

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 63 Issue 6 February 2020

Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

What a fabulous month January was! On January 15, 40 AAUW of Virginia members from around the state (and Mississippi) attended **Lobby Day in Richmond**. That just happened to be the day both the House and the Senate voted to ratify the **Equal Rights Amendment!** It was a thrill to be part of that group, along with branch members **Ofelia Perotti, Cheryl Spohnholtz,** and **Susan Watkins** (who came all the way from Mississippi!)

On January 18, our branch and Sherwood Regional Library sponsored the screening of *Gina's Journey*. **Regina Mason** came from California and gave an inspiring presentation after the film. Everyone in the packed room was spellbound. The comments after the event ranged from "the best program we have ever had" to "I am so glad I

came (from Falls Church) and will be singing your praises!"

I want to take time to thank **Cathy Krebs** for a lovely table of refreshments, **Shannon Dubicki** for an inviting table of membership information, and **Paula Lettice** for being tour guide and chauffeur for the Masons. Huge thanks goes to **Joi Jackson** and the Friends of the Library for bringing **Regina Mason** to Virginia. I am proud that we could have such an inspiring and informative program in our community!

Read about these events elsewhere in the newsletter. Read also about our upcoming February events, which promise to be as inspiring as those in January! We are making AAUW visible in the community...a secret no longer!

*Patsy Quick
President*

**Saturday
February 8**

10:30 am

**An Ordinary
Hero**

**Joan
Trumpauer
Mulholland**

BRANCH PROGRAM FEBRUARY 8



Freedom Rider: Joan Trumpauer Mulholland "An Ordinary Hero"

Following the branch's superb program with Regina Mason on January 19, we are offering another blockbuster event for the branch and hopefully the community at large.

On Saturday, February 8, 10:30 at Sherwood Regional Library, we will hear from Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, a former Civil Rights Freedom Rider and the last remaining participant of the Mississippi lunch counter sit-in (an event at which she was certain she was going to be killed). Joan became an advocate for the African American community after taken a forbidden walk with a childhood friend to the black section of her family's hometown in Georgia. Horrified by what she witnessed, by the age 17 of Joan had begun her lifelong endeavor working on

**Sherwood
Regional
Library**

**2501 Sherwood
Hall Lane
Alexandria**

behalf of civil rights - enduring violence, imprisonment and the rejection of her family.

Joan will share a documentary about her life and work, "**An Ordinary Hero**," produced by her son, Loki, an award-winning documentary filmmaker. Joan raised five sons as a single mother. More information about Joan can be found here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joan_Trumpauer_Mulholland

You will not regret taking the time from your Saturday morning on February 8 at 10:30. Joan's story is moving and inspirational. Regina Mason talked about her determination to find the answers to her family's beginnings in slavery; Joan will demonstrate another example of determination - never to give up the fight for civil rights for African Americans in America.

Joanne Clark
Program VP



MEET THE WOMAN IN THE PHOTO!

Joan Trumpauer Mulholland:
Freedom Rider
Participant in the Woolworth's Sit-in
Marched in Washington & Selma

The only one left to describe what it felt like to sit in Woolworth's that day in 1963.

In this May 28, 1963, photo, a group of men pour sugar, ketchup and mustard over the heads of demonstrators at a sit-in at a Woolworth's lunch counter in Jackson, Miss. (Fred Blackwell/AP)

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.

BE A BRANCH LEADER!



Be an AAUW LEADER

in the MOUNT VERNON BRANCH in 2020!

Nomination Time is Now!

The following positions will be open for election to the board at the annual meeting March 21

Vice President for Membership
Treasurer

Thank you to **Anne Simpson** who has agreed to be nominated and continue as **Treasurer**.

Vice-President for Membership is a wonderful opportunity to reach out to our Branch members to reach out to their friends and contacts to join with the fantastic members of the Mount Vernon Branch. This position can be shared. The Mount Vernon Branch has had an amazing history of "CO" positions. Pair with a friend (or make a new friend). All current officers are available to mentor and help.

If you are interested, please email Lois Passman (LMPassman@msn.com) or call Lois (703/781-7626) to take advantage of this amazing leadership opportunity!

LOBBY DAY, JANUARY 15, 2020: ERA IS RATIFIED!

When AAUW-VA Lobby Day was planned on an earlier-than-usual date, no one actually knew that the ERA would be voted on in both the House and Senate of Virginia the same day. But that is exactly what happened! On January 15, forty AAUW members from around the state were observers to this great event. Four members were from the Mt. Vernon Branch: **Patsy Quick, Ofelia Perotti, Cheryl Spohnholtz, and Susan Watkins** (who flew in from Mississippi). Only one actually got into the House Gallery to witness it in person. That was Mt. Vernon member, **Cheryl Spohnholtz**! The lines were long, so the rest of us rushed to overflow rooms where giant screens were set up. Listening to the pros and cons of the Amendment, and stalling efforts by some, the first woman Speaker of the House, **Eileen Filler-Corn** did a great job of keeping the excited assemblage under control. Cheers of joy erupted when the vote was final. The place was full of electric energy! The same happened on the Senate side: nothing could reduce the joy in the atmosphere! A long-awaited day had arrived, and those of us who were there celebrated with no inhibitions! We have yet to witness the battle to finalize the ERA Amendment. It won't be easy, but no one is giving up after coming this far!



From left: Lovie West, Cheryl Spohnholtz, Kelly Jacobs, Susan Watkins, Patsy Quick, Ofelia Perotti.

Continued on next page



Virginia attendees on Lobby Day, January 15, 2020

WHAT ELSE WENT ON THAT DAY? Earlier in the morning before the legislative sessions opened, all 40 members of our delegation met with **Governor Northam** for a little over 30 minutes. He listened to our concerns and interests, and shared things his administration was doing in those areas. When Co-VP for Public Policy **Sylvia Rogers** asked that he proclaim **Equal Pay Day in Virginia on March 31, 2020**, and gave him a draft of the proclamation, he accepted with a positive response and laugh. She had made this easy for his administration, and we can hope to

hear the proclamation announced! March 31 symbolizes how far into the year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year. Gender Pay Equity legislation is a focus this year for AAUW-VA.

After meeting with **Governor Northam**, the attendees visited offices of numerous legislators and presented packets of information on equal pay research, Quick Facts, and a list of legislation that could be introduced. Virginia ranks 30 among the 50 states and D.C. in the number of equal pay laws on the books, so we have a ways to go on this issue.



Patsy Quick

Cheryl Spohnholtz with Delegate Betsy Carr (Richmond Area) at the AAUW-VA Reception for Women Legislators, January 14, 2020.



There's Cheryl, second from the left!!

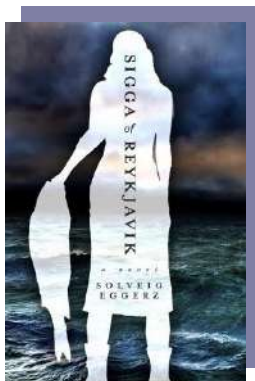
BOOK GROUP

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

DATE: Monday, February 17, 7:30 PM

HOSTESS: DeJuana Jones
8406 Stockade Drive
703/780-5026

CO-HOST: Barbara Mann



BOOK: Sigga of Reykjavik
Solveig Eggerz

REVIEWER: Cheryl Spohnholtz

NEXT BOOK: The Bluest Eye
Toni Morrison

GAME NIGHT



Join us for a fun evening with various games on

Friday, February 28, 2020

7:30 pm

Home of Paula Lettice



Spouses and significant others are welcome!

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

Honoring Women's Suffrage—Lucy Burns Museum



The wait is over! The new **Lucy Burns Museum** tells the story of the Lorton Correctional facilities that operated for a total of 91 years and the story of the suffragists who were imprisoned here in 1917 for picketing the White House for women's right to vote. Volunteer Museum Director, **Laura McKie** says it best — "It's like being on hallowed ground."

The museum opened Saturday, January 25 and hours will be Wednesday-Saturday, 11 AM - 6 PM and Sunday, 12 -5 PM.

The museum is free and tours of the cell block are \$5.00 for individuals 12 and over. Group tours and rates are available.



Lucy Burns in the Occoquan Workhouse. November 1917. Photo: Library of Congress

For more information visit their website <http://www.workhousearts.org/lucyburnsmuseum/>

MT. VERNON BRANCH PROGRAM JANUARY 18

Wonderful program! Best program in years! I am so glad I came to this program! Inspiring! She's wonderful! These were the comments of people leaving the Mt. Vernon Branch /Sherwood Regional Library Program on Saturday, January 18, 2020. It was cold and rainy, but so many people attended that we had to keep adding chairs. Several attendees were from D.C. One person told me she was from Falls Church AAUW. Thanks to the Friends of the Library, **Regina Mason** was able to join us from California. We all viewed the film *Gina's Journey: The Search for William Grimes*. Afterwards **Gina** kept us spellbound as she answered questions, talked about her ancestor William Grimes, and added even more to the story beyond the film.

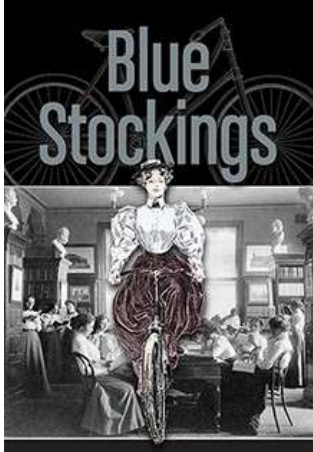


That evening **Paula Lettice, Anne Simpson, Lois Passman, Joanne Clark, Patsy Quick, and Ronnie Gunnerson** had dinner with Regina and Brandon, her husband, at Fratelli's Restaurant. **Brandon and Regina** are both delightful! At the end of the evening, we all agreed we felt like old friends. It was a most enjoyable night!



In total, it was an extraordinary day! If you missed it, and would like to view the film, contact **Patsy Quick**. She has the DVD.

LTA FUNDRAISER COMING SOON



Mark your calendars for our annual Little Theatre Fundraiser on Friday, April 24, 2020.

**Bring friends and family! Visit with member friends!
Proceeds benefit AAUW Funds!**

As usual, each member received 2 tickets to purchase or to sell. The tickets are \$35 each. Please send your checks made out to AAUW Mt Vernon to **Ronnie Gunnerson 1105 Belle View Blvd. #A1 Alexandria, VA 22307.**

If you need more tickets please let **Ronnie** know ronniegunnerson@gmail.com.

We will also prepare 2 baskets for the raffle again. Our themes this year are "Blue, Blue, Blue" and "Wine". Thanks to your generous donations, the "Blue" basket is almost filled, but our "Wine" basket could use a little help. Here are some items needed: bottles of wine, spreads/dips, nuts, stuffed olives, nice crackers, other wine accompaniments. Please contact **Paula Lettice** for the baskets pqlettice@gmail.com

AAUW-VA STATE LOBBY DAY, FEBRUARY 12

Our second State Lobby Day is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12, 2020. And we still have much that we can do to raise the visibility of AAUW-VA and our public policy priorities with our state legislators. During our February Lobby Day, we will have the opportunity to join our partners in the **League of Women Voters** as they celebrate the League's 100th anniversary.

The following is a notional program for February 12, 2020. We will provide a final program closer to the date:

2/11/20 - If we have folks coming in the night before (we have a block of rooms at the Omni - link below), we could explore dining options for a group in Richmond.

2/12/20 - Lobby Day

- 8-10 am - LWV will have a legislative roundtable to prepare for their meetings with lawmakers. Auditorium, Sun Trust Building, 919 East Main Street, Richmond
Further details TBD
- 10 am - 1 pm - Visit or revisit legislators with pay equity message, updated to reflect the status of any pending legislation.

We will try to schedule a meeting for AAUW-VA with a member of the House or Senate.

Introduction of AAUW-VA in the House and Senate Galleries (TBC)

- 1-3 pm — LWV is sponsoring a luncheon celebrating the 100th anniversary of the LWV. Delta Marriott Hotel, 555 East Canal Street, Richmond — **\$65/person**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-league-of-women-voters-100th-anniversary-luncheon-tickets-78690662891>

Please note that the LWV luncheon is optional.

Rooms have been reserved at the **Richmond Omni**, 100 South 12th Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Reservations must be made by January 28, 2020. The cost (which is a special rate) remains the same: \$144.00 plus tax per night. If anyone would like to come the night before and would like a roommate, please let us know, and we will pass that information along to the branches.

<https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/richmond/meetings/aauw-02112020>

Please let us know if you will be joining us in February. We made a number of excellent contacts with legislators and staff this week and we would like to continue those conversations.

With our thanks for all you do to empower women, girls and families.

Susan Burk and Sylvia Rogers
Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy
AAUW-VA

AAUW's 2020 GENDER POLICY AGENDA

Economic Security

1. Ensure Equal Pay for Equal Work
2. Implement Paid Leave and Paid Sick Days
3. Stop Harassment in the Workplace
4. Raise the Minimum Wage and Eliminate the Tipped Minimum Wage
5. Close the Retirement Gap
6. Protect Pregnant Workers

On January 21, 2020, AAUW announced its gender policy agenda, which outlines the organization's priority issues for the 2020 election season. As a non-partisan organization, AAUW does not endorse specific candidates, but throughout our 140 year history, we have been a staunch advocate for policies that improve the lives of girls, women, and their families. Here's an overview of what AAUW would like to see implemented to advance gender equality in education and the workplace. More explicit details of these goals will be discussed in meetings and various venues during the coming program year.

<https://www.aauw.org/article/aauws-2020-gender-policy-agenda/>

Education

1. Defend and Strengthen Title IX
2. Reduce Student Debt
3. Expand Opportunities for Women and Girls in STEM

Foundation Rights

1. Expand and Protect the Right to Vote
2. Ensure Access to High-quality Healthcare
3. Ratify the Equal Rights Amendment

**This is the only sweet talk we want
this Valentine's Day.**



Kudos from Kendra Davis, AAUW Senior Vice President, Advancement and Partnerships, after the House ratified the ERA on January 15.

Dear Leslie,

You and the AAUW VA members must be so proud about the ERA news today! What an inspiration you all are. This is historic in so many ways, and I am so proud to be both an AAUW member and a resident of the amazing state of Virginia!

Hearty and heartfelt kudos and congrats to all AAUW VA members. Time to celebrate!

My very best,

Kendra



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 Mulholland, 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



FEBRUARY 2020

- **5 Board Meeting, 7:15 pm**
Home of Patsy Quick
703/360-8678
- **8 Branch Program, 10:30am**
Contact Joanne Clark
703/768-8996
- **17 Book Group, 7:30 pm**5026
Contact DeJuana Jones
703/780-8494
- **28 Game Night, 7:30 pm**
Contact Paula Lettice
703/780-3463

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