



McLean Area Branch AAUW of Virginia



News

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May 2023
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May Branch Meeting

Spring Luncheon

Saturday, May 20, 2023
11:30 am – 2:00 pm
River Bend Country Club
375 Walker Road
Great Falls, Virginia

Speaker: Senator Tammy Duckworth

U.S Senator **Tammy Duckworth**, Illinois, is guest speaker at our end-of-year luncheon. **Senator Duckworth** is an Iraq war veteran, Purple Heart recipient, and former Assistant Secretary of the U.S Department of Veterans Affairs, who was among the first handful of Army women to fly combat missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom. She served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2012-2016 and is in her second term as a U.S Senator. **Senator Duckworth** will focus remarks on her book, *Every Day is a Gift*, copies of which will be available for signing at the end of the program.

The winner of the Regional Science Fair High School STEM Excellence Award in Engineering will be honored at the luncheon as well as the McLean AAUW American Fellowship recipient.

The reservation form for the luncheon is included in this newsletter with menu choices. Social time will begin at 11:30 am, with lunch served at noon. Reservations and payment are due to **Margie Broderick no later than May 12**. Seating is limited, submit your reservation form as soon as possible. **Luncheon Registration Form on Page 2**



May Branch Board Meeting

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

Board meetings are open to all branch members.

AAUW McLean Area Branch

 **Spring Luncheon** 

Saturday, May 20; Social time 11: 30—12:30
Lunch & Speaker Following

River Bend Country Club
375 Walker Road, Great Falls, VA

Guest Speaker:
United States Senator Tammy Duckworth

Menu

Salad

Napoleon of Sliced Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella on a Bed of Arugula with
Toasted Almonds and Basil Vinaigrette

Entree (Choice of:)

Chicken Marsala with Mushroom Marsala Sauce served with
Thyme Seasoned Red Bliss Potatoes and Grilled Vegetables

or

Teriyaki **Salmon** with Pineapple Salsa served with Coconut Rice and
Stir Fry Vegetables

or

Fettuccine with Light Alfredo Sauce and grilled vegetables

Strawberry Shortcake with Whipped Cream

Rolls & Butter Coffee, Tea, and Iced Tea Cash Bar Available

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

Name _____ **Entrée Choice** _____
Name _____ **Entrée Choice** _____
Name _____ **Entrée Choice** _____

Cost | \$40.00 per Person *(includes gratuity and sales tax)*
Make check payable to | AAUW - McLean Area Branch
Respond before or by | **Friday, May 12**
To | Margie Broderick, 7040 Arbor Ln, McLean, VA 2210



Presidents' Message

We encourage all of you to join us for the May luncheon (see registration form) at which Senator **Tammy Duckworth** will be the speaker. She will discuss her memoir, *Everyday is a Gift*. We highly recommend that you take the opportunity to read about **Senator Duckworth's** life. There is much on the internet about her; but, we believe reading her book will better prepare attendees to appreciate what a rare and special woman she is. **Senator Duckworth's** account of her family's financial insecurity is particularly poignant.

This program is particularly on point with the panel AAUW McLean and Falls Church jointly sponsored at the April 18th Branch meeting. We asked four community organizations, including Graham Road Elementary school, to help us understand the many challenges women and girls face in our own backyard, what services they provide, and in what ways our Branches might collectively help those who face enormous difficulties, including similar financial obstacles faced by the Senator.

We will continue this topic in our June Presidents' message when we ask each of you to participate in the Branch's Call to Action.

Hope to see you at the May luncheon.



**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/>.

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.



The Virginia State budget amendments will not be ready until June. Please keep your legislator aware that your priorities include more money for schools and better pay for teachers but **no** corporate tax cuts.

The Impact of Climate Change on Women - UN Fact Sheet

Gender inequality coupled with the climate crisis is one of the greatest challenges of our time. The climate crisis is not “gender neutral.” One of the most forceful voices advocating the urgency of climate change is Greta Thunberg, the 20-year-old Swedish activist who has been urging world bodies to address this critical issue. 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.

“Ultimately, a gendered analysis of climate change provides a holistic approach to the issue that disproportionately impacts women but also relies upon them, as agents of change, to propose and implement innovative solutions that will help to mitigate its impacts.” [UN FACT SHEET: CLIMATE CHANGE: The Need for A Gendered Perspective](#). But too often they are left out of the decision-making process. As AAUW members, each one of us can become a voice for climate change in our communities by adopting green practices in our homes, urging family members to do the same, and supporting community activities and legislation that mitigate the effects of climate change. We urge you to look at your home and community and see how you can contribute.

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 focus on ways each of us can be a part of the solution.

Here are a few simple ideas to be kind to our earth.

1. Use cloth tote bags when shopping.
2. Adjust your home thermostat regularly for energy efficiency.
3. Remember to compost; your vegetable garden will love you.
4. Stop the flow of water while brushing your teeth.
5. Wash laundry in cold water.
6. Don't pour partially consumed water (in bottles or glasses) down the drain; share the contents with thirsty house and patio plants.
7. Limit plastic water bottles; install a water filtration system or use a water filtration pitcher
8. Reuse freezer storage bags.
9. Use carwashes that use recycled water.
10. Carpool whenever possible.
11. Skip the burger, cattle are the main source of methane gas in the U.S.
12. Donate old laptops to *Share*; they will be scrubbed and given to a deserving family.



April Public Policy Committee Meeting Continued from Page 5

The AAUW McLean Area Branch Public Policy Committee met informally with **Jimmy Bierman**, the only declared candidate for the Fairfax County Dranesville District Supervisor at the time. The following issues were discussed:

Taxes

Many residents in our area have had their homes reassessed for tax purposes and saw their tax bill increase, which has placed a burden on some retired residents. While there is a tax break for seniors below a certain income level, their assets, not including their home, must also be below a certain level. It was noted that fewer retirees live on defined benefit pensions from their employers. Rather it is their 401K assets that provide their income. In addition, women often earn less money than men, with less in their retirement accounts than men. The Committee suggested that local tax codes could change to reflect these realities so the women in our area are not forced out of their homes due to taxes.



The April Public Policy Committee meeting attended by the first announced candidate for Dranesville Supervisor, **Jimmy Bierman**, and members **Kleia Luckner, Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales, Mary Lou Melley, Mimi Gronlund, Carol Mournighan and Janet Taylor.**

Schools

It is very important that Fairfax County maintain its high quality of public education.

Most of the Fairfax County School Budget comes from property taxes, making it imperative that we have a suitable tax base to pay teachers and administrators salaries that are competitive with other local jurisdictions. Improving school infrastructure is also a priority for maintaining our high quality of education. One role of the Board of Supervisors is not only to approve school funding but also to support our teachers and school administrators.

Gun Violence

Gun violence is an issue everywhere. Stronger gun laws are a necessity.

Affordable Housing

We need more affordable housing in Fairfax County. For teachers, nurses, firefighters, police officers and a host of middle-class professionals, this is an important issue. It is also an essential issue for blue collar workers who staff our supermarkets, mow our lawns, and clean our schools to list a few. One solution being considered in Arlington is called the "Missing Middle." "Missing middle" is a commonly used term that refers to the range of housing types that fit between single-family detached homes and mid-to-high-rise apartment buildings. Examples include duplexes, triplexes, townhomes, and more. <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Housing/Housing-Arlington/Tools/Missing-Middle>

Over the next few years, it may be wise to follow this Arlington County initiative.

Continued on Page 6



Continued from Page 5

April Public Policy Committee Meeting (continued)

McLean Re-Development

The developers of downtown McLean, the Board of Supervisors and the McLean Citizens Association are in deliberations on McLean redevelopment. Once they have reached an agreement, construction will begin.

Climate Change

At this point, only residents of single-family homes can install a charger for electric vehicles. Electric vehicles are still out of reach for the many people who live in apartments and other mid to high rise buildings because there are not enough charging stations. New residential buildings must have enough electric charging stations to accommodate the residents.

Fairfax County schools could have **solar panels** placed on their roofs since most are not surrounded by tall trees that can block the sun.

Easy access **composting** sites or composting collection should be available for all residents making it easier to reduce food waste.

How do **YOU** feel about what goes on in **YOUR** community? Please feel free to let Carol ([clmourn at gmail.com](mailto:clmourn@gmail.com)) or Janet (Taylor6840 at gmail.com) know. Or better yet, come to branch Public Policy meetings on the first Monday of the month, holidays excluded.

Carol Mournighan and Janet Taylor, Co-Chairs Public Policy

McLean Day

Saturday, May 20
11:00am — 5:00pm
Lewinsville Park
1659 Chain Bridge Rd
McLean, VA



The branch will participate in McLean's biggest annual celebration.

Special Interest Groups | May

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions group will meet **Tuesday, May 2**, at **9:30 am** via **Zoom**, to discuss ***Economic Warfare and US Policy***. **Please note the new date**. 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 Discussion Group

The next DE&I Film Discussion Group will meet **Wednesday, May 3**, at **7:00 pm** via **Zoom**. The Mexican film ***Like Water for Chocolate*** (available on Netflix) will be discussed. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact **Ruth Nowjack-Raymer**, [ruthoheast at gmail.com](mailto:ruthoheast@gmail.com) or **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales**, [myrtlehencor at gmail.com](mailto:myrtlehencor@gmail.com).

Bridge Group

The Bridge Group will meet **Monday, May 8**, from **10:00 am – 2:00 pm** at the home of **Mimi Grunland**, **1017 Towlston Road, McLean, VA 22102**, 703.757.0332. New member are welcome. Contact **Barbara Carr** at [barbaralcarr at msn.com](mailto:barbaralcarr@msn.com) or 703.356.3127 for information.

Evening Lit Group

The group will meet on **Monday, May 8**, at **2:00 pm**, to discuss ***The Nickel Boys***, by **Colson Whitehead**. **Pam Bacher** will lead the discussion and host the meeting at her home, **21022 Rocky Knoll Square, #306, Ashburn, VA 20147**. Please RSVP your attendance to **Pam** at [prbacher at outlook.com](mailto:prbacher@outlook.com) or 703.281.2595. The group welcomes all interested Branch members.

Current Events

Current Events will meet on the second **Tuesday, May 9**, 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 with the **Zoom** link.

Morning Lit Group

Morning Lit will meet **Friday, May 12**, at **9:30 am** for a social time. Book discussion begins at **10:00 am**, at the **McLean Community Center** to discuss ***Fresh Water for Flowers***, by **Valerie Perrin**. **Phyllis Yoshida** 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.

At the final meeting on June 9, the group will select books for the next program year. Send your book suggestions to Betsy.

DE&I Committee

The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee will meet **Tuesday, May 23**, at **2:00 pm** via **Zoom**. If you're interested in attending contact **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales**, [myrtlehencor at gmail.com](mailto:myrtlehencor@gmail.com) or **Ruth Nowjack-Raymer**, [ruthoheast at gmail.com](mailto:ruthoheast@gmail.com).

Connections Calendar | May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Public Policy Committee, 2:00 pm, Location TBD	2 Great Decisions, 9:30 am, via Zoom	3 DE&I Film Discussion, 7:00 pm, via Zoom	4	5	6
7	8 Bridge Group, 10:00 am, Mimi Grunland's Home — Evening Lit Group, 2:00 pm, Pam Bacher's Home	9 Current Events Group, 9:30 am, via Zoom	10 Branch Board Meeting, 10:00 am, McLean Community Center	11	12 Morning Lit Group Meeting, 9:30 am, McLean Community Center / Zoom — Branch Luncheon Registration Deadline	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Spring Luncheon, 11:30 am, Riverbend Country Club — McLean Day 11:00 am - 5:00 pm Lewinsville Park
21	22	23 DE&I Committee, 2:00 pm, via Zoom	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



If You Shop Online at Macy's, L. L. Bean, Bed Bath & Beyond, Lowes, Home Depot, Walgreens, Walmart, Staples+
 Next time you make a purchase, go to our Branch ShopRaise page, <https://shopraise.com/go/3MM>, download the app and make your purchase. ShopRaise is available at over 1000 online stores!

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