

MT. VERNON VOICES

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

Volume 57 Issue 3 November 2013
Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENTS' CORNER



We have all heard much about the advantages of TEAMWORK, and certainly there are many. Our branch has teamed with the Alexandria branch for many years to sponsor an annual Little

Theater fundraiser. This year I am proud to say that we are raising TEAMWORK to new levels.

Besides the Little Theater project in February, we are also teaming with the Alexandria branch for two of our monthly meetings. In November the combined branches will sponsor a seminar on The Affordable Care Act, with Alexandria taking the lead in providing the speakers and meeting location. In January the two branches will combine resources to examine what is being done to combat trafficking of girls and women for sexual ex-

ploitation in this country. The Mt. Vernon branch program chairs have located knowledgeable speakers on the topic and this presentation will be held at Sherwood Regional Library.

And that is not all! On October 9 the branch teamed with the Fairfax League of Women Voters to sponsor a non-partisan "meet and greet" event for local political candidates. On September 21, a number of branch members linked up with United Community Ministries for the Walk for the Homeless fundraiser held at the home of UCM President **Elaine Kolish**, also a member of our branch.

All in all, I think we can conclude that TEAMWORK is working well for us.

Mary Ellen Mehler

MT. VERNON/ALEXANDRIA PROGRAM

Alexandria and Mt. Vernon Branches of AAUW
Present

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT
Implications for Patients and the Medical Community

TIME: Sunday, November 17 3:00-5:00 PM

LOCATION: 200 Cameron Station Blvd.

Alexandria, VA

Clubhouse - Great Room

Two Panelists will present their views on the ACA:

Arthur E. Peabody, Lead Medicare Counsel for the BlueCross BlueShield Association, Washington, D.C.

Elinor Abraham, MSN, APRN, BC, an advanced practice clinical nurse specialist and a long time health care provider for the Federal Courts.

CARPools WILL BE ARRANGED.

NOVEMBER
17
SUNDAY

Branch
Program
With
Alexandria

200 Cameron
Station Blvd.

3:00-5:00 PM

Topic:
Affordable
Care Act



WE WALKED FOR THE HOMELESS



Several members of the Mt. Vernon branch represented AAUW at the **Walk for the Homeless** on September 21. The walk was held at the home of **Elaine Kolish**, who is both a member of the Mt. Vernon Branch and President of the UCM Board of Directors. Other branch members and neighbors contributed financially to the success of the walk, which netted \$1,200 for UCM's work with homeless citizens in the Mt. Vernon Community.



Thanks to everyone who walked or contributed!

DID YOU KNOW... Branch member, **Elizabeth Lonoff**, with assistance from national, has arranged for an AAUW Public Service announcement-slide to be viewed on Fairfax Public Access Channel 37, via Cox Cable of Fairfax County and Comcast Cable of Reston. Most likely you should be able to see it in mid-November on Channel 37. It will be visible on air as radio shows are running. The "Community Corner" is a service for Fairfax's non-profit community. Informational slides about organizations are played over the live audio of our radio station, Radio Fairfax. So, this is a video-only slide that will not be read on air.

BRANCH LEADERSHIP 2013 – 2014

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jclark@meridian.org

Game Night

Bianca Daugherty 571/332-8371
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BOOK GROUP

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

DATE: Monday, November 18, 7:30 PM

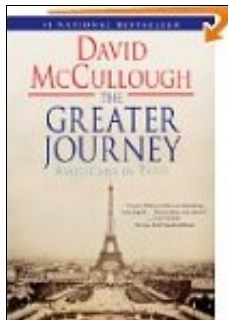
HOSTESS: Barbara Mann

8716 Falkstone Lane

Alexandria, 22309

speech.solutions@verizon.net

CO-HOSTESS: Mary Ellen Mehler



BOOK: And the Mountains Echoed

by Khaled Hosseini

REVIEWER: Sue Rardin

Next Book: The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris

by David McCullough

GAME NIGHT

Game Night

November 22, 2013

7:30 PM

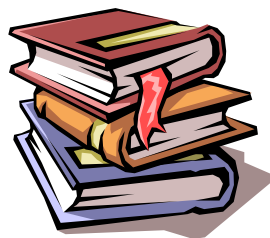
Home of Patsy Quick / Watch for email.

Join us for light snacks and fun! Contact **Bianca Daugherty** if you would like to join the group.
D4BNJK@aol.com



FAIRFAX CITY BRANCH BOOK & AUTHOR LUNCHEON

Fairfax City Branch Book & Author Luncheon to be held Saturday, November 2, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
at the Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax.



The authors speaking at the luncheon include Sarah Blake, *The Postmistress*; Sharon Chang, *Escaped Alone: A Memoir of an Incomplete Southerner*; Karin Tanabe, *The List*; Ellen Crosby, *Multiple Exposure*; and Jefferson Morley, *Snow-Storm in August: Washington City, Francis Scott Key, and the Forgotten Race Riot of 1835*. The books will be available for purchase and the authors will be happy to autograph them.

The event is \$40 per person (including lunch) and reservations must be made by October 30. For reservations, payment, or further information, contact Suzanne Mahoney at 703/978-3258 or suzanne070946@mac.com.

VISIT THE MT. VERNON BRANCH WEBSITE: <http://mtvernon-va.aauw.net>

Can't find the newsletter? It's on the website. Want the book group schedule? It's on the website. Don't remember a meeting date? It's on the website.

CHECK IT OUT!



Follow us on Facebook: AAUW-Mt. Vernon (VA) Branch

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON DECEMBER 7

IT IS TIME TO PLAN FOR OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON.

We will be gathering at the Mt. Vernon Country Club for on Saturday, December 7 for a relaxing and convivial meal. Please plan to arrive at 11:30 for drinks and socializing. Lunch will be served at 12:00.

The menu allows us to choose between two appetizers and two entrees. We had to select a dessert and I hope what we have selected is okay with everybody. (Coffee, tea, soft drinks and bread are included.) The cost of the meal is \$30.00 inclusive of tax and gratuities. There will be a cash bar for those who wish to imbibe the spirits!!

Please take a look at the menu and fill out the form below and mail by December 3.

MENU: \$30.00 inclusive of tax and gratuity:

Please choose one appetizer

Butternut Squash Soup

House Salad

Please choose one entrée:

Raspberry Blazed Salmon Salad over Spinach with Raspberries, Toasted Almonds, Balsamic Vinaigrette Dressing

Chicken Piccata with Mashed Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables with a Lemon Caper Sauce

Dessert

Pumpkin Cheese Cake

Please make your check for \$30.00 out to AAUW Mt. Vernon and mail by December 3 to:

Joanne Clark, 6607 10th Street, Apt. A2, Alexandria, VA 22307

Name _____

Please check your preferences:

Choose one: Butternut Squash Soup _____ House Salad _____

Choose one: Raspberry Glazed Salmon Salad _____ Chicken Piccata _____

I will be bringing a friend. _____

LTA FUNDRAISER FEBRUARY 11, 2014

Ragtime is the Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) production that the Mt. Vernon and Alexandria Branches will be sponsoring this year for the annual fundraiser.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW: FEBRUARY 11 IS OUR DATE!

The annual fundraiser starts with a reception at 7:00 PM in the Green Room.

(It is our turn to bring savories for the reception.)

The performance begins at 8:00 PM. Tickets are \$30 each.

There will be a basket raffle. Tickets for Basket Raffle \$5 each or 3/\$10.

Look for an email soon, asking about the number of tickets you wish to have. Everyone will be mailed at least 2 tickets sometime in early December.

CHANGES THIS YEAR

Responsibilities will be reversed! For many years our branch has taken the responsibility for setting up and decorating. The Alexandria Branch has cleaned up. This year we will do the cleaning up! Alexandria will decorate and set up. We will address this new responsibility with our usual enthusiasm! Please join our committee. Contact **Patsy Quick** at pnquick@cox.net.

Ragtime - an uplifting Tony Award-winning musical drama that tells the American story of how we forged a nation that all people could call home. Set at the beginning of the twentieth century in the volatile melting-pot of New York City, Ragtime weaves together three American stories – a Harlem musician, an upper-class wife and mother, and a Jewish immigrant – all trying to improve their lives. The beautiful score by Flaherty includes Harlem ragtime, lovely waltzes, Jewish folk sounds, and Vaudeville melodies.

BRANCH PROGRAM OCTOBER 17



Heartfelt thanks go to **DeJuana Jones** for planning the successful branch program on October 17. We learned how meditation, quality foods and alkaline water all help us lead our busy lives in the best health possible.

Thanks also go to **Cathy Krebs** who brought delicious healthy snacks.

Pictured left to right are **DeJuana Jones**; speakers **Sarina Griswold**, **Leah Tasman**, **Elaine Gibson**; and Program Chairs **Joanne Clark** and **Joanna Crane**.

Don't forget to vote!



November 5, 2013



LAF EXPRESS



Federal Circuit Rules in Favor of Veterans Seeking Disability Benefits after Sexual Assaults

In an encouraging step for survivors of military sexual assault, a federal appeals court recently ruled that a veteran's failure to report a sexual assault is not evidence that the assault did not occur. In *AZ v. Shinseki* and *AY v. Shinseki*, two veterans sought disability benefits for post-traumatic stress disorder that they said stemmed from sexual assaults they suffered while on active duty. Because the veterans did not file complaints at the time the alleged assaults occurred, their service records did not contain any mention of the assaults. Relying on the veterans' failure to report as evidence that the assaults never occurred, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims denied disability benefits.

On appeal, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that the "VA may not treat a claimant's failure

to report an alleged sexual assault to military authorities as pertinent evidence that the sexual assault did not occur." The court recognized that "many service members fear that the act of reporting a rape to military authorities will subject them to personal and professional reprisals." While other courts are not required to follow it, the ruling is promising. The Federal Circuit's ruling recognizes the real barriers to justice faced by survivors of military sexual assault. **AAUW is working to break down those barriers by supporting the lawsuits of survivors and supporting legislation to improve the military's handling of sexual assaults.**

DONATE to LAF

Send your **TAX-DEDUCTIBLE** check to

Joanne Malkin,

8339 Orange Court, Alexandria, VA 22309.

Make check to *Legal Advocacy Fund #3999*.

Put *Mt. Vernon Branch* on the memo line.

2013 - 2014 MT. VERNON BRANCH PROGRAM YEAR

MT. VERNON AUUW 2013-2014 Program Schedule

Meeting Date & Location	Focus/Activity
Thursday, SEPTEMBER 19, 6:30 pm Pema's Restaurant 8430 Richmond Hwy	Kick Off Dinner
Thursday, OCTOBER 17, 7:00 pm Heritage Presbyterian Church 8503 Fort Hunt Road	Food Safety and Nutrition Elaine Gibson, Leah Tasman, and Dr. Sarina Grosswald, Ed.D
Sunday, NOVEMBER 17, 1:00 pm Cameron Station Clubhouse 200 Cameron Station Blvd. Alexandria, VA 22304	The Affordable Care Act: What does its implementation mean for you? Joint program with Alexandria Branch
Saturday, DECEMBER 7, 11:30 am Mt. Vernon Country Club 5111 Old Mill Rd., 22309	HOLIDAY LUNCHEON
Thursday, JANUARY 16, 7:00 pm Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, 22306	Fair Girls: Anti-trafficking Support Programs Teresa Tomassini, Director of Programs
Tuesday, FEBRUARY 11 Little Theatre of Alexandria 7:00 Reception, 8:00 Performance	Little Theater Fundraiser "Ragtime"
Saturday, MARCH 15 Mount Vernon Country Club 5111 Old Mill Rd., 22309	Annual Meeting Speaker on Women in Leadership (Lean In)
APRIL (date and location TBD)	STEM Education (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)
Thursday, MAY 15, 6:30 pm Joanna Crane's House: 6511 Princeton Drive, 22307	ANNUAL POTLUCK
Saturday, JUNE 7, 9:30 AM Location TBD	2014-2015 PLANNING BRUNCH

AAUW of Virginia Dates to Remember

February 5, 2014 State Lobby Day, Richmond
April 4-6, 2014 AAUW of Virginia Conference, Smith Mountain Lake

Mt.Vernon

Cynthia Gindlesperger
915 Neal Drive
Alexandria, VA 22308

www.aauwofva.org
mtvernon-va.aauw.net

First Class



- **5 Board Meeting, 7:30**
Barbara Mann's home
- **7 Lobby Corps Open House 10:00 AM— 2:00 PM**
contact VoterEd@aauw.org
- **17 Branch Program, 3:00**
Call Joanna Crane
703/718-8892
- **18 Book Group, 7:30**
Email Barbara Mann
speech.solutions@verizon.net
- **25 Game Night, 7:15**
Call Bianca Daugherty
571/332-8371

NOVEMBER 2013

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