



McLean Area Branch
AAUW of Virginia

News

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Joint Board Meeting and Potluck Lunch

Wednesday, June 15, 2022
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
McLean Community Center

At the June Branch Board Meeting we will welcome new board members and say goodbye to those who are going off the board. The meeting will be followed by a potluck lunch sponsored by board members.

Presidents' Message

We are about to end the fiscal year, so it is a good time to say a giant thank you to all the members who have kept our social activities going so we can feel connected. Particularly, I very much appreciate the board members who have all taken on added duties to help our Branch regain its footing during a difficult time.

A Special thanks to **Naz Basit**, my co-president, who has been tireless on our behalf, a wonderful mentor to me, and the person who thinks first and always about the welfare of our members. She remains on the Board as past president and has already taken on tasks for next year.

Betsy Reddaway is leaving the Board as secretary. We are sad to lose her good perspective, her patience with us all, and her lucid minutes from sometimes not so tidy meetings.

We also say good-bye and thank you to **Mimi Gronlund**, who along with her co-chair **Mafalda Marrocco**, developed programs this year under the theme of Equity that were relevant, and mission focused as any we have had. She attracted from her own personal network speakers who otherwise we may not have had access to.

Barbara Sipe is also leaving the Board as a co-chair of the newly constituted DE&I committee. She and **Ruth Nowjack-Raymer** started this important committee and, out of the gate, researched and implemented a new award for high school juniors who have led efforts to make their schools more welcoming to students of various backgrounds, races, and abilities. The awards went to two young women who assured us the country will soon be in their capable hands.



Sue Christie and Naz Basit, Branch Co-Presidents.

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Presidents' Message

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A special thanks goes to **Caroline Pickens**, who stays on the Board as parliamentarian, but this year spearheaded our effort to achieve 5 Star recognition from National AAUW. This proved to be a decidedly bigger effort than anticipated that pushed us to tackle some issues we had let languish.

We thank **Janet Taylor** for researching and establishing the new Branch scholarship for a student at Bennett College this year, a task taken up and delivered with diligence. A thank you is due **Carol Mournighan** and **Myrtle Hendricks Corrales** for taking up **zoom** responsibilities when no one else could.

As always, there are people who do not occupy Board seats who are always at the ready to help. We were able to give scholarships this year due in large measure to the fundraising efforts of **Betsy Schroeder** and her committee. The Branch newsletter and directory come out without fail, and we forget to say thank you often enough. And, **Judy Page** graciously and expertly steps in to provide tech support more often than we should expect.

As the baton will be passed at the June Board Meeting, new board members can get up to speed quicker with less angst by utilizing a newly created Orientation document. All board members devoted time and energy to writing this document, but **Mafalda Marrocco** and **Phyllis Provenzano** deserve much credit for designing the format and giving us a master to copy.

And a final **thank you** to all our members for supporting the work of AAUW and being caring and compassionate women....and men.

I hope each of you has a wonderful and safe summer. See you in September.

Sue Christie
Co-president

Membership Renewal

The national AAUW office is updating the membership renewal process. Once the updated information is available from the national office, branch membership will be informed on the renewal process.

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/>.

May Luncheon Highlights

Luncheon Speaker Virginia State Senator Barbara Favola



Branch Program Vice Presidents Mafalda Marrocco and Mimi Grunland with luncheon speaker State Senator Barbara Favola.

Student Inclusion Recognition Award Winners

The McLean Area Branch formed a DE&I Committee this year to increase diversity, inclusion, and equity in all facets of its work in the community. The Student Inclusion Recognition Award was created to acknowledge high school juniors' efforts to make their school environments welcoming to students of all backgrounds, races, and abilities.

The 2022 Student Inclusion Recognition Awards recipients are **Olivia Zhang** of McLean High School and **Talia-Rose Diorio** of Langley High School. **Ms. Zhang** and **Ms. Diorio** each received a certificate of award and \$100. They were honored at the AAUW's May Luncheon at Riverbend Country Club. Branch members were delighted to welcome the awardees mothers to the luncheon, as well.

At the luncheon, **Ms. Diorio** shared her commitment to build equitable and inclusive systems by creating within Langley High School three initiatives 1) the African American Alliance, 2) the Military Buddies Program, and 3) the Equity Coalition. **Ms. Zhang**, McLean High School's Student Government Association President, described the Be a Good Neighbor Initiative, the Student of the Month Award, and her role as CEO of Cancer Kids First, an award winning, international nonprofit organization that supports pediatric cancer patients.

All applicants for the award were asked to describe steps they had taken to promote inclusion in their school, major extracurricular activities, and to submit an essay on how they were making a difference in their school. The application reviewers were Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee members **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales**, **Tom and Nina McVeigh**, **Mafalda Marrocco**, as well as the committee co-chairs **Barbara Sipe** and **Ruth Nowjack-Raymer**.



Shown are from left to right: Co-president Naz Basit, Olivia Zhang, Talia-Rose Diorio, and Co-president Sue Christie.

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May Luncheon Highlights

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STEM Excellence Award Winner

Gaby Bautista, a junior at George Marshall High School, has been selected as the 2022 recipient of our Branch's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Excellence Award. The STEM Excellence Award is given to a female student or team from a high school in the McLean area with an outstanding project in the field of Engineering entered in the Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair.

This year, the students participated in a hybrid science fair with both virtual and limited in-person judging. Each student submitted a six-minute video for the judges to review. **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales** and **Judy Page** served as judges for our Branch. They were impressed by the work done by **Gaby** on the project, "Angular Deflection of a Cantilever Beam," including her video presentation. In addition to our award, **Gaby** was selected as a first-place category winner in Engineering Technology: Statics and Dynamics. As a student with one of the highest-ranking projects at the regional level, she was invited to and participated at the Virginia State Science and Engineering Fair.

Gaby was presented with the STEM Excellence Award at the May 7th Branch luncheon held at River Bend Club, where she made a few remarks about her project and her interest in STEM. Her father, **Arnolly Bautista**, also attended the event. **Gaby** received a Certificate of Merit and \$100 check.



Shown from left at the Branch luncheon are **Sue Christie**, Branch co-president; **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales**, science fair judge; **Judy Page**, STEM Chair and science fair judge; **Gaby Bautista**, STEM Excellence Award winner; her father **Arnolly Bautista**; and **Naz Basit**, Branch co-president.

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_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.

STEM Achievement Awards Recipients from McLean High School Announced

Three female students have been selected as the recipients of the branch's high school STEM Achievement Awards at McLean High School for 2022. For the last nine years, the McLean Area Branch has partnered with counselors at local high schools to present these achievement awards to female students finishing their junior year. The branch instituted the awards to encourage young women to pursue educational opportunities related to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

The criteria for the awards include a demonstrated record of overall academic success and a distinguished record of achievement in either math, science, or computer science. The award for computer science was added in 2021 to recognize students' achievements in this important field. A career center counselor at the school manages the process of selecting the students. The following students at McLean High School received the 2022 awards:

- Math: **Genavive Lotfi**
- Science: **Elaine Liu**
- Computer Science: **Zaylie Tamashiro**

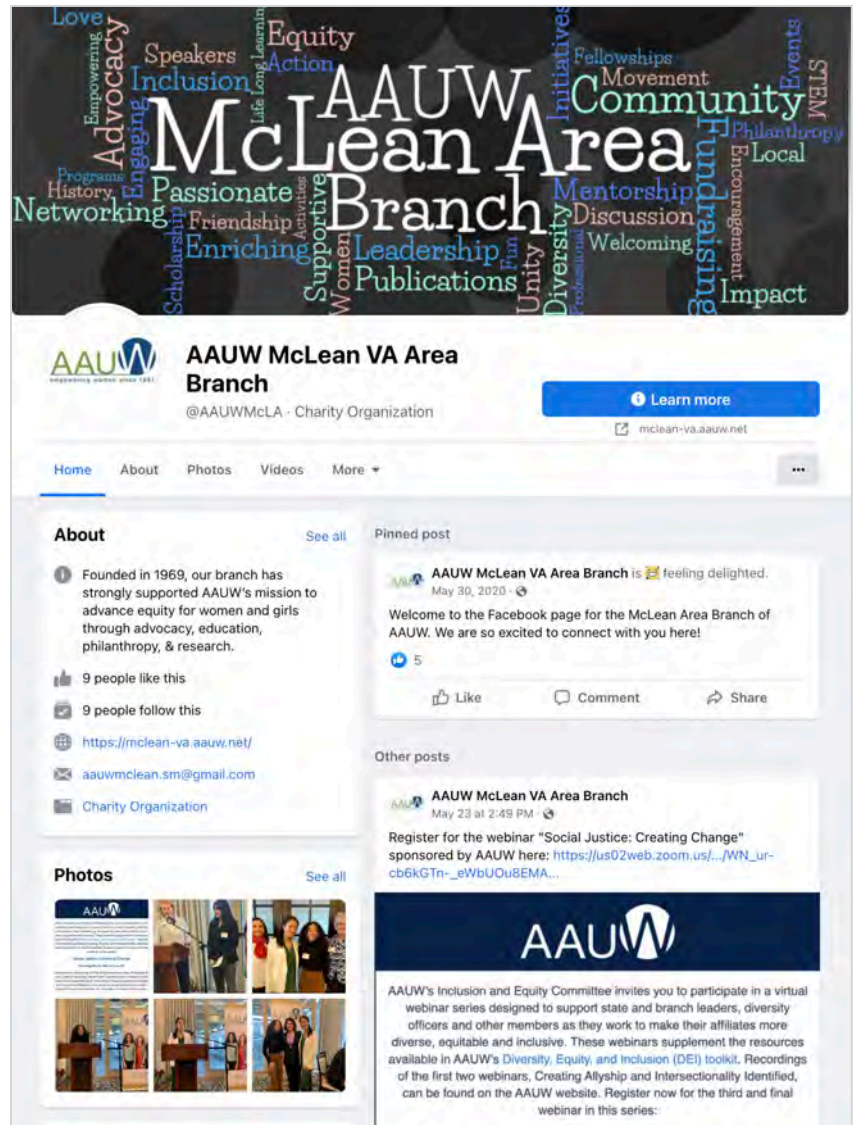
The members of the STEM Awards Committee that manages the high school STEM Achievement Awards are **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales**, **Nina McVeigh**, and **Judy Page**, STEM Chair. **Myrtle** and **Nina** serve as the liaisons to McLean and Langley High Schools, respectively. The students receiving the awards at Langley High School will be announced later this Spring. **Myrtle** and **Judy** attended the McLean High School Awards Ceremony on April 28, 2022, to present each student there with a Certificate of Merit and a check for \$100. All the students will be invited to a branch event in the fall for further recognition by branch members.



Shown at the McLean High School Awards Ceremony on April 28, 2022, from left are: Zaylie Tamashiro, Computer Science Achievement Award; Elaine Liu, Science Achievement Award; Genavive Lotfi, Math Achievement Award; and Judy Page.

Calling All Current – and Potential – Facebook Users!

- Did you know our AAUW McLean Area Branch has a Facebook page? You can find it at <https://www.facebook.com/AAUWMcLA>
- You can interact with branch members by adding comments to a post or showing you like something by clicking on the 👍 (“Like”) symbol. You can find the place to “Like” a post or make a comment directly underneath each post.
- Have you thought about creating a post? For example, you could upload a photo from one of our branch’s interest group gatherings, like Morning or Evening Lit or Great Decisions or the bridge group, so that other members can enjoy seeing what you are up to. You don’t have to have any special administrative rights to add a post – just a Facebook account.
- Do you know how to sign up for a Facebook account if you don’t have one? Go to <https://www.facebook.com/> and provide a small amount of information about yourself to sign up.
- Is Facebook safe to use? Just like with any online account, such as your email, you want to use caution. Don’t ever give out your password or click links on sites you don’t trust, and minimize personal information that you post about yourself.





Virginia Primaries

Many Virginians do not realize that their congressional district may have changed. Most of our members will now be either in Virginia's 8th (if they live inside the beltway) or the 11th (if they live outside the beltway). There are some exceptions, so it is important to check so you are knowledgeable about the candidates and the issues. If you are unsure of your district, click

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

Your state delegates and senators may have also changed, but we will not be voting for them till November 2023. (This may be subject to change depending on the outcome of a lawsuit.)

Congressional District 8 has a Democratic primary. **Victoria Virasingh** is challenging Representative Don Byer. You can vote at your local polling place on **June 21** or apply for an absentee ballot. The link for the absentee ballot is <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/early-voting>. The ballot will be sent to you in the mail. For more information, ballotpedia.org is a source. The Republican candidate is being chosen at a party convention.

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

Ghost Guns: How to Curtail Their Increased Use in Crimes

The growth in the availability and use of "ghost guns" is the hot topic in gun control today.

A ghost gun is a firearm made by a private individual from a variety of gun parts purchased as a kit or separately. The ghost gun does not have a commercially applied serial number, and this makes it very difficult to trace the gun in criminal investigations. It also is not subject to federal or state commercial background check regulations.

Legislation has been introduced in the last two sessions of Congress to ban ghost guns, but the legislation has not progressed out of committee. Some states have passed legislation that address ghost guns, but they continue to proliferate in crimes.

President Biden has made enforcement of gun regulations a priority and has launched several gun control initiatives. In April, the Department of Justice's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives published a final rule that makes ghost guns without serial numbers illegal. The rule becomes effective in August of this year.

The final rule bans the business of manufacturing the most accessible ghost guns, such as "buy build shoot" kits without serial numbers that individuals can buy online or at a store without a background check and can readily assemble into a working firearm in as little as 30 minutes. The rule clarifies that these kits qualify as "firearms" under the Gun Control Act of 1968. Commercial manufacturers of such kits must become licensed and include serial numbers on the kits' frame or receiver, and commercial sellers of these kits must become federally licensed and run background checks prior to a sale – just like they must do with other commercially made firearms. In addition, if commercially licensed gun vendors acquire a "ghost gun," they must immediately add a serial number to it. Persons who violate the rule are subject to fines and jail time.

Ghost guns may only be a small percentage of the guns law enforcement find every year at crime scenes but the final rule represents another effort to curtail gun violence in America. As one professor stated, "The rule 'really throws a monkey wrench into the ghost gun market.'" *Brady: United Against Gun Violence* supported the rulemaking and urged people to state their support for its adoption. The rule is expected to be challenged by guns rights organizations, such as *Gun Owners of America*.

At this point in time, with the final rule, there does not seem to be much AAUW can do to support the prohibition on ghost guns. If the rule is challenged, there may be some action we can take.

Frances Fernald, Public Policy Committee

Special Interest Groups | June

Public Policy Committee

The Public Policy Committee is open to all Branch members. The committee will meet at **2:00 pm** on **Monday, June 6** and **Tuesday, July 5**, at **Starnut Gourmet** in **McLean**. We discuss, research, and write articles on current issues that require members' attention. The articles are included in our newsletter and in email blasts. Contact **Mary Lou Melley** at [maryloumelley at gmail.com](mailto:maryloumelley@gmail.com) or **Carol Mournighan** at [clmourn at gmail.com](mailto:clmourn@gmail.com), if you'd like to join the group.

Morning Lit Group

The Morning Literature Group will meet on **Friday, June 10**, at **11:30 am**, at the **McLean Community Center** for its final meeting of the year. At that meeting, we will vote on reading selections for 2022-2023 and enjoy lunch. **Bring your own lunch and beverage**. Water and cookies will be provided. To recommend books, send information to **Betsy Reddaway**, [pbreddaway at verizon.net](mailto:pbreddaway@verizon.net) no later than **June 6** that includes title, author, a short description, indicate whether it is fiction or non-fiction, and page length. If you would prefer to attend via **zoom**, please let **Betsy Reddaway** know so you can receive the **zoom** invitation prior to the meeting.

Bridge Group

The Bridge Group will meet **Monday, June 13**, at a place to be determined. Once the location is determined, group members will be notified. Please contact **Barbara Carr**, [barbaralcarr at msn.com](mailto:barbaralcarr@msn.com) or 703.356.3127 if you would like to join.

Current Events

Current Events will meet on the second **Tuesday June 14**, 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 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 via **zoom**, on **Monday, June 20**, at **7:30 pm** to discuss ***Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty***, by **Patrick Radden Keene**. **Betsy Schroeder** will lead the discussion. If you plan to attend for the first time, contact **Betsy Schroeder** at [icu43 at cox.net](mailto:icu43@cox.net).

Great Decisions

Great Decisions Great Decisions continues to meet during the summer and concludes after the October meeting. The dates and topics for the summer months are as follows:

- **June 21, Chapter 5 Xi's China takes on the Quad**
- **July 19, Chapter 6 No end in sight: a century of drug wars**
- **August 16, Chapter 7 Foreign policy, economic power, and U.S. industrial policy**

All meetings are via **zoom** at **9:30 am**. If you are on the list, you will receive a reminder. This is a good opportunity for new people to experience the group. Contact **Angela Ehemann**, [acehemann at verizon.net](mailto:acehemann@verizon.net) or 703.893.3578.

Connections Calendar | June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

Public Policy Committee,
2:00 pm,
Starnut
Gourmet

Morning Lit Group Meeting & BYO Lunch,
11:30 am,
McLean
Community
Center

Bridge Group, (Tentative), Logistics TBD

Current Events Group,
9:30 am,
via **zoom**

Joint Board Meeting & Lunch,
10:00 am,
McLean
Community
Center

Evening Lit Group,
7:30 pm,
via **zoom**

Great Decisions,
9:30 am,
via **zoom**

Summer Events

Public Policy Committee

- 2:00 pm on Tuesday, July 5, at Starnut Gourmet in McLean

Great Decisions

- July 19, via **zoom** at 9:30 am, *Chapter 6 No end in sight: a century of drug wars*
- August 16, via **zoom** at 9:30 am, *Chapter 7 Foreign policy, economic power, and U.S. industrial policy*



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**

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AAUW VA Website | <http://aauw-va.aauw.net>

AAUW Website | www.AAUW.org