

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 63 Issue 9

May 2020

Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Dear Mt. Vernon Branch Members,

I hope all of you are managing to handle this strange time during the corona virus pandemic and are sheltering in place safely. We are more than a group of like-minded women when it comes to advocacy for women and girls, but also friends. I hope you will reach out if you need anything! Some way, somehow, someone would be able to help or assist you, if needed. I know I would try my best.

We have decided to publish our newsletter, in spite of the fact that the situation surrounding the corona virus pandemic has forced us (out of good sense and good citizenry) to cancel our programs, board meetings, and group activities. This is true for local, state, and national events. **Instead, within the newsletter you will find some ways to entertain or inform yourself while we are home bound.**

AAUW of Virginia, after canceling the state conference, held its Annual Business Meeting via Zoom, on April 18. Some of you participated. It was run efficiently, and we managed to vote on two motions. More about that meeting will be published in the *Virginia Vision*, which will come out in June.

Our **book group** held its first Zoom meeting on April 20. **Elaine Kolish** set up two free back-to-back sessions for us and, as it turned out, the meeting was very successful! **Mary Ellen Mehler** led a vibrant discussion. **Liz Promen** provided a great email follow-up. We will Zoom for our May meeting, too. The link is in the newsletter, so join us if you wish! **Many thanks to Elaine for setting up our Zoom sessions!**

AAUW National has also used Zoom to provide some excellent webinars. I hope some of you have participated in those. They provide excellent information for all AAUW members. They are short, to the point, and very well presented. The information is focused, and helps us understand what we need to do as members. AAUW staff members, working from home, are doing a great job rallying us to action. Watch your email boxes for notice of webinars. They often come from **Kim Churches**, AAUW CEO, or from "AAUW Staff." Also open emails from "AAUW Editor" who provides the all-member "AAUW Mission & Action" newsletter.

Enjoy a slightly different kind of Mt. Vernon Voices newsletter this month. Thanks to **Bianca Daugherty** for making it possible!

Stay well!

Patsy

**Our
Annual
Potluck
Dinner
May 28
Has
Been
Canceled!**

BRANCH PROGRAMS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS CANCELED THROUGH JUNE 10 BRANCH PLANNING MEETING ON HOLD



How sad it has been not to be able to gather for our spring events! We lost our fundraiser at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, the May Potluck, and a special, not-even-announced program with Bob Levey (former journalist with the Washington Post).

Traditionally we plan for the coming program year at a Planning Brunch. If we are going to have a program year at all, we will need to do some planning! However, we also need to wait and see if a planning brunch during the summer is possible. If not, we will begin planning virtually via Zoom or email. Already, we actually have some program ideas!

Until a definite decision about planning is made, please think hard about your contacts and interests. Send me any ideas you have via email. Watch for an email announcement about how we will manage our program planning for 2020-21. *As always, we want your input and participation!*

Stay tuned...

Patsy Quick



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.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Dues Time!

An invoice for the renewal of your AAUW dues has probably landed in your email box. I received mine on April 23. The email includes two ways to renew.

There are two ways to renew.

- 1) **To renew online**, click [HERE](#) (from your own email) to use your credit or debit card! Please have your card information ready.
- 2) **To renew by check**: Make your check payable to your AAUW branch, and mail it to your branch finance officer listed below.

Anne Simpson, 1604 Old Drummer Boy Lane, Fort Washington, MD 20744

Please check your email for the message from memberinfo@aauw.org. Click within the email to send your dues or mail your check to Anne. We want to make 2020-2021 a banner year!

Mt. Vernon Branch Dues:

National: \$59 State: \$15 Branch: \$13 = Total \$87

At the Zoomed State Annual Business Meeting April 18, Mt. Vernon Branch received an award for achieving over 100% membership retention for 2019-2020. (We increased our membership by one.) We also received an e-gift card from Office Depot! We can use that to print out membership brochures and other documents we might need.

Let's see if we can achieve that honor again this year!!



Patsy Quick

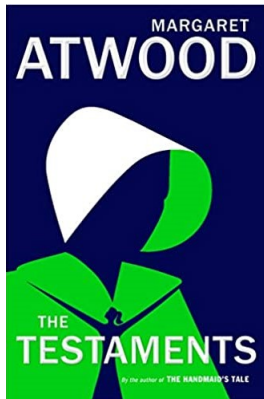


On April 14, the members of our branch were asked to review and vote on the Board's recommendation for our branch budget for FY 2020-2021. Twenty-seven members voted -- thank you! The motion to approve the budget was unanimously approved.

Paula Lettice

BOOK GROUP

Book Group will meet via **Zoom**. Below is the link for anyone to join. You do not have to do anything other than click on the link.



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8096704824?pwd=c1h0bGYzV0dtdczNSZGITOtOTcrMWgyQT09>

Monday, 18 May, 7:30 pm

BOOK: The Testaments: The Sequel to The Handmaid's Tale
Margaret Atwood

REVIEWER: Joanne Malkin

NEXT BOOK: Where the Crawdads Sing
Delia Owens

MT VERNON AAUW BRANCH: CONNECTING PEOPLE

It seems like ages ago that we were all together at Sherwood Hall Library viewing the documentary “**Gina’s Journey: The Search for William Grimes**” and listening to **Regina Mason** so eloquently continue the story, afterwards (January 18, 2020). Remember? The audience was large, and appreciative. Three days after that program, a gentleman, **Donnie Mack**, who had been in the audience, emailed me via our branch email. His message was brief:

My grandmother last name was Grimes before she got married. Then she married my grandfather who was a Mack. I'm just wondering if there is a connection.

I told him I would forward his question to **Regina Mason**. And, I asked him to let me know what, if anything, he might learn. Just the other day, on April 25, I received this message from **Donnie** via email:

I am related to the Grimes that are from Ky. Pembroke Kentucky.

Well! Now, I want to know more! I've responded and hope he will feel like sharing a bit more. I'll let you know...

Anyway, it is nice to realize, that our AAUW program helped another person find his roots! And, mighty fine roots, at that!



Patsy Quick

VOTING TWICE

In case you have not voted yet, there still is time, but don't delay.

Vote Now

You will be voting twice, once for AAUW of Virginia and once for AAUW National.

AAUW of Virginia Voting

Online voting opened April 26 and will conclude on May 16, 11:45 pm ET. You should have received an email from AAUW of Virginia ("Vote now:AAUW of Virginia 2020 Election") with voting instructions.

You will be voting on the **following four officer positions for two-year terms beginning July 1, 2020: Co-Presidents, Vice President for Communications, Vice President for Program, and Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy**, as well as on a proposed AAUW-VA bylaws amendment and the proposed AAUW-VA 2020-2022 Public Policy Priorities.

It is very important that members vote, as a quorum of seven percent of the membership is needed for the election.

The **Voter Guide** is available on the state website <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/>

Any questions concerning the election can be directed to Leslie Tourigny (ltourigny@gmail.com) or Sandy Lawrence (sandyaauw@juno.com)

AAUW National Voting

Electronic voting is taking place from April 8 through May 18. An email with voting instructions was sent out to members on April 8 ("Please vote now to shape AAUW's future").

You will be voting on four candidates to join AAUW's 15-person board of directors. You can read more about them and the election on the [National Election page](#)



This year marks the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment — and the 55th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act — two crucial milestones in giving women the right to vote. It's also a critical election year. With Title IX under threat, a persistent gender pay gap, and a dearth of women leaders, the stakes couldn't be higher.

As part of an initiative we're calling "2020 Vision," we invite you to reflect on all the progress we've made together and stand strong in the fight for a fairer future. You can share your own story about contributing to AAUW's legacy and watch our webinar series, which highlights recent equity research, outlines our ambitious "Gender Agenda" for the year, and more.

AAUW WEBINARS

Well-done, interesting, informative. (Each 1-hour short)

A must for AAUW members!

1. ***Mrs. America: Women's Rights, Family Values and Politics***

Join us for a Conversation with AAUW American Fellowship alumna Marjorie Spruill, Professor Emerita, University of South Carolina and author, Divided We Stand: The Battle Over Women's Rights & Family Values that Polarized American Politics.

2. ***2020 Election : Voter Access and Education During Covid-19 Pandemic***

Getting out the Vote During a Pandemic

The COVID-19 crisis poses an unprecedented challenge to our electoral process. Learn about the pandemic's impact on voter access, gain key "get out the vote" and voter education resources, and identify priority policy issues facing women and families this election.

3. ***An Interview with Diane Rehm***

AAUW Updates & Diane Rehm

CEO **Kim Churches** provides an update on AAUW's continuing work and talks with renowned radio host and author **Diane Rehm** about how she has managed to remain resilient in the face of challenges and loss. Listen now or read more about the conversation.

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

AAUW recommends these two trusted sources for information about Corona Virus, as well as Social Justice and Election information:

1. **Brennan Center for Justice** <https://www.brennancenter.org/>

The **Brennan Center for Justice** at New York University Law School is a non-partisan law and public policy **institute**. The organization is named after Supreme Court **Justice** William J. **Brennan**.

2. **Ballotpedia** https://ballotpedia.org/Main_Page
https://ballotpedia.org/The_Ballot_Bulletin:_April_22,_2020

Ballotpedia is a nonprofit and nonpartisan online political encyclopedia written by a staff of researchers and writers. Founded in 2007, it covers American federal, state, and local politics, elections, and public policy.

A NEW LOOK FOR AAUW NATIONAL

AAUW Has a New Website...

Same Address www.aauw.org



On April 10, in a webinar, AAUW launched its new website! Below you will find some information about it in case you missed the webinar. We were told that 332 members participated (none were actually visible on the screen), and you could have been one of them. If so, you probably don't need to read further.

This is the first major update to the website in 12 years! The nature and use of the new website is based on research regarding current best practice. The webinar that launched the new website is posted [HERE](#). (Scroll down from there.)

Below are some important points to know:

The new website has the same address as the old. (<https://www.aauw.org/>)

- Not all aspects of the new site have been completed, so some clicks will take you to the old website, for now.
- The website has been streamlined from 15,000 pages to 250 pages, as a result of a year-long analysis of the old site.
- It is ADA AA for members with visual disabilities. That means there is high contrast in color, which you will notice.
- **“Membership”** is found on the menu bar at the far right top of the homepage. “Membership” is where you will find all information relevant to branches and members, such as resources and tools, the Five Star Program, benefits, etc.
- The **Member Services Database (MSD)** link is located under **“Membership.”** Currently the MSD links back to the old website. Nothing about MSD has changed yet. We will be notified in the fall (2020) when MSD has been revamped.
- There are 3 other main topics on a menu bar at the top of the homepage that provide information about AAUW: **Explore the Issues** (Strategies for Education, Workplace & Economic Equity, & Leadership) , **Get Empowered** (AAUW programs like NCCWSL and Work Smart) and **Take Action** (2-Minute Activist, Donate)
- To **“SEARCH,”** click on the magnifying glass icon, which is left of the **“DONATE”** box on every page of the website. Because everything has been streamlined, searching for something on this new site should be much easier than on the old site.

To find recent webinars that are archived, go to “Membership” > “Initiatives.” Then scroll down to “2020 Vision: Marking a Momentous Year” and click on that. The webinars are all there.

LET ME ENTERTAIN YOU!

If you have run out of books to read, or want something different to do, there are many great things on the Internet being offered for free. Below is a list of things that might interest you.

CLIP AND SAVE THESE PAGES!



- **From Travelzoo, a wonderful list of National Parks to visit virtually:**



https://www.travelzoo.com/blog/the-best-national-parks-to-visit-virtually/?utm_source=newsflash_us&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2871550_html_deal%3a2871550&utm_content=2871550&ec=0&dlinkId=2871550

- **And 20 Amazing Places to Visit without leaving home:**

https://www.travelzoo.com/blog/20-amazing-places-you-can-visit-without-leaving-home/?utm_source=newsflash_us&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2871840_html_deal%3a2871840&utm_content=2871840&ec=0&dlinkId=2871840



- **From Great Value Vacations: Travel Memoirs to Inspire Your Next Vacation (Add these books to your must read list.)**



https://www.greatvaluevacations.com/travel-inspiration/travel-memoirs-to-inspire-your-next-vacation?utm_source=gvv&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=NEWS20200423_travel_memoirs

- **From Elizabeth Lonoff:**

- Carnegie Institution public science lectures archive, <https://carnegiescience.edu/past-events>
- Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions global-affairs television show can be viewed from either the Assoc.'s webpage or YouTube (looks like this year's and last year's shows) - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mA1ZxzkUHNI&list=PLDHHJksdsrQFAfjQi4VehimWI_n3SnyGf
- archive of over 80 episodes of podcast, **"Sixth & I LIVE."** featuring free access to past events with leading authors, politicians, comedians, journalists, actors, and thought leaders



• From the Kennedy Center:



Scroll through their online archives to see some of the greatest Millennium Stage performances of all time.

<https://www.kennedy-center.org/digital-stage>

• From the Mt. Vernon at Home Newsletter:

- Free Ivy League courses online - There are 13 categories which can be accessed:

<https://www.classcentral.com/collection/ivy-league-moocs>

- Silver Sneakers Streaming Exercise – if you have a Facebook account, you can access.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2537792109767386/>

- House Beautiful is offering virtual tours of 5 Gardens:

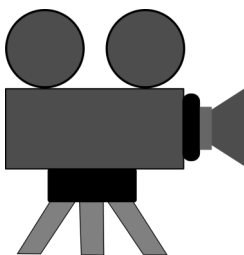
https://www.housebeautiful.com/lifestyle/gardening/g31746949/gardens-you-can-virtually-tour/?utm_campaign=socialflow_FBHBU&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social-media&fbclid=IwAR2E9BWiegfwsgmBX5INU8-SwDkd2f7JWeQH6Ecn7oqWwx4MyIYAqxF_mw

- Enjoy the *Keukenhof Gardens* in The Netherlands

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGcdXvqgX1w&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR2EuXNykWclA_SIB4vR6mRTURRiYnB_Eb_c-aVhVzdhxBywZWRqxSRLpRY



• From AARP: 12 Great Movies to Stream Right Now:



https://www.aarp.org/entertainment/television/info-2020/movies-to-stream-while-stuck-at-home.html?cmp=EMC-DSO-NLC-WBLTR---MCTRL-032720-HT3-4463781&ET_CID=4463781&ET_RID=11378280&encparam=rAXBi37zV7GBXQckAQsWBc9%2bJqXhXsoPHKV38ZJz9%2bM%3d

AAUW Mt. Vernon

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

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

First Class



- **6 Board Meeting, 7:30 pm**

Contact Patsy Quick
703/360-8678

- **18 Online Book Group, 7:30 pm**

Contact Liz Promen
703/780-7342



MAY 2020

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