



McLean Area Branch  
AAUW of Virginia

# News

## Co-Presidents

Naz Basit  
703.356.6365  
[nazbasit@yahoo.com](mailto:nazbasit@yahoo.com)

Sue Christie  
703.300.2779  
[suechristie@gmail.com](mailto:suechristie@gmail.com)

## Membership Co-VPs

Myrtle Hendicks-Corrales  
703.973.0925  
[myrtlehencor@gmail.com](mailto:myrtlehencor@gmail.com)

Diana Parsell  
703.297.9893  
[parselldb@aol.com](mailto:parselldb@aol.com)

## Editors

Cheryl Scott Williams  
301.518.2773  
[cherylswilliams@verizon.net](mailto:cherylswilliams@verizon.net)

Marie Briones-Jones  
703.346.6386  
[brionesjonesm@yahoo.com](mailto:brionesjonesm@yahoo.com)

Judy Lettes  
703.407.3910  
[judy.lettes@gmail.com](mailto:judy.lettes@gmail.com)

## Branch Website

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

September 2021  
Volume XLXI  
Number 1

## Branch Meeting: September

Sunday, September 19, 2021  
2-4 pm  
Via **ZOOM**

At our first AAUW McLean Branch meeting of the year, we will welcome our newly elected officers and celebrate the outstanding young women awardees and scholarship winners supported by our Branch. These will include the high school junior STEM winners and Trinity and Marymount universities scholarship recipients.

An email notification from **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales** with the Zoom link, meeting ID and Password, will be sent a few days prior to the meeting. Those without access to a computer or the internet may join the meeting by phone. We hope to see you on **ZOOM**.

## Save the Date

### Northern District Meeting

Saturday, October 9, 2021  
10:00 am – Noon  
Via **ZOOM**

Featuring video from **Jada Pinkett Smith's** "Red Table Talk" program on relations between women of color and white women. Business meeting follows. Program and registration details in the October newsletter.

## Branch Board Meeting: September

The Branch Board meeting is:

Wednesday, September 8  
10:00 am - noon  
Via **ZOOM**

An agenda for the meeting and a meeting link will be sent to board members in advance.

## Presidents' Message

We have all been through a tough time for the last 18 months. The devastating Covid-19 infections, lockdowns, tumbling economy, isolation from friends and families took a toll on almost everyone's mental and psychological health. Although vaccinations brought a ray of hope with a promise of return to normal activities, we have seen dips and surges in infections. Unfortunately, we are not out of the woods yet. With infection rates rising even among vaccinated individuals, we must continue to consider the health and safety of our members, our young children, and grandchildren as well as the rest of our community. We, as co-presidents, feel a bigger responsibility resting on our shoulders and are watching the latest developments to make the best decisions for the sake of our members.

Although the pandemic shut down office work for many, we had opportunities to continue working from home through google chat, teleconferencing, and **ZOOM**. Our Branch is an example of how we carried on working through adverse circumstances. We could not have a book sale for two years, but our Branch members and the local community helped us to continue our mission through generous donations. This was achieved through virtual communication. We still managed to give college scholarships, STEM awards and Fellowship endowment Funds for women and girls to help them achieve their educational goals.

Our Branch is starting the new year with a renewed zeal to continue our mission to support women's education, to advocate for diversity, inclusion, and equity, to work on ERA, challenge pay disparity and highlight women's issues and continue to find a resolution.



**Naz Basit and Sue Christie,  
Branch Co-Presidents.**

## DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Committee Report

*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.*

The purpose of this committee is to work in ensuring that Branch members understand the difference and the unique importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Armed with new knowledge, we hope AAUW members will be empowered to create a space where people can come together and celebrate their differences. The committee will ensure that all Branch activities and programs are viewed through a DEI lens.

This new AAUW McLean Branch committee is an opportunity to examine the policies and attitudes that keep Americans from reaching their potential. We had our first meeting on August 5 and will meet again:

**September 23, 2021**  
**10:00 am**  
**Via ZOOM**

We are looking for more members and there is much to be done. If you are interested, please email **Ruth Nowjack-Raymer** ([ruthoheast at gmail.com](mailto:ruthoheast@gmail.com)) or **Barbara Sipe** ([bfs4000 at aol.com](mailto:bfs4000@aol.com).)

**Ruth Nowjack-Rymer and Barbara Sipe, Co-chairs**

## 2021 McLean Area Branch AAUW Fundraiser

The Branch 2021 fundraiser ran from June through August 15 in two phases: member outreach followed by a public outreach through GoFundMe. Again, members were very generous. Here are the preliminary results:

### Phase 1 Member Outreach

	\$13,154	49 members and former members
	\$1,490	Donations in memory of Connie Small and Suzanne Watts
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$14,644</b>	

### Phase 2 GoFundMe (GFM)

	\$5,305	50 donations directly through GFM
	\$2,075	12 donations through mail
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$7,380</b>	



**Total** **\$22,024**

The random drawing for owners of seven **Max Scherzer** signed memorabilia took place on August 24. The winners' names will be included in our October newsletter. We are very appreciative of the memorabilia donations from **Erica** and **Max Scherzer**.

We are ever hopeful that we will resume our used book sale in 2022 under the leadership of **Nina** and **Tom McVeigh**.

Many thanks to the fundraising committee: **Naz Basit, Anita Booth, Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales, Marge Degnon, Deborah DeMasi, Christina Hamilton, Grace Hamilton, Margaret Hines, Carol Langelier, Mafalda Marrocco, Carol Mournighan, Nina McVeigh, Tom McVeigh, Caroline Pickens, Phyllis Provenzano, Betsy Schroeder**

## AAUW Funds

Members of the AAUW McLean Area Branch are part of a national organization founded in 1881. The McLean Branch, founded in 1969, immediately joined the mission to support Fellowships, Grants, and other efforts for the advancement of women. For 51 years, the Branch has raised funds for that purpose—to advance women's education, research, and self-development by awarding graduate fellowships, research/project grants, and scholarships. Some of these programs include the Legal Advocacy Fund, the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, women student leadership workshops, and public policy.

The McLean Area Branch has sponsored an American Fellowship as well as an International Fellowship. The Branch also established a Community Action Grant and a Career Development Grant. The awardees will be announced in the October Newsletter.

## AAUW Funds Allocations Committee

At the September Branch Meeting, the membership will be asked to nominate three members to serve on the Allocations Committee. One of the three Branch members must have served the previous year. The Allocations Committee members include the following: Book Sale chairs, university liaisons, STEM chair, three Branch members, and AAUW Funds co-chairs, with the Branch president serving ex officio. If you are interested in serving, contact AAUW Funds co-chairs, **Elaine Lailas** at [elailas@aol.com](mailto:elailas@aol.com) or **Janet Taylor** at [taylor6840@gmail.com](mailto:taylor6840@gmail.com). The committee meets once in late October/early November, probably virtually this year.

**Elaine A. Lailas and Janet Taylor, AAUW Funds co-chairs**

## History of McLean Branch AAUW Local Scholarships

In 1989, after many years of successful Used Book Sales, McLean AAUW decided to do something locally to increase AAUW visibility in the community. Members chose to offer local scholarships to re-entering women students who were studying for a bachelor's degree. The first colleges chosen were George Mason University and Trinity Weekend College. George Mason was chosen because it is our local four-year state university. Trinity Weekend College was selected because it had developed a special weekend program with support services to assist re-entry women students. The first scholarships awarded in 1989 were for \$250.

For the academic year 2021-2022, McLean AAUW will award three \$5,000 scholarships.

This year marks 33 years that I have had the pleasure of informing Trinity College of McLean AAUW scholarships.

My thanks to all the members of McLean AAUW for the financial support they have generously awarded to re-entering women students at my alma mater, Trinity University.

**Juanita Cullen**

## Connect with the Branch on Social Media!

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

[fb.me/aauwmclna](https://fb.me/aauwmclna)

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

**Grace Hamilton, Branch  
Social Media 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.



## National News

In August, the U.S. Senate held two critical votes for our nation, advancing both the infrastructure bill and a budget resolution. When the Senate advanced the budget resolution, it signaled which key issues will be addressed—including making childcare more accessible and affordable, expanding the Child Tax Credit, and providing universal pre-kindergarten to every 3-and-4-year-old—as well as guaranteeing paid family and medical leave.

Despite their popularity, supports that profoundly benefit working women and families could still be left out of the final budget this fall. The budget process will develop over the coming months, with the first hurdle likely coming in the next few weeks when the House of Representatives considers the budget resolution. If it passes, committees in both the House and Senate will then draft the budget reconciliation bill that will enact all these priorities if passed. With lots of work left to do, we ask that you maintain momentum and keep contacting your members of Congress. Ensure all workers have access to paid leave, child care and other critical infrastructure supports — [act now!](#)

## Virginia Update

The General Assembly concluded its session earlier this summer when it considered two important issues: allocating \$4.3 billion of federal American Rescue Plan Funding to uplift Virginia businesses and families impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and electing new judges to the Court of Appeals.

The budget includes:

- **Broadband expansion:** More than \$700 million in funding to expedite the deployment of last-mile broadband infrastructure to unserved areas and close the digital divide within the next three years.
- **Small businesses:** \$250 million to fully fund the Rebuild Virginia program, to reinvest in our economy, and take strides to build a better Virginia in the aftermath of the pandemic.
- **Virginia Employment Commission:** \$862 million added to the Unemployment Trust Fund, with another \$73.6 million being allocated to update and modernize VEC systems to improve claimant services.
- **Public school infrastructure:** \$250 million to upgrade public schools' infrastructure by enhancing their HVAC systems. This will address ventilation needs and ensure improved air quality.
- **Public health systems:** This funding will go toward making sure medical infrastructure is up-to-date and as safe as possible. There is \$238 million being allocated for substance abuse and mental health systems, and \$280.8 million will go toward public health initiatives.
- **Clean water:** \$411.5 million to fortify wastewater treatment infrastructure, provide funds for homeowners who live below the poverty line to improve their wells and septic systems, and increase access to drinkable water in every corner of the Commonwealth.
- **Financial aid for higher education:** \$111 million to provide aid for students who might not have been able to afford higher education otherwise.
- **Raise for state supported law enforcement and first responders:** additionally, it provides funding for the expansion of behavioral health care, including strong community-based services.

The Special Session continued to support voting rights and allocated \$3 million to assist localities with the expansion of early voting, including Sunday voting, and \$1.5 million to combat election misinformation. Approximately \$1.1 billion was made available if needed for the Commonwealth to manage another COVID-19 resurgence.

**Court of Appeals:** Eight judges were elected to the Virginia Court of Appeals during the Special Session. These new judges reflect a diverse makeup of legal practice, experience, and geography, and include four women and four African Americans.

**Mary Lou Melley, Public Policy Chair**

## Arena Stage

Each year interested members gather to attend Arena Stage productions in Washington, DC. Carpooling is organized and most often we attend the matinee performance. If you are interested in attending these great stage performances, please call, text, or e-mail **Elaine Lailas**, 305-281-5787 (cell), [Elailas at aol.com](mailto:Elailas@aol.com). This year's Arena season is as follows:



- **Toni Stone:** September 3 - October 3, 2021
- **Celia And Fidel:** October 8 - November 21, 2021
- **Seven Guitars:** November 28 - December 28, 2021
- **Change Agent:** January 21 - March 6, 2022
- **Catch Me If You Can:** March 4 - April 17, 2022
- **Cambodian Rock Band** April 12 - May 15, 2022
- **Drumfolk:** May 31 - June 26, 2022
- **American Prophet: Frederick Douglass In His Own Words:** July 15 - August 28, 2022

## 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/>.

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

## Special Interest Groups | September

**Morning Lit Group** The Morning Literature Group is meeting **Friday, September 10** at **10:00 am** to discuss *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent*, by **Isabel Wilkerson**. **Marjorie Broderick** will lead the discussion. If you would like to attend and are not a regular member, contact **Betsy Reddaway**, [pbreddaway@verizon.net](mailto:pbreddaway@verizon.net). All are welcome.

**Bridge Group** Members of the Bridge Group are planning to meet on **September 13** from **10:00 am - 2:00 pm**, host to be determined. We welcome new members. Contact **Barbara Carr** 703.356.3127 for information.

**Current Events** Current Events will meet on the second and fourth **Tuesday September 14 and 28 at 9:30 am**. 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](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, September 20** at **7:30 pm** to discuss *Susan, Linda, Nina & Cokie: The Extraordinary Story of the Founding Mothers of NPR*, by **Lisa Napoli**. **Aroona Borpujari** will lead the discussion. If you are not a regular attendee and are interested in attending contact **Aroona** at [Aborpujari@cox.net](mailto:Aborpujari@cox.net). All are welcome.

**Great Decisions** The current session will conclude on **September 21** at **9:30 am** with **Chapter 8, The End of Globalization**. New participants are encouraged to attend to see if you'd like to join the group next year. The new session will begin in February. The books for the next session will be ordered in early October. If you would like to participate in next year's session, contact **Angela Ehemann**, [acehemann@verizon.net](mailto:acehemann@verizon.net) or 703.893.3578 for more information.

# Connections Calendar | September

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

**Myrtle Hendicks-Corrales  
703.973.0925**

**Diana Parsell  
703.297.9893**

**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](http://www.AAUW.org)**