

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 64 Issue 5 January 2021

Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

2020 The year that will go down in infamy! No need to dwell on the reasons why. Aren't we glad it's over?! I hope you and your families were able to ring in the new year in a unique and special way!
Happy New Year!

2021, for me, and many others, signifies **HOPE**.

Hope is important because it can make the present moment less difficult to bear. If we believe that tomorrow will be better, we can bear a hardship today. – Buddhist Monk, Thich Nhat Hanh

Regarding the pandemic, and the devastation it is leaving behind, hope is exactly what will get us through the coming months. Just knowing there is light at the end of the tunnel gives us the motivation to move forward with a lighter heart.

"I feel like I didn't just get a vaccine, I got a shot of hope," one doctor quoted in the New York Times said.

Yes, we now have a vaccine! But the vaccine is not going to be an immediate solution to current problems. We likely have many more months of social distancing and mask-wearing. **Hope** is what the vaccine is offering!

We are all feeling hope! **Hope** that Covid-19 finally falls quickly into the "has been" list. **Hope** that the vaccine will be taken by most. **Hope** that people will get back to work, that schools will open, and that separated families and friends will finally hug! **Hope** that the stress of the past year fades to relief.



(Continued on page 2)

BRANCH PROGRAM - JANUARY 21 - 4 P.M.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS

What is it? What are the laws? How does it affect women?



Join the Discussion!

Véronique Pluviose

Staff Director for the House Committee on Education and Labor

Registration Required

<https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/7375214>

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(Continued from page 1)

Hope that financial recovery will be possible to those most in need, and that the new normal will be better than the old normal. It's all enough to make us look to the near future with the positivity and motivation we need to face the challenges!

I am grateful for the spunk our members have shown throughout the fall. You attended our programs with the library, as well as book group and game night, in large numbers, and with a can-do attitude. As our AAUW programs continue, January 21 is the first in 2021. Our speaker, **Veronique Pluviose**, from the office of Virginia US Representative Bobby Scott, will update us on AAUW's largest area of focus: the gender pay gap. **Ms. Pluviose** will talk about the **Paycheck Fairness Act** and preview what that upcoming Congress will look like. Join us by registering [HERE](#).

Let's continue to focus on the hope and positivity that will keep us moving forward toward that proverbial light at the end of the tunnel! Let's hope to share a hug in 2021!

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:	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.

DECEMBER 5 ZOOM HOLIDAY GET TOGETHER

In spite of a crazy, disrupted year, we ended it on a high note! Our Holiday Zoom Get-together was a complex adventure in planning! We are grateful to **Paula Lettice** who hosted the Zoom event December 5. She also arranged for the delicious lunches from Cedar Knoll, which members picked up before Zooming, while at the same time donating food to United Community (UC). Members donated 100 pounds of food! Thanks so much to each of you who donated, and to **Cathy Krebs** who collected and delivered the food for us!



Paula

We are grateful to **Susan Watkins (Mississippi)**, **Mary Wall (California)**, and **Ronnie Gunnerson (Chester, MD)** for joining us on Zoom from afar. And **Anne Simpson** deserves a nod for driving to pick up lunch at Cedar Knoll, and returning to her home in Ft. Washington to Zoom with us. That took an hour for her!



Patsy

Our December raffle basket earned **\$840** for AAUW Funds. Many thanks to **Paula Lettice** who "dressed" the basket, sold the raffle tickets, and drew the winning ticket! (**Louise Priest** was the winner!) Paula also handled the technology of a couple of planned sing-alongs and a flash mob video! Patsy gave several toasts! Thanks to **Cynthia Jacobus**, who made our story-telling in three categories such a success! Prizes for great stories went to **Mary Wall**, **Janet Hedrick**, and **Patsy Quick**. Best Dressed Award went to **Ronnie Gunnerson**. Ronnie wore the Christmas shirt her daughter made for her when she was twelve!

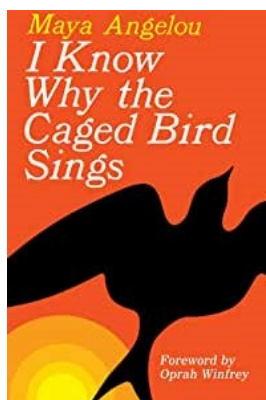
And to top it off, our members were generous in giving to AAUW Funds online as part of our holiday promotion. Thanks to all of you who donated!

Was the complex adventure worth it? Yes! We had many wonderful, positive responses including, "It really felt like a party!!" Thank you all for participating!



The screen shots are compliments of **Elaine Kolish** and **Bianca Daugherty**.

BOOK GROUP



Book Group will meet via Zoom on Monday, January 18, 7:30 p.m.

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

BOOK: **I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings**
By Maya Angelou

REVIEWER: Solveig Eggerz

NEXT BOOK: **Girl, Woman, Other**
By Bernadine Evaristo

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, January 22, 7:15 p.m.
with game night host Bianca Daugherty***

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.
cynthiajacobus@cox.net



MEET OUR SPEAKER

Véronique Pluviose is the staff director for the U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor, Democratic Staff. She is a civil rights lawyer and also has expertise in the areas of homeland security, international emergency response and recovery, census policies, intergovernmental relations, and other initiatives. She has worked on issues arising from the House Committee on the Homeland Security, as well as the House Committee on Judiciary during the impeachment of President William Jefferson Clinton. Prior to her Capitol Hill experience, she worked at the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. She is a graduate of the City College of New York and received her *juris doctor* from the University of Virginia School of Law.

NORTHERN DISTRICT MEETING



Northern District of Virginia

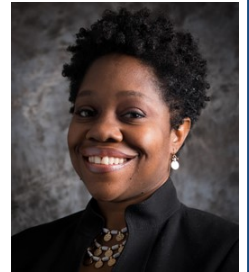
Heads up! Save the date: January 9, 2021, 10 a.m.

The **Northern District of AAUW of Virginia** is planning a Zoom program for **January 9, 2021, at 10 a.m.** This will be a panel discussion with representatives from local districts.



Karla Bruce

The topic is “**Local Governments’ Efforts on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.**” The goal of the program is to help our members in Northern Virginia to better understand what our local governments are doing related to **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.** Currently we have two confirmed panelists: **Karla Bruce**, Chief Equity Officer of Fairfax County; and **Samia Byrd**, Chief Race and Equity Officer for Arlington County. We have also asked someone from Alexandria City to participate. More details will be coming.



Samia Byrd

*** See more about [Fairfax County’s plan](#) in this outline by **Karla Bruce.** ***

AAUW OF VIRGINIA CONFERENCE 2021

Mark Your Calendar for the AAUW of Virginia Conference 2021



The conference is being held **virtually March 13-15, 2021.**
An interesting agenda and speakers are being planned.
You will want to participate!

- On **Saturday, March 13**, our sessions will be held from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm and from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 pm.
- 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 further information coming in January, including instructions about how to register.
There will be no cost to attend the conference.

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 & Ron Chase from Gums Springs Museum
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	Cancelled! 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

Northern District Meeting: January 9, 2021
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



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



All meetings conducted on Zoom.

JANUARY 2021

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