

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 66 Issue 4 December 2022

Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy December!

As we enter the season of giving, many pocket-books are stretched to the limit. In November, a group of our branch members contributed to the call from **New Hope Housing** for Thanksgiving food baskets. You will find the photo on page 3. We plan to do the same for a family this month. Our members are always very generous!

Our branch is raffling wine as a way to raise money for AAUW Funds. **Please purchase a raffle when you register for the Holiday luncheon on December 10!** AAUW National has put out a call for donations, as well. Your donation will be **doubled** if you donate between now and the end of the year. The money will go toward publishing relevant

research like the recent survey highlighting how student loans are unfairly burdening women of color, offering workshops to inform and inspire teen girls interested in STEM, and pushing legislators to pass state and federal equity laws, while also partnering with employers to ensure their policies promote equal pay for equal work. Follow the link in the recent email that was sent to all members or [click here to donate now.](#)

The **Little Theatre fundraiser** is not until April, but the tickets for our play, *Mary Stewart*, will be available at the luncheon on December 10. The price per ticket is \$35. (Inflation has not affected that price!) They make great Christmas gifts!! See the flyer on page 9. You will be hearing more about this closer to the date.

(Continued on page 2)

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON—DECEMBER 10, 2022



Happy
Holidays!

AAUW Mt Vernon Branch Celebrates the Holidays!

Please join us for our Holiday Luncheon on
Saturday, December 10, 11:30 a.m. at Cedar Knoll
9030 Lucia Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308



Happy
Holidays!

Celebrate together with your AAUW friends and enjoy a delicious three course meal in good company. You also could be the lucky winner of our **wine basket raffle**. Tickets are \$20 each or \$50 for 3. **All proceeds will go to AAUW Funds.**

Listen to a brief presentation from our guest speakers, AAUW Fellow **Maya Kearney** and Legacy Circle Liaison, **Kristin Moyer** (see pages 4 and 5.)

We have chosen **United Community** as our service giving agency this year. If you would like to help needy children this holiday season, please consider buying one or more \$30 gift cards from Target or Walmart and donating to United Community at the luncheon.

***** **PLEASE RSVP BY DECEMBER 3!** *****

Questions or if you have not responded to the invitation that was sent out via email earlier, please contact Paula Lettice immediately at pglettice@gmail.com

Please don't forget **Joanne Malkin**. She remains at Woodbine where she enjoys your cards and visits. Her address is 2729 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22302. Room 134B. Her cell number is 703-360-7725.

In closing, I want to thank all the members of our branch who have given their time to keep our activities engaging for our members. From Book Group (**Liz Promen**), Dining Out (**Paula Lettice, Bianca Daugherty and Cathy Conron**), Game Night (**Paula and Bianca** again!), Diversity Outreach (**Janet Hedrick**), and ImpromptEvent (**Joanne Clark**) our

members and leaders excel in keeping things fun and stimulating. Our Program VP, **Solveig Eggerz** has worked wonders at our programs. And, **Elaine Kolish** sent out 2 surveys for us recently. **Anne Simpson, Mary Wall** and **Susan Farmer** have monitored our membership and dues payments and learned about the new Community Hub. Many of you have shown up at our programs. It is greatly appreciated. Thank you all for your participation and friendship! I'm am looking forward to what 2023 has to bring! Happy Holidays to all!

Patsy

Lobby Day 2023



To all Virginia AAUW Members:

Our VA-AAUW co-VPs for Public Policy, **Denise Murden** and **Janine Greenwood**, are encouraging all Virginia AAUW members to be a part of the **January 19, 2023, Lobby Day events in Richmond**. The Richmond branch is working to arrange the **AAUW reception for lawmakers** on the evening of **January 18**. A block of discounted hotel rooms nearby has been booked for that night to facilitate lobbying the next day. More details on hotel reservations and Lobby Day plans will be coming soon.

Mary Ellen Mehler, Public Policy Chair

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.

Our branch is well known and appreciated by AAUW and the community for its generosity in giving to **AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund** and for supporting local charities that help people in need. So, during this season of giving, with gratitude and grace for the bounty we all enjoy in our lives, **we ask you to give generously to United Community, New Hope Housing, AAUW or all three at our Holiday luncheon on December 10 at Cedar Knoll.** You can do so in the following ways:

1. Support **United Community's Gift Card Collection**. UC is collecting \$30 gift cards from Target, Walmart, or Visa to give to enrolled parents of 700 children in our community to help them buy gifts for their families. You also can donate online at unitedcommunity.org/drives/
2. Help fill a **Christmas Food Basket for New Hope Housing**. We hope to fill one or more baskets with the following requested and optional items (NHH also will gladly take individual items).

2 cans of vegetables	1 can sweet potatoes	1 can cranberry sauce	1 can of fruit
1 box/bag of stuffing mix	potatoes (fresh, box of instant, or 2 cans)	2 jars or packets of gravy	1 package rolls or box of biscuit mix
1 dessert mix (brownie, cake mix, pie filling)	\$25 gift card to purchase protein of choice (Shoppers, Giant, Safeway, or Aldi are preferred)		
Optional Items:	Macaroni and cheese Tuna	Pasta	Peanut Butter
Rice	Beans	Bag of fresh fruit	Aluminum roasting pan

3. Donate to **AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund**, either at the luncheon or [online](#). We are just a few hundred dollars away from reaching our \$5,000 goal.



the joy of

 giving

Elaine and Patsy put this Thanksgiving Food Basket together and delivered it to the New Hope Housing office. Thank you to Elaine Kolish, Kathi Hanrahan, Janet Hedrick, Joanne Clark, Bianca Daugherty, Joanna Crane, Liz Promen, Mary Ellen Mehler, and Patsy Quick who contributed gift cards and food items for the basket.

A BOOK GROUP INVITATION

Book Group Invites You to an Exciting Evening with Brendan Slocum Monday, February 20, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. by Zoom

Elaine Kolish and Liz Promen

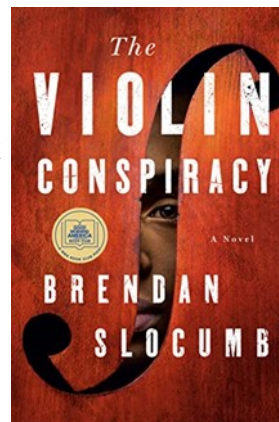
Brendan Slocum is a Black author who is also a violinist. His book, *The Violin Conspiracy*, will keep you on the edge of your seat, while giving you insight into racism in the classical music world. Elaine read the book and loved it and says you will too.

This is what Amazon has to say:

GOOD MORNING AMERICA BOOK CLUB PICK! • Ray McMillian is a Black classical musician on the rise—undeterred by the pressure and prejudice of the classical music world—when a shocking theft sends him on a desperate quest to recover his great-great-grandfather’s heirloom violin on the eve of the most prestigious musical competition in the world.

Brendan will talk about how he came to write this book, read some passages and take questions.

If we put in an order with Politics and Prose for 25 or more copies of the novel, we would get a 25% discount, so the book would be \$12.75 a copy and they would be shipped to Elaine directly. (She plans to buy several as presents for mystery loving family and friends).



Please let Elaine know by December 1 if you would like to place an order or if you plan to attend the event.

We will let everyone who is interested know if we meet the discount threshold. If we order by Dec. 2 the books will probably arrive before Christmas. You can reach Elaine at elaine.kolish@gmail.com.

GUEST SPEAKER AAUW FELLOW MAYA KEARNEY



Maya S. Kearney is a socio-cultural and urban anthropologist, specializing in urban ethnographic methodologies, carceral studies, as well as urban policy and spatial transformation. She has had over 15 years of both academic and applied training in anthropology and attended one of two remaining anthropology programs at a Historically Black College and University (HBCU), Spelman College. She strives to understand the how and why of urban issues and phenomena that disproportionately impact Black communities to inform strategies for restorative and transformative justice. Her dissertation builds on this research where she identified housing as the most important need of prisoner reentry by examining how gentrification impacts access to stable and affordable housing for individuals returning with a felony conviction (returning citizens). Maya's work has been supported by the American Association of University Women (AAUW), American Association of Geographers (AAG), and American Anthropological Association (AAA).

GUEST SPEAKER KRISTIN MOYER

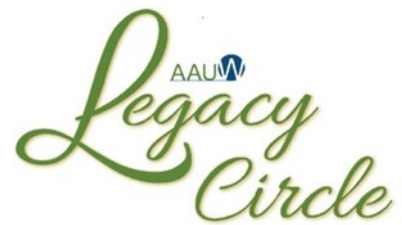
Kristin Moyer, "Leaving a Legacy, Making a Difference"



Kristin Moyer, a life member of AAUW who celebrated fifty years as an AAUW member in 2021, is a member of the AAUW National Legacy Circle Team. She serves as a Legacy Circle liaison to the states of Virginia, Maryland, South Carolina, North Carolina, West Virginia, and the District. **Kristin** is a past president of AAUW of Virginia and served on the state board for eight years. She has served numerous times in elected and appointed positions in the Vienna Area AAUW branch including three terms as branch president. She is a writer, poet, and storyteller and publishes a blog www.notawimpywidow.com. She is an avid traveler, genealogist, and gardener.

YOU AND AAUW

You are invited to join the **AAUW Legacy Circle**, a wonderful community of likeminded supporters who have made equity a central part of their legacies through planned giving. Planned gifts, *also known as legacy gifts*, offer some of the most innovative and meaningful ways to give back and ensure a better future for women, girls, and their communities. Affirm your commitment to AAUW through a planned gift to AAUW National today. **Together we're making a lasting impact to ensure a better future for girls and women!**



Benefits of Planned Giving

- * Planned gifts, also known as *legacy gifts* or *bequests*, allow you the flexibility to provide for your family and support AAUW at the same time.
- * Planned gifts need not affect your cash flow during your lifetime; some legacy gifts are designed to also give back, providing steady income for you and your loved ones for life.
- * Certain planned gifts may reduce or even eliminate estate or capital gains taxes.
- * There is no minimum gift amount, and every gift can be tailored to suit your needs.

Become a visionary member of the AAUW Legacy Circle! Join **Patsy Quick**, **Mary Wall**, and **Janet Hedrick** of the Mt. Vernon Branch. To learn more, please visit ww3.aauw.org/legacy/.

Or request a brochure or ask a question by contacting

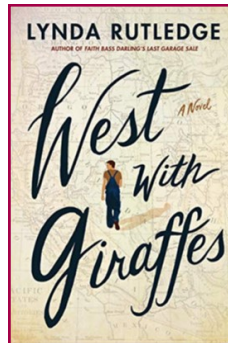
Kristin Moyer of the AAUW Legacy Circle Team by email at kcmoyer65@gmail.com.

BOOK GROUP

Monday, December 19, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

Attendees are asked to bring a wrapped, used book to exchange.

HOSTESS: Patsy Quick
5508 Old Mill Rd.
CO-HOST: Joanne Clark



BOOK: **West With Giraffes**
by Linda Rutledge

REVIEWER: Joanna Crane

NEXT BOOK: **The Water Dancer**
by Ta-Nehisi Coates

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

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

GAME NIGHT

NO GAME NIGHT IN DECEMBER

We have completed our hosting schedule for the rest of the “gaming season.” We meet on the fourth Friday of every month gathering at 7:15 p.m. and beginning playing at 7:30 p.m.



January 27, 2023	Hosted by Patsy
February 24, 2023	Co-Hosted by Joanne/Barbara
March 24, 2023	Hosted by Anne
April 28, 2023	Co-Hosted by Mary/Paula
May 26, 2023	Hosted by Cynthia
June 30, 2023	Co-Hosted by Cathy/Kathi

Thank you to our hosts for inviting the group to their homes.



Surprise, surprise!!!

Game Night members surprised fellow gamer Patsy Quick with a birthday cake at the November game night.

From left: Cathy, Kermit, Patsy, Paula



Contact **Paula Lettice** or **Bianca Daugherty** if you would like to join the group. AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com

Spouses and significant others are welcome.

DINING OUT



Twelve members (including two spouses) met for our quarterly Dining Out on Friday, November 11. Our restaurant choice was Vaso's on King Street in Old Town. The menu is Greek, with Italian overtones. Having a private space on the second floor allowed wonderful conversation and leisurely dining (and check-out!!!)



We are planning our next culinary excursion during **Winter Restaurant Week** which usually takes place in January! No dates have been published yet. Stay tuned for more information closer to the event.



DIVERSITY OUTREACH GROUP
will meet via zoom on December 14 at 7 p.m.
Zoom link will be sent via email.

NOVEMBER BRANCH PROGRAM PATSY QUICK

Our November 19 program called **Why All the Recent Attention on Public Education?** was extremely interesting and important. Speakers **Holly Hazzard** ([4PublicEducation.org](https://www.4publiceducation.org)) and **Karen Corbett Sanders** (Mt. Vernon District representative on the Fairfax County School Board) addressed issues about decision-making regarding curriculum, understaffing in schools, book banning, and public school funding and quality. Both had specific information and data about the quality of Virginia schools and contradicted many of false accusations being made by parents, politicians, and others who may not have public education's best interest in mind. The information from **Holly**, as a concerned citizen who with other local individuals founded **4PublicEducation** in 2021 in response to increasing attacks on public education, championed public education. The goal of the organization is "to reinstate truthful and civil conversations about education." **Karen Corbett Sanders** balanced **Holly's** information with data and statistics. Both speakers raised alarm about the political implications of the attacks on public education. You can sign up for the **4PublicEducation** newsletter by clicking here: <https://www.4publiceducation.org/>



Top:
Holly Hazzard



Left:
Karen Corbett Sanders



On a Friday morning in November AAUW members from the Mt Vernon and Alexandria branches visited **Together We Bake (TWB)**, an Alexandria non-profit dedicated to training underserved

women in a range of skills and thus empowering them to gain self sufficiency.

TWB executive director **Stephanie Wright** co-founded the program ten years ago with **Tricia Sabatini**, director of operations, who operated a small baking business out of her home. The eight to ten-week program is centered on culinary skills and leads to the nationally recognized ServSafe certificate. By attaining the certificate, the women are on a path toward preferential hiring and higher wages. But the program includes a range of skills beyond culinary training, such as life skills, business practices, financial literacy, mindfulness training, and how to respond to any form of triggering.

When the program started in 2012, participants were almost exclusively formerly incarcerated women. Today the students may include immigrants, homeless women, and others who face barriers to employment. “Unfortunately, most have the shared experience of abuse and trauma,” **Stephanie** said. “Here they find a sisterhood, women they can count on, something they haven’t had before.”

Together We Bake: A Place that Empowers Women

TWB likes to hire its graduates. Among them is **Mackenzie Criswell**, who served time in prison while her daughter was young. “I always wanted to be a baker,” she told us. But the program meant so much more to her than that, she explained. At TWB she gained something she hadn’t realized she needed—the support and friendship of other women with shared experiences. Today **Mackenzie** not only helps produce delicious granola and chocolate chip cookies in the TWB kitchen, but she also handles a range of duties for TWB, including mentoring women currently in the program.

How Can AAUW Members Help?

- Job Counseling
- Donations
- Buy TWB products— Culinary products cover about one fourth of TWB’s costs.

Stephanie described job counseling as a “very rewarding volunteer opportunity.” TWB would prepare the volunteer for how best to guide a woman preparing to enter the job market.

For more information on TWB:

<https://togetherwebake.org>

<https://togetherwebake.org/pages/all-about-together-we-bake>



Together in TWB’s kitchen, from left to right:

Janet Hedrick, Solveig Eggerz, Stephanie Wright, Priscilla Bornmann, Mackenzie Criswell.

Not pictured Lois Passmann, Anne Simpson.

Heads will roll! Well, at least one will.

4/21/23 7p, AAUW fundraiser at Little Theater of Alexandria

MARY STUART



600 Wolfe St., Alexandria

Please make check payable to Mt. Vernon AAUW

Mail to: Janet Hedrick
2128 Farrington Ave.
Alexandria, VA 22303

One queen will win; one must fall. This highly-charged political drama is about two mighty royals – Mary Stuart and Queen Elizabeth I – and the power play between two of history's greatest monarchs. With inspiring, powerful characters, and a theme grounded in the struggle between religion, womanhood and statesmanship, this play mirrors and explores many of the same issues present today.

Effective September 1, 2022

*In consultation with local health authorities and Washington area theater venues, LTA will no longer require proof of vaccination or PCR testing in lieu of vaccination. However, **LTA will continue to require all persons attending performances to wear a mask indoors, including during the performance or event.***

(<https://thelittletheatre.com/>)



GET YOUR TICKETS FOR MARY STUART

The annual fundraiser for the Mount Vernon and Alexandria Branches of AAUW is the play **Mary Stuart** at the Little Theatre of Alexandria. The event will be on Friday, April 21, 2023, starting with a 7 p.m. reception and curtain at 8 p.m.

Janet Hedrick will distribute tickets at our **Holiday Luncheon on December 10**. Tickets are (still!) \$35 each. \$10 of the ticket price is tax deductible.

Do your holiday shopping, theater tickets make wonderful holiday gifts!

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 Corbett 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

Now, through December 31st, your donation to AAUW will be **matched**, up to \$57,000!

DONATE NOW

Get a head start on Giving Tuesday by chipping in now to **DOUBLE** the impact of your donation in the fight for gender equity! All contributions will be **MATCHED** up to \$57,000!

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT FOR GENDER EQUITY

\$0

Goal: \$57,000

<https://bit.ly/3VkrAbe>

Click on "Don't have an account" to donate if you don't already have an account with AAUW.

(<https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.National>)



Mt. Vernon (VA) Branch

- **6 Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.**
Contact Patsy Quick
703/360-8678
- **10 Holiday Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.**
Contact Paula Lettice
703/780-3463
- **14 Diversity Outreach Group Zoom 7 p.m.**
Contact Janet Hedrick
571/213-2670
- **19 Book Group, 7:30 p.m.**
Contact Liz Promen
703/780-7342

happy holidays!

December 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Board Meeting	7	8	9	10 Holiday Luncheon
11	12	13	14 Diversity Outreach Group	15	16	17
18	19 Book Group	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



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

