

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 65 Issue 3 November 2021

Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



I have been happy to see so many of you coming out for our programs and hope that for November it will be the same. **Jaqueline Tucker** will provide insights into the “All Alexandria” commitment to racial and social justice. If you want to be informed of the amazing number of activities and projects, sign up for various e-newsletters from this page link: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Equity> Scroll down to see various projects. From the menu on the left click on “Communications and Public Information.” You can sign up for the 21 Day Racial Equity Challenge here: [https://www.alexandriava.gov/manager/default.aspx?](https://www.alexandriava.gov/manager/default.aspx?id=122839)

[id=122839](https://www.alexandriava.gov/manager/default.aspx?id=122839) I am sure Jaqueline will tell us about these things and more. A big thank you to **Anne Simpson** who was the point of contact for this program.

Janet Hedrick has been distributing tickets for our fundraiser, *Bright Star*, at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, January 14, 2022. If you have not let her know how many tickets you would like, email her at AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com. Thank you, Janet, for being proactive in distributing our 72 tickets!

Joanne Clark planned two tours to Gum Springs Museum in October and as a result branch members are actively searching for ways to assist in convincing local government officials to approve the Gum Spring Historical Overlay District. More on that as we learn what we need to do.

Paula Lettice has been working behind the scenes to plan a *Holiday Luncheon on Sunday, December 12*, at Cedar Knoll. She is also planning two baskets to raffle. Please respond when she asks for reservations.

Bianca Daugherty plays a huge part in the publication of the state newsletter, the *Vision*. I hope you clicked and read the newsletter sent to you via email on October 21.

Solveig Eggerz has stayed on top of our programs, speakers, and connections at the library. Thank you, Solveig, for your persistent efforts to get the information we need from our speakers.

Cynthia Jacobus opened her home to Game Night in October. Thank you for your delicious food and the great variety of games you had ready for the gamers.

Our branch is in good shape thanks to the many hands that help make light work! We do serious business and have fun in so many ways. Many thanks to all who work behind the scenes and to those in leadership positions.

Patsy

BRANCH PROGRAM

Saturday

November 20

10:30 a.m.

**ADVANCING
RACIAL AND
SOCIAL
EQUITY IN
ALEXANDRIA**

**SHERWOOD
REGIONAL
LIBRARY**

[Info on page 3](#)

**AAUW-VA joins other state lobbying organizations
for Build Back Better priorities.**

AAUW-VA and twenty other public service organizations in Virginia have circulated an open letter to Virginia lawmakers urging their support for specific priorities in the federal administration’s **Build Back Better** plan. The letter was mailed to Virginia Senators and Representatives on October 8.

The following mentioned requests will affect Virginia workers, families, and small businesses:

- Invest in more affordable and accessible care for children, the elderly, and people with disabilities thereby creating as many as 360,000 new jobs.
- Raise wages for people who work in the care sector, thereby boosting their economic prospects and our state’s economy.
- Ensure that all Virginia working people have access to up to 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave per year.



It Only Takes Two Minutes!

Join AAUW in urging Congress to improve and expand legislation protecting our civil rights, economic security, and access to education.

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

BRANCH LEADERSHIP 2021 – 2022

Elected Officers

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

Appointed Chairs

Bylaws: **vacant**
AAUW Funds: Elaine Kolish
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
Diversity Outreach Group: Janet Hedrick
Dining Out: Paula Lettice, Cathy Conron, Bianca Daugherty
Game Night: Cynthia Jacobus
ImpromptEvent: Joanne Clark

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.

BRANCH PROGRAM NOVEMBER 20

Join us at Sherwood Regional Library

2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, Virginia

Saturday, November 20, 10:30 am



ADVANCING RACIAL AND SOCIAL EQUITY IN ALEXANDRIA

Speaker: Jaqueline Tucker
Race and Social Equity Officer
for the City of Alexandria

Jaqueline Tucker will speak on her role in directing the City government's race and social equity programs. She will discuss how she is working to build a framework to ensure policy decisions advance race and social equity for all Alexandria residents, collaborating with City departments, employees, community members and other stakeholders to help Alexandria become a more equitable community.

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



Tucker holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Butler University and a Juris Doctor from the Howard University School of Law. A former educator who witnessed the injustices of systemic inequity firsthand in her Houston, Texas classroom, she brings extensive experience to Alexandria. As a Texas bar-certified attorney, she was a legal analyst with Deloitte and Touche, a Freedom of Information attorney with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a community organizer with Families Empowered, and an aide to several members of the U.S. Congress. She also served as the first East Region Project Manager for the Government Alliance for Race and Equity (GARE), a national network of governments working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all. The City of Alexandria joined GARE in February 2019.

At GARE, **Tucker** developed relationships with government leaders and staff to analyze policies and practices through a racial equity lens. She also provided technical assistance and coaching to local, state and regional governments from Virginia to Maine, on capacity-building mechanisms for policy intervention, organizational transformation and strategy development on the issue of race and social equity. **Tucker** was instrumental in planning and convening the first-ever, metropolitan Washington, D.C. regional learning cohort of local government staff to advance racial equity and opportunities for all, a partnership with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and GARE.

BOOK GROUP



FINDING THE MOTHER TREE

Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest

SUZANNE SIMARD

Book Group will meet via Zoom on Monday, November 15, 7:30 p.m.
***** Zoom link will be sent via email. *****

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

REVIEWER: Susan Farmer

NEXT BOOK: Four Winds
By Kristin Hannah

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

GAME NIGHT



Our next game night will be on

Friday, November 19,
from 7:30 p.m. until approximately 11 p.m.
Home of Patsy Quick



Spouses and significant others are welcome to join in!

Our Mt. Vernon branch holds a Game Night **the fourth Friday monthly gathering at 7:15 p.m.** We play a great variety of card games and changing board games. **If you are interested in joining this year 2021-2022 until June, please contact your AAUW Game chair Cynthia Jacobus, 703/780-3806 or cynthiajacobus@cox.net.**

In person: We are guided by the CDC. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/variant.html>. All current Game Night members are **fully vaccinated**.

Let the games continue *in person!*

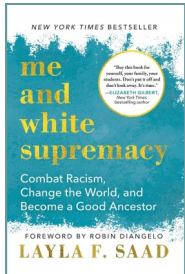
Cynthia Jacobus



On October 9, the Mt. Vernon Branch participated for the second year in the Crest Annual Fall Fair to talk about AAUW's mission and branch activities.

Representing our branch were Anne Gulyassy, Mary Wall, and Paula Lettice.

The next meeting of the Diversity Outreach Group will be on **Wednesday, November 10, from 7 - 8:30 p.m.** via Zoom. The group will watch and discuss an episode of **Red Table Talk**, a series of programs in which Jada Pinkett Smith, her mother and her daughter discuss various topics. This episode is titled **“The Racial Divide”** and deals with the relationships between women of color and white women. Following the video, the group will discuss our thoughts about the dialogue between the participants. Included in the discussion on the video are the producer of the program who is a white woman and the famed diversity educator Jane Elliott.



In December, when the group meets on **Wednesday, December 8**, the discussion on the book **Me and White Supremacy** by **Layla F. Saad** will continue with a review of Week 2 and the questions posed for each day of that week.

If you are interested in understanding the experiences of people of color and in exploring the way we relate to people of color, you are welcome to join the group. Just contact **Janet Hedrick** to indicate your interest.

IMPROMPTUEVENT: VISITING THE GUM SPRINGS MUSEUM

On Saturday October 16 and 23 members of the AAUW Mt Vernon Branch toured the **Gum Springs Museum**. Located near Mt Vernon and founded by Freedman, **West Ford**, Gum Springs was a place for Blacks to “assimilate runaway and freed slaves to prevail.” Many of its forbearers tended George Washington’s estate at Mt Vernon before they were freed at the death of his wife Martha. The Quakers are credited with providing assistance and skills training to the estate slaves to add toward their growth toward independence. Today Gum Springs has more than 2,500 residents and as many as 500 descendants of the original families.



In meeting with **Mr. Ron Chase**, Founding Director, we learned Gum Springs is seeking a “historical overlay designation” to prevent any encroachment on the property to ensure that it is protected from tearing down buildings and/or building high-rises when the Route 1 road widening is completed. Note: this is not a “historical designation” as that only protects a single building or place. Any support we can provide, including letters to our local Fairfax County and State representatives, is appreciated.



Mr. Chase gave us a tour of the museum that has an impressive collection of artifacts, pictures, and stories. We came away with a much better understanding of the rich history right here in our community.

*Mary Wall
Membership VP*

LTA FUNDRAISER JANUARY 14, 2022

By now you all have received the email letter from **Janet Hedrick** and **Cheryl Spohnholtz** regarding our annual fundraiser at the Little Theatre of Alexandria. The play is *Bright Star* and we have **ONLY 72 TICKETS @ \$35 each** to sell or purchase. This is due to social distancing requirements. For the same reason there will be no reception beforehand. Contact **Janet** at AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com to reserve your tickets. No food to prepare and deliver! **This year's fundraiser will have a little different feel, but...**

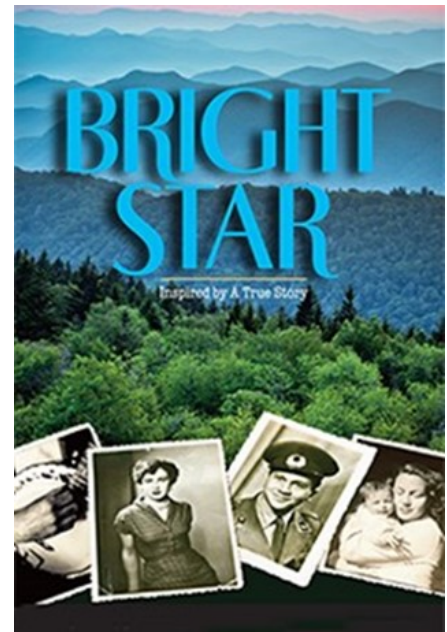
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS PURCHASE A TICKET AND SHOW UP TO SIT AND RELAX AND ENJOY THE PERFORMANCE!

Mt. Vernon and Alexandria AAUW
Present a Fundraiser Performance
Little Theatre of Alexandria

BRIGHT STAR

January 14, 2022
8:00 p.m.
Tickets \$35

This Tony Award nominated musical created by comedy legend Steve Martin and Grammy winner Edie Brickell, is a sweeping tale of love and redemption set in the American South during the 1920s and 1940s. This emotional story weaves two chapters in the life of literary editor Alice Murphy and an ambitious young soldier just home from World War II. Their connection helps discover a stunning secret with the power to transform their lives. This original and hopeful musical, based on a true story, is propelled by a rousing country and bluegrass score.



House Rules: Proof of vaccination required at the door. Masks required inside. Social distancing will be practiced.

2021 - 2022 MT. VERNON BRANCH PROGRAM YEAR

Meeting Date and Place	Focus/Activity
Saturday, September 18, 2021, 10:30 a.m. Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	Protect the Vote Sue Worden , Alexandria League of Women Voters Chris DeRosa , Spread the Vote Bettina Lawton , Vice-Chairman of the Electoral Board Fairfax County
Tuesday, October 19, 2021, 7 p.m. Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	Making Laws More Equitable for Minorities Pia Miller Fairfax Co. Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney
Saturday, November 20, 2021, 10:30 a.m. Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	Alexandria Social Justice Initiative Jaqueline Tucker , Race and Social Equity Officer. https://www.alexandriava.gov/Equity
Sunday, December 12, 2021, 11:30 a.m. Cedar Knoll Restaurant 9030 Lucia Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308	Holiday Event
Friday, January 14, 2022, 8 p.m. Little Theatre of Alexandria 600 Wolfe St, Alexandria, VA 22314	LTA Annual Fundraiser Bright Star (Musical)
Thursday, January 20, 2022, 4 p.m. Location ZOOM	Book and Author Policing Black Bodies (Gender-based Violence) Dr. Angela Hattery and Dr. Earl Smith
Saturday, January 22, 2022, 10 a.m. Location ZOOM	AAUW-VA—DE&I Program Creating Inclusive Spaces
Saturday, February 12, 2022, 10:30 a.m. Location ZOOM	Book and Author My City of Dreams , journey into uncovering the lives of her relatives long-lost to the Holocaust. Lisa Gruenberg
Saturday, March 19, 2022, 9:30 a.m. Location TBD	Annual Business Meeting
April (3rd Week), Date and Time TBD Sherwood Regional Library	TBD
Thursday, May 19, 2022, Time TBD Location TBD	Annual Potluck
June, 2022, Date and Time TBD Location TBD	Annual Planning Session

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

AAUW of VA State Conference
Annual Business Meeting

March 26, 2022, Harrisonburg (Part 1)
April 30, 2022 via ZOOM (Part 2)

Save the Date: Celebrating 140 years of AAUW

AAUW couldn't have made it to 140 years without members and supporters like you. As a small token of thanks, we invite you to a celebratory virtual event on **November 17**. We will honor our history and announce the 2021 AAUW Alumnae Recognition Awardee—an outstanding fellowships and grants alumna! Stay tuned for details.



November 2, 2021

ELECTION DAY POLLS ARE OPEN
FROM 6:00 A.M. UNTIL 7:00 P.M.

The last day for in-person early voting is Saturday, October 30.

Visit the [Virginia Department of Elections website](#) for information on when and where to vote, which candidates will be on your ballot, what type of photo ID you'll need to bring, or **check your absentee ballot status**.



NOVEMBER 2021

- **2 Board Meeting, 7 p.m.**
Contact Patsy Quick
703/360-8678
- **10 Diversity Outreach Group
7 p.m.**
Contact Janet Hedrick
571/213-2670
- **15 Book Group, 7:30 p.m.**
Contact Liz Promen
703/780-7342
- **19 Branch Program
10:30 a.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 Board Meeting	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Diversity Outreach Group	11	12	13
14	15 Book Group	16	17	18	19 Game Night	20 Branch Program
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
29	30					



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

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

