



McLean Area Branch  
AAUW of Virginia

# News

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## Branch Website

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

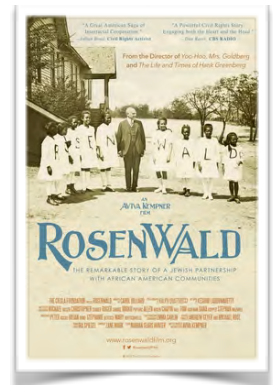
February 2022  
Volume XLXI  
Number 5

## February Branch Meeting

You Need a Schoolhouse,  
the Remarkable Story of Julius Rosenwald

Saturday, February 12, 2022  
10:00 am – Noon  
Via **zoom**

**Julius Rosenwald** was a successful businessman who headed Sears Roebuck & Co in its early years. He was also a philanthropist who worked in collaboration with **Booker T. Washington** to build 5,000 schools for African-American children in the South during the 1920s and '30s. This month's program will feature the film *Rosenwald, the Remarkable Story of a Jewish Partnership with African American Communities*, a 90-minute documentary written and directed by **Aviva Kemper**.



Stephanie Deutsch, author  
of *You Need a Schoolhouse*.

Following the film, **Stephanie Deutsch**, author of *You Need a Schoolhouse*, her book about the Rosenwald schools, will discuss and answer questions about Rosenwald, her book, and the film.

## Branch Board Meeting: February

Thursday, February 17  
10:00 am  
Via **zoom**

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

## Presidents' Message

As we write this message, we realize time is going by too fast. While we are bound in a never ending, fast paced conundrum called Life, sometimes we must take a step back and reevaluate our present goals, try a different path to get back on track, and work on a lasting legacy for our Branch.

We are already working on several items to ensure our Branch remains focused on its mission and to increase our impact in the community. We continue to support women in STEM. Our DEI co-chairs are working to incorporate the core values of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion into our membership and programs. They are building bridges and reaching out to our sister branches to help with advancing this agenda to a larger and wider group of people. Our Board has approved two new DEI related awards at the local high schools. We are also planning to diversify our outreach for scholarships for women to make it better suited to changing times. We have started as well working on improving our website to leave a solid footprint on social media platforms. Additionally, we have started work on acquiring recognition from the State for mission related goals.

While we are focused on moving our Branch forward, the current situation with the pandemic still presents many challenges. With a new winter surge of Covid infections and many cancellations and restrictions back on, life will again slow down. Our mission is clear, our goals are set, and we are all energized to continue our work despite the challenges.

Wishing all of you peace despite the worries, fulfillment despite the challenges, and good health despite the pandemic.

**A very Happy New Year to all!**



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

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Project Update

For the first time, our Branch is sponsoring an Inclusion Award for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students in Langley and McLean High Schools. We are looking for students who make efforts to help fellow students feel included and respected in their respective schools or who fight against bullying and harassment. This month we are contacting the counselors at the respective schools and sending a flyer announcing the Award along with its application. The **deadline for submitting the applications** to **Ruth Nowjack-Raymer**, Co-DEI Chair, is **March 11, 2022**.

The DEI Committee will review applications and select a winner from each school who will be acknowledged at a Branch meeting when each of them will be presented with a certificate and a check for \$100.

Another AAUW Branch in our area has been hosting a similar award showcasing students who created events for mainstream students and learning impaired students to work together on service projects, helped set up and coached handicapped basketball, plastered lockers with sticky notes that read "Respect is the new R word;" planned cultural fairs on the various cultures represented in their schools; and held events for Downs Syndrome students with mainstream students.

The next DEI committee meeting is

**Thursday, February 24**  
**3:00 pm**  
**Via zoom**

If you haven't attended past meetings and would like to join the group, contact **Barbara Sipe** at [bfs4000 at aol.com](mailto:bfs4000@aol.com).

**Barbara Sipe and Ruth Nowjack-Raymer, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion 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/>.

## Membership

Welcome new members to our Branch.

- **Linda Dibbs** grew up in Annandale and graduated from William and Mary. She worked for IBM, where she met her husband. They worked three years for IBM in Germany. Upon their return to the States, they moved to McLean, where they lived for 43 years. **Linda** worked for many years as a substitute teacher at Springhill Elementary School. After her husband's death in 2020, she moved to Sterling to live with her daughter. She looks forward to being a member of AAUW and has already enjoyed playing bridge with the group.
- **Debora Goldberg** is a first-generation college student. She is dedicated to creating pathways for women to access higher education, thrive in their careers, and to experience healthy workplace settings. Part of her work as an associate professor in the Department of Health Administration and Policy at George Mason University is to conduct research on access to and quality of healthcare services.
- **Dr. Phyllis Genther Yoshida** is a nonresident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Global Energy Center, after retiring from the U.S. Department of Energy as deputy assistant secretary for Asia, Europe, and the Americas. She received a BA from Carleton College, and her MA and PhD from George Washington University. As the first recipient of Japan's GARIOA/Fulbright Fellowship, she studied at the University of Tokyo and conducted research on Japan's auto industry. In a career spanning international science and technology, business innovation models, and government-industry research partnerships, she has also held positions at: the U.S House of Representatives; Japan Economic Institute; George Mason University; and the Department of Commerce, where she received silver and gold medals for her work. A resident of Falls Church, she likes to spend her free time traveling, playing with her cats, and building and collecting Japanese miniature houses and kokeshi dolls.

**Diana Parsell and Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales, Membership Co-Vice Presidents**

## 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 Five-Star Program



McLean AAUW Branch is a dynamic group, and we can showcase that by participating in the AAUW Five-Star Program. The Branch board has voted to apply for the AAUW Five-Star Program, which covers the period July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. The program has five areas with criteria the Branch must meet. We receive a star for each area we accomplish. Our Branch is going for all five stars.

The Branch has already met at least half the criteria; so, we are well on our way. The areas and Branch accomplishments to date are as follows:

### Advancement (AAUW Funds Contributions and Membership) (must meet three of five criteria)

- \$30 per member for Greatest Needs Fund (done)
- Contribute to Greatest Needs Fund for AAUW's 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary (done)
- Retain at least 90% of members (we think accomplished)
- Increase Legacy Circle membership by 10% (hope to accomplish)
- Increase contributions to Greatest Needs Fund by 25%

### Public Policy & Research (must meet all criteria)

- Have public policy chair; collaborate with state PP Vice President (done)
- Conduct annual meeting with member of Congress, governor, or staff with strategic plan focus; state branches can work in coalition (can accomplish in February with virtual meeting) (done)
- Host at least one event with opportunity to sign up for Action Network (also known as Two-Minute Activist)

### Governance & Sustainability (must meet all criteria)

- Have an officer to lead DEI (Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion) (done)
- Branch board institutes a succession plan (in progress)
- Branch board develops and uses a strategic plan (in progress)

### Programs (must meet both criteria)

- Host at least four mission-based programs that align with the AAUW Strategic Plan (done)
- At least two programs have DEI focus (done) and at least one in collaboration with another branch (in progress)

### Communications & External Relations (must meet criterion)

- All existing website and social media accounts use current AAUW branding and have 3-5 postings with a DEI focus in FY21-22. (in progress)

Teams are working on each area, and if you would like to join one, contact **Caroline Pickens** at carolineaauw at gmail.com.

**Caroline Pickens, Team Coordinator**



## Federal Voting Rights News

In 2021, 52 restrictive voter laws were passed in various states across the country, limiting options to vote and undermining local elections officials' ability to protect elections. In response, Congress introduced two voter rights bills: Freedom to Vote Act; and John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

Despite a Senate Majority and overwhelming public support for the bills, both were filibustered by the Senate Minority, which killed the bills and the hope of ending voter suppression and election subversion by states' partisan politics.

Overcoming a filibuster requires a 60-vote supermajority, effectively giving the Senate minority pocket veto power over any bill they dislike. Democratic led Senate Majority decided to vote on ending the filibuster. On January 11, **President Biden** announced that he supports a vote to end the filibuster rule to allow the voting and passage of one or two of the voting rights bills. To change Senate rules requires 67 votes and the vote subsequently failed.

The only way to achieve that change is through the 'nuclear option' (a simple majority of votes would approve the legislation). Democrats would stage a series of floor votes to overrule Senate precedents on a strictly partisan vote. In 2013, Democrats eliminated the 60-vote threshold on most nominees. Republicans did the same on Supreme Court nominees in 2017.

Democratic **Senators Manchin** and **Sinema** are currently withholding their support of the proposed legislation as well as the nuclear option.

To express your support for the Freedom to Vote Act, contact your Senators: [www.Warner.senate.gov](http://www.Warner.senate.gov) and [www.Kaine.senate.gov](http://www.Kaine.senate.gov).

## Virginia – New Session

The 2022 State Legislative session began in January. For Information about the session, please go to <https://viriniageneralassembly.gov>.

### Several new laws became effective January 1, 2022, in Virginia:

1. Testing cosmetics on animals is no longer allowed.
2. The minimum wage increased to \$11.00 per hour in 2022 and \$12.00 per hour in 2023.
3. Auto liability insurance will increase to \$30,000.00 for injury and death.
4. "Surprise" medical bills are prohibited.
5. In Arlington, Alexandria, and Fairfax County, shop owners will charge a 5 cent tax on disposable plastic shopping bags. So, to save money and the environment, use your own reusable shopping bags.

Continued on Page 6



## Virginia – New Session Continued from Page 5

The Virginia Supreme Court has approved the new voting maps for the state of Virginia. When the Court appointed two experts, one proposed by the Republican Party and the other by the Democratic Party of Virginia, it directed them not to take the existing map nor the current legislators into consideration. The result is that as many as half of elected representatives either live in the same district of at least one other representative or completely outside their districts.

For **most** our **Branch** members there are several voting map changes to note.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Virginia Congressional District (**Don Beyer**, representative) is to include all McLean area residents inside the Beltway. Most of those living outside the Beltway who are currently in the 10<sup>th</sup> Virginia Congressional District (**Jennifer Wexton**, representative) will be voting in the 11<sup>th</sup> Virginia Congressional District (Gerry Connelly, representative) this November. The new VA 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District will be in Loudon County and west.

As far as our Virginia State Delegation is concerned, many of those who are represented by either **Marcus Simon** or **Mark Keam** will remain in their district. However, both **Kathleen Murphy** and **Rip Sullivan** both reside in a new district that includes McLean and Great Falls. None of these changes will take place until **AFTER** the November 2022 elections. The new Virginia Senate map will not be effective until **AFTER** the November 2023 elections.

Anyone interested in being on the Public Policy Committee should contact **Carol Mournighan** at [clmourn at gmail.com](mailto:clmourn@gmail.com).

Mary Lou Melley and Carol Mournighan, Public Policy 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.

## 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.

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

## Special Interest Groups | February

### Morning Lit Group

The Morning Literature Group will meet on **Friday, February 11**, at **10:00 am** to discuss ***The Vanishing Half***, by **Brit Bennett**. **Betsy Reddaway** will lead the discussion. If you would like to attend and are not a regular member, contact **Betsy Reddaway**, [pbreddaway at verizon.net](mailto:pbreddaway@verizon.net). All are welcome.

### Bridge Group

The Bridge Group January meeting was cancelled. A decision on holding the February meeting will be made early in the month. If you are interested in joining the group, 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 **Tuesday February 8**, 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 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.

### Great Decisions

Great Decisions resumes meeting on **Tuesday, February 15**, at **9:30 am**. The first topic is **Chapter one, Outer Space**. With all the current commercial trips and the launching of the new telescope, this is a timely subject. All are welcome to participate in the discussion. If you need to acquire the book, please contact **Angela Ehemann**, [acehemann at verizon.net](mailto:acehemann@verizon.net) or 703.893.3578.

### Evening Lit Group

The Evening Literature Group will meet on **Monday, February 21**, at **7:30 pm** to discuss ***Crying in H Mart***, by **Michele Zauner**. **Diana Parsell** will lead the discussion. Anyone interested in participating should contact **Lynne Glikbarg** at [lynneglik at aol.com](mailto:lynneglik@aol.com) for further information. The group welcomes all interested branch members.

# Connections Calendar | February

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

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**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)**