



McLean Area Branch
AAUW of Virginia



News

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Branch Website

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

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Social Gathering to Welcome New Branch Members

Saturday, February 18, 2023
10:00 am—Noon
McLean Community Center

We warmly welcome all our new members and look forward to know each of you better. The February gathering will provide a brief overview of the mission of AAUW and its accomplishments, both at the National and local level. Ways in which members can take an active role in our Branch will be featured, such as joining committees and/or volunteering in community engagement activities.

All Branch members are welcome to attend. Bring a friend or family member. Refreshments will be provided.

Northern District Meeting

Saturday, February 25, 2023
10:30 am – 12:30 pm
Beatley Central Library
5005 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA

All Northern Virginia Branch members are invited to attend an in-person informative program focusing on maximizing our impact in the community through collaboration.

The program will feature two non-profit leaders:

- **Sanah Jivani**, Community Engagement Manager, Generation Hope
- **Cindy Dwyer**, Board Member, Women Giving Back

For more information contact: ltourigny@gmail.com

An email blast will be sent to all members, with driving directions to the library.

February Branch Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 8, 2023
10:00 am - Noon
McLean Community Center

Board meetings are open to all branch members.

Annual Business Meeting and Potluck

March 14, 2023

6:00 pm

McLean Community Center



WHAT TO BRING

If your last name begins with-

A - G: dessert

H - P: main dish

P - Z: side dish / salad

Remember to bring appropriate serving pieces labeled with your name.

Tables and chairs will be widely spaced.

January Virginia AAUW Program

Mary Church Terrell Activist, Suffragist for Life

Activist and suffragist **Mary Church Terrell** was shown to be a rebel into her 90s in a presentation at the January 21 Branch Meeting. **Alison M. Parker** spoke about her book, *Unceasing Militant: The Life of Mary Church Terrell*, published in 2020. **Terrell** (1863-1954), a hidden figure, is unknown to most people. She was a founding member of the NAACP and helped found several organizations for Black women. After a fight over race, she became a member of AAUW when the national organization changed its bylaws so that the only requirement for membership was to be a woman with a college degree from an AAUW-approved university.

Among her many accomplishments, she was instrumental in the desegregation of movie theaters in 1953. She was known by the Black press as the “female Booker T. Washington.”

Copies of her book are available on Amazon at a greatly reduced price.



Presidents' Message

AAUW National's website reads "EQUITY NOW – Together we can achieve a vision of equal opportunity for all". These words reflect a vision, but they do not reflect reality.

While AAUW acknowledges the educational disparity among minority women, AAUW continues to exclude some 55% of American women from AAUW membership due to its educational requirement. The McLean Branch Board (1) agrees this is morally wrong for reasons that AAUW National itself has expressly and publicly acknowledged and (2) overwhelmingly voted to reduce our Branch contribution to AAUW National, both as a percentage of our fundraising effort and in real dollars. The Board further instructed us to urge other Virginia branches and the State organization to do the same. We have written to AAUW National, with copies to State and Northern District leadership. We will keep our membership apprised of the response.

Many women and children in our own community face very real barriers to opportunity. Due to COVID, they have fallen further behind. It is the Board's vision that we use our collective resources to make a difference close to home through community engagement.

The Board has identified four ways, consistent with our strategic vision, in which McLean AAUW can actively support increased empowerment and equity for girls and women in the classroom and the workplace:

- Partnering with a Title 1 elementary school to address some of their unmet needs;
- Providing English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction through established Fairfax County programs;
- Assisting SHARE, an interfaith cooperative program which provides food, clothing, and other services to the needy in our community; and
- Engaging with the McLean Community Center's student representatives and working in partnership with the student representatives in outreach efforts to youth in our area.

Our General Membership meeting on Tuesday, April 18, at the McLean Community Center will be a social event with beverages and heavy hors d'oeuvres. We will hold a discussion as to what members would like to gain from AAUW McLean membership. We are particularly interested in hearing from our newest members. Additionally, we will seek members' interests in community engagement. Our goal is to understand how each of us can make a difference in our community, while fostering a sense of shared mission and belonging among our members. We hope you will join us!

Please accept our best wishes for happiness, health, and equity in the New Year.



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

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/>.

AAUW Funds

Allocation of Funds Committee Report was presented to the McLean Area Branch Board of Directors on December 14, 2022. The Total Amount of the Fundraising activities as of 12/01/2022, was **\$15,196.77**. This was the amount considered at the Allocation of Funds Committee Meeting.

The Report of the 2022 Fundraising activities as of December 13, 2022, stated that the Total Amount raised, so far, is **\$17,047.11**.

After a deliberative discussion of AAUW Funds Allocations and the AAUW requirement for a college/university degree, the Board voted to allocate to AAUW Funds the same amount allocated to each college/university. It was recommended that a letter be sent to the National Headquarters of AAUW on why the AAUW McLean Area Branch is limiting its donation to AAUW Funds because of the degree requirement for membership.

Therefore, the AAUW McLean Area Board of Directors voted to allocate the following funds:

AAUW Funds	\$ 5,000
University Allocations	
Trinity Washington University	\$ 5,000
Bennet College(North Carolina)	\$ 5,000
STEM DE&I Middle & High School Awards	\$ 1,300
DE&I Awards	\$ 400
Total Allocation of Funds 2022-23	\$16,700

Names Honored for 2023

Janet Taylor, a new member, for immediately taking on a leadership position and for outreach on behalf of the McLean Area Branch to add Bennett College for scholarships.

Naz Basit as Immediate Past president.

Caroline Pickens as an expression of our appreciation of her experience in AAUW and keeping our Branch up to date with the National AAUW organization.

Elaine Lailas, McLean Area Branch AAUW Funds Chair

Membership

Welcome new members to our Branch

Welcome!

Laska Hurley

Laska Hurley graduated from George Mason University in 1988 with a BA in English and a Minor in Soviet Studies. She worked at the National Endowment for The Arts for 22 years. She is a member of the Society of Children's Writers & Illustrators. Her hobbies are painting, chess, and tennis.

Ellen Gleberman

Ellen Gleberman is a retired attorney and corporate executive. She earned her BA in Government at Oberlin College and her JD at Washington College of Law, American University. She started her legal career at a DC law firm that represented several international automakers, including Toyota, which is where she met her husband and moved to southern California. **Ellen** soon joined Mitsubishi Motors as general counsel, responsible for both legal and public/government affairs, and eventually became a member of its board of directors. In 2005, after 22 years in California, she accepted the opportunity to move back to the DC area as EVP and general counsel of the trade association representing automobile manufacturers. She worked on key federal and state legal, policy and legislative matters until her retirement in late 2019. As one of very few women in the auto industry at the start of her career, **Ellen** takes great pride in having helped to mentor and develop the next generation of female executives and lawyers in the automotive field. She currently enjoys participating in a variety of volunteer and other activities, most importantly, spending time with her 3-year-old twin grandsons.

Harriet J. Hopkins

Harriet J. Hopkins, the daughter of a career Naval officer, had the opportunity to travel to and live in many interesting parts of the world. From that experience, she developed a love of travel and learning about different world cultures. In retirement and until Covid, she and her husband traveled extensively in the United States and abroad. As a public-school educator in Fairfax County and Alexandria, she was an elementary school teacher, a school administrator, and a director of professional development where she learned the importance of leadership to effect change. In retirement, she uses her acquired skills to work with community groups helping those in need and in the Presbyterian Church at the local and regional level helping churches find pastors. She is fascinated by local, state, and National politics and advocates for candidates and initiatives that support those do not to have a voice in the political process.



The Public Policy Committee would like to thank everyone who contacted their state delegates and senators in response to the proposed amended social studies standards for students in the Commonwealth that were published last year. A third version has now been published by the Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction and this version addresses many of the issues that were lacking in its predecessor.

This is a busy time for the Virginia Assembly. The short session (45 days) started on January 11 and will continue until February 25, 2023. A very important day in the session is **Crossover Day on February 8**. This is the day when each of the chambers of the General Assembly sends the bills it has passed to the other chamber for its consideration.

The following legislative and policy priorities for AAUW of Virginia are those we will focus on for the 2023 Virginia General Assembly legislative session and beyond:

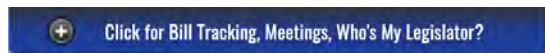
- Protect access to abortion and women's right to make personal reproductive decisions with the medical care providers.
- Eliminate systemic racism and sexism through changes to Virginia law and regulations.
- Make childcare affordable and readily available for all families.
- Protect full access to voting.
- Ensure full public-school funding and protect teachers from harassment and liability claims.

Some Branch members travelled to Richmond for "Lobby Day" to meet with elected representatives and their staffs with the goal of gaining support for AAUW's 2023 legislative priorities.

This committee will try to keep you informed on bills that are of interest to AAUW members. You can also keep track of bills through this link:

<https://viriniageneralassembly.gov/membersAndSession.php?secid=1&activesec=0#!/hb=1&mainContentTabs=0>

At the very top of the page is a button



Virginia State AAUW Public Policy also provided updates and more resources on their Public Policy Google drive (It is not necessary to have a Google account. to access):

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1t0LQU80E0C5y_eroidKw_SZxicPYziPR?usp=sharing.

The committee will also list the Senators and Delegates who represent the districts of most of our members on the Branch website.

For any questions or comments, contact **Carol Mournighan** (clmourn at [gmail.com](mailto:clmourn@gmail.com)) or **Janet Taylor** (taylor6840 at [gmail.com](mailto:taylor6840@gmail.com).)

Carol Mournighan and Janet Taylor, Public Policy Co-Chairs

DE&I Committee

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DE&I) is offering an opportunity for Branch members to volunteer and promote an inclusive community by assisting with the upcoming Student Inclusion Recognition Awards.

As part of its goal to increase diversity, equity, inclusion, and sense of belonging in all aspects of work in the community, the McLean Area Branch created the Student Inclusion Recognition Award to acknowledge high school juniors' efforts to make their school environments welcoming to students of all backgrounds, race/ethnicities, and abilities. Last year, a student from Langley and McLean High Schools were both presented with an AAUW Certificate of Appreciation at their school's awards ceremony, and each given a \$100 check. At a Branch meeting, we had the opportunity to honor the awardees and learn of their outstanding work. Information on the awardees is posted on the McLean Branch website.

The Branch plans to double the number of schools participating this year by extending the award to two Title One schools in the area. Title One is a federal education program that supports low-income students who attend high poverty schools, as determined by the number of students who qualify for free or reduced meals.

The process for receiving, circulating, and reviewing applications is straight-forward and takes place within a limited timeframe this spring. It is inspirational to read the applications and learn about the substantive activities that students have undertaken to promote inclusion.

Contact DE&I Co-Chairs, **Ruth Nowjack-Raymer** and **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales** for more information about this important project. Ruthoheast at gmail.com and Myrtlehencor at gmail.com.

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.

Special Interest Groups | February

Morning Lit Group

Morning Lit will meet **Friday, February 10**, at **9:30 am** for a social time; book discussion begins at **10:00 am**, at the **McLean Community Center** to discuss *The Hare with the Amber Eyes: A Family's Century of Art and Loss*, by **Edmund de Waal**. **Betsy Reddaway** will lead the discussion. A **Zoom** link will be provided for those who prefer to join remotely. The link will be sent a few days before the meeting. 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 **Mondays, February 13**, from **10:00 am – 2:00 pm**. The meeting location is to be determined. New members are welcome. Contact **Barbara Carr** at [barbaralcarr at msn.com](mailto:barbaralcarr@msn.com) or 703.356.3127 for information.

Current Events

Current Events will meet via **Zoom**, on **Tuesday, February 14**, 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.

Evening Lit Group

The group will meet on **Monday, February 20**, at **7:00 pm**, to discuss *Trigger Points: Inside the Mission to Stop Mass Shootings* by **Mark Follman**. **Anita Booth** will lead the discussion and host the meeting at her home, **6754 Darrells Grant Place, Falls Church**. Please RSVP your attendance to **Anita Booth** at [anitabooth at gmail.com](mailto:anitabooth@gmail.com) or 703.626.6819. The group welcomes all interested Branch members.

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions group will meet **Tuesday, February 21**, at **9:30 am** to discuss *Chapter One-Energy Security*. A decision is forthcoming whether the meeting will be in person or via **Zoom**. New members are welcome. If you are interested in participating, contact **Angela Ehemann** at [acehmann at Verizon.net](mailto:acehmann@Verizon.net) or 703.893.3578.

Connections Calendar | February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Branch Board Meeting, 10:00 am, McLean Community Center	9	10 Morning Lit Group Meeting, 9:30 am, McLean Community Center / Zoom	11
12	13 Bridge Group, 10:00 am, Location TBD	14 Current Events Group, 9:30 am, via Zoom	15	16	17	18 Branch New Member Social, 10:00 am, McLean Community Center
19	20 Evening Lit Group, 7:00 pm, Anita Booth's Home	21 Great Decisions, 9:30 am, via Zoom	22	23	24	25 Northern District Meeting, 10:30 am, Beatley Central Library
26	27	28				

Smile ends 2/20/23



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.



If You Shop at Macy's, L. L. Bean, Bed Bath & Beyond, Lowes, Home Depot, Walgreens, Walmart, Staples+

Next time you make a purchase, first go to our branch website ShopRaise link, <https://shopraise.com/go/3MM>, download the app and make your purchase. ShopRaise will give our branch up to a % 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