



Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Presidents' Corner



Hope you all enjoyed a very happy holiday season, surrounded by the warmth of friends and family.

Our holiday luncheon on December 3 at Mt. Vernon Country Club was

an enjoyable event. Our thanks to **Louise Meade** for making the arrangements, **Kelly Morris** for the name tags, and **Ericka Kinsey** for inviting the West Potomac High School that provided very enjoyable music prior to lunch. Members generously brought food to donate to UCM.

The highlight was **Toby Jenkins**, an AAUW fellowship recipient, who made us aware just how much our youth today desire a good education. She is phenomenal as she gives back to the communities in D.C. and to her home town in South Carolina, all while facing health adversity. By listening to Toby we truly experienced the good that these AAUW fellowships can provide to someone who is driven to make this world a better place. If you did not attend the luncheon, google Dr. Toby S. Jenkins and enjoy the read. (See

photo page 6)

As of our last board meeting, we have 55 members for this year. If you have any friends that may be interested in our AAUW chapter, please bring them to one of our meetings. **Erin Prangle**, Associate Director of AAUW for Government Relations, will be speaking at our January 19 meeting. This would be a good opportunity for someone who is not familiar with AAUW to learn more about the mission of AAUW.

The AAUW of Virginia's STATE LOBBY DAY is in Richmond on Wednesday, February 1, 2012. The annual AAUW state convention has been changed to a conference and will be held in Newport News in April. Information will be forthcoming and you do not need to be a board member to attend the conference.

If you have not made a donation to AAUW you can still do that...

Let us strive to make our branch better than ever in 2012!

Cathy Krebs & Saundra Prince

Warm Up at AAUW Meeting



Branch Presentation
January 19, 7:00
Mt. Vernon Government
Center
2511 Parkers Lane

Erin Prangle, Associate Director of Government Relations for the American Association of University Women will be our speaker at this meeting. Erin is an attorney and legislative specialist who worked as a senior congressional staffer for almost a decade

prior to joining AAUW. At AAUW, Erin manages the implementation of AAUW government relations programs and strategy and develops and disseminates public policy materials.

Erin will talk about AAUW public policy priorities. She will review what the AAUW membership passed and update us on the bills they lobbied at convention. She will also discuss different ways members have worked on these issues.

Join us and become updated on the variety of public priority issues that are important to us as AAUW members.

**JANUARY
19**

**Branch
Meeting**

January 19

7:00 pm

**Mt. Vernon
Governmental
Center
Parker's Lane**

**Warm Up With
a
Discussion of
Public Policy!**

Meet Erin Prangley!

Ever wonder who sends out those AAUW WashingtonUpdates? Wonder how AAUW public policy decisions are made? Meet Erin Prangley at our January 19 meeting and learn these things and more!

Erin Prangley is the Associate Director of Government Relations for the American Association of University Women. At AAUW, Erin works to implement a public policy program which underscores AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls. She regularly lobbies members of Congress and administration officials and works in partnership with diverse coalitions to break through educational and economic barriers for women and girls.

After graduating from American University's Washington College of Law, Erin worked as a legislative assistant to Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC). She also was the Democratic staff director for the Congressional Women's Issues Caucus.

She later moved to her home state of California to start a law practice which represented hundreds of veterans returning from wartime service with physical and mental disabilities. Additionally, she advocated the interests of minority-owned businesses and represented immigrants seeking to adjust status.

In 2004, Erin left private practice to work as Deputy Chief of Staff for Congressman Brad Sherman (D-CA). She ran a congressional district office for several years before returning to Washington again to work on Capitol Hill. Erin was elected to the Los Angeles County Democratic Party, County Central Committee in 2008, and in the same year was named "Democrat of the Year for the 40th California Assembly District."

**Call for
Nominations
for 2012-14
Treasurer &
Secretary**

**Call or email Lois
Passman after
Jan. 26**

703/781-7626

**LMPass-
man@msn.com**

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Dining Out:

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elonoff@msn.com

Gourmet Too:

Shirley Richey 703/780-0834
shirley97@verizon.net

**New
Number**

Book Group

Please let the hostess know whether or not you plan to attend.

CO-HOSTESS: Ebba Jo Spettel

DATE: Monday, January 16, 7:30

HOSTESS: Louise Meade
5902 M.t Eagle Dr. #1414
Alexandria, 22303
703/960-0073
meadelt@cox.net



Book: In the Garden of Beasts
by Eric Larson

Reviewer: Joan Winslow

Next Book: The Book Thief
by Marcus Zusak

(This book may be found in the Young Adult section of the library.)

Game Night

The next Game Night will be January 27 at 7:15
at the home of Cynthia Jacobus:

9352 Mount Vernon Circle, Alexandria 22309

Please respond to the email that will ask for your RSVP.

Contact Barbara Mann at speech.solutions@verizon.net
if you'd like to join the group.



Dining Out

Join **Dining Out** as we celebrate **Alexandria Restaurant Week at Geranio at 7 pm on Friday, January 20th.**

The special 3-course fixed-price dinner costs approximately \$45, plus any extras you order. An early-Jan. e-mail will invite RSVPs to distribute the limited number of seats, with a confirmation to follow.

Geranio Ristorante
722 King Street, Alexandria
(703) 548-0088

Geranio serves modern Northern Italian cuisine with seasonal local ingredients.

Sample menus – The fall/winter and 2011 restaurant week menus are available at <http://www.geranio.net/menu.htm>

Reviews:

http://www.geranio.net/reviews_and_press.htm

<http://www.yelp.com/biz/geranio-ristorante-alexandria>

<http://www.zagat.com/r/geranio-alexandria>

Please feel free to invite a friend or spouse. After one step, Geranio is wheelchair accessible. The nearest parking garage is on Alfred St., a block west of the restaurant.

If your plans change after you RSVP for a seat, please contact **Elizabeth Lonoff** (elonoff@msn.com) immediately, as she will be finalizing the reservation with Geranio in advance.

Meryl Streep Supports the National Women's History Museum

The National Women's History Museum (NWHM) held its first annual Washington, D.C. dinner in October. Oscar-winner **Meryl Streep** was the guest of honor, and she gave a stirring speech to the 150 guests. Ms Streep has portrayed famous women in films such as Julia Childs and soon to be released, The Iron Lady, featuring the life of Margaret Thatcher as Prime Minister of England.

Congress almost granted approval of the museum last year. It was defeated by two votes. "The National Women's History Museum would be dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and celebrating the diverse historic contributions of women and integrating this rich heritage fully into our nation's history." This would be **no cost** to the taxpayers. The entire project would be supported by the NWHM

institute. The original bill was introduced by Sen. Sarah Collins (R-ME).

"By celebrating the achievements made by American women in a museum in Washington, we provide real inspiration to the young women and girls visiting our nation's capital. Urge your senators to support legislation permitting the creation of the National Women's History Museum!"

Go to the AAUW website under issues and click on Support the Creation of the National Women's History Museum and submit your vote to Sen. Mark Warner and Sen. Jim Webb.

Find out more about the museum at
www.nwhm.org

On the Go With AAUW

Ruth Bennett

Would you like to work on an AAUW-related public access cable TV show?

On the Go with AAUW is looking for AAUW members who would like to learn how to operate a studio camera, or conduct an interview on the show.

On the Go with AAUW is a monthly public access cable TV show focusing on issues of interest to AAUW and AAUW members – education, community, the arts, women's issues, and international affairs. We meet the needs of the community by featuring local individuals and organizations who contribute to the community in these areas.

Our main goals are to

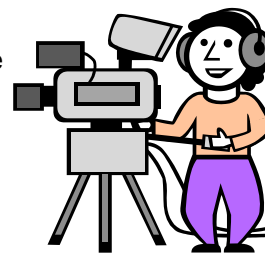
- **Bring visibility to AAUW and its issues**
- **Give AAUW members and other women an opportunity to learn and practice communication skills as guests and moderators on the show or as crew members helping to produce the show**
- **Inform, educate, and entertain our audience**

Titles of a few recent shows are: She's My Sister (an initiative to help the women being raped in the Congo), Vi-

sionaries in Our Midst, Gadsby's Tavern's Ice Well Restoration Project, Loving Your Career – No Matter What, Aging in Place, and It's About Family.

WHERE AND WHEN : **On the Go with AAUW** is shown on Channel 10, a public access channel in Fairfax County. Each month our show is aired three times: the 2nd Sunday of the month at 4 PM, the 2nd Thursday at 9:30 PM, and the 2nd Monday at 12:30 AM. Channel 10 is carried by Comcast in Reston; Cox Communications in Falls Church and Fairfax County; and Verizon FIOS in west Arlington County, Falls Church, Fairfax County, Loudoun County, Leesburg, Prince William County, Stafford County, and Fredericksburg.

If you are interested and would like to observe how a show is taped, contact **Ruth Bennett** (Alexandria Branch) at 703-765-4536 or **Dianne King** (Vienna Area Branch) at 703-281-5281.



Hope you will come out and help us – we learn a lot and have a lot of fun!

AAUW's New Report Makes Front Page of USA Today!

The buzz about [Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School](#) continues to grow, with a front-page mention on Friday, December 2, in *USA Today*. A Program in a Box will be available by the end of January to help you share the re-

AAUW of Virginia's STATE LOBBY DAY is in Richmond on Wednesday on February 1, 2011

**Ideally, every branch will be represented at this event!
Branch Public Policy Chairs and all interested AAUW members are encouraged to
attend.**

Come and learn about your state government and current issues. Become familiar with your state capital and the General Assembly buildings.

**We will meet at the regular Wednesday morning Women's Legislative
Roundtable Session at:**

**8:30 - 9:30 on the 7th Floor West Conference Room,
General Assembly Building**

Up-to-date information on the Roundtable can be found at the League of Women Voters' website: **<http://virginia.va.lwvnet.org/calendar.html>**.

After the Roundtable session on Lobby Day, AAUW members will gather to learn about the agenda for the rest of the day which includes the following:

- A briefing on the bills of concern to AAUW,
- Visits with our individual legislators in the General Assembly,
- And lunch, at a location determined by the group.

Please attend this informative day and meet AAUW members from throughout the state!

To let them know you are coming, please contact:

Dianne Blais, VA Federal Public Policy Chair
5211 Gunpowder Road
Fairfax, VA 22030
Branch: Fairfax City
703/830-1998
dianneblais@aol.com

Laura Wimmer, VA State Public Policy Chair
11485 Otter Run Drive
Ashland, VA 23005
Branch: Richmond
804/496-6124
lwimmeraaauw@aol.com

2011-2012 Mt. Vernon Branch Program Year

Meeting Date and Place	Focus/Activity
Thursday, January 19, 2012 Time: 7:00 Place: Mt. Vernon Gov. Center	Erin Prangle, Associate Director of Government Relations for AAUW
Thursday, February 16, 2012 Time: 7:00 Place: Mt. Vernon Gov. Center	Author: Holly Kearn, AAUW LAF Program Manager "Keeping the Streets Safe: Stop Street Harassment"
Saturday, March 17, 2012 Time: 9:30 AM Place: Mt. Vernon Country Club	Annual Meeting & Brunch
Tuesday, April 24, 2012 Time: 7:00 Place: Little Theater of Alexandria	LITTLE THEATER FUNDRAISER "Witness for the Prosecution (Tickets distributed in February)"
Thursday, May 17, 2012 (time) TBD (place) TBD	Branch Potluck
Saturday, June 9, 2012 (time) TBD (place) TBD	Annual Planning Meeting

SAVE THESE DATES

AAUW STATE LOBBY DAY, RICHMOND, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2012

AAUW FEDERAL LOBBY DAY, WASHINGTON, D.C., THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2012



Sandra Prince, Cathy Krebs, Toby Jenkins, and Clare Coulter at holiday luncheon in December.

Tickets for the Little Theatre of Alexandria fundraiser will be coming soon!

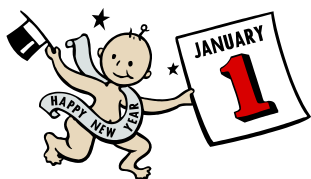
Make Waves with AAUW!
AAUW State Convention
April 20-22, Newport News

AAUW Mt Vernon

Cynthia Gindlesperger
915 Neal Drive
Alexandria, VA 22308

www.aauwofva.org

First Class



- **3 Board Meeting, 7:30**
Saundra Prince's home
703/360-5012
- **16 Book Group, 7:30**
Call Louise Meade
703/960-0073
- **19 Branch Meeting, 7:00**
Call Patsy Quick
703/360-8678
- **20 Dining Out, 7:00**
Call Elizabeth Lonoff
703-765-2634
- **27 Game Night, 7:15**
Call Cynthia Jacobus
703/780-3806

January 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Board Meeting	4	5	6	3
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Book Group	17	18	19 Branch Meeting	20 Dining Out	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Game Night	28
29	30	31	<u>Feb. 1</u> State Lobby Day			