

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 63 Issue 10 June 2020

Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I hardly know how to begin this message...with each day so similar to the next, I really have no news. Staying-in-place has evolved into routines of reading, viewing entertainment online or on TV, exercising any way we can, ordering everything from "A" to "Z" online, eating home cooked meals, and connecting in various ways with family, friends and associates. Zoom has become a fixture in our lives. We are handling it, almost, with ease now! From book groups, webinars, happy hours, and board meetings...we Zoom! However, the word itself is ironic because, obviously, we are not zooming to open our region's businesses, libraries, theaters, restaurants, churches, or most social gatherings! We are still a "hot spot," but the weather has not, until very recently, cooperated! Our world has truly been turned upside down.

(Continued on page 2)

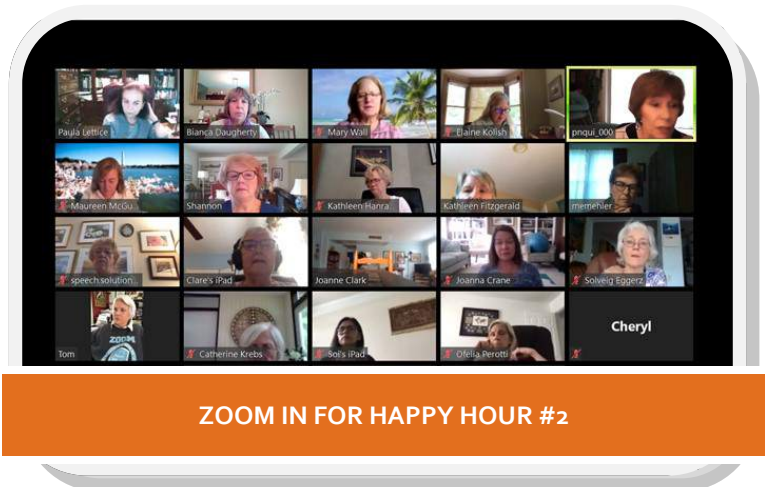
ZOOM BRANCH MEETING JUNE 18

On June 18, 5-6 PM, we will have Happy Hour #2.

This happy hour will replace our June Planning Meeting.

In preparation for this Zoom meeting, please reflect on the list of possible programs that has been emailed to you. During the meeting each program will be explained. Discussion of the programs will, necessarily, be brief. As in the past, we hope that members will select a meeting for which they are responsible for obtaining the speaker. It should be noted now that, we will need to strive to include Plan B (Zoom Sessions), instead of in-person gatherings.

At the time of the meeting, please plan to sign in to Zoom early if you are unsure of how it works. Determine your viewing location and set yourself up before entering the meeting. This will enable us to start and end on time.



The Zoom link will be sent to all members via email before June 18.

If you have another program idea that is not on the list, and would like the branch to consider, please email it to **Joanne Clark** joanne8413@outlook.com and **Patsy Quick** pnquick@cox.net We will ensure that your ideas are shared with the entire branch prior to the planning happy hour.

Can't wait to see you on Zoom, June 18, 5 PM!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(Continued from page 1)

Maybe you have added to your routine some reflection of what all of this means, particularly to women in our country. I stated some statistics at our May 21 Branch Happy Hour, that are printed elsewhere in this newsletter. Women are being affected mightily! To me, this means that it is our responsibility as citizens to continue to be compassionate, respectful, caring, and grateful for the humans, a huge number of whom are women, that are doing the jobs to keep our country going. Wearing masks and maintaining social distances are signs of our hearts are in the right place. I bet you have found other ways to express your gratitude. Checking in on neighbors, friends and family members takes a whole new meaning in these times. It can be time consuming, and even stressful, but is so worth it! Donating whatever you can to food pantries and non-profits is essential. Many citizens are suffering.

On top of it all, this virus, which shows no bias, has become a partisan issue. Astounding, but true! It becomes our responsibility as educated women to stand tall, speak out, take action in positive ways, while remaining respectful, and even caring, to those who disagree. Where this all takes us is yet to be seen. But, AAUW's (non-partisan) work is more urgent than ever. Thank you for your continued support and loyalty!

Stay safe and well.

Patsy



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

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



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

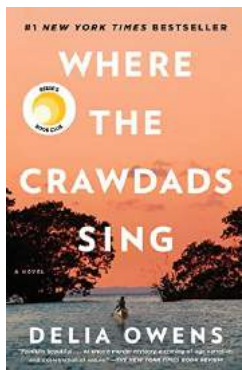
Interest Groups

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



Book Group will meet via Zoom on **Monday, June 15, 7:30 pm**

Below is the link for anyone to join.

You do not have to do anything other than click on the link.

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8096704824?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8096704824?pwd=c1h0bGYzV0dtdczNSZGITOcrMWgyQT09)

[pwd=c1h0bGYzV0dtdczNSZGITOcrMWgyQT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8096704824?pwd=c1h0bGYzV0dtdczNSZGITOcrMWgyQT09)

BOOK: Where the Crawdads Sing

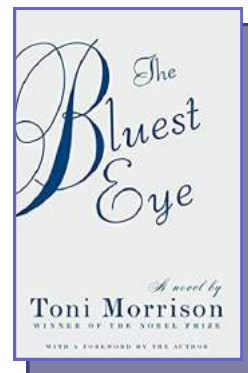
Delia Owens

REVIEWER: **Anne Simpson**

To make up the missed meeting in March, Book Group will meet **July 20** via Zoom to discuss The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison. Reviewer is **DeJuana Jones**.

Email reminder and link will be sent. Contact **Liz Promen (epromen@cox.net)** if you want to join the group.

Books for next program year will be chosen in September. Send your book recommendations to Liz Promen during the summer.



Sadly, we had to cancel all gatherings of our two other interest groups, **Game Night** and **Dining Out**. Both activities are on hold until we are sure that it is safe and members are comfortable gathering again.

ImpromptuEvents are just that, impromptu and can be whenever anyone wants to find a companion to do something. When you want to invite branch members to join you for an activity (ImpromptuEvent) be sure to include all information needed and send it out to members yourself, or send it to **Patsy Quick (pnquick@cox.net)** and she will email the info out for you.

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER



Anuradha Soi is a board certified pathologist. She received her medical degree from the Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Dehli, India and and her MPH from the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, TX.

After living and practicing in Johnstown, PA, for 30 years, **Anuradha** retired and moved to Mount Vernon with her husband. Her children, a son and a daughter, are both married and live in California and Pennsylvania.

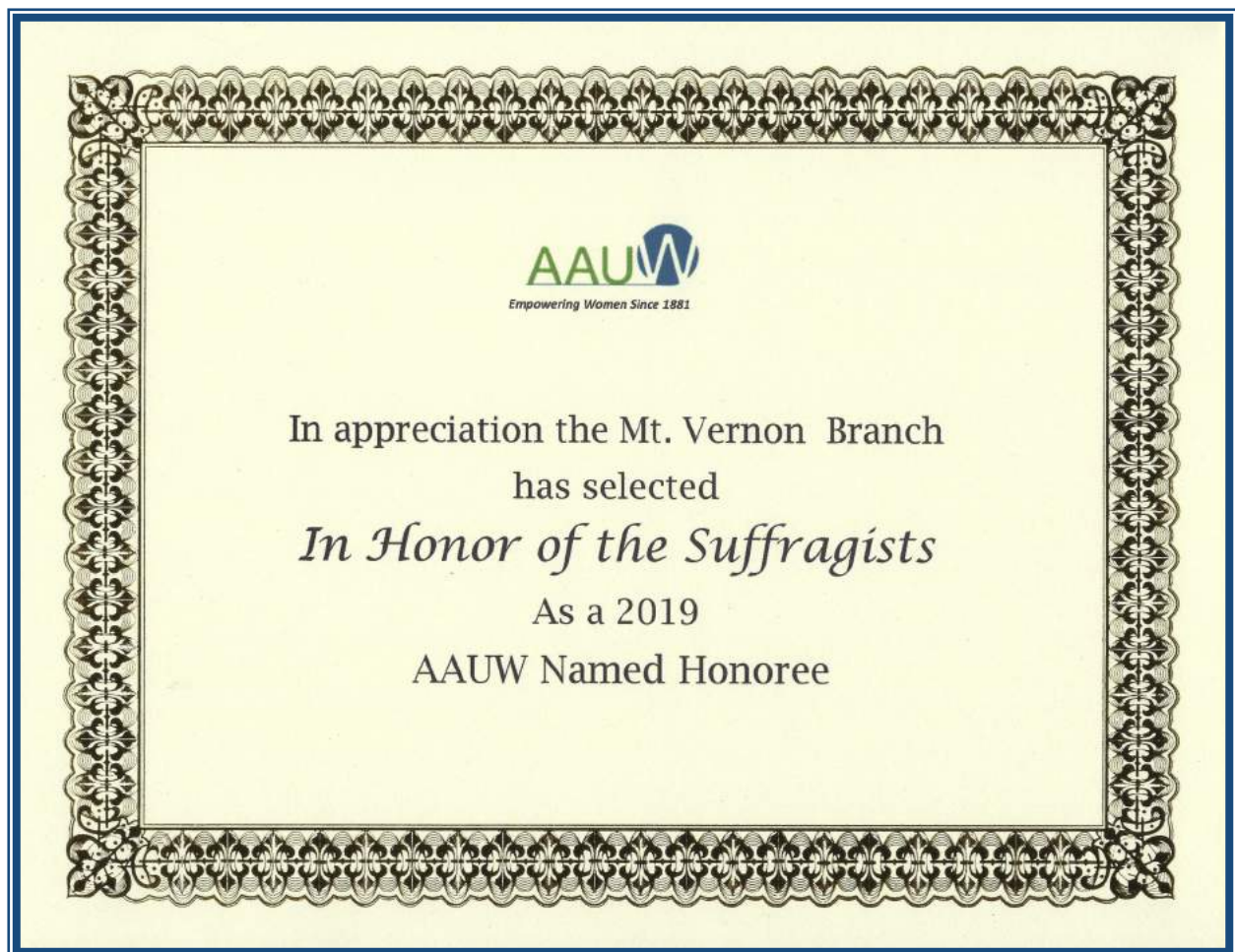
AAUW FUNDS REPORT

In early May, Mt. Vernon Branch sent the donations from the canceled Little Theatre fundraiser to **AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund**. This was done earlier than usual in order to participate in a "matching" that was in place until May 31. **Our donation amount was \$1,845.**

Thank you to the many members who donated the cost of their theater tickets to AAUW. As you read in the message from **Kim Churches**, AAUW CEO, on page 7 of the newsletter, AAUW's work now is now more urgent than ever. Your continued support means a great deal! Thank you!

In December, this \$1,845 will be added to all individual donations made during the year to produce our total for 2020. We may name an Honoree for each \$500 the branch donates. Honorees are announced in the spring of the following year.

In 2019 the branch donations totaled \$5,400. In honor of the anniversary of the 19th amendment, the branch board selected one Named Honoree. See the certificate below.



GET OUT THE VOTE

Susan Burk, State Public Policy Co-chair, sends thanks to all who participated in AAUW-VA's State Business Meeting on April 18. At that meeting, the importance of **Getting Out The Vote** (GOTV) was strongly emphasized

AAUW supports vote by mail, on-line registration, early voting, no excuse absentee voting, and in-person voting with proper health precautions -- anything to make voting easier and more accessible.



In a future message, there will be more information from AAUW National about producing voter guides for the fall congressional elections.

At a recent Virginia legislative session, the state legislators passed, and **Governor Northam** signed, a number of legislative measures to expand voter access. These measures will take effect July 1, 2020 (except where indicated) and include:

1. No-excuse absentee voting and no-excuse early voting 45 days prior to an election.
2. Elimination of the requirement for a picture ID at the polls.
3. Designation Election Day as a Virginia state holiday.
4. Implementing automatic voter registration for individuals accessing service at a DMV office or DMV website.
5. Same day registration (not effective until Oct. 1, 2022)

Our AAUW-VA Public Policy chairs will be following up this information with links and other information as it becomes available. **Susan Burk** notes: *"As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which granted so many women the right to vote, let us focus on how we can help educate our community about the changes that have been made in Virginia to increase voting flexibility."*

Mary Ellen Mehler
Public Policy Chair

MOMS' EQUAL PAY DAY IS JUNE 4

Whether they're home caring for kids, or out working in essential jobs — with many heroically doing both — our nation's mothers deserve equal pay, caregiving support, equitable advancement opportunities, and workplaces and schools free from harassment and discrimination.

Fast Facts: Moms in the Workplace

- ⇒ Women who took just one year off from work earn 39% less than women who did not.
- ⇒ Mothers are 40% more likely to report that child care issues harmed their careers.
- ⇒ About a quarter of working moms say they have turned down a promotion because they were balancing work and parenting
- ⇒ [Click here to learn more](#)

RESULTS ARE IN

AAUW of Virginia State Election

Thank you to the 321 AAUW of Virginia members who voted in the recent **One Member One Vote State Election**; that is a voting rate of 29%, which definitely meets the 7% quorum we needed for the election.

Each candidate was elected with 99% or more of the vote. The AAUW of Virginia 2020-22 officers for the following positions are:

- Co-Presidents - **Suzanne Rothwell and Leslie Tourigny**
- Vice President for Communications - **Patsy Quick**
- Vice President for Program - **Nadine James**
- Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy - **Susan Burk and Denise Murden**

Additionally, both the proposed Bylaws Amendment and the proposed 2020-2022 Public Policy Priorities passed with 96% of the vote.

Congratulations and thank you to these members!! We look forward to working with you in 2020-22.

Sandy Lawrence
Voting and Elections Chair
sandyaauw@juno.com



AAUW National Election

Congrats New Board Members

Voting for the 2020 AAUW election ended on Monday, May 18. We're pleased to announce that the following candidates have been elected to join AAUW's board of directors starting July 1. Congrats!



Jeanie Latz



Dia Cirillo



Shaila Rao Mistry



Jenna Kirkpatrick Howard

AAUW of Virginia voter participation ranked number one with 11.8%!!

By **KIMBERLY CHURCHES**

We at AAUW are deeply concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on our members, supporters, fellow-ship alumnae and their families around the world. Your health and safety are our top priority.

We are all only beginning to wrap our heads around the unprecedented repercussions in the months and possibly years ahead, as well as the economic and social rebuilding efforts that will be needed.

AAUW has been at the cutting edge of fighting for economic equity for nearly 140 years. And what we're witnessing is how the pandemic is amplifying and exacerbating all of the nation's inequities.

The issues we've long been fighting for are now alarmingly urgent, and our efforts are needed now more than ever. Consider:

- Close to 30 percent of working Americans have no sick leave and have to choose between a paycheck and potentially losing their job or risking exposure to infection.
- Women comprise more than 70 percent of the healthcare industry, including more than 85 percent of nurses. They are on the frontlines, putting themselves and their families at risk to care for others.
- More than 10 million Americans have already filed for unemployment due to the outbreak – and women may well be the majority. The female labor force accounts for a large proportion of service jobs: more than 80 percent of waitstaff, 65 percent of retail cashiers and 65 percent of hotel and hospitality workers. These fields are among those most likely to face furloughs and layoffs.
- Part-time workers and hourly wage workers will face job loss, hourly wage loss and will need reskilling and retraining as we move beyond the immediate pandemic crisis.
- Education is being upended, exacerbating existing education gaps for lower-income and students of color.
- Women in college and graduate schools will be entering one of the worse economies in modern history, while still holding two-thirds of the nation's \$1.3 trillion of student debt.
- Retirement and other savings have been hard hit. Already, retired women are twice as likely as men to live at or below the poverty level. As the economy falters, retired women's ability to pay monthly bills and survive will be at risk.

AAUW has always used our collective influence to fight for economic justice from grassroots to national and international fields. But never has our work been as badly needed as it is right now. So my promise to you is that, when things finally settle down, we will be on the front lines of the coming battle to ensure equity and economic security for all.

These are trying times for everyone: for us as individuals, for our families and friends and for our fellow AAUW members. But we are part of a community that is there for each other – as we have been since our inception.

Please stay well, be kind to one another, and know that I along with the AAUW national staff are available and thinking of you.

We're all in this together. And together, we can make a difference.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/insights/covid-19-economic-impact/>

TPSM MEMORIAL DEDICATION POSTPONED

Sadly, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the scheduled dedication event for the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial on August 26, has been indefinitely postponed.

From Executive Director/CEO **Pat Wirth**:

Most are aware that for the past several months we have been planning a momentous, day-long celebration on August 26, 2020, to formally dedicate the memorial and mark the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. For a myriad of reasons emanating from the pandemic, we have reluctantly decided to ***indefinitely postpone*** an in-person event until we can confidently host a safe and secure program.

However, we could not let the 100th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment go unrecognized – this is such a momentous occasion for every American women! Our Dedication Committee has morphed into the Centennial Celebration Committee. We have hired an award-winning production company and are planning several videos that will be released on August 26, 2020! Funding for this project was provided by a grant restricted for this specific purpose – it is not being funded with construction funds. **Stay tuned for more information on how you can celebrate with us on August 26, 2020, aka Women’s Equality Day!**

Source: <https://suffragistmemorial.org/memorial-dedication-postponed/>



2020 VISION: MARKING A MOMENTOUS YEAR

Working from home AAUW staff is producing a variety of excellent webinars in a series called **2020 Vision: Marking a Momentous Year**. The webinars are approximately one hour short, very focused, and engaging, with varied topics and guest “speakers.” They are a must for AAUW members! All webinars are archived at AAUW.org under Membership > Initiatives. You can find them at this link:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/2020-convening/>.

This is our last newsletter for the program year 2019/2020. “AAUW Mt Vernon Voices” will be back at the end of August.



AAUW Mt. Vernon

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

First Class



JUNE 2020

- **15 Online Book Group, 7:30 pm**
Contact Liz Promen
703/780-7342
- **18 Zoom Branch Meeting/ Planning Session, 5 pm**
Contact Patsy Quick
703/360-8678



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