

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 58 Issue 4 December 2014
Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENTS' CORNER

Here is a short introduction to the AAUW Mount Vernon Branch Board for those who are not familiar with the Board.

1. Do you know how wonderful (and fun to work with) the members of the Mount Vernon Branch Board are? And, do you know they are all committed to you and your varied interests?

2. Do you know how involved all members of the board are in providing input for interesting programs and events for members? It's a team approach and board members rarely miss a meeting!

3. Do you know how many friendships have been forged through working together on the Board?

4. Do you know you have a direct impact on the branch's programming? All of the programs that have been planned for this year are a direct result of your input at last year's June planning session?



5. Do you know that we're going to lose our wonderful, capable Treasurer, **Trish Smith**, to Florida next year? Do you have any *Treasurer Genes* in your body?

If so, perhaps you could let **Mary Ellen Mehler** or **Barbara Mann** know that you would be interested in working with Trish this spring. Trish can fill you in on all the tips and tricks she has learned over the past years to make her job easier. Then she can move happily to Florida and know that you'll be fine.

6. Do you have any *Public Policy Genes*?

The AAUW Public Policy position covers an extremely interesting area, with the opportunity to explain to our members what is going on at the federal and state government level.

(Continued on page 2)

**DECEMBER
6**

SATURDAY

**11:30 AM
TO
2:00 PM**

**Mt Vernon
Country Club**

\$32

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

TIME TO RSVP FOR THE HOLIDAY LUNCHEON!

Time is just flying by until December 6 when we will be holding our annual branch Holiday Luncheon at the Mt. Vernon Country Club - 5111 Old Mill Rd. -

Please plan to arrive at 11:30 am for socializing. The buffet luncheon will be available at 12:30 pm.

LET'S BE JOLLY! COME ONE, COME ALL!

BUFFET LUNCHEON - \$32.00 inclusive

*Tossed Salad Bowl with two Dressings and Rolls
Whipped Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables
Beef Stroganoff (with egg noodles), Chicken Picatta
Fruit Cobbler with Ice Cream*

--- Cash Bar ---

••••• Fill out and mail the reservation form on page 3 by November 30 •••••

PRESIDENTS' CORNER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

An advantage to our members is that – armed with the knowledge from the public policy chairman – each has the opportunity to make her opinions known directly to law-makers at the state and federal level, buttressed by AAUW's well-earned reputation.

If you are new to the Mount Vernon Branch and you have an interest in public policy, this would be a fabulous way for you to meet terrific people and contribute in a very meaningful way.

If you are interested in either using your *Treasurer Genes* or your *Public Policy Genes*, we'd like to know. If you are interested but concerned about whether or not you can

take on a position, consider being a "co-." We have several "co-s" on the board: **Program Co-Chairmen, Joanne Clark and Joanna Crane and Co-Presidents Mary Ellen Mehler and Barbara Mann.** The "co-s" have a special synergy that would be missing if they were "going it alone."

We encourage you to join us and make use of your special talents. (Mary Ellen Mehler's email: memehler@msn.com; Barbara Mann's email: speech.solutions@verizon.net)

BARBARA MANN

IN MEMORIAM

The Mount Vernon branch extends our most sincere sympathy to Elizabeth Lonoff on the loss of her mother, Norma Lonoff, this month. As Elizabeth designated, the branch has made a donation in her mother's name to the Wildlife Conservation Society.

BRANCH LEADERSHIP 2014 – 2015

<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> Bianca Daugherty 571/332-8371 d4bnjk@aol.com</p> <p><u>Newletter/Directory Distribution:</u> Cynthia Gindlesperger 703/619-5262 ngindlesperger@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>ImpromptEvent</u> Joanne Clark 703/768-8996 jclark@meridian.org</p> <p><u>Dining Out:</u> Elizabeth Lonoff 703/765-2634 elonoff@msn.com</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, December 15, 7:30 PM

HOSTESS: **Patsy Quick**
5505 Old Mill Road
Alexandria, 22309
pnquick@cox.net



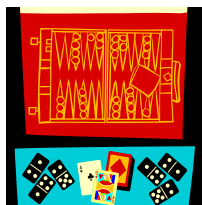
BOOK: Orphan Train
by Christina Baker Kline

REVIEWER: Ebba Jo Spettel

NEXT BOOK: The Return of the Native
by Thomas Hardy

CO-HOSTESS: Joan Howerton

GAME NIGHT



NO GAME NIGHT IN DECEMBER!

- Next Game Night will be January 23, 2015 -

Contact **Bianca Daugherty** if you would like to join the group (d4bnjk@aol.com)

Sharing is Caring!

Our branch is again supporting the UCM food pantry. Please consider bringing a bag with non-perishable food items to our holiday luncheon. You will also have the opportunity to contribute to the Legal Advocacy Fund and the Educational Opportunities Fund. Baskets will be set up for your donation!

Please make your reservation for the
Mt. Vernon Holiday Luncheon: December 6, 2014, 11:30 am - 2:00 pm

Please detach and mail together with your check by November 30 to

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

Clip and
mail

Cost is \$32.00 per person including tax and gratuity. Please make your check out to AAUW Mt Vernon.

Please also indicate if you will be bringing a friend with you. The country club needs firm numbers by December 2.

Name _____

I will attend _____ Accompanied by _____ people

RECENT EVENTS

AAUW Mount Vernon Branch Members' GET OUT THE VOTE by the Numbers

by Joanna Crane

- 38** - members heard "2014 Voting Issues" presentation at the Kickoff Dinner
- 15** - members took Fairfax County Voter Registration Training - either attending the 09/16 Live In-Person Training or doing it Online
- 15** - members did public voter registration at tables provided by the Mount Vernon Registrars
- 18** - hours that the voter registration tables were covered by members
- 48** - voters registered by members



NOVEMBER PROGRAM MEETING

On November 20, branch members and guests were fortunate to hear a discussion on *Sexual Harassment and Bullying* from the perspective of two women who have had professional experience and responsibility for dealing with this problem: Captain **Lourdes Neilan**, who is the Diversity Officer for the Chief of Naval Operations and **Susan Ashcraft**, a former police officer, Department of Justice special agent, and Drug Enforcement Administration Chief. They generously shared their own personal insight and their professional experiences, both as enforcement professionals and as women. Susan is a new member of our Mt. Vernon branch.

Edie Bartlett (center), who organized the November branch event, with speakers Susan Ashcraft (left) and Lourdes Neilan (right)

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

SUSAN ASHCRAFT

B.A., University of Texas; Honorary Doctorate, Latin University of Theology

AAUW: Member since 2014

Professional and Personal: Susan served as a police officer in Houston, TX, then was a Special Agent, Supervisory Special Agent, and Chief with the Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration until retirement in 2012. She is an ordained pastor at Faith in Action International Ministries. She presently works with Kids Konnection, a ministry to inner city children, and volunteers with Kairos Prison Ministry. She is president of the consulting company, Logical Solutions That Work.

CLAUDIA CREO

B.A., University of Pittsburgh; J.D., Duquesne University Law School

AAUW: Member since 2014

Professional and Personal: Claudia was educated in Rome and in Pennsylvania. As an attorney, she practiced in Pittsburgh, PA, and in Portland, ME. After a life-changing volunteer experience teaching children on Crete, she gave up her law practice and became a teacher with Fairfax County Public Schools. She taught at Hybla Valley Elementary School until retirement in 2011. She now volunteers for various organizations and political campaigns. She has a daughter, also an attorney, who lives and works in DC.

Welcome to our branch!

Continued on page 5

JUNE MALINA

B.S. in Business, Univ. of Maryland; M.A. in Management, Central Michigan Univ.

AAUW: Member since 2014

Professional and Personal: June achieved her educational goals and degrees after an early marriage, three children, and study in eleven colleges and universities! After attaining her M.A. in Management, she worked as a publishing consultant for Department of Homeland Security. While there, she co-founded the Federal Publishers Committee, an organization dedicated to eliminating costly and ineffective practices in federal publications. She became Promotions Manager in the Marketing Office of the Superintendent of Document's office of the Government Printing Office. Now she volunteers as the Citizen Diplomat Coordinator for the DC chapter of People to People International. Her volunteer team provides friendship to officers from 55+ allied countries and their families who study at National Defense University. She has traveled to 29 countries—usually alone and without tour or companion.

ANNE SIMPSON

B.S., University of California, Irvine; O.D., Southern California College of Optometry; MSEd, California State, Fullerton

AAUW: Member for more than 30 years in California
After retiring from her career as an optometrist, Anne has relocated to Virginia to be near her grandchildren.

JUDY TITTERTON

B.S. in Secondary Education, Millersville University of Pennsylvania; MBA, Marymount University; Professional Sequence Certification in Technical Communication, U.C. Berkeley

AAUW: Member since 1993

Professional and Personal: Born and raised in Long Island, NY, Judy began a technical writing career in Pleasanton, CA, and met her husband of 30 years in Emporia, KS. She is retired from her position with a government contracting firm where she was Senior Technical Writer assigned to Customs and Border Protection. Her varied employment career includes experience as a graphic artist/illustrator, desktop publisher, editor, project and program manager, instructional designer, product demo producer, and bar maid. Her activities and hobbies include travel, photography, graphic design, beginner bridge, baseball, attending ballets, quilting, and playing the ukulele. She is a member of the John Alexander Chapter of the DAR, the Hawaii State Society, and the Arlington Chapter of Quilters Unlimited in Virginia.

Mark your calendar !
More information will follow soon.



*Celebrating our Past
Creating our Future*

*Virginia/West Virginia
AAUW State Conference
Charlottesville, Virginia
April 18, 2015*



See You in San Diego!

Every two years, hundreds of women leaders from across the country gather to discover new ways to empower themselves and other women and

girls. **AAUW's national convention** is a unique opportunity to learn new skills, gain insight and inspiration, and connect with other women leaders.

Mark your calendar now! June 18–21, 2015. The Sheraton Hotel and Marina in San Diego is the site of the 2015 AAUW National Convention.

The program is full of unique entertainment and fun surprises. It's also a place to meet new friends or catch up with other leaders and advocates from across the country. Plus, you can take in the best culture and entertainment our host cities have to offer on exciting pre-and post-convention tours.

**Register by January 15, 2015,
and get the best value pricing!**

<http://convention.aauw.org/register/>

2014 - 2015 MT. VERNON BRANCH PROGRAM YEAR

MT. VERNON AUUW 2014-2015 Program Schedule

Meeting Date and Place	Focus/Activity
Thursday, September 11, 2014, 6:30 pm Fiona's Irish Pub 5810 Kingstowne Center Alexandria, VA 22315	Kickoff Dinner with Speaker on Voter ID Laws Speaker: Sherry Zachry and Sue Worden of Fairfax Area LWV Speaker's Bureau
Thursday, October 16, 2014, 7:00 pm Heritage Presbyterian Church 8513 Fort Hunt Road	Privacy in the Digital Age Speaker: Debbie Diener , of Privacy Made Simple
Thursday, November 20, 2014, 7:00 pm Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane Alexandria, VA 22306	Sexual Harassment and Bullying Speakers: Lourdes Neilan and Susan Ashcraft
Saturday, December 6, 2014, 11:30 am Mt. Vernon Country Club 5111 Old Mill Rd., Alexandria, VA 22309	Holiday Luncheon
Thursday, January 15, 2015 Time & Location TBD	Women in Leadership
Thursday, February 19, 2015 Time & Location TBD	Gardening: Either Container/ Winter/ Wildlife/Sustainable Speaker: Eileen Powell Master Gardener, Author
Saturday, March 21, 2015 Mt. Vernon Country Club	Annual Meeting
Friday, April 24, 2015 Little Theater of Alexandria	Little Theater Fundraiser "The Odd Couple" (female version)
Thursday, May 21, 2015 Location TBD	Annual Pot Luck Dinner
Saturday, June 6, 2015 Joanna Crane's house	Annual Planning Session (Brunch)

Other Important Dates to Remember:

February 4, 2015	State Lobby Day, Richmond
April 18-19, 2015	AAUW of Virginia Conference, Charlottesville
June 18-21, 2015	AAUW National Convention, San Diego

Mt.Vernon

Cynthia Gindlesperger
915 Neal Drive
Alexandria, VA 22308

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

First Class



DECEMBER 2014

- **2 Board Meeting, 7:30 pm**
Mary Ellen Mehler's home
703/780-8494
- **6 Holiday Luncheon, 11:30 am - 2:00 pm**
Contact Joanne Clark
703/768-8996
- **15 Book Group, 7:30 pm**
Contact Patsy Quick
703/360-8678

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Board Meeting	3	4	5	6 Holiday Luncheon
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Book Group	16	17	18	19	20
21	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 HAPPY NEW YEAR		