

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 64 Issue 9

May 2021

Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Our AAUW program year is winding down. I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the board for their hard work in making this difficult year a banner one. They have attended board meetings, led our interest groups, and have shown up for our programs. They have advocated for our national mission and vision. They have provided counsel and encouragement to me. Who are they? Check out the list on page 2 of this newsletter. Each person is a star in her own right and on May 20, at our gathering, we will celebrate that. Many people on the board are appointed, not elected. If you are interested in serving on the board in some capacity, please let me know.

One way that you can be involved next year (2021-22) is to attend our planning meeting on June 5. We hope to be able to meet in person and will let you know the location as soon as it is determined. On that day we will discuss and select, from a list that is being



compiled, our upcoming programs. If you have program ideas, please send them to me to add to the list. There are other important decisions to be made such as deciding whether to start a new interest group. You will hear more about that at the meeting. I hope you will join us on June 5.

The most important way you can be involved next year is to RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP! You have already received one notice of renewal encouragement, and will receive others if you have not yet acted on the first. See **Anne Simpson's** article (page 2) on the two ways you can renew.

You, and your passion and commitment, are the heart of our branch. We value and take pride in each and every one of you. You are what makes this a fun, informative, and lively branch.

Can't wait to see you on May 20! Stay safe and well.

Patsy

LET'S GET TOGETHER—SOCIAL GATHERING MAY 20



May Social Gathering Replaces Potluck Dinner
May 20, 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (Rain date May 21)

Paula Lettice's Patio
9016 Nomini Lane

Around 20 members responded to the initial poll asking who would attend an outdoor, in-person gathering featuring savories and sweets. The gathering meets the Governor's expanded capacity and social gathering limits, which will increase beginning Saturday, May 15. We were excited by the response! All attendees will have had their vaccinations at least 2 weeks prior. They are asked to bring a sweet or savory to serve 6 individuals. They are also asked to BYOD...Bring Your Own Drink.

It has been over a year since we last gathered in-person so this will truly be a time of joyful reunion and catching up! Thanks to all who responded. Look for details coming. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Renewal Statements have been emailed in April. You can pay by check as always, but a more convenient and efficient way is to pay with a credit card following the link in the email. Once you pay, you will not get another statement. If you haven't, you will get a statement about once a month until September. Last year we received recognition for our retention rate. Let's do it again!

AAUW National Individual Membership dues are \$62, state dues are \$15, and branch dues are \$13. Don't forget that \$59 of your AAUW membership is tax deductible and you have access to exclusive discounts on insurance, hotels, prescriptions and more, as well as equity updates and opportunities to take action!



PUBLIC POLICY - LET'S GET OUT THE VOTE

(Reminder from Denise Murden, VA State AAUW Public Policy VP)



It is time to vote again! Virginia Town Elections will occur on **May 4** in Clarke County, **Fairfax County**, Shenandoah County, and Washington County. At time of this publication, voters in Virginia Town Elections must have registered previously, since the registration for Town Elections was April 12.

Democratic and Republican Primary Elections will be held on **June 8**. Virginia voters can vote in either party's primary, but not both. **Deadline for new registrations and updating of an existing registration is May 17.**

Voting absentee in person or by mail, as well as in-person on Election Day, are all available options for voting in these elections.

Let's Get Out The Vote!

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

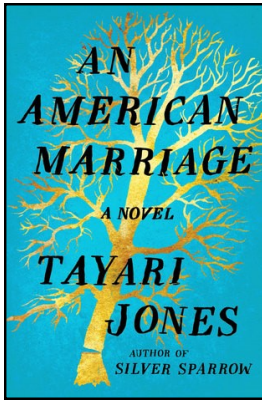
Interest Groups

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.

BOOK GROUP



Book Group will meet via Zoom on Monday, May 17, 7:30 p.m.

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

BOOK: **An American Marriage**
By Tayari Jones

REVIEWER: Patsy Quick

NEXT BOOK: **Giver of Stars**
By Jojo Moyes

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

GAME NIGHT

Woohoo....In Person Game Night is back!

Join us for fun and games on Friday, May 28, 7:15 p.m.

Home of Anne Simpson

Watch for email from Anne closer to the date with more information.

Contact **Cynthia Jacobus** if you would like to join the group:
cynthiajacobus@cox.net.



Spouses and significant others are welcome to join in!

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBER



The Reverend **Cynthia McKenna**, Rector and Senior Pastor, for Trinity Episcopal Church in Fredericksburg, VA, arrived there on New Year's Day and is settling into her life in a new town, new church, and new possibilities. She is a transfer from AAUW Corpus Christi, Texas. Previously she served as Associate Rector for Healing Ministries at All Saints' Episcopal in Corpus Christi. Born in New Mexico, she lived in Texas most of her adult life. She is a Myers Briggs Facilitator and worked as a psychotherapist for 15 years. **Cynthia** tells us she is delighted to be in Virginia and is excited to meet us, her new AAUW colleagues. In her free time she loves to be outside watching birds or just enjoying fresh air. She loves to cook, garden, fiber arts, and making great cheddar cheese.

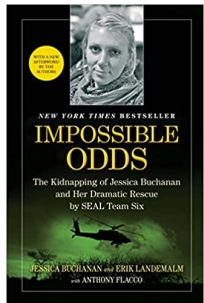
WELCOME TO OUR BRANCH!

SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM YEAR!

Our program year 2020-2021 is coming to a close. In case you missed some of our programs or just want to view them again, please find the links to the video recordings below. A big thank you to Joi Jackson, Sherwood Regional Library. The January program recording is not available at this time. November, February, and April have not been uploaded to YouTube yet but are available for download until May 27.

September 17, 2020 - The Black Experience in Mt. Vernon

An interview with **Queenie Cox**, local activist and President of the New Gum Springs Civic Association, discussing issues impacting the oldest African American community in Fairfax County. Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xltf6Qi7IVM>



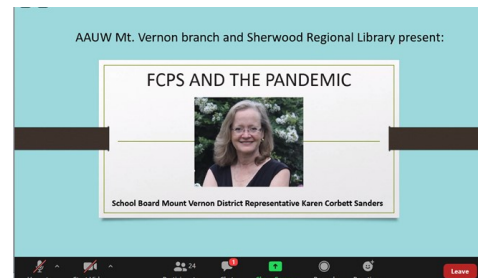
October 15, 2020 - Impossible Odds - Meet Author Jessica Buchanan

Jessica discussed her book "Impossible Odds" that recounts her kidnapping as an aid worker and her rescue by Seal Team Six.

Video link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKo6_zO_GM

November 19, 2020 - Discussion with Fairfax County School Board Chair, Karen Corbett Sanders on how school children (and teachers and staff) are managing during this pandemic.

Video link: <https://fairfaxcounty-ent.sharefile.com/share/view/s7ffe73f63c16460fb3dedd3eed21a290>

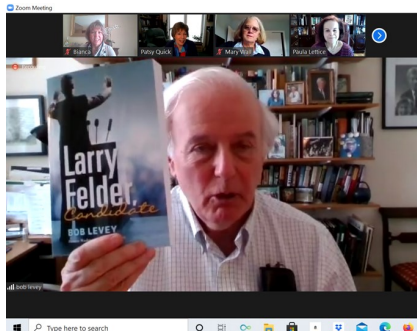


February 25, 2021 - History in our Midst

Historical presentation by **Ms. Audrey Davis**, Director of the Alexandria Black History Museum, and **Mr. Ron Chase**, Director of the Gum Springs Historical Society and Museum. Video link: <https://fairfaxcounty-ent.sharefile.com/d-sed2be03b347b4b2aeee35ac1f951f0d2>

March 20, 2021 - Meet author Solveig Eggerz

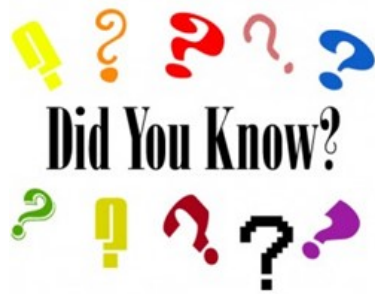
Solveig is the author of two very successful books about her native Iceland. She discussed her novel, "Sigga of Reykjavik," the powerful story of an Icelandic woman fighting to find her authentic place in a world dominated by men before and during WWII. Video link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_h1G83uQQ



April 17, 2021 - Author talk: Bob Levey

For 23 years, Mr. Levey wrote a daily column, "Bob Levey's Washington," for The Washington Post. The column looked at all aspects of life in the nation's capital. Mr. Levey discussed his novel "Larry Felder, Candidate" and his time at the Washington Post. Video link: <https://fairfaxcounty-ent.sharefile.com/d-sed2be03b347b4b2aeee35ac1f951f0d2>

AAUW NATIONAL NEWS



AAUW has new research report!

Factory Flaw: The Attrition and Retention of Women in Manufacturing was released in early 2021. The research, made possible with a grant from The Arconic Foundation, explores the dearth of women in well-paying jobs in this sector and outlines ways employers and policymakers can recruit, retain and advance women in this field.

View the webinar about this report:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/webinars/>

AAUW has updated the Strategic Plan!

As we prepare for the 140th anniversary of AAUW in 2021, we've honed in on the key areas where AAUW can continue to lead with an improved set of goals for our plan — call it the 2.0 version. You'll note that our areas of focus have not changed; we continue to fiercely believe that our commitment to Education & Training, Economic Security and Leadership will further girls and women in all of society. To remain a cutting-edge and forward-thinking organization for today and tomorrow, AAUW must commit to best practices in Governance & Sustainability. This AAUW Strategic Plan 2.0 focuses more heavily on STEM given the generous bequest AAUW received in 2019. As our nation elevates solutions to combat systemic, structural racism, AAUW too must examine its mission work, advocacy, operations and programming to ensure that our work centers racial and gender equity at its core.

Read more: <https://www.aauw.org/strategic-plan-2-0/>

AAUW has a great new resource for members and branches!

It's called the **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Toolkit**. Webinars are being given to show how to use the information within the Toolkit. Peruse the toolkit to learn and grow on your journey to becoming a social justice ally.

Find it here: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/>

Take action on the most pressing policies.



- **Paycheck Fairness Act (PFA):** AAUW has worked for decades to pass this landmark legislation to advance pay equity, and this is the year it will finally triumph. Demand [equal pay for equal work!](#)
- **Equal Rights Amendment (ERA):** The historic amendment, which would once and for all ensure constitutional gender equality, was first proposed nearly 100 years ago. Tell your Senators to [ratify the ERA now!](#)
- **Equality Act:** America's civil rights laws should provide explicit protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Ensure your Senators know [equality means including all people!](#)

It Only Takes Two Minutes! Sign up [here](#) to become a "Two-Minute Activist."

AAUW 2020 BY THE NUMBERS



2020 BY THE NUMBERS

Amid a global pandemic that upended every aspect of life, AAUW continued to thrive, finding new ways to work toward our goal of economic security for women and girls.



30,000

People reached by our 35 free webinars featuring career tips, advice on activism, interviews with thought leaders and other educational offerings.



29

Minority-serving institutions, including 18 Historically Black Colleges and Universities, that now offer AAUW's Start Smart training, bringing the number of colleges and universities hosting the program to 142.

\$3.6million

Awarded to more than 200 recipients for the 2020-21 academic year with the goal of advancing educational opportunities for women around the globe.



62,400

Letters sent to elected officials urging immediate action on COVID relief, paid leave benefits, voter access and other key AAUW public policy priorities.

1

New learning community launched: AAUW's Equity Network offers leadership training to early- and mid-career participants who are committed to social justice.

The
EQUITY»
Network

227

Media outlets have featured AAUW's work in 2020, including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *NBC News* and more.

5

Cases that AAUW is supporting to help women fight workplace discrimination, Title IX violations and pay inequity.



180,167

Women trained in salary-negotiation skills through our **Work Smart** and **Start Smart** programs to date.

4

Research reports or updates undertaken this year, exploring the plight of Latina essential workers, women in manufacturing, how college debt disproportionately burdens women and the effect of the gender wage gap on women of color.

2020 - 2021 MT. VERNON BRANCH PROGRAM YEAR

Meeting Date and Place	Focus/Activity
Thursday, May 20, 2021, 5 p.m. Location Home of Paula Lettice	Annual Potluck - Social Gathering
June, 2021, June 5, 2021, Time TBD Location TBD	Annual Planning Session

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR ANNUAL PLANNING SESSION ON JUNE 5.

We are waiting to hear from Heritage Presbyterian Church as to whether or not we can use the Fellowship Hall for our planning meeting.



MAY 2021

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

Contact Patsy Quick
703/360-8678

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

Contact Liz Promen
703/780-7342

- 20 Branch Meeting, 5 p.m.**

Contact Patsy Quick
703/360-8678

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

Contact Cynthia Jacobus
703/780-3806

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4 Board Meeting	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Book Group	18	19	20 Social Gathering	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Game Night	29
30	31 memorial DAY					



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

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