

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 66 Issue 8

April 2023

Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



I believe that our branch is on the cusp of change. We have had a wonderful era of participation and energy. But during the recent weeks when **Lois Passman** was talking to people about the leadership positions that need to be taken in our branch, few people showed interest. It was disconcerting because in the most recent past, we have been able to fill our board positions. Are we showing our age; do we have interests elsewhere; or are we just disinterested in this organization? Maybe all of the above... No!

Strangely, we actually had 3 people interested in Vice President for Programs! Possibly because of our procedure for program planning, along with **Solveig Eggerz's** enthusiasm, this position seemed appealing! I am grateful that one of the 3 graciously accepted the position of Secretary. Thank you, **Joanna Crane!**

After four years as President, I offered in the end, to stay in the position for one more year. Until we can decide what we want to be as a board and a branch. I don't mind at all, but that is not the point. Just like anything else, without change, we become stagnant. Fresh ideas come from new leadership. But, I will

make a huge effort not to become stagnant. I plan to listen a lot...to let the new ideas of board and branch members move us forward. It is happening already: the board decided to purchase food for the Little Theatre event. This is a major new idea that will take pressure off our members on the day of that event.

These things are known: We need a major membership recruitment plan. We need to collaborate with other community organizations. We need to branch into new social media. And, we may need to think about a new way of governance. Most of all we need members ready and willing to do what it takes to keep this AAUW branch relevant and active. I believe we can do it.

Mattie Stepanek, a young poet who died just before his 14th birthday, wrote: "Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved." We have incredible members who believe in AAUW's mission. We have shown unity when it counts from generously giving money to actively supporting various causes. Let's build on that feeling of teamwork and figure out what it will take to build a future for our branch.

Patsy

Annual Fundraiser at the Little Theatre of Alexandria

April 21, 8:00 P.M.

Reception 7:00 P.M. Performance 8:00 P.M.

Finally!!

At last we will hold our fundraiser (with the Alexandria Branch) at the Little Theatre of Alexandria in person! The play is *Mary Stuart* (more info on page 3). **Tickets are still available for \$35 each.** Please contact Janet Hedrick if you need more.

And, please consider making a donation if you cannot attend the play.

There will be a reception at 7:00 p.m. before the play. We are responsible for savories and wine. The branch board has approved the purchase of food and we have a committee of **Mary Ellen Mehler, Cathy Conron, and Joanne Clark** ready to buy and take the food to the Theatre, saving our members some effort. Please consider donating a bottle of wine! **See you at the Theatre!**

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Big News from the Annual Business Meeting, March 25 (Zoom)

The following members were elected to the branch Board of Directors for the July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025 Term of Office:

President **Patsy Quick** (1 more year)

Co- Vice Presidents for Program **Solveig Eggerz & Janet Hedrick**

Secretary **Joanna Crane**



A huge thank you goes to **Lois Passman**, our Nominations Chair for her persistent efforts and hard work! She is a treasure!

Also at the meeting, the 2023-24 Budget, prepared by Treasurer **Anne Simpson**, was approved by our members. If you have questions or comments about the budget, which was sent to you via email, contact Anne.



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.

WHO WAS MARY STUART...?

...and why is she famous?



The only daughter of the late James V of the ruling Stewart dynasty, Mary became Queen of Scots at only six days of age. She reigned from 1542 until her forced abdication in 1567. After 19 years as a prisoner of her cousin, Elizabeth I of England, Mary was executed on 8 February 1587. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>)

A romantic and tragic figure to her supporters, a scheming adulteress if not murderess to her political enemies, Mary aroused furious controversy in her own lifetime, during which her cousin Queen Elizabeth aptly termed her “the daughter of debate.” Her dramatic story has continued to provoke argument among historians ever since, while the public interest in this 16th-century femme fatale remains unabated.

(<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Mary-queen-of-Scotland>)

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 P.M. RECEPTION 8 P.M. PERFORMANCE

Tickets \$35

Please join us in supporting AAUW's goals to
help women and girls. (\$10 tax deductible)

Checks made to Mt. Vernon AAUW

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



You will be getting a notice that it is time for AAUW dues, but don't wait, you can pay it now!

As always, you can pay online with a credit card at the national website <https://www.aauw.org/> or send a check to me. Dues are now **\$100**, reflecting a \$3 increase in National dues that was approved by members two and a half years ago. It is still a bargain, considering the many things AAUW does to promote equity. If you want to mail a check, my address is 1604 Old Drummer Boy Lane, Fort Washington, MD 20744.

Anne Simpson

Why Renew at the AAUW National Level

A peek at the 2022 Year in Review will give you the answer
<https://www.aauw.org/about/years-in-review/2022-year-in-review/>



BUT HERE ARE OUR TOP 9 REASONS: (It's all we could fit!)

- More than 320 recipients received \$6 million in AAUW fellowships and grants for the 2022–23 academic year—the highest amount in our history! The funding advances educational and professional opportunities for women in the United States and around the globe.
- In the third year of the pandemic, AAUW continued to grow its online programs, hosting more than 58 webinars.
- AAUW's Start Smart and Work Smart salary negotiation trainings continued to be AAUW's most sought-after programs, reaching more than 4,000 participants in 2022, and over 190,000 to date.
- We continued our work with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other minority-serving institutions (MSIs), thanks to a generous grant from The Coca-Cola Foundation. A total of 17 minority-serving colleges, including 8 HBCUs, 7 women's colleges and 2 MSIs, now offer AAUW's Start Smart training, bringing the number of colleges and universities currently hosting the program to 77.
- Our powerful annual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) engage over 500 students from more than 300 college campuses nationwide through workshops, panels and an inspiring keynote from Nikole Hannah-Jones, creator of The 1619 Project.
- In its second year, AAUW's STEMEd for Girls program gave over 200 participants and their caregivers the opportunity to explore STEM subjects and careers.
- AAUW's Two-Minute Activists sent 19,539 letters to elected officials calling for action on AAUW priorities such as pregnant worker fairness, voting rights, confirming Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court, and more.
- THE SIMPLE TRUTH THE ABOUT THE GENDER PAY GAP, 2022 Update used the earnings ratio of all workers for the first time — including seasonal and part-time employees — to capture a more accurate picture of the labor market. Previous versions of the report used only data of full-time workers.
- Two other research reports were published: <https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2022/01/WPG-Power-Gap-at-Elite-Universities-Full-Report.pdf>
https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2022/08/PerfectStorm_NYC-Student-Debt-Survey-Report_Aug-2022.pdf

WHY RENEW YOUR DUES? ...CONTINUED

AAUW has been transforming women's lives for more than a century. And now that we've won the fight to give women equal access to education, we're taking on one of the most defining issues of our time: gender equity. But we can't do it alone.

Your \$100 dues-breakdown looks like this:

AAUW (National) \$72 (\$69 is tax-deductible)

AAUW of Virginia \$15

Mt. Vernon Branch \$13

\$100 (Sounds like a lot...)
What's in it for me?



- Monthly Programs chosen and planned by members
- Monthly AAUW Book Group
- Monthly AAUW Diversity Outreach Group
- Monthly Game Night
- Quarterly (minimum) Dining Out Group
- Beautiful monthly newsletter: *Mt. Vernon Voices*
- Enjoyable Theater-Event Annual Fundraiser
- ImpromptEvents (Anyone can suggest an outing and invite members to join.)
- Fellowship with people of like mind
- Supportive friends in time of need



- State Newsletter (***Vision***) 3 times a year
- State Conference with great speakers & fellowship
- State Lobby Days in Richmond
- Public Policy Leadership (a voice in Richmond)
- Branch Mini-Grants for programs
- Liaisons to National
- A community of friends around the state.

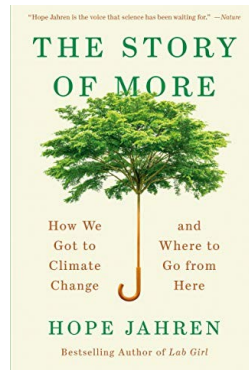
BOOK GROUP

Monday, April 17, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

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

HOSTESS: Joanna Crane
6511 Princeton Drive
Alexandria, VA 22307

CO-HOST: Anne Simpson



BOOK: The Story of More: How We Got to Climate Change and Where We Go from Here
by Hope Jahren

REVIEWER: Susan Farmer

NEXT BOOK: A Woman of No Importance by Sonia Purnell

GAME NIGHT

Join us for a fun evening with various games!

Friday, April 28, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Home of Paula Lettice, Mary Wall co-host

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



AAUW Diversity Outreach Group
of the Mt. Vernon Branch will meet on Wednesday, April 12, 4:00 p.m.
Via ZOOM

SEE MORE INFORMATION AND ZOOM LINK ON PAGE 9.

The group will join the Reston-Herndon Branch in lieu of its regular monthly meeting.

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.



May 18 is our Branch Potluck Dinner

Paula Lettice will again generously host us on May 18 for our Annual Potluck Dinner. More information will arrive by email. Join us at 6:00 for conversation and cocktails. Dinner will be at 6:30.

On March 19, President Patsy Quick wrote a letter to Supervisor Storck regarding equity funding for green spaces in Fairfax County.

Supervisor Dan Storck,

I am writing in support of equity funding for the following that was left out of the budget for the Fairfax County Park Authority. On behalf of the 43 members of Mt. Vernon AAUW, I am asking that the funding recommendations of Nature Forward be included to ensure FCPA has the funds to make our parks accessible and enjoyable for all residents. Please fund the items below. This is an important issue for us and our community. We thank you.

- (1) Fully fund a mobile nature center for \$229,279 to bring nature to communities who need it.
- (2) Fully fund new "activation staff" for \$314,000 to help parks be more engaging and welcoming to all visitors, particularly those in areas which have suffered divestment.
- (3) Fully fund essential interpretation and translation for \$50,000 to ensure equitable access to park signage, meetings, or outreach efforts in languages of people commonly served for those parks.
- (4) Begin funding the Park Ranger Pilot Program for \$500,000 to allow the Park Authority to safely respond to many incidents with education rather than police involvement.

Patsy Quick
President, Mt. Vernon AAUW
pnquick@cox.net
5508 Old Mill Rd.
Alexandria, Virginia 22309



<https://natureforward.org/>

2022 BRANCH NAMED HONOREES

Because branch individuals donated \$4,568 and the Branch donated \$2,803 for a total of \$7,371 (fourth highest in the state) in 2022, **we were eligible to submit 14 names for Named Honorees. This award goes to members we want to recognize.**



Congratulations to our Named Honorees for 2022:

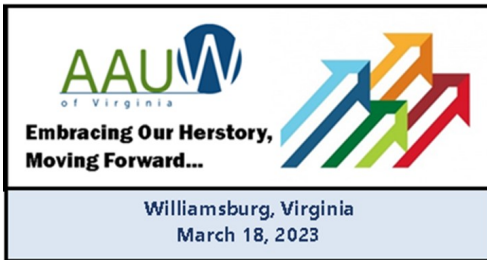
Joanne Clark, Bianca Daugherty, Solveig Eggerz, Susan Farmer, Janet Hedrick, Elaine Kolish, Paula Lettice, Lois Passman, Joanne Malkin, Mary Ellen Mehler, Liz Promen, Anne Simpson, Ebba Jo Spettel, and Mary Wall.

Certificates will be presented at the May Potluck Dinner.

Thank you everyone for your generosity and participation in fundraisers.

Elaine Kolish, AAUW Funds Chair

2023 AAUW-VA STATE CONFERENCE



Solveig Eggerz, Janet Hedrick, and Patsy Quick attended the 2023 State Conference in Williamsburg, March 18. Conference information including speakers, branch reports, and ads can be viewed at the link.



(Our branch report is on page 34 & our branch ad is on page 54.)

https://aauw-va.aauw.net/files/2023/03/Conference-Book-final-3_compressed.pdf



Patsy Quick was honored as one of four AAUW of Virginia's Named Honorees. (Other recipients were **Sandy Lawrence, Caroline Pickens, and Kristin Moyer.**) This was a complete surprise and is for her the most memorable moment during the Conference!

Janet Hedrick reports: The conference was quite educational with outstanding presentations throughout the day.



The keynote speaker, **Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander** (left), highlighted extraordinary African American Women who have a long history of advocacy. Many of these women were introduced to me for the first time. One which I found extremely interesting was Frances Ellen Watkins Harper. She was an American abolitionist, suffragist, poet, temperance activist, teacher, public speaker, and writer. Beginning in 1845, at the age of twenty, she was one of the first African American women to be published in the United States. "Bury Me in a Free Land" is one of her touching poems in which she asks that she not be buried in a land of slaves.

Solveig Eggerz reports: I was impressed by keynote speaker Cassandra Newby-Alexander, PhD, who described many women who kept "annoying" men by "knocking at the door" never giving up, insisting on being let in. "Be annoying," Newby-Alexander told the audience.

Among those women was Sarah Garland Boyd Jones (1866–1905), who earned her medical degree at Howard University in 1890 and became the only African American woman practicing medicine in Virginia. Founder of the Medical and Chirurgical Society of Richmond in 1902 and Richmond Community Hospital, she died of a massive stroke at age 39.

Marissa A. Rice, (far right with mother, Tammie Mullins-Rice, state board member) who earned her PhD in neuroscience at Cornell University, 2020, today investigates the ecological impacts and neural mechanisms of spatial ability. Dr. Rice described the manifold costs that a long term education entails and how she, a minority student and daughter of a single mother, benefitted from the Ronald E. McNair Achievement Program for the Post-Baccalaureate and the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation.

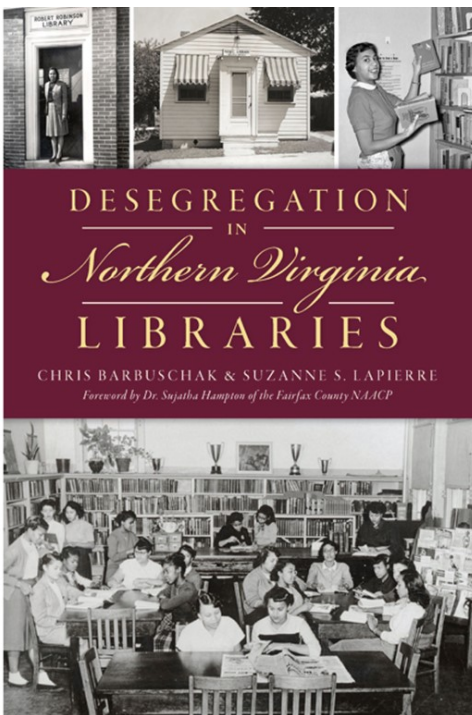


BRANCH MEMBERS OUT AND ABOUT



On March 14 (Left to right in the photo) **Joanne Clark, Susan Farmer, Cathy Conron, and Patsy Quick** attended a Public Hearing on the proposed Social Studies/History Curriculum for the Virginia SOLs at the George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon. There were over 80 speakers! We found the information interesting but confusing. Most speakers wanted a diverse, truthful history of Virginia and were opposed to the recent revisions. It will be interesting to see what is decided. We will keep you posted.

RESTON-HERNDON INVITATION



EVERYONE is welcomed to join the Reston-Herndon Branch of AAUW and Fairfax county librarians Chris Barbuschak and Suzanne S. LaPierre to discuss their new book "**Desegregation in Northern Virginia Libraries.**"

Many believe that Fairfax libraries were open to everyone since their founding in 1939, but the authors' research found a hodgepodge of local rules that effectively barred Black users, not only in Fairfax but also in Loudoun and other counties. It took citizen protests and threats to cut public funds before the libraries were desegregated in the late 1950's and 1960s.

Join us on Zoom on April 12 at 4PM to hear this important story.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84345012613?pwd=Q2JibmY2bFFlQk9GRjI4WWtrTXJldz09>

The Diversity Outreach Group will join this meeting on April 12 at 4 p.m. in lieu of the regular time.



Your cards and visits mean a lot to Joanne Malkin!

Her address is

**Woodbine Rehabilitation Center
2729 King St, Room 152 B
Alexandria, VA 22302**

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 10 a.m. / Speaker 11:00 a.m. Location: ZOOM	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
Thursday, May 18, 2023, 6:00 p.m. Home of Paula Lettice	Annual Potluck
Friday, June 9, 2023 Heritage Church Fellowship Hall, 9:30 a.m.	Annual Planning Session





Voting and Elections

WATCH FOR YOUR VOTING INSTRUCTIONS IN EMAILS BETWEEN APRIL AND MAY 2023. Do not ignore emails from **AAUW of Virginia** during April and May! These will contain instructions and reminders about voting.

This year again, we will be using software from an outside vendor, ElectionBuddy, to conduct our election and tally the results. Therefore, individual votes cannot be seen by AAUW of Virginia members. We will let you know when the link to the electronic ballot is emailed to members so that, in case you do not receive the email, you can check your email junk or spam files. Questions concerning the election can be directed to Sandy Lawrence (sandyaaawatjuno.com).

ONLINE VOTING IS MAY 6-29 . WATCH FOR THE BALLOT IN YOUR EMAIL BOX.



APRIL 2023



- **4 Board Meeting**
Zoom 7:30 p.m.
Contact Patsy Quick
703/360-8676
- **12 Diversity Outreach Group**
Zoom 4 p.m.
Contact Janet Hedrick
571/213-2670
- **17 Book Group, 7:30 p.m.**
Contact Liz Promen
703/780-7342
- **28 Game Night, 7:30 p.m.**
Contact Paula Lettice
703/780-3463

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



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

