

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 67 Issue 6 February 2024

Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I am so pleased to see that AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) is being held on May 30 – June 1, 2024 at the University of Maryland, College Park. Registration is now open. AAUW invites hundreds of college women from around the country for leadership training, inspiration and networking annually. <https://www.aauw.org/resources/events/nccwsl/> Our branch has supported women's scholarships for this program in the past. It may be time to consider doing that again. Never have women's leadership opportunities been more important! If you know of a young woman who might like to attend, this three-decades-running conference, share the link above.

It is exciting to introduce 3 new members to our branch: **Suzanne Cleary, Beverly Dyer and Susan Reardon**. You will meet Bev and Suzanne on page 7 of the newsletter. Welcome ladies! We are so happy to have you in our branch of AAUW. We hope you will take advantage of the many opportunities that AAUW offers, in addition to advocating passionately for women and girls.

It's February! While February is known as the month of love, it isn't just about love; it's more well-rounded than you think, despite being the shortest month on the calendar. There are [108 February Holidays and Observances for a Fun-Filled Month!](#) We plan to celebrate **Black History Month on February 29, at 1:30 P.M. at Sherwood Regional Library**. Our two speakers have each written very interesting and personal books about desegregation in Northern Virginia. You will find information on purchasing their books on page 4 of the newsletter.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the library on February 29 for this program!

Patsy

BRANCH PROGRAM - FEBRUARY 29



Wilma Jones

Join us for our branch program
Sherwood Regional Library
Thursday, February 29, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

SEPARATE BUT NOT EQUAL

The 1939 Alexandria Public Library Sit-in
The 1959 desegregation of Arlington County's Schools



Brenda Mitchell-Powell

[More information on our speakers Brenda Mitchell-Powell and Wilma Jones on page 4.](#)

The meeting is free and open to the public.

We have a slate of nominations for **2024-26** for our elected officers/Executive Team leaders:
(The positions of **Membership** and **Treasurer** in blue are elected on even years.)



- **Co-Presidents:** Patsy Quick, [Elaine Kolish](#).
[Elaine will need to be elected to complete the 2023-25 term with Patsy.](#)
- **Program VP:** Solveig Eggerz will continue but would like a Co VP to work with her.
- **Membership VP:** [Susan Farmer](#) with assistance from all branch and board members.
- **Treasurer:** [Anne Simpson](#) will continue as long as is needed.
- **Secretary:** Joanna Crane will continue until her term is up in 2025.

Elections will take place at our Annual Business Meeting, March 23, 2024.

Our bylaws have been updated with mandatory changes by National that did not require a vote. We will discuss another bylaws change at the Annual Business Meeting. That information will be published in an email in the next week or so and also in the next newsletter.

BRANCH LEADERSHIP 2023 – 2024

Elected Officers

President:	Patsy Quick
Program Vice President:	Solveig Eggerz
Membership	Susan Farmer
Co-Vice Presidents:	Mary Wall
Treasurer:	Anne Simpson
Secretary:	Joanna Crane

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

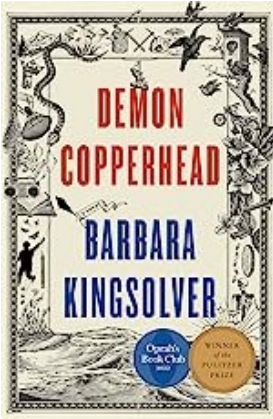
Interest Groups

Book Group:	Liz Promen
Diversity Outreach Group:	vacant
Dining Out:	Paula Lettice Cathy Conron Bianca Daugherty
Game Night:	Bianca Daugherty Paula Lettice
ImpromptEvent:	All Members

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



**Book Group will meet via Zoom on
Monday, February 19, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
*** Zoom link will be sent via email. *****

BOOK: Demon Copperhead
Barbara Kingsolver

REVIEWER: Joanna Crane

NEXT BOOK: Tom Lake
Ann Patchett

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, February 23, 2024, 7:30 p.m.
Home of Patsy Quick



Spouses and significant others are welcome to join in!

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

AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com

SUCCESSFUL JANUARY BRANCH PROGRAM MEETING



Around 30 members and guests attended our branch program on Senior Living Communities presented by **Arvette Reid** on January 11 at Sherwood Regional Library.

For those who couldn't attend or who would like to review a video of a presentation she did with Steve Gurney, here is the link:

<https://www.retirementlivingsourcebook.com/videos/understanding-senior-living-community-contracts>

The link below from *The Hill* may also be of interest to you.

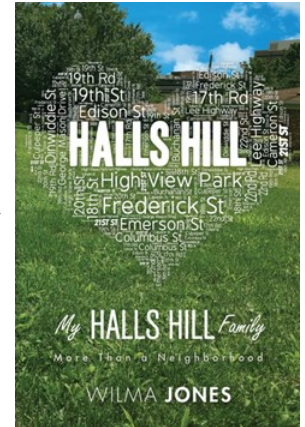
<https://thehill.com/homenews/senate/4430567-assisted-living-facilities-fall-short-when-caring-for-aging-u-s-population-witnesses-tell-senators/>



Wilma Jones is a top-performing director in corporate information technology sales, popular keynote speaker and workshop leader, self-published author and award-winning community activist. Wilma Jones is a dynamic force in a variety of pursuits. An engaged civic activist, Wilma is serving her fourth term as president of the John M. Langston Citizens Association.

Wilma's third book, My Halls Hill Family: More Than a Neighborhood is a historic memoir of the neighborhood she grew up in and still resides in today, Halls Hill. As a fourth-generation resident of Halls Hill, which was a completely African-American community until the 1970's, the book is her attempt to save at least some of the community's stories. To the many people who grew up there, visited family there or even spent time there, Halls Hill was more than a neighborhood. On February 2, 1959, Wilma's brother,

Michael Jones, was one of four Black students to enter Stratford Junior High School. They were the first students to desegregate any public school in Virginia.



Wilma Jones's Book **My Halls Hill Family: More Than a Neighborhood** may be purchased on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).

Wilma suggests these resources for more information about desegregation in Northern Virginia:

- 28 Plaintiffs Left Behind
<https://hallshill.com/the-people/why-were-the-28-plaintiffs-left-behind-by-arlington-county-public-schools/>
- What is Best for the Children?
<https://hallshill.com/the-neighborhood/what-is-best-for-the-children/>
- We Have to Wrestle Our Demons in the Daylight
<https://hallshill.com/the-people/we-have-to-wrestle-our-demons-in-the-daylight/>
- High School Choices in Arlington in 1957
<https://hallshill.com/today-in-halls-hill-history/arlington-high-school-choices-in-1957/>
- Virginia Fights Back
<https://hallshill.com/the-people/virginia-fights-back-the-september-14-1957-ruling/>



Brenda Mitchell-Powell earned her Ph.D. from Simmons University in Archives Management as an American Library Association (ALA) Spectrum Fellow in 2015. Currently an independent scholar and researcher, Dr. Mitchell-Powell served as a contributor, writer, editor, reviewer, and consultant for several national and international publications, as well as for city, state, and federal agencies, literary councils, publishers, cultural organizations, and professional associations.

Her essays on Black history and culture and her reviews of educational materials, literary titles, children's books, and library resources have appeared in a variety of trade and professional publications. Her book, Public in Name Only: The 1939 Alexandria Library Sit-In Demonstration, published in 2022, focuses not only on the struggle for desegregation in Alexandria but also provides an overview of the Jim Crow laws, their impact, and the legal battle to defeat them.

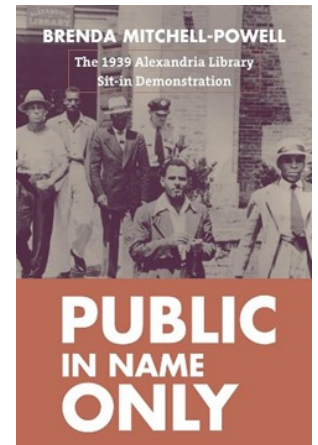
(Continued on page 5)

OUR PROGRAM SPEAKERS

CONTINUED

When Alexandria, Virginia's first public library was constructed just a few blocks from his home, Samuel Wilbert Tucker, a young, Black attorney, was appalled to learn that he could not use the library because of his race. Inspired by the legal successes of the NAACP in discrimination cases, he organized a grassroots protest to desegregate the library that his tax dollars supported.

Public in Name Only tells the important, but largely forgotten, story of Tucker and a group of Black citizens who agitated for change in the terms and conditions of their lives. Employing the combined strategies of direct-action public protest, nonviolent civil disobedience, and municipal litigation, Tucker's initiative dovetailed with the national priorities and tactics of larger civil rights organizations. While Tucker's campaign did not end with the desegregation of the Alexandria Library, but instead resulted in the creation of a "separate-and-unequal" Jim Crow Black branch, the sit-in demonstration represented a momentous early struggle for racial equity waged through civil rights activism.



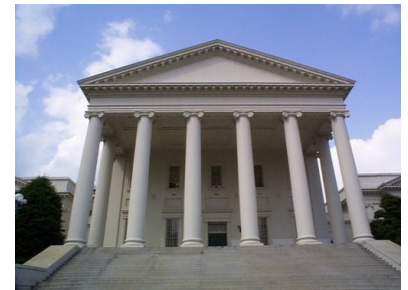
Brenda Mitchell-Powell's book, **Public in Name Only: The 1939 Alexandria Library Sit-In Demonstration**, may be purchased on [Amazon](#) and through [Barnes and Noble](#).

PUBLIC POLICY

MARY ELLEN MEHLER

PAID SICK LEAVE FOR ALL WORKERS

On January 21, **Patsy Quick** forwarded to all branch members an extensive email from our two Virginia AAUW Co-presidents for Public Policy, **Janine Greenwood** and **Denise Murden**. The document contains the correspondence sent by our AAUW representatives to our two newly-elected Virginia state senators, **Marsden** and **Surovell**. It congratulates them on their reelection and encourages them to support a Virginia state bill establishing paid sick leave for all workers. This issue has been a long-time priority for AAUW-VA. Please review the January 21 email from Patsy to find the web address of our two senators and lend your support.



Two-Minute Activist

Send emails and texts to your legislators to fight for equal pay, family leave, stopping sexual harassment, equality in education and more.

After signing up for AAUW's online [Two-Minute Activist](#) tool, emails will come to you. It takes just minutes and an internet connection to make your voice heard on issues impacting women and girls!

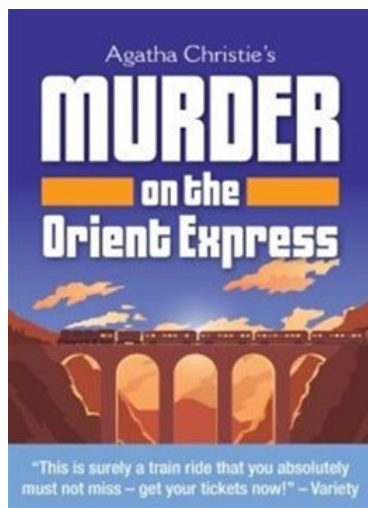


I am happy to report that through the end of November (the latest report available) the Branch and nine of its members donated a total of **\$3,720**. Most of the individuals donating have set up a reoccurring monthly donation.

Hopefully in 2024 I will remember to solicit donations at more branch events and a greater percentage of our branch may then be donors. Of course, we appreciate that through your annual dues you are making a tax deductible donation for the national part of the dues (if you itemize). Still, additional donations are critical to helping AAUW fulfill its mission to advocate for equity for women and girls.

It is easy to donate online. Just go to <https://www.aauw.org/> and hit the big red donate button. Thank you in advance for any 2024 donation you may make.

LTA FUNDRAISER



Alexandria and Mt. Vernon AAUW Branches

Invite You to Attend a Fundraising Event

LITTLE THEATRE OF ALEXANDRIA

600 Wolf Street, Alexandria

March 22, 2024

7 P.M. RECEPTION - 8 P.M. PERFORMANCE

***** Contact Patsy Quick for tickets at \$40 each **
Proceeds will benefit AAUW Funds.**

Invite friends and family members. Tickets make great gifts.



AAUW Webinar

School Boards: The Battleground for the Education Culture Wars

What: An AAUW National Public Policy Committee webinar to discuss controversial policies, book bans, and unethical censorship happening on school boards across the country.

When: Wednesday, February 7, 7:00 p.m. Eastern. [Register here.](#)

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS



Beverly Dyer

Beverly was born and grew up in Massachusetts and has been living in Virginia since 1977. Her B.A in History from University of MA included student teaching at the International School of Dusseldorf, Germany (secondary teaching certificate) and interning on the Hill with MA Congressman Gerry Studds when the 200-mile fishery conservation zone was passed. After receiving an M.A. in Science, Technology and Public Policy from George Washington University, she worked for a few years in private industry before launching her Federal career at the National Science Foundation.

As the Program Manager for the Federal Sector of Energy Star Buildings at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, she directed the first program to benchmark and evaluate Federal buildings for energy and indoor air performance. As the Chair of the Federal Interagency Sustainability Working Group at the U.S. Department of Energy, she spearheaded the first Federal Sustainability Memorandum of Understanding, signed by 26 Federal Agencies, culminating in the first Federal Executive Order for Sustainability. Beverly successfully completed the Senior Executive Development Program before retiring after 32 years of Federal service.

Beverly is married to retired scientist, Bob, has two adult stepchildren and one granddaughter. Favorite pastimes include swimming, sailing, kayaking and hiking; reading; listening to Classical, bluegrass, and rock music; and playing the piano. She returns to Cape Cod each summer to swim, eat lobster and enjoy the cool summer breezes.



Suzanne Cleary

Suzanne Cleary is a former executive speechwriter, strategic planner, marketing communicator, advertising writer, and financial writer. In California, she began her career at CP National, where she did conservation advertising and edited the company newsletter. In the Washington, DC area, Suzanne worked for Potomac Electric Power, C&P Telephone and Bell Atlantic. As an independent marketing consultant, she worked for Verizon, AARP and the NASDAQ Stock Exchange, among others. She also managed the marketing and advertising for Virginia's successful Tax Amnesty Program and has won multiple awards for her work.

Suzanne holds a Bachelor of Arts cum laude from California State University, Fresno, and a Master of Arts magna cum laude, elementary and secondary teaching credentials from San Francisco State University.

Retired now, she enjoys flower arranging, walking and spending time with family and friends. She is active in a local book club, her church, a meditation group, and a writing group in England, where she lives half the year. She and her husband have three grown children and travel internationally as often as they can.

Welcome to our branch!



Northern District Meeting

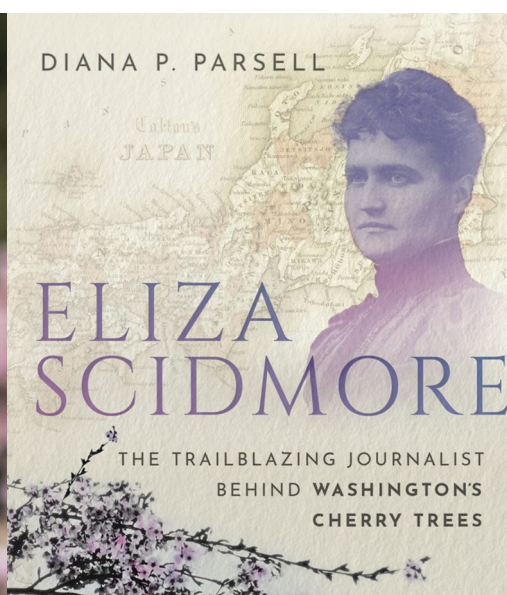
Saturday, March 9, 2024

10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library

4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria

Just in time for Cherry Blossom Season in Washington, DC.!



- Diana Parsell, author and member of the AAUW McLean Area Branch, will introduce us to *Eliza Scidmore, the Early AAUW Member Behind Washington's Cherry Blossoms*.

As Diana's book reveals, Scidmore was an extraordinary journalist and travel writer who got her start as a newspaper correspondent in Gilded Age Washington in the 1870s. She wrote authoritative books on Alaska, Japan, Java, China and India; was an activist in the burgeoning U.S. conservation movement, in association with major figures like John Muir; and was the most influential female at the early National Geographic, as the first woman elected to the board (in 1892) and to publish photographs in the magazine. In 1920, Scidmore became an AAUW member. Copies of the book will be available for sale.

- A business meeting will follow.



**The Southwest District Invites You to
Join Us in Lynchburg on
Friday, April 12 – Saturday, April 13
at the Hilton Garden Inn.**

The rate for rooms booked under the AAUW-VA block is \$139.00 per night, plus tax.

The room rate includes breakfast. Room rates are subject to the following taxes:

\$1.00 Occupancy Tax, 6.5% City Sales Tax, 5.3% State Sales Tax.

- Reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at 434-239-3006 or by [Clicking Here](#)
 - Please use the group code **AAW** to ensure you receive the block rate. When booking online, enter the code in the Group Code tab under Special Rate Codes.
 - The cut-off date to book rooms at the discounted rate is 03/13/24.

**Our Keynote Speaker will be
Dr. Alison Morrison-Shetlar, the first woman president of the
University of Lynchburg.**

Plan to enjoy a little shopping because vendor tables will be available.

Friday afternoon sightseeing tours will be scheduled starting at 2:00 p.m. to give you a chance to enjoy Lynchburg.

2023 - 2024 MT. VERNON BRANCH PROGRAM YEAR

Meeting Date and Place	Focus/Activity
Saturday, September 16, 2023, 10:30 a.m. Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	Holding Your Field And Space Women's Empowerment Presentation by Melissa Thiel
Saturday, October 14, 2023, 10:30 p.m.—noon Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	Seniors Staying Strong (Seniors building body strength and flexibility) Jenny Grover (personal trainer)
Saturday, November 18, 2023, 10:30 a.m. Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	Travels to Antarctica Antarctica from various points of views of the travelers
Saturday, December 9, 2023, 11:30 a.m. Cedar Knoll 9030 Lucia Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308	Holiday Event
Thursday, January 11, 2024. 1:30 p.m. Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	Senior Living Community Options Speaker: Arvette M Reid
Thursday, February 29, 2024, 1:30 p.m. Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	Separate but NOT Equal Struggles Toward Integration and Defeating Massive Resistance in Virginia Speakers: Brenda Mitchell-Powell and Wilma Jones
Friday, March 22, 2024 7 p.m. Reception / 8 p.m. Performance Little Theatre of Alexandria 600 Wolfe St, Alexandria, VA 22314	LTA Annual Fundraiser Murder on the Orient Express
Saturday, March 23, 2024, 10:00 a.m. Zoom	Annual Business Meeting
April 2024 TBD (3rd Thurs or 3rd Sat.) Sherwood Regional Zoom?	Underfunding Public Education Panel Discussion with Laura Goren , Director of Research and Education Policy at The Commonwealth Institute (TCI) for Fiscal Analysis
Thursday, May 16 or 23, 2024 Location, Date and Time TBD	Annual Potluck
Saturday, June 8 or 15, 2024 Location, Date and Time TBD	Annual Planning Session



March 9, 2024, 10:30 a.m.-1.p.m.

April 12-13, 2024

Northern District Meeting
Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library
AAUW-VA 2024 Conference
Lynchburg

Mount Vernon's 37th Annual Town Meeting

When: Saturday, February 10

Where: Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Rd. & Live on Channel 16 and Facebook

Times: 7:45 a.m. - 9:25 a.m. - Exhibit Hall Open
9:30 a.m. - Noon - Program: Speakers, Audience Q&A and Virtual Tour
Noon - 1:30 p.m. - Taste of Mount Vernon

Our AAUW Mt. Vernon branch will have a table for distributing literature and chatting with neighbors in the community. Stop by for a visit.



February 2024

- **6 Board Meeting, 7 p.m.**
Contact Patsy Quick
703/360-8676
- **19 Book Group, 7 p.m.**
Contact Liz Promen
703/780-7342
- **23 Game Night, 7:30 p.m.**
Contact Patsy Quick
- **29 Branch Program, 1:30 p.m.**
Contact Solveig Eggerz
703/203-0769



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



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

