

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

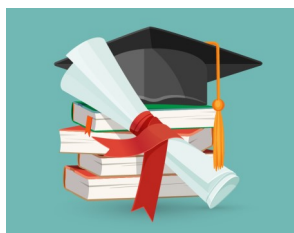
Volume 66 Issue 6 February 2023

Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The attacks on public education have now gone from screaming parents at local school boards to determined legislators around the country, and even in Virginia. Right now In the Virginia General Assembly, there are all kinds of opposing bills to focus on, from bills demanding increased public school teacher compensation and pleading for more mental health counselors in schools to those rewarding vouchers and tax credits for non-public schools and various “parental rights” provisions along with efforts to strangle (my word) public school libraries. Fortunately, some of the worst ones have been defeated. However, as members of an organization, AAUW, founded on the expansion of education for everyone, we must remain vigilant in opposing legislation that offends our values. Please do not neglect to contact your legislator regarding bills that you agree with or oppose. I will continue to send out as much information as comes available so that you can take action by calling or emailing your legislators. Find



your legislator here: [Who's My Legislator?](http://www.whoismylegislator.com) ([virginiageneralassembly.gov](http://www.virginiageneralassembly.gov)).

The AAUW of Virginia Google Docs link will provide updated information on various bills: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1t0LQU80E0C5y_eroidKw_SZxicPYziPR

Look for forwarded emails from me or **Mary Ellen Mehler** with “**AAUW VA Public Policy**” in the subject line. February 7 is “crossover day.” An online definition of that is, “A ‘crossover’ deadline is the last day for a bill to pass out of the chamber in which it was introduced and move forward for consideration in the opposite chamber. Knowing the crossover deadline for each chamber gives you an early indication of the bills viability.”

Our state leaders are doing the back-breaking job of keeping up with it all. Let's provide our support!

Patsy



EXTRA, EXTRA!!!

**Two Great Programs in February
for your Information and Pleasure!**

- ♦ **Saturday February 18, 10:30 a.m.** **Alexandria Community Remembrance Project**
Race Relations in 19th Century Alexandria
- ♦ **Monday, February 20, 7:30 p.m.** **Author Talk on *The Violin Conspiracy***
by Brendan Slocumb
This musical coming-of-age story is also a literary thriller.

*** See Information starting on page 3 ***

A LEADERSHIP and FUN **OPPORTUNITY!!**

It's Mount Vernon Branch Board of Directors **Nomination Time**
for the July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025 Term!

The following positions will be open for election to the board
at the annual meeting March 25.



- **President**
Are you interested in this exciting position?
Do you have a friend who would like to co-president with you?
- **Program Vice-President**
Solveig Eggerz has agreed to have a second term.
Solveig is seeking a program co-vice president
- **Secretary**
A major opportunity to share in the fun and congenial Board meetings.

Current officers are available to "mentor and help."

Please email: **Lois M. Passman** LMPassman@hotmail.com

or call Lois: 703-781-7626 (after 1 p.m.)

to take advantage of this amazing opportunity.

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.

BRANCH PROGRAM FEBRUARY 18

Saturday February 18, 10:30 a.m. Race Relations in 19th Century Alexandria

featuring the **Alexandria Community Remembrance Project (ACRP)** and its focus on commemorating two 19th century Alexandria victims of lynching, **Joseph McCoy (1897)** and **Benjamin Thomas (1899)**.

Speakers **Audrey P. Davis**, Co-Director of the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project (ACRP), and **Tiffany Pache**, Project Coordinator for ACRP, will discuss this “city-wide initiative dedicated to helping Alexandria understand its history of racial terror and work toward creating a welcoming community bound by equity and inclusion.” This project is in partnership with the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) in Montgomery, Alabama.

Davis and Pache will highlight the pilgrimage taken by ACRP, members of the community, and Alexandria City High School (ACHS) students last fall to the EJI National Memorial for Peace and Justice and the Legacy Museum, with the purpose of delivering soil collected from locations that symbolically reflects the lives of Alexandria’s two known lynching victims – **Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas**.

The program is co-sponsored by the Mt. Vernon and Alexandria branches and hosted by Sherwood Regional Library, with thanks to **Leslie Tourigny** for her dedication in organizing.

ON ZOOM [REGISTER HERE](https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/9346784)

(<https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/9346784>)



Audrey P. Davis is the Director of the Alexandria Black History Museum. She is a former gubernatorial appointee to the Board of Directors for Virginia Humanities. In 2016, **Ms. Davis** was appointed by Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe to the State Historical Records Advisory Board. She was reappointed to this board in 2018 and 2021 by Virginia Governor Ralph Northam. In 2018, **Ms. Davis** was appointed by Governor McAuliffe to the Task Force for the Identification of the History of Formerly Enslaved African Americans in Virginia. **Ms. Davis** is featured on the WETA documentaries, *Discovering Alexandria Parts I and II*, and *Martyrs, Mayhem and Martial Law: Life in Civil War Alexandria*. She was an on-set historical consultant for the PBS series *Mercy Street*, which was set in Alexandria. It premiered nationally in January 2016 and ran for two seasons.



Tiffany D. Pache is the Project Coordinator for the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project. In this role, she is responsible for producing a newsletter and other ACRP publications, as well as supporting ACRP’s committees, programs and events. Prior to joining ACRP, **Ms. Pache** worked as a journalist, as well as an education policy analyst.

Before becoming a reporter, **Ms. Pache** worked with a series of nonprofit organizations dedicated to nonviolence and conflict resolution. In the 1990s, she worked in Belfast, Northern Ireland, as the Project Coordinator for the Global Nonviolence Project. After returning to the United States, **Ms. Pache** worked with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for the Study of Nonviolence in Los Angeles as the Program Director.

The meeting is free and open to the public.
For more information: AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com

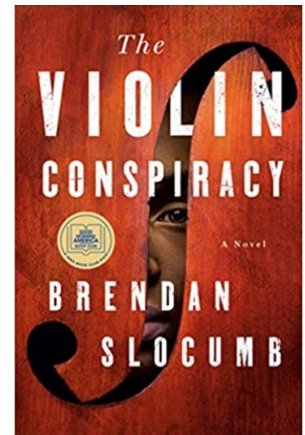
BRANCH PROGRAM FEBRUARY 20

**Book Group Invites the Branch to an Exciting Evening
with Brendan Slocum, author of *The Violin Conspiracy*
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. 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.



You can also read the NYT review here,

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/01/books/review/the-violin-conspiracy-brendan-slocumb.html>.



Brendan will talk about how he came to write this book, read some passages and take questions. If you have already read the book and have questions, send them to **Elaine**. She will be moderating the question and answer period. During the event you can put questions in the Chat and we will pose them to **Brendan**. We expect he will stay with us for 30-45 minutes. We can continue talking about the book after he signs off. You can reach **Elaine** at elaine.kolish@gmail.com.

***** Zoom link will be sent via email. *****

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

GAME NIGHT

**Join us for a fun evening with various games
Friday, February 24, 2023, 7:30 p.m.
Home of Barbara Mann, co-hosted by Joanne Clark**

Spouses and significant others are welcome to join in!

All participants must be fully vaccinated.

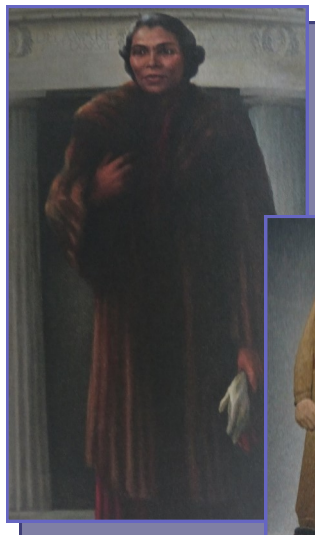
**Contact Paula Lettice or Bianca Daugherty
if you would like to join the group.**

AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com



On Wednesday, January 18, **Joanne Clark, Anne Simpson** and **Susan Farmer** spent the afternoon at the enormous **Portrait Gallery** in Washington, DC. We only had two hours to make a tour and, on our way to the U.S. presidents, we passed many, many portraits of women (and men) whose memorable histories have been forgotten (if ever acknowledged), and which advanced this writer's understanding of how much meaningful history has been unavailable to ordinary audiences. It was a terrific historic and artistic experience, and at least one of the group is determined to make another visit to see all that was missed.

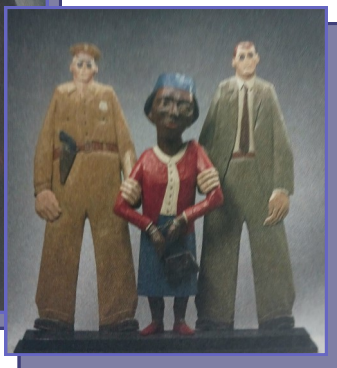
February's visit to the African American History Museum is being deferred until March. Dates TBD.



Photos by Joanne Clark

Left: Portrait of Marian Anderson

Below: Sculpture of Rosa Parks



DIVERSITY OUTREACH GROUP

JANET HEDRICK

**AAUW Diversity Outreach Group
of the Mt. Vernon Branch will meet on**

Wednesday, February 8 - 4 P.M. by ZOOM

The group is continuing to read "The 1619 Project" and will be discussing **Chapter 10**, titled "Punishment" and written by **Bryan Stevenson** and **Chapter 11**, titled "Inheritance" and written by **Trymaine Lee**.

Four members of the branch attended the program at the Alexandria Library on the 1939 Library Sit-In that occurred in Alexandria and that is commemorated every five years. The program was hosted by the AAUW Alexandria Branch.

Members are encouraged to attend the upcoming program hosted by our branch and the Alexandria branch: **Alexandria Community Remembrance Project: Lynchings in Alexandria**. See the newsletter article on page 3 about the program to learn more.

The group welcomes new members and invites ideas for reading and for activities. Contact **Janet Hedrick** at jhedrick815@gmail.com if you wish to join the group and/or have ideas for readings and/or activities.



Update on VA Senate Education Committee activity during the current VA General Assembly.

The following bills that AAUW-VA opposed have been defeated in the Virginia Senate Education Committee. This means that they will not advance to the floor of the Senate:



- **SB 787** - (Introduced by Bill DeSteph) **Public school libraries**: Printed or audio visual materials, selection, evaluation, & checkout procedures.
- **SB 119** - (Introduced by Bryce E. Reeves) **Public Schools**: Parental rights to educational transparency.

The following bill that AAUW-VA supports was approved by the Senate Education Committee and will move forward:

- **SB 1215** (introduced by L. Louise Lucas) Public school teachers and other Standards of Quality-funded positions; compensation.

This bill requires state funding to be provided for a percentage increase in teacher pay to be calculated using data from trends for national average teacher salaries for the prior two years.

STEM CAREERS: GATEWAY TO SUCCESS

SOLVEIG EGGERZ

STEM Careers:

The gateway to success for women and girls.

STEM=Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics



STEM jobs offer the best-paying, most forward-looking careers today. Yet women and girls shy away from entering STEM fields. Consequently, they are radically underrepresented in all STEM areas.

This ad appeared in the Bulletin Board of the *Alexandria Gazette Packet*, Dec. 15-21, 2022

STEM Professionals Needed. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org.

Currently 85 volunteers are working in 6 Northern Virginia school districts. For more information, contact **Don Rea** at 571-551-2488, or donalddrea@aol.com

We can also inform ourselves by consulting the excellent resource list compiled by AAUW member, **Kathi Hanrahan and Susan Farmer**. Here are some examples:

- **AAUW STEMEd**: Virtual workshops for girls in middle and high school, with focus on girls of color. <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/stemed-for-girls/>
- **Girls in Technology** (GIT, DC Metro): Virtual and in-person, grades 6-12 and alumnae. Various programs; see offerings at <https://www.womenintechology.org/girls-in-technology>. Includes links to join mailing list & hear about upcoming events.
- **TeachEngineering**: FREE Curriculum aligned to K-12. Standards for lessons, activities and more for Science, Engineering and Math. <https://www.teachengineering.org>
- **CodeVA**: Partners with schools, parents, and communities to bring computer science education opportunities on-line to all of Virginia's K-8th students. <https://www.codevirginia.org>

Click [here](https://mtvernon-va.aauw.net/) for the complete list posted on our branch website <https://mtvernon-va.aauw.net/>

A PEACEFUL PROTEST AHEAD OF ITS TIME SOLVEIG EGGERZ

When the **Barrett Branch Library** on Queen Street in Alexandria was built in 1937, African Americans were not allowed to use its services. **Samuel Wilbert Tucker** (1913-1990), who grew up two blocks from the Barrett Branch, graduated from Howard University and studied law. He tried for several years to establish equal access to community resources, but the white community, including the Alexandria Library Board, said no.

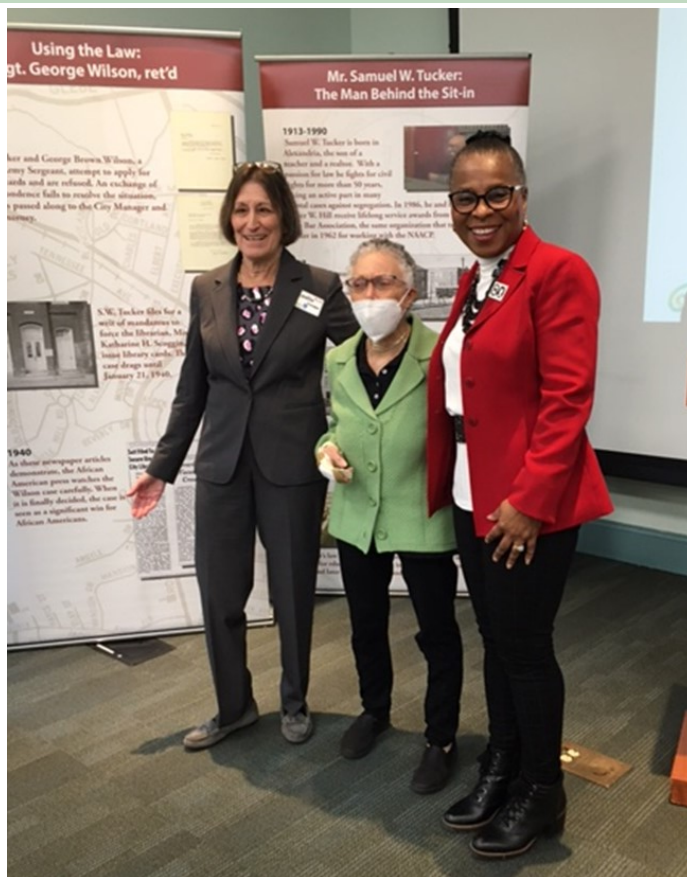
So he organized a peaceful sit-in in 1939 at **Barrett Branch Library** by five African-American men, considered the first US sit-in and the first action of the Civil Rights movement. The 1939 protest did not lead to the integration of the Alexandria Library; instead African-Americans were given their own library, the tiny **Robinson Library**, which now houses the Alexandria Black History Museum.

In a program January 22, co-hosted with AAUW, Alexandria Branch, **Rose Timmons Dawson**, Alexandria's chief librarian, called the sit-in "a peaceful protest ahead of its time." Explaining the resistance she faced from both black and white residents, she said, "People don't necessarily talk about things that are painful." Yet her practice of celebrating the sit-in's anniversary every few years, has gained admiration for her positive approach to racial progress.

Dawson shared the podium with author and activist **Brenda Mitchell-Powell**, PhD, whose book *Public in Name Only* was published October 2022 and is available at the Alexandria Visitor's Center. **Mitchell-Powell** said of the Robinson Library "it remained a separate but unequal facility, 1940-1959," and noted that, "Alexandria never had a population of more than 14% blacks," yet children were not allowed to use the Barrett Branch Library until 1962.

Learn more about **Brenda Mitchell-Powell's** book here: <https://www.simmons.edu/news/dr-brenda-mitchell-powell-75-08ms-15phd-publishes-breakthrough-book-civil-rights-history>

Attendees from AAUW Mt Vernon branch were **Mary Ellen Mehler**, **Janet Hendrick**, **Anne Simpson**, and **Solveig Eggerz**.



Left to right: Leslie Tourigny, Brenda Mitchell-Powell, Rose Timmons Dawson



Joanne Malkin returned to her home on Wednesday, January 25, after a long stay at Woodbine Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center! She is being assisted by the same caretakers who helped her husband, Bruce. **Mary Ellen Mehler** reports that Joanne says she will welcome visitors just as soon as they have a few days to get things organized at home.

Welcome home, Joanne! We are so glad you are back.

**“Mary Stuart” at Little Theatre of Alexandria
Friday, April 21, 2023 - Reception 7 P.M. and Performance 8 P.M.**

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

If you have not already obtained your tickets for the AAUW Mount Vernon branch's annual fundraiser, please make sure to get yours soon. **To date, 71 tickets have been purchased or reserved.** That's approximately 66% of the tickets that we have. **That leaves 37 tickets left for purchase.**

Each year, the Mount Vernon branch partners with the Alexandria Branch to conduct this fundraiser at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, located at 600 Wolfe St, Alexandria, VA.

After three years of not having this event, we are looking forward to returning to the theater. Last year, we were planning to attend the play, but the play was cancelled at the last moment when the director and members of the cast for the play tested positive for COVID. You graciously made all your ticket purchases donations, and we had a successful fundraiser even though the play was cancelled.

The tickets for **“Mary Stuart”** are **\$35** each. You can buy your tickets by sending a check made payable to AAUW – Mount Vernon Branch to Janet Hedrick, 2128 Farrington Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22303. Upon receipt of your check, Janet will send your tickets to you.

If you are not buying tickets for the production, you are encouraged to

make a donation equal or greater than the cost of two tickets (\$70). You can send your donation to Janet Hedrick at the address above.

Remember to invite friends and family members to purchase tickets. Tell them that through buying tickets, they are supporting an organization that advocates for women and girls.

Closer to the date of the performance, you will receive information about food contributions for the reception prior to the play.

For more information or for questions, please contact **Janet** at jhedrick815@gmail.com.

NORTHERN DISTRICT MEETING



**Northern District Meeting
Saturday, February 25, 2023,
10:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

**In-person at the Beatley Central Library
5005 Duke St., Alexandria****

Join your AAUW sisters for an informative program focusing on maximizing our impact in the community through collaborations.

Come hear from two non-profit leaders:

Sanah Jivani, Community Engagement Manager, at



Cindy Dwyer, Board Member, at



Questions?? Contact: ltourigny@gmail.com

****Directions:** If you are heading East on Duke Street to get to the Beatley Central Library at 5005 Duke Street, you'll need to make a left turn at the traffic light on North Pickett Street, which is the street before you reach the library. There is a CVS on the corner. After you turn and pass the two driveways for the CVS, turn right at the next driveway, where there is a small sign for the library. You'll be in the library parking lot.

If you are heading West on Duke Street to reach the Beatley Central Library at 5005 Duke Street, you will be able to make a right turn into the library parking lot directly from Duke Street after you pass the library building on your right.

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 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, 10:30 a.m. Location: ZOOM Joint program with AAUW Alexandria Branch	Alexandria Community Remembrance Project (ACRP): Lynchings in Alexandria Speakers: Audrey P. Davis, Co-Director ACRP & Tiffany Pache, Project Coordinator for ACRP
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 AAUW Fellow Maya Kearney
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

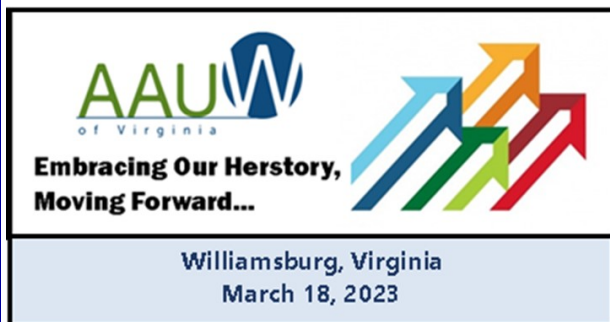
March 18, 2023

March 25, 2023

Northern District Meeting

AAUW of Virginia 2023 Conference, Part 1

2023 AAUW-VA Annual Business Meeting, Part 2



2023 AAUW-VA State Conference Part 1 Saturday, March 18, 2023 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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

REGISTER NOW! Open the conference brochure link below for all the information you need.

[AAUW-VA 2023 CONFERENCE BROCHURE](#)

The 2023 in-person AAUW-VA Conference Part 1 will be held on March 18 at the Holiday Inn & Suites Williamsburg ~ Historic Gateway in Williamsburg, VA. Included in the sessions will be the Keynote Address, a discussion regarding the under-representation of girls in the STEM fields, a public policy presentation on the future of K-12 education in Virginia and our own past state president, **Caroline Pickens**, sharing the work AAUW has done to promote the education and protect the rights of women and girls.

Conference Part 2 is the 2023 AAUW-VA Annual Business Meeting to be held VIRTUALLY on March 25.

You can also find this information at the [AAUW-VA Website](#).



- **8 Diversity Outreach Group**
Zoom 4 p.m.
Contact Janet Hedrick
571/213-2670
- **18 Branch Program**
Zoom 10:30 a.m.
- **20 Book Group, 7:30 p.m.**
Contact Liz Promen
703/780-7342
- **24 Game Night, 7:30 p.m.**
Contact Barbara Mann
703/360-3880
- **25 Northern District Meeting**
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Contact Leslie Tourigny
ltourigny@gmail.com



February 2023

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



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

