

# Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 65 Issue 2 October 2021

Mt. Vernon Branch



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Mt. Vernon Branch is alive and well! I am so pleased that we are starting the year with in-person meetings. We are busy, busy! In following with covid health recommendations the Book Group had a successful meeting outdoors in **Elaine Kolish's** garden, **Paula Lettice** had a Dining Out carry-out event as well as Game Night at her home, an ImpromptuEvent group went to visit the Turning Point Memorial and the Lucy Burns Museum on Women's Equality Day, and our Public Policy Chair, **Mary Ellen Mehler**, had volunteers writing Reclaim

Your Vote postcards in her backyard. **Thank you to all to participated and especially to the members who hosted these events.**

It was terrific to see so many of our members at the in-person program on September 18 at Sherwood Regional Library. The topic, Protect the Vote, was one that all citizens should have heard. We learned about the voting safeguards, the pilot voting process for early voting, and other important information about voting in Fairfax County and Virginia. We also learned about the League of Women Voters (LWV) activities and forums, and Spread the Vote's efforts to help the disenfranchised obtain personal IDs. Thank you to **Solveig Eggerz** for arranging for our panelists and being a great moderator, with the help of **Diane Schrier** from the Alexandria Branch.

The October 19 program will also be important: Making Laws Equitable in Fairfax County. We will hear from the Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney on what that process is and how it is going. **Be there Tuesday, October 19, at 7:00 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library.** See more information on page 3 of the newsletter.

Our branch has a new interest group to be chaired by **Janet Hedrick**. The group is called the **Diversity Outreach Group**. It has 2 goals: to continue members' self-education on diversity, equity, and inclusion issues; and to create connections with diverse groups in our community. If you wish to join, contact Janet, using the recently emailed *Branch Member Directory*. A huge thank you goes to **Mary Wall** and **Bianca Daugherty** for creating the beautiful 2021-22 edition of the *Branch Member Directory*!

Many thanks to all those who have worked to engage our branch members and for getting us off to a great 2021-22 program year with so many activities. There is something for everyone in AAUW! Looking forward to seeing you on October 19.

*Patsy*

**Branch Program Information on page 3**

## BRANCH PROGRAM

*Tuesday*

*October 19*

*7 P.M.*

**MAKING  
LAWS MORE  
EQUITABLE  
IN FAIRFAX  
COUNTY**



**SHERWOOD  
REGIONAL  
LIBRARY**

# SUCCESSFUL KICKOFF FOR PROGRAM YEAR



On September 18 AAUW Mt. Vernon Branch successfully kicked off its first branch program with *Protect the Vote*.

If you were unable to attend, visit these websites for information:

- <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/home-page>
- <https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/>
- <https://www.spreadthevote.org/virginia>

Program VP **Solveig Eggerz** (top) introducing the speaker panel from left **Chris de Rosa, Bettina Lawson, and Sue Worden**



## BRANCH LEADERSHIP 2021 – 2022

### Elected Officers

<b>President:</b>	Patsy Quick
<b>Program Vice President:</b>	Solveig Eggerz
<b>Membership Vice President:</b>	Mary Wall
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Anne Simpson
<b>Secretary:</b>	Paula Lettice

### Appointed Chairs

<b>Bylaws:</b>	<b>vacant</b>
<b>AAUW Funds:</b>	Elaine Kolish
<b>Public Policy:</b>	Mary Ellen Mehler

<b>Newsletter/Website:</b>	Bianca Daugherty
<b>Newsletter/Directory Distribution:</b>	Mary Ellen Mehler
<b>Nominating Committee Chair:</b>	Lois Passman
<b>Hospitality:</b>	Cathy Krebs

### Interest Groups

<b>Book Group:</b>	Liz Promen
<b>Diversity Outreach Group:</b>	Janet Hedrick
<b>Dining Out:</b>	Paula Lettice, Cathy Conron, Bianca Daugherty
<b>Game Night:</b>	Cynthia Jacobus
<b>ImpromptEvent:</b>	Joanne Clark

**Contact Email:** [AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com](mailto: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.

# BRANCH PROGRAM OCTOBER 19

Join us at Sherwood Regional Library

2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, Virginia

Tuesday, October 19, 7:00 p.m.



## MAKING LAWS MORE EQUITABLE IN FAIRFAX COUNTY



**SPEAKER PIA J. MILLER**

**Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney  
Fairfax Commonwealth's Attorney's Office**



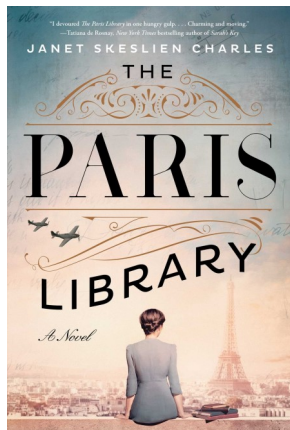
**Pia J. Miller**, a graduate of The William and Mary Law School, will discuss progress made in this area, what is currently being worked on, and what challenges she anticipates.

This is a hot topic and **Ms. Miller** will surely have an interesting update on what is going on in our county regarding equitable laws. She is new to the job, having just arrived in July, so her perspective will be fresh. **Join us!**

***The meeting is free and open to the public.  
All Fairfax Library safety protocol will be used. Masks are required.***

**Pia J. Miller** was sworn in as the **Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney for Community Justice for Fairfax County** in July 2021. Over the course of her career, she has demonstrated a proven commitment to public service and community justice. Early in **Pia's** career, she realized a desire to work for underserved populations and focused her solo practice on indigent criminal defense work. Through this work, she realized the positive impact that progressive prosecution could have in the effort to achieve criminal justice reform. In pursuit of such change, **Pia** then went to work as a prosecutor in the City of Portsmouth, where she last served as the **Acting Deputy for the Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court Team**, prosecuting intimate partner crimes and violent felonies involving juveniles and adults. In her current role, **Pia** serves as the liaison between the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney and the 1.2 million citizens of Fairfax County. **Pia's** primary goals are advancing criminal justice reform and increasing diversity within the legal profession. With these goals in mind, **Pia** is working to develop a conviction integrity review unit to review wrongful convictions and a law student internship pipeline to increase diversity among Virginia's prosecutors. **Pia** attended Northwestern University, where she obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. On Saturdays during football season, you can still find her cheering for her Wildcats. After finishing college, **Pia** returned home to Virginia and obtained her Juris Doctorate from the Marshall Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary in 2007.

## BOOK GROUP



**Book Group will meet via Zoom on Monday, October 18, 7:30 p.m.**  
**\*\*\* Zoom link will be sent via email. \*\*\***

**BOOK:** The Paris Library  
By Janet Skeslien Charles

**REVIEWER:** Joanne Clark

**NEXT BOOK:** Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the  
Wisdom of the Forest  
By Suzanne Simard

Contact **Liz Promen** if you are interested in joining the group or would like more information.  
([epromen2@gmail.com](mailto:epromen2@gmail.com))

## GAME NIGHT

AAUW Game Nights are on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month. Our next game night will be on

**Friday, October 22, from 7:15 P.M. until approximately 11 P.M.**

**Cynthia and Tom Jacobus**  
**will host AAUW Game Night at their home.**



We are able to **meet in person** over our **board games** because we have confidence that **each gamer is fully vaccinated!** **If you too are fully vaccinated and would like to join us, you are invited to our October Game Night** after RSVP'ing to Cynthia by their home land line 703/780-3806 or e-mail [cynthiajacobus@cox.net](mailto:cynthiajacobus@cox.net).

Cynthia wants to **thank Paula Lettice for hosting the first *in person* AAUW Game Night on September 22 with a "full house"** (Poker is not a game we play.) We will set up a **2021-2022 AAUW Game Night Schedule of hosts** at Cynthia and Tom's in October so that gives new interested players an opportunity to participate. **New players, not previous (I *didn't* say "old") please bring your COVID vaccination card.**



**Hope to have you join us playing classic board games!**  
**Spouses and significant others are welcome to join in!**

A branch **ImpromptEvent** will take place on October 16, when 11 branch members will tour the **Gum Springs Museum and Historical Society**. A second will be scheduled for the overflow interest. So stay tuned for more information!

Joanne Clark  
ImpromptEvent

# NEW BRANCH DIVERSITY OUTREACH GROUP



The organizational meeting of the new **Diversity Outreach Group** within the Mt. Vernon Branch of AAUW was held on September 7, 2021.

The attendees were: **Janet Hedrick, Cathy Krebs, Lois Passman, Patsy Quick, and Ebba Jo Spettel.**

**by Layla F. Saad.** The book includes answering questions in a journal format. These questions will guide the group's discussion.

In addition to discussing this book, the group will review other relevant topics and will participate in other programs which will assist in meeting the over-all goals of the group. **The group will consider activities of other branches such as the Roanoke Valley Branch, which has an outstanding DEI program.**

Following the group's organizational meeting, **Patsy Quick** provided the attendees and those who had expressed interest in the Diversity Group a number of resources from AAUW. She also extended an invitation to members of the branch to join the group if interested. To date, twelve members of the branch have indicated interest in the group and **Janet Hedrick** has indicated she will lead the group noting her "passion" for this topic.

The resources from AAUW include:

- **AAUW webinars on DEI** as they are available
- **The AAUW DEI Toolkit**
- **The state (AAUW-VA) DEI committee report**
- **The AAUW-VA DEI Resource web page**

**Anyone who would like to join the new Mt. Vernon AAUW Diversity Outreach Group should contact Janet Hedrick at [jhedrick815@gmail.com](mailto:jhedrick815@gmail.com) and plan to attend our upcoming meeting on Wednesday, October 13 at 7 p.m.**

## AT THE MEETING, THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS WERE MADE.

**Our goal/mission is two-pronged:**

- **Continue learning and talking together about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) issues.**
- **Actively work to create connections with diverse groups in our community and get to know them as friends and neighbors. The group wants to invite a diverse group of people to our branch programs with the ultimate goal of a more diverse branch membership. A complete plan needs to be developed to lead us toward this goal.**

**The Diversity Outreach Group plans to meet monthly on the second Wednesday, at 7 p.m. via Zoom. The next meeting is on October 13.**

As the group develops its plans and begins work on the outreach part of the group's mission, the members of the group will continue their learning by reading and discussing ***Me and White Supremacy***



**An ImpromptEvent** - some of our members participated in a walking tour in DC - "Sex, Scandal and Sinners Along Embassy Row" on September 27.

Share your imprompt ideas and invite your branch sisters to join you.

From left:  
Janet, Anu, Anne S, Mary, and Paula

# DATES/DEADLINES FOR VOTING IN 2021

## Important Dates for the November 2, 2021 Election



<b>Ongoing</b> (See deadline below)	<a href="#">Register to vote</a>
<b>Ongoing</b>	<a href="#">Check and, if necessary, update registration information</a>
<b>Ongoing</b> (see deadline below)	<a href="#">Apply to vote absentee by mail</a>
<b>September 17</b>	Requested absentee ballots begin to be mailed from registrar
<b>September 17</b>	<a href="#">Early in-person voting begins</a>
<b>ASAP</b> (see deadlines below)	Mail or hand deliver completed absentee ballot to registrar
<b>October 12, 5 p.m.</b>	Deadline to register to vote or update registration (in person or receipt by mail)
<b>October 12, 11:59 p.m.</b>	Deadline to register to vote or update registration (online)
<b>October 22, 5 p.m.</b>	Deadline to apply to vote absentee by mail
<b>October 30, 5 p.m.</b>	Deadline for early in-person voting at <a href="#">your local registrar</a>
<b>November 2</b>	Deadline for postmark on absentee ballot submitted by mail
<b>November 2, 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.</b>	<a href="#">Election Day Voting at assigned polling places</a>
<b>November 2, 7 p.m.</b>	Deadline for receipt of absentee ballot delivered in person
<b>November 5, 12 p.m.</b>	Deadline for receipt of absentee ballot mailed to registrar

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## SAVE THE DATE!

**October 9, 10 a.m.—12 noon**

### **Northern District Meeting**



We once again will have a virtual Northern District meeting.

**Program:** Meg Tuccillo of the Arlington Branch will present a video from **Jada Pinkett Smith's "Red Table Talk" program** on relations between women of color and white women. After the video, we will have a facilitated discussion using break-out rooms and then come back together to discuss.

**Business meeting:** After the program we will have updates from some State Board members. We will also learn about the revised **"Shape the Future"** membership discount and how your branch can use it to increase membership.

We also would like a person from your branch give a short update on upcoming branch activities and announce any special programs to which others are invited.

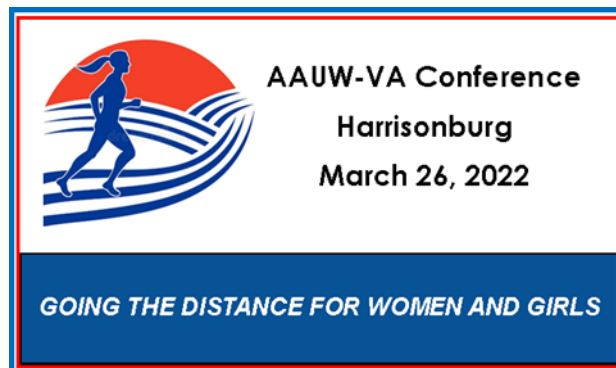
More information on registration and zoom link to follow.

Sandy and Sara  
Northern District Co-Representatives

## Save These Dates

### **2022 AAUW of Virginia Conference**

**Part 1- Saturday, March 26, 2022, in-person** at the  
Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Valley  
Conference Center, Harrisonburg, VA



**Part 2- Saturday, April 30, 2022, Virtual Annual Business Meeting**

# 2021 - 2022 MT. VERNON BRANCH PROGRAM YEAR

Meeting Date and Place	Focus/Activity
<b>Saturday, September 18, 2021, 10:30 a.m.</b> <b>Sherwood Regional Library</b> 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	<b>Protect the Vote</b> <b>Sue Worden</b> , Alexandria League of Women Voters <b>Chris DeRosa</b> , Spread the Vote <b>Bettina Lawton</b> , Vice-Chairman of the Electoral Board Fairfax County
<b>Tuesday, October 19, 2021, 7 p.m.</b> <b>Sherwood Regional Library</b> 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	<b>Making Laws More Equitable for Minorities</b> <b>Pia Miller</b> Fairfax Co. Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney
<b>Saturday, November 20, 2021, 10:30 a.m.</b> <b>Sherwood Regional Library</b> 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	<b>Alexandria Social Justice Initiative</b> <b>Jacqueline Tucker</b> , Race and Social Equity Officer. <a href="https://www.alexandriava.gov/Equity">https://www.alexandriava.gov/Equity</a>
<b>December, Date and Time TBD</b> <b>Location TBD</b>	<b>Holiday Event</b>
<b>Friday, January 14, 2022,</b> * 7 p.m. reception * 8 p.m. performance <b>Little Theatre of Alexandria</b> 600 Wolfe St, Alexandria, VA 22314	<b>LTA Annual Fundraiser</b>  <b>Bright Star (Musical)</b>
<b>Thursday, January 20, 2022, 4 p.m.</b> <b>Location ZOOM</b>	<b>Book and Author</b> <b>Policing Black Bodies</b> (Gender-based Violence) <b>Dr. Angela Hattery and Dr. Earl Smith</b>
<b>Saturday, January 22, 2022, 10 a.m.</b> <b>Location ZOOM</b>	AAUW-VA—DE&I Program <b>Creating Inclusive Spaces</b>
<b>Saturday, February 12, 2022, 10:30 a.m.</b> <b>Location ZOOM</b>	<b>Book and Author</b> <b>My City of Dreams</b> , journey into uncovering the lives of her relatives long-lost to the Holocaust. <b>Lisa Gruenberg</b>
<b>Saturday, March 19, 2022, 9:30 a.m.</b> <b>Location TBD</b>	<b>Annual Business Meeting</b>
<b>April (3<sup>rd</sup> Week), Date and Time TBD</b> <b>Sherwood Regional Library</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Thursday, May 19, 2022, Time TBD</b> <b>Location TBD</b>	<b>Annual Potluck</b>
<b>June, 2022, Date and Time TBD</b> <b>Location TBD</b>	<b>Annual Planning Session</b>

## OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

Northern District Meeting	October 10, 10 a.m. via ZOOM
AAUW of VA State Conference	March 26, 2022, Harrisonburg (Part 1)
Annual Business Meeting	April 30, 2022 via ZOOM (Part 2)



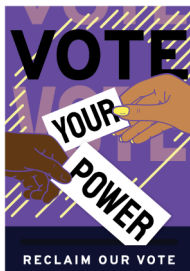
**Celebrating Women's Equality Day  
at Lorton Workhouse on August 29, 2021.**

Ronnie, Paula, Susan, Kathi, and Patsy attended the event. They also visited the **Turning Point Suffragist Memorial** which is open to visitors now. The Memorial is free, self-guided and open year-round during the park's normal hours of operation.

<https://www.novaparks.com/parks/turning-point-suffragist-memorial>



**Mt. Vernon AAUW branch participates in  
"Reclaim Our Vote" Campaign**



On September 26, several members of the Mt. Vernon branch gathered at the home of **Mary Ellen Mehler**, branch Public Policy Chair, to participate in the postcard writing campaign. The Mt. Vernon group wrote 40 postcards encouraging individual registered voters in under-represented voting districts to vote in the current election for Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, and Delegate. This effort to get out the vote is sponsored by the Center For Common Ground organization.



Mt. Vernon (VA) Branch

# OCTOBER 2021

- **5 Board Meeting, 7 p.m.**  
Contact Patsy Quick  
703/360-8678
- **13 Diversity Outreach Group**  
**7 p.m.**  
Contact Janet Hedrick  
571/213-2670
- **18 Book Group, 7:30 p.m.**  
Contact Liz Promen  
703/780-7342
- **19 Branch Program, 7 p.m.**  
Contact Solveig Eggerz  
703/203-0769
- **22 Game Night, 7:30 p.m.**  
Contact Cynthia Jacobus  
703/780-3806

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



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

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

