

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 64 Issue 2 October 2020

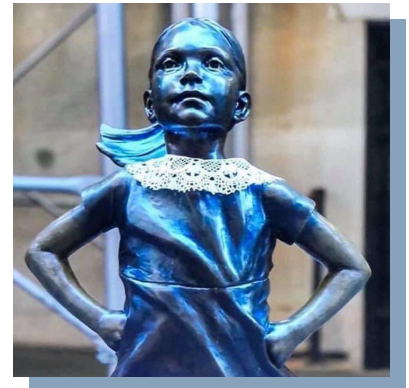
Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

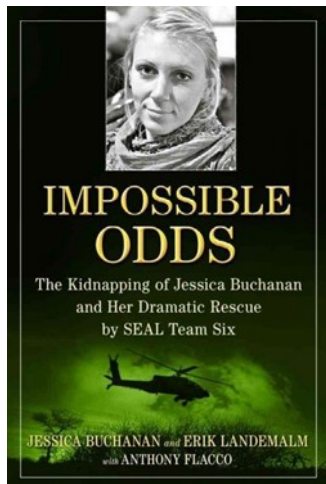
Many in our country are, indeed, very sad as this newsletter goes to press. The Honorable **Ruth Bader Ginsburg** has died. She was an icon for equality for women and leaves a huge gap in our hearts. She also leaves a gap in the Supreme Court that produces fear in our souls. Over the past few days we have learned much about her life and legacy. It is our hope that her final wishes regarding her replacement will be honored.

Early voting has already begun. I hope you have a plan for voting to insure that sure your vote is counted. Covid 19 has made the issue of standing in line to vote on November 3 difficult for many. If you need information on voting early please check out this link: <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/files/2020/08/2020-election-important-dates-003.pdf>



(Continued on page 2)

ZOOM BRANCH MEETING – OCTOBER 15 – 4 PM



IMPOSSIBLE ODDS

Meet author Jessica Buchanan October 15, 4 pm

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

<https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/7048563>

In 2011, **Jessica Buchanan** was an aid worker in northern Somalia, helping to raise awareness about how to avoid land mines. The north was the relatively safe section of the country; that October, she traveled to the more dangerous southern region for a training. The night before she left, she texted her husband, **Erik Landemalm**, also an aid worker in Somalia. She asked him a question: "If I get kidnapped on this trip, will you come and get me?" (for more visit <https://www.npr.org/2013/05/14/183624076/in-somalia-surviving-a-kidnapping-against-impossible-odds>.)

IN ANOTHER BRANCH MEETING organized in collaboration with Sherwood Regional Library, **Jessica** will speak to us about her experience as an aid worker in Somalia, the experience of being kidnapped and ultimately rescued by Seal Team Six, and the impact of that experience on her life since.

Jessica and her husband have since relocated to the United States and now reside in the Washington DC area with their two children. **Erik** continues to work in the international development sector, and **Jessica** travels the country speaking about her experience as a hostage to a wide range of audiences. She is a family liaison volunteer for the non-profit organization, **Hostage US**, that seeks to support former hostages and their families. She also continues to serve as a dedicated Ambassador for the **Navy SEAL Foundation**, which works to support families of fallen SEALs. And as a believer in the power of nature to nurture and heal, she serves on the board for the **Hollin Meadows Partnership for Outdoor Education** that supports outdoor education for disadvantaged children.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(Continued from page 1)

Our first program of the year, September 17, via Zoom was a success. Fifty-seven participants attended! **Joi Jackson** from Sherwood Regional Library did an excellent job as moderator. I think we all heard something we may not have known before. The speaker, **Queenie Cox**, was passionate about the community of Gum Springs and brought out issues that many of us had not previously known. The Committee which planned the September program is currently considering how to follow-up with The Black Experience in Mt. Vernon Part 2.

Our October program with **Jessica Buchanan** will be different, but just as interesting as our September program. As a young woman in 2011, among Jessica's first thoughts when she was kidnapped by armed men in Somalia were "My life has changed forever. However this ends, good or bad, my life has changed forever. My work is changed forever." (NPR interview, May 2013 <https://www.npr.org/2013/05/14/183624076/in-somalia-surviving-a-kidnapping-against-impossible-odds>.) We will hear about those changes and more. Jessica has written a book that will also be available for sale.

I'm looking forward to see you on Zoom October 15!



Patsy



Our September 17 Zoom program "The Black Experience in Mt. Vernon" was recorded and is available for viewing [here](#).

BRANCH LEADERSHIP 2019 – 2020

Elected Officers

President:	Patsy Quick
Program Vice President:	Joanne Clark
Membership Vice President:	Mary Wall
Treasurer:	Anne Simpson
Secretary:	Paula Lettice

Appointed Chairs

Bylaws:	vacant
AAUW Funds:	Kathy Hanrahan
Public Policy:	Mary Ellen Mehler

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

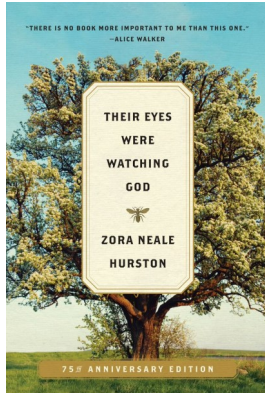
Interest Groups

Book Group:	Liz Promen
Dining Out:	Paula Lettice, Kathy Conron, Bianca Daugherty
Game Night:	Cynthia Jacobus
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, October 19, 7:30 pm.

***** Zoom link will be sent via email. *****

BOOK: **Their Eyes Were Watching God**
By Zora Neale Hurston

REVIEWER: Kathleen Fitzgerald

NEXT BOOK: **White Fragility**
By Robin DiAngelo

Interested to join? Contact Liz Promen - epromen@cox.net

GAME NIGHT

***Zoom in for fun and games at our next virtual Game night on
Friday, October 23, 7:15 pm***

Watch for email from **Cynthia Jacobus** with instructions and Zoom link.
Let Cynthia know if you would like to join the group.

cynthiajacobus@cox.net



BRANCH MEMBERS AND CIVIC DUTY



As we approach another national election, the branch wants to acknowledge those members who are giving their time as voter registration volunteers. They will join with other community activists to staff non-partisan registration tables at various high-traffic community locations. They wish to make sure that all eligible citizens have the needed registration application and can vote on election day.

Five members of our branch volunteered to register voters with Mt. Vernon Registrars. **Many thanks to Joanne Clark, Solveig Eggerz, Kathi Hanrahan, Elaine Kolish, and Maureen Kuletz!**

Our branch has lost another beloved friend and member, Marvel Luykx. Our sympathies and love go to her daughter, Laura Luykx and her family, and to Marvel's many friends.



EXTENDED DEADLINE FOR AAUW-VA MINI GRANTS

To give branches more time to develop proposals, the deadline for mini-grant applications is extended until October 15, 2020.

The mini-grant application is on the AAUW-VA website: <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/branch-mini-grant/>

The AAUW-VA mini-grant program gives branches an opportunity to organize a program supporting AAUW's agenda to empower women and girls. Please take a look at AAUW's 2020 Gender Policy Agenda and the Public Policy Priorities adopted by AAUW-VA this spring for inspiration and ideas. (You will find links to both on the application.)

For questions and further ideas, please get in touch with Susan Burk (burksu@aol.com) or Denise Murden (denise.m.murden@gmail.com).

Mary Ellen Mehler
Public Policy Chair

The City of Alexandria Announces the Installation of Panels Recognizing The Loving v. Virginia Supreme Court Decision and the Law Firm of Cohen, Cohen, and Hirschkop

*"Mr. Cohen, tell the court I love my wife and it is just unfair
that I can't live with her in Virginia."-Richard Loving*

The City of Alexandria is delighted to announce the installation of a new interpretive kiosk by the Office of Historic Alexandria, commemorating the Loving v. Virginia Supreme Court decision legalizing interracial marriage throughout the United States, and the Law Firm of Cohen, Cohen, and Hirschkop, which represented the Lovings. The law firm was located at 110 N. Royal St. the day the decision was announced. The panels are located at the corner of King and Royal Streets.

The panels read:

The law office of Bernard Cohen and Philip Hirschkop was here at 110 N. Royal Street on June 12, 1967, the day they were notified that their Supreme Court case *Loving v. Virginia* had been decided unanimously in their favor. The plaintiffs, Mildred and Richard Loving, had sued the Commonwealth of Virginia for its ban on interracial marriage. The day after the decision was announced, the Lovings held a press conference in the office of their attorneys in Suite 300. The ruling by the Supreme Court not only voided Virginia's anti-miscegenation law but legalized interracial marriage throughout the country.

For more information on the panels, please click [here](#).



**The Northern District of AAUW of VA will have its fall meeting
via Zoom on October 17, 10-12 am.**

**The main topic, Challenging Racism (10-11 am), should be of interest
to all. Zoom Link will be emailed.**

REST IN POWER RBG

AAUW joins the country in mourning the passing of Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and paying tribute to her life and her legacy.

The following is a statement by AAUW CEO Kimberly Churches:

America lost one of our most beloved role models tonight, a pioneering jurist and iconic feminist who blazed new trails, not only in her own life, but in the lives of the countless women she championed — and inspired. On behalf of AAUW and its members and supporters who recognized Justice Ginsburg with a 1999 AAUW Achievement Award, we extend our condolences to her family, her colleagues and to every American whose lives and hearts she touched. The nation owes it to her — and to all women — to honor her final wishes and refrain from naming a replacement until after a new president is inaugurated.



AAUW Webinar Announcement:

Perspectives from the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund: Justice Ginsburg's Legacy and the Future of the Court

Thursday, October 1, 2020 2 p.m. ET

In the wake of the passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, we invite you to join us for a webinar to learn about the accomplishments of this titan of justice and what the future holds. As evidenced by her honor as a 1999 AAUW Achievement Awardee, Justice Ginsburg was a champion for the rights of women and girls, and hugely instrumental in advancing AAUW's priorities. But what does the future hold for her seat on the bench and how will it impact AAUW's work? Join AAUW CEO Kim Churches and Director of Public Policy and Legal Advocacy Kate Nielson for a discussion of the past, the future, and your role in shaping history.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

AAUW VOTER ISSUE GUIDE

IT'S MY VOTE



I WILL BE HEARD



AAUW ACTION FUND

Voter Issue Guide

When Women Vote, We Change the Conversation

What's at stake in this election? Find out using the **AAUW Action Fund's 2020 Voter Issue Guide**. This helpful handout provides concise information about key policy issues in the election, including voter access, the gender pay gap, family leave and paid sick days, college affordability, campus sexual violence, and reproductive rights. Use it when you table on campus, attend a town hall, or host a candidate forum. The guide even includes topical buzzwords and questions to ask candidates.

Research shows that a lack of information on the candidates and a lack of policy debates on issues of importance is the main reason some millennial women don't participate in the election process. Help combat the dearth of information.

To read the voter guide, click [here](#)

Head to Head Voter Guides

For pressing races across the country, the **AAUW Action Fund** voter guides provide nonpartisan information about candidates' positions on issues like equal pay, education, campaign finance, and reproductive rights. Candidates' positions on the issues are determined using their legislative records, public statements, and campaign position papers, as well as published information from credible sources. All campaigns are contacted via email in advance of publication.

AAUW Action Fund voter guides are provided as a public service and are not intended to be an endorsement of any candidate or political party. No AAUW policy position is implied by the descriptions of these issues.

Presidential Race - [President](#)
- [Vice President](#)

To learn more go to

<https://www.aauwaction.org/voter-education/voter-guides/>



2020 - 2021 MT. VERNON BRANCH PROGRAM YEAR

Meeting Date and Place	Focus/Activity
Thursday, September 17, 2020, 4 PM Location ZOOM	The Black Experience in Mt. Vernon Queenie Cox, Joi Jackson: An Interview
Thursday, October 15, 2020, 4 PM Location ZOOM	Jessica Buchanan: Her captivity, rescue and current activities https://www.npr.org/2013/05/14/183624076/in-somalia-surviving-a-kidnapping-against-impossible-odds
Thursday, November 19, 2020, 4 PM Location ZOOM	Karen Corbett Sanders - School Board Chair Public Education in Fairfax County During the Pandemic
December, Date and Time TBD Location TBD	Holiday Event
Thursday, January 21, 2021, Time TBD Location ZOOM	Veronique Pluviose Office of Bobby Scott US Senate Topic: Paycheck Fairness (not yet confirmed)
February 2021, Date and Time TBD Location TBD	Audrey Davis , Alexandria Black History Museum & and possibly someone from the Gums Springs Museum (not yet confirmed)
Saturday, March 20, 2021, Time TBD Location ZOOM	Annual Business Meeting & Solveig Eggerz , Author & Branch Member
Saturday, April 17, 2021, Time TBD Location ZOOM	Bob Levey , Author, Journalist (With Springfield-Annandale Branch)
Friday, April 23, 2021 7 PM reception 8 PM performance Little Theatre of Alexandria	Annual Fundraiser with Alexandria Branch Play: "Mary Stuart"
Thursday, May 20, 2021, 6 PM Location: TBD	Annual Potluck
June, 2021, Date and Time TBD Location TBD	Annual Planning Session

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

State Conference: March 12-14, 2021, Alexandria, VA
 Summer Leadership Meeting: July 2021 Sweet Briar College

AAUW Mt. Vernon

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

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

First Class



OCTOBER 2020

- **6 Branch Board Meeting, 7pm**
Contact Patsy Quick
703/360-8678
- **15 Branch Meeting, 4 pm**
Contact Patsy Quick
- **19 Book Group, 7:30 pm**
Contact Liz Promen
703/780-7342
- **23 Game Night, 7:15 pm**
Contact Cynthia Jacobus
703/780-3806

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