

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 66 Issue 9

May 2023

Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to May! We are nearing the end of our branch program year. There are many members to thank for an active year! Our annual fundraiser on April 21 at the Little Theatre of Alexandria was a big success! We had a great turnout and the reception and performance were exceptional! A huge thank you goes to **Janet Hedrick** who managed our ticket sales! We sold 87 tickets and also accepted donations! Thank you to **Anne Simpson** for receiving and keeping track of the money. The food committee was **Joanne Clark, Cathy Conron, and Mary Ellen Mehler**. Together they ordered, picked up, and delivered the food. They even sat out the second act of the play to clean up! What a great team! I am grateful for all of their efforts! I hope you will give them your thanks when you see them. Another big thank you goes to the many members who provided wine for the reception. Thank you for your generosity! We had way more than was needed and will use what was left at the potluck dinner on May 18 at the home of **Paula Lettice**.



Speaking of potluck, Paula is gracious and generous to invite us once again to enjoy her patio for a dinner of your dishes of choice. You will hear more via email, but mark your calendar: May 18, 6:00 p.m. to socialize and 6:30 for dinner. We will celebrate another active, interesting program year, distribute Named Honoree certificates, and more.

Our final act of the year after the relaxing and celebratory potluck dinner will be our Planning Meeting on Friday, June 9, 9:30 a.m., at the Heritage Presbyterian Church on Ft. Hunt Road. (This meeting is usually on a Saturday, but the church was booked on Saturdays.) **Solveig**

Eggerz has been keeping track of (and tracking down!) speakers and ideas for programs. I think you will find the list impressive and interesting. So, join us in the fellowship hall for light refreshments and a discussion of the program ideas and to vote on the ones you want scheduled for 2023-24.

Patsy

Celebration Time

Join us at the home of Paula Lettice for our
Annual Potluck Dinner!

Thursday, May 18
6:00 P.M. Cocktails & Appetizers
6:30 P.M. Dinner



Watch for the invitation and RSVP via email and sign up to bring a dish!
This is always a festive occasion! Looking forward to seeing you!

CONGRATULATIONS TO PAULA LETTICE

ELAINE KOLISH

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations is honoring Paula at its Seventy-first Annual Awards Banquet on May 7. Paula is a **Citation of Merit Honoree**. This award recognizes Paula's extensive, diverse and long-term public service to her community.



The nomination for the award cites how Paula "has been a committed board member and volunteer for a number of organizations, especially here in Fairfax County. Since 2020, Paula has served as the President of the Board of Directors for Mount Vernon at Home, a local organization that serves residents aged 55 and over who are choosing to remain in their homes in Mount Vernon as they age and is a part of a national movement of senior Villages. During the pandemic, Ms. Lettice has been a true leader for the organization, helping shift their fundraising efforts to virtual events, while still utilizing local businesses. She also was a driving force to find their most recent Executive Director."

The nomination also notes that "prior to her work with Mount Vernon at Home, Ms. Lettice has been a tireless advocate and volunteer for Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services. She served on the Board of Directors between 2002 and 2004, returning to serve between 2008 and 2014."

The nomination describes her numerous other volunteer and leadership activities including her work with AAUW. She currently serves as our Secretary. She also organizes events such as game nights, holiday luncheons and often hosts AAUW events at her lovely home.

Please give a big shout out to Paula for this well-earned recognition.

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.

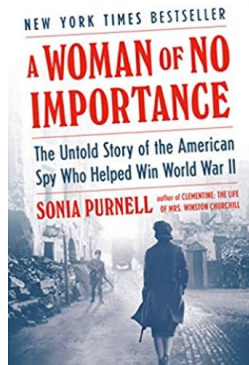
BOOK GROUP—MAY 15

Monday, May 15 2023, 7:30 p.m.

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

HOST: Ebba Jo Spettel
3003 Cunningham Dr
Alexandria

CO-HOST: Elaine Kolish



BOOK: **A Woman of No Importance**
Sonia Purnell

REVIEWER: Mary Wall

NEXT BOOK: **The Code Breaker**
Walter Isaacson

GAME NIGHT—MAY 26

Join us for a fun evening with various games
Friday, May 26, 2023, 7:30 p.m.
Home of Cynthia Jacobus

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—MAY 10



AAUW Diversity Outreach Group
of the Mt. Vernon Branch will meet on Wednesday, March 10 - 7 P.M. by ZOOM

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.

DINING OUT—MAY 12



This time dining out will explore Indo-Chinese cuisine at
INDO CHEN, 4906 Brenman Park Dr, Alexandria, VA 22304

Friday, May 12, 6:30 p.m.

Read the review from the *Washingtonian* magazine:
[A Talented Indian Chef Transforms an Alexandria Restaurant Into a Destination for Indo-Chinese Cooking](#)

Watch for Paula's email to sign up.

Please Renew Your Membership before it expires on 6/30/2023 and receive a free, one-year subscription to Ms. Magazine!

Community Hub is now ready for your dues! You can pay directly with your credit card at [AAUW.org](https://www.aauw.org) or you can send a check to me:

Anne Simpson, 1604 Old Drummer Boy Lane, Fort Washington, MD, 20744.

Dues are a total of \$100, \$72 for national, \$15 for state, and \$13 for branch. \$69 of this is tax deductible. You will see reminders coming from National over the next few months. But you don't have to wait. Get it done!

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.
- This year our powerful annual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) engaged 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 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



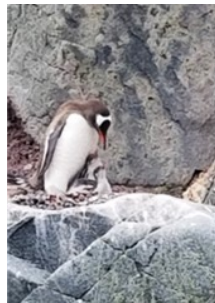
- State Newsletter (*Vision*) 3 times a year
- State Conference with great speakers & fellowship
- State Lobby Days in Richmond
- Public Policy Leadership (a voice in Richmond)
- Branch Mini-Grants for programs
- Liaisons to National
- A community of friends around the state.



A Preview of Some Proposed Programs for 2023-24

Antarctica

Hear about the Earth’s southern-most, least populated continent, its penguins, seals, magnificent ice scapes, and stunning colors from four Mt Vernon branch members who recently visited Antarctica. Maybe they can also talk about the devastating impact of climate change on that continent. Travelers are **Patsy Quick, Bianca Daugherty, Susan Farmer, and Cheryl Spohnholtz.**



legislation. After NAACP lawyers supported the walkout by filing suit in 1954 in Richmond, the case became one of five cases the US Supreme Court reviewed in *Brown v. Board of Education* in Topeka, KS. AAUW Mt. Vernon might enjoy hearing a speaker from Moton Museum in Farmville, VA.



Rosa E. Byrd, chairs the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Committee in Alexandria and participated in the Community Remembrance Project’s pilgrimage to Montgomery, Alabama, fall 2022. After 50 years of community activism, ranging from support for community policing, to fighting for quality education for all students, she was named an Alexandria “Living Legend.”



Women Playwrights Fight to Close the Gender Gap

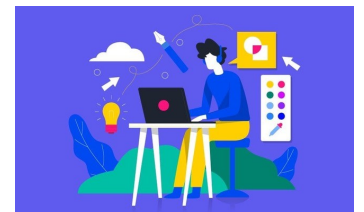


Five mid-career women playwrights responded to industry male bias by forming Pipeline Playwrights to provide “page to

the stage” support to get their plays before an audience. Their November 2023 production, *Wednesdays in Mississippi* by Nicole Burton, focuses on the 1964 civil rights activism of an interracial group of women in Mississippi, led by Dorothy Height of the National Council of Negro Women.

Housing, Legal, and Financial Issues Senior Citizens Face

Members have mentioned concerns about issues they may face in the future. In response we propose an informational program in two parts:



- 1) Changes in Living Situations and
- 2) Legal and Financial Challenges.

Black Women We Need to Know More About—Black History Month

Dr. Brenda Mitchell-Powell’s chief finding in her breakthrough book on civil rights history, *Public in Name Only*, is that the struggle for integration began with the first civil rights sit-in in 1939, long before *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954. The Alexandria sit-in, she argues, anticipated integration that began in 1959.



Mt Vernon at Home offered an excellent program on living situations, April 15, co-hosted with Sherwood Regional Library. Hopefully we can address legal and financial issues in the future. Many thanks to **Paula Lettice** for her good counsel on this.

Discuss and Vote on Future Programs—Bring your Ideas

Friday, June 9, at 9:30 a.m.

Heritage Presbyterian Church
8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, VA

Breakfast and coffee will be served!

2022 - 2023 MT. VERNON BRANCH PROGRAM YEAR

Meeting Date and Place	Focus/Activity
Thursday, May 18, 2023, 6:00 p.m. Cocktails and Appetizers 6:30 p.m. Dinner Home of Paula Lettice	Annual Potluck
Friday, June 9, 2023, 9:30 a.m. Heritage Church Fellowship Hall 8503 Fort Hunt Rd, Alexandria, VA 22308	Annual Planning Session

IMPROMPTEVENT UPDATE

It was decided recently that, rather than have a single person trying to organize events, each member can offer an idea to the branch. For instance, if you have something planned and you would like to find others to go with you, you can send it to **Joanne** or to **Patsy**, who will send it out to the branch with instructions to members to contact you. If a big enough group is interested, Joanne will help coordinate logistics.

Joanne Clark



Condolences to **DeJuana Jones** on the loss of her beloved Phil Bolin on March 22, 2023.

Cards can be sent to her at 8406 Stockade Dr. Alexandria, VA 22308

The ERA: Where It Stands

After working with Senate leaders and their staffs on the [Equal Rights Amendment \(ERA\)](#), AAUW's national policy team attended the ERA press conference after the [Senate Joint Resolution 4](#) fell short of the 60 votes needed to remove the deadline for the ratification of the ERA as part of the Constitution. We are heartened that the door is open for the Senate to reconsider the bill and will continue to fight for ERA's passage.



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

Do not ignore emails from AAUW of Virginia! 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).



May 2023

- **2 Board Meeting**
Zoom 7:30 p.m.
Contact Patsy Quick
703/360-8676
- **10 Diversity Outreach Group**
Zoom 7 p.m.
Contact Janet Hedrick
571/213-2670
- **12 Dining Out, 6:30 p.m.**
Contact Paula or Cathy
AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com
- **18 Annual Branch Potluck**
Contact Paula Lettice
703/780-3463
- **15 Book Group, 7:30 p.m.**
Contact Liz Promen
703/780-7342
- **26 Game Night, 7:30 p.m.**
Contact Cynthia Jacobus
703/780-3806

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



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

