



McLean Area Branch  
AAUW of Virginia



# News

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## Branch Website

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

October 2022  
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Number 2

## AAUW All-District Meeting

Saturday, October 22  
10:00 am - Noon  
via [zoom](#)

The first All-District meeting of the 2022-23 program year will be held via [zoom](#) and feature AAUW Chief Executive Officer, **Gloria Blackwell**. **Gloria's** presentation will be followed by other short presentations, and then each of the four participating districts will hold their own meeting in a [zoom](#) breakout room. Stay tuned for further information, including how to register for the All-District Meeting.



## Branch Board Meeting: October

Wednesday, October 12  
10:00 am - Noon  
McLean Community Center

Board meetings are open. All members are welcome to attend.

## Editors' Note

In order to protect our members' email addresses from being hacked, we have removed the "@" in email addresses and substituted the word "at." Whenever an email address appears in our newsletter or our website, it is 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 address.

## Presidents' Message

The vision in our Branch strategic plan is a clear, compelling statement of why we exist. It reads:

*To be the leading organization in McLean influencing and actively supporting increased empowerment and equity for girls and women in the classroom and the workplace.*

Vision statements can be just words on a piece of paper, **or** they can guide the challenging work of making a difference in an organization and a community. Over the next year, your Board will be deciding - with your input - to what extent we want to increase our impact on the lives of girls and women in our community beyond the awards and scholarships we currently support.

Let's ask ourselves what it means to be a leading force. Where can we best invest our collective time, energy, and money to make the greatest difference for the most girls and women struggling against unfair odds? The types of questions we will ask include:

1. What will attract new members? Do they come looking for social connections and/or are they enthusiastic about tackling a particular inequity that keeps women from greater opportunities and success?
2. Are there community partners who are tackling similar issues with whom we should collaborate? Can we add members' time and energy to a program that is already having a clear impact?
3. Do we want to focus only on educational outcomes, and/or do we want to invest in issues affecting workplace equity?
4. Do we put an emphasis on programs focused on girls and women of color who experience the greatest barriers?
5. Are we willing to commit to community service?



**Anita Booth and Sue Christie,  
Branch Co-Presidents.**

What would your answers be to these questions? Are there other questions the Board should be asking? In a world that still poses so many challenges and barriers for girls and women, what do you care the most about and where would you like to invest your own time and energy? This is our call to action. We look forward to hearing your ideas on how to increase our community impact.

## 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*

#### **Deborah B. Leiderman**

**Deborah Leiderman** is a retired physician and neurologist who does consulting and volunteer work part-time. She earned a BA in Anthropology from Harvard-Radcliffe College, and an MD and MA in History and Sociology of Medicine from the University of Pennsylvania. She completed her residency at Stanford University School of Medicine and spent two years practicing general medicine and neurology on the Navajo reservation in Arizona serving in the Indian Health Service.

She then moved to the DMV - Bethesda Maryland - for what was intended to be a two-year Fellowship at NIH. However, she continued on staff at NIH doing clinical research in two different Institutes. **Deborah's** husband, a career research geologist with the US Geological Survey (USGS) on the west coast followed her east for an AAAS Congressional Fellowship in science policy joining the USGS in Reston. Career moves took their family to Ann Arbor for three years after which they returned to the DMV for dual career reasons, landing in Falls Church/ McLean.

**Deborah's** passions include birdwatching, nature walks, travel, books, social justice, and health care equity. She has volunteered in several local free clinics and worked on homelessness and hypothermia shelters within her congregation and through a county-wide faith community. Her greatest concerns now are the erosion of democracy and individual civil liberties, for the undermining of women's right to control our bodies as well as for the attacks on physicians and scientists, librarians, and teachers on science, data, and truth.

#### **Anita Nahal**

**Anita Nahal** is a professor, poet, flash fictionist, children's writer, and editor. She has authored 13 books: three of poetry, one of flash fictions, four for children, and four edited poetry anthologies. Anita's fourth poetry book and a fifth edited anthology are due out this year. Her poems and stories can be found in national and international journals and anthologies in the US, UK, Asia, and Australia. **Nahal's** poems are also housed at Stanford University's Digital Humanities initiative. **Anita** received a BA and MA in History, an MPhil in American Studies from Delhi University, and a PhD in American Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University. Besides writing full time, **Nahal** continues to teach. She is currently an Adjunct Professor at the University of the District of Columbia, Washington DC. Anita has previously been a member of the Arlington, VA, and the Virtual Empire State AAUW Branches. She has also served on the AAUW National Task Force on Diversity & Inclusion. Originally from New Delhi, India, **Anita** now resides in McLean. Her family includes her son, daughter-in-law, and a golden doodle.

## September Branch Meeting

At the first AAUW McLean Branch meeting of the program year, we welcomed newly elected Branch officers and celebrated the outstanding young women awardees and scholarship winners supported by the Branch. These included the high school junior STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) winners from Langley and McLean High Schools as well as scholarship recipients from Trinity and Marymount universities and Bennett College in Greensboro, NC.

### Scholarship Recipients

The scholarship recipients came with rich experiences as well as the focus and drive to complete their degrees and have influence in the lives of other women. We congratulate them and wish them well in their future endeavors.

**Top: Juanita Cullen, liaison, Trinity University; Anita Booth, co-president; scholarship recipients Eva Salmeron and Saba Hashemi, Marymount University; Shandale Scott and Katherine Healy, Trinity University; Sue Christie, co-president. Bottom left: Janet Taylor, liaison for Bennett College, introducing scholarship recipient Isis Jordan who was unable to attend. Bottom right: Isis Jordan, Bennett College.**



### High School STEM Awards Recipients

Six female students were selected in the Spring as the recipients of the Branch's high school Math, Science, and Computer Science Achievement Awards for 2022. Each award consists of a certificate and a check for \$100, which were presented to the students at award ceremonies held at their high schools. Each awardee spoke about her interest in STEM and future plans.

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. Career center counselors at the schools manage the process of selecting the recipients. The following students received the 2022 awards:

- McLean High School – Math: **Genavive Lotfi**
- McLean High School – Science: **Elaine Liu**
- McLean High School – Computer Science: **Zaylie Tamashiro**
- Langley High School – Math: **Jenna Cai**
- Langley High School – Science: **Abhay a Tyrka**
- Langley High School – Computer Science: **Eliana LaFleur**



High school STEM attendees at the September 18, 2022 Branch event included, from left to right: Eliana LaFleur; Anita Booth, co-president; Abhaya Tyrka; Jenna Cai; Elaine Liu; Genavive Lotfi; Sue Christie, co-president; and Judy Page, STEM Chair.

STEM Awards Committee members managing the high school Math, Science, and Computer Science Achievement Awards are **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales**, **Nina McVeigh**, and **Judy Page**. **Judy** serves as STEM Chair, with **Myrtle** and **Nina** serving as liaisons to McLean and Langley High Schools, respectively.

## Fundraising Update

### Jewelry Sale

The Branch hosted a gently used jewelry sale at the McLean Community Center Yard Sale on **Saturday, September 17** and raised more than **\$2200**.

The team who planned and worked at the sale was led by **Cheryl Williams** and co-presidents **Sue Christie** and **Anita Booth**. In addition to the jewelry sales, Branch visibility was also achieved.



### T-Shirt and Hoodie Sale

Next up is an AAUW McLean Area Branch **T-Shirt and Hoodie Sale**, with orders to be placed between **September 25th and October 8th**. Please visit the [Custom Ink website](#) to see larger photos, to select quantity and size, and to place orders. For additional information, please call or text **Janet Taylor** (703-282-1222).



### Wine Tasting Fundraiser

The Wine Tasting Fundraiser is scheduled for **November 11, 2022**, at **5 pm** at **Carol Mournighan's** home, **7204 Churchill Road, McLean**. Vienna Vintner will provide wines and sommeliers. Ticket price is \$50/person. The registration form is included in this newsletter. Branch members are encouraged to invite friends to what promises to be a fun evening.

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## Fundraising Update

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### Shop Online and Raise Funds for the Branch



Our Branch has initiated a **new fundraiser** in support of scholarships, awards, and programs. We have established a partnership with ShopRaise. It is a simple way to turn everyday shopping at more than 1,000 participating retailers into support for the Branch. ShopRaise works with more than 700 nonprofits, schools, and clubs from Susan G. Komen to elementary schools, including several other AAUW branches.

By using the ShopRaise portal when beginning online purchases, a percentage of everything you buy - from groceries and apparel to technology and travel – is donated to our Branch. Some of the stores included are **Macy's, L. L. Bean, Bed Bath & Beyond, Lowes, Home Depot, Walgreens, Walmart, and Staples**. ShopRaise does not collect any credit card information but serves as a gateway to the merchant websites where you would normally shop.

You can **set up your account on your phone or tablet** by going to the Apple App Store or Google Play Store and searching for "ShopRaise." Download the app and either create a ShopRaise account with an email address and password of your choice or login with your Google (gmail) or Facebook accounts. Then locate our Branch as the cause you are supporting by clicking on "Charity NPO" and searching for AAUW. Our Branch will appear in the Results.

If you enjoy **shopping on your computer**, you can set up your account by clicking on our "landing page" located at <https://shopraise.com/go/3MM>. Click on "**Get the App**" where you create an account with your email address and a password, or you can login with your Google (gmail) or Facebook account. Once you login, you should see your name in the upper right-hand corner. Put your cursor over your name to see a drop-down menu where you can start to Shop.

**Judy Page**, who will administer this program for the Branch, is willing to help anyone having trouble getting started – either email her at [judypage at gmail.com](mailto:judypage@gmail.com) or call her at 703.847.1950.

With your help using ShopRaise and **spreading the word to family and friends**, we can make this a successful part of our fundraising efforts! Since ShopRaise has links to so many retailers, it offers us a greater opportunity to raise funds than with Amazon. But please remember to continue using our [Amazon link](#) for shopping, as Amazon is not included in the ShopRaise merchant list.



# *Wine Tasting for a Good Cause!*

Come to a festive Wine Tasting to benefit the McLean AAUW's activities on behalf of all women and bring guests!

Friday, November 11, from 5 to 7 p.m.

at the home of Carol Mournighan, 7204 Churchill Road, McLean

For reservations, please fill out the below form and send back with a check for \$50 per person, payable to AAUW McLean Area Branch, mailed to:

Aroona Borpujari, 1225 Meyer Court, McLean, VA 22101

Wines provided by Vienna Vintner.

Deadline is November 1, 2022. Please hurry as space is limited!

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**Information Contact: Janet Taylor, [taylor6840 at gmail.com](mailto:taylor6840@gmail.com)**

Your Name:

Guest's Name(s):

Check Total (\$50 per person):

## Bylaws Update

### Proposed McLean Area Branch Bylaws Amendments

Branch members will be asked at the **November 15 Branch meeting** to approve three amendments to Branch Bylaws. A 2/3 vote is required for passage, so it is important for members to attend this meeting.

#### Amendment #1:

##### Article VI. Financial Administration. Section 5. Increases in Spending.

**Current wording:** The Board of Directors may approve increases in total spending above the operating budget up to **\$150**. Increases that exceed **\$150** shall be approved by the members.

**Proposed amendment:** The Board of Directors may approve increases in total spending above the operating budget up to **\$500**. Increases that exceed **\$500** shall be approved by the members.

**Rationale:** The \$150 amount dates back many years. Increasing it to \$500 will give the Board more flexibility and is a more current and reasonable figure.

#### Amendment #2:

##### Article VIII. Elected Officers. Section 1. Elected Officers.

**Current wording:** The elected officers shall be a president(s), vice president(s) of program, vice president(s) of membership, secretary(s) and treasurer.

**Proposed amendment:** Amend “treasurer” to “treasurer(s)”

**Rationale:** The position of treasurer has become increasingly time-consuming and difficult for one person to do everything regarding Branch finance, member renewals, and new member registration. The work on member renewals and registration has especially increased. Allowing a co-treasurer will spread the work. Note: if this amendment is adopted, all other references to “treasurer” in the Bylaws will be revised to “treasurer(s).”

#### Amendment #3:

##### Article IX. Board of Directors. Section 1. Membership. b.

**Current wording:** The current wording lists the appointed positions on the Branch Board. It includes one position no longer on the Board (publicity chair, which is now under the communications chair) and some positions that are on the Board but not listed. Current positions that will remain are AAUW Funds, communications, and public policy.

**Proposed amendment:** Delete “publicity chair” and add the following: bylaws chair(s); DE&I chair(s); fundraising chair(s); and STEM chair(s). Section 1.b. will then read “the Affiliate members appointed to the following positions: AAUW Funds chair(s); bylaws chair(s); communications chair(s); DE&I chair(s); fundraising chair(s); public policy chair(s); STEM chair(s); and others as appointed by the president(s).”

**Rationale:** This amendment will bring the list of Board members up to date.

**Caroline Pickens, Mary Lou Melley, and Judy Page, Bylaws and Policies Committee**





The purpose of the Public Policy Committee is as follows:

- Educate
- Disseminate
- Motivate
- Action

Since public policy news is constantly changing and the Branch newsletter is only published once a month, our Public Policy Team will try to keep you up to date by posting up-to-date articles on our Branch website, <https://mclean-va.aauw.net/>.

The Public Policy Committee will meet the first Monday of the month at **2:00 pm** at **Starnuts Café** in McLean. Contact **Janet Taylor** at [Taylor6840 at gmail.com](mailto:Taylor6840@gmail.com) or **Carol Mournighan** at [clmourn at gmail.com](mailto:clmourn@gmail.com), if you'd like to join the group. All are welcome.

### What's new this year?

Virginia will offer same-day registration for the **November 8** general election under a [2020 law](#). If you miss the **October 17** registration deadline, you may register at your local registrar's office until the election or at your polling place on Election Day.

### 2022-2024 AAUW-VA Public Policy Priorities

• Equality, Individual Rights, and Social Justice Economic Security Education • Economic Security • Education

Click [here](#) to read more.

### Reproductive Rights

AAUW believes everyone has the right to make decisions about her own reproductive life without government interference. Abortion access is vital to women's ability to control their lives, bodies, and futures. Without reproductive freedom, there can be no equity.

### Redistricting

As a result of redistricting, many voters were assigned new Congressional and State House and Senate Districts. If you are unsure of your current district, go to [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) and type in your address.

### Election 2022--What You Need to Know

- **Any registered Fairfax County voter** may vote early at any Fairfax County early voting location. In-person early voting is available for the **November 8, 2022, General Election**.
- **If you received a ballot in the mail**, you must bring it with you and surrender it to vote in person
- **Curbside voting** is available for [eligible voters](#)
- **Drop boxes** are available during satellite operating hours
- **Voter Identification:** All voters casting a ballot in-person must show one form of identification. Any voter who does not present acceptable identification may instead sign a statement, subject to felony penalties, that they are the named registered voter who they claim to be. Any voter who does not present acceptable identification or sign this statement must vote a provisional ballot.
- For a link to acceptable voter identification, [please click](#).
- **Absentee voting:** All registered voters can vote absentee by mail in November's general election. You will need to apply to do so — and you will need a witness signature on your absentee ballot.
- **In-person voting on Election Day:** The general election is **Tuesday, November 8, 6 am to 7 pm**.



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## Important Election Information



### Registration Deadlines

- [In-person at voting location on Election Day](#) : Nov 8
- [Online](#) : Oct 17
- [By mail \(postmarked by\)](#) : Oct 17

### Absentee Ballot Deadlines

- [Request ballot \(received by\)](#) : Oct 28
- [Return ballot by mail \(postmarked by\)](#) : Nov 8
- [Return ballot in person](#) : Nov 8

### Early Voting In-Person

#### September 23 — November 5

Fairfax County Government Center  
12000 Government Center Parkway  
Conference Rooms 2/3, Fairfax

Weekdays: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm  
Saturdays (10/29 and 11/5): 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Sunday (10/30): 1:00 - 5:00 pm

#### October 27 — November 5

McLean Government Center  
1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean

Tysons Pimmit Regional Library  
7584 Leesburg Pike  
Falls Church

Weekdays: 1:00 - 7:00 pm  
Saturdays (10/29 and 11/5): 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Sunday (10/30): 1:00 - 5:00 pm

For other polling places and times click [here](#).

For information about who and what is on your ballot, please [visit](#) and enter your address.

To learn more about **who is running in your district**, please go to our **Branch [website](#)**.

If you have any questions about Public Policy or issues you would like to discuss, contact either **Janet Taylor** at [Taylor6840 at gmail.com](mailto:Taylor6840@gmail.com) or **Carol Mournighan** at [clmourn at gmail.com](mailto:clmourn@gmail.com).

**Carol Mournighan and Janet Taylor, Public Policy Co-Chairs**

## Special Interest Groups | October

### Public Policy Committee

The Public Policy Committee will meet **Monday, October 3** at **2:00 pm**, at **Starnuts Café** in **McLean**. Contact **Janet Taylor** at [Taylor6840 at gmail.com](mailto:Taylor6840@gmail.com) or **Carol Mournighan** at [clmourn at gmail.com](mailto:clmourn@gmail.com) if you'd like to join the group. All are welcome.

### Bridge Group

The Bridge Group will meet **Monday, October 10**, from **10:00 am – 2:00 pm** in the **Community Room, McLean House, 6800 Fleetwood Road, McLean**. If you are a new member of the group, contact **Barbara Carr** at [barbaralcarr at msn.com](mailto:barbaralcarr@msn.com).

### Current Events

Current Events will meet via **zoom**, **Tuesday October 11**, 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 the day before with the **zoom** link.

### Morning Lit Group

Morning Lit will meet **Friday, October 14**, at **10:00 am**, at the **McLean Community Center** to discuss *The Undocumented Americans*, by **Karla Cornejo Villavicencio**. **Ruth Nowjack-Raymer** will lead the discussion. If you prefer to attend via **zoom**, contact **Betsy Reddaway**, [pbreddaway at verizon.net](mailto:pbreddaway@verizon.net) to receive the **zoom** link prior to the meeting. All are welcome.

### Evening Lit Group

The Evening Literature Group will meet on **Monday, October 17**, at **7:00 pm**, at the home of **Mary Lou Melley**, **1450 Emerson Avenue, #309, McLean**, to discuss *South to America: A Journey Below the Mason Dixon Line*, by **Imani Perry**. **Cheryl Williams** will lead the discussion. If you plan to attend, send your RSVP to **Mary Lou Melley** at [maryloumelley at gmail.com](mailto:maryloumelley@gmail.com).

### Great Decisions

The last meeting for this session will be via **zoom**, on **October 18** at **9:30 am**. The topic is *Changing Demographics in the World*. The new session will begin in February, and all are welcome to join. Let **Angela Ehemann**, at [acehemann at verizon.net](mailto:acehemann@verizon.net) or 703.893.3578, if you want to participate, so she can order a briefing book for you. The order will be placed in early October.

### Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) Committee

The DE&I Committee will be establishing a monthly meeting time and are encouraging new members to join the committee. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, contact committee co-chair **Ruth Nowjack-Raymer** at [ruthoheast at gmail.com](mailto:ruthoheast@gmail.com) so you can receive meeting information. All are welcome.

# Connections Calendar | October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 <b>Public Policy Committee,</b> 2:00 pm, Starnut Gourmet	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 <b>Bridge Group,</b> 10:00 am, McLean House	11 <b>Current Events Group,</b> 9:30 am, via <b>zoom</b>	12 <b>Branch Board Meeting,</b> 10:00 am, McLean Community Center	13	14 <b>Morning Lit Group Meeting,</b> 10:00 am, McLean Community Center	15
16	17 <b>Evening Lit Group,</b> 7:00 pm, Mary Lou Melley's Home	18 <b>Great Decisions,</b> 9:30 am, via <b>zoom</b>	19	20	21	22 <b>All District Meeting,</b> 10:00 am, via <b>zoom</b>
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**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)**