

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 64 Issue 7 March 2021

Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



March is a special month for Mt. Vernon AAUW. It is the month when we gather in what we call the **Annual Business**

Meeting. During this meeting we hold elections, accept reports of the board officers and committees, and amend [the bylaws](#) as necessary. We also will discuss ideas for possible programs for the next year. This year we will celebrate the many volunteers who have stepped up during challenging times and moved our branch forward in amazing ways. We will also elect a President, Vice President of Programs, and Secretary. Of course, like all of our other meetings, this one will be on **Zoom, March 20, 10:00 a.m.** and will last no longer than one hour. At 11:00 the public will be joining us to hear one of our own members, **Solveig Eggerz**, talk about her book ***Sigga of Reykjavik***.

The state AAUW will also hold an Annual Business Meeting and Conference. The theme is **Women**

Make the Difference! The event will be offered over 3 days, **March 13-15** on Zoom. Registration and information on the speakers can be found here: <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/conference-2/> You can register separately for each day. Great care has been taken to make the conference not only interesting but easy to participate in by limiting the amount of time anyone is expected to sit and listen. AAUW-VA Women of Achievement Award will be presented and **Kim Churches**, CEO of AAUW will speak on Day 1, March 13. Topics range from education, legislation, the military, and poverty; you will learn how women are making a difference all across our nation. I hope you will register!

As we move into March, let's march into a spring that is filled with the hope that we will be meeting in person before too long. Until then, I look forward to seeing you on Zoom!

Thank you all for participating to the fullest during these strange times.

Patsy

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING & BRANCH PROGRAM

**Join us for our annual business meeting
on Saturday, March 20, 10–11 a.m.**

After a short break, we will hear from branch member **Solveig Eggerz**, author of two very successful books about her native Iceland. She will be discussing strong female protagonists and her novel, **"Sigga of Reykjavik,"** the powerful story of an Icelandic woman fighting to find her authentic place in a world dominated by men before and during WWII.



**More information and registration for the business meeting
and branch program on page 3**

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Fifty participants joined us to celebrate Black History Month. Everyone enjoyed learning about the Alexandria Black History Museum from **Audrey Davis**, the director, and the Gum Springs Museum from its director **Ron Chase**. Audrey gave us highlights of the exhibits at her museum, enticing all of us to visit when it reopens after the pandemic. Ron Chase shared the history of the Gum Springs community, founded by a formerly enslaved man at George Washington's Mt. Vernon. His many photographs were particularly interesting to those of us who live nearby. This event was a great way to honor the history of the Black people in our community.



Robert Robinson Library
in Alexandria



West Ford was willed 160 acres of land adjoining Mount Vernon by Bushrod Washington in 1829. In 1933, West Ford sold his land and purchased 214 acres adjacent to it which he later divided up into four 52-3/4 acres for his children. After the Civil War his property became a refuge and depot for freed slaves. The area is known today as Gum Springs.

The meeting was recorded by Sherwood Regional Library. We will share the link when available.



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

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



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.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND BRANCH PROGRAM

March 20 Day of Celebration Join us via Zoom



10.00-11.00 a.m. Mt. Vernon AAUW Annual Business Meeting

11:15 a.m. Meet our Member and Author Solveig Eggerz

The Annual Business Meeting will be a celebration of a year like no other! We will thank those members who made it possible, elect branch officers, and begin planning for next year.

The link to register for the Business Meeting will be sent out by email the day before the meeting.

After the meeting, our own Solveig Eggerz will talk to us about

Strong Icelandic Female Protagonists: Fictional and Real

Join us on Zoom. [Register Here!](#)

Registration closed 24 hours before the meeting. Call the library to register after that: 703/765-3645.

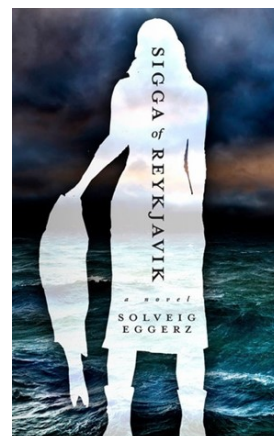


A native of Iceland, **Solveig** has lived in Alexandria since 1974 where she has worked as a writer, a teacher of writing and editing, and as a storyteller of folk and fairy tales. Her first book, **Seal Woman (2008)**, is historical fiction set in Iceland, Germany, and Poland. Currently she teaches creative writing to underserved populations for the Alexandria non-profit, Heard, and for The Writer's Center, Bethesda, MD.

Her books can be purchased through her website: <https://solveigeggerz.com>

Her Book: Sigga of Reykjavik, (2019)

Sigma, a feisty fish woman, seeks dignity and independence in the gritty era before Iceland's feminist revolution. She struggles against a backdrop of economic Depression, which gives way to the free flow of money, when Iceland is occupied by Allied soldiers during World War II. How does Sigga cope with the joys and dangers that nearly 50,000 good-looking Allied soldiers with money in their pockets and a penchant for good times pose for the sparsely populated island?



ELECTIONS AHEAD

Great News! These members have agreed to be nominated for the following leadership positions in the Mt. Vernon Branch for the two year term of 2021-2023

President



Patsy Quick

Program Vice President



Solveig Eggerz

Secretary



Paula Lettice

Elections will take place at our Annual Meeting, March 20!

Thank you to Lois Passman who served as Nominations Chair.

AAUW FUNDS

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

***Kudos to our Branch members for stepping up in a difficult year
to support AAUW funds in 2020!!!***



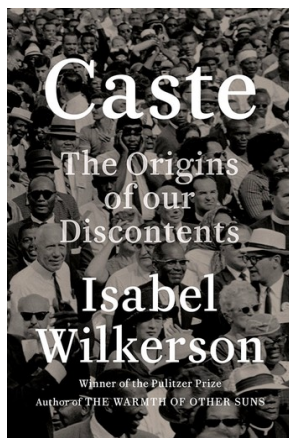
The majority of the contributions to AAUW national funds comes from branch and member donations. That underscores the importance every year of branch and member contributions, and especially the impact in 2020, as many foundations and corporations that normally contribute to AAUW national funds cut back drastically on funding last year. You answered AAUW's plea for help in a big way!

Our branch donations totaling \$5,579 were second highest of 24 branches in the state (behind only McLean), and leading other larger branches. In addition to individual donations of \$3,534, AAUW Funds received \$2,045 from our branch directly, including memorial gifts and LTA ticket donations.

Your generosity made us eligible to name **11 Honorees, to be announced at the Annual Business Meeting on March 20.** Hope you can attend the Annual Meeting and share in our **Mount Vernon Branch Pride!**

Kathi Hanrahan
AAUW Funds Chair

BOOK GROUP



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

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

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

REVIEWER: Barbara Mann

NEXT BOOK: Mr. Penumbra's 24-hour Bookstore
By Robin Sloan

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, March 26, 7:15 p.m.
with game night host Paula Lettice***

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



WELCOME TO OUR BRANCH



**A Warm Welcome to
Patricia Kenny-Priest.**

Patricia is presently a federal employee at the Bureau of Census. Previously, for 18 years, she was the Administrator of a chain of 7 early childhood centers. She is an active member of the Unitarian

Church.

She and her husband have two adult children. Patricia enjoys gardening and swimming.

Daylight Saving Time Starts



Sunday, March 14, 2021

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.

By making a planned gift to AAUW National, you become a member of the **AAUW Legacy Circle** and affirm your commitment to equity. These gifts — or bequests — are donations that you designate in your will, estate or trust.

There is no minimum gift requirement to join the **Legacy Circle**, and the benefits are many. For example:

- Planned gifts afford you flexibility to provide for your family and support AAUW.
- Certain planned gifts may reduce estate or capital gains taxes.
- Planned gifts need not affect your cash flow during your lifetime.
- Certain types of planned gifts allow you to support AAUW while also providing income for the rest of your life — or a fixed income for a loved one.
- The joy of knowing that your legacy gift will sustain AAUW's programs for years to come is the ultimate benefit!

To learn more, contact

Kristin Moyer (Legacy Circle Virginia, Vienna Branch member) at kcmoyer65@gmail.com or click here <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/support-aauw/leave-a-legacy/>

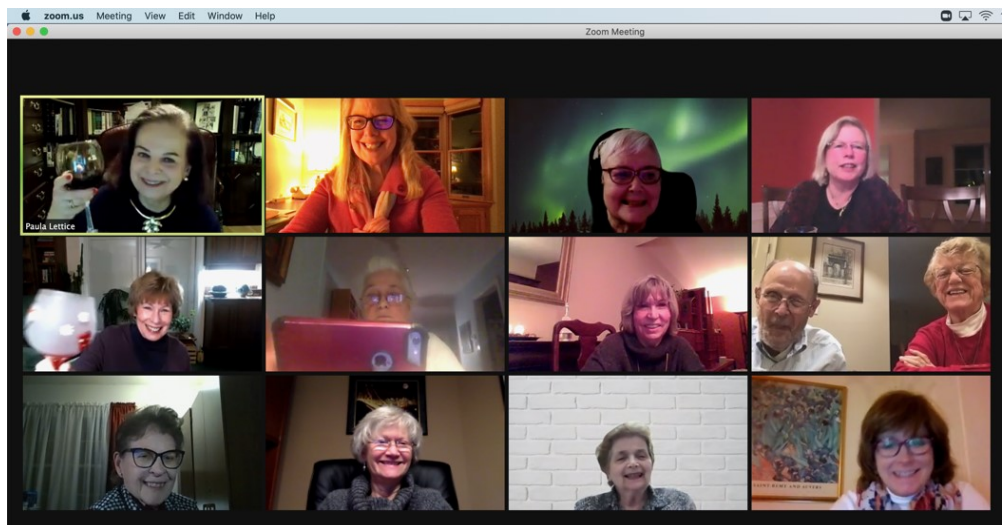
You can also enroll online at the above link.

(This information is from the link above.)

"Dining Out, Actually Out ... in the Age of COVID"

After a year's hiatus due to the pandemic, our branch **Dining Out** group gathered on Sunday, February 7 via Zoom. It was the final day of Restaurant Week, so some purchased their dinners from participating restaurants.

There were 11 of us who Zoomed in! Thanks Lowry Mann and Richard Simpson for joining us. It was nice to see everyone without a meeting agenda and just talk, share, and laugh! We were awesome competition with the Super Bowl!



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](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR A TOWN HALL FOR NEW MEMBERS OF 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

Catch up on Past AAUW Webinars

New Resource—Browse Our Webinars

It's been nearly a year since AAUW National started offering regular webinars with compelling content ranging from professional development to social justice to advocacy and more. Peruse recent offerings or browse by topic on our [new archive page](#).



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, 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 13-15, 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



MARCH 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
- **20 Business Meeting & Branch Program, 10 a.m.**
Contact Patsy Quick
703/360-8678
- **26 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 AAUW-VA
14	15 Book Group	16	17	18	19	20 ABM and Branch Program
	Conference & Business Mtg					
21	22	23	24	25	26 Game Night	27
28	29	30	31			