

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 66 Issue 1 September 2022

Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



The summer seems to have flown by! Hope you managed to stay well...and cool! I know many of you have traveled (at last!) and have been

busy with family. Are you ready to settle in for autumn? Some Mt. Vernon AAUW members have been busily planning a great program year for our branch following the guidelines set by the group at the June planning meeting. **Solveig Eggerz** has worked especially hard this summer, with the Alexandria branch, on the September program, and is working to coordinate every other program that is being planned. We are excited and energized by all that is going on! You can find the program chart on page 9 of this newsletter. You might want to print it and post it where you can see it. **Mark your calendars!** Updates will come every month in the newsletter thanks to **Bianca Daugherty**.

Our Dining Our co-chairs, **Paula Lettice**, **Bianca Daugherty**, and **Cathy Conron**, planned an Alexandria Restaurant Week Dining Out on August 26 at Brabo in the Lorien Hotel on King Street in Old Town. Space was limited so I hope you got in on that! See photo page 4. A big thanks to the Dining out team.

On September 11, **Mary Ellen Mehler** will get us started as we participate in AAUW-VA's Get Out the Vote (GOTV) Postcards for the "Reclaim Our Vote" Campaign. (See Mary Ellen's article on page 5.) Branches

around the state have committed to writing 3,000 postcards! We will do our part.

We will have our first public program on September 17. This is a shared program with the Alexandria branch. The topic will be one of importance: **Election Access: Will My Vote Be Counted?** I hope our many questions will be answered.

Later, on **September 24** we will have a branch gathering at **Sherwood Regional Library** to meet and greet each other and share news. Light refreshments will be available and you will hear about the rest of the branch plans for the year. Remember when we had branch kickoffs at a local restaurant? This will be a version of that. Please join us in celebrating a new program year!

Advocacy for women is more important than ever! AAUW is at the forefront of the issues we face: bias in the STEM fields <https://www.aauw.org/issues/education/stem/>, women's [health issues](#), [student debt](#), [financial literacy](#), and voting rights <https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2022/01/Voting-Rights-Jan-2022-update.pdf>.

Thank you for your continued support of AAUW and the Mt. Vernon branch in particular. You are being counted on as an advocate and your voice has power.

Looking forward to a great year in AAUW!

Patsy

KICKING

OFF

THE NEW

PROGRAM

YEAR

2022/2023



Program and
Meeting
Information on
pages 2 and 3

LET'S GET TOGETHER - SEPTEMBER 24!

**Join us
for the
FALL
Kickoff!**

**September 24, 10:30 a.m.
Sherwood Regional Library**

Join us for coffee and light refreshments, as we gather to catch up with each other after a summer break. Learn about the coming Mt. Vernon program year and get the scoop on all our activities! Bring a friend!



BRANCH LEADERSHIP 2022 – 2023

Elected Officers

President:	Patsy Quick
Program Vice President:	Solveig Eggerz
Membership Co-Vice Presidents:	Susan Farmer 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:	Bianca Daugherty Paula Lettice
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.



Mt Vernon and Alexandria Branches
presenting



Saturday, September 17, 11:00 a.m.
ON ZOOM - [REGISTER HERE](#)
hosted by Sherwood Regional Library

Virginia Elections: Voter Access? Will my Vote Count? Panel Discussion

Representatives from the City of Alexandria, the League of Women Voters, and the American Civil Liberties Union will discuss potential topics such as

- Any changes to Virginia election laws
- Voting rights for former felons
- The proposed Right to Vote Amendment to the state constitution
- Importance of poll watchers—how to connect to a poll watcher group
- National trends such as the Independent Legislature Theory—a threat to Virginia elections?



Angie Maniglia-Turner was appointed to the position of **General Registrar and Director of Elections for the City of Alexandria** in July of 2020. She has served in the City of Alexandria's Office of Voter Registration and Elections since 2007 and has held the positions of Elections Manager, Deputy Registrar and Assistant Elections Manager.



Jamshid Bakhtiari (he/him) is the **Director of Organizing and Community Engagement for the ACLU of Virginia**. Prior to working with the ACLU of Virginia, Jamshid worked as a community organizer for the Virginia Poverty Law Center and the Chesapeake Climate Action Network. He was born and raised in Hampton Roads, Virginia and has a master's degree in International Law and Human Rights from the United Nations mandated University for Peace."



Deb Wake has been president of the **League of Women Voters of Virginia** since July 1, 2019. The League is truly a grassroots organization with no paid staff at the state level. "Our

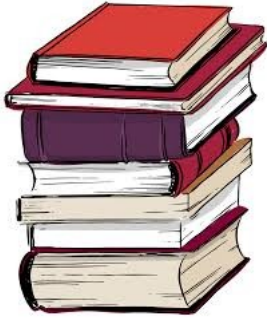
volunteers come from 14 local Leagues and members from across the state. We're proud of our work to strengthen democracy and empower voters through voter registration drives, candidate forums, educational studies and webinars, and advocacy. We were also instrumental in passing redistricting reform in Virginia."

Deb grew up in the Shenandoah Valley, went to college, and started a family in the New River Valley, raised her family in a Richmond suburb, and has resided in Vienna, Virginia for the last 6 years.

The meeting is free and open to the public.

For more information: AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com

BOOK GROUP



Monday, September 19, 2022, 5 p.m. Book Selection Gathering

at **Liz Promen's House**, 2210 Cavendish Drive, Alexandria, VA. 22308.
Call 571-212-3387 or email epromen2@gmail.com to sign up for an hors d'oeuvres and RSVP.

Contact **Liz Promen** if you are interested in joining the group or would like more information.

GAME NIGHT

WHO'S GOT GAME?

Find out and join us for a round of fun and games on

Friday, September 23, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

Home of Bianca Daugherty



Spouses and significant others are welcome to join in!

All participants must be fully vaccinated.

Contact **Paula Lettice** or **Bianca Daugherty** if you would like to join the group.

AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com

DIVERSITY OUTREACH GROUP



Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 7 p.m. Zoom Meeting

We will be reading and discussing **The 1619 Project** two chapters at a time. For the September meeting, we will start with the Preface and Chapter 1.

If you have ideas or want to participate at any time, let **Janet Hedrick** know of your interest. (jhedrick815@gmail.com)

Janet Hedrick

AAUW Diversity Outreach Group



DINING OUT

On August 26, a group of eight ventured out to Brabo's during Alexandria Restaurant Week.

We will be having our next Dining Out in November. Guests, including spouses, are welcome. Do you have a favorite local restaurant? **Bianca, Cathy and Paula** welcome your suggestions!

AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com

2022-2024 AAUW-VA Public Policy Priorities

The following are priorities identified by the **VA-AAUW** to address the disproportionate toll taken upon women by the Covid-19 pandemic, which has compounded women's historic economic and social disadvantages:

Equality, Individual Rights, and Social Justice

- Support actions to make the ERA the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.
- Support full access to civil and constitutional rights, including affirmative action and voting rights.
- Support measures to ensure fair, nonpartisan redistricting and transparency in government.
- Support self-determination of women's health decisions.
- Advocate for freedom from violence and fear of violence including bullying, hate crimes, sexual harassment, and human trafficking.
- Advocate for diversity and inclusion as mission-based values.

Economic Security

- Support measures to close the gender pay gap and promote fairness in compensation and benefits.
- Support equal access for women's advancement and leadership opportunities.
- Advocate and promote support for quality, affordable health care and childcare. Advocate for paid family and medical leave, paid sick days, family planning services, and senior care.
- Support standards and policies for a livable minimum wage and the elimination of food and housing insecurities.

Education

- Support Title IX and all other civil rights laws pertaining to education and the enforcement of such laws.
- Support adequate and equitable funding for quality public education for all students to reduce educational disparities and ensure students have equitable access to distance learning and school meals.
- Oppose use of public funds for nonpublic elementary and secondary schools and to charter schools that do not adhere to the civil rights and accountability standards required of other public schools.
- Promote and protect programs that meet the educational needs of girls and women at all levels, including the STEM fields.
- Support increased access to affordable higher education for women and disadvantaged populations.

Postcard Writing Project - September 11, 2 p.m.

Our Mt. Vernon branch is again participating in the VA-AAUW **RECLAIM OUR VOTE** campaign in preparation for the upcoming November 2022 election. **Early voting starts September 24, and the voting registration deadline is October 17.** The postcards go to prospective area voters encouraging them to vote. It is not related to any specific political party. This will be the third year our branch has participated in the AAUW project.

Last year, eight branch members prepared 40 postcards at **Mary Ellen Mehler's** home for the campaign. In 2020, **Cathy Krebs** hosted the postcard writing event at her home. Our branch has been given 40 cards to write again. This year we will prepare the postcards on Sunday afternoon, **September 11, at 2 p.m.** We will work outside on **Mary Ellen's** deck again (2002 Old Stage Road). Please call **Mary Ellen** at 703-780-8494 to let her know you will be coming to help with the postcards.



A JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

The Celebration attracted about 100 persons on Sunday afternoon, June 12, a week before the June 19 holiday.

The program included music performed by members of Aldersgate United Methodist Church and by members of Woodlawn Faith United Methodist Church. In addition, the program concluded with music by the two groups together. Two speakers from Woodlawn Faith spoke during the celebration - first was **Vincent Carter** who explained the significance of Juneteenth and then **Ron Chase** who told the attendees about Gum Springs and its importance in the area.

Members of the Mount Vernon Branch of AAUW have visited the Gum Springs Museum and have heard from **Ron Chase** about Gum Springs.

A reception followed the program and featured the traditional foods for Juneteenth—Red Velvet cake, strawberries, watermelon, and red punch.

*Janet Hedrick
AAUW Diversity Outreach Group*



NORTHERN DISTRICT NEWS

We hope that everyone had a wonderful summer and is ready to start filling in your calendars with the dates of upcoming AAUW of Virginia Northern District events and activities.

SAVE THESE DATES

Saturday, October 22, 2022, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

One of the skills we learned to do well during the pandemic was to Zoom. As a result, for the first district meeting of the 2022-23 program year, the four AAUW of Virginia districts are collaborating and holding an All-District Meeting by Zoom so all members can attend a presentation by our featured speaker: **AAUW Chief Executive Officer Gloria Blackwell**.

Gloria's presentation will be followed by some short presentations, and then each of the districts will hold its own district meeting in a Zoom breakout room. Stay tuned for further information, including information on how to register for the All-District Meeting.



Saturday, February 25, 2023

We have scheduled a Northern District meeting for this date. Stay tuned for further details. In the meantime, please save this date on your calendar.

GET OUT THE VOTE ACTIVITIES WITH THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

As the Northern District Co-Representatives, we've been in contact with the **League of Women Voters (LWV) of Fairfax and the LWV of Arlington and Alexandria City** to determine which of their already scheduled **Get Out The Vote (GOTV)** activities our members can support.



One major activity we can do is to help **staff voter registration drives**.

- By clicking the following link <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1W9tTOZoVy8iVU1AuVOWH0vUHq0bn4Tyh/edit#gid=759689192> you can see all the **voter registration drives the LWV has scheduled in Arlington and Alexandria City** and sign up to help register voters at any of the scheduled voter registration drives.
- In conjunction with **National Voter Registration Day, on September 20, from 1:00- 4:30 p.m.**, there will be **LWV-sponsored voter registration and voter information in-person events at all branches of the Fairfax County Public Library**. Volunteers are asked to commit to at least a 2-hour shift, and AAUW members can sign up at signupgenius.com/go/20f0d48afa82fa7f94-national2. There will be a place to designate AAUW affiliation once a member has signed up. Those volunteering will be notified of a Zoom pre-event orientation.

NORTHERN DISTRICT NEWS

IMPORTANT: Before participating in any voter registration event members must complete training, using this link <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/registration-drives/voter-registration-training-video/>. It's pretty quick to complete the training and get added to the State Department of Elections' list of individuals who can participate in third-party voter registration drives. Members who completed training in previous years need to retake training for 2022.

We are looking forward to working together on a lot of great initiatives this program year.

Susan Burk and Leslie Tourigny
AAUW-VA Northern District Co-Representatives

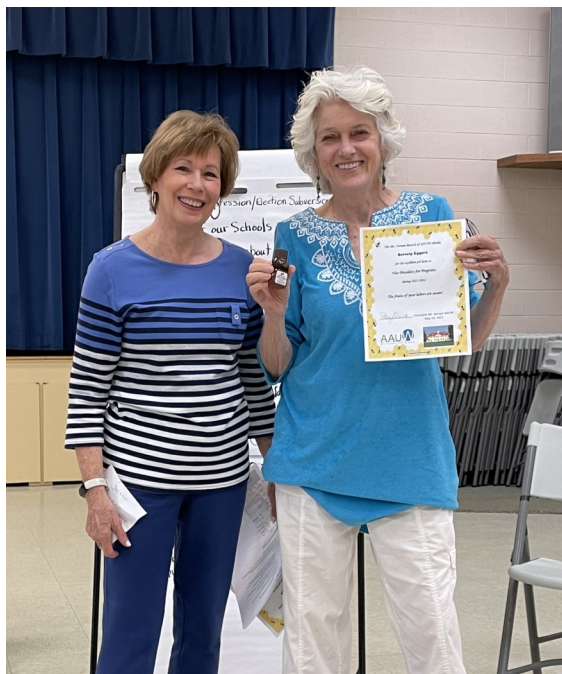
**We have been invited
to join the Mount Vernon at Home program “Conversations”
Sunday, September 18, 3 p.m. (Zoom).**

Conversations speaker **Rohulamin Quander** will give a talk on **“The Quanders: Since 1684, an Enduring African American Legacy”**.

Rohulamin Quander, author and multi-generational Washingtonian, is a member of the internationally renowned Quander Family, whose American lineage traces back almost 350 years in the Maryland and Virginia area.

The family’s history includes involuntary servitude to George Washington at his Mount Vernon plantation. He earned both his B.A. and J.D. degrees from Howard University, Washington, D.C. Quander is a retired Senior Administrative Judge for the District of Columbia.

Watch for email from Paula Lettice.



**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL MEMBERS WHO
WERE ABLE TO ATTEND OUR ANNUAL
PLANNING MEETING ON JUNE 18 AND
HELPED SHAPE THIS NEW PROGRAM YEAR!**

Patsy Quick and Solveig Eggerz at the annual planning meeting.

2022 - 2023 MT. VERNON BRANCH PROGRAM YEAR

Meeting Date and Place	Focus/Activity
Saturday, September 17, 2022, 11 a.m. Via ZOOM hosted by Sherwood Regional Library Joint program with AAUW Alexandria Branch	Virginia Elections: Voter Access? Will my Vote Count? Panel Discussion
Saturday, September 24, 2022, 10:30 p.m. Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	Branch Kickoff Join us to meet and greet and hear about the upcoming year.
October 15, 2022, 10:30 a.m. Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	The STEM Gap: How Can We Build a Better Future for Girls and Women? Speaker: Kathi Hanrahan
Saturday, November 19, 2022, Time TBD. Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	The State of Public Education: Issues and Concerns Speaker TBD
Saturday, December 10, 2022, 11:30 a.m. Cedar Knoll Restaurant 9030 Lucia Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308	Holiday Event Brief presentation by AAUW Fellow Maya Kearney and Legacy Circle Liaison, Kristin Moyer
Thursday, January 21, 2023, 10:30 a.m. Location: ZOOM	Richmond Legislature: AAUW Issues Speakers: Janine Greenwood and Denise Murden, AAUW-VA Public Policy Co-Chairs
February 18, 2023 Location, Date and Time TBD Joint program with AAUW Alexandria Branch	Alexandria Community Remembrance Project: Lynchings in Alexandria
Saturday, March 18, 2023, ABM 9:30-10:45 a.m. / Speaker 11:00 a.m. Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	Annual Business Meeting (ABM) followed by Speaker: Jane Turner Censer on her new book <i>The Princess of Albemarle: Amélie Rives, Author and Celebrity at the Fin de Siècle</i>
Saturday, April 23, 2023, 7 p.m. Reception / 8 p.m. Performance Little Theatre of Alexandria 600 Wolfe St, Alexandria, VA 22314	LTA Annual Fundraiser Schiller's Mary Stuart
May 2023 Location, Date and Time TBD	Annual Potluck
June 2023 Location, Date and Time TBD	Annual Planning Session

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

September 18, 2022
October 22, 2022

Mt Vernon at Home Program
AAUW-VA Districts Meeting



National Voter Registration Day is on September 20, 2022

Once again, the Mt. Vernon AAUW Branch has been invited to join forces with the Mt. Vernon Volunteer Registrars to register voters in our community. The Mt. Vernon Volunteer Registrars will set up the table and provide the materials needed. They have scheduled dates for the Giant at Beacon Mall, The Post Office at Belleview Shopping Center, Bestway on Rte 1, and Huntington Metro. **The sign-up sheet is now available. Use the following link to access it:** <https://signup.com/go/rjxDUvx>

You are asked to take the brief online training beforehand: **ELECT Online training:** [Access the online training.](#)

Let **Patsy Quick** know if you plan to participate, so she can help connect members who want to have an AAUW partner. (pnquick@cox.net)

Voter Registration is an AAUW Public Policy Priority and a good-citizen action. It is a non-partisan activity and political comments should not be responded to.



September 2022

- **6 Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.**
Contact Patsy Quick
703/360-8678
- **11 Reclaim Our Vote, 2 p.m.**
Contact Mary Ellen Mehler
703/3780-8494
- **14 Diversity Outreach Group
7 p.m.**
Contact Janet Hedrick
571/213-2670
- **17 Branch Program, 11 a.m.**
Contact Solveig Eggerz
703/203-0769
- **18 Mt Vernon at Home
Program, 3 p.m.**
Contact Paula Lettice
703/780-3463
- **19 Book Group, 5 p.m.**
Contact Liz Promen
703/780-7342
- **23 Game Night, 7:30 p.m.**
Contact Bianca Daugherty
703/360-7239
- **24 Branch Kickoff Meeting
10:30 a.m.**
Contact Patsy Quick
703/360-8678

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



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

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