

# Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 67 Issue 8

April 2024

Mt. Vernon Branch



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The word of the month is **CONGRATULATIONS!** We had a wonderful fundraiser at the Little Theatre of Alexandria on March 22. We sold 106 tickets! Thank you, members! The performance was impressive! We had an enthusiastic crowd of attendees! They ate almost all the food! SO...Our planning was excellent! Many volunteers to thank:



**FOOD COMMITTEE:** Paula Lettice, Cathy Conron, Mary Ellen Mehler, and Solveig Eggerz

**CLEANUP/SET UP:** Joanna Crane, Cathy Krebs, Joanne Clark, Solveig Eggerz, Paula Lettice, Cathy Conron, Bianca Daugherty



Another **CONGRATULATIONS!** is in order for us all: I learned that our branch has been recognized as at **Three Star Branch**. I had not planned to participate in the FIVE STAR program this year...it's a lot of paperwork, but National made it easy by asking branch presidents to fill out a survey. I did that and we have been awarded this recognition. See page 5 of the newsletter.

Hope to see you on Zoom at the April 11th Program, our last until the Fall.

*Patsy*

## BRANCH PROGRAM



### The Proposed Underfunding of Virginia's Public Schools and its Impact on Students and Schools

**Thursday, April 11, 7:30 P.M. ZOOM**

At our April 11 program, **Briana Jones** (see page 4), a policy associate at The Commonwealth Institute in Richmond, will discuss how the Virginia governor's proposed budget, unveiled in December 2023, fails to keep up with the rising cost of current programs.

This is an important issue for the future of our Commonwealth.

It affects our children and grandchildren.

**Please join us for this informational program dealing with Public Education.**

**Thursday, April 11, 7:30 pm. Bring your questions. See you on Zoom!**

The Zoom link will be emailed to everyone closer to the date.

# VOTING RESULTS

At the Annual Business Meeting which was held on Zoom March 23, the following officers were elected:

**Co-President (2024-25): Elaine Kolish** (to serve with Patsy Quick who is already elected.)

**Vice President for Membership: Susan Farmer**

**Vice President for Finance: Anne Simpson**

## CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU!

The change in the Bylaws was approved by a vote of the membership. The revised bylaws can be seen on the State <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/branches/bylaws/> and National websites. The updated Policy Sheet will be emailed to all members.

**THANK YOU, ELAINE KOLISH,  
FOR YOUR WORK ON THESE TWO DOCUMENTS.**



## LITTLE THEATRE FUNDRAISER WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

We sold 106 tickets!! Many thanks to everyone who bought and/or sold tickets or made a donation. We have \$4,220 so far with a couple of checks promised to be coming. The play was a great draw and so was the excellent reception.

Thank you, thank you to all of our generous members and guests!

# 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.

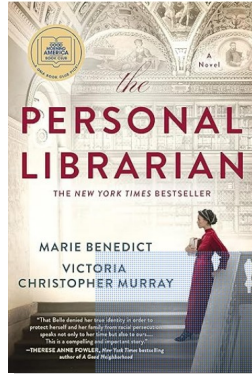
## BOOK GROUP

Monday, April 15, 2024, 7 p.m.

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

**HOSTESS:** Betty Demarest  
5904 Mt. Eagle Dr. #808  
Alexandria, VA 22303

**CO-HOST:** Joanne Clark



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

**REVIEWER:** Betty Demarest

**NEXT BOOK:** The Heaven & Earth  
Grocery Store  
James McBride

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, April 26, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Home of Paula Lettice

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)

## DINING OUT



**B**ring your spouse, bring a friend...this month our culinary outing will take us to **Elaine's** in Alexandria where we will get to enjoy modern Egyptian and Mediterranean cuisine.

**Elaine's, 208 Queen Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.**

**April 4, 2024 - 6:30 p.m.**

**Watch for Paula's email to sign up.**

You can learn more about Elaine's and co-owner Cynthia Higgins [here](#).

**Menu:** <https://www.elaines-restaurant.com/menus/>

**Reviews:** <https://www.opentable.com/r/elaines-alexandria>  
<https://www.yelp.com/biz/elaine-s-alexandria>

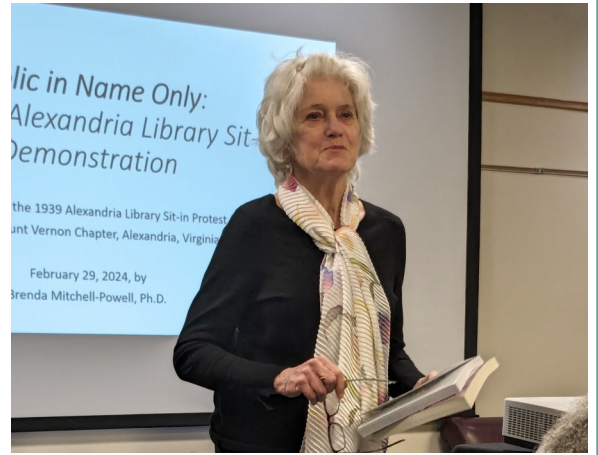


# SEPARATE BUT NOT EQUAL, FEBRUARY 29

## Speakers Discuss the Struggle to Desegregate Public Facilities in Virginia Black History Month Program—February 29

**Brenda Mitchell-Powell** explored the resistance in Alexandria to allowing blacks to use the Alexandria Library on Queen Street. In 1939, a black Alexandria attorney, Samuel Wilbert Tucker, who lived just down the street from the library, organized a sit-in demonstration at the library, the first civil rights action of its kind.

Brenda explains the causes and consequences of the sit-in as well as its historical context, the Jim Crow era, in her book ***Public in Name Only: The 1939 Alexandria Library Sit-In Demonstration***. For sale at the Lyceum in Alexandria. It can also be purchased on [Amazon](#) and through [Barnes and Noble](#).



Solveig Eggerz introducing the program speakers



From left: Solveig Eggerz, Wilma Jones, Brenda Mitchell-Powell and Patsy Quick

**Wilma Jones** gave us an insider's view into the segregated neighborhoods and schools of Arlington. After the Supreme Court mandated integration of public schools, Virginia passed state laws to resist integration as part of five years of Massive Resistance.”

Wilma's book ***Halls Hill: More Than a Neighborhood***, explains how residents of segregated black neighborhoods supported each other. Her book discusses how blacks in Arlington fought for desegregation primarily because of the inadequacy of education facilities for blacks under segregation. Her book is sold at The Black Heritage Museum of Arlington. And it may also be purchased on [Amazon](#).

## OUR APRIL 11TH SPEAKER



As a policy associate at The Commonwealth Institute, Briana Jones supports research efforts across all policy areas. She is passionate about working with marginalized communities to advance social equity. She received her B.A. in Public and Urban Affairs with a concentration in Public Policy from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.



## WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Welcome **Mary Stauss!** Mary is a friend of Cathy Krebs and recently joined our branch. Mary grew up in Wisconsin in a manufacturing city between Chicago and Milwaukee, destinations fueling her interest in museums and artistic venues. She attended Beloit College, a small liberal arts college with a strong chemistry department which led her to Stanford's PhD program (not completed). Marriage and motherhood rooted her in Northern Virginia where she had a business as a patent agent specializing in biochemistry and drug synthesis for 30 years.

## IMPROMPTUEVENT MARCH 7



After learning about the events our speakers described on February 29 (page 4), a group of us visited the **Arlington Black Heritage Museum** on March 7. The visit was arranged by Solveig Eggerz. The museum's director, Dr. Scott Taylor, gave us a personalized tour and together we had an enlightening discussion of the early days of desegregation in Virginia.



Left to right:

Joanne Clark, Patsy Quick, Joan-Trumpauer Mulholland, Solveig Eggerz, Anne Simpson, Priscilla Weiner, Pris Bornmann, Brenda Mitchell-Powell.



Patsy Quick, Anne Simpson & Pris Bornmann listen to Joan Trumpauer Mulholland.

Dr. Taylor surprised us by inviting Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, lunch-counter-sit-in participant and one of our former speakers, to join us. She added personal details of the events from those tension-filled days.

### AAUW CEO Gloria L. Blackwell Named "Outstanding Woman" for Women's History Month

AAUW is thrilled to see CEO Gloria L. Blackwell recognized as one of [Diverse Issues in Higher Education's 40 Outstanding Women](#). This honor celebrates her exceptional leadership and commitment to advancing equity and education for women and girls. Ms. Blackwell joins an impressive group of professionals who are making a difference in our communities, and we are proud to have her leadership.

## 2023 MT. VERNON AAUW NAMED HONOREES

At the March 23rd Annual Business Meeting (Zoom) **Elaine Kolish**, Mt. Vernon AAUW Funds Chair announced the Mt. Vernon Branch Named Honorees for 2023. We can name an Honoree for every \$500 contributed to AAUW funds by the branch. Our total was \$4,500. This year the board decided to name two branch members and seven members of the community who have been important to us as an organization as our Honorees. Below is the list of our 2023 Named Honorees.

\$500. **Mary Wall**. In recognition of Mary's efforts and enthusiasm for the Mt. Vernon AAUW Branch even after she moved to California.

\$500. **Paula Lettice**. In recognition of our member's service to Mt. Vernon at Home, as President of the Board and for serving as Acting Director, doing the day-to-day running of the organization on several occasions. Mt. Vernon at Home provides services to its members, older members of the community, that allow them to stay in their homes more easily and to stay socially and physically active. The organization provides a valuable service to our community, including a number of AAUW members who belong to it.

\$1000. **Zayne Reeves** and **Janelle Ortiz**, our liaisons at the Sherwood Regional Library. In recognition of their assistance at the library for hosting or co-sponsoring numerous Mt. Vernon AAUW branch events.

\$500. **Audrey Davis**, former Director, Alexandria Black History Museum, in appreciation for her contributions to Mt. Vernon AAUW branch presentations. (Now serving as Director, City of Alexandria, African American History Division.)

\$500. **Arvette Reid**, in appreciation for her thought provoking and comprehensive presentation to the Mt. Vernon AAUW branch on senior housing and care options.

\$500. **Jenny Grover**, in appreciation for her commitment to women's health and her presentation to the Mt. Vernon AAUW branch on how to stay fit and healthy.

\$500. **Karen Corbett Sanders**, the former school board representative for the Mount Vernon District for eight years, for always keeping the best interests of our children, particularly underserved children, as a top priority.

\$500. **Dr Scott Taylor**, director of the Arlington Black Heritage Museum, in appreciation for the private tour of the museum for Mt. Vernon Branch AAUW members.

## MT. VERNON BRANCH RECOGNITION

Dear AAUW Mt. Vernon (VA) Branch,

On behalf of the staff and senior leadership at AAUW, I want to extend our sincere appreciation for your participation in the FY23 Branch Impact Survey. Your responses have contributed significantly to our ongoing efforts to measure and celebrate the impactful work carried out by our branches across the country.

We are thrilled to inform you that, based on your responses, the **AAUW Mt. Vernon (VA) Branch** has achieved **three stars** in the FY23 AAUW Five Star Recognition Program. This achievement is a testament to your dedication and commitment to advancing our mission, and we applaud your leadership and members for your outstanding contributions in the following categories: **Advancement, Communications and External Relations, Programs.**

Your branch's accomplishments in these areas reflect your efforts in fostering positive change for women and girls within your community and beyond. We recognize that achieving a Five Star Recognition is no small feat and underscores your unwavering commitment to advancing gender equity.

While we celebrate the achievement of stars in the various categories, it's important to emphasize that every branch's work in FY23 has been instrumental in furthering the mission of AAUW. Whether you achieved one star or five, your dedication has not gone unnoticed. Each accomplishment, no matter the scale, contributes to the collective impact of AAUW and helps us progress toward a more equitable future.

As you reflect on your branch's achievements, take pride in the positive impact you've made and the lives you've touched throughout the past year. Your ongoing support is inspiring, and we are grateful to have branches like yours as integral parts of our organization.

Once again, congratulations on your well-deserved recognition. We look forward to celebrating the continued success and growth of the AAUW Mt. Vernon (VA) Branch in the coming years.

Thank you for your commitment to the AAUW mission.

Best regards,

Tremayne A. Parquet

Deputy Director of Advancement

AAUW, 1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005





**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>Thursday, April 11, 2024, 7:30 p.m.</b> <b>Zoom</b>	<b>Underfunding Public Education</b> <b>Speaker: Briana Jones</b> , policy associate at The Commonwealth Institute in Richmond
<b>Thursday, May 16, 2024</b> <b>Home of Paula Lettice, 6 p.m.</b>	<b>Annual Potluck</b>
<b>Saturday, June 1, 2024, 10:30 a.m.</b> <b>Sherwood Regional Library</b> 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	<b>Annual Planning Session</b>



**April 12-13, 2024**

**AAUW-VA 2024 Conference  
Lynchburg**

**ARE YOU TEED UP  
TO VOTE IN THE NEXT AAUW NATIONAL ELECTION?  
IF YOU HAVE UNSUBSCRIBED TO EMAILS, PLEASE  
CONSIDER RE-SUBSCRIBING TO RECEIVE  
AN E-BALLOT.**



## 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](#).



Mt. Vernon (VA) Branch

- **2 Board Meeting, 7 p.m.**  
Contact Patsy Quick  
703/360-8676
- **5 Dining Out, 6:30 p.m.**  
Contact Paula Lettice  
703/780-3463
- **11 Branch Program, 7:30 p.m.**  
Contact Solveig Eggerz  
703/203-0769
- **15 Book Group, 7 p.m.**  
Contact Liz Promen  
703/780-7342
- **26 Game Night, 7:30 p.m.**  
Contact Paula Lettice  
703/360-3880



# April 2024

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



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

