



McLean Area Branch
AAUW of Virginia

News

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Branch Website

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

April 2022
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Number 7

April Branch Meeting

Tuesday, April 19, 2022
7:00 – 9:00 pm
McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA 22101

The April Branch meeting will feature **Karla Bruce-Choice**, chief equity officer of Fairfax County, who will speak on gender and economic inequities faced by women and girls in the local communities, and efforts being made to counter them. **Bruce-Choice** has had success bridging the policies and practices of local government with the collective action of partners from the civic, nonprofit, philanthropic, faith, and business sectors to effect positive change for youth, families, and communities.



We look forward to seeing you in person!

May Luncheon and Branch Meeting

Saturday, May 7, 2022
11:30 am – 2:00 pm
Riverbend Club
375 Walker Road, Great Falls, VA 22066

The annual May luncheon and Branch meeting speaker, Virginia State **Senator Barbara Favola**, will highlight the Branch theme for the year: Equity: The Status of Women and Minorities. **Senator Favola** is a strong advocate on issues important to children, families, wage-earners, and the environment. She is chair of the Virginia Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee.

The reservation form for the luncheon is included on page 3 of this newsletter with instructions and menu choices. A social time will begin at 11:30 am, with lunch served at 1:00 pm. **Reservation and payment are due to Aroona Borpujari no later than April 30, 2022.**

(Reservation Form on Page 3)

Branch Board Meeting: April

Wednesday, April 13

10:00 am

McLean Community Center

Board meetings are open to all Branch members.

Presidents' Message

This is an odds and ends note to keep you up to date on several major decisions and actions your board has taken so far this year.

No Book Sale And Ramifications - There will be no book sale this year 😞. The space in the SunTrust Vienna bank is no longer available because of the bank's merger. The book sale committee and **Bethany Jones** spent the last seven months looking for alternative space, but to no avail. The board voted to donate the 115 boxes of books left from our last book sale to Falls Church Branch rather than continue to pay storage. They were delighted to receive them, and we are pleased to donate to a sister branch. Their Book Sale is April 29-30. You can find details about donations on their website.

We now need a formally designated fundraising committee to consider and implement several fundraising activities if we are to continue to contribute to AAUW national and to fund our scholarships and awards. While we will continue to look for Book Sale space, we can no longer assume a Book Sale will suffice as our sole means of fundraising. We are asking for members who have been successful at funding PTAs, athletic teams, houses of worship, or other organizations to step up. Several members have put in long hours the past two years soliciting donations and running the online auction. They have done their share.

Bennett College Added To Scholarship Recipients - You may recall that George Mason University, as a public institution, is not allowed to open the Branch scholarship solely to women which is a central criterion for the award. We wanted to continue offering a third scholarship. **Janet Taylor** pursued an all-women's college primarily serving women of color and/or financially disadvantaged students as meeting a central DEI objective for the Branch. There are no HBCU women's colleges in Virginia, so Bennett College in Greensboro, NC, became our candidate. The board coordinated with the local AAUW Branch, and then voted to change our policies to allow us to award a scholarship outside the DC metropolitan area and to fund the \$6,000 scholarship this year from our Vanguard reserves. We are so pleased to recognize Bennett College as an institution dedicated to offering educational opportunities to young women striving for a better start in life.



Sue Christie and Naz Basit,
Branch Co-Presidents

May Luncheon - We encourage all our members to attend the May luncheon. Details are included in the newsletter. We have missed each other and have not been able to give a proper welcome to our newest members. Please consider attending.

AAUW McLean Area Branch

Spring Luncheon

Saturday May 7

Social time starting at 11:30 am with lunch served at 1 pm

River Bend Country Club

375 Walker Road, Great Falls, VA

Guest Speaker:
Virginia Senator Barbara Favola

Menu

Salad

Garden salad with cucumber, tomato, onion, and shredded carrots with the choice of Ranch or Cranberry Vinaigrette

Entrée (Choice)

Stuffed Roasted Chicken Breast with Grilled Vegetables and Boursin Cheese,
Served with Saffron Rice and
Grilled Vegetables

or

Grilled Salmon with Lemon Butter Sauce,
Served with Saffron Rice and Grilled Vegetables

or

Wild Mushroom Ravioli with Grilled Vegetables and Roasted Red Peppers Sauce

Dessert

Crème Brûlée

Rolls & Butter

Coffee, Tea and (Iced Tea if guest requests)

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

Name

Entrée Choice

Cost: \$40.00 per Person (includes gratuity and sales tax)

Check Payable: AAUW - McLean Area Branch

Respond: Saturday April 30 (firm deadline)

To: Aroona S. Borpujari, 1225 Meyer Ct., McLean, VA 22101

Membership

Welcome new members to our Branch

Carolyn Kaye

Past Branch president **Carolyn Kaye** has rejoined our Branch after living 25 years in New Mexico. **Carolyn** originally joined when she received a letter about Lobby Corps, which she promptly joined. Public policy issues were her passion both in Virginia and New Mexico, especially pay equity. She started organizations in both places to support pay equity legislation and succeeded in getting a bill passed in New Mexico. **Carolyn** served as state public policy vice president in both states and was active in fundraising for AAUW.

She says, "Once you do the book sale, you can do anything!"

Barbara Zamora-Appel

Barbara Zamora-Appel, a resident of McLean since 2017, is a program analyst at the U.S. Census Bureau. **Barbara** currently chairs the McLean Community Center; is second vice president of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations; serves on committees for the McLean Citizens Association; and has been a board member of the Arlington County Fair and local education groups. She has a BA from Goucher College, an MBA from the University of Maryland Global Campus, a professional business certificate from Duke University, and a certificate from the University of Antwerp. **Barbara**, whose interests include hiking, reading, traveling, and entertaining, is also an artist who makes full-size paper mâché sculptures.

Membership Renewal

It is membership renewal time. In a few weeks, information on the renewal process will be sent to members in a special email.

Photo Gallery: Virginia State Conference

McLean Branch members at this year's Virginia State Conference-Co-presidents Naz Basit and Sue Christie, with Janet Taylor and Caroline Pickens.



AAUW Funds

McLean Area Branch Honorees

Each year, the McLean Area Branch through our funded grants honors members who have provided extraordinary service to the Branch and to members who have passed away in the previous calendar year. The Funds Appropriations Committee recommends the honorees, and the board approves them.

This year, the Branch honors: **Pam Bacher** for her many years of work creating our directory; **Carol Mournighan**, outgoing branch president; and **Mimi Gronlund**, outgoing program vice president and the 2021 Fundraising Committee. Please join us to congratulate **Pam**, **Carol**, and **Mimi**. The Branch posthumously honors **Margaret (Peggy) Doole** and **Connie Small**.

A certificate of appreciation will be given to our Named Honorees at the May luncheon.

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

Bylaws Change

During the past year, Board members established a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee to address and act on these issues. It is important to have the Committee co-chairs become voting members of the Board.

At the April Branch meeting, Branch members will be asked to vote on the addition to the Bylaws: Article IX Board of Directors, Section 1. Membership, b. add "and others as named by the president".

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**



STEM Essay Winners Announced

The winners of the 2022 STEM Essay Contest sponsored by the McLean Area Branch were announced and recognized during the Branch event held via Zoom on March 15. The contest was open to 7th and 8th grade students (girls and boys) at local public and private schools. The students were asked to discover and publicize women, including women of color, who made a difference in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields, but who received little or no recognition for their contributions while they were alive. Strong preference was given to essays about women who are not well known even today. Each essay described one woman's contribution and its impact, as well as why the student selected the woman.

The Branch received 23 entries for this year's contest. Several of the students made a point of thanking us for the "wonderful opportunity" that the contest provided them. The winners of the contest are:

1st Place: **Ishi Kanaparathi**, Cooper Middle School (7th Grade)

2nd Place: **Alden Walcott**, Cooper Middle School (7th Grade)

Honorable Mention: **Lillian Hood**, Longfellow Middle School (7th Grade)

Honorable Mention: **Hridhaan Banerjee**, Cooper Middle School (7th Grade)

The students and their parents were invited to the March 15 Branch meeting. As part of the awards ceremony, the 1st place winner, **Ishi Kanaparathi**, read her essay on **Cecilia Payne**. Other women who were the subjects of the winning essays were **Lise Meitner** and **Bessie Griffin**. A separate article describes the accomplishments of these talented women, as well as a few others chosen by students for their essays.

Fourteen volunteers from our branch served as judges: **Pam Bacher**, **Marie Briones-Jones**, **Kathy Burns**, **Betsy Canaga**, **Marlene Chivavibul**, **Dorothy Hassan**, **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales**, **Sherry Joslin**, **Nina McVeigh**, **Tom McVeigh**, **Ruth Nowjack-Raymer**, **Judy Page**, **Caroline Pickens**, and **Adarsh Trehan**. The essay contest was managed by a steering committee, consisting of **Marie Briones-Jones**, **Kathy Burns**, and **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales**, together with **Judy Page**, STEM Chair.



Attendees at the March 15th Branch event on Zoom honoring the STEM Essay Contest winners included: top row, from left, Judy Page, STEM Chair; Hridhaan Banerjee, Honorable Mention; Lillian Hood (center), Honorable Mention, with her parents Ben and Courtney Hood; middle row, from left, Alden Walcott, 2nd Place, with her mother Heather Walcott; Ishi Kanaparathi (center), 1st Place, with her parents Manju and Rama Banerjee; Sue Christie, Co-President; bottom row, parents Shajuti and Mansah Banerjee.

Amazing Women in STEM

For this year's STEM Essay Contest, the students chose a group of accomplished women in STEM fields who are hardly known today. Here is a sample of some of the women about whom the students wrote essays.



Top row, from left:

Jeanne Spurlock was an American psychiatrist and educator during the second half of the 20th century. She was the author of numerous scholarly articles addressing the problems of sexism, racism, and cultural misunderstanding in the mental health field.

Ynes Mexia was an early 20th century Mexican American botanist notable for her extensive collection of novel specimens of flora and plants originating from sites in Colombia, Mexico, and Peru. She discovered a new genus named after her and accumulated more than 150,000 specimens for botanical study.

Katharine Burr Blodgett, an engineer and scientist at the GE Research Lab, invented invisible non-reflective glass in 1938. Her patented process has been used to limit distortion in items such as eyeglasses, microscopes, telescopes, cameras, and projector lenses.

Eunice Foote was a physicist, inventor, and women's rights advocate from the mid-1800s whose experiments foreshadowed the discovery of Earth's greenhouse effect. Her experiments led her to hypothesize that concentrations of carbon dioxide in the air could influence global temperatures.

Bottom row, from left:

Ruth Benerito, a chemist at the USDA, conducted research in the 1950s showing that when specific reagents were bonded to cellulose, the cellulose fibers would not form creases. The result was a cotton fabric with wrinkle resistance that was said to have saved the cotton industry.

Bessie Griffin, a pioneer physical therapist, nurse, inventor, and forensic scientist, found innovative ways to rehabilitate wounded soldiers after World War II. She invented a patented self-feeding apparatus for amputees and taught veterans who lost use of their hands to perform tasks with the use of their teeth and feet.

Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin, a British-born American astronomer and astrophysicist, proposed in 1925 that stars were composed primarily of hydrogen and helium. Her groundbreaking conclusion was initially rejected because it contradicted the scientific wisdom of the time, which held that there were no significant elemental differences between the Sun and Earth.

Lise Meitner was a pioneering physicist who studied radioactivity and nuclear physics. She was part of a team that discovered nuclear fission — a term she coined — but she was overlooked in 1945 when her colleague Otto Hahn was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.



Public Policy – National – Action!

The AAUW Chief Executive Officer, Gloria Blackwell, has issued a statement in support of **President Biden's** nomination of **Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson** to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Here's your chance to support this nomination:

Her qualifications are outstanding. A Harvard Law graduate, she has served with distinction on the second-highest court in the land, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. In addition, she held a U.S. Supreme Court clerkship, positions at prestigious corporate law firms, and a role on the U.S. Sentencing Commission. **Judge Jackson** also worked as a public defender—experience that is sorely lacking on the current court. **Judge Jackson** has shown a commitment to the issues that AAUW holds dear, including support for equal justice and the protection of civil and human rights for all Americans.

Please send an email to your Virginia Senators, asking them to confirm the nomination through their web sites:

Tim Kaine. [Kaine.Senate.gov](https://www.kaine.senate.gov)
Mark Warner. [Warner.senate.gov](https://www.warner.senate.gov).

OR on your computer go to [AAUW.org](https://www.aauw.org), click on Take Action and click on Contact your Senators.

Lobby Corps News

Becky Gaul is a member of the Lobby Corps and currently its coordinator. She has met with AAUW's **Robin Lucas**. **Robin** is the only staff member assigned to public policy, emphasizing on the activism at the State level. **Becky** is working with her to plan a zoom session with State Public Policy Chairs and Lobby Corps members. AAUW will have another Public Policy person in June, when **Kate Nielson** returns from maternity leave.

Continued on Page 9

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.



Two Minute Activist

Continued from Page 8

Do you know what issues are important for AAUW members? What issues are important to women? AAUW prides itself for empowering women for over 100 years. Learn how it can empower you by becoming a Two Minute Activist.

AAUW provides all the tools you need to call or send messages to your members of Congress, contact your state legislators about pressing issues, and more. It only takes two minutes! Below is an important issue for you to join the many members who subscribe to the Two Minute Activist, recognition of the passage of the ERA Amendment. Either click on the link below or cut and paste the URL to your browser.

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/era/>

The issue: On March 17, 2021, the House of Representatives voted, with bipartisan support, to remove the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. This critical resolution now moves to the Senate. Enter your address below to make sure your Senators know the ERA is a priority for their constituents. Most Americans mistakenly believe that women and men are guaranteed equal rights under the U.S. Constitution. The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) would, once and for all, guarantee constitutional equality between men and women. Its ratification would provide the constitutional guarantee that all men and women are truly equal under the law and that these rights cannot easily be abridged.

Congress must do its part to make women's constitutional equality a reality. H.J. Res. 17/S.J. Res. 1 would remove the deadline for ratification, allowing states like Nevada, Illinois, and Virginia to count toward ratification, and recognize that the ERA is now the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Women in the United States have waited long enough for the ERA to be fully ratified. Act

Go to [AAUW.org](https://www.aauw.org) and click on click Action. Contact your Senators and Delegates

Virginia

Attorney General Jason Miyares ended a legal campaign to get the federal government to recognize the state's ratification of the landmark Equal Rights Amendment, the long-running effort to enshrine women's equality in the Constitution by withdrawing from an appeal seeking to compel the U.S. archivist to certify that Virginia, Illinois, and Nevada — the final three states needed for the amendment's approval — had properly certified it. Miyares's decision is a blow to the movement to add the ERA to the Constitution.

You can help get this amendment recognized by taking part in the Two-Minute Activist. Also please let your state representatives know your anger at this decision.

Del. Kathleen Murphy	DelKMurphy@house.virginia.gov
Del. Rip Sullivan	DelRSullivan@house.virginia.gov
Del. Marcus Simon	DelMSimon@house.virginia.gov
Del. Mark Keam	DelMKeam@house.virginia.gov
Sen. Barbara Favola	district31@senate.virginia.gov
Sen. Janet Howell	district32@senate.virginia.gov

If you do not know who your delegate is, cut and paste this link:

<https://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/>

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

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

Special Interest Groups | April

Public Policy Committee *New*

The Public Policy Committee is open to all Branch members. The next meeting will be **April 4**, at **time TBD**. If you would like to join the meeting, contact **Mary Lou Melley** at [maryloumelley at gmail.com](mailto:maryloumelley@gmail.com), and she will send you the link.

Morning Lit Group

The Morning Literature Group will meet on **Friday, April 8**, at **10:00 am** to discuss *The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance during the Blitz*, by **Erik Larson**. **Joanne Field** 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 will meet **Monday, April 11**, at a time to be determined, at a member's home if the pandemic continues to ease. If you are interested in joining the group, contact **Barbara Carr**, [barbaralcarr at msn.com](mailto:barbaralcarr@msn.com) or 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 April 12**, 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.

Evening Lit Group

The Evening Literature Group will meet on **Monday, April 18**, at **7:30 pm** to discuss *Long Bright River*, by **Liz Moore**. **Pam Bacher** 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.

Great Decisions Great Decisions will meet on **Tuesday, April 19**, at **9:30 am**. The topic is **Chapter three, "Putin's Russia"**, a topic that is currently evolving. 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.

Connections Calendar | April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Public Policy Committee, TBD, via zoom	5	6	7	8 Morning Lit Group, 10:00 am, via zoom	9
10	11 Bridge Group, (Tentative), Logistics TBD	12 Current Events Group, 9:30 am, via zoom	13 Branch Board Meeting, 10:00 am, McLean Community Center	14	15	16
17	18 Evening Lit Group, 7:30 pm, via zoom	19 Great Decisions, 9:30 am, via zoom --- Branch Meeting, 7:00 pm, McLean Community Center	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 AAUW VA Annual Business Meeting Conference TBD, via zoom

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](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