

# Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 65 Issue 5 January 2022

Mt. Vernon Branch



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



**HAPPY 2022!** I hope everyone had a wonderful December holiday season and that you are excited about what is to come in this new year. Most important, may there be joy and good health for all. Unfolding events will inform us as to what is the new normal.

I want to thank **Paula Lettice** for the beautiful holiday luncheon and successful raffle. Thank you also, **Liz Promen**, for leading the book group in a Secret Santa book exchange that was great fun. Our branch closed out 2021 on a high after a busy year!

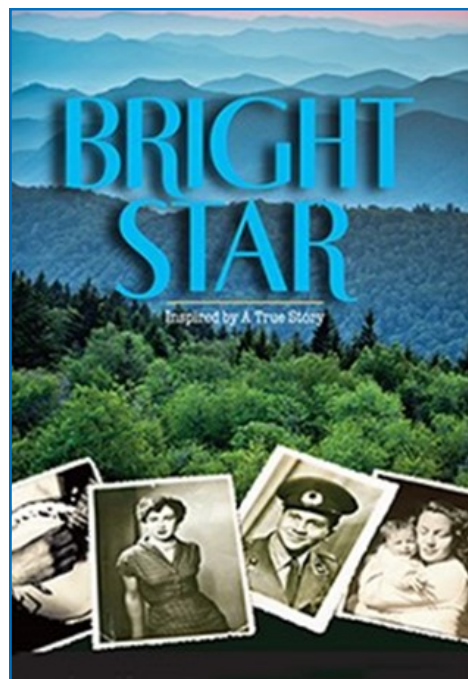
**If you thought our branch was busy in 2021, just wait for what is in store for January 2022! There are three events in which to participate (in addition to our game, diversity outreach, and book groups)! Please mark your calendars as you read on! January is a great example of how action oriented AAUW is. Numerous members have spent much time planning these events. I hope you will be able to participate in as many as possible!**

- **On January 14 we have our annual AAUW Fundraiser at the Little Theatre of Alexandria.** We share this event with the Alexandria Branch. If you don't have tickets yet, please contact **Janet Hedrick**. We need to sell the rest of our tickets! This is always a fun event! AAUW Funds will be the recipient of our earnings.
- **On Thursday, January 20 at 4:00 p.m. we have our branch Zoom program.** Dr. Angela Hattery will moderate a panel discussion, featuring Dr. Loretta Prater, Charlotte Woodward, and Dr. Earl Smith. The topic is **Police Use of Force: Its Impact on People with Disabilities, the Mentally Ill, and Other Underserved Populations**. The discussion will include recommendations for social action. [You will need to register for this program at the link on page 3 in this newsletter!](#)
- **On January 22, at 10:00 a.m., everyone is invited to an AAUW-VA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Zoom Meeting.** This meeting will be a panel discussion on Creating Inclusive Spaces, an important topic for us all. **The Zoom link has already been sent to you!**

***Welcome to 2022! Let's get the year off to a running start!***

*Patsy*

# LTA FUNDRAISER - JANUARY 14 - 8 P.M.



## Good news!

At the AAUW holiday luncheon on Sunday, December 12, 15 tickets were purchased for the musical, *Bright Star*, at the Little Theatre of Alexandria. That makes a total of 50 tickets purchased to date for the January fundraiser! Thanks to everyone who has purchased tickets!

**We have 22 more tickets to sell – be sure and get yours! They are great gifts! Ask your friends and neighbors if they want to buy tickets for a fun evening out on Friday, January 14. The play begins at 8 P.M. and the tickets are \$35 each.**

Send me an email and tell me how many tickets you want to buy – [jhedrick815@gmail.com](mailto:jhedrick815@gmail.com) – put your check in the mail to Janet Hedrick, 2128 Farrington Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22303. When I receive your check, I will mail your tickets to you.

If you have any questions or need additional information, just let me know! Send me an email or call me at 571/213-2670.

We will be at a distance from one another in the theater, but we want to fill the seats that are available. Let's sell the 22 remaining tickets!

*Janet Hedrick*

## 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.

## JANUARY BRANCH PROGRAM

**Thursday, January 20, 2022, ZOOM - 4 P.M.**

### **Mt. Vernon AAUW and Sherwood Regional Library Present Police Use of Force: Its Impact on People with Disabilities, the Mentally Ill, and Other Underserved Populations**

[Register Here](#)

**Dr. Angela Hattery** will moderate a panel discussion, featuring **Dr. Loretta Prater, Charlotte Woodward, and Dr. Earl Smith**, that explores how people with disabilities, including those suffering from mental illness or mental health crises, are disproportionately harmed in their encounters with police and other law enforcement. The discussion will include recommendations for social action.



Dr. Loretta Prater



Charlotte Woodward



Dr. Earl Smith



Dr. Angela Hattery

You will be interested to know that **Dr. Prater's** son was suffocated in 2004 when four police officers in Chattanooga, Tennessee, pinned him to the ground, face down, for several minutes with his wrists handcuffed behind his back. Her book, *Excessive Use of Force: One Mother's Struggle Against Police Brutality and Misconduct* describes this event and her journey as she won the right to teach new cops. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/her-son-was-killed-police-then-she-won-right-teach-n1230931>

**Join us for this important discussion!**

Register NOW at the link above. Registration closes 24 hours before the program.

**The meeting is free and open to the public.**

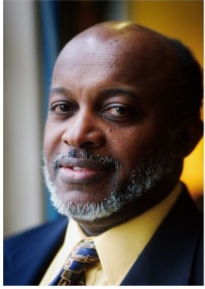
Receive a 35% discount paperback or hard cover editions, by Jan 8, 2022 on **Dr. Slater's** book, *Excessive Use of Force: One Mother's Struggle Against Police Brutality and Misconduct*, and/or **Dr. Hattery's** and **Dr. Smith's** book, *Policing Black Bodies*. Use code **21JOYSALE** on the publisher's website <https://rowman.com/>

If you want to receive the order quickly, place it by phone so that you can request UPS Ground.

Ph: 800-462-6420 EXTENSION 3024 / Monday to Friday / 8am to 5pm EST



## MEET OUR PROGRAM PANELISTS



**Earl Smith, PhD**, is Professor of Women & Gender Studies at the University of Delaware. [Dr. Smith is Emeritus Distinguished Professor of American Ethnic Studies and Sociology at Wake Forest University].

**Dr. Smith** earned his Ph.D. at the University of Connecticut. His teaching and research focus on the sociology of sport, social stratification, and the intersection of race and the criminal justice system.

He is the author of 12 books, including his most recent books, *Policing Black Bodies, 2nd ed.*, (2021), *Gender, Power and Violence* (2019), and *Way Down in the Hole: Race, Intimacy, and the Reproduction of Racial Ideologies in Solitary Confinement* (2021).



**Loretta Prater, Ph.D.**, retired in 2012 as Professor and Dean of the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) at Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO). Her administrative oversight included the Departments of Nursing, Human Environmental Studies, Social Work, and Health, Human Performance and Recreation. Other departments within CHHS were Communication Disorders, and Criminal Justice and Sociology. As Dean of CHHS, **Dr. Prater's** leadership responsibilities extended into community impact programming, including the Southeast Regional Police Academy.

As a social scientist, interested in family dynamics over the life span, her research, national presentations, and publications focused on the well-being of families, including issues related to police brutality.

She is the author of *Excessive Use of Force: One Mother's Struggle against Police Brutality and Misconduct*, a book released in March, 2018 by publisher Rowman and Littlefield. The book received a Starred Review by Booklist and was selected as a book of the week by Publishers Weekly. **Dr. Prater** has presented across the nation on matters of social justice.

[Her son was killed by police. Then she won the right to teach new cops. \(nbcnews.com\)](https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/police-brutality/her-son-was-killed-by-police-then-she-won-the-right-to-teach-new-cops-n1111111)



**Charlotte Woodward** is a young woman with Down syndrome who has had four open-heart surgeries and a lifesaving heart transplant. She works at the National Down Syndrome Society as a Community Outreach Associate where she advocates for people with Down syndrome on Capitol Hill and is the editor-in-chief of an upcoming magazine by and for self-advocates with Down syndrome. **Charlotte** graduated from high school with a standard diploma and graduated from Northern Virginia Community College summa cum laude; she then transferred to George Mason University where she is currently a senior, working towards a degree in Sociology with a concentration in Inequality and Social Change. **Charlotte** is a passionate advocate for others, in particular those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and as a member of the ARC Alliance of

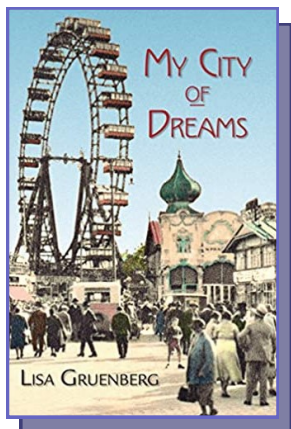
Virginia has been involved in advocating for reform of the criminal justice system and its treatment of marginalized minority groups. She is honored to have been invited to participate in this AAUW panel discussion!



**Angela J. Hattery**, is Professor of the Women & Gender Studies and co-Director of the Center for the Study and Prevention of Gender Based Violence at the University of Delaware. She received her BA in sociology and anthropology from Carleton College and her master's degree and Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Prior to coming to UD she held positions at Ball State University, Wake Forest University, Colgate University, and most recently at George Mason University. Her research and teaching are focused on race and gender inequalities.

She is the author of 12 books. Her forthcoming book is entitled *Way Down in the Hole: Race, Intimacy and the Reproduction of Racial Ideologies in Solitary Confinement* explores the ways in which racial antagonisms are exacerbated by the particular structures of solitary confinement.

## BOOK GROUP



**Book Group will meet via Zoom on  
Monday, January 17, 7:30 p.m.  
\*\*\* Zoom link will be sent via email. \*\*\***

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

**REVIEWER:** Joanna Crane

**NEXT BOOK:** The Dutch House  
By Ann Patchett

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



**Join us for Game Night  
Friday, January 28,  
from 7:30 p.m. until approximately 11 p.m.  
Home of Bianca Daugherty  
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. .

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

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

## DIVERSITY OUTREACH GROUP

JANET HEDRICK

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

When the Diversity Outreach Group meets on **Wednesday, January 12**, the discussion of Me and White Supremacy, the book written by Layla F. Saad, will continue. The group is reading the sections from Day 15 through Day 21, pages 125 – 170. In this third week of the book, the topics include White Apathy, White Centering, Tokenism, White Saviorism, Optical Allyship, and Being Called Out/Called In. 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 future activities and readings. If you have ideas or want to participate at any time, you are welcome. Just let **Janet Hedrick** know of your interest.





# HOLIDAY CHEER AT CEDAR KNOLL

Mt. Vernon branch members were happy to get together in person this year for the annual holiday luncheon on December 12. The winners of our holiday raffle (a case of wine each) were Cathy Krebs and Maureen Kuletz. We collected \$500 in the raffle, offset by \$161 for the wine, for a net of \$339. The food collected and donated to the United Communities (UC) food bank totaled 105 pounds!! Thank you to everyone who participated!



# THANK YOU FROM UNITED COMMUNITIES (UC)



[unitedcommunity.org](http://unitedcommunity.org)

7511 Fordson Rd. Alexandria, VA 22306

P 703.768.7106 F 703.768.4788

UCM.Alexandria UCMAlex

United Way #8199 CFC #37839

December 14, 2021

Patsy Quick, President  
Mt. Vernon Branch, American Association of University Women  
Old Mill Rd  
Alexandria, VA 22309

Dear Patsy,

Thank you for your recent in-kind donation to United Community (105 pounds collected food delivered on 12/13/2021).

Perhaps unbelievably, the world has been dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic for nearly two years. For most, it has been challenging, frustrating, depressing, and exhausting. At United Community however, we also saw generosity, kindness, compassion and caring. Thanks to our amazing supporters, our community has pulled through the pandemic.

As challenging as things as things have been, we did not miss a beat in terms of working to fulfill our aspiration of ending multi-generational poverty. What we realized is that while crises need to be addressed and urgent needs met, we can never stop working toward our larger goal. We realized we must not serve poverty, but truly work to stop it.

**Thanks to you and your donation, we WILL succeed.**

United Community is at the crossroads. We know we can move forward in an impactful way, with your continued support. **We are stronger when we journey together as a united community.**

Thank you for embracing our mission as we drive to end multi-generational poverty. Together, we will reach our destination.

With gratitude,

Alison DeCoursey  
President & CEO

*This letter serves as a receipt for your donation. No goods or services were provided by the organization in exchange for your contribution. United Community Ministries d/b/a United Community is an exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, EIN #54-0850780.*

#### United Community Board of Directors

Thomas J. Curcio (Chair), Gail C. Clarke (Vice Chair) Stephanie Castor (Treasurer), Lisa M. Jones (Secretary),  
Elin Bohn, Suzy Coffey, Kenneth Disselkoe (Immediate Past Chair), Alison Farmer, Trish Fowler (ex officio),  
Rosemary Gutierrez, Janet Heddesheimer, Eric C. Johnson, Garrett McGuire, Craig Oldham, Heidi Parsont, James Seeley,  
James Turner, Joyce Williams, Nathaniel Wilson, Alison DeCoursey, President & CEO (ex officio)



*(Information from Denise Murden, AAUW-VA Public Policy Co-VP)*

AAUW-VA Public Policy participants are preparing for engagement with Virginia legislators during the 2022 General Assembly Session.

Legislative Priorities for AAUW focus were discussed at the December 1, 2021, Public Policy Zoom Meeting and these include:

- **Paid Family/Medical Leave: Virginia Employment Commission establishment required.**  
**Sen. Bosko's** bill can be read at <https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?221+ful+SB1>
- **Paid Sick Days**  
The goal is to establish paid sick leave days for 30,000 home health care workers covered by Medicare. No bills have been tabled yet.
- **Sexual Harassment in the Workplace**  
**Delegate Watt's** bill (HB2155, 2021) on sexual harassment in the workplace failed in a party-line vote in the 2021 Judiciary Session.. AAUW Public Policy chairs have been in contact with **Delegate Watt** to convey AAUW-VA's interest in supporting the legislation if she tables it again. **Delegate Watt** said she would welcome AAUW's support.

## State Lobby Day Update – We will be Virtual Again

After considering public health warnings about the new Covid variant, **we have decided to forgo an in-person State Lobby Day in 2022 and canceled our plans to host a reception for Virginia's women legislators.** We are disappointed but mindful of the importance of staying safe and healthy.

As we did in 2021, we ask for your support in virtual lobbying through emails and phone calls to your elected representatives. We will provide resources in the form of fact sheets, talking points, and other materials you can use to engage your delegates and senators. **Virginia's General Assembly session begins on January 12 and ends on March 12.**

**In lieu of our reception for women legislators, we are working to host a Zoom session with Virginia women legislators from both political parties on January 25 at 6:30 p.m. There are lots of moving parts to manage, but we will keep you posted.**

Thanks for your active support of our lobbying efforts. Thanks, too, for your patience, as we work to adjust to an unpredictable environment.

We wish you all the happiest of holidays, and a new year of good health and opportunities for progress on equity for women and girls.



*Susan Burk and Denise Murden  
Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy*



# 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>Police Use of Force and Its Impact on People with Disabilities</b> <b>Panel Discussion</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)

## AAUW Funds Report and Thank You!



I am so pleased to report that, since September, **our branch has donated over \$1,000 to AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund.** We have three members who make automatic monthly donations (Thank you!) and nine members who sent in checks through me or have donated online. As you know, AAUW is a top rated non-profit and it provides support to important causes and research near and dear to our hearts, such as women scholars and equity issues. It's never too late to donate! You can give me a check at an AAUW event (made out to AAUW) or donate online through AAUW.org. It's easy, fast and needed.

*Elaine Kolish  
AAUW Funds Chair*

**Everyone is invited to an AAUW-VA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Zoom Meeting on January 22, at 10 a.m.** This meeting will be a panel discussion on *Creating Inclusive Spaces*, an important topic for us all. **The Zoom link has already been sent to you but another reminder is coming.**



Mt. Vernon (VA) Branch

# JANUARY 2022

- **4 Board Meeting, 7 p.m.**  
Contact Patsy Quick  
703/360-8678
- **12 Diversity Outreach Group  
7 p.m.**  
Contact Janet Hedrick  
571/213-2670
- **14 LTA Fundraiser, 8 p.m.**  
Contact Janet Hedrick  
571/213-2670
- **17 Book Group, 7:30 p.m.**  
Contact Liz Promen  
703/780-7342
- **20 Branch Program  
Zoom - 4 p.m.**  
Contact Patsy Quick  
703/360-8678
- **22 AAUW-VA DE&I Program  
Zoom - 10 a.m.**  
Contact Patsy Quick  
703/360-8678
- **28 Game Night, 7:30 p.m.**  
Contact Bianca Daugherty  
703/360-7239

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Happy New Year
2	3	4 Board Meeting	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Diversity Outreach Group	13	14 LTA Fund- raiser	15
16	17 Book Group	18	19	20 Branch Program	21	22 AAUW-VA DE&I Pro- gram
23	24	25	26	27	28 Game Night	29
30	31					



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

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