

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 64 Issue 3 November 2020

Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



In October, **Jessica Buchanan** spoke about finding positivity while she was being held captive. She realized she had Time, Solitude, and Memories on which to reflect. This kept her going in a very difficult time. For many of us that may be how we feel about "lockdown" during the pandemic. We found ways to keep ourselves going. We found ourselves with time to clean closets and drawers, finish projects previously left dangling, or learn a new skill. All of a sudden we had time to use in any way we wished. Maybe that was just time to do nothing for a while. I think we learned to appreciate this precious thing called time, and

to see it in a new light. It's not a bad thing. Surely we realize that just having time is a stress reducer, after the previously whirlwind kind of lives we may have led.

Like **Jessica**, we also had Solitude, in that we aren't able to socialize and communicate in person as we were accustomed to. Our lives slowed down, we may have been lonely, and some of us may have felt isolation.

(Continued on page 2)

ZOOM BRANCH MEETING – NOVEMBER 19 – 4 P.M.

**Wondering or Concerned about how Virtual School
is Going in Fairfax County?**

**Join Us on November 19 at 4 p.m.
to Hear Fairfax County School Board Chair,
Karen Corbett Sanders, Discuss This and More!**

Registration Required:

<https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/7024999>

Registration closes November 18



We are delighted that **Karen Corbett Sanders**, who is the elected Chair of the Fairfax County School Board, can join us to discuss how school children (and teachers and staff) are managing during this pandemic.

Karen, a native of Fairfax County, has a wealth of business, education and non-profit experience. She is a retired international business executive, a community advocate for healthcare and education issues, past PTA president, and Odyssey of the Mind coach. She also serves on a number of boards.

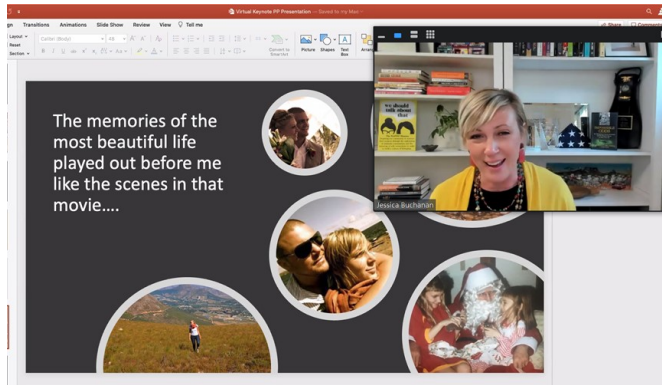
As school board chair **Karen** is committed to ensuring that our "students have access to a world class education" and the pressing question of the day is, are our schools delivering that to children now virtually? With AAUW's focus on women and girls, we also look forward to hearing **Karen** address how Fairfax County is promoting STEM subjects to girls. How the County plans to address the issues of minority representation at its flagship STEM school, Thomas Jefferson, is another hot topic we expect to hear about. Be prepared to bring questions you might have for **Karen**!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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However, within our solitude we could use that time to reflect on the past and prepare for the future. Surely those times gave us the ability to reenergize and be ready for whatever comes after Covid 19. Maybe during your times of solitude you came to feel a sense of excitement for discovering what that future may look like. You are probably anxious to get it started! At any rate, we will definitely need our newly rebuilt energy to meet new and different challenges.

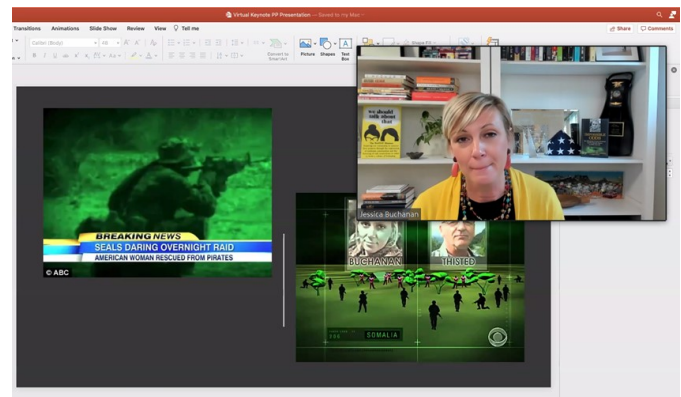
As for memories, they become more beautiful as we compare them with now. They provide us with something on which to base the future, or something on which to base the change that is inevitable. And that change has already begun. We have learned to do with less, to value new ideals, and to be open to new perspectives. Hopefully as we look to the future by reflecting on our memories, we will create a better community and a better world in which we all may live equitably!



Happy fall Y'all!

Patsy

Our October 15 Zoom program with Jessica Buchanan 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

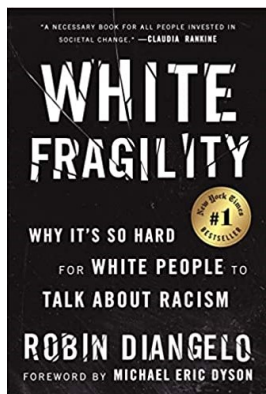
Interest Groups

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, November 16, 7:30 p.m.

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

BOOK: **White Fragility**
By Robin DiAngelo

REVIEWER: Janet Hedrick

NEXT BOOK: **Born a Crime**
By Trevor Noah

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, November 20, 7:15 p.m.
with game night host Patsy Quick

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



A big THANK YOU to **Mary Wall**, Membership VP, for getting the branch directory updated, printed, and distributed. To save on postage she asked members to let her know if they needed a print copy or would accept a digital copy. Eight members asked for a print copy. **Mary** was able to use the Office Depot gift certificate the branch received from the state last spring to have those copies printed. Two were mailed and the others were delivered in person by **Mary or Patsy**.



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

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



MEMBERSHIP

MARY WALL



The Crest Community Fair on October 17 featured a booth about AAUW and about membership in the Mt Vernon branch. It was staffed by members **Rosemarie Petz** and **Mary J Wall**.

The booth was very busy with strong interest in the AAUW mission. Three attendees expressed interest in joining our branch; 22 attendees requested an invitation to an event to learn more about AAUW.

PUBLIC POLICY

MARY ELLEN MEHLER

Message from Susan Burk and Denise Murden, State Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy

Because conditions will not permit our travel to Richmond for in-person **State Lobby Day(s)** during the 2021 General Assembly session, stay tuned for our alternate plans. We encourage members to start engaging with your legislators via letters, emails, and phone calls. Let's make our representatives accountable to us to build on recent progress by passing legislation that strengthens economic security for women and families.

AAUW-VA's Public Policy agenda is broad and ambitious. However, we are encouraged by the work AAUW-VA branches are doing to bring attention to and address a wide range of related issues, including eliminating human trafficking; providing opportunities for young girls to consider STEM careers; advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion; completing the process to include the ERA in our Constitution; and getting out the vote. Thank you for all you do to promote equity for women and girls!



HEADS
UP!

Our Annual Holiday Luncheon has been set for December 5.

Patsy will be sending out a **survey** to members to determine the format and interest for our Annual Holiday Luncheon in December.

We are also going to have baskets to raffle that will make great gifts, and help raise money that we didn't get to make on the LTA this year.

AAUW LEGACY CIRCLE

IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES

The bonds of friendship and commitment continue to be sources of strength for AAUW and our members. We care passionately about achieving equity for women and girls and we care deeply about one another.

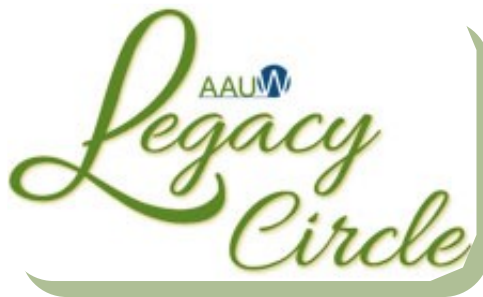
As the pandemic passes grim 6-month and 200,000-death milestones amidst continued upheaval and uncertainty on many fronts, we've heard from members who are wondering about its impact on gifts they've arranged or are considering. Some have a plan in mind. Others simply want to think out loud with us as they weigh the options. We want all our members to know: If you have questions about current giving or a planned gift or just want to talk things through more generally, we're here for you. Whether you are looking for how to get started or want details about gifts that pay income to you now, provide support for AAUW in the future, or impact our crucial, mission-focused work today, we welcome your questions and are available to help provide the information you seek. Whatever your situation, we are most grateful for everything you do to advance equity for all.

DID YOU KNOW?

Established by Congress in 2008, Estate Planning Awareness Week is observed annually during the third week in October to recognize the need, importance, and benefits of estate planning. This is an

important reminder not only to make sure your own estate plan is up to date, but also to talk to your family members about your wishes.

In a 2019 survey carried out by Caring.com, 57% of adults in the United States say that they don't have a will or trust, even though 76% of people surveyed think estate planning is important.



Estate planning is often a difficult subject to broach, as it brings the unpleasant topics of aging and death to the forefront of our minds. Nevertheless, creating an estate plan can provide peace of mind for you and your loved ones by ensuring your life savings are protected, plans are in place in the event of an

illness, and property is passed down according to your wishes.

Whether you would like to learn more about estate planning in general or tax-wise ways to include AAUW as a part of your legacy, we are here to help. You may contact **Heather Miller**, AAUW Advancement Director at millerh@aauw.org.

We would also be delighted to welcome you to the **Legacy Circle**—AAUW's recognition society for visionary members who are committed to advancing equity for women and girls long into the future. Both **Heather Miller** and **Kristin Moyer** of the **AAUW Legacy Circle Team** (kcmoyer65@gmail.com) are available to assist you. You can also find information on AAUW's website: <https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2020/02/Legacy-Circle-Brochure-nsa.pdf>.

AAUW Statement on Confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett

The following is a statement by AAUW CEO Kimberly Churches:

The U.S. Senate confirmed the appointment of **Judge Amy Coney Barrett** to the U.S. Supreme Court late on October 26. After a contentious process marked by one of the fastest considerations of a Supreme Court nominee in recent history, Senators voted largely along party lines to add her to the bench.

Justice Barrett will fill the vacancy left by the passing of **Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg**, who had been a legendary champion for women's rights and equal justice for all. It is AAUW's profound hope that, in her tenure on the highest court in the land, **Justice Barrett** will be inspired by the legacy of **Justice Ginsburg** to uphold the hard-earned rights of women and girls. AAUW has long fought for gender equity, and we are committed to working with all branches of government to ensure the expansion of those rights in the years ahead.

How Do Your Senators and Representatives Vote?

The newest [AAUW Action Fund Congressional Voting Record](#) (CVR) for the 116th Congress is now available.

The **AAUW Action Fund Congressional Voting Record (CVR)** provides information about elected federal legislators through the votes they cast on issues that are critical to the Action Fund's mission.

The CVR provides information about senators' and representatives' co-sponsorship and votes. Each legislator is scored based on their record on AAUW priorities, which were decided on the basis of the [AAUW Public Policy Priorities](#), adopted by AAUW members. These priorities include equal pay, education, campus sexual assault, campaign finance, human trafficking, and reproductive rights. The CVR is distributed to every member of Congress.



Find out how your elected officials scored!

[Download the Congressional Voting Record for the 116th Congress.](#)

A Wealth of Webinars!

After offering weekly webinars for many months, we've now built up an impressive library of content for members to explore at any time. You can peruse the archive of [Equity Network webinars](#), which are focused on professional development and how to build equitable and inclusive workplaces.

Or take a look at our [2020 member webinars](#), which range from interviews with notable Fellows to updates on your membership to tips on how to enhance your activism.



Upcoming Event: November 17, 2 p.m. ET
Status of Latinas in the United States During COVID-19
To register click [here](#).

2020 - 2021 MT. VERNON BRANCH PROGRAM YEAR

Meeting Date and Place	Focus/Activity
Thursday, September 17, 2020, 4 p.m. Location ZOOM	The Black Experience in Mt. Vernon Queenie Cox, Joi Jackson: An Interview
Thursday, October 15, 2020, 4 p.m. 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 p.m. Location ZOOM	Karen Corbett Sanders - School Board Chair Public Education in Fairfax County During the Pandemic
December, December 5, 2020, Time TBD Location TBD	Holiday Event
Thursday, January 21, 2021, 4 p.m. Location ZOOM	Veronique Pluviose Office of Bobby Scott US House of Representatives (VA District 3) Topic: Paycheck Fairness/House update
February 2021, Date TBD, 4 p.m. Location ZOOM	Audrey Davis , Alexandria Black History Museum & Ron Chase from 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 p.m. reception 8 p.m. performance Little Theatre of Alexandria 600 Wolfe St, Alexandria, VA 22314	Annual Fundraiser with Alexandria Branch Play: "Mary Stuart"
Thursday, May 20, 2021, 6 p.m. Location: TBD	Annual Potluck
June, 2021, Date and Time TBD Location TBD	Annual Planning Session

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

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

AAUW Mt. Vernon

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

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

First Class



NOVEMBER 2020

- **10 Branch Board Meeting, 7 p.m.**

Contact Patsy Quick
703/360-8678

- **16 Book Group, 7:30 p.m.**

Contact Liz Promen
703/780-7342

- **19 Branch Program, 4 p.m.**

Contact Patsy Quick

- **20 Game Night, 7:15 p.m.**

Contact Cynthia Jacobus
703/780-3806



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