Branch's high school Math, Science, and Computer Science Achievement Awards for 2021.

For the last eight years, the McLean Area Branch has partnered with counselors at local high schools to award these achievement awards to female students finishing their junior year. Each award consists of a certificate and a check for \$100 which were mailed to the students. The Branch instituted the awards to encourage young women to pursue educational opportunities related to STEM.

The criteria for the awards include a demonstrated record of overall academic success and a distinguished record of achievement in either math, science, or computer science. The award for computer science was added this year to recognize students' achievements in this important field.

Career center counselors at the schools manage the process of selecting the students. The following students received the 2021 awards:

- McLean High School – **Math:** **Susan Shobeiri**
- McLean High School – **Science:** **Vivian Kreeb**
- McLean High School – **Computer Science:** **Alex Vasilcoiu**
- Langley High School – **Math:** **Zhiyun (Mary) Zhou**
- Langley High School – **Science:** **Anvitha Puritipati**
- Langley High School – **Computer Science:** **Summer Parise**

The members of the Local Awards Committee that manages the high school Math, Science, and Computer Science Achievement Awards are **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales**, **Nina McVeigh**, and **Judy Page**, STEM Chair. **Myrtle** and **Nina** serve as the liaisons to McLean and Langley High Schools, respectively. We plan to invite the students to an event in the fall for recognition by Branch members.



Computer Science Achievement Award recipients Alex Vasilcoiu, McLean High School, shown to the left and Summer Parise, Langley High School, shown to the right.

Three Surprises with the STEM Essay Winners

When **two** of our middle school STEM essay winners this year chose the same person, **Dr. Chien-Shiung Wu**, that was the **first surprise**. Both **Michelle Liu** (2nd place) and **Brandon Li** (honorable mention) wrote about this nuclear physicist, a member of the Manhattan Project team, whose experiments and designs were groundbreaking and crucial. Two male colleagues who worked with her were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics, but **Dr. Wu** was ignored.

The **second surprise** was recognition for Dr. Wu, finally, with a U.S. stamp this spring.

Then recently, a **third surprise** was found in our AAUW history. The Nobel Prize gentlemen may have ignored her in 1957, but AAUW did not. In 1959 at the national AAUW Convention, **Dr. Wu** was given the AAUW Achievement Award, the highest award AAUW gives. Special thanks to **Caroline Pickens** for this discovery.

Michelle and **Brandon** certainly selected the right woman.



US Postal Service stamp recognizes nuclear physicist Dr. Chien-Shiung Wu.



National News

On May 4, the Public Policy staff of AAUW presented a webinar about advancing priorities in the first 100 days of the **Biden** administration and beyond. AAUW's priorities include family and child. The White House has issued executive orders to advance racial equity and address gender identity.

The Secretary of Education has established a review of Title IX in the Office of Civil Rights and established a gender policy council. **Kate Nielson**, staff Public Policy Director, reported that AAUW drafted the document that establishes that council.

Another priority is the burden of student debt with efforts to support the forgiveness of some amount of that debt. Lobbying is underway for the For the People Act, the Healthy Families Act, and the Paycheck Fairness Act. The Senate remains a huge obstacle for most legislation since 60 votes are required and the Senate is split evenly along party lines.

Virginia

The Virginia Democratic Primary date in your precinct is **June 8**. Early in-person voting started April 24 at the Fairfax Government Center. The deadline to request an absentee ballot was **May 28**. The deadline for early in-person voting at the Government Center is **June 5**.

For a more complete listing of dates and places for voting, visit

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/early-voting>

The Republican primary was held as a drive-in vote across the state on May 8. The following won nominations: **Glenn Youngkin** for Governor, **Jason Miyares** for Attorney General; and Virginia Beach former state delegate, **Winsome E. Sears**, for Lieutenant Governor.

During the summer months, debates among the candidates will be held. Plan to learn more about candidate positions. An educated and informed voter is the basis for democracy.

Mary Lou Melley, Public Policy Chair

AAUW National thanks Mclean Branch for Honoring the National Staff

"Thanks to the AAUW McLean Area (Virginia) branch for the generous gift they made to AAUW on behalf of our hardworking AAUW National Staff. We so appreciate AAUW McLean for recognizing our staff's tenacity during an incredibly difficult year, and we hope they—and all members—know how much the staff appreciates their commitment in return. Teamwork makes the dream work!"

Connect with the Branch on Social Media!

Our Branch is on Facebook and Instagram. 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/>.

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 | June

Bridge Group The Bridge Group will not meet face-to-face again until September 2021. Please contact **Barbara Carr** at [barbaralcarr at msn.com](mailto:barbaralcarr@msn.com) if you are not a member of the group and would like to join.

Current Events Current Events will meet on the second and fourth **Tuesdays** of the months June, July, and August at **9:30 am** — **June 8 and 22, July 13 and 27, August 10 and 24**. 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.

Morning Lit Group The Morning Literature Group is meeting **Friday, June 11 at 10:00 am** to select titles for the next program year. 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 the suggested title list that will be sent out **June 7**. All are welcome.

Evening Lit Group The Evening Literature Group will meet **Monday, June 21 at 7:30 pm** to discuss *A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the Spy Who Helped Win WWII*, by **Sonia Purnell**. During the meeting book selections will be made for the next program year. The discussion will be led by **Diana Parsell** who will also be compiling the title suggestions. Contact **Diana Parsell** at [parselldb at aol.com](mailto:parselldb@aol.com) if you are interested in attending and send book suggestions to her by **June 5**.

Great Decisions

Great Decisions will meet **Tuesday, June 15 at 9:30 am**. The discussion will be on **Chapter 5, China and Africa**. The group will continue to meet throughout the summer, with the last discussion for this program year in September. New members are encouraged to participate in a meeting to learn more about the program and make plans to participate in the new program year. Contact **Angela Ehemann**, [acehemann at verizon.net](mailto:acehemann@verizon.net) or 703-893-3578 for more information.

Connections Calendar | June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
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	15 Great Decisions, 9:30 am, via ZOOM	16	17	18	19
20	21 Evening Lit Group, 7:30 pm, via ZOOM	22 Current Events Group, 9:30 am, via ZOOM	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Save the Dates

- July 13: **Current Events**, 9:30 am
- July 20: **Great Decisions**, 9:30 am
- July 27: **Current Events**, 9:30 am
- August 10: **Current Events**, 9:30 am
- August 17: **Great Decisions**, 9:30 am
- August 24: **Current Events**, 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**

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

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

AAUW Website | www.AAUW.org