

# Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 65 Issue 4 December 2021

Mt. Vernon Branch



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**T**he holiday season...the season of giving... has begun! As we think about the season of giving, remember AAUW. **Now and until December 31 your gift to AAUW will be DOUBLED!**

Giving...it is a great way to celebrate **AAUW's 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of fighting for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy and ensure that the work continues. To see the ways AAUW has progressed through the 140 years, visit the [Anniversary Hub](#) on the AAUW website. Learn about our history of influence, impact, and accomplishments.

As for accomplishments, this year alone, AAUW awarded an unprecedented **\$5 million in fellowships and grants**. This funding helps pay student debt which disproportionately affects women, particularly women of color. And it also opens doors to women and girls! As **Gloria Blackwell**, AAUW's CEO states: "Our alumnae have done remarkable work in so many different ways, and we know that this year's award recipients will continue in that esteemed tradition," Blackwell said. You can learn more about the recipients [HERE](#).

It doesn't seem possible that 2021 is nearly over. Mt. Vernon AAUW has also accomplished remarkable things this year. We have had excellent programs and our interest groups have provided engaging activities for our members. It's been a mixed bag of Zoom and in-person meetings, but we have come through a challenging year with great flourish. I'm proud of it all!

Our holiday luncheon is on December 12! Join us! Celebrate our time together, our good work, and AAUW's 140th anniversary! Happy Holidays to each of you! May the New Year be filled with the promise of great things to come.



*Patsy*

## ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON DECEMBER 12

### *Celebrate the Holiday Season with AAUW Friends*

AAUW Mt. Vernon Annual Holiday Luncheon - Sunday, December 12, 11:30 a.m.  
Cedar Knoll Restaurant - 9030 Lucia Lane, Alexandria VA 22308 (The GW Parkway)



Please plan to arrive at 11:30 a.m. for drinks and socializing. Lunch will be served at noon. You will also have a chance to win a collection of 6 red wines rated 90+ or a collection of 6 white wines rated 90+ with our holiday raffle. Tickets are \$20 each or \$50 for 3.

All proceeds will go to AAUW Funds. WINNER WILL BE DRAWN AT THE LUNCHEON. You do not have to be present to win the raffle.

**If you have not responded to the invitation that was sent out via email earlier, please contact Paula Lettice immediately at [pglettice@gmail.com](mailto:pglettice@gmail.com).**

## Consider a Year-End Donation to AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund

Year end is a traditional time to make donations to non-profits before the tax year closes on us on December 31. This year, consider a donation to a group you know and love, AAUW. As a former consumer protection attorney, I am always skeptical - about everything - and want to make sure my donations are well spent. Like me, you can take satisfaction in knowing that two independent charity watch dog groups have given AAUW top ratings.

Although you can write and send in a check (directly to AAUW or through me), donating online is super easy. Just go to [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) and hit the big red DONATE button. If you don't know your member ID, doing the member ID lookup first is easy and then when you go to donate, many of the fields are pre-populated with your information.

Since September, members have donated almost \$500. We hope you'll join them and include AAUW in your year-end gift giving. The "Greatest Needs" fund is where donations are most needed.

### AAUW GREATEST NEEDS FUND (9110)



Allows AAUW the flexibility to respond rapidly to new and emerging challenges facing women and girls and to utilize your gift where it's needed most. This fund ensures the strength, relevance, and viability of AAUW into the future.

## 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](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.

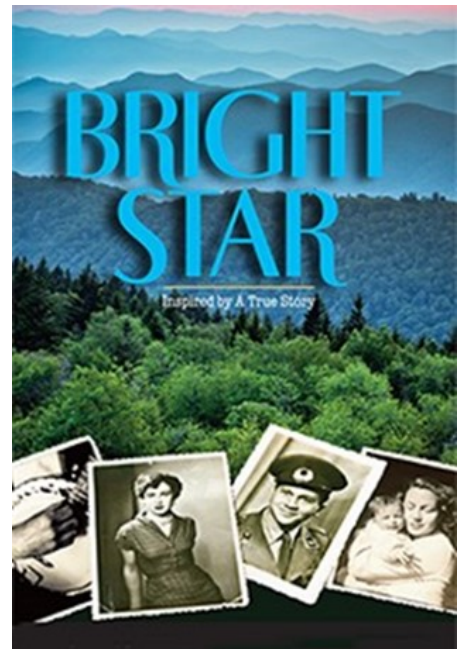
## GET YOUR TICKETS FOR *BRIGHT STAR*

The annual fundraiser for the Mount Vernon and Alexandria Branches of AAUW is the musical entitled *Bright Star* at the Little Theatre of Alexandria located at 600 Wolfe Street in Old Town. The event will be on **Friday, January 14, 2022, at 8 p.m.** Tickets are \$35 each.

The Tony Award nominated Broadway production was created by comedy legend Steve Martin and Grammy winner Edie Brickell. The play is a love story set in the American South during the 1920s and 1940s. Based on a true story, the play has a rousing country and bluegrass score.

Proof of vaccination will be required and masks are also required inside. Social distancing will be practiced with only tickets for a portion of the seats being available.

To get your tickets, let **Janet Hedrick** at [jhedrick815@gmail.com](mailto:jhedrick815@gmail.com) know how many tickets you would like to purchase. **She will have them available for you at the Holiday Luncheon on Sunday, December 12.** If you are not attending the luncheon, you can make arrangements with Janet to get your tickets. **Tickets are wonderful holiday gifts!**



### Support for *United Community*



If you would like to help needy children this holiday season, please consider buying one or more **\$30 gift cards from Target or Walmart** and donating to **United Community by**

**Dec. 3** or you can drop off the card(s) at **Elaine's house** (920 Emerald Drive).

In addition, we will be collecting non-perishable food items (canned tuna, beans, rice, etc.) at the holiday luncheon **December 12.**

**Thank you in advance for your generosity!**

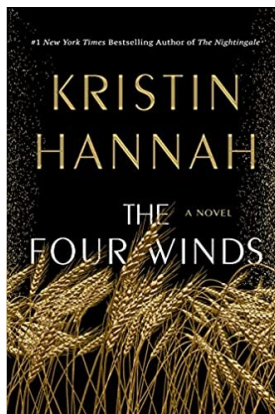
### A warm welcome to our newest member **Jacque Brewer.**

Originally from New Hampshire, **Jacque** has spent most of her life in the Washington D.C. area and overseas. Currently, she is a federal executive in the Department of Defense.



**Jacque** enjoys drawing and painting, traveling, training dogs, writing, and reading. She is especially happy when visiting with her three adult children.

## BOOK GROUP



**Book Group will meet via Zoom on  
Monday, December 20, 7:30 p.m.  
\*\*\* Zoom link will be sent via email. \*\*\***

**BOOK:** **The Four Winds**  
By Kristin Hannah

**REVIEWER:** Janet Hedrick

**NEXT BOOK:** **My City of Dreams**  
By Lisa Gruenberg

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



In November, we were delighted to have a new member join our AAUW Game Night. We do welcome any of you who have not signed up for or attended one of our game nights. All you need to do is:

1. Contact Cynthia or the hostess of the month you want to attend.
2. Assure Cynthia and the hostess that you are fully vaccinated.

The AAUW Game Night is on the **fourth Friday** of every month gathering at 7:15 p.m. and beginning playing at 7:30 p.m.

**The AAUW Game Night Hosting Schedule for the rest of 2021-2022 is:**

- **Dec 24** ***NO Game Night this month...Surprise! Surprise!***
- Jan 28 Hosted by Bianca Daugherty
- Feb 25 Hosted by Shannon Dubicki
- **Mar 25** Hosted by???
- April 22 Hosted by Barbara & Lowry Mann
- May 27 Hosted by Anne & Richard Simpson

**We do need one more volunteer to host the Game Night on March 25, 2022.**

**Sequence, Kings in the Corner, Golf, Hand and Foot** and **Mexican Dominoes** have been recent favorites although any board game is welcome. Personally, I'm looking forward to **Clue** and **Parcheesi**. What's your favorite? Bring it and we will play it!

Contact your AAUW Game chair Cynthia Jacobus [cynthiacobus@cox.net](mailto:cynthiacobus@cox.net) if you would like to join the group.

**Spouses and significant others are welcome.**



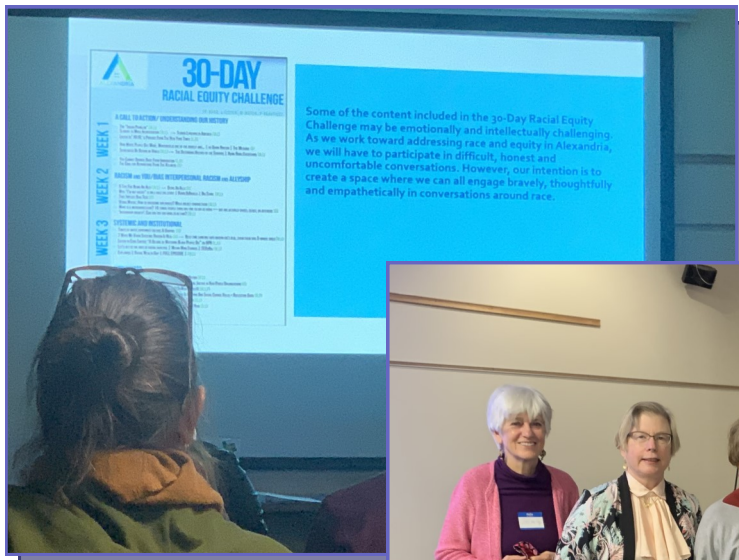
**Explore Equity and Inclusion with the Diversity Outreach Group**

At its November meeting, the Diversity Outreach Group watched and discussed the Red Table Talk episode: “**The Racial Divide: Women of Color & White Women.**” The program features Jada Pinkett Smith, her daughter Willow, and mother Gammy – three generations of women who have candid conversations about the most important and provocative topics of the day. The group may view other episodes of Red Table Talk on similar topics that address diversity in the future.

Please note that the **AAUW National’s Inclusion and Equity Committee’s webinar on Thursday, December 2, at 4 p.m. is *Creating Inclusive Spaces*** and will address how spaces are created where all parties feel welcome, appreciate, respected and heard. Register [here](#).

When the Diversity Outreach Group meets on **Wednesday, December 8**, the discussion on **Me and White Supremacy**, the book written by Layla F. Saad, will continue. The group is reading the sections from Day 8 through Day 14, pages 77 – 123. In this second week of the book, the topics include Color Blindness, Anti-Blackness, Racist Stereotypes and Cultural Appropriation. In addition to reading the book, the members of the group are participating in reflective journaling on each day’s readings.

We will continue to discuss other ways to educate ourselves and will be considering for a future activity the **30-Day Challenge** presented by the November program speaker, **Jaqueline Tucker**, in her presentation on Advancing Racial and Social Equity in Alexandria. If you have ideas or want to participate at any time, you are welcome. Just let **Janet Hedrick** know of your interest.



November Branch Meeting  
 “Advancing Racial and Social Equity  
 in Alexandria”  
 with speaker Jaqueline Tucker



From left:  
 Solveig Eggerz  
 Anne Simpson  
 Patsy Quick  
 Jaqueline Tucker

# 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>Sunday, December 12, 2021, 11:30 a.m.</b> <b>Cedar Knoll Restaurant</b> 9030 Lucia Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308	<b>Holiday Event</b>
<b>Friday, January 14, 2022, 8 p.m.</b> <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

**AAUW of VA State Conference**  
**Annual Business Meeting**

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

## PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE FROM DENISE MURDEN, STATE PUBLIC POLICY CO-VP

AAUW-VA members can be proud of our efforts to get out the vote this year. A historic number of Virginia voters turned out for an “off-year election,” and **Virginia elected the first woman to the office of Lieutenant Governor in Virginia’s 400-year legislative history.**

Our Public Policy Co-VPs will send emails to every newly elected and re-elected Virginia delegate. The emails introduce AAUW-VA and our legislative priorities and offer our assistance in research and advocacy. Branches and individual members are encouraged to reach out to local Delegates to offer congratulations and support and to inform them of the issues you are advocating.

AAUW-VA continues to collaborate with the *Virginians for Paid Sick Leave (VPSL)* coalition and the *Campaign for a Family Friendly Economy Virginia* as advocates for **paid sick days and paid family and medical leave.** AAUW members are encouraged to visit the websites of these organizations to stay informed on actions and updates.



### AAUW-VA Lobby Day in Richmond

- January 18, 2022 Evening reception for women legislators
- January 19, 2022 AAUW of Virginia Lobby Day

More information will follow closer to the dates.



# DECEMBER 2021

- **7 Board Meeting, 7 p.m.**  
Contact Patsy Quick  
703/360-8678
- **8 Diversity Outreach Group 7 p.m.**  
Contact Janet Hedrick  
571/213-2670
- **12 Holiday Luncheon**
- **20 Book Group, 7:30 p.m.**  
Contact Liz Promen  
703/780-7342

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



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

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

