



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>

November 2021  
Volume XLXI  
Number 3

## Northern District Meeting

“Criminal Justice and Inequities in Women and Minorities”

Steve T. Descano, Commonwealth’s Attorney,  
Fairfax County and Fairfax City

Tuesday, November 16, 2021  
7:00 – 9:00 pm  
via ZOOM

**Steve T. Descano**, a veteran and former federal prosecutor, served under the Obama Administration for six years specializing in complex financial crimes of both national and international scope. A West Point graduate, **Steve** was a helicopter pilot and U.S. Army Officer before putting himself through law school and becoming a federal prosecutor. After his work in the Justice Department,

**Steve** served 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 outgoing 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 with the Commonwealth 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.

AAUW McLean Branch co-president **Naz Basit** will send an email with the ZOOM ID and password will be sent to all the members and guests.



## December Holiday Luncheon

Saturday, December 11  
Noon – 2:00 pm  
River Bend Country Club

Speaker: Jeanne Ward, International Expert  
Violence Against Women

Return registration form to Aroona no later than December 3.

(Registration form on page 2)



AAUW McLean Area Branch  
**Holiday Luncheon**

**December 11 - At noon with lunch served at 1 pm**

Riverbend Country Club  
375 Walker Rd., Great Falls, VA

**Guest Speaker: Jeanne Ward**

**International Expert on Violence against Women and  
Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse**

**Menu**

**Salad**

Baby Spinach, Dried Cranberries, Goat Cheese, Sliced Red Onion, Candied Pecans,  
and Cranberry Vinaigrette

**Entrée, choice of**

Stuffed Roasted **Chicken** Breast Wild Rice, Cranberries, Spinach, Cream Cheese, and  
Lemon Dijon Chicken Jus. Served with Couscous and Grilled Vegetables.

or

Grilled **Salmon** with Lemon Butter Sauce, garnished with Diced Tomatoes and Capers.  
Served with Vegetables Rice Pilaf and Grilled Vegetables.

or

Wild Mushroom **Ravioli** with Grilled Vegetables and Roasted Red Peppers Sauce.

**Chocolate Mousse**

**Rolls and Butter**

**Coffee, Hot Tea, and Iced Tea**

**Cash Bar Available**

**Reservations** *(Friends, colleagues from other branches, and others are welcome!)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Entrée Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Entrée Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Entrée Choice \_\_\_\_\_

**Cost | \$38 per Person (includes gratuity and sales tax)**

**Make check payable to | AAUW – McLean Area Branch**

**Respond before or by | Friday, December 3 (firm deadline)**

**To | Aroona S. Borpujari, 1225 Meyer Court, McLean, VA 22101**

## Branch Board Meeting: November

Wednesday, November 10

10:00 am - noon

Via **ZOOM**

A meeting agenda and link will be sent to board members in advance.

## Presidents' Message

As we head into November with pumpkins, spiced lattes, chilly nights, beautiful fall foliage, we reminisce about the months behind us. With just two more months into the year 2021, it seems as if we are once again faced with the enormous burden of reflecting on where we stand with our issues and mission. With election time here to select our local legislators, we must look deeper into the issues facing women and minorities. We have to search for candidates who support AAUW's priorities and who are more supportive of women's voting rights, economic security, equal pay, employment benefits, affordable childcare, to name a few. Please make sure to cast your vote to elect the right officials and law makers who will help us move forward on so many fronts.

We are moving ahead with planning and restructuring our Branch to align with the changing times. We have been collecting important feedback from members and putting ideas together to plan for future new members, programs, and activities as well as providing resources and opportunities for women of all ages. In the coming months, we hope to implement those ideas into actions that impact local community members, particularly women and minorities through the lens of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. We are always open to new ideas and would appreciate and welcome your input in planning for the future which not only affects us but also future generations.



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

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

At the first meeting of the new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DEI), Branch activities were reviewed, and goals were established to make DEI a priority. The committee is considering organizations and groups to partner with and programs on DEI topics to host. The committee also explores hosting events that promote DEI in our membership and local community. The DEI committee established the following goals:

- Branch programs should relate to DEI whenever possible.
- The Current Events group should include DEI topics in their discussions.
- Book groups should select books related to DEI subjects when possible.
- Public Policy should inform the membership when DEI subjects are being considered in Congress or the Virginia legislature.
- The Allocations Committee should be mindful of DEI in allocating local funds.
- The STEM essay contest should consider a topic specifically related to minority women in STEM.

DEI committee meetings are open to all members. Anyone interested to join the committee, attend its meetings, and/or provide suggestions, should contact committee co-chairs, **Barbara Sipe**, [bfs4000 at aol.com](mailto:bfs4000@aol.com), 703.356.2385, or **Ruth Nowjack-Raymer**, [ruthoheast at gmail.com](mailto:ruthoheast@gmail.com), 703.855.1547.

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

## 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/>.

## AAUW Funds

The Allocation of Funds Committee met on **Wednesday, October 27, 2021**, to discuss the allocation of the monies raised in 2021. The committee will present its recommendation for fund allocations to the McLean Area Branch Board of Directors for approval. The approved 2021 allocations report will be sent to the members for their approval at the November Branch meeting.

The Committee will also prepare the "*Names Honored*" list for approval at the November Branch Board meeting. The *Names Honored* will be presented at the AAUW State Conference, as well as at the Branch May Luncheon.

**Elaine A. Lailas and Janet Taylor, AAUW Funds Co-Chairs**

## 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.

## Connect with the Branch on Social Media!

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

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

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

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





## Have You Voted??

**Tuesday, November 2** is Election Day, and the polls are open from **6:00 am till 7:00 pm**. If you do not know your polling place, click on <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation> or cut and paste this on your browser.



For more voting information, go to our AAUW McLean

Area Branch website and scroll down to <https://mclean-va.aauw.net>.

**Voting is the most important action you can undertake for our democracy; without voting, no other actions are possible.**

## Fairfax County In-Person Early Voting (McLean Area)

### Locations

- Fairfax County Government Center
- Great Falls Library
- McLean Governmental Center
- Thomas Jefferson Library
- Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library

### Hours

- **Friday (October 29th)**
  - Fairfax County Government Center 8:00 am- 4:30 pm
  - All other locations 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- **Saturday (October 30th)**
  - All locations 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

For more details and other Fairfax County locations:

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

## Redistricting in Virginia

The brand-new Virginia Redistricting Commission is at a stalemate. The legislators on the Commission cannot come to an agreement on a map. It has missed the original deadline and now has less than two weeks to reach a compromise. If there is no agreement by then, it goes to the State Supreme Court to draw the map. By the time you read this newsletter, it may have already gone to the Court. For more information go to <https://www.virginiaredistricting.org/>.

## Congress December 3

October 1, 2021 was the beginning of fiscal year 2022 for the Federal government. However, the last time Congress completed all bills on time was 20 years ago. Since then, they have approved continuing resolutions. A continuing resolution (CR) continues the pre-existing appropriations at the same levels as the previous fiscal year, with minor modifications, for a set amount of time.

At the last minute in October, Congress approved a budget CR and raised the debt ceiling, but only until December 3 when the process will be repeated. Failing to raise the debt ceiling would leave the U.S. government unable to fulfill its financial obligations — including paying Social Security benefits to seniors, providing tax aid to families with children, or offering pay and other assistance to troops and veterans.

The Public Policy Committee is open to all members. The committee's next meeting is **November 3**. If you would like to join us, please email Carol Mournighan at [clmourn@gmail.com](mailto:clmourn@gmail.com).

**Carol Mournighan and Mary Lou Melley, Public Policy Co-Chairs**

## Arena Stage

One Branch member has indicated an interest in joining a group to attend plays at the Arena Stage. If you are interested in joining to attend Arena Stage matinees on Wednesday, Saturday, or Sunday, **Elaine Lailas**, 305-281-5787 (cell), [Elailas@aol.com](mailto:Elailas@aol.com).



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

## Special Interest Groups | November


**Bridge Group** The Bridge Group will meet on **Monday, November 8** from **10:00 am - 2:00 pm**, at **Corinne Mertes'** home, **3223 Foxvale Road, Oakton, VA 22124**, 703.620.9382. New members are welcomed. Contact **Barbara Carr** 703.356.3127 for information. **Full vaccination for Covid 19 required for participation in the Bridge Group.**

**Current Events** Current Events will meet on the second and fourth **Tuesday November 9 and 23 at 9:30 am**. All members are invited to bring their 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.

**Morning Lit Group** The Morning Literature Group is meeting **Friday, November 12 at 10:00 am** to discuss ***Susan, Linda, Nina & Cokie: The Extraordinary Story of the Founding Mothers of NPR***, by **Lisa Napoli**. **Margaret Hines** 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.

**Evening Lit Group** The Evening Literature Group will meet **Monday, November 15 at 7:30 pm** to discuss ***The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race***, by **Walter Isaacson**. **Anita Booth** will lead the discussion. If you are not a regular attendee and are interested in attending contact **Lynne Glikbarg** at [lynneglik@aol.com](mailto:lynneglik@aol.com). All are welcome.


# Connections Calendar | November

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



## Save the Dates

- **December 3: Holiday Luncheon Reservations due**
- **December 11: Holiday Luncheon, Noon - 2:00 pm**



### 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)**