

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 66 Issue 3 November 2022

Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Ah autumn! It's in full swing now. As is our branch! This month we will present a program on some of the issues surrounding public education. Public education took a beating during the pandemic. We are interested in some of the problems that families began talking about, sometimes in loud and angry voices. One speaker is an activist in a non-partisan organization called 4PublicEducation. She will talk about the impetus for the loud and angry voices. Our school board member, Karen Corbett Sanders will speak to what is happening in Fairfax County. This is an in-person program that I hope you will attend and bring family members and neighbors.



The program on STEM with our own **Kathi Hanrahan** as speaker is receiving rave reviews! We are working to find a way to get the information she shared to even more people. Stay tuned and accept the offer to help if asked.

Mary Wall and **Patsy Quick**

shared Mt. Vernon AAUW materials at the Crest Community Festival on October 15. On October 19, an ImromptEvent took members to see Hillwood Estate Museum & Gardens and the special exhibit there of Princess Grace of Monaco. Pictures are on page 8. Book Group had their first-in-two-years-in-person (lively) discussion on October 17.

(Continued on page 2)

BRANCH PROGRAM—NOVEMBER 19, 2022

Why All the Recent Attention on Public Education?

Saturday, November 19, 2022, 10:30 a.m.

*Sherwood Regional Library,
2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA*

Our speakers are

Karen Corbett Sanders, Mt. Vernon District Representative to the school board, and
Holly Hazard from www.4publiceducation.org

We will address issues about decision-making regarding curriculum, understaffing in schools, book banning, and public school funding and quality.

Read about our speakers on page 3. We look forward to seeing you for this program

Join us and bring a guest or two. The meeting is free and open to the public.



We welcome new member **Miriam Petruschak** to our branch! Many of us met Miriam at the program on STEM, October 15, or the book group meeting. Read more about her on page 6.

November is the month to vote! Hope you were able to vote early and encouraged others to do the same. If not, please show up on November 8, election day! It has never been more important.

Joanne Malkin has moved to Woodbine Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center. She appreciates our cards and visits, so keep it up! Her address is 2729 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302. I know we are all sending healing prayers.

Enjoy the colors of November!

Patsy



On October 15, AAUW Mt. Vernon volunteers **Susan Farmer, Patsy Quick, and Mary Wall** hosted a table for the third year at the annual Crest Community Fair. We use this event to educate residents about AAUW's mission and to recruit new members for our branch.

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: vacant

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.

MEET OUR PROGRAM SPEAKERS

Karen Corbett Sanders believes that Fairfax County must provide a world class education to each of its students no matter where they live. She takes pride in the fact that the Mount Vernon community has a rich history of developing leaders including George Washington and George Mason. She feels that we owe it to history to ensure Mount Vernon students have access to a world class education in the community's schools. **Corbett Sanders** is committed to working full-time to ensure that each school is a center of academic excellence.

Born and raised in Fairfax County, **Corbett Sanders** is a retired international business executive, a community advocate for healthcare and education issues, past PTA president, and Odyssey of the Mind coach. She has served on Boards of Directors and operating committees for international telecommunications companies and, locally, on the Quality Board of Inova Children's Hospital and the Regional Board for Odyssey of the Mind. **Corbett Sanders** has a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame and a master's degree from Boston University. She serves on the parent advisory board of Creighton University.



<https://www.fcps.edu/school-board/karen-corbett-sanders>

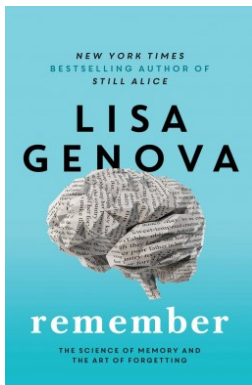


Holly Hazard is an education, animal protection, and women's rights advocate. In 1986 she co-founded the first animal rights law firm in the country. Along with Doris Day, she founded the Doris Day Animal League. For over 10 years, as Senior Vice President at The Humane Society of the United States she oversaw the Society's Companion Animal, Equine, Wildlife and Animal Rescue Departments. Holly has lobbied extensively at the local, state and federal level. She taught the first class on animal law at her alma mater, The College of William and Mary. She formerly served as Legislative Director for Virginia Delegate Kaye Kory.

Holly Hazard has been an advocate for children's issues for over 25 years first serving as PTA President at each of the three Fairfax County public schools her children attended. Recently she co-founded the grassroots activist organization, [4 Public Education](#), to promote and protect public education.

She also edits a daily blog, theosborneman.com, on the hundreds of love letters sent home by her great-grandfather between 1901 and 1940.

BOOK GROUP



**Book Group will meet via Zoom on
Monday, November 21, 2022, 7:30 p.m.
*** Zoom link will be sent via email. *****

BOOK: Remember
By Lisa Genova

REVIEWER: Clare Coulter

NEXT BOOK: West With Giraffes
By Linda Rutledge

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

GAME NIGHT



**Join us for a fun evening with various games
Friday, November 18, 2022, 7:30 p.m.
Home of Paula Lettice**

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

We will meet on

Wednesday, November 9, 4 p.m.

for our next discussion of The 1619 Project.

Patsy will send the Zoom link closer to the date.



**RESERVE
THE DATE!**

**Coming
Soon**

**The holiday luncheon will be held at
Cedar Knoll at 11:30 a.m.
on Saturday, December 10.**

Information on cost and menu will be coming soon from Paula Lettice.

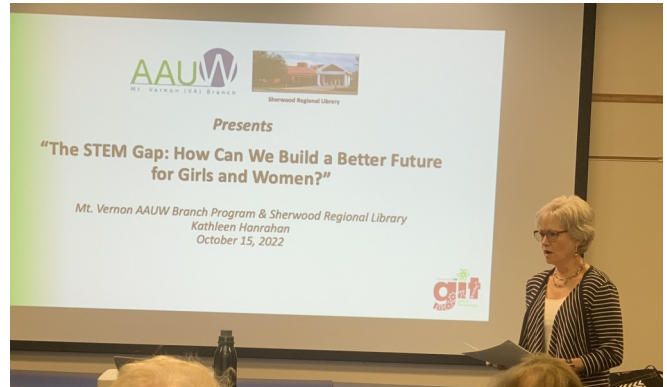
STEMTASTIC!

On October 15, AAUW Mt. Vernon Branch, partnered with Sherwood Hall Regional Library, conducted a successful program entitled “**The STEM Gap: How Can We Build a Better Future for Girls and Women?**” Our AAUW research indicates “The Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields will account for some of the fastest growing — and highest paying — jobs of the future. Yet girls and women are still not on par



Kathi Hanrahan and
branch Membership Co-VP Mary Wall

with boys and men in preparing for or entering into these fields.”



Our speaker, **Kathi Hanrahan**, currently serves on two non-profit boards including serving as Women in Technology Board Member at Large for Emerging Leaders. Her program focused on educating and inspiring young women from middle school to early career. She introduced us to the Girls in Technology organization and shared a long list of resources that we will post on our website She concluded by giving us ideas for how parents, teachers, and grandparents can influence girls. The program was so successful and timely that we will record the program and make it available to local groups. We will also explore next steps for how AAUW Branches can take action in our community. **Our thanks to the program co-chairs Kathi Hanrahan, Susan Farmer, and Mary J Wall.**

Holiday Gifts to Encourage Girls in STEM

The 2016 box-office success of *Hidden Figures* started a trend of promoting pioneering women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in the toy world. From robotic toys to building kits to chemistry sets, there are tons of STEM-based options out there designed to encourage girls (and boys too!) to explore the world and use their imagination. Here are a few to consider: (available on AMAZON) A Google search will result in many more options!



- **LEGOs Women of NASA Building Set.**
Features 3 LEGO builds illustrating the areas of expertise of 4 featured women of NASA: Nancy Grace Roman, Margaret Hamilton, Sally Ride and Mae Jemison.
- **Yellow Scope Beakers and Bubbles Foundation Chemistry Kit for Girls Ages 8-12**
This Foundations in Chemistry Kit includes real lab equipment, including everything girls need to learn about chemical reactions, molecular motion, and more. The lab notebook also contains fun facts, quizzes, and room for kids to create their own experiments!
- **Learning Resources Botley The Coding Robot Activity Set - 77 Pieces, Ages 5+ Screen-Free Coding Robot for Kids, STEM Toy, Programming for Kids**
Botley is ready to code right out of the box! Have 5 AAA batteries and a Phillips screwdriver nearby and this coding robot will have your kid coding in minutes with code games, creativity, and fun.
- **The Best Toys of 2022: <https://www.thespruce.com/best-stem-toys-4153604>**

Susan Farmer
Co-VP Membership

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER

Miriam Petruschak retired from being a Marketing Executive for Florida Tourism. Her responsibilities were to organize and stage two international trade-shows, on a yearly basis. It was an amazing, albeit exhausting career. The most interesting and exciting aspect of the job was the ability to communicate, meet, and create friendships with tour operators from around the world.

After initially missing her work for some time, retirement agrees with her now. She enjoys the freedom to travel, read, and have special family time.

Miriam holds a B.A. from McGill University.



Welcome to our branch!

Voter Issue Guide



What's at stake in this election? Find out using the **AAUW Action Fund's 2022 Voter Issue Guide**. This helpful handout provides concise information about key policy issues in the election, including voter access, the gender pay gap, family leave and paid sick days, college affordability, campus sexual violence, and reproductive rights.

[Download the Guide](#)

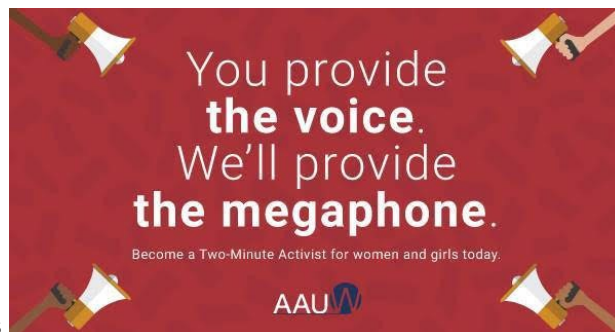
<https://www.aauwaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/AAUW-Action-Fund-2022-Voter-Issue-Guide.pdf>

You're Their Boss

As a voter, you hold an incredible amount of power over your elected officials. You're their boss and they have to take your opinions into account. When a whole bunch of constituents focus their voices collectively on an issue, we can really shape the conversation. That's the power of AAUW's Two-Minute Activist Network — we'll notify you when your voice is needed the most and help you harness your power to make change.

Take action - Sign up here to become a [Two-Minute Activist](#)

Members of AAUW's Action Network receive urgent e-mail notices and text messages when their advocacy is needed most. With our online [Two-Minute Activist](#) tool, it takes just minutes and an internet connection to make your voice heard on issues impacting women and girls!



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, 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, 10:30 a.m. Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	The State of Public Education: Issues and Concerns Speakers: Karen Corbet-Sanders and Holly Hazard
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
Saturday, 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
Saturday, February 18, 2023 Place/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>
Friday, April 21, 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:

February 25, 2023

March 18, 2023

Northern District Meeting

AAUW of Virginia 2023 Conference

**IMPROMTEVENT
HILLWOOD ESTATE
MUSEUM&GARDENS**



Barbara Mann, Jack and Clare Coulter, Joanne Clark, Anne Simpson.

On October 19, some of our members went to visit Hillwood Estate Museum & Gardens and the special exhibit there of Princess Grace of Monaco.

The weather cooperated and everyone enjoyed the walk through the lovely gardens.



From left: Mary Wall, Barbara Mann, Joanne Clark, Anne Simpson



Mt. Vernon (VA) Branch

- **1 Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.**
Contact Patsy Quick
703/360-8678
- **9 Diversity Outreach Group Zoom 4 p.m.**
Contact Janet Hedrick
571/213-2670
- **18 Game Night, 7:30 p.m.**
Contact Paula Lettice
703/780-3463
- **19 Branch Program, 11 a.m.**
Contact Patsy Quick
703/360-8678
- **21 Book Group, 7:30 p.m.**
Contact Liz Promen
703/780-7342



November 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Board Meeting	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 VOTE	9 Diversity Outreach Group	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Game Night	19 Branch Program
20	21 Book Group	22	23	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26
27	28	29	30			



Check out our website <https://mtvernon-va.aauw.net/>
Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/mtvernonvaaauw/>

