

# Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 67 Issue 7 March 2024

Mt. Vernon Branch



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As March blows in, we have a lot going on in AAUW! The Northern District holds its meeting March 9. We will hear what is going on in our district as well as hear a great speaker. I hope some of you will join me at 10:30 a.m. on March 9 for the meeting.

Most important this month is our Annual Business Meeting (ABM). This is when we hear reports from our board members, vote on new board officers, and discuss and vote on a budget for the coming year.

This year we will also discuss and vote on some new wording for a section in our bylaws. **Elaine Kolish** has worked on this and you can refer to the February 24 email for details. Our ABM will be on Zoom at 10:00 a.m. on March 23. The link will come to you via email.

And yes, you will note that our ABM is the morning after our annual fundraiser at the Little Theatre of

Alexandria on March 22. This year the play is *Murder on the Orient Express*. We will have a reception at 7 p.m. and the performance is at 8 p.m. If you haven't received your tickets to sell or purchase, please

contact me to get them. This year we are responsible for sweets and wine. The food committee will purchase the food as they did last year and the branch will pay for it. That makes it easy for you to just show up and enjoy the reception and performance! We are accepting wine donations. We still need

to sell about 40 tickets.

Our book and game night groups will be meeting in March as usual. Contact the leaders for these groups if you wish to join.

Thanks to everyone for keeping our branch so vibrant!

*Patsy*



## ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Please join us to attend the Mt. Vernon AAUW Annual Business Meeting.

**MARCH 23, 2024, 10 A.M. ZOOM**

At this meeting we will

- ⇒ hear reports of board members and group leaders,
- ⇒ discuss and vote on at 2023-25 branch budget,
- ⇒ elect officers,
- ⇒ and discuss a change in our bylaws.



**This is an important meeting!** It is your opportunity to speak of any branch concerns. You may also have program ideas or other issues to bring forward. Please join us for this meeting! I promise to keep it as short as possible and still get our business done. But YOU are important and so is this meeting. (This year we are not having a speaker afterward. That is so you will consider coming to the Northern District Meeting on March 9.)

The Zoom link will be sent to you by email.

# ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING - ELECTIONS

## ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AT OUR ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, MARCH 23, 2024.

The Branch has a complete slate of officer nominations for the 2 year term of 2024-2026. The following members have agreed to be nominated:

- **Membership VP:** Susan Farmer
- **Treasurer:** Anne Simpson
- **Co-Presidents:** Patsy Quick, Elaine Kolish.  
Elaine will need to be elected to complete the 2023-25 term with Patsy.

## AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS:

- Our bylaws have been updated with mandatory changes by National that did not require a vote.
- We will discuss and vote on a proposed change regarding officer terms. That information was published in an email to branch members on February 24, 2024. This is the language below:

*Section 3. Terms of Office.*

*a. Terms of Office. Elected and appointed officers and directors shall serve for a term of two years or until their successors have been elected or appointed and have assumed office. No elected officer shall hold the same office for more than three consecutive terms. Despite the expiration of three consecutive terms, an officer continues to serve until a successor is elected. No officer shall hold more than one office, elected or appointed, at any given time.*

**This change requires a vote of the membership.**

## BRANCH LEADERSHIP 2023 – 2024

### Elected Officers

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

### Appointed Chairs

<b>Bylaws:</b>	<b>vacant</b>
<b>AAUW Funds:</b>	Elaine Kolish
<b>Public Policy:</b>	Mary Ellen Mehler
<b>Newsletter/Website:</b>	Bianca Daugherty

<b>Newsletter/Directory Distribution:</b>	Mary Ellen Mehler
<b>Nominating Committee Chair:</b>	Lois Passman
<b>Hospitality:</b>	<b>vacant</b>

### Interest Groups

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

**Contact Email:** [AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com](mailto: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.

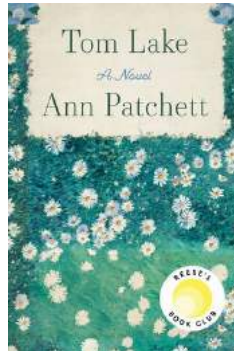
## BOOK GROUP

**Monday, March 18, 2024, 7 p.m.**

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

**HOSTESS:** Joanna Crane  
6611 Princeton Drive

**CO-HOST:** Anne Simpson



**BOOK:** Tom Lake  
Ann Patchett

**REVIEWER:** Elaine Kolish

**NEXT BOOK:** The Personal Librarian  
Marie Benedict and  
Victoria Christopher  
Murray

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

## GAME NIGHT

Join us for a fun evening with various games.

**Friday, March 29, 2024, 7:30 p.m.**

**Home of Anne Simpson**

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](mailto:AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com)



## TREASURER AND SINGER



Alexandria Choral Society is traveling to Capital One Hall in Tysons for its **March 9th concert**. With the Virginia Chamber Orchestra, it is presenting Gabriel Faure's Requiem.

**Treasurer Anne Simpson can be spotted in the Alto Section.**

Tickets are available by going to the website,

[alexandriachoralsociety.org](http://alexandriachoralsociety.org).



## WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER



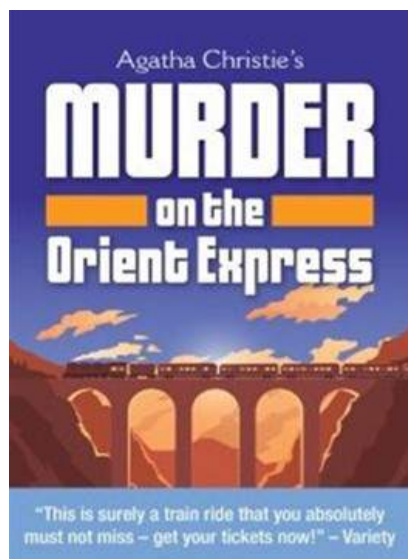
**Susan Reardon** served as Director, International Policy, Worldwide Government Affairs and Policy at Johnson & Johnson (J&J) based in Washington, D.C. until April of 2014 when she retired. In her position, she advanced global trade and health issues working with industry associations, government agencies, business organizations and others to shape policies consistent with J&J interests.

Before her career at J&J, Susan held several positions at the Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed) where she was responsible for regulatory and reimbursement issues affecting the medical technology industry. She also served in the federal government including the Department of Health and Human Services, where she was Acting General Counsel among other positions; the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and the Small Business Administration. She practiced law in Oswego, New York, and served as Counsel to the School District.

Susan earned her Bachelor of Arts, *magna cum laude*, in International Relations from Syracuse University and her Juris Doctor from Syracuse University College of Law, where she served on the Law Review and was published. She is the recipient of several awards including "Team of the Year" awards for APEC and CETA. She also received the W. Quinn Jordan Memorial Award for significant government affairs accomplishments benefiting transfusion medicine and the Food and Drug Administration Commissioner's Special Citation.

Susan is an emeritus member of the Board of Advisors for the Syracuse College of Law and serves as the Chair of the D.C. Regional Council for Syracuse University. She is a member of the Board of Mount Vernon at Home, an organization that facilitates "aging in place" for seniors.

## LTA FUNDRAISER



**ALL ABOARD!!!!**

**Alexandria and Mt. Vernon AAUW Branches  
Invite You to Attend a Fundraising Event**

**MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS**

**LITTLE THEATRE OF ALEXANDRIA**

**600 Wolf Street, Alexandria**

**March 22, 2024**

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

**Tickets are still available.  
Contact Patsy Quick for tickets at \$40 each.**

**Proceeds will benefit AAUW Funds.**

**Invite friends and family members. Tickets make great gifts.**



# IMPROMPTEVENTS

Joanne Clark is suggesting two ImpromptEvents for March and/or April.

- **The Portrait Gallery** has a new exhibit of black and white photos by an acclaimed photographer from the heyday of Hollywood, George Hurrell, with photos of those classic stars that we don't see anymore. Greta Garbo, Bojangles, etc.



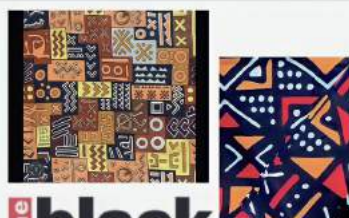
[Star Power: Photographs from Hollywood's Golden Age by George Hurrell | National Portrait Gallery \(si.edu\)](http://www.starpower.org/photographs-from-hollywoods-golden-age-by-george-hurrell-national-portrait-gallery-si.edu)

- Also, **Hillwood** has a new exhibit featuring Marjorie Merriweather Post's experiences (what she collected) in Paris—**Marjorie Merriweather Post's Paris**



[Marjorie Merriweather Post's Paris | Hillwood Estate, Museum and Garden \(hillwoodmuseum.org\)](http://www.hillwoodmuseum.org/marjorie-merriweather-post-paris)

Joanne would love to go to both of these exhibits and would like to know if there is any interest to join her. She will organize the outings if members would like to go with her. No dates have been picked yet, but Joanne's best days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. ([jojoandgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:jojoandgeorge@gmail.com))



**the black heritage museum of arlington**



**OPEN THURSDAYS 3-6P  
SATURDAYS 2-5P**

If you missed our February 29 branch program *Separate but NOT Equal* or want to learn more about the integration struggle in Virginia, join us for a tour of the

**Black Heritage Museum of Arlington**

**Thursday, March 7 at 2 p.m.**

**Dr. Scott Taylor**, director of the museum, has graciously offered to host us and to explain some of the issues.

<https://www.stayarlington.com/directory/the-black-heritage-museum-of-arlington-virginia/>

**Let Solveig know if you can come, and she will arrange rides to the museum at 3045 Columbia Pike, Arlington, VA. ([solveig24@gmail.com](mailto:solveig24@gmail.com))**

Let's Carpool!



**Patsy plans to attend the Northern District Meeting on March 9, 10:30 a.m.**

**Let her know if you wish to go and she will make plans to carpool. ([pnquick@cox.net](mailto:pnquick@cox.net))**

**\*\*See ND Meeting Info on page 6.\*\***

## YOU ARE INVITED



### Northern District Meeting

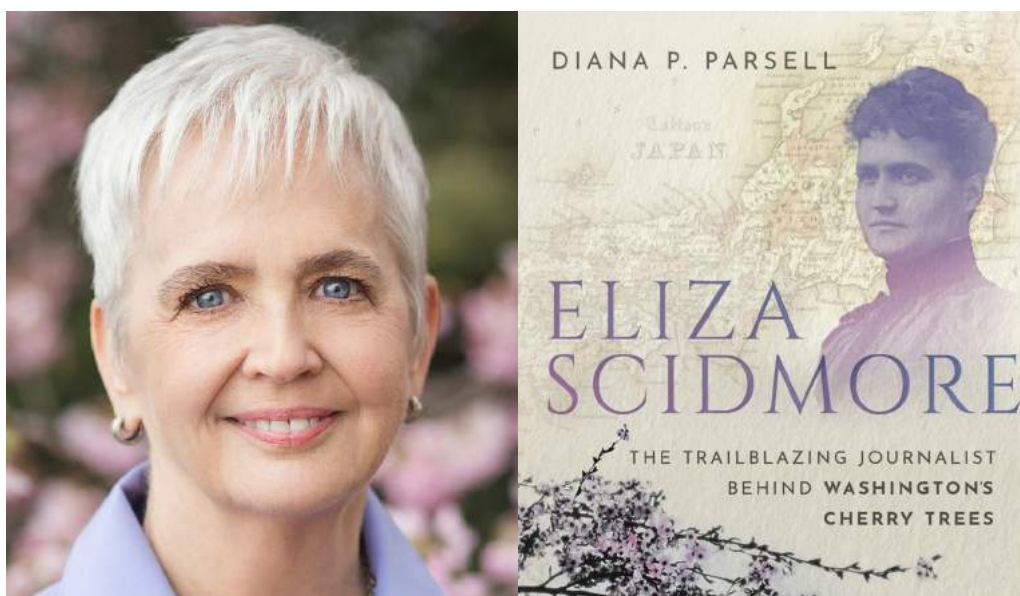
**Saturday, March 9, 2024**

**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.



## A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



In February branch member **Ebba Jo Spettel** celebrated her 95th (!! ) birthday. She has been an AAUW branch member for over 30 years. Ebba Jo is active in various book groups, a meditation group, regularly attends our branch programs, and comes equipped with program suggestions to our important June program planning meeting. She delights us with her insight, humor, and stories. She is a gem!

## Civically-Minded Branch Members at the Mount Vernon's 37th Annual Town Meeting February 10 at Mount Vernon High School



Top left: **Mary Ellen Mehler, Bianca Daugherty and Patsy Quick** set up a table with info about our branch and AAUW's mission.

Top right: **Elaine Kolish** answered questions at the Fairfax County Tree Commission table.

Left: **Paula Lettice** and fellow board members manned the table for Mount Vernon at Home.

# AAUW VA 2023 CONFERENCE



## **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

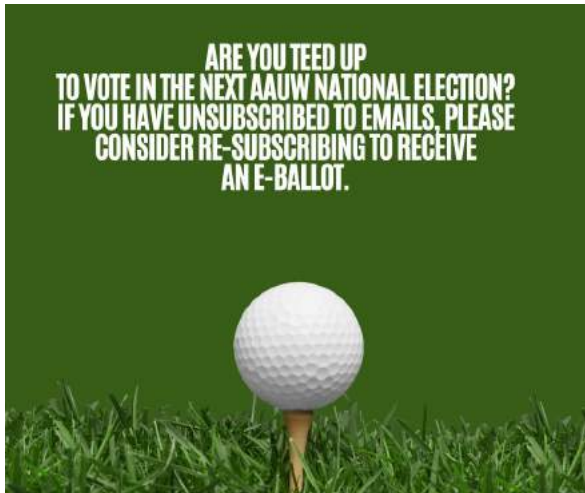
Meeting Date and Place	Focus/Activity
<b>Saturday, September 16, 2023, 10:30 a.m.</b> <b>Sherwood Regional Library</b> 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	<b>Holding Your Field And Space</b> Women's Empowerment Presentation by <b>Melissa Thiel</b>
<b>Saturday, October 14, 2023, 10:30 p.m.—noon</b> <b>Sherwood Regional Library</b> 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	<b>Seniors Staying Strong (Seniors building body strength and flexibility)</b> <b>Jenny Grover (personal trainer)</b>
<b>Saturday, November 18, 2023, 10:30 a.m.</b> <b>Sherwood Regional Library</b> 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	<b>Travels to Antarctica</b> Antarctica from various points of views of the travelers
<b>Saturday, December 9, 2023, 11:30 a.m.</b> <b>Cedar Knoll</b> 9030 Lucia Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308	<b>Holiday Event</b>
<b>Thursday, January 11, 2024. 1:30 p.m.</b> <b>Sherwood Regional Library</b> 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	<b>Senior Living Community Options</b> <b>Speaker: Arvette M Reid</b>
<b>Thursday, February 29, 2024, 1:30 p.m.</b> <b>Sherwood Regional Library</b> 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	<b>Separate but NOT Equal</b> Struggles Toward Integration and Defeating Massive Resistance in Virginia <b>Speakers: Brenda Mitchell-Powell and Wilma Jones</b>
<b>Friday, March 22, 2024</b> <b>7 p.m. Reception / 8 p.m. Performance</b> <b>Little Theatre of Alexandria</b> 600 Wolfe St, Alexandria, VA 22314	<b>LTA Annual Fundraiser</b> <b>Murder on the Orient Express</b>
<b>Saturday, March 23, 2024, 10:00 a.m.</b> <b>Zoom</b>	<b>Annual Business Meeting</b>
<b>April 2024 TBD (3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs or 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat.)</b> <b>Sherwood Regional Zoom?</b>	<b>Underfunding Public Education</b> Panel Discussion with <b>Laura Goren</b> , Director of Research and Education Policy at The Commonwealth Institute (TCI) for Fiscal Analysis
<b>Thursday, May 16, 2024</b> <b>Home of Paula Lettice, 6 p.m.</b>	<b>Annual Potluck</b>
<b>Saturday, June 8 or 15, 2024</b> <b>Location, Date and Time TBD</b>	<b>Annual Planning Session</b>



**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**



## AAUW National Elections 2024

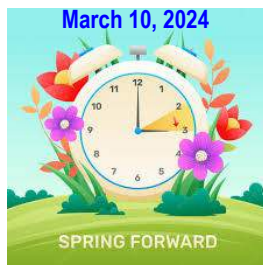
Your vote counts! This spring AAUW members will be asked to vote on an amendment to the national bylaws recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee that would open membership to any individual who supports AAUW's important mission of advancing equity for women and girls.

Bylaw voting opens April 3. Online voting is encouraged! Voting closes May 15, after which results will be announced online.

You can review the proposed bylaw changes [here](#).



- **5 Board Meeting, 7 p.m.**  
Contact Patsy Quick  
703/360-8676
- **18 Book Group, 7 p.m.**  
Contact Liz Promen  
703/780-7342
- **22 LTA Fundraiser Reception 7 p.m.**  
**Curtain 8 p.m.**  
Contact Patsy Quick
- **29 Game Night, 7:30 p.m.**  
Contact Anne Simpson  
301/203-0454



## March 2024

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



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

