

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 66 Issue 2 October 2022

Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Fall is my favorite time of the year! Activities that have been on hold for the summer start again, the weather becomes crisp and refreshing, and warm colors make for a feel-good atmosphere. Mt. Vernon AAUW has gotten off to a good start with programs and activities. However, the good feelings of this autumn are marred, in my opinion, by the worries of the world, a tense period of forthcoming elections, and a weakened economy. All we can do is stay informed, provide assistance in any way possible to those in need, and VOTE.

Speaking of voting, we had a fun group gather at **Mary Ellen Mehler's** home on September 11 to write postcards to send, encouraging citizens in our state to vote. Thank you to **Louise Priest, Jeanne**

Gayler, Kathi Hanrahan, Anne Simpson, Patsy Quick, and especially **Mary Ellen** for contributing to this effort. (See photos page 4)

Other branch activities began again in September. Book Group members gathered to select the books for the year and enjoy a meal together. Again, thanks to **Mary Ellen Mehler** who hosted in place of **Liz Promen** at the last minute. Liz's husband had a medical emergency but is home and doing well. The Diversity Outreach Group, led by **Janet Hedrick**, had its first meeting of the year on September 14. Members are tackling the book *The 1619 Project*, which created a lively discussion among members via Zoom. **Solveig Eggerz** and **Diane Schrier** (Alexandria AAUW) got our program year off to a great start with the program via Zoom

(Continued on page 2)

BRANCH PROGRAM—OCTOBER 15, 2022

The STEM Gap: How Can We Build a Better Future for Girls and Women?

Saturday, October 15, 2022, 10:30 a.m.

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

Speaker: Kathi Hanrahan

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

AAUW, "The STEM Gap"



We will review the current landscape and challenges for girls and women in STEM, and spotlight one non-profit organization working in the DC Metro area to advance girls and women in STEM fields, through educational and career focused programs. Comments or testimonials from girls participating in these programs will be included, either in-person or via recorded video. Other local or national organizations tackling the STEM parity problem will also be identified, and we'll end with exploring next steps for how AAUW branches and the public can take action in our community.

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

on voting issues. **If you missed this important program, here is the [link to the recording](#).**

Bianca Daugherty hosted the fun, first game night of the year on September 23. **A huge THANK YOU to the many members who make this such a vibrant AAUW branch!!**

PLEASE NOTE: Our longtime member, **Joanne Malkin**, had a stroke recently. She is recovering and our thoughts and prayers are with her. Send cards to her in care of her daughter and son-in-law (Deborah and Brian Block) at: 6101 Edsall Rd. #1601, Alexandria, VA 22304.

Now, you need to read the rest of this newsletter to see what is ahead in October!



Happy Fall, Y'all! *Patsy*

MEET OUR PROGRAM SPEAKER



Program speaker will be Mt. Vernon Branch member **Kathleen (Kathi) Hanrahan**. **Kathi** retired from IBM in 2018 as a software executive, and currently serves on two non-profit boards. She is Women in Technology (WIT) Board Member-at-Large for Emerging Leaders, responsible for their Girls in Technology (GIT) suite of STEM programs. Her passion includes educating and inspiring young women from Middle School to Early Career and creating partnerships with other DC Metro area non-profits with complementary STEM missions.

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.

BOOK GROUP

Monday, October 17, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

Please inform the hostess whether or not you plan to attend.

HOSTESS: Mary Wall
6107 Fairview Farm Drive
Alexandria, VA 22315-4655

CO-HOST: Anne Simpson



BOOK: The Midnight Library
Matt Haig

REVIEWER: Ebba Jo Spettel

NEXT BOOK: Remember
Lisa Genova

GAME NIGHT



Join us for a fun evening with various games on

Friday, October 28, 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, October 12, 7 p.m.

for our next discussion of The 1619 Project. Please read Chapters 2 and 3.

Ebba Jo will be leading the discussion.

Patsy will send the Zoom link closer to the date.



Dining Out Group



We are planning on a Friday night dinner at **VASO'S Mediterranean Bistro** in November. www.vasosonking.com/

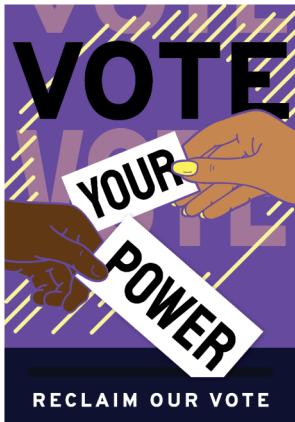
We are working on the date; please stay tuned and watch for email from Paula.



I am delighted to report that as of August, our branch has collected **\$4793.24** for **AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund**. Thank you all for your generosity. Of this amount, **\$2,803.24** was donated by the branch, and consists mainly of Little Theatre ticket money that we collected. As you recall, the play was cancelled because of Covid 19, but branch members kindly did not request refunds. Another **\$1,990** was donated by **13** individuals, with multiple donations by some of those individuals. Some members do automatic monthly donations. When the switch to the new system was made, those automatic donations did not get carried over. It is still an available mechanism, but you need to call AAUW to set it up again. Also, any donations made through Donor Advised Funds are not reflected in the Branch report at this time. We have asked National to find a way to credit our branch for such member donations. **Let's try to reach \$5,000 by the end of the year!!!** We will be collecting at upcoming events.

POSTCARD WRITING CAMPAIGN

Many Hands Make Light Work



On September 11, several branch members gathered at the home of **Mary Ellen Mehler**, branch Public Policy Chair, to participate in the **Reclaim Our Vote** post-card writing campaign sponsored by the **Center for Common Ground**. Members wrote postcards, encouraging individual registered voters in under-represented voting districts to vote. **AAUW-VA** is supporting this project and provided post-cards to AAUW-VA branches.

Center for Common Ground, a non-partisan voting rights organization, was founded to educate and empower under-represented voters in voter suppression states to engage in elections and advocate for their right to vote. <https://www.centerforcommonground.org/>



Solveig (left), Jeanne (middle) and Louise, Anne, Patsy, Kathi and Jeanne (right)

SEPTEMBER BRANCH PROGRAM SUMMARY

Will Your Vote Count? - September 17 Discussion on VA Voting/Elections

Solveig Eggerz

Panelists were **Deb Wake**, president of the Virginia League of Women Voters; **Angela Maniglia-Turner**, General Registrar and Director of Elections, Alexandria; **Jamshid Bakhtiari**, Director of Organizing and Community Engagement for the ACLU of Virginia; **Nick Gothard**, Election Protection Manager with the non-partisan organization, VCET—Virginia Civic Engagement Table.

Deb Wake emphasized the importance of voting in local, state, and national elections, stating “**There is no fraud**” despite the newly created Election Integrity Unit, and the numerous FOIA requests and fraud-related questions that are burying election officials in extra work.

- **Virginia has successfully addressed gerrymandering with all new maps**, with which the League is very happy.
- A process for correcting absentee ballot mistakes, **Ballot Curing**, has been added. Previously, a ballot with mistakes would be discarded. Now, when a mistake occurs, a registrar will call the voter. A witness is still required for absentee voting.
- “**No Excuse**” voting now exists; you no longer need to give a reason for voting early.
- Provisional ballots are looked at by the election board on the day after the election. A misconception exists that provisional ballots are only counted in a close race.
- Since 2020 **you don’t need a photo ID**.

<https://lwv-va.org>

Angela Maniglia-Turner cited some changes her office is implementing: same day registration; pre-registration of 17 year olds; and absentee recording by precinct. You can call her office if you’re uncertain about the status of your right to vote. For help restoring voting rights, contact the Virginia Secretary of the Commonwealth, **Kay Cole James**,

<https://www.commonwealth.virginia.gov>

“We are always looking for more election officers. We offer training. There’s a stipend. Only requirement is that you are a registered voter in Virginia,” **Turner** said. Her website provides information on

elections such as, absentee voting, registration, ID requirements.

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/Elections>

ACLU’s Focus on Voting Rights

Jamshid Bakhtiari described Virginia ACLU’s intense focus on voter disenfranchisement. **Along with the League, ACLU is striving to add a right to vote amendment to the Virginia constitution.** Thus restoration of voting rights for ex-offenders would no longer require approval by the governor.

Bakhtiari expressed concern about the upcoming Supreme Court redistricting case, *Moore v. Harper*, which in adherence to the Independent State Legislature Theory, would shift election administration to the state legislature, thus removing the state court’s role as enforcer of the state constitution.

He urged Virginia voters to work closely with groups, such as ACLU, the League of Women Voters, and VCET that focus on safeguarding elections.

<https://acluva.org>

Virginia Civic Engagement Table Seeks Several Dozen Poll Monitors

Also in the discussion was **Nick Gothard**, Election Protection Manager with the non-partisan organization, VCET—Virginia Civic Engagement Table. VCET recruits poll monitors, individuals who work outside the polling place, and assist with any problems that might arise, including helping voters find their correct precinct.

VCET’s election protection program not only monitors what’s going on at the polls, but it is also a voter education program. “Our goal is to make sure people are there on election day to help,” **Gothard** said. For this election, they seek several dozen Northern Virginia poll monitors. You can sign up from VCET’s website.

<https://engageva.org>

If you would like to watch the recorded panel discussion please click [here](#).

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, 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
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:

October 22, 2022
February 25, 2023

AAUW-VA Districts Meeting
Northern District Meeting

Correction. Our September newsletter stated incorrect days/dates for the January meeting and April Fundraiser. Program chart has been updated.



ALL DISTRICT MEETING

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

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.

Registration Required. Watch for the email.



October 2022

- **12 Diversity Outreach Group**
Zoom 7 p.m.
Contact Janet Hedrick
571/213-2670
- **15 Branch Program, 11 a.m.**
Contact Patsy Quick
703/360-8678
- **17 Book Group, 5 p.m.**
Contact Liz Promen
703/780-7342
- **22 All-District Meeting**
Zoom 10 a.m.
- **28 Game Night, 7:30 p.m.**
Contact Paula Lettice
703/780-3463



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Diversity Outreach Group	13	14	15 Branch Program
16	17 Book Group	18	19	20	21	22 All-District Meeting
23	24	25	26	27	28 Game Night	29
30	31					



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

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

