

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### Change is Coming!

As the seasons are changing, AAUW's membership database system is also changing. It is now part of what is called the **Community Hub**. I hope you will be patient as they work out the kinks! By the time you are reading this, **Anne Simpson** and I will have attended the training on March 31 for how the new system is going to work in regard to renewals and dues. We will inform you about it as soon as we can.



For now, you need to know that AAUW members will be moving from a fiscal-year-membership to a "rolling membership." That means that from now on whenever you renew, that date will become the beginning of your yearly membership. We are used to expecting our membership to expire on June 30, no matter when we paid dues. In the new system, if you renew on June 1, 2022, your membership will expire on May 31, 2023. If you renew on May 15, 2022, your membership will expire on May 14, 2023. If you renew on August 6, 2022, your membership will expire on August 5, 2023. We do not yet know how that will affect other aspects of our operation.

I know you have all been paying attention to the news of **President Biden's** nomination of **Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson** to the U.S. Supreme Court. In AAUW's **Chief Executive Officer**

**Gloria L. Blackwell's** statement on the matter she said: *As an organization that has worked for 140 years to advance the rights of all women, AAUW views her nomination as a historic milestone that will move us more swiftly to gender and racial equity and justice. Her confirmation won't just give a Black woman "a seat at the table," but will bring valuable and much-needed new in-*

*sights to the highest court in the land to the benefit of us all.* The full statement can be read here: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/press-releases/statement-jackson-supreme-court-nomination/>

This is a change we can embrace fully! Our April program looks fascinating and is totally relevant to our community. See you there on zoom! Afterward, in May, we will enjoy a meal together and celebrate another wonderful program year. We gathered good program ideas for next year at our Annual Business Meeting. If anyone has other ideas please send them to me or Solveig Eggerz. Our planning meeting will be at Heritage Presbyterian Church on June 18.

Weather's changing...Happy Spring!

*Patsy Quick*

**Saturday**

**April 23**

**Zoom**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Branch  
Program**

**School-to-  
Prison  
Pipeline**

**Panel  
Discussion**

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# AAUW FUNDS



**Congratulations to the Branch for donating over \$4,000 to AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund in 2021.**

These generous donations made the Branch eligible to nominate eight

Named Honorees. We are pleased to announce that the Board selected the following individuals.

1. In memory of **Paul Mehler** and **Bruce Malkin**, with gratitude for their service to and support of the Mt. Vernon Branch's activities.
2. **Solveig Eggerz**, for being the Mt. Vernon Branch's Program Chair and coordinating so many interesting and informative programs for our Branch.
3. **Lois Passman**, for her decades of success in chairing the Mt. Vernon Branch's Nominating Committee and always ensuring we had a wonderful slate of nominees for the Branch's elected positions.

4. **Cheryl Spohnholtz**, with much appreciation for her sustaining support of AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund.

5. **Kathleen Hanrahan**, with much appreciation for her sustaining support of AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund.

6. **Susan Watkins**, with much appreciation for her philanthropy benefiting AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund.

7. **Janet Hedrick**, for successfully chairing the Mt. Vernon Branch's largest fundraising event and for her initiative in leading our Diversity Outreach Group.

8. **Liz Promen**, for successfully and patiently chairing for many years the Mt. Vernon's Branch's long-running and extremely popular Book Group.

Please take a moment to congratulate our honorees and thank them for their service to our Branch the next time you see them.

*Elaine Kolish*  
AAUW Funds Chair

## 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 APRIL 23



**Mt. Vernon and Alexandria AAUW Branches**



**Sherwood Regional Library**

**Presenting**

## **School-to-Prison Pipeline: Restorative Justice as a Less Punitive Approach**

**Panel Discussion**

**Via Zoom, Saturday, April 23, 10:30 a.m.**

Hear experts discuss how criminalizing student misbehavior in our schools is trapping youth in an already bloated criminal justice system, thus ruining their lives and destroying communities. Learn how the community can support dignity-and empathy-based, less punitive methods such as Restorative Justice.

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#) (Registration closes 24 hours before the program.)**



**Parisa Dehghani-Tafti** is the Commonwealth's Attorney for Arlington County and the City of Falls Church. She has a twenty-year record of criminal justice reform. She litigated at all levels of state & federal courts, including the US Supreme Court & the Supreme Court of Virginia. As a law professor at Georgetown University Law Center and at George Washington University School of Law, she has helped train the next generation of criminal law attorneys, teaching courses on wrongful convictions.



**Dr. Kevin F. Gilbert** has been in education for 25 years & currently serves as the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) for the Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) in Howard County, Maryland. As the DEI director Dr. Gilbert is tasked with coordinating HCPSS's efforts to be more diverse, promote equity, and ensure inclusion throughout the district. Dr. Gilbert's leadership positions include serving as vice president for governance for the National Council of State Education Associations, chair of the NEA Committee on Human and Civil Rights, & co-chair of the NEA task force on Discipline and the School-to-Prison Pipeline.



**Valerie Slater** is a Youth Justice Attorney and Executive Director of the RISE for Youth organization advocating for the rights of youth and families facing justice system involvement or engaged with other systems charged with the care of Virginia's youth. Valerie has also worked to protect the rights of children with disabilities in community, residential and juvenile justice facilities throughout the Commonwealth at the disAbility Law Center of Virginia. Valerie is a fierce advocate for children and brings to her work an unwavering commitment to strengthening youth and communities to lead the efforts to realize their visions for change.

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

**Contact:  
AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com**

## NATIONAL DUES INCREASE



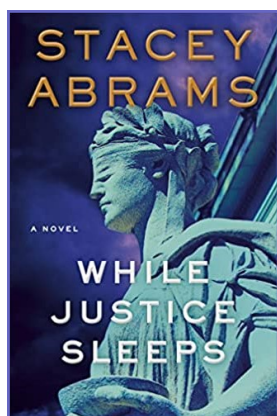
**N**ational dues are set to increase this year from \$62 to \$67. \$64 of the \$67 will be tax-deductible.

As you may recall, AAUW is raising the dues gradually over three years to align them with what they should have been after several years of leaving them the same. This was voted on two years ago by the membership. State and branch dues will remain the same, so **the total will be \$95.**

**Consider Lifetime Membership!** An alternative is to pay for a lifetime National membership. Lifetime membership is fully tax-deductible. The current cost for a lifetime membership is \$1,240, and it is easy to do when you go to renew your membership. Once you have paid this amount, you will only owe state and branch dues from now on. After June 30, lifetime membership goes up \$100 to \$1,340.

*Anne Simpson  
Treasurer*

## BOOK GROUP



**Book Group will meet via Zoom on  
Monday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.**

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

**BOOK:** **While Justice Sleeps**  
By Stacy Abrams

**REVIEWER:** Kathleen Fitzgerald

**NEXT BOOK:** **Deacon King Kong**  
By James McBride

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, April 22**  
**from 7:30 p.m. until approximately 11 p.m.**  
**Home of Barbara Mann**



**Spouses and significant others are welcome to join in!**

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 [cynthiajacobus@cox.net](mailto:cynthiajacobus@cox.net)  
if you would like to join the group.**

# VOTE!

**AAUW-VA elections are coming up. Electronic voting will be open from May 6-29, 2022. Watch for reminder emails and your online ballot.**

**See the Voting Guide in the *Vision* (pg. 9-14):**

[https://aauw-va.aauw.net/files/2022/02/Final2\\_Vision-WS-2022\\_print-file-compressed.pdf](https://aauw-va.aauw.net/files/2022/02/Final2_Vision-WS-2022_print-file-compressed.pdf)



This year, you will be voting for candidates for five state offices, a bylaws amendment, and the 2022-2024 AAUW-VA public policy priorities. On the ballot:

- Election of President, VP for Communications, VP for Program, VP for Public Policy, VP for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- 2022-2024 AAUW-VA Public Policy Priorities
- State Bylaws Amendment

**Leslie Tourigny and Susan Burk** were elected as **Northern District Co-Representatives** to the state board by the members present at the 2022 Conference on March 26 in Harrisonburg.

## STATE CONFERENCE NOTES

The AAUW-VA 2022 Conference was held in Harrisonburg on March 26. **Patsy Quick** and **Janet Hedrick** attended. They've both given their comments.

**Patsy:** The day was jam-packed with great speakers. The excellent keynote speaker was **Kimberly**



Keynote speaker Kimberly Jenkins Robinson with her aunt Joan Jenkins (Hampton Branch)

**Jenkins Robinson**, JD, a professor of law at the University of Virginia. She is the niece of the Hampton Branch president, **Joan Jenkins**. She spoke on the “**Progress and Enduring Inequities for Women in Higher Education.**” We were all excited to learn that she was the roommate of **Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson** when both were students at

Harvard. She described **Judge Jackson** as “humble brilliance.” **Kimberly Robinson** attended the hearings on Capitol Hill and could be seen sitting to the right and behind **Judge Jackson**.

To close out the day, we heard from **Dr. Stephen Farnsworth**, from Mary Washington University. With humor, he spoke about “**The Changing Nature of Virginia Politics**” and reviewed the pivotal election in 2021. Despite the good humor of his talk the outlook for a kinder, gentler politics in the United States seems bleak.

**Janet:** Attending the AAUW Virginia Conference was a wonderful opportunity to meet other AAUW members from across the Commonwealth and to learn more about the topics that are at the center of the AAUW mission. As a first-time attendee, I walked away very proud of the work that we do as a branch and as a state.

I enjoyed all of the presentations but the top ones for me was the keynote by **Kimberly Jenkins Robinson**. Finding out she was the roommate in law school with **Supreme Court Nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson** was very exciting.

I left Harrisonburg on Saturday afternoon with books by **Robinson** and **Farnsworth** and with a new appreciation for AAUW. I truly hope I will have the opportunity to attend future AAUW state conferences.



Sandy Lawrence (Northern District Representative and Patsy Quick (VP Communications) with farewell board gifts.

## GREAT OPPORTUNITY

**The great opportunity will occur June 23 with an AAUW event honoring the 50th anniversary of Title IX, so save the date!**

It will be virtual with major speakers and lots of nods to all the important ways AAUW has supported Title IX. It all began, as most of you know, with AAUW lobbying and working hard to get Title IX passed in Congress in 1972. Importantly, that bill was co-authored by AAUW member **Rep. Patsy Mink** of Hawaii. So AAUW was there from the very beginning.

**The great opportunity is also the “\$50 for 50 Years” campaign** so AAUW can continue its work to protect and support Title IX, including AAUW's research. As many branches contributed

\$140 for AAUW's 140th anniversary and received national recognition for that support, there will again be an opportunity for AAUW recognition of branches that contribute to \$50 for 50 Years campaign.



**So keep an eye out for information from AAUW on how to give \$50 for 50 Years in recognition of Title IX's 50th anniversary.** It's also a perfect way to support the Greatest Needs Fund plus everything counts for your branch's contributions to AAUW Funds for 2022.

*Caroline Pickens  
State AAUW Funds Chair*

## AAUW NATIONAL ELECTION 2022

**Voting will open on April 6, 2022.** For this vote, members are asked to elect members to the national AAUW Board of Directors and vote on changes to the bylaws that would streamline the nominations process and ballot administration. **Voting closes at 5:00 p.m. ET on Monday, May 16, 2022.**



Here you'll find all the information you need to vote.

**Candidates for the Board of Directors:**

[Meet the candidates and learn about the process](#)

**Bylaws Amendment on Nominations:**

[Learn more about the proposed changes](#)

**Bylaws Amendment on Ballot Administration:**

[Learn more about the proposed changes](#)

All voting will take place online (computer or mobile device) unless a member sends a specific request to AAUW for a paper ballot. All members without an email address on file with AAUW national or who have unsubscribed from email will receive a ballot by mail.

**Click here for more information:** [AAUW Election: FAQ – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)

# LIBRARY HELPERS



*Photo left:*  
**Mary Ellen Mehler and Janet Hedrick** helping at the Sherwood Regional Library during the **Traveling While Black** virtual reality exhibit for Black History Month. Several AAUW members were volunteers for the exhibit.

*Photo right:*  
**Barbara Mann and Solveig Eggerz** at Sherwood Regional Library getting ready to participate in **Traveling While Black** virtual reality on Tuesday, March 8. Five members of the branch watched the documentary that afternoon. Others have gone to see it at other times.



Traveling While Black virtual reality exhibit is still open until April 2, 2022. Registration is required.

<https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/appointments/travelingwhileblack>

## 2021 - 2022 MT. VERNON BRANCH PROGRAM YEAR

Meeting Date and Place	Focus/Activity
Saturday, April 23, 2022, 10:30 a.m. ZOOM	School-to-Prison Pipeline Panel Discussion
Thursday, May 19, 2022, Time TBD Home of Paula Lettice	Annual Potluck
Saturday, June 18, 2022, 9:30 a.m. Heritage Presbyterian Church	Annual Planning Session

### OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

**AAUW of VA State Conference Part 2  
 Annual Business Meeting  
 Watch for email with information.**

**April 30, 2022 via ZOOM**

**Lois Passman** presented the slate of officers for the 2022-2024 term at the AAUW Mt Vernon Annual Business Meeting on March 19, 2022:

The following officers were elected by unanimous vote:

**Co-Vice Presidents for Membership:  
Susan Farmer and Mary Wall**

**Treasurer: Anne Simpson**

Their two year term will begin July 1, 2022.

**Congratulations!**



Mt. Vernon (VA) Branch

# APRIL 2022

- **1 Board Meeting, 7 p.m.**  
Contact Patsy Quick  
703/360-8678
- **13 Diversity Outreach Group Meeting, 7.p.m.**  
Contact Janet Hedrick  
571/213-2670
- **18 Book Group, 7:30 p.m.**  
Contact Liz Promen  
703/780-7342
- **22 Game Night, 7:30 p.m.**  
Contact Barbara Mann  
703/360-3880
- **23 Branch Program, 10:30 a.m.**  
Contact Solveig Eggerz  
703/203-0769
- **30 AAUW-VA Annual Business Meeting via Zoom**

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	20	21	22 Game Night	23 Branch Program
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 AAUW-VA ABM



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

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