

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 66 Issue 5 January 2023

Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Out with the old, ring in the New! Happy New Year, everyone! We hope it will be healthy, safe, and wondrous year!

How did you celebrate the New Year? What was your state of mind? I recently read this

quote: "An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves." I admit that I am the optimist. I never think about the old year as it is going out, but enjoy the idea that the new year will bring new possibilities, chances, and changes. I hope you feel optimistic, too!

This quote is a favorite of mine: "The book is called Opportunity, and its first chapter is New Year's

Day." —Edith Lovejoy Pierce, poet

If you are open to opportunity, there no better place to look than AAUW! As members, we have multiple opportunities to learn, give, and participate.

AAUW-VA is offering a chance to participate in the state-wide **Lobby Day in Richmond, January 19**. See the newsletter for more information on that. Book, Game Night, and Diversity Outreach groups offer local opportunities to participate and have fun.

Our program on January 21 via Zoom will provide an opportunity to learn more about what will be happening as the General Assembly begins its session. AAUW-VA Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy, **Janine Greenwood and Denise Murden** will enlighten us!

(Continued on page 2)

BRANCH PROGRAM



Tune in via Zoom for our next branch program.

January 21, 2023, 10:30 a.m.
Virginia General Assembly 2023:
Promoting AAUW Policy Priorities



Janine Greenwood and Denise Murden, Co- VPs for Public Policy for AAUW of Virginia will provide an update on how AAUW Public Policy Priorities are faring in the Virginia General Assembly. They will review what members learned from lawmakers at our January 19 Lobby Day and discuss the status of legislation important to our members at this midpoint in the legislative session.

The program will be open to all AAUW branches in the state and should be most informative.

Janine and Denise have done great work keeping us informed up to this point and their insights will inspire us!

****Zoom link will be sent closer to the date.****

In April we will co-sponsor with the Alexandria Branch our first in-person fundraiser in several years! **Janet Hedrick** has already begun selling tickets! Please reach out to family and friends for opportunities to give or sell tickets. We will need members to provide a savory and/or wine for the reception. Someone will be needed to lead this aspect of the fundraiser. Won't you volunteer? Let Patsy know!

Life will never be boring if you stay open to opportunity! Share your ideas and thoughts! Participate in our activities and "... welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been." —Rainer Maria Rilke, poet.

Yes! I look forward optimistically to what 2023 will bring! And I look forward to seeing you! Happy New Year to all!

Patsy



New Hope Housing Christmas Donations

A huge thank you goes out to all the members who contributed to the New Hope Housing Christmas food "basket."

Your generosity is always amazing: Mary Ellen Mehler, Elaine Kolish, Liz Promen, Joanna Crane, Bianca Daugherty, Janet Hedrick, Patsy Quick, Kathi Hanrahan, Maureen Kuletz, Joanne Clark, Ebba Jo Spettel!

If you left items at Cedar Knoll and didn't let Patsy know, we thank you, too!

BRANCH LEADERSHIP 2022 – 2023

Elected Officers

President:	Patsy Quick
Program Vice President:	Solveig Eggerz
Membership	Susan Farmer
Co-Vice Presidents:	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.

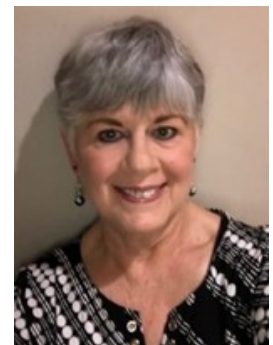
DYNAMIC DUO: JANINE AND DENISE



Janine Greenwood joined AAUW in 2013 as a member of the Reston-Herndon Area Branch and was branch president from 2019-2021. Under her leadership, the branch became one of the first branches in Virginia to achieve 5-Star status. She has been a member of the AAUW Lobby Corps since 2016 and was recently appointed to the AAUW Governance Committee. **Janine** has a BA from the University of Pittsburgh, an MSJ from Columbia University in journalism, and a JD from Columbia University Law. Throughout her career she has taught at City University of New York, Columbia University, and Emerson College; served as counsel to Westinghouse Broadcasting and Metromedia Television in various cities, interrupted by a year as a television news producer; and retired in 2016 as chief legal officer of the National Student Clearinghouse, the data hub of U.S. higher education, where she created and executed the organization's government relations strategy.

Before her move to Northern Virginia, **Janine** served on the Massachusetts Governor's Commission for Higher Education and chaired the Community Advisory Board for WGBH--the Boston public television and radio organization that produces *Masterpiece*, among other shows. Janine is a member of the Board of Directors of Friends of Reston and a member of the League of Women Voters. She has taught courses at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason on various issues, including economic inequity for women.

Denise Murden has enjoyed serving and learning as co-vice president for public policy since July 2020. She joined AAUW in 2018 and has since served as the Suffolk Branch's program co-chair and is currently the president. She retired from federal civil service in 2016 with more than 40 years of public administration and non-profit work experience. She served as a public affairs officer, management analyst, and internal performance consultant, working assignments both in the United States and Europe for seven different federal agencies. She was a recipient of the Department of Homeland Security Secretary's Award for her leading role in helping to improve diversity and equity in the Coast Guard and the U.S. Coast Guard's Distinguished Career Service Award. She earned her undergraduate degree in writing and communications from the University of Pittsburgh in 1975 and a master's degree in management from Troy University in 2010. **Denise** is a patron member of The Muse Writers Center in Norfolk and has continued to participate in their workshops throughout the pandemic. She enjoys writing opinions, essays, and memoirs, and is often published in the *VirginianPilot* and the *SuffolkNews Herald*. In her free time, Denise enjoys genealogical research, photo organizing, cooking, reading, gardening, and bird feeding and watching. She is available for her friends and family, including her husband Mike and daughter Sonia. Her mother, Louise Gosma, was her role model for combining career and family and continues to be Denise's inspiration in working towards equity for women.





Update on 2023 Lobby Day

Virginia AAUW members will meet in person in Richmond for **AAUW Lobby Day on Thursday, January 19**. There will be a reception on Wednesday evening, January 18, for those arriving that day. Members are also invited to join by Zoom. A block of rooms has been secured at the **Hampton Inn and Suites in downtown Richmond** at the rate of \$145 per night for January 19. For those planning to attend Lobby Day or a Pre-Session Public Policy Zoom Meeting on January 5 at 5:00 p.m., please email **Mary Ellen Mehler** at memeehler@msn.com to obtain Zoom links, Hampton Inn reservation links, driving directions, and other detailed information. She will forward to you a lengthy email with the necessary information from Denise Murden, AAUW-VA Co-VP for Public Policy.

AAUW-VA Legislative and Policy Priorities 2022-2023

AAUW-VA's 2022-2023 Public Policy priorities encompass issues related to economic security, education, equality, individual rights, and social justice. The following legislative and policy priorities are those we will focus on for the 2023 Virginia General Assembly session and beyond:

- Protect access to abortion and women's right to make personal reproduction decisions with their medical care providers.
- Eliminate systemic racism and sexism through changes to Virginia law and regulations
- Make childcare affordable and readily available for all families.
- Protect full access to voting.
- Ensure full public school funding and protect teachers from harassment and liability claims.



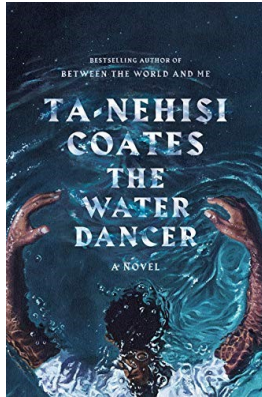
On December 22, 2022, the **Pregnant Workers Fairness Act** passed the U.S. Senate in a bipartisan 73-24 vote as an amendment to the omnibus package. After years of fighting for basic accommodations to protect pregnant workers, we celebrate this momentous win and thank our members and partners for never giving up on a safer future for all workers.

This is where WE came in:

- AAUW members used our Two-Minute Activist tool below to quickly write to their senators.
- We called senators **AND** Senate Majority Leader Schumer through the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121.
- Our community kept the pressure on through in-person meetings, rallies at the U.S. Capitol, on social media, and by urging friends and family to join them.

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/pregnant-workers-fairness-act/>

BOOK GROUP



**Book Group will meet via Zoom on
Monday, January 16, 2023, 7:30 p.m.
*** Zoom link will be sent via email. *****

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

REVIEWER: Solveig Eggerz

NEXT BOOK: *The Violin Conspiracy*
by Brendan Slocum

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, January 27, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Home of Patsy Quick

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



DIVERSITY OUTREACH GROUP CHANGES TIME FOR ITS MEETINGS

The AAUW – Mount Vernon Diversity Outreach Group has changed the time of its monthly meeting from 7 p.m. to 4 p.m. The monthly discussion group will continue to meet on the second Wednesday each month by Zoom. The members of the group are continuing to read “*The 1619 Project*”. For the January meeting, the group will be reading chapters 8 and 9. The meeting will be on

Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 4 p.m.

Suggestions for other readings and/or activities are invited. If you have questions or want to join the group, please contact Janet Hedrick at jhedrick815@gmail.com or at 571-213-2670.

**Join Dining Out for a warm winter gathering
during Restaurant Week in January.**

ALEXANDRIA
**RESTAURANT
WEEK 2023**
JANUARY 20-29

Alexandria’s Restaurant Week runs January 20 to 29, 2023.
There are **more than 70 restaurants** offering a **\$25, \$35 or \$45
prix fixe dinner for one.** plus beverage, 20% gratuity, and tax,
plus any extras you order.

**Please stay tuned,
more information will follow by email from Paula.**

An impromptevent visit to the **National Gallery** on December 17 was a wonderful experience, but sadly only attended by **Joanne Clark** and **Patsy Quick**. We were not particularly taken with the Singer Sargent exhibit, but instead spent most of our time in the very large Impressionist exhibit. **Joanne** would like to organize trips to the **Portrait Gallery** and to the **African American Museum**. It is difficult to schedule a group for these events, so in advance I am going to ask those of you who could potentially be interested to consider the third Wednesday morning of each month as our Impromptevent day. I will offer up a suggestion for each month and ask you all for suggestions as well.

Here are the suggested dates:

- **Wednesday, January 19: Portrait Gallery (weather permitting)**
- **Wednesday, February 16: Suggestion???**
- **Wednesday, March 16: African American History Museum (tickets must be reserved in advance)**
- **Wednesday, April 20: Trip to the cherry blossoms followed by lunch (if too close to Mary Stuart, we can change it)**
- **Wednesday May 18: Suggestion???**



Remaining months will be scheduled as we go, hopefully with lots of suggestions from you!

Let's see what we can do in 2023! Happy New Year to you all!



AAUW Greatest Needs Fund: Show Your Support, Become a Sustaining Member

Did you know that you can become an AAUW “sustaining” member? That means you sign up to give monthly, automatically. Lots of organizations have this feature, like NRP and United Community (called the “Vine”). Being a “sustainer” allows you to give a significant sum to a non-profit you favor, but in a painless way through small monthly automatic charges on your credit card. You, of course, choose what amount is right for you. Some of our members have been doing this for some time and like this convenient way to support AAUW.

If you are interested you log into your member portal and set up monthly giving there. Instructions are available at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BbKGGVSC-ivphBBjxomSavuW8PSTQFW/view?usp=sharing>

For more information, you can e-mail advancement-staff@aauw.org

Finally, thanks to everyone in the branch for their generosity and participation in fundraisers which resulted in \$5,195 in donations to AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund.

TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR "MARY STUART" AT LITTLE THEATRE OF ALEXANDRIA

Heads will roll! Well, at least one will.



Alexandria and Mt. Vernon AAUW Branches

Invite You to Attend a Fundraising Event

LITTLE THEATRE OF ALEXANDRIA

600 Wolf Street, Alexandria

APRIL 21, 2023: 7 PM RECEPTION 8 PM PERFORMANCE

Tickets \$35

Proceeds to benefit AAUW Funds (\$10 tax deductible)

Checks made to Mt. Vernon AAUW

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

Be sure to reserve your tickets for the fundraiser at the Little Theatre of Alexandria for **Friday, April 21, 2023**. The evening will begin with a reception at 7 p.m. and the performance of "Mary Stuart" will begin at 8 p.m. To purchase tickets, send your check made payable to AAUW– Mount Vernon to **Janet Hedrick** at 2128 Farrington Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22303. Upon receipt of your check, Janet will send you your tickets for the play. **Tickets are \$35 each. Note that \$10 is tax-deductible.**

Remember to invite friends and family to purchase tickets. **Let them know that the proceeds from this event are used by AAUW to empower women and girls.**

This theater production is the branch's only fundraiser and we have 108 tickets total. To date, we have sold 43 tickets and have commitments for 18 more. We have another 47 tickets to sell. If you have purchased two tickets, try to sell two more tickets to help us secure the maximum revenue for this event.

If you have questions, please contact **Janet Hedrick** at jhedrick815@gmail.com or at 571-213-2670.

HOLIDAY CHEER!



Big smiles and happy faces at the branch holiday luncheon December 10

Thanks to everyone who attended our holiday luncheon ...and for purchasing raffle tickets. We netted over \$350 with the raffle. A big congratulations to the lucky winners Mary Wall and Cathy Conron who each won "six packs" of wine.



Kristin Moyer, Legacy Circle Liaison, was our guest speaker. She gave a brief presentation and invited us to become members of the AAUW Legacy Circle.

From left:

Mary Wall, Membership Co-VP,
Kristin Moyer, Legacy Circle Liaison,
Solveig Eggerz, Program VP, and
Patsy Quick, Branch President

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 25, 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
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:

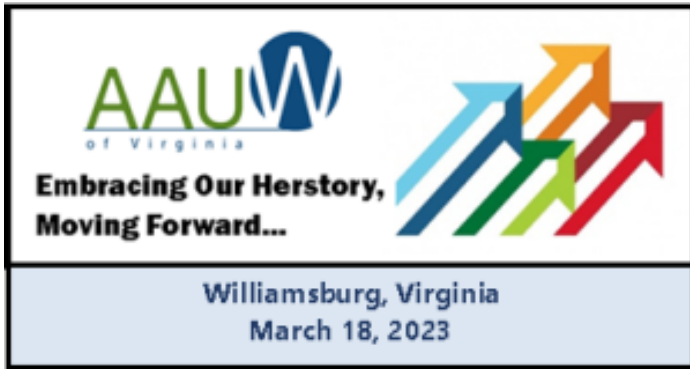
February 25, 2023

March 18, 2023

Northern District Meeting

AAUW of Virginia 2023 Conference

SAVE THE DATE



March 18, 2023

The Southeast District
invites you to the
AAUW-VA 2023 State Conference.

HOLIDAY INN & SUITES –WILLIAMSBURG / GATEWAY
515 Bypass Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185

More information about the Conference 2023 will be coming soon!



January 2023

- **3 Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.**
Contact Patsy Quick
703/360-8678
- **11 Diversity Outreach Group Zoom 4 p.m.**
Contact Janet Hedrick
571/213-2670
- **16 Book Group, 7:30 p.m.**
Contact Liz Promen
703/780-7342
- **21 Branch Program,**
10:30 a.m. / zoom
- **27 Game Night, 7:30 p.m.**
Contact Patsy Quick
703/360-8678

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

**HAPPY
NEWYEAR**



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

