

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

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Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENTS' CORNER



HAPPY NEW YEAR everyone! For me the beginning of a new year always carries the hope of something better to come, something good just around the corner. It suggests

a look back at the old year and a hopeful look at the future. Our last program year was a good one for our branch. We have had great monthly programs, a successful fundraiser, the honor of having the new state president elected from our branch, amazing new members joining us, and a show of branch citizenship to be proud of with our **Get Out the Vote** participation.

Of particular interest in 2015 will be our new affiliation with **Dr. Kristy Collins** of Virginia Tech's Bioinformatics Institute and her **STEM** project at Walt Whitman Middle School. She is planning a summer student workshop that encourages girls to prepare for careers in

science, technology, engineering, and math — fields in which women are still under-represented. **Dr. Collins** has applied for a Community Action grant from National AAUW and we are waiting to learn what financial support we can expect from this. With or without the grant from National, our branch is committed to supporting the Walt Whitman STEM project financially and in every way we can. We are particularly pleased to be supporting a local school that serves students from such diverse cultural backgrounds and with a high percentage of students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch. You will be hearing much more about this exciting plan in the future.

You will also soon be hearing details of our branch's **Visioning Project**. Led by trained workshop guides, Visioning helps AAUW branches look inward to analyze and imagine how to grow, change, and flourish as a branch.

MARY ELLEN MEHLER

JANUARY
15

BRANCH
PROGRAM

WOMEN
IN
LEADERSHIP

6:30-8:30 PM

SHERWOOD
REGIONAL
LIBRARY

BRANCH PROGRAM MEETING



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2015
6:30 - 8:30 PM

SHERWOOD REGIONAL LIBRARY
2501 Sherwood Hall Lane



Join us for an inspirational session on strategies to encourage young women to strive toward leadership and public service. The program will feature **Ms. Jessica Grounds**, co-founder of **Running Start** (www.runningstartonline.org), a Washington, DC-based non-profit that works with a variety of partner organizations, including AAUW, to bring young women and girls into the world of politics and business. Jessica is a very passionate and inspirational speaker (similar to Teresa Tomassoni from Fair Girls, if you remember.)

Jessica will be accompanied by **Kate C. Farrar**, vice president of **AAUW Campus Leadership Programs**, presenting the AAUW program, **Elect Her**, with which Running Start has been partnered since 2009. The Elect Her program is designed to increase the pipeline of women running for elected office in college and beyond and is operating at 50 colleges and universities in 27 states, the District of Columbia, and Jamaica. A 2014 **NCCWSL** (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders www.nccwsl.org) attendee and scholarship recipient has been invited to attend. This year our branch will contribute to NCCWSL scholarships through AAUW Funds.

Please put this meeting on your calendars now. It is going to be extremely interesting, we promise!!

MEET OUR PROGRAM SPEAKERS



Jessica Grounds has devoted her life to empowering women to become political leaders. She has worked in the campaign, nonprofit, and private sectors. Jessica's previous positions include Executive Director of Running Start, the national non-profit she co-founded; Senior Vice President of the political consulting firm Stones' Phones; and the President of Women Under Forty Political Action Committee. She continues

to serve on the Board of Directors for both WUFPAC and Running Start. Jessica was recently elected as Co-Chair of Running Start's Board. She is also the founder and principal strategist of Solid Grounds Strategy, a consulting firm developing strategy for female political candidates and women's organizations.

Jessica is currently the Director of Women Ready for Hillary. Ready for Hillary is a grassroots organization building a massive network of supporters encouraging Hillary Clinton to run for president in 2016.

Jessica is an expert on campaign strategy, how to build political networks, the challenges facing women seeking elected office, with particular expertise about young women candidates. She frequently speaks domestically and around the world about the importance of increasing the number of women we have serving us in elected office. Her most recent international trips have taken her to speak in: Panama, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Tajikistan and Belgium. She recently joined the ONE Campaign for a political delegation to Rwanda.

Jessica lectures on the following areas:

- Overcoming challenges for women candidates
- Messaging to women voters
- Integrating family in your campaign
- Voter targeting strategies
- Campaign budget
- Finance and fundraising strategies
- Understanding and overcoming the unique challenges for young women candidates
- Building an effective network

(Continued on page 4)

BRANCH LEADERSHIP 2014 – 2015

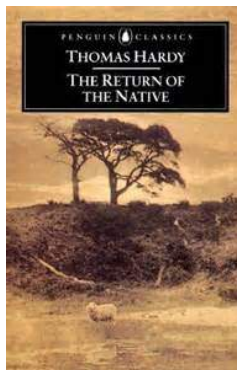
<p><u>Co-Presidents:</u></p>	<p><u>Newsletter/Website:</u></p>	<p><u>Hospitality:</u></p>
<p>Barbara Mann 703/360-3880 speech.solutions@verizon.net</p>	<p>Bianca Daugherty 571/332-8371 d4bnjk@aol.com</p>	<p>Cathy Krebs 703/765-2751 catherinekkrebs@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Mary Ellen Mehler 703/780-8494 memehler@msn.com</p>	<p><u>Newsletter/Directoy Distribution:</u></p>	<p><u>Nominating Committee Chair</u></p>
<p><u>Program Vice Presidents:</u></p>	<p>Cynthia Gindlesperger 703/619-5262 ngindlesperger@verizon.net</p>	<p>Lois Passman 703/781-7626 LMPassman@msn.com</p>
<p>Joanne Clark 703/768-8996 jclark@meridian.org</p>	<p>Mary Ellen Mehler 703/780-8494 memehler@msn.com</p>	<p><u>Book Group:</u></p>
<p>Joanna Crane 703/718-8892 joanna.p.crane@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>AAUW Funds:</u></p>	<p>Louise Meade 703/960-0073 meadelt@cox.net</p>
<p><u>Membership Vice President:</u></p>	<p>Joanne Malkin 703/360-7725 jbmalkin@verizon.net</p>	<p>Liz Promen 703/780-7342 epromen@cox.net</p>
<p>Eddie Bartlett 703/780-6809 redsse@aol.com</p>	<p><u>Public Policy:</u></p>	<p><u>ImpromptEvent</u></p>
<p><u>Treasurer:</u></p>	<p>VACANT</p>	<p>Joanne Clark 703/768-8996 jclark@meridian.org</p>
<p>Trish Smith 703/803-0252 trish-smith@cox.net</p>	<p><u>International Affairs:</u></p>	<p><u>Dining Out:</u></p>
<p><u>Secretary:</u></p>	<p>Joanne Clark 703/768-8996 jclark@meridian.org</p>	<p>Elizabeth Lonoff 703/765-2634 elonoff@msn.com</p>
<p>Shirley Richey 703/780-0834 shirley97@verizon.net</p>	<p><u>Bylaws:</u></p> <p>VACANT</p>	<p><u>Game Night:</u></p> <p>Bianca Daugherty 571/332-8371 d4bnjk@aol.com</p>

BOOK GROUP

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

DATE: Monday, January 19, 7:30 PM

HOSTESS: Ebba Jo Spettel
3003 Cunningham Drive
Alexandria, VA 22309
703/780-0841



BOOK: The Return of the Native
by Thomas Hardy

REVIEWER: DeJuana Jones

NEXT BOOK: A Northern Light
by Jennifer Donnelly

GAME NIGHT



Game Night

Friday, January 23, 2015

7:30 PM

Home of Bianca Daugherty / Watch for email.



Join us for fun and games! Light snacks will be served!

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

DINING OUT

Join Dining Out for a cozy meal during Alexandria Restaurant Week at

La Bergerie at 7 pm on Friday, January 30

Crilley Warehouse, Second Floor, 218 North Lee Street, Old Town Alexandria

La Bergerie's commitment to culinary excellence and to a warm tradition of hospitality started in 1974. It has continued under the restaurant's new owner since 2000.

La Bergerie continues to set the standard for regional French cooking in the area and continues to be recognized as one of the premier French restaurants in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. **La Bergerie is on Zagat's list of Best Classic French DC Restaurants and has won Northern Virginia Magazine's Best Restaurant award in seven years since 2006.**

Restaurant Week's three-course dinner costs \$35 plus drinks, gratuity, and tax.

==== Spouses and other guests are welcome! ====

Handicap Access: Enter the building through the Thompson Alley entrance on the south side of the building and take elevator to the second floor. Seating arrangements can accommodate wheelchairs.

Parking: Garage parking across the street (enter 220 N. Union St./exit N. Lee St.) and surface lot around the corner in the 200 block of Queen St. La Bergerie partially validates \$2 for the Garage which is half the evening rate as a credit off your bill.

Reviews: http://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g30226-d450685-Reviews-LA_Bergerie_Restaurant-Alexandria_Virginia.html

Seating is limited. Please email Elizabeth Lonoff at elonoff@msn.com to reserve your seat(s).

Watch for a group confirmation.



UPCOMING EVENT JANUARY 31

Join Us At The Town Meeting



Mount Vernon's 28th Annual Town Meeting
Saturday, January 31, 2015
Mount Vernon High School
8515 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria

This year there will be a new exhibitor at **Supervisor Hyland's 28th Annual Town Meeting** on **Saturday, January 31**, at Mt. Vernon High School. **Our Mt. Vernon AAUW branch will have a table for distributing literature and chatting with neighbors in the community.** It is early in the morning; the exhibition hall opens at 7:45 AM. This is a great chance to practice our "elevator speech" about AAUW and to mingle and mix—maybe to find some new members—and then to attend the Town Meeting. The annual Town Meeting is always interesting with its focus on what is new in the Mt. Vernon area, what is coming, what is controversial, dignitaries from the Fairfax County Government, budget and school questions, etc. **Don't miss it! We will also need people to help set up at 7:15 AM and to man the booth between 7:45 and 9:15 AM, when the meeting starts.**

Contact Mary Ellen Mehler if you have any questions or would like to help (memehler@msn.com)



Carpools to our branch meetings are available !

If you need a ride or would like to share a ride please contact
Joanne Clark (jclark@meridian.org)



MEET OUR PROGRAM SPEAKERS

(continued from page 2)

Kate C. Farrar, vice president of **AAUW Campus Leadership Programs**, manages programs that ensure college women assume leadership roles and acquire the skills they need to succeed in their academic, professional, and personal lives. Prior to assuming her current position, Kate was the associate director of National Programs and Policy at Wider Opportunities for Women. She was a 2011 WIN Young Woman of Achievement awardee, member of the Center for Progressive Leadership's 2011



Executive Fellowship, and serves on the board of the Women under 40 Political Action Committee (WUFPAC). Her writing has been featured in the *Huffington Post* and the *Daily Muse*. Prior to arriving in Washington, D.C., Kate lobbied the Connecticut state legislature on behalf of nonprofit organizations. She also served as a field organizer in Wisconsin for the 2004 presidential campaign. She earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Connecticut and a master's in public administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University.

HAVE YOU SIGNED OUR PETITION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING YET?

There is still time until **January 30, 2015**. Remember the goal is **1000** signatures! Share the link with friends and neighbors! <http://bit.ly/1F56cLG>.

Please just sign it once! Petitions will be taken to our state legislators on Lobby Day in Richmond, February 4.





GET INVOLVED - JOIN A GREAT TEAM!

As you all may know, our Treasurer, **Trish Smith**, will be moving to Florida this year.



If you are interested to become our new Treasurer please contact Co-Presidents **Mary Ellen Mehler** (memehler@msn.com) or **Barbara Mann** (speech.solutions@verizon.net).

The Treasurer is responsible for collecting, distributing and accounting for the funds of the branch.

Trish has agreed to mentor and help anyone interested in taking the position.



7th ANNUAL AAUW ART CONTEST

We hear about the gender gap all the time — in salary, in math and science fields, in leadership. But one of the most glaring and longstanding gaps is in the art world. For centuries, women artists were unrecognized, unencouraged, or even discredited simply because they were not men.



The AAUW Art Contest is designed to encourage members to use their creativity and promote women artists. The six winning entries will be featured in a collection of note cards mailed to AAUW members in the spring. And, for the third year in a row, one of the six winners will take home a NMWA (National Museum of Women in the Arts) Award of Distinction!

Entries will be accepted from January 7 through January 28, 2015. <http://www.aauw.org/contests/>



*Celebrating our Past
Creating our Future*

*Virginia/West Virginia
AAUW State Conference
Charlottesville, Virginia
April 18-19, 2015*



Register by January 15, 2014 to get the best value pricing! <http://convention.aauw.org/register/>

WOODLAWN 52nd ANNUAL NEEDLEWORK EXHIBITION

March 1 – March 30, 2015.



Volunteers are needed for March to help out for half a day monitoring the rooms containing the needlework. Each day will be split into morning (10:00 to 1:00) and afternoon (1:00 to 4:00). It is an excellent way to see the oldest and largest needlework show in the USA. The Nelly's Needlers will be serving lunch in the tea room from 11:30 to 2:00 featuring their specialty -- amazing lemon tarts.

Please call or email Annette Miller if you are interested in volunteering.

(703)360-6035 or Minutesbymiller@verizon.net

DECEMBER HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



Members brought food items to the event to donate to UCM. THANK YOU to all our generous Mt. Vernon Branch members!



After a brief business meeting members enjoyed a delicious lunch buffet at the Mount Vernon Country Club. A good time was had by all!



2014 - 2015 MT. VERNON BRANCH PROGRAM YEAR

MT. VERNON AAUW 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, 6:30–8:30 pm Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane Alexandria, VA 22306	Women in Leadership Speakers: Jessica Grounds , Co-founder of Running Start, and Kate C. Farrar , VP of AAUW Campus Leadership Programs
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 Home	Annual Planning Session (Brunch)

Other Important Dates to Remember:

January 31, 2015	Mount Vernon's 28th Annual Town Meeting
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

AAUW Mt.Vernon

Cynthia Gindlesperger
915 Neal Drive
Alexandria, VA 22308

<http://aauw-va.aauw.net/>

<http://mtvernon-va.aauw.net/>

First Class



- **6 Board Meeting, 7:30 pm**
Mary Ellen Mehler's home
703/780-8494
- **15 Branch Program, 6:30—8:30 pm**
Contact Joanne Clark
703/768-8996
- **19 Book Group, 7:00 pm**
Contact Ebba Jo Spettel
703/780-0841
- **23 Game Night, 7:30 pm**
Contact Bianca Daugherty
571/332-8371
- **30 Dining Out,**
Contact Elizabeth Lonoff
703/765-2634
- **31 Mount Vernon Annual Town Hall Meeting**
Contact: Mary Ellen Mehler
703/780-8494

JANUARY 2015

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