



McLean Area Branch AAUW of Virginia



News

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June 2023
Volume XLXII
Number 9

Joint Branch Board Meeting and Luncheon

Friday, June 9, 2023
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
McLean Community Center

New and retiring Board members will convene to meet our new Board President, **Bárbara Zamora-Appel** and discuss business items to help the Board organize for the summer and into the new year. The meeting will be followed by a potluck luncheon.

All Branch members who have supported the Board are invited to attend. Members invited include but are not limited to standing committees (e.g., by laws and policy, STEM), board appointees (e.g., archivists, newsletter, university liaison, membership directory, special events, fundraising chair). If you have helped in any way this year, we would love to see you!

If Board members would like to bring a luncheon contribution, contact **Phyllis Provenzano** at [phyllis.a.pro at gmail.com](mailto:phyllis.a.pro@gmail.com) or 703.938.7996.

Have Creative Juices Seeking an Outlet?

New Editorial Team Needed

Having worked together for six years, the time has come for each of us to move on to other endeavors. This is our last issue. It's been our **mission to bring you Branch news in a manner that is concise, easy to digest, and enjoyable to read.**

We took over from **Pam Bacher** who miraculously did everything herself. She left us with a very strong foundation on which to begin. We evolved into a seamless rhythm, dividing the work and drawing on each other's complimentary skills. It has been a joyous experience.

And now the time has come for a new team to bring your own style. If interested, please contact:

Cheryl Scott Williams
301.518.2773
[cherylscootwilliams at gmail.com](mailto:cherylscootwilliams@gmail.com)

Job Description

- Herd the input
- Tighten the words
- Grow your skills with simple tools to layout the final copy
- Savor the teamwork

Thanks for the opportunity to serve.

The Editors, Cheryl Scott Williams, Marie Briones-Jones, Judy Lettes

Spring Luncheon Highlights: May 20, 2023



Shown at the May 20, 2023 Annual Branch Luncheon from left are: Mafalda Morocco, Senator Tammy Duckworth and Mafalda Morocco Fireside Chat, Senator Duckworth speaking, Celina Zaccack and Senator Duckworth, and Senator Duckworth.



Shown at top and left: Senator Duckworth and Carol Langelier. Shown at right: Programs Co-VPs Mafadla Morocco and Christina Hamilton; and Senator Duckworth.

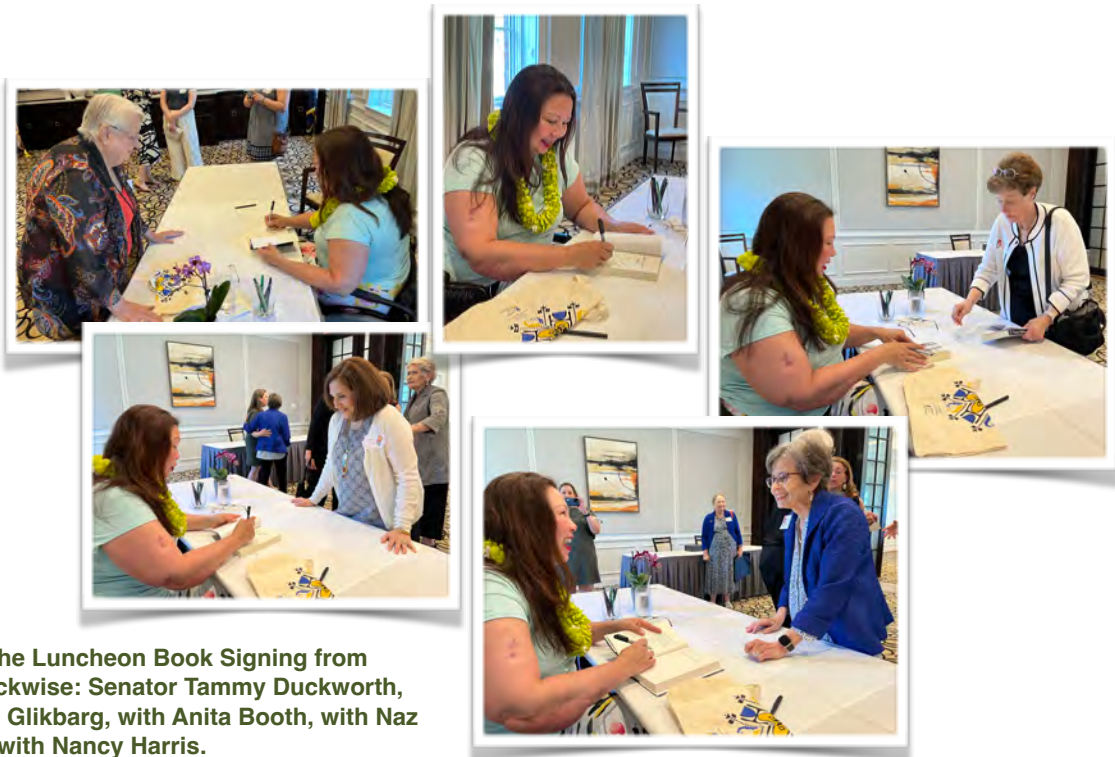
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Spring Luncheon Highlights: May 20, 2023

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Shown left, at the May 20, 2023 Annual Branch Luncheon: the Dining Room engaged in Senator Duckworth and Mafalda Morocco's Fireside Chat.



Shown at the Luncheon Book Signing from center, clockwise: Senator Tammy Duckworth, with Lynne Glikbarg, with Anita Booth, with Naz Basit, and with Nancy Harris.

Co-President Sue Christie acknowledged Caroline Pickens as the recipient of an AAUW Virginia Honoree Award at the Virginia AAUW Conference for her exceptional contributions to furthering AAUW's mission and priorities statewide.





Reed Isbell, Bárbara Zamora-Appel, Janet Taylor hosting the AAUW booth at the May 20, 2023 McLean Day.



Presidents' Message

Could there be a better way to end the 2023-24 year than with the honor and privilege of hosting **Senator Tammy Duckworth** at our end of year luncheon? We are so profoundly touched and inspired by her resilience in the face of unimaginable challenges. **Senator Duckworth** is the essence of what it means to be a role model and unwavering fighter for equity. Thank you to all those responsible for making this event the crowning accomplishment of the year.

We would like to thank the entire Board for all their hard work and collaboration to help the Branch emerge from Covid stronger and better. We encourage all Branch members to consider the opportunity to serve on the board, on a committee or in a community engagement activity.

We are extraordinarily fortunate and proud to have **Bárbara Zamora-Appel** serve as our new Co-President, along with the collaboration and support of the Executive Committee and the Board. **Bárbara** brings tremendous professional and volunteer experience which will most certainly enhance our engagement and visibility with the larger community. It has been a privilege and honor to serve as your Co-Presidents.

Have a wonderful summer.



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.

Membership: Membership Renewal Time is Here

The annual membership renewal cycle starts **June 1, 2023**. This year membership dues are **\$110**; National dues \$72, Branch dues \$23, State dues \$15. Please note that all but \$3 from the National dues are tax deductible.

- All members are encouraged to renew online using a credit or debit card at the National AAUW website at <http://www.aauw.org>, following the prompts.
- For those renewing by check, mail \$110, **payable to AAUW McLean Area Branch** to:
McLean Area Branch Treasurer
P.O. Box 1002, McLean, VA 22101

Your membership is vital in supporting AAUW programs to advance education, gender equity, equal pay and to level the playing field for women in the work force as well as sponsoring scholarships for women and girls. If you have questions, contact **Naz Basit**, [nazbasit at yahoo.com](mailto:nazbasit@yahoo.com) or **Betsy Schroeder**, [icu43 at cox.net](mailto:icu43@cox.net).

Program Committee

Please Join the Program Committee this month to start planning the 2023-2024 calendar. Anyone who has ideas about branch programs is welcome and encouraged to attend.

For additional information about the meeting or to share your ideas, please contact Program Co-Vice Presidents **Christina Hamilton** ([christinahamilton at gephardtcd.com](mailto:christinahamilton@gephardtcd.com)) and **Caroline Pickens** ([carolineaauw at gmail.com](mailto:carolineaauw@gmail.com)).

AAUW Funds

AAUW awarded more than \$6 million in the 2022-23 academic year in Fellowships and Grants to women and community projects. In conjunction with these awards, the McLean Area Branch of AAUW, since its founding, has supported the Fellowship Program with an endowed American Fellowship and International Fellowship, a Community Grant and the 40th Anniversary Career Development Grant. AAUW continues to invest in world-changing efforts for women through fellowship and grant programs for many decades to come that include groundbreaking research in Education, Workplace and Economic Equity and Leadership.

The McLean Area Branch of AAUW may wish to consider starting an Endowed Local Scholarship managed by the national AAUW.

Elaine A. Lailas, AAUW Funds, Chair

Community Support

McLean Branch elicited two donations to help provide snacks for the autism classes at Graham Road Elementary School.

- **Wegman's at Tysons** provided a generous **\$100 gift certificate**.
- **Giant, Broad Street, Falls Church**, provided a **\$25 gift certificate**.

We appreciate the civic support these stores have provided to help autistic children. When members shop at either of these stores, **please let store management know we are mindful of their philanthropy to those in need.**



*Making a difference in every
community we serve*

Student Inclusion Recognition Award

The McLean Area Branch is committed to increasing diversity, inclusion, and equity in all facets of its work in the community. To that end, the Student Inclusion Recognition Award was recommended by the DE&I Committee in 2022 and approved by the Board. The award was created to acknowledge area high school juniors' efforts to make their school environments welcoming to students of all backgrounds, heritages, and abilities.

The 2023 recipient of the Student Inclusion Recognition Award from McLean High School is **Lauren Vandivier**. **Ms. Vandivier** was presented with a certificate of award and \$100 at the high school's award ceremony by AAUW DE&I Committee Co-chair **Myrtle Hendricks Corrales** and Co-Vice President for Programs **Mafalda Marrocco**.



Myrtle Hendricks Corrales, Lauren Vandivier, and Mafalda Marrocco.

Ms. Vandivier, the Secretary-General of McLean High School's Model United Nations Club, was accepted into the Virginia Residential Governor's School for Humanities and is a member of the National Honor Society and the National English Honor Society. Her commitment to ensuring that students from all backgrounds experience an inclusive environment are numerous and include serving as a mentor to incoming freshmen as part of the McLeadership program, and as a head council member of the Committee on Raising Student Voices, an organization that seeks to bridge the gap between the student body and the high school's administration. Recent activities of the committee include assuring that official messages are translated into multiple languages for the student body and their parents, that AFAB (assigned female at birth) students have increased access to sanitary products in restrooms, and **Ms. Vandivier's** major focus, creating an allergy awareness initiative. **Ms. Vandivier** is advocating for epinephrine and anaphylaxis training in all Fairfax County high schools. This initiative has required considerable research on the Virginia legislation surrounding food allergies and countless meetings with the McLean High School administration, the Fairfax County Health Department staff, and district representatives, all in the hopes that students with life-threatening allergies will experience a safe and inclusive high school experience. **Ms. Vandivier** will be honored by the Branch membership at the September meeting where we will learn first-hand about her efforts.

Application reviewers were **Reed Isbell, Nina McVeigh, Betsy Reddaway, Barbara Sipe**, and the DE&I Committee Co-chairs **Myrtle Hendricks Corrales** and **Ruth Nowjack-Raymer**.

STEM Awards

2023 STEM Achievement Awards



For the past ten years, the McLean Area Branch has partnered with counselors at local high schools to present the STEM 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 members of the 2023 STEM Awards Committee that manages the awards are **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales**, **Nina McVeigh**, and **Judy Page**, STEM Chair.

Three female students were recently recognized as the recipients of the STEM Achievement Awards for 2023 at McLean High School at a recent awards ceremony. **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales**, liaison to McLean HS, and **Mafalda Marrocco** attended the McLean High School Awards Ceremony on April 27, 2023, to present each student with a Certificate of Merit and a check for \$100. The following students at McLean High School received the 2023 awards:

- Math: **Nicoleta Hoffman**
- Science: **Kaitlyn Cole**
- Computer Science: **Audrey Herlands**



Shown at the McLean High School Awards Ceremony on April 27, 2023, from left are Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales, Nicoleta Hoffman, Kaitlyn Cole, Audrey Herlands, and Mafalda Marrocco.

Plans are in place for members of the branch to attend two additional high school ceremonies in early June to present our STEM Achievement Awards. On June 8, **Judy Page** and **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales** will participate in the graduation ceremony at William Obediah Robey High School. This is the first year that we have partnered with Robey HS, a Title I school, to select students to receive math and science awards. Because the school has a small population of students, many of whom do not go on to college, we agreed with the school's request to make our awards open to both juniors and seniors. The school selected the following seniors to receive the 2023 awards:

- Math: **Leslie Dayanara Delgado Escobar**
- Science: **Ashley Elizabeth Coats**

On June 9, **Nina McVeigh**, liaison to Langley High School, and **Myrtle Hendricks-Corrales** will present awards to three female students at Langley High School at a school awards ceremony. The following students at Langley High School are receiving the 2023 awards:

- Math: **Sophia Bruno**
- Science: **Scarlett Adams**
- Computer Science: **Lillian Wu**

Awards will also be presented to two students at Park View High School, another Title I school, once we receive the recipients' names from the school counselor. All the students will be invited to a branch event in the fall for further recognition by branch members.

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STEM Awards

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STEM Excellence Award Presented at Annual Branch Luncheon

Celina Zaccack, a junior at George Marshall High School, has been selected as the 2023 recipient of the branch STEM Excellence Award. The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) 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 an in-person science fair and prepared a six-minute video for the judges to review in advance. **Phyllis Yoshida** and **Judy Page** served as judges for our branch. They were impressed by the work done by **Celina** on the project, "Winged Noise Barriers: The Future of Efficient Highway Sound Suppression," as it represented an innovative solution to a highway noise problem that **Celina** encountered while at school. In addition to our award, **Celina** was selected as a second-place category winner in Engineering Technology: Statics and Dynamics and received First Place for Excellence in Mobility Engineering from SAE International (Washington DC Chapter). She received additional awards from the American Industrial Hygiene Association, the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (Northern VA Chapter), and The Aerospace Corporation.

Celina was presented with the STEM Excellence Award at the branch luncheon May 20 held at River Bend Club, where she made remarks about her project and her interest in STEM. Her mother, **Joey Zaccack**, also attended the event. For the award, **Celina** received a Certificate of Merit and a check for \$100.



Celina Zaccack speaking at the May 20, 2023 Annual Branch Luncheon, with Phyllis Yoshida, and presented with the branch STEM Excellence Award by Phyllis Yoshida, Sue Christie, and Anita Booth.



Why ERA Matters

On April 27, a joint resolution to remove an expired deadline for states to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) received 51 bipartisan votes in the U.S. Senate but fell short of the 60 votes necessary for the resolution to advance under current Senate rules. The ERA would protect the fundamental rights of women to live as equal citizens in America. Properly applied, it would guard against discrimination based on pregnancy and motherhood, and it would protect women's control over their reproductive lives. Currently the only right that cannot be denied or abridged "on account of sex" in the Constitution is the right to vote.

For more information, please see our branch website, <https://mclean-va.aauw.net/>.

Virginia State Budget

Neither chamber could resolve budget proposals by the February 25 deadline. The Senate proposal included investments in public schools. The House of Delegates proposed tax cuts for profitable corporations. While legislators are still working on a final budget, conferees and the governor have agreed on a "stop-gap" budget that provides one-time allocations to the state's rainy-day fund, retirement system, and capital projects, as well as almost \$17 million toward fixing the \$201 million math error by the State Department of Education, among other expenditures.

Elections 2023

As a result of redistricting, many voters will find themselves in new Congressional and State House and Senate Districts. We encourage you to get acquainted with how your districts have changed by typing in your address at <https://www.vpap.org/redistricting/> to find the information you need to vote.

Voting Information

For a complete guide to voting, please go to our branch website: <https://mclean-va.aauw.net/>. It is on the main page titled, Notice to Members: Early Voting Underway in Va. Since Republicans are holding a caucus later, the June primary is for democratic candidates only.

Get Out the Vote

The McLean AAUW Public Policy Committee has committed to mailing 500 "Get Out the Vote" post cards. We will host a Postcard Party at the home of **Carol Mournighan** on **September 5, 2023** from **5:00 to 7:00 pm**. Wine and other refreshments will be provided; just bring yourself and a pen. Contact Co-Chairs **Carol Mournighan** at clmourn@gmail.com or **Janet Taylor** at taylor6840@gmail.com if you can come

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Climate Change

The Public Policy Committee will continue to identify ways that individuals can make a difference. This month's focus is on "Fast Fashion." Please visit: <https://earth.org/fast-fashions-detrimental-effect-on-the-environment/>

Our Branch Climate Change Contest winner is **Ruth Nowjack-Raymer** and here are a few ways she does her part to help mitigate climate change. To learn about more about **Ruth's** steps to reduce her carbon footprint, please visit our website: <https://mclean-va.aauw.net/>

Ruth Nowjack-Raymer Making a Difference

1. Recycle all plastic bags at grocery stores.
2. Use dinnerware rather than paper plates and single use plasticware.
3. Use paper bags as weed blockers in garden.
4. Use cloth reusable shopping bags whenever possible.
5. Participate as shareholder in local CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) year-round that includes vegetables, eggs, meats.
6. Limit beef consumption because of methane production.
7. Check sourcing information and purchase what is most locally grown.
8. Support local farmers who are concerned about the environment.
9. Use mulch and don't water the lawn.
10. Contract with pest control that uses environmentally friendly products.
11. Donated to the Arbor Day Foundation and received six tree seedlings planted by my husband.
12. Reuse plastic milk jugs as containers to start seedlings.
13. Grow in wooden planters on deck herbs, tomatoes.
14. Grow plants that attract bees and butterflies.
15. Remove invasive species to encourage native species.
16. Include edibles in landscape such as fruit trees.
17. Can or freeze all excess fruits and vegetables.

Congratulations, Ruth!

Special Interest Groups | June

Fundraiser Committee

The Fundraiser Exploratory Committee will meet **Tuesday, June 6** at **7:00 pm** via **Zoom**. If you'd like to participate contact **Janet Taylor** at taylor6840@gmail.com or 703.893.6215.

Morning Lit Group

Morning Lit will meet **Wednesday, June 7**, from **10:00 am – 1:00 pm** at **McLean Community Center, Stedman Room** to *choose books for the coming year and enjoy lunch together*. A **Zoom** link will be provided for those who prefer to join remotely a few days before the meeting. If you would like to participate in the book selection and are not a current member but want to join us in the fall, contact **Betsy Reddaway**, pbreddaway@verizon.net. All are welcome. The next meeting of the Morning Literature Group will be **Friday, September 8** at **10:00 am**. Contact **Betsy Reddaway** for the book selection if you miss the June meeting.

Bridge Group

The Bridge Group will meet **Monday, June 12**, 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@msn.com or 703.356.3127 for information.

Public Policy Committee

The Public Policy Committee will meet **Monday, June 12** at **2:00 pm** at **Carol Mournighan's** home, **7204 Churchill Road, McLean, VA 22101**. **Janine Greenwood**, Virginia AAUW Public Policy Co-chair will be the special guest at the meeting. All are welcome. If you plan to attend, contact **Carol** at clmourn@gmail.com or **Janet Taylor** at taylor6840@gmail.com.

Current Events

Current Events will meet on the second **Tuesday, June 13, July 11, and August 8**, 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@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 to participate.

Evening Lit Group

The group will meet on **Monday, June 19**, at **7:00 pm**, to discuss *The Bluest Eye* by **Toni Morrison**. **Diana Parsell** will lead the discussion and host the meeting at her home, **6603 Orland Street, Falls Church, VA 22043**. Please RSVP your attendance to Diana at parselldb@aol.com or 703.538.7302. The group welcomes all interested Branch members.

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions group will meet **Tuesday, June 20**, at **9:30 am** via **Zoom**, to discuss **Chapter 5, Political Trends in Latin America**. The group will meet through September and then take a break until February when the new book is issued. **This is a good time for new members to join the group to try out the experience**. Should you be interested in participating, contact **Angela Ehemann** at acehmann@Verizon.net or 703.893.3578 for information.

Connections Calendar | June

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--|---|--|----------|--|----------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 Fundraiser Committee, 7:00 pm, via Zoom | 7 Morning Lit Group Meeting, 10:00 am, McLean Community Center / Zoom | 8 | 9 Joint Board Meeting and Potluck, 10:00 am, McLean Community Center | 10 |
| 11 | 12 Bridge Group, 10:00 am, Mimi Grunland's Home --- | 13 Current Events Group, 9:30 am, via Zoom | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| | | | | | | |
| 18 | 19 Evening Lit Group, 2:00 pm, Diana Parsell's Home | 20 Great Decisions, 9:30 am, via Zoom | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |



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