

Mt. Vernon Voices

AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls
through research, education, and advocacy.

Volume 63 Issue 3 November 2019

Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Inspiration: the process of being mentally stimulated to do or feel something, especially to do something creative.

Jane Collins, our November 16 speaker is an inspiration! She is a retired colonel in the United States Air Force with a very distinguished career, which included serving as an investigative officer for the Air Force Inspector General, Senior Official Directorate; as the Senior Air Force Reserve advisor to the Assistant Deputy Secretary of the Air Force, and as a Public Affairs (PA) officer. **However, it is through her work after retirement that she has become completely inspiring!**

She has devoted her retirement to “connecting people to create good.”

When our founders met in 1881, they were searching for ways to broaden opportunities and assist other women in higher education. Throughout our history, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day — educational, social, economic, and political. AAUW has been always been a catalyst for change.

Continued on page 2

**Saturday
November 16**

10:30 am

Presentation

by

Jane Collins

BRANCH PROGRAM NOVEMBER 16

Everyone Deserves To Be Heard

Arts Programs for the
Marginalized Populations in Alexandria and Arlington

**Saturday, November 16, 10:30 am,
at Sherwood Regional Library**



Join us for a very special program with **Jane Collins**, founder and Executive Director of **Heard**, a non-profit begun in 2017 to bring the arts to disadvantaged and underserved communities. **Heard's** programs are complementary to AAUW's mission, providing a broad variety of life skills to empower people, including women and young girls, at risk. **Ms. Collins'** presentation will describe **Heard's** programs and how its partnerships with other community organizations multiplies their impact. We will also hear about new volunteer opportunities which may be important to promoting the mission and vision of AAUW.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

**Sherwood
Regional
Library**

**2501 Sherwood
Hall Lane
Alexandria**

Jane Collins, has also been a catalyst for change in our community by creating a nonprofit organization to help broaden the opportunities for marginalized adults through creative arts programs. The organization is called **Heard**.

Heard teaches life skills disguised as art to Alexandria and Arlington nonprofit and city program partners serving clients who are homeless, transitioning from homelessness, incarcerated, survivors of domestic violence, immigrant/refugee, in need of a second chance, or marginalized in some way. As a result, these at-risk adults gain confidence, improve decision-making skills, learn conflict resolution skills and

inspiration to set goals and live independently.

I feel sure our founders would be proud of the work one woman, **Jane Collins**, created for the good of others. Because, in AAUW we are all about improving the lives of women, and all people, who need help the most. **That is what equity is all about: giving everyone what they need to be successful.**

Please proudly welcome Jane on November 16, and learn more about the inspiring work she is doing in our community.

Patsy Quick
President



REMEMBERING LOUISE MEADE

Our AAUW branch has received the sad news that long-time member **Louise Meade** died on October 1. In recent years she has resided at the Paul Springs Retirement Home on Fort Hunt Road.

Louise became a branch member in 1995, and at various times she served the branch as Co-president, Secretary, Hospitality Chair, and Program Vice-president. She held a B.A. degree in Political Science from Stanford University and was a dedicated civic activist. She retired as Emergency Services Director of Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services. Her family is planning a memorial service for later in the year when all scattered members of her sons' families will be able to attend. More information on this will be forthcoming.

BRANCH LEADERSHIP 2019 – 2020

Elected Officers

President:	Patsy Quick
Program Vice President:	Joanne Clark
Membership Vice President:	Shannon Dubicki
Treasurer:	Anne Simpson
Secretary:	Paula Lettice

Appointed Chairs

Bylaws:	vacant
AAUW Funds:	Joanne Malkin
Public Policy:	Mary Ellen Mehler

Newsletter/Website:	Bianca Daugherty
Newsletter/ Directory Distribution:	Mary Ellen Mehler
Nominating Committee Chair:	Lois Passman
Hospitality:	Cathy Krebs

Interest Groups

Book Group:	Liz Promen
Dining Out:	Elizabeth Lonoff
Game Night:	Bianca Daugherty
ImpromptEvent:	Barbara Mann

Contact Email: AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com

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.

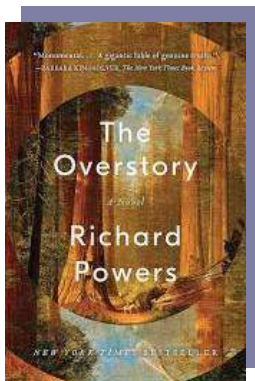
BOOK GROUP

Please inform the hostess whether or not you plan to attend.

DATE: Monday, November 18 , 7:30 PM

HOSTESS: Mary Ellen Mehler
2002 Old Stage Road
703/780-8494

CO-HOST: Patsy Quick



BOOK: The Overstory
Richard Powers

REVIEWER: Elaine Kolish

NEXT BOOK: Becoming
Michelle Obama

GAME NIGHT



Join us for a fun evening with various games on

Friday, November 22, 2019

7:30 pm

Home of Bianca Daugherty



Spouses and significant others are welcome!

Contact **Bianca Daugherty** if you would like to join the group
(biancadaauw@gmail.com)

DINING OUT

Join Dining Out for dinner at 7 pm
on Friday, November 8.



3251 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax

Award-winning chef **Peter Chang** has returned home to Fairfax with **Mama Chang**. It celebrates women in his family, featuring Hubei province and spicy home-style cooking as made by his mother and pastry-chef wife, who created many of Peter's signature dishes like scallion bubble pancake. **In May, the Washington Post ranked Mama Chang #1 on its list of the year's 10 best new restaurants in the Washington area.**

Menu: <https://www.mamachangva.com/dinner>

Reviews:

<http://www.fairfaxconnection.com/news/2019/jul/27/restaurant-review-mama-chang/>

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g57718-d16821812-Reviews-Mama_Chang-Fairfax_Virginia.html

<https://www.yelp.com/biz/mama-chang-fairfax>

Please feel free to invite a family member or friend.

An early-November confirmation e-mail will distribute the limited number of seats.

If your plans change, please alert **Elizabeth Lonoff** (elonoff@msn.com) so she can adjust the reservation.

WE HAVE BEEN INVITED!

We have been invited to the Groundbreaking for the Turning Point Memorial, November 14, 2019!!

What an absolutely wonderful program on October 10! **Pat Wirth**, from the **Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association (TPSMA)**, presented *The Best Kept Secret in America*, which, of course is the story of the struggle for women to gain the right to vote in the United States. She shared the stories and photos of the inspiring and courageous women who were on the front lines during the many-years-long fight to win the vote. She updated us on the Memorial that will honor and memorialize those women, and which will educate future generations about the suffragists who fought for and won the right to vote for American women.

Many Mt. Vernon Branch members together donated **\$1,505** which was presented to **Pat Wirth**, that evening, for the construction of the Memorial.

Our branch name will be engraved on the Wall of Donors.

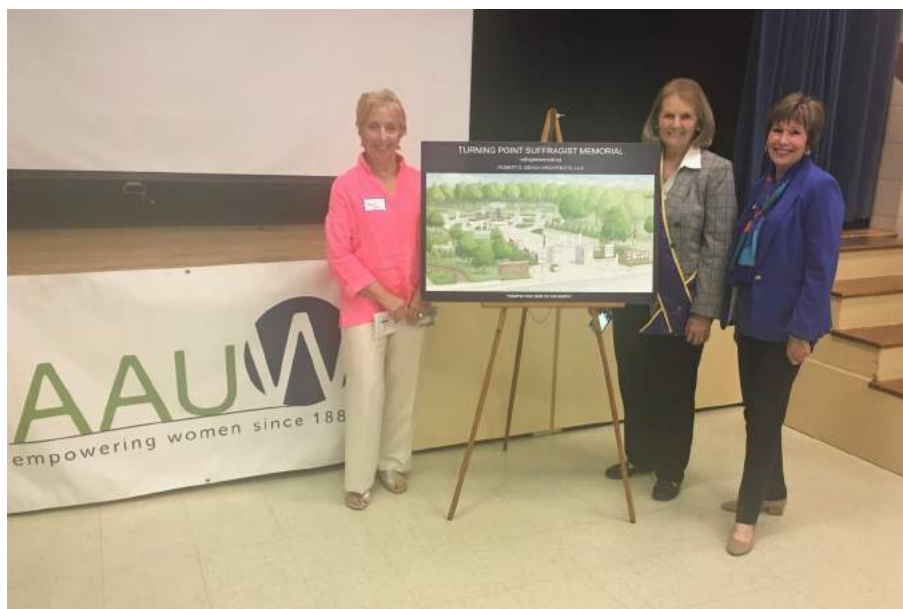


Pat Wirth

After her talk, Pat wrote:

Reflecting on how much your Branch has been involved with the suffrage movement, all its suffrage-related outings, and particularly its support for Turing Point, I had to chuckle when I opened your gift last evening to see that your members had done exactly what I had suggested by pooling funds so that your Branch will be represented on the Donor Wall – I believe it's called "preaching to the choir!" Put a huge smile on my face!

Turning Point's Groundbreaking is invitation only, but most certainly you and the members of your Branch should join us. Kindly forward the invitation to them – we love cheerleaders!



Joanne Clark, Pat Wirth, and Patsy Quick



The invitation has already been forwarded to you via email. We will make this an ImpromptEvent for which each of us will have to register individually.

Mark the date, Thursday, November 14, 10 AM on your calendars!

We will try to form carpools for all who want to attend.

HEARD. AN ARTS PROGRAM FOR SILENT STORIES



Jane Hess Collins

Jane Hess Collins is the founder and executive director of **Heard**, a nonprofit organization that teaches life skills disguised as art to Alexandria and Arlington nonprofit and city program partners serving clients who are homeless, transitioning from homelessness, incarcerated, survivors of domestic violence, immigrant/refugee, in need of a second chance, or marginalized in some way. **Heard** began in 2017 and is provided free to program partners and their voluntary clients. It offers clients a safe and trust-based environment to express themselves.

As a communications consultant and coach, **Jane** has focused much of her work on the importance of giving back to the community. As with **Heard**, she reaches out to underserved communities and initiates programs and non-profit organization, the goals for which were all centered around teaching the public at large about the opportunities in the community to give back through volunteerism and community service. Her communications highlights include authoring a column for AARP's nonprofit organization [Create the Good](#) by volunteering throughout the United States and Costa Rica, and sharing her experiences in volunteerism and community service. She founded Get Out and Give Back, LLC, a business focused on "connecting people to create good."

Ms. Collins is a retired colonel in the United States Air Force.

OFF TO LOBBY DAY THEY WENT

MARY J WALL

Representing the Mt Vernon Branch, **Rosemarie Petz and Mary J. Wall** participated in the October 17 AAUW Lobby Day focused on supporting passage in the Senate of the Paycheck Fairness Act (PFA) (S.270). They joined 33 fellow AAUW members, organized into 10 teams, to visit 47 Senators currently sponsoring the PFA to thank them for their efforts, to share new AAUW research on the pay gap **by state and congressional district**, and urge them to raise public awareness of the PFA and to encourage their Republican colleagues to support this fundamental legislation and to call for its swift



Rosemarie Petz and Mary Wall
at office of Senator Tim Kaine

passage. **Rosemarie, Mary, and Leslie Manning** (Vienna Branch) visited **Senators Michael Blumenthal** and **Chris Murphy** from Connecticut, **Senator Doug Jones** from Alabama, **Senator Kyrsten Sinema** from Arizona, and **Senator Michael Bennet** from Colorado.

They were warmly greeted by all senate offices who reported they depend on, and actively use, AAUW research and statistics.



Leslie Manning, Rosemarie Petz, Mary Wall

Continued on page 6

Many, including **Smriti Krishnan** from **Senator Jones'** office, noted the importance of the recency of the data, underlined the AAUW website they use to view data detail, and encouraged us to promote the legislation with Senators from swing states.

After completing meetings with their five assigned senate offices, **Rosemarie and Mary** met with representatives of **Congressman Bobby Scott** (Newport News, VA). The visit was facilitated by her grandson, **Austin Barbera**, Press Secretary. In addition to a photo with **Congressman Scott** who was running between meetings, they met with his Chief of Staff, **David Baile**, and spent an hour with **Veronique Pluviose**, Staff Director for Education and Labor. She reported they used AAUW pay disparity data at their Hispanic Heritage event last week; they continue to need disaggregated data that separates job titles, pay, and employee performance. They would also like to have additional sub-group detail. For example, "Asian" heritage is insufficient; they need categories by country of origin.



Austin Barbera, Rosemarie Petz, Congressman Bobby Scott



Rosemarie and Mary with Veronique Pluviose

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER

Our newest branch member, Priscilla Bornmann, is now retired after a nearly-thirty-year career as an attorney dealing with nonprofit corporations and a variety of civil issues. She specialized in the areas of wills, trusts, estates, bankruptcy, and the associated litigation.

Before coming into the legal field, Priscilla first obtained an MS in Family Economics from Purdue University and began her professional life in Cussetta, Georgia, as the sole child welfare case worker for two rural counties. After moving with her military officer husband to Atlanta, she worked with the Cooperative Extension Service's Food and Nutrition Program. There she worked in the Fulton County housing projects teaching basic nutrition, use of commodity foods, and job skills for her clients.

Her husband's military career took them to several postings in the US and Germany. During these



years Priscilla was an active volunteer with Army Community Service, a La Leche League leader, and writer of a weekly newspaper column for the post paper. When her husband received a three-year posting to the Pentagon, she took the LSAT and applied to law schools. She entered American University's School of Law in 1981 and was awarded her law degree in 1984.

Priscilla has a daughter, son, and three grandsons. She enjoys cooking for fun, phone talk with her twin sister, a variety of volunteer activities, reading for pleasure, travel, and doing anything related to her children and grandsons.

She notes with pride that she received her BS degree in Home Economics from the first college in the world chartered to grant degrees to women (1836), Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia.

A MONUMENTAL DAY

October 14, *Richmond Times Dispatch*:

“A monumental day: Seven statues unveiled at Virginia Women's Monument on Capitol Square”

AAUW members from around the state attended the dedication of the Virginia Women's Monument, along with hundreds of others. “Seven life-size bronze statues of Virginia women were installed on a granite plaza just below the Capitol, surrounded by a Wall of Honor bearing the names of 230 prominent Virginia women etched on glass, with room for more names to be added in the future. Five more statues are to be added, for a total of 12.”



“The goal of the monument is to highlight women who have made significant — but often unrecognized — contributions to Virginia. The statues have been installed at eye level so that visitors can walk around and interact with them.”

“This monument embodies the goals of the Women's Monument Commission: not to put women on a pedestal, not to have a mythic or symbolic figure, but to honor real women who did real things in this commonwealth,” said former state Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple, vice chair of the Women's Monument Commission, at Monday's event.

Read more about the monument,

how it came to be, and who it honors, as well as the dedication event here: https://www.richmond.com/news/local/government-politics/a-monumental-day-seven-statues-unveiled-at-virginia-women-s/article_ca7c3e3e-2bf4-52ed-a078-5b3f450684ec.html



Sandy Lawrence, Cheryl Spohnholtz,
Suzanne Rothwell



Left to right: Kathy Batkin, Portsmouth; Carol Stephens, Greater Richmond; Sandy Lawrence, Woodbridge; Cheryl Spohnholtz, Mt. Vernon; Cathy Kelly, Greater Richmond; two members from Greater Richmond; Suzanne Rothwell, Vienna Area; Anne Sterling, Greater Richmond.

JOIN THE LEGACY CIRCLE



What do AAUW's most compassionate and dedicated supporters have in common? For many, it's their special commitment to AAUW through the **Legacy Circle**.

The **Legacy Circle** is an esteemed group of visionary supporters who are advancing AAUW's mission long into the future through planned giving.

When you decide to leave a planned gift to AAUW National in your will, trust or estate, you too can join the **AAUW Legacy Circle**. Planned gifts such as bequests, beneficiary designations, or other deferred gifts are a wonderful way to support AAUW at no cost to you during your lifetime.

Affirm your commitment to women and girls by joining the **Legacy Circle** now and help AAUW Virginia reach its Five Star goal. With 40 Legacy Circle members statewide, we must add four new members by next June. Won't you help us reach that goal?

Please visit:

<https://www.aauw.org/resource/legacy-circle-enrollment-form/> to download the enrollment form, or contact me with any questions you might have.

Neola Waller
AAUW Legacy Circle Team Member

AAUW FUNDS

The quickest and easiest way to contribute to AAUW is to contribute online. Checks through the branch take up to 4 weeks to be credited.

Just go to <https://ww2.aauw.org/donate-gift/>. Enter the amount and add your member ID, so our branch will be credited. Did you know, you can also set up a **recurring donation**, no matter how small, by selecting a monthly donation?

Recognition of contributions is based on the calendar year. In order to be tax-deductible for the year, contributions must be received by **December 31**; to be safe, send contributions by **December 15**. Only those contributions received by December 31 will be credited to the branch for that year.



Should you have questions, please contact Joanne Malkin, Branch Funds Chair, at 703/360-7725, or jbmalkin@verizon.net.

SAVE THE DATE

COMING UP

◆ Our annual **Holiday Luncheon** will be held at **CEDAR KNOLL** at 11:30 am on **Saturday, December 14**. Details on cost and menu will be coming soon from **Paula Lettice**.



◆ **2020 AAUW of Virginia State Conference, April 17 - 19, 2020**
The conference is being hosted by the Northern District at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Alexandria-Old Town



Don't forget to VOTE - November 5, 2019

Each fall, the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area produces a guide called "What's on the Ballot."

[Click here to find out What's on your Ballot.](#)

2019 - 2020 MT. VERNON BRANCH PROGRAM YEAR

Meeting Date and Place	Focus/Activity
Thursday, September 19, 2019, 6:30 pm Mt. Vernon Country Club 5111 Old Mill Rd., Alexandria, VA 22309	Kickoff Dinner Dr. Kathryn Newcomer, GWU <i>Importance of and Increased Interest in Public Administration and Public Policy</i>
Thursday, October 10, 2019, 7 pm Heritage Presbyterian Church 8503 Fort Hunt Rd, Alexandria, VA 22308	Pat Wirth, Executive Director/CEO Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Assoc. <i>The Best Kept Secret in America's History</i>
Saturday, November 16, 2019, 10:30 am Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	Jane Collins, founder of Heard <i>Everyone Deserves to Be Heard</i> Arts Programs for the Marginalized Populations in Alexandria and Arlington
Saturday, December 14, 2019, 11:30 am Cedar Knoll 9030 Lucia Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308	Holiday Brunch
Saturday, January 18, 2020, 1 pm Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	Movie Screening: <i>Gina's Journey: The Search for William Grimes</i> (Documentary)
Saturday, February 8, 2020, 10:30 am Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	Joan Mullholland, American civil rights activist and a Freedom Rider With video documentary
Saturday, March 21, 2020, 10 am Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	Annual Meeting Speaker: Solveig Eggerz, Author
Friday, April 24, 2020 7 pm Reception - 8 pm Performance Little Theatre of Alexandria 600 Wolfe St, Alexandria, VA 22314	Annual Fundraiser <i>"Blue Stockings"</i>
Thursday, May 21, 2020, Time TBD Home of Paula Lettice	Annual Potluck Dinner
Saturday, June Date and Time TBD Place TBD	Annual Planning Session



Check out our website <https://mtvernon-va.aauw.net/>

Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/mtvernonvaaauw/>



AAUW Mt. Vernon

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

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

First Class



NOVEMBER 2019

- **6 Board Meeting, 7:15 pm**
Home of Patsy Quick
703/360-8678
- **8 Dining Out, 7 pm**
Contact Elizabeth Lonoff
703/765-2634
- **16 Branch Program, 10:30am**
Contact Joanne Clark
703/768-8996
- **18 Book Group, 7:30 pm**
Contact Mary Ellen Mehler
703/780-8494
- **22 Game Night, 7:30 pm**
Contact Bianca Daugherty
703/360-7239

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5 	6 Board Meeting	7	8 Dining Out	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Branch Program
17	18 Book Group	19	20	21	22 Game Night	23
24	25	26	27	28 	29	30