

# Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 63 Issue 7 March 2020

Mt. Vernon Branch



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**"If you want something done, ask a woman." – Margaret Thatcher**

The Margaret Thatcher quote is famous, but I would add to it, "If you want something done, ask an AAUW-Mt. Vernon woman."

For 2019-2020 so far we have asked our Mt. Vernon AAUW women to plan a great program year. They did.

We asked them to donate to the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial and AAUW Funds. They did. Beyond the goals.

We asked them to show up at programs, a groundbreaking, our interest groups, Lobby Day, and a tabling event. They did.

We asked them to donate to fill raffle baskets. They did.

Now we are asking for volunteers step up for the 2020 State Conference. Out of ten needed, 7 have already volunteered!

Our Little Theatre Annual Fundraiser is coming up and we will need food, wine and tickets sold. I am sure it will be done with our usual grace and generosity. Four women, have stepped up to assist **Ronnie Gunner-son** who is having health issues: **Joanne Malkin, Mary Ellen Mehler, Cathy Krebs, and Paula Lettice**. Please answer their call!

**I am so proud and inspired by all this branch is doing and has done...and , by the women who do it!** Please keep up the energy, the passion and hard work for our **Annual Meeting and Author talk**, coming up March 21. We are doing things a little differently this year by not having a full brunch. At the meeting let, us know what you think! Looking forward to seeing you at Sherwood Regional Library, March 21, 10:15.

*Patsy Quick, President*

## BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING & PROGRAM

**Annual Meeting**  
**10:15 Gather**  
**10:40 Business Meeting**  
**11:45 Author Talk**

This year we are handling the Annual Meeting a little differently than in the past: no brunch. We will gather at the library (10:15) for morning refreshments from Panera, then have our Annual Business Meeting, with some fun activities included.

At 11:45 the public will be invited in to hear our member **Solveig Eggerz** speak about her book **Sigga of Reykjavik**. A native of Iceland, **Solveig Eggerz** has lived in Alexandria since 1974. She was a freelance writer for several years before joining the Alexandria Port Packet as a reporter during 1977-78. She continued to contribute to the paper until 1988. Her first novel, *Seal Woman*, a work of historical fiction set in Iceland,

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**Saturday**  
**March 21**

**10:15 am**

**Annual**  
**Business**  
**Meeting**  
**&**  
**Author Talk**

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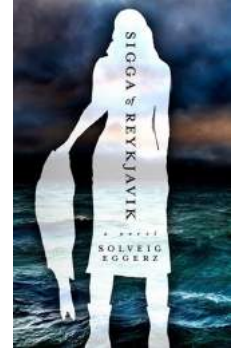
**Come Early**  
**& Socialize,**  
**Stay Late &**  
**Hear Our**  
**Speaker**

**Sherwood**  
**Regional**  
**Library**

**2501 Sherwood**  
**Hall Lane**  
**Alexandria**

Germany, and Poland, was published in 2007. Solveig teaches creative writing in Northern Virginia detention centers for the non-profit Heard and at The Writer's Center, Bethesda, MD.

Solveig will talk about **Strong Female Protagonists** and her book Sigga of Reykjavik. Sigga, a feisty fish woman, seeks dignity and independence in the gritty era before Iceland's feminist revolution. She struggles against a backdrop of economic depression, which gives way to the free flow of money, when Iceland is occupied by Allied soldiers during World War II. How does Sigga cope with the joys and dangers that nearly 50,000 good-looking Allied soldiers with money in their pockets and a penchant for good times pose for the sparsely populated island?



**Join us on March 21 to participate in the Annual Meeting and stay to hear an informative talk by one of our own members!**

**It will also be a good time to chat with members and socialize a bit. See you there!**



**Due to a change in host Paula Lettice's plans, the date of our MAY POTLUCK has been moved from May 21 to *May 28*. That is the same day of the week, Thursday.**

**Mark your calendars: Thursday, May 28.**

## 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](mailto: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.

# BRANCH LEADERSHIP

## **Great News for our Branch!**

**Anne Simpson has agreed to continue as Treasurer.**

**Mary Wall has accepted the nomination for Vice President for Membership.**



Thank you to **Lois Passman** who served as Nominations Chair.

**Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting on March 21 at Sherwood Regional Library.**

## 2020 CONFERENCE THINGS OF NOTE

### **HAVE YOU VOLUNTEERED YET FOR THE 2020 STATE CONFERENCE IN ALEXANDRIA?**

#### **HERE ARE OUR TASKS:**

**Greeter/Parking Pass Manager  
Workshop Monitoring**

**Staffing the Hospitality Suite,  
Staffing a Volunteer Check-in Table.**



**CONTACT JOANNE CLARK TO LET HER KNOW WHAT YOU ARE WILLING TO DO!**

### **2020 STATE CONFERENCE RAFFLE BASKET**

Raffle Baskets are a fun tradition at 2-day State Conferences. Each branch donates a basket to be raffled off during the final business meeting on Sunday of the conference. When the raffle time arrives, there is always a great deal of excitement! The money raised from the raffle goes to **AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund**.

**The Mt. Vernon Branch Board voted to donate an Eco Basket for the 2020 State Conference. We need items for the basket!** Here is what we have so far:

- Reusable snack and sandwich bags (set of 4)
- Reusable produce bags (set of 3)
- Collapsible containers (2 square)
- 2 aromatherapy herbal soap (environmentally safe for people and the planet)

### **HERE ARE SUGGESTIONS FOR ITEMS THAT COULD BE DONATED:**

- Reusable container for the items
- reusable straws
- water bottle/s
- long lasting light bulbs
- container to carry for "doggie-bag-food" you take home from a restaurant
- reusable coffee cup
- non-toxic cleaning products
- biodegradable trash bags
- Other...

**Bring items to the Annual Meeting March 21, or contact Paula Lettice or Patsy Quick for pickup.**

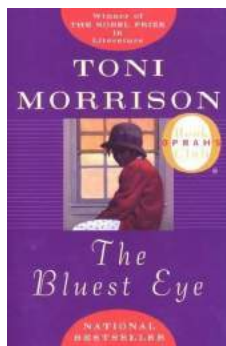
## BOOK GROUP

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

**DATE:** Monday, March 16, 7:30 PM

**HOSTESS:** Betty Demarest  
6117 Vernon Terrace  
703/329-1335

**CO-HOST:** Liz Promen



**BOOK:** The Bluest Eye  
Toni Morrison

**REVIEWER:** DeJuana Jones

**NEXT BOOK:** The Widow of Washington  
Martha Saxton

## GAME NIGHT



Join us for a fun evening with various games on

Friday, March 27, 2020

7:30 pm

Home of Anne Simpson



Spouses and significant others are welcome!

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

## CONGRATULATIONS MT. VERNON BRANCH

**OUR BRANCH MEMBERS ARE SO VERY GENEROUS!**

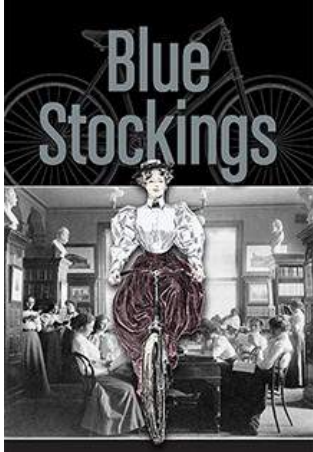
**During the calendar year 2019, our members donated \$5,400.00 to AAUW Funds!!**

Much of that money (\$2500 )was donated by the branch with funds raised from the Little Theatre of Alexandria Fundraiser. The rest came from donations from members, either online or via checks. The branch board voted to honor the Suffragists with our donations. That honor will be announced at the Saturday night Banquet at the 2020 State Conference , April 18, in Alexandria.



*A huge thank you goes to our members for their passion for AAUW and their generosity!*

## LTA FUNDRAISER APRIL 24



**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](mailto:ronniegunnerson@gmail.com).

**Our branch is responsible, this year, for wine and savories at the reception before the play. You can sign up at the Annual Meeting, March 21, for food and/or wine. Watch for emails for more details.**

**This is always a hugely enjoyable event and this year it should be no different. Your donations for the raffle baskets and delicious food are always the raves.**

**We thank you for your continued generosity in helping to make this event a success!**

## WHAT'S THE PLAY ABOUT?

**Blue Stockings promises to be one of the best plays we have sponsored! It showcases a timely topic in a fun and entertaining way.**

**We are very excited to about it! Here is what it is all about:**

What does it take to accomplish social change? This historical drama, which premiered at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London in 2013, follows the story of four women fighting for an education, set against the backdrop of the women's suffrage movement. Set in 1896 at Cambridge University – the first college in Britain to admit women. But things still aren't equal. The men graduate with degrees and prospects, but the women leave with nothing but the stigma of being a "blue stocking" – a derogatory term for an educated woman. Follow the men and women of Cambridge University as they shatter prevailing traditions. Conflicts abound as generations, social classes, and genders clash.

## MT. VERNON BRANCH AT THE TOWN HALL MEETING

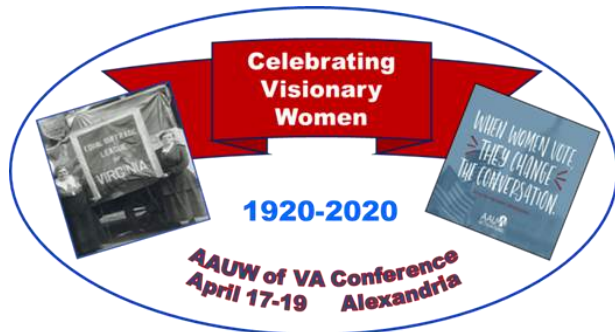


**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1 WAS THE MT. VERNON DISTRICT TOWN HALL MEETING AT MT. VERNON HIGH SCHOOL.** Members (left to right in the photo) **Kathi Hanrahan, Maureen Kuletz, Mary Ellen Mehler and Patsy Quick** were up bright and early that morning for an AAUW Mt. Vernon tabling event! We were there with other non-profits and community organizations showcasing our branch. **Paula Lettice** provided balloons for our table and was stationed at the *Mt. Vernon at Home* table, along with **Pris Bornmann**.

**Thank you to everyone for helping make our  
branch visible in the community!!**

# STATE CONFERENCE APRIL 17-19, ALEXANDRIA

## WHAT YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO AT THE 2020 STATE CONFERENCE...



### Celebrating Visionary Women 1920-2020

AAUW of Virginia Conference  
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Alexandria - Old Town  
April 17-19, 2020

[Online Registration Available Here](#)

### ENJOY A SPRING GETAWAY WEEKEND!

Start out by participating in the pre-conference tour of the Alexandria Black History Museum (2:30 PM, Friday). Enjoy a get-together with other members Friday night at the hotel. Hear awesome speakers and panelists on Saturday and Sunday morning, and applaud our TWO Women of Achievement at the Saturday night banquet. Gather with women of like mind from around the state; laugh and renew friendships. Stay late on Sunday and participate in the Women's History Walking Tour (12:45 PM).

So right now... mark your calendar for a Spring Getaway weekend of fun and inspiration at the State Conference April 15-17 at the Holiday Inn & Suites Old Town Alexandria!

[Reserve Your Hotel Room.](#) [Register for the Conference.](#)

**Northern Virginia Residents:** Are you thinking you could drive back and forth each day? That's not a getaway weekend! Spend the night. Pamper yourself with no traffic worries, an awesome hotel room, and great meals you don't have to cook yourself. The hotel has a fitness center, swimming pool, and bar! Make it a Spring Getaway Weekend! **Did we mention no traffic worries?**

The [Winter/Spring Vision](#) has all the details or click to open the [Conference 2020 Brochure](#) and read all about it! Many suggestions for things to see in Old Town are provided.

**See you in Alexandria, April 17-19!**

### Workshops



### Panel Discussions



### Great Speakers and Presentations



## RECAP OF PROGRAM FEBRUARY 8



Joan Mulholland

A lucky crowd of Mt. Vernon Branch members and guests from the community were inspired by the documentary *An Ordinary Hero* featuring our speaker **Joan Mulholland**. Joan was a Freedom Rider, and participant in the Woolworth's Sit-in in Jackson, MS, and marched in Washington & Selma in the 60s. Her story and her life is an inspiration! She shared wonderful stories and details of those times. Her stock of books and brochures sold out!

Thank you to **Joanne Clark** who brought Joan to our attention, and drove her to the meeting.

What a privilege it was to be at this event! If you would like to order books or see the documentary, visit

<https://joantrumpauermulholland.org/>



Joanne Clark, spending money!

## AAUW'S VIRTUAL CONVENING

AAUW is excited to announce plans for a series of virtual events in 2020 that will mark the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote, inform our members and supporters in a critical presidential election year, and move us all closer to a fully fair future for women and girls.

**January 28 was the inaugural webinar in AAUW's 2020 convening series. It covered our equity priorities for this year at the federal, state and local levels. Listen to a recording of the webinar [HERE](#)**



Kim Churches, AAUW CEO

**The next Convening Webinar will be April 14, 2020. Watch for emails with details.**

Although there will be no in-person national convention or major convening in 2020, AAUW understands the importance of bringing women together to network and support AAUW and its mission—and our outreach will be designed with those goals in mind. Read more about the activities that are planned:

<https://www.aauw.org/convention/>



## Celebrate 38 International Women's Day

## EQUALITY CELEBRATION Monroe Park - 620 W. Main Street, Richmond, VA

After years of advocacy, Virginia ratified the Equal Rights Amendment on January 27th. Now everyone is invited to Celebrate!38 on March 8th, International Women's Day!

Celebrate!38 is a grand celebration of equality that will include speakers, live music, a parade, and a photo session on the steps of the Virginia State Capitol to record the historic moment. During the parade we will tell the story of equal rights through four distinct eras:

- 1920 - 19th Amendment / women's suffrage
- 1970 - Title IX
- 2020 - Virginia's ratification
- Future - when we add the ERA to the Constitution

Each section tells a story with banners, parade puppets, and participants and each theme has a recommended color wave (more information available here). Organizations are welcome to pick an era that represents their organization's efforts (or multiple eras) and are encouraged to bring signs / banners for their organization. Children are particularly encouraged to be in the last (Future) wave since kids are the very best of America and our future. Athletic teams are encouraged to dress in uniform and join the Title IX section. Participants from other states and national groups are encouraged to join the Future wave with their state flag or organizational banner.

Join us as we march from Monroe Park to the Virginia State Capitol to celebrate Virginia making history for equal rights! This year, Virginia became the 38th and final state needed to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). For more info, visit: [VARatifyERA.org](http://VARatifyERA.org)

**Let Patsy know if you'd like to participate! If there is interest, we can plan a carpool!**



# 2019 - 2020 MT. VERNON BRANCH PROGRAM YEAR

Meeting Date and Place	Focus/Activity
<b>Thursday, September 19, 2019, 6:30 pm</b> <b>Mt. Vernon Country Club</b> 5111 Old Mill Rd., Alexandria, VA 22309	<b>Kickoff Dinner</b> <b>Dr. Kathryn Newcomer, GWU</b> <i>Importance of and Increased Interest in Public Administration and Public Policy</i>
<b>Thursday, October 10, 2019, 7 pm</b> <b>Heritage Presbyterian Church</b> 8503 Fort Hunt Rd, Alexandria, VA 22308	<b>Pat Wirth, Executive Director/CEO</b> <b>Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Assoc.</b> <i>The Best Kept Secret in America's History</i>
<b>Saturday, November 16, 2019, 10:30 am</b> <b>Sherwood Regional Library</b> 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	<b>Jane Collins, founder of Heard</b> <i>Everyone Deserves to Be Heard</i> <b>Arts Programs for the Marginalized Populations in Alexandria and Arlington</b>
<b>Saturday, December 14, 2019, 11:30 am</b> <b>Cedar Knoll</b> 9030 Lucia Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308	<b>Holiday Brunch</b>
<b>Saturday, January 18, 2020, 1 pm</b> <b>Sherwood Regional Library</b> 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	<b>Movie Screening:</b> <i>Gina's Journey: The Search for William Grimes (Documentary)</i>
<b>Saturday, February 8, 2020, 10:30 am</b> <b>Sherwood Regional Library</b> 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	<b>Joan Mulholland, American civil rights activist and a Freedom Rider</b> With video documentary
<b>Saturday, March 21, 2020, 10:15 am</b> <b>Sherwood Regional Library</b> 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	<b>Annual Meeting</b> <b>Speaker: Solveig Eggerz, Author</b>
<b>Friday, April 24, 2020</b> 7 pm Reception - 8 pm Performance <b>Little Theatre of Alexandria</b> 600 Wolfe St, Alexandria, VA 22314	<b>Annual Fundraiser</b> <i>"Blue Stockings"</i>
<b>Thursday, May 28, 2020, Time TBD</b> <b>Home of Paula Lettice</b>	<b>Annual Potluck Dinner</b>
<b>Saturday, June Date and Time TBD</b> <b>Place TBD</b>	<b>Annual Planning Session</b>



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



# MARCH 2020

- **4 Board Meeting, 7:15 pm**  
Home of Patsy Quick  
703/360-8678
- **16 Book Group, 7:30 pm**  
Contact Betty Demarest  
703/329-1335
- **21 Branch Program, 10:15am**  
Contact Joanne Clark  
703/768-8996
- **27 Game Night, 7:30 pm**  
Contact Anne Simpson  
301/203-0454

11SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 Board Meeting	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Book Group	17	18	19	20	21 Branch Program
22	23	24	25	26	27 Game Night	28
29	30	31				