



McLean Area Branch
AAUW of Virginia



News

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Branch Website

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

March 2023
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Annual Business Meeting and Potluck

Tuesday, 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
- Q - Z:** side dish / salad

*Remember to bring appropriate serving pieces labeled with your name.
Tables and chairs will be widely spaced.*

March Branch Board Meeting

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

Board meetings are open to all branch members.

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.

February New Members Gathering



McLean Branch new members social was held February 18 at the McLean Community Center. This event was attended by co-presidents, members of the Board, and Interest group chairs. Eleven new members attended this event. Lots of new ideas were exchanged and plans shared about future leadership roles in the Branch.

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/>.

Presidents' Message

We would like to bring you up to date on just a few of the many areas the Board has been addressing to invigorate our Branch and create new pathways for member involvement.

Social Activities Are Back: As of May, we will have resumed all in-person social events. We look forward to our famous potluck supper in March. **Marjorie Broderick** will again serve as hospitality hostess. We end the year with the May luncheon, celebrating the many people who make the Branch run smoothly and who have given above and beyond on our behalf.

Philanthropy in Action: With considerable time and attention, we have made a commitment to increase visibility and impact in our own backyard. Three organizations with which we can partner directly to help level the playing field for girls and women in our community have been identified. We have established a relationship with Graham Road Elementary School, a Title 1 school, which serves a diverse, predominately low-income population. We are investigating to work with Fairfax County ESL program and with Share of McLean. We invite you to join us for a terrific "Philanthropy in Action" speaker program at the April Branch meeting to learn first-hand the challenges facing women and girls right here in our community, so we can each find a way to make an impact.

DEIB: Two important steps in advancing **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging** within the Branch and in relationship to National AAUW have been adopted. All Board and Branch meetings are conducted as hybrid meetings so any member can join by Zoom. We have challenged National AAUW to eliminate the educational requirement as its most important priority over the next year and to develop a rigorous strategy to ensure that it is eliminated in 2024. We reduced our contribution to National as a percentage and in real dollars to underscore our serious concern. The education requirement is discriminatory and contrary to the very values for which AAUW stands. In March, you will receive an email with copies of our correspondence with AAUW National.

Coordination with Falls Church Branch: An objective of the Branch strategic plan is to develop a working, collaborative relationship with another branch to amplify our collective policy voice, create programs with community-wide interest and perspective, and provide community engagement opportunities for all our members. We have initiated discussions and development of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Falls Church AAUW Branch that spells out the areas of cooperation and a timetable. We can report with pleasure that the Co-Presidents of Falls Church Branch are creative, strategic, and strong working partners who are equally enthusiastic about collaboration.

New Member Welcome: A newcomers social event to welcome our newest members and to provide opportunities for them to become active members of our Branch family was held in February.

Co-Presidents: On a final note, both co-presidents will end their terms in June of this year. The nominating committee has been working overtime to identify nominees for these positions. To date, we have no candidates. We are asking any member who may have an interest in serving to contact **Naz Basit** for more information.

We hope to see you all at the March Branch potluck!

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



AAUW Funds

Over its 50 years, the McLean Area Branch of AAUW established four endowed fellowships/grants. On its 40th Anniversary, the Branch established its last endowed Grant. What does this mean to the McLean Area Branch of AAUW for the future of our philanthropy? It means that we had fundraisers and placed some of these monies in an endowed account with the National Fellowships department. After we donated adequate funds to each endowed account, they began to yield enough monies for women to continue in their research, graduate education, and/or community service. The funds raised and put in endowments are working for us forever. Every year, we announce our two Fellowships and two Grants recipients.

At the March Potluck Supper Meeting, the following grantees will be introduced:

McLean Branch Career Development and Community Service Grantee for 2022-23

Un Jeung Jones, Virginia University of Integrative Medicine

Un Jeung Jones is pursuing a dual master's degree in acupuncture and Oriental medicine. She sees becoming a licensed clinical acupuncturist and herbal medicine practitioner as seamlessly connecting to her work at the intersection of ecological and community health. Her goal is to tend to human health in the same way as she would a garden, in full recognition of humans as part of a vital, natural system.

McLean Branch International Fellowship recipient-via Zoom

Marilyn Hajj, University of Virginia

Marilyn Hajj's work on poverty has extended from fighting hunger and food waste in Lebanon for more than seven years to becoming the youngest law instructor in her alma mater and one of the youngest in her country. Her current doctoral research focuses on U.S. taxation and poverty relief utilizing comparative law and a multidisciplinary approach in her analysis. A local activist and young professional, she hopes to become a tax and poverty expert and an academic.

And, at a future meeting-

American Fellowship recipient

Samiksha Manjani, American University

Samiksha Manjani is dedicated to serving and improving resources for marginalized survivors of domestic violence. She has previously interned at The Safe Sisters Circle, the Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project (DV LEAP) and the Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project (A/PI DVRP). She strives to provide compassionate, holistic, trauma-informed, and culturally humble legal services when she graduates.

Elaine Lailas, McLean Area Branch AAUW Funds Chair



The Public Policy Committee meets on the **first Monday of the month at 2:00 pm** at a **member’s home in McLean**, excluding holidays. There are refreshments as well as news concerning legislation that is important to everyone, particularly women in Virginia. The conversation is usually lively as well as informative. Please join us by emailing either **Janet Taylor** ([taylor6840 at gmail.com](mailto:taylor6840@gmail.com)) or **Carol Mournighan** ([clmourn at gmail.com](mailto:clmourn@gmail.com).)

The 2023 Virginia General Assembly ended its main session in February. The Governor has until March 27 to complete his actions. Should he call back the General Assembly, it would be on April 12, 2023. We will keep you updated on appropriate legislative action when it becomes necessary. Please check our website, <https://mclean-va.aauw.net/>, and email blasts from Aroona.

Climate Change

The Public Policy Committee has decided to focus on Climate Change.

Gender inequality coupled with the climate crisis is one of the greatest challenges of our time. The climate crisis is not “gender neutral.” Women and girls experience the greatest impacts of climate change, which amplifies existing gender inequalities and poses unique threats to their livelihoods, health, and safety. Across the world, women depend more on, yet have less access to, natural resources. In many regions, women bear a disproportionate responsibility for securing food, water, and fuel.

When disasters strike, women are less likely to survive and more likely to be injured due to long standing gender inequalities that have created disparities in information, mobility, decision-making, and access to resources and training. In the aftermath, women and girls are less able to access relief and assistance, further threatening their livelihoods, wellbeing, and recovery, and creating a vicious cycle of vulnerability to future disasters.

The above was taken from the UN Women website. For a factsheet on this issue, click:

https://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/downloads/Women_and_Climate_Change_Factsheet.pdf

There are many causes of climate change, but a major one is human activity.

We would like to challenge Branch members to start to incorporate measures into their lives that help mitigate this colossal world problem. No one can do everything, but each of us can do something. Over the next few months, we will be focusing on ways each of us can be a part of the solution. Get ready to put your thinking caps on to prepare our climate change challenge with a prize for our winner.



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Composting

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The initial focus is food waste and composting. Food waste, when discarded in landfills, exacerbates the climate change crisis by generating methane, a potent greenhouse gas. When we compost, we turn these food scraps into a nutrient rich fertilizer for gardens and plants instead.

There are many ways to compost. If you have a yard, you can create a compost pile and place appropriate food into the pile. Usually, you should limit your compost pile to produce, coffee grinds, grains, and eggshells. Unless noted, you should avoid any meat or dairy products. For more information, go to the EPA website on composting: <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home#whatcom>.

You can purchase a **Compost Bin** to assist in this process, but these should be kept outdoors. Several members of our Branch have a **Composting Service** where a monthly fee is paid for someone to take food scraps and add them to their compost pile. Fairfax County and local Farmers Markets offer other options.

Fairfax County Composting

Food Waste Collection Companies permitted in Fairfax County: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/permitted-solid-waste-collection-companies>.

Compost Drop Off in Fairfax County: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/food-scraps-composting-drop>.

Fairfax County recently opened **two new locations** where residents can drop off food waste to be composted. You can drop off your food scraps into one of the green bins.

[I-95 Landfill Complex](#) and [I-66 Transfer Station](#)

**Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday from 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Closest Farmers Market Composting

Thursday

[Herndon Farmers Market](#)
765 Lynn St.
Herndon, VA, 20170

Sunday

Fresh farm Farmers Market in the
[Mosaic District](#)
2910 District Ave.
Fairfax, VA 22031

Some public Policy Committee members plan to speak with Supervisor John Fousts' office about the possibility of creating a composting site in McLean.

Carol Mournighan and Janet Taylor, Public Policy Co-Chairs

DE&I Committee

The DE&I Committee has created a new Branch activity: a DE&I Film Discussion Group to learn about and appreciate the rich cultural diversity in other countries and in the United States. The format of this activity will be like Morning and Evening Lit groups. Members will view suggested films available on streaming services independently in their homes (some may cost between \$2.00-\$4.00). The group will come together the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm to discuss the film led by alternating leaders. All meetings will be on **Zoom**. The first meeting is **Wednesday, April 5, 7:00 pm**. The Indian film *Thappad*, will be discussed. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact **Janet Taylor** ([taylor6840 at gmail.com](mailto:taylor6840@gmail.com)) or **Myrtle Hendricks Corrales** ([myrtlehencor at gmail.com](mailto:myrtlehencor@gmail.com)).

Special Interest Groups | March

Morning Lit Group

Morning Lit will meet **Friday, March 10**, at **9:30 am** for a social time. Book discussion begins at **10:00 am**, in the **McLean Community Center** to discuss *The Chancellor: The Remarkable Odyssey of Angela Merkel*, by **Kati Morton**. **Marge Degnon** 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, March 13**, from **10:00 am – 2:00 pm** at the home of **Vijay Reddy**, **6900 Fleetwood Road, Apt 702, McLean, VA 22101**, 703.943.4730. New member 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 on the second **Tuesday, March 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 the day before with the **Zoom** link.

Evening Lit Group

The group will meet on **Monday, March 20**, at **7:00 pm**, to discuss *French Braid*, by **Anne Tyler**. **Mary Lou Melley** will lead the discussion and host the meeting at her home, **1450 Emerson Avenue, Apt 309, McLean, VA 22101**. Please RSVP your attendance to **Mary Lou Melley** at [maryloumelley at gmail.com](mailto:maryloumelley@gmail.com) or 703.307.4911. The group welcomes all interested Branch members.

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions group will meet **Tuesday, March 21**, at **9:30 am** via **Zoom**, to discuss *War Crimes: What are they and can they be prosecuted?* New members are welcome. Should you be interested in participating, contact **Angela Ehemann** at [acehmann at Verizon.net](mailto:acehmann@Verizon.net) or 703.893.3578 for information on acquiring the book from the Foreign Policy Association.

DE&I

The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee will meet **Tuesday, March 28**, at **2:00 pm** via **Zoom**. New members are always welcome. Contact **Ruth Nowjack-Raymer**, [ruthoeast at gmail.com](mailto:ruthoeast@gmail.com) or **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales**, [myrtlehencor at gmail.com](mailto:myrtlehencor@gmail.com) if you want to attend and receive a **Zoom** link.

Connections Calendar | March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Public Policy Committee, 2:00 pm, Location TBD	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, Vijay Reddy's Home	14 Current Events Group, 9:30 am, via Zoom --- Branch Business Meeting and Potluck, 6:00 pm, McLean Community Center	15	16	17	18
19	20 Evening Lit Group, 7:00 pm, Mary Lou Melley's Home	21 Great Decisions, 9:30 am, via Zoom	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 DE&I Committee Meeting, 2:00 pm, via Zoom	29	30	31	



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

**Naz Basit
703.356.6365**

**Betsy Schroeder
703.209.5003**

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