

MT. VERNON VOICES

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

Volume 57 Issue 4 January 2014
Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENTS' CORNER



As a new year begins, people from all cultural groups seem moved to celebrate the season and attempt to express both gratitude and hope in some meaningful way. I find myself feeling a little philosophical about the new calendar year, a time of new beginnings and a time to look back. I am thinking about "gratitude" as it applies specifically to our situation as members of the **American Association of University Women**. Those are four powerful words.

We are American Women living in an advanced western country where, since 1920, we can exercise our hard-won right to express our opinion at the ballot box. Despite some imperfections in the status of women, no modern politician dares ignore the power of the American women's vote. Simply by living in our country, we can find access to health care, get an education, and avoid the hopelessness that plagues many women of the world.

We are an Association of like-minded women; no one of us must stand alone as we debate ideas and work together to accomplish objectives. While working toward the AAUW mission, we make lifelong friendships and enjoy social and educational opportunities. We are University Women. We have each had the good fortune to get the education that enables us to make choices as to how we will use our talents and energy. Whether it be the highest level of academic achievement or some other post-secondary education that fits each of us for our professional role, that education has been the key for each of us to mold our life.

So to our branch members and to all our AAUW sisters, I wish a Happy New Year and all good things in the future. At this special season, I am grateful for many things, including that I am a member of the **American Association of University Women** and for your friendship.

Mary Ellen Mehler

**JANUARY
16
THURSDAY**

**Sherwood
Hall
Library**

7:00 PM

**Topic:
Human
Trafficking**

MT. VERNON/ALEXANDRIA PROGRAM

The Mt. Vernon and Alexandria Branches of the AAUW are pleased to co-sponsor the following event:

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS: PROVIDING PROTECTION, SUPPORT AND REHABILITATION

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2014, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

SHERWOOD HALL LIBRARY

2501 Sherwood Hall Lane

Alexandria, VA 22306



The speaker for the evening is **Ms. Teresa Tomassini**, Director of Programs for FAIR Girls, INC.

FAIR Girls prevents the exploitation of girls worldwide with empowerment and education. Through prevention education, compassionate care, and survivor inclusive advocacy, FAIR Girls creates opportunities for girls to become confident, happy, healthy young women. Founded by Andrea Powell and Caroline Tower Morris in 2003, FAIR Girls was created to empower girls in the U.S. and around the world who have been forgotten, exploited or otherwise are at-risk of not reaching their potential. FAIR stands for Free, Aware, Inspired, Restored – this is exactly what the organization hopes the girls it works with will become. It is a name that reflects their ongoing commitment to providing girls around the world the chance to live happy, healthy, empowered lives. FAIR Girls currently operates programs in Bosnia, Montenegro, Serbia, Russia, Uganda, and the United States. The FAIR Girls home office in Washington, D.C. offers compassionate care to prevent the exploitation of all girls, with a special emphasis on girls who have experienced homelessness, life inside the foster care system, sexual abuse, and trafficking.

NOTE ABOUT FAIR GIRLS

Mt. Vernon Branch Members,

At the program on January 16, our speaker will be accompanied by a client, who will discuss her relationship with FAIR Girls and what FAIR Girls has meant to her life. This will help us understand the important work of FAIR Girls.

FAIR Girls has suggested that we can help them in their work by contributing gift cards of \$10-20 to support the girls under their care. They operate on a tiny budget but they are helping so many young women.

If you are willing to help in this way, please bring a gift card to donate or plan to make a cash donation and I will purchase cards. Stores of choice include: Target, Marshalls, Subway, Chipotle and Safeway. I know how strongly we all feel about this issue, so I hope we can provide some help.



Preventing **Exploitation** with **Education** and **Empowerment**

Thanks for your generosity!

Joanne Clark

<http://fairgirls.org/>

Elise Barnes Hardy, 98, died on November 8, 2013. She was a charter member and past president of the Mt. Vernon AAUW Branch.



BRANCH LEADERSHIP 2013 – 2014

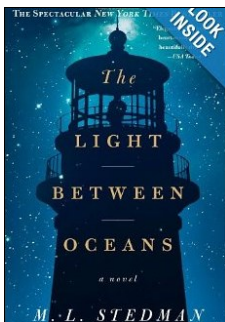
<p><u>Co-Presidents:</u> Barbara Mann 703/360-3880 speech.solutions@verizon.net Mary Ellen Mehler 703/780-8494 memehler@msn.com</p> <p><u>Program Vice Presidents:</u> Joanne Clark 703/768-8996 jclark@meridian.org Joanna Crane 703/718-8892 joanna.p.crane@gmail.com</p> <p><u>Membership Vice President:</u> Edie Bartlett 703/780-6809 redsse@aol.com</p> <p><u>Treasurer:</u> Trish Smith 703/803-0252 trish-smith@cox.net</p> <p><u>Secretary:</u> Shirley Richey 703/780-0834 shirley97@verizon.net</p>	<p><u>Newsletter/Website:</u> Patsy Quick 703/360-8678 pnquick@cox.net</p> <p><u>Newsletter/Directory Distribution</u> Cynthia Gindlesperger 703/619-5262 uli_g@verizon.net Mary Ellen Mehler 703/780-8494 memehler@msn.com</p> <p><u>AAUW Funds:</u> Joanne Malkin 703/360-7725 jbmalkin@verizon.net</p> <p><u>Public Policy:</u> VACANT</p> <p><u>International Affairs:</u> Joanne Clark 703/768-8996 jclark@meridian.org</p> <p><u>Bylaws:</u> VACANT</p>	<p><u>Hospitality:</u> Cathy Krebs 703/765-2751 catherinekkrebs@yahoo.com</p> <p><u>Nominating Committee Chair</u> Lois Passman 703/781-7626 LMPassman@msn.com</p> <p><u>Book Group:</u> Louise Meade 703/960-0073 meadelt@cox.net Liz Promen 703/780-7342 epromen@cox.net</p> <p><u>ImpromptEvents</u> Joanne Clark 703/768-8996 jclark@meridian.org</p> <p><u>Game Night</u> Bianca Daugherty 571/332-8371 D4BNJK@aol.com</p>
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BOOK GROUP

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

DATE: Monday, January 20 7:30 PM

HOSTESS: **DeJuana Jones**
8406 Stockade Drive
Alexandria, 22308
dejuanaj@earthlink.net



BOOK: The Light Between Oceans
By M.L. Stedman

REVIEWER: Joan Howerton

Next Book: Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn

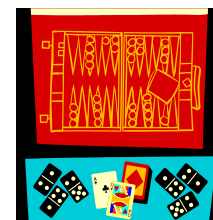
CO-HOSTESS: Joanna Crane

GAME NIGHT

Game Night

Join us on January 24, 7:30

Home of DeJuana Jones
8406 Stockade Drive
Alexandria, 22308



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

LTA FUNDRAISER FEBRUARY 11, 2014



Join us for Ragtime!

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.

A committee for clean-up after the play is needed. Please offer your help. We need to be out of the house 30 minutes after the play. Many hands make light work!

**Contact Patsy Quick (pnquick@cox.net) if you need more tickets or can help with clean-up.
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.

THIS SOUNDS INTERESTING!

WE ARE INVITED

Sunday, January 12, 3:00-5:00 PM

Location: Cameron Station Meeting Room

As we know, our branch members are invited to attend all programs of the **Alexandria AAUW Branch** and they are always invited to our events. We are partnering this year on three programs: The Affordable Care Act, STEM, and Human Trafficking. **An additional January program may hold particular interest.** On Sunday, January 12, Dr. Gail Kalin and Dr. Judy Pearson will conduct a program on "Hypnosis and Relaxation Techniques." Gail is a member of the Alexandria Branch and a practicing therapist.



TOPICS WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING
Pain Management and Accelerated Healing
Improving Creativity with hypnosis
Stress Management to Obtain Deep Relaxation and Self-soothing
Weight Control and Sensible Eating Patterns

For car pool arrangements, call Mary Ellen Mehler at 703-780-8494 or email at [memehler@msn.com](mailto:memeher@msn.com).

BRANCH DONATIONS ARE GENEROUS

Thanks so much to all contributing Mt. Vernon Branch members! This year you all donated \$460 to the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (#3999) and \$225 for the Educational Opportunities Fund (#4336) at one of our fall meetings. From our Branch account, an additional \$2000 was sent to the Educational Opportunities Fund. Everyone's generosity is greatly appreciated!

Joanne Malkin
Mt. Vernon Branch
AAUW Funds Chair



AAUW OF VIRGINIA 2014 VOTING ANNOUNCEMENT



It is already time to begin thinking about AAUW of Virginia's annual one-member-one-vote election, which will take place between April 29 and May 29. Because paper ballots raise the cost considerably, **all members are encouraged to vote online.** Last year 787 paper ballots were

mailed to members at a cost of \$811.73, over 40% of the total cost. Only 98 of these ballots were cast.

On the recommendation of the Voting and Elections committee, the Board voted for an opt-in rather than an opt-out process for receiving a paper ballot.

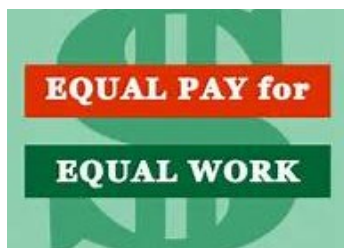
- Branches can encourage online voting by bringing laptops or tablets to the May branch meeting to allow members to vote there.

- Those who will need a paper ballot can request one between January 22 and April 6 by calling Mary K Johnson at 703/913-9490, emailing her at johnsons7703@verizon.net, or writing to her at 7703 Griffin Pond Court, Springfield, VA 22153. *She will need each member's AAUW ID number, branch, and address.*

All members who have joined by March 31, 2014, are eligible to vote. The quorum for the election is 7% of all members of AAUW of Virginia. For more details, see the 2014 Winter/Spring edition of the **Vision**.

AAUW of Virginia
Voting and Elections Committee
December 2013

TIME FOR LAWMAKERS TO ACT



On December 15, 2023, an editorial concerning the gender pay gap was published in the *Virginian-Pilot* (Tidewater area newspaper) **The editorial cited AAUW several times.** Here is the link:

<http://news.vocus.com/ct?haid=ae29b627c6cd363013871717720427b5a94c0a73440e>

Caroline Pickens, AAUW of Virginia President (McLean Branch), responded to the editorial and her letter was published December 20. Here is what she said:

I applaud The Pilot for calling attention to the crucial issue of eliminating the pay gap for women. As the editorial rightly points out, equal pay is about more than fairness — it's an economic and quality-of-life issue.

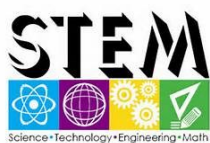
A record number of women are in the workforce, and two-thirds of women are functioning as the primary or co-breadwinners for their families.

Even worse than the wage gap is the reality that few women actually know whether they are being paid unfairly. Some don't feel safe asking those questions for fear of retaliation from their bosses.

The American Association of University Women wants to ensure that women are being paid fairly. We are calling on the General Assembly to pass legislation to protect workers who share or ask about salary information. It's time to finally enable Virginia women to bring home the pay they have rightfully earned.

Over half of the members in the Mt. Vernon Branch have already signed the AAUW of Virginia petition asking Virginia legislators to pass the legislation Caroline mentions in her letter. If you haven't yet signed, you can at this link: <http://bit.ly/1cneQcQ>

(Deadline January 31, 2014.)



FCPS STEAM Core Planning Team selected a new date for the STEM Volunteer Night.

The event will now take place on Wednesday, January 22nd from 6:00pm-7:30pm at Mt. Vernon High School. Please RSVP to either Scott Settar (scsettar@fcps.edu) if you have an interest in attending.



Coming in January: Sixth Annual AAUW Art Contest

Attention AAUW artists! The annual AAUW Art Contest is a great way for members to showcase their talent. Again this year, National Museum of Women in the Arts founder Wilhelmina Holladay will award special recognition to one of the winners. Winning entries will be featured on AAUW note cards mailed to members this spring. The website at <http://www.aauw.org/contests/> will begin accepting submissions on January 6, 2014.

DID YOU KNOW?

Mt. Vernon Branch Nominations Announcement

Two positions will be open for elections to the board at the annual meeting in March:

Membership Vice President and Treasurer

Holding a board position in an AAUW branch is a great way to develop leadership and organizational skills, as well establish great friends and work actively on the issues that AAUW supports.

When asked, just say yes!

Or contact **Lois Passman** at LMPassman@msn.com to let her know you are interested!

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



- **7 Board Meeting, 7:30**
Mary Ellen Mehler's
Home
- **12 Alexandria Branch Program, 3:00 - 5:00**
- **16 Branch Program, 7:00**
Contact Joanne Clark
703/768-8996
- **20 Book Group, 7:30**
Contact DeJuana Jones
703/780-5026
- **24 Game Night, 7:30**
Contact Bianca Daugherty
571/332-8371

JANUARY 2014

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