

MT. VERNON VOICES

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

**Volume 57 Issue 4 December 2013
Mt. Vernon Branch**



Presidents' Corner



When you think about it, we are probably among the luckiest people in the country given our location so close to so many museums, interesting buildings to explore, historic homes, music venues, art galleries, restaurants...the list goes on and on. And what is so unique, of course, is that so many of the treasures within an hour of Mount Vernon are free or are reasonably priced. When there are no guests to squire around, how many of us take the opportunity to go to DC by ourselves to see the terrific exhibits and museums we have here in Washington?

The idea of being so near all this "wealth" and yet so far without someone to go with, was the impetus behind ImpromptEvents. It is a different way of doing things with the goal of having fun together and getting to

know one another in an informal setting. Nothing is planned months in advance. It's spontaneous planning. Suppose, for example, you would like to go to the van Gogh exhibit at the Phillips and would like someone to join you – or many someones. Here is a great opportunity for an ImpromptEvent. You'll need to answer the who/what/where/when/how questions in a "template" Joanne Clark has put together for your use. You'll see that template in this newsletter. Please keep a copy so you can fill it out when you get an ImpromptEvent idea. Then forward your completed ImpromptEvent template to Joanne Clark. She will send it out to all the members.

If you have an idea of something interesting you would like to do and would like some company, make it an ImpromptEvent and invite AAUW members to join you. DON'T

(Continued on page 2)

**DECEMBER
7
SATURDAY**

**Mt. Vernon
Country Club**

11:30 AM

\$30

Holiday Luncheon

JOIN US ON DECEMBER 7 FOR THE 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. (Coffee, tea, soft drinks, dessert, 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 on page 2 and mail by December 3 or email Joanne Clark to let her know you are coming. That way you can pay at the door.

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

In years past we have supported UCM by bringing food for its food pantry or mittens for needy children. This year we would like to do something a little different. UCM's Holiday gift room needs list includes gifts for teenage girls, such as cosmetics, toiletries, bags, nail polish, watches, etc. Bring a gift card or gift for a teen-aged girl if you would like to help make her Christmas merry and bright!

Presidents' Corner (Continued from page 1)

be shy, DON'T think it is a lot of work, DON'T think about how many people will come or not come. It is not that formal. This is for fun, for everyone's enjoyment and hopefully will provide a chance to meet members you might not know or see very often. PLUS, it's an opportunity to have potential members come to an ImpromptEvent to get a chance to meet AAUW members in an informal setting.

If you'd like to discuss your idea for an ImpromptEvent or would like some help, let us know. The contact point person is **Joanne Clark** (jclark@meridian.org).

FYI – One surprise we have run into with ImpromptEvents is how easy it is to drive and park close to our destination. This is due to an annual phenomenon called "No Tourists"!

SO – start thinking about an ImpromptEvent you'd like to start – NOW, before those Tourists come back. We've got until April to have Washington to ourselves – after that we're toast until next October!

Barbara Mann

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT AT THE HOLIDAY LUNCHEON: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 11:30 AM, MT. VERNON COUNTRY CLUB!

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 Picata _____

I will be bringing a friend. _____

Branch Leadership 2013 – 2014

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ImpromptEvents

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Game Night

Bianca Daugherty 571/332-8371
D4BNJK@aol.com

Book Group

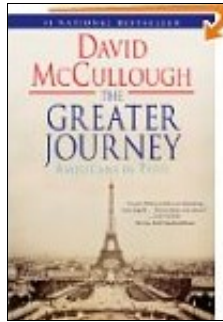
Please inform the hostess whether or not you plan to attend. Bring a \$5 gift to exchange.

DATE: Monday, December 16, 7:30 PM

HOSTESS: Patsy Quick

5508 Old Mill Rd.
Alexandria, 22309
pnquick@cox.net

CO-HOSTESS: Liz Promen



BOOK: The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris
by David McCullough

REVIEWER: Betty Demarest

Next Book: The Light Between Oceans
by M.L. Stedman

Game Night

Game Night

No Game Night in December

Contact **Bianca Daugherty** if you would like to join the group. D4BNJK@aol.com

January 24 Game Night is at the home of DeJuana Jones.



Did you Read About it?



AAUW Mission and Action comes to all members with an email address in the Member Services Database at AAUW. Did you read the December issue that came November 21? This issue mentions **Virginia Beach Branch** (twice!) and the **Woodbridge Branch** (under STEM) plus ideas for Equal Pay and STEM projects.

AAUW is ramping up the push for computer science for girls, by participating with **Microsoft** and **code.org** in the **Hour of Code** during Computer Science Week, December 9-15. This is a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify "code" and show that anyone can learn the basics to be a maker, a creator, an innovator. For more information go to <http://csedweek.org/>

Reston-Herndon and **Woodbridge** branches were recognized in AAUW's **State and Branch STEM Program Survey Summary Report**, as having long-running STEM programs, 21 and 22 years respectively!

Branches in AAUW of Virginia are doing great things!

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

Pre-Session Women's Roundtable



Join The League of Women Voters on Capitol Square in Richmond on December 4th to hear first hand about the pressing issues that will come before state legislators. The day begins with The Pre-Session Women's Round Table (free) in House Room 3 followed by a luncheon meeting (\$35) and keynote speaker in Senate Room 3. As always, speakers from widely diverse sectors are being invited. Speakers include non-profit advocates and members of the Governor's cabinet.

Where: Capitol Building, House Room 3 (Entrance at 1000 Bank Street, Richmond, Virginia)

When: Wednesday, December 4, 9:00-12:00

For more information contact Carol Noggle: cnogg@comcast.net

To register, contact www.lwv-va.org.

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.

Tickets are available NOW!

Patsy Quick will have tickets at the December luncheon.

Pick them up and help us save on postage.

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.

ImpromptuEvent Scheduling

When you want to invite branch members to join you for an ImpromptuEvent be sure to include WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, COST (IF ANY), AND WHERE TO MEET.

Send the info out to members yourself, or send it to Joanne Clark (jjclark@meridian.org) and she will email the info for you.

On November 20, Mary Ellen Mehler, Sue Rardin, Patsy Quick and Joanna Crane visited the Sackler Museum to view the exhibit Yoga: The Art of Transformation. Lunch at Dishes of India concluded a beautiful and interesting event. It was suggested that Museum Wednesday happen at least once a month! Let us know if you are interested.

Members Matter



We want you to know... Thank goodness **Sherry Hazen** is recovering from a broken femur. She has been out of commission for about 8 weeks and now is able to get around with a cane or walker. We are glad you are on the mend, Sherry!

Welcome Shannon Dubicki, the newest member to join Mt. Vernon Branch. Shannon is a friend of **Cynthia Jacobus**. She has been coming to Game Night and we are happy she has officially joined the group. Shannon says: I am a native of Norwich, Connecticut, but have lived in the Mount Vernon area since 1977. I received a BS and MS, from what is now Eastern Connecticut State University, in education. I had a 25 year career in education starting in Connecticut as an elementary school teacher and continuing in Fairfax County as a substitute and finally as an Instructional Assistant at Whitman Middle School working with special education students, retiring in 2006. My interests, among other things, include travel, concerts, tennis, and antiques. I have a son, a daughter and two grandsons.



The State AAUW Seeks Nominations for Board

**AAUW OF
VIRGINIA
NEEDS YOU!**



Nominations are being accepted for the state board positions of:

- President,
- Program Vice President,
- Vice President for Communications, and
- Vice President for Public Policy.

For detailed descriptions of these positions, please refer

to the AAUW of Virginia Board of Directors Handbook at:
aauw-va.aauw.net/files/2012/12/VABoardHandbook.pdf.

All positions may be held as a "co" position with two people. Co-holders of a position share responsibilities and have one vote at board meetings. It is a viable option for people who want to serve but are concerned about the commitment needed.

The positions will be voted on by all state members, via online and paper ballots, after the state conference, April 4–6.

If you are interested in joining a great group of AAUW members on the state board, immediately contact

Sandy Lawrence, at slawrence4@juno.com.

IN THE ABSENCE OF A BRANCH PUBLIC POLICY CHAIR...

Mt. Vernon Branch Board encourages all members to subscribe to

Member Action Alert.

It is free and will keep you up-to-date on all the AAUW public policy happenings.



To subscribe, copy the web address below and paste into your browser (Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Firefox or whatever you use), click and fill in the blanks.

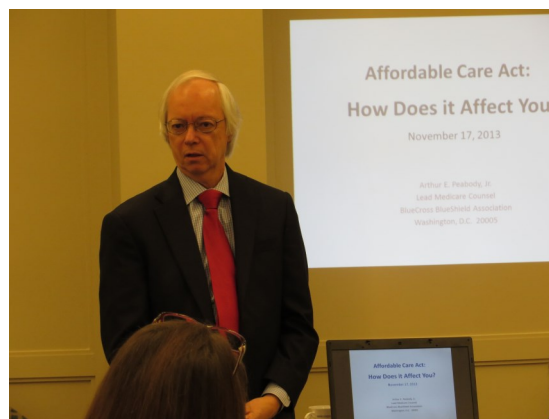
http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50796/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup_page_KEY=7066

To read more about Action Alert, copy the address and paste into your browser, click and learn...

<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>

Joint Program with Alexandria, Nov. 17

On Sunday, September 17, Mt. Vernon and Alexandria Branches presented a program on the Affordable Health Care Act. Not only did we learn a lot, but we enjoyed the opportunity to meet with our Alexandria neighbors at their lovely meeting place in Cameron Station. Our two speakers, Arthur E. Peabody and Elinor Abraham, were very professional and knowledgeable.



Danielle Beach and Ginger Chamberlain,
Co-presidents of the Alexandria Branch



Representing Mt. Vernon: (left to right): Barbara Mann, Bianca Daugherty, Joanne Clark, Mary Ellen Mehler, Joanna Crane, Sue Rardin, Joanne Malkin, (seated) Bruce Malkin, and Patsy Quick, taking the photo.

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



- **3 Board Meeting, 7:30**
Mary Ellen Mehler's home
- **4 League of Women Voter's Pre-Sesison,**
Richmond, contact Carol Noggle:
cnogg@comcast.net
- **7 Holiday Luncheon**
Call Joanne Clark
703/768-8996
- **16 Book Group, 7:30**
Email Patsy Quick
pnquick@cox.net

DECEMBER 2013

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Board Meeting	4 LWV Pre-Session	5	6	7 Holiday Luncheon
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Book Group	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30				