

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 64 Issue 6 February 2021

Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Here we are in the month of love! There appear to be many things to love about this month: We are gradually being vaccinated; it's a new day politically; and our branch is thriving with so many of you participating and supporting what we are doing. That's a lot of positivity in the air! I hope you are feeling that brightness of spirit.

We began our branch program year with local activist, **Queenie Cox**, speaking to us about the current Black experience in Mt. Vernon. This month we reach out to historians in our midst to continue our journey along the path of awareness and understanding of the Black experience in our community. **Audrey Davis**, Director of Alexandria Black History Museum, and **Ron Chase**, from the Gum Springs Museum and Cultural Center, will talk about their collections and exhibits.

Our **Book Group** has a wonderful list of books we are reading this year to help us walk the path of learning and listening about the diversity in our country. Check out the list on our branch website: <https://mtvernon-va.aauw.net/about-us/member-groups/> Even if you aren't a member of the group, you might be interested in reading some of the books on your own.

AAUW-VA has a web page devoted to **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)**. <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/diversity-inclusion-equity/> And, AAUW has a new **DEI Toolkit** you will want to peruse.

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BRANCH PROGRAM - FEBRUARY 25 - 4 P.M.

HISTORY IN OUR MIDST

**Learn about Historical Collections
in Alexandria and Gum Springs, Mt. Vernon**

Please join your fellow branch members and members of the community for our February program meeting via Zoom and the Sherwood Hall Library.

We will hear from **Ms. Audrey Davis**, Director of the **Alexandria Black History Museum**, and **Mr. Ron Chase**, Director of the **Gum Springs Historical Society and Museum**. Together they will provide a historical presentation of both Alexandria's black community and that of Gum Springs, named after a gum tree that once marked the marshy land. We will also hear about the exhibits at each of the museums and learn about future exhibit plans. We wish we could visit both museums in person but that is something for a post-Covid time. The presentation will provide an incentive for future in-person visits to the museums.



We hope you will all attend. [ZOOM REGISTER HERE!](#)

See speakers' bios on page 4.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(Continued from page 1)

Its purpose: "The AAUW Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) resources aim to identify best practices for promoting diversity, equity and inclusion within AAUW." There are many wonderful resources available to help us learn and grow. Please be a part of this journey. Read more about AAUW's commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/commitment-statement/>

Lobbying activity has picked up, and AAUW-VA has given us some direction for taking action. We can email our legislators, state and federal, to urge support of various Equal Pay Legislation. Pay



attention to **Mary Ellen Mehler's** emails. As Public Policy Chair, she is keeping us informed! We heard **Veronique Pluviose** (January 21) tell us about using email to support the **Paycheck Fairness Act**. I already received an email from **AAUW Action Alert** about this and, as a **Two-Minute Activist**, I sent off 3 emails in less than two

minutes!

Join the Action Alert here:

<https://www.aauw.org/act/> It is about the easiest thing you can do to become an advocate!

Aren't you proud to be an AAUW member?! So much is available to enable each of us to have a voice in the mission of creating equity for all!

Patsy



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

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



BRANCH LEADERSHIP 2020 – 2021

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:	Kathi 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, Cathy 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.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

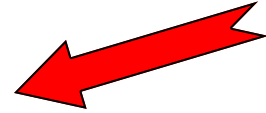


A LEADERSHIP and FUN OPPORTUNITY!!

It's Mount Vernon Branch Board of Directors **Nomination Time**
for the July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023 Term!

The following positions will be open for election to the board
at the annual meeting March 20.

- **President: Patsy Quick**
- **Program Vice-President: YOU!!!!**
- **Secretary: Paula Lettice**



Current officers are available to "mentor and help."

Please email: **Lois M. Passman** LMPassman@hotmail.com
or call Lois: 703-781-7626 (after 1 p.m.)
to take advantage of this amazing opportunity.

WHAT IS THE MSD



AAUW keeps its membership records stored in the **MSD: Membership Services Database**.
Every member has a personal profile in the MSD. It is stored on the national website.

CHECK OUT YOUR PERSONAL PROFILE

- To make changes to your contact information
- To print out a membership card
- To print a branch logo
- To find out how much you have contributed to AAUW
- To renew your membership
-

HOW DO I FIND THE MSD?

- Go to: <https://www.aauw.org/>
- In the top right corner, click on "**Membership.**"
- Then click on "**Membership Services Database.**"
- If you don't have a password, set one up. If you don't know your member ID, the site will give it to you in seconds.

Once that is done, you are in! Look around. You will easily find what you need.

MEET OUR FEBRUARY PROGRAM SPEAKERS



Audrey P. Davis is Director of the Alexandria Black History Museum in Alexandria, Virginia. Ms. Davis is a past President of the Virginia Association of Museums (VAM) and is one of the founders and the Director of *Virginia Africana Associates Inc.: The Network of Museum, History and Preservation Professionals*. Ms. Davis is currently Vice President of the Alexandria Historical Society, a board member for: Living Legends of Alexandria, Preservation Virginia and for the National Women's History Museum. In 2016, *The Washington Business Journal* listed Ms. Davis as number 2, on their top 100 list of Washington Power players.

On January 5, 2018, Ms. Davis was appointed by **Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe** to the *Task Force for the Identification of the History of Formerly Enslaved African Americans in Virginia*. On November 30, 2018, Ms. Davis was reappointed by **Virginia Governor Ralph S. Northam**, to the State Historical Records Advisory Board for a term of three years beginning November 1, 2018 and ending October 31, 2021. It is her fifth gubernatorial appointment.

Ronald L. Chase Is Founder/Director of the Gum Springs Museum and President of the Historical Society, one of only two African American Historical Societies in Fairfax County Virginia. Gum Springs is historically the oldest African American community in Fairfax County. He is the managing editor of the publication, *History In Motion*, distributed throughout the nation, and he has written and presented articles to area historical societies. In 1987, Mr. Chase developed and created the Gum Springs Museum and Cultural Center with a focus on the African American experience, located in the Gum Springs community. Prior to 1987, Mr. Chase was Vice President of the Historical Society. The Gum Springs Museum was named twice by the *Washingtonian Magazine* as one the top ten Museums to visit in the Washington D.C. area. He is a graduate of The Virginia Commonwealth University (BFA). He has also attended graduate courses at Virginia Tech., The University of Virginia, Catholic University, and The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.



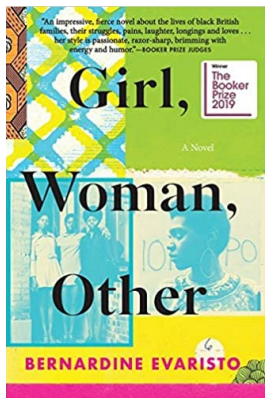
THE AAUW PROGRAM

AAUW Mt. Vernon is a 3-star branch!

We earned our stars in Programs, Advancement, and Communications & External Relations.



BOOK GROUP



Book Group will meet via Zoom on Monday, February 15, 7:30 p.m.

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

BOOK: Girl, Woman, Other
By Bernadine Evaristo

REVIEWER: Liz Promen

NEXT BOOK: Caste, the Origins of Our Discontent
By Isabelle Wilkerson

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, February 26, 7:15 p.m.

with game night host Cynthia Jacobus

Spouses and significant other are welcome to join in!
Watch for email with instructions and Zoom link.

Contact Cynthia Jacobus if you would like to join the group.
cynthiacobus@cox.net



A Note from Veronique Pluviose



Thank you, Patsy, Mary, Joanne and the Sherwood Library. It is an honor to serve the public - and it was made even more special talking with members of the AAUW family. Your advocacy is invaluable.

Best,
Veronique

AAUW COMMENTS FOR 2021 VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(These AAUW comments were placed on record and directed to members of the House Labor and Commerce Sub-Committee of the 2021 Virginia General Assembly. They refer to H.B.2016, which would establish a paid family/medical leave program in Virginia.)

Information comes from Susan Burk, AAUW-VA Public Policy Co-Chair

On behalf of the more than 1,000 members of the American Association of University Women of Virginia in 24 branches around the Commonwealth, we urge the Committee on Labor and Commerce to support for HB 2016 that will provide for the establishment of a paid family and medical leave program in Virginia.

AAUW of Virginia is committed to achieving equity for women and girls and creating a secure economic future for all Virginians. At some point, most workers will need time away from work to deal with a serious personal or family illness or to care for a new child. The situation becomes more acute for those individuals in the “sandwich” generation, i.e., those caring for aging parents and for children simultaneously. The 1993 Family and Medical Leave Act was an important step to protect an employee’s position during an extended leave without pay. Many workers,

especially women who are already disadvantaged by the gender pay gap, cannot afford to lose pay while caring for a new baby or an aging parent and are forced to return to work prematurely. Racial health and economic disparities are compounded by the lack of access to paid family and medical leave.

Women of color suffer most from the continuation of these disparities and challenges.

The benefits to employees are many:

- A paid family and medical leave program will make it possible for women to stay home with newborns and young children, increasing parents’ ability to attend medical visits and decrease infant and post-neonatal mortality rates.
- It allows ill or injured adults time to recover and gives family members time to care for sick relatives, including older family members with health problems.
- This, in turn, helps those individuals recover from illness and avoid complications, reducing hospital readmissions and health costs.
- A well-designed paid family and medical leave program provided through public policies has the potential to strengthen economic security for Virginia’s families, especially its families of color.
- Economically secure women and families are good for Virginia’s businesses.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR

A TOWN HALL ON AAUW OF VIRGINIA, March 9, 2021 – 7 p.m.

***with Leslie Tourigny and Suzanne Rothwell
AAUW of Virginia Co-Presidents***

Join us for a virtual town hall on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at 7 p.m. for a briefing on the activities of your state board and to answer questions.

This event is especially for new members (those who have joined AAUW in the past three years) and those who feel like they are new members.

Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7TCVMvEESO6-AKuKrZ0INA

AAUW OF VIRGINIA CONFERENCE 2021



The conference is being held **virtually March 13-15, 2021**.
An interesting agenda and speakers have been planned.

You will want to participate!

- On **Saturday, March 13**, our sessions will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- On **Sunday, March 14**, and **Monday, March 15**, we will be in session from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. each day.

There will be no cost to attend the conference.

Conference Schedule and Registration Information [here](#)

LEGACY CIRCLE



Thank You 2020 Legacy Circle Members

AAUW gratefully acknowledges the [35 visionary women and men](#) who joined AAUW's Legacy Circle in 2020. By making a planned gift to AAUW National, Legacy Circle members embrace AAUW's critical mission as part of their personal legacy. **There are now 686 living members of the Legacy Circle dedicated to advancing equity for future generations.**

Growing the Next Generation

Including AAUW in your estate plans is a lovely way to leave an enduring legacy that will support women and girls long into the future.

WILL YOU CONSIDER BECOMING NUMBER 687?? Our branch currently has three Legacy Circle Members: **Patsy Quick, Cheryl Spohnholz, and Mary Wall.**

Here's more info: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/support-aauw/leave-a-legacy/>

AAUW NATIONAL ELECTION 2021



It's your AAUW, and your voice counts. It's time to comment on and propose changes to the AAUW bylaws and Public Policy Priorities.

This spring AAUW members will be asked to vote on amendments to the Public Policy Priorities and bylaws, in addition to electing members to the national Board of Directors. Every AAUW member has the right to comment on proposed changes to the bylaws or Public Policy Priorities before they are put to the membership for a vote.

[Here](#) you'll find all the information you need to comment on proposed bylaws and Public Policy Priorities changes or propose your own changes. Comments and proposed amendments can be submitted until February 5, 2021 at 5:00 pm ET.

Bylaws Amendment

This spring AAUW Members will vote on proposed changes recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee that would eliminate the degree requirement for membership. Now through February 5, 2021, you can comment on the proposed changes.

Bylaws Amendment on Open Membership

[COMMENT Now](#)

Public Policy Priorities

Every two years, AAUW members vote on revisions to our Public Policy Priorities. Now through February 5, 2021, you can comment on the changes recommended by the AAUW Public Policy Committee. The proposed edits make the following changes based on member leader feedback:

- Refinement and added specificity regarding AAUW's commitment to addressing systemic racism
- Refinement of our commitment to equitable access to higher education for all
- Emphasis on the importance of high-quality data collection

Public Policy Priorities

[COMMENT Now](#)

Key Dates for 2021 Vote

February 5	Comment period ends at 5:00 pm ET
April 7	Voting opens – online voting is encouraged
April 16	Last day to request a paper ballot
April 30	Postmark deadline for mailing paper ballots; ballots must be postmarked by 11:59 pm ET to be counted
May 17	Online voting ends at 5:00 pm ET
May 19	Vote results announced online

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
Saturday, December 5, 2020, noon Location Zoom	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
Thursday, February 25, 2021, 4 p.m. Location Zoom	Audrey Davis , Alexandria Black History Museum & and Ron Chase from Gums Springs Museum
Saturday, March 20, 2021, 10—11 a.m. Business Meeting 11:15 a.m. Meet the Author Location Zoom	Annual Business Meeting & Solveig Eggerz , Author & Branch Member
Saturday, April 17, 2021, 10:30 a.m. Location Zoom	Bob Levey , Author, Journalist (With Springfield-Annandale Branch)
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

New Members Town Hall March 9, 7 p.m.
Virtual State Conference: March 12-14, 2021
Summer Leadership Meeting: July 31, 2021 Sweet Briar College

AAUW Mt. Vernon

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

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

First Class



FEBRUARY 2021

- **2 Branch Board Meeting, 7 p.m.**
Contact Patsy Quick
703/360-8678
- **15 Book Group, 7:30 p.m.**
Contact Liz Promen
703/780-7342
- **25 Branch Program, 4 p.m.**
Contact Joanne Clark
202/270-2959
- **2 Game Night, 7:15 p.m.**
Contact Cynthia Jacobus
703/780-3806



All meetings conducted on Zoom.

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