



McLean Area Branch
AAUW of Virginia

News

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Branch Website

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

December 2021/January 2022
Volume XLXI
Number 4

December Holiday Luncheon

Saturday, December 11, 2021, Noon - 2:00 pm
River Bend Country Club
Great Falls, VA

**Women Facing Gender
Discrimination & Inequities
Worldwide**

Jeanne Ward
**International Expert on Violence
Against Women**



Jeanne Ward is an internationally recognized expert on Violence Against Women (VAW). She provides technical leadership, training, assessment, and evaluation support to UN agencies, NGOs, and government partners in developing and improving VAW-related research, policies, systems, and programs. **Ward** has consulted to more than 30 countries around the world, with a primary focus on humanitarian emergencies. She is the author of numerous publications on VAW and has developed globally disseminated tools and guidelines. **Ward** has taught at Smith College and Columbia University and has been awarded a visiting Assistant Professorship at University College Dublin.

Registration for the luncheon is due to **Aroona Borpujari no later than December 3.**

(Registration form on page 2)

January Virginia AAUW Program

Saturday, January 22, 2022
10:00 am – Noon
Via [zoom](#)

Creating Inclusive Spaces

The program will feature a panel discussion on AAUW Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion. A detailed agenda and Zoom information will be provided in January.

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: December and January

Wednesday, December 8

and

Wednesday, January 12

10:00 am - noon

Via **zoom**

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

Presidents' Message

Organizations sitting at a crossroad require **Rethinking, Reimagining, and Recommitting** to what they do and how they do it. Here is what your board has been up to:

WEBSITE: We are **rethinking** and **redesigning** our website with the help of talented members: **Judy Page, Judy Lettes, and Diana Parsell**. Our website is a major branding tool. As such, it needs better graphics, a more dynamic copy, and more timely information on how we, as a Branch, contribute to increasing equity for girls and women in the classroom and workplace. Our goal is to have a mock-up of a redesigned home page by February for member review.

STRATEGIC PLAN: We are **rethinking** our strategic plan by considering new partnerships, new activities, and new ways of doing business as a Branch. Our first brainstorming session was held in November. We ran out of time before we ran out of ideas. These ideas will be categorized and prioritized as we ask ourselves which ones will generate the most impact and diversity in our programs and membership. A draft updated strategic plan will be presented to the membership by early summer.

PARTNERSHIPS: We are **recommitting** to collaborating more closely with our sister branches in Northern Virginia, Virginia AAUW, and national headquarters. The board has voted as a first step to participate in the **5 Star Program** that requires branches to meet a set of standards in five categories developed by national headquarters. We can already check many of the boxes, but there are several objectives we have yet to meet. These include developing a succession plan to ensure continuing, strong Branch leadership. We have also asked our district representative to convene our sister branches on a routine basis to share information and ideas more systematically.

USED BOOK SALE: We must **rethink and reimagine** our book sale. We lost our space at SunTrust Bank in Vienna for receiving, sorting, and storing books and **Nina and Tom McVeigh** and their dedicated committee are trying hard to locate a new venue. McLean Community Center is excited to host the book sale in the fall of 2022. We also must ensure there are enough people power to manage this labor-intensive effort. The membership will be canvassed to know how many willing hands will volunteer. We hope each of you will **recommit**.



Sue Christie and Naz Basit,
Branch Co-Presidents

We hope to see many of you at the holiday luncheon and wish all of you a happy, safe holiday season and a peaceful New Year.

AAUW Funds

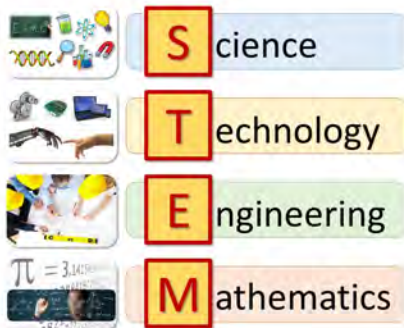
The available Funds for Allocation from the 2021 Fundraising effort are \$20,832. The McLean Area Branch members approved adding \$4,500 from the Vanguard Reserve Funds to this for a total of \$25,332 to be distributed.

Branch members approved the 2021 Allocation of Funds of \$25,332, as follows:

AAUW Greatest Needs Fund - In Honor of AAUW's 140th Anniversary	\$10,000
National Conference College Women Student Leaders Scholarships	\$2,500
Marymount University	\$6,000
Trinity of Washington University	\$6,000
Langley High School	\$300
McLean High School	\$300
STEM Excellence Award	\$100
Conferences & Conventions	\$132
Total Allocations	\$25,332

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

STEM Essay Contest – Call for Volunteer Judges



The McLean Area Branch is sponsoring its fourth annual STEM Essay Contest open to 7th and 8th grade students (girls and boys) at local public and private schools. The contest challenges students to discover and publicize women who made a difference in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics, but who received little or no recognition for their contributions while they were alive. Strong preference is given to essays about women who are not well known even today. Each student is asked to describe the person's STEM contribution and its impact as well as clearly state why the woman was selected as the subject of the essay.

We plan to give out a first-place award (\$100), a second-place award (\$50), and two Honorable Mentions (\$25 each). We will contact schools in January and make the application available via email to the schools and on our website. Students will be able to submit their essays through the deadline of February 11, 2022.

This is a call for members of the Branch to serve as volunteer judges for the contest. If you are interested, please contact **Judy Page** (judypage@gmail.com or 703-847-1950). **Judging will take place between February 14 and February 28.** The judges will be asked to rate the essays on a set of criteria and rank their top choices.

The winners will be invited to the Branch event on March 15 with the first-place winner reading his or her essay. By holding the award ceremony in March, we are using this event to help celebrate Women's History Month.

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/>.

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.



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](#). 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.

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.



National

Both houses of Congress have passed the bipartisan **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Bill** that was signed by the President on November 23. This bill put \$550 billion in new money into transportation projects, the utility grid, and broadband. The package includes \$110 billion for roads, bridges, and other major projects, along with \$66 billion for passenger and freight rail and \$39 billion for public transit. It allocated \$65 billion for broadband, allowing greater internet access for households and students across the country. The legislation also invests \$55 billion into water systems, including efforts to replace lead pipes.

Additional provisions of the bill include:

- Reauthorization for FY2023-FY2026 surface transportation programs, including the federal-aid highway program, transit programs, highway safety, motor carrier safety, and rail programs.
- Addressing climate change, including strategies to reduce the impacts of the surface transportation system and a vulnerability assessment to identify opportunities to enhance the resilience of the surface transportation system and ensure the efficient use of federal resources.
- Revision of Buy America procurement requirements for highways, mass transit, and rail.
- Establishment of a rebuild rural bridges program to improve the safety and state of good repair of bridges in rural communities.
- Implementation of new safety requirements across all transportation modes.
- Direction to the Department of Transportation to establish a pilot program to demonstrate a national motor vehicle per-mile user fee to restore and maintain the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund and achieve and maintain good repair in the surface transportation system.

The Build Back Better Act is still being negotiated and so the provisions are not set. Here are some programs that this bill would provide:

- Up to six semesters of free community college.
- Free childcare for children under the age of six.
- Free universal preschool services.
- Health benefits for eligible individuals who reside in states that have not expanded Medicaid.
- Establishment of a methane fee for certain petroleum and natural gas facilities.
- Expansion of Medicare to cover dental, hearing, and vision care.
- Provision for certain aliens with a path to permanent resident status (e.g., those who entered the United States as minors.).
- Twelve weeks of paid family and medical leave.
- Restructure and increase of the tax rates for certain corporations and high-income individuals (e.g., individuals with income over \$400,000).
- Requirement of the Department of Health and Human Services to negotiate maximum prices for certain brand-name drugs under Medicare.

Virginia

We will have a new administration in Virginia in 2022. The governorship and the House of Delegates will be in the hands of the Republican party while the senate is closely divided with a two-person majority with the Democratic party. Governor Elect Glenn Youngkin has not announced his policy agenda as this article is being written. The Redistricting Commission has failed and now the process of redistricting is in the hands of the State Supreme Court.

If anyone is interested in being a part of the Public Policy Committee, please contact **Carol Mournighan** at clmourn@gmail.com.

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

Special Interest Groups | December and January

Morning Lit Group

The Morning Literature Group will meet via **zoom** Friday, December 10, at 10:00 am to discuss *Diary of a Bookseller*, by Shaun Bythell. **Reed Isbell** will lead the discussion.

The group will meet via **zoom** Friday, January 14, at 10:00 am to discuss *The Dutch House*, by Ann Patchett. **Angela Ehemann** will lead the discussion.

If you would like to attend and are not a regular member, contact **Betsy Reddaway**, pbreddaway@verizon.net. All are welcome.

Bridge Group

The Bridge Group will meet on Monday, December 13 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, at **Marge Degnon's** home, 1340 Lancia Drive, McLean 22102.

The group will meet on Monday, January 10 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, at **Betsy Schroeder's** home, 6900 Fleetwood Road, Apt 410, McLean 22101.

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 December 14 and 28 and January 11 and 25 at 9:30 am** via **zoom**. 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. 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 not be reviewing a book in December.

The group will meet **Monday, January 17 at 7:30 pm** to discuss *Hamnet* by **Maggie O'Farrell**. **Mary Lou Melley** will host the meeting and lead the discussion. A determination as to whether the group will meet in person or via **zoom** will be made in early January. Anyone interested in attending or having questions should contact **Lynne Glikbarg** at lynneglik@aol.com. The group welcomes all interested branch members.

Connections Calendar | December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Branch Board Meeting, 10:00 am, via ZOOM	9	10 Morning Lit Group, 10:00 am, via ZOOM	11 Branch Holiday Luncheon, Noon, River Bend Country Club
12	13 Bridge Group, 10:00 am, Marge Degnon's Home	14 Current Events Group, 9:30 am, via ZOOM	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Current Events Group, 9:30 am, via ZOOM	29	30	31	

Connections Calendar | January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Bridge Group, 10:00 am, Betsy Schroeder's Home	11 Current Events Group, 9:30 am, via ZOOM	12 Branch Board Meeting, 10:00 am, via ZOOM	13	14 Morning Lit Group, 10:00 am, via ZOOM	15
16	17 Evening Lit Group, 7:30 pm, venue TBD	18	19	20	21	22 Virginia AAUW Program, 10:00 am, via ZOOM
23	24	25 Current Events Group, 9:30 am, via ZOOM	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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