



McLean Area Branch  
AAUW of Virginia



# News

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## Branch Website

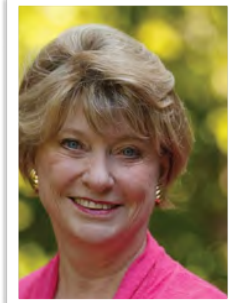
<http://mclea-va.aauw.net>

December 2023/January 2024  
Volume XLXIII  
Number 4

## December Holiday Luncheon



Saturday, December 9, 2023  
River Bend Country Club, 375 Walker Rd, Great Falls, VA  
Arrival by 11:15 am ● Program at 11:30 pm  
Followed by Social Time and Lunch



State Senator **Janet Howell**, the longest serving female Virginia Senator and one of the Commonwealth's most influential leaders, will speak about women leading the way in politics. She has served in the State Senate since 1992 and is the first woman to chair the powerful Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee.

She will be retiring at the end of this term, and we will honor her for the immense work she has done to promote the education, health, and equality of women and girls in Virginia.

Among her many achievements, **Senator Howell** is credited with major legal reforms. She headed the overhaul of Virginia's family violence laws. She spearheaded the mental health law reform in the Senate following the Virginia Tech tragedy. Additionally, Virginia has genetic information privacy legislation due to her efforts. Her work has been widely praised and honored by many groups including the American Academy of Pediatrics, Virginia Sheriffs, and the Virginia Interfaith Center.

She earned her BA at Oberlin College and her MA at the University of Pennsylvania.

## January Branch Program

Saturday, January 20, 2024  
10:00 am – Noon  
McLean Community Center

Jennifer Swann  
Director, Information Security  
Bloomberg Industry Group



### AI: The Good, The Bad, and What We Need to Know

**Jennifer Swann** will be our guide as we explore Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its current and potential impact on our lives. **Jennifer**, a graduate of Morgan State University, has professional certification from Yale and a passion for cybersecurity and emerging technologies. Invite friends to join us January 20 as we explore the potential and challenges of emerging technologies.

## December & January Branch Board Meetings

Friday, December 8 at 11:30 am  
 Wednesday, January 10 at 7:00 pm  
 McLean Community Center

Board meetings are open for all interested branch members to attend.

### President's Message

As the holiday season approaches, we are moved by the remarkable generosity of our branch members. This time of the year is more than just decorations and celebrations; it is a reminder of the exceptional commitment and priceless contributions that define our community.

Your unwavering dedication throughout the year, both in terms of the time you devote and the financial support you generously provide, have left an indelible mark on our mission. Your willingness to contribute, whether through volunteering your time, recruiting new members, holding fundraisers, or donating your personal resources, have been invaluable to McLean AAUW.

We anticipate new opportunities and initiatives in the upcoming year and look forward to your continued involvement. During this holiday season, we hope you find the joy of giving and the warmth of togetherness with your loved ones. Thank you for your continued support.

Warmest wishes.



**Bárbara Zamora-Appel,**  
 Branch President.

### Announcements

- U.S. Supreme Court Tour: **Liz Simons**, Supreme Court docent and our October speaker is offering to lead a tour for branch members. Up to eight participants per tour at two tours per day on **December 29** or **January 2, 3, 4, or 5** at **12-1:30** and **2-3:30 pm**. If you are interested, contact **Caroline Pickens** at [carolineaauw@gmail.com](mailto:carolineaauw@gmail.com) before **December 11**.
- The McLean branch and Graham Road Elementary School have received a Virginia AAUW mini grant for \$500. The grant will support the further development of the school's outdoor gardens and the STEM curriculums derived from them at each grade level. The grant was the joint effort of **Anita Booth** and **Donna Jones**, the GRES science resource teacher.
- The McLean Area AAUW Branch has endowed two Fellowships and two Grants which have been given since their inception. The 2023-2024 grantees are as follows:
  - **American Fellowship #1376: Shelby Singleton**, University of Virginia
  - **International Fellowship #1815: Natia Chankvetadze**, Ph.D. (from Georgia), George Mason University
  - **Research & Community Action Grant #4267: Ingrid Guillen Marquina**
  - **Career Development Grant #4319: Colette Woods**, George Mason University
- Special events chair **Margie Broderick** needs two volunteers to assist her with the **Annual Potluck Dinner** on **March 19, 2024**. Planning starts in early January with the choice of a theme. Contact **Margie** at [margiebroderick@aol.com](mailto:margiebroderick@aol.com) if you can assist.

## Special Interest Groups | December 2023/January 2024

### Public Policy Committee

The Public Policy Committee will meet **Monday, December 4**, at **2:00 pm**, at the home of **Ellie Dasenbrook**, 6900 Fleetwood Road, #606, McLean, VA.

In January the committee will meet on **January 8 at 2:00 pm**, location to be determined.

If you plan to attend, please contact **Carol Mournighan** ([clmourn at gmail.com](mailto:clmourn@gmail.com)) or **Mary Lou Melley** at [maryloumelley at gmail.com](mailto:maryloumelley@gmail.com). All members are welcome.

**Virginia Lobby Day** is **Wednesday, January 3** and a **reception for Women Legislators** is **Tuesday, January 30**, both events are in **Richmond**. If you'd like to attend, contact **Carol Mournighan**, [clmourn at gmail.com](mailto:clmourn@gmail.com) or **Janet Taylor** [taylor6840 at gmail.com](mailto:taylor6840@gmail.com).

If you'd like to join branch members **lobbying the U.S. Congress** the **third Thursday each month**, contact **Mary Lou Melley**, [maryloumelley at gmail.com](mailto:maryloumelley@gmail.com).

### Diversity Film Group

The Diversity Film Group will meet **Wednesday, December 6**, at **7:00 pm**, on **Zoom** to discuss the Aboriginal Australian film, "**Rabbit Proof Fence**," streaming on Amazon Prime.

In January we will meet **Tuesday, January 9** (change in date for this month only) at **7:00 pm** on **Zoom** to discuss the Israeli film, "**Gett: Trail of Vivane Amsalem**," streaming on Amazon Prime.

If you are interested in participating, contact **Myrtle Hendricks Corrales**, [myrtlehencor at gmail.com](mailto:myrtlehencor@gmail.com), 703.973.0925, and **Ruth Nowjack-Raymer**, [ruthoeast at gmail.com](mailto:ruthoeast@gmail.com), 703.855.1547.

### Current Events

Current Events will meet on the second **Tuesday, December 12**, and **January 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 link to participate.

### Morning Lit Group

Morning Lit will meet **Friday, December 8**, at **9:30 am** at **McLean Community Center**, to discuss **One Summer, America, 1927**, by **Bill Bryson**. **Carol Mournighan** will lead the discussion.

In January, we meet on **Friday, January 12 at 9:30 am** at **McLean Community Center** to discuss **West with Giraffes**, by **Lynda Rutledge**. **Ruth Nowjack-Raymer** will lead the discussion.

All are welcome. Contact **Betsy Reddaway** for more information [pbreddaway at verizon.net](mailto:pbreddaway@verizon.net).

### Evening Lit Group

The Evening Literature group will meet on **Monday, December 18**, to share a holiday dinner. The location is to be determined and will be sent to members in early December.

In January, we meet on **Monday, January 15**, at **7:00 pm** to discuss **G-Man: J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Democracy**, by **Beverly Gage**. **Diana Parsell** will lead the discussion and host the meeting at her home, **6603 Orland Street, Falls Church, VA**. Please RSVP your attendance to **Diana** at [parselldb at aol.com](mailto:parselldb@aol.com) or 703.538.7302.

The group welcomes all interested Branch members. If you're not a current member and are interested in participating, contact **Cheryl Williams** at [cherylscottwilliams at gmail.com](mailto:cherylscottwilliams@gmail.com).

## Connections Calendar | December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 <b>Public Policy Committee,</b> 2:00 pm, Ellie Dasenbrook's Home	5	6 <b>Diversity Films Group,</b> 7:00 pm, <b>Zoom</b>	7	8 <b>Morning Lit Group Meeting,</b> 9:30 am, McLean Community Center / <b>Zoom</b> ----- <b>Board Meeting</b> 11:30 am, MCC	9  <b>Holiday Luncheon,</b> 11:15 am, River Bend Country Club 
10	11	12 <b>Current Events Group,</b> 9:30 am, via <b>Zoom</b>	13	14	15	16
17	18 <b>Evening Lit Group Dinner,</b> Logistics TBD	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

### Special Interest Group Contacts

**Current Events:** **Mary Lou Melley**, [maryloumelley at gmail.com](mailto:maryloumelley@gmail.com), 703.307.4911

**Diversity Films Group:**

**Myrtle Hendricks Corrales**, [myrtlehencor at gmail.com](mailto:myrtlehencor@gmail.com) , 703.973.0925

**Ruth Nowjack-Raymer**, [ruthoheast at gmail.com](mailto:ruthoheast@gmail.com), 703.855.1547

**Evening Lit Group:**

**Cheryl Scott Williams**, [cherylscttwilliams at gmail.com](mailto:cherylscttwilliams@gmail.com), 301.518.2773

1/15: **Diana Parsell**, [parselldb at aol.com](mailto:parselldb@aol.com), 703.538.7302

**Great Decisions:** **Angela Ehemann**, [acehmann at Verizon.net](mailto:acehmann@Verizon.net), 703.893.3578

**Morning Lit Group:** **Betsy Reddaway**, [pbreddaway at verizon.net](mailto:pbreddaway@verizon.net), 703.448.9195

**Public Policy Committee** **Carol Mournighan**, 571.334.1433

## Connections Calendar | January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 <b>Virginia Lobby Day,</b> Richmond	4	5	6
7	8 <b>Public Policy Committee,</b> 2:00 pm, Location TBD	9 <b>Current Events Group,</b> 9:30 am, via <b>Zoom</b> ----- <b>Diversity Films Group,</b> 7:00 pm, <b>Zoom</b>	10 <b>Board Meeting</b> 7:00 pm, MCC	11	12 <b>Morning Lit Group Meeting,</b> 9:30 am, McLean Community Center / <b>Zoom</b>	13
14	15 <b>Evening Lit Group,</b> 7:00 pm, Diana Parsell's Home	16	17	18	19	20 <b>Branch Meeting</b> 10:00 am, MCC
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 <b>Virginia Women Legislators Reception,</b> Richmond	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](http://www.AAUW.org)**