

# Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 58 Issue 6 February 2015  
Mt. Vernon Branch



## PRESIDENTS' CORNER

Did you know our **Mt. Vernon AAUW website** will save you time, energy and memory cells?

Here is Mt. Vernon's AAUW website (bet you didn't even know we had one):

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

I'd suggest recording this wherever you keep important information on your computer because this will save you time, energy and lots of memory cells.

### Time Savings:

Some of the many ways our Mt. Vernon AAUW website will save you time and give you information: You will see our current and prior newsletters, the Mount Vernon program schedule, book group schedule, and other activities of the Mount Vernon Branch. You will also see summaries of past programs you may have missed. And don't forget the pictures of our members – they are really fun to see.

For me, one of the most important things



offered by AAUW is the Two-Minute-Activist. The link for this is easy to find on our Mt. Vernon AAUW website. (Hint: Look for the Two-Minute Activist Link.) Here you can actually write a letter to your congressperson that will impact an issue. AAUW National Staff writes a letter which you can then edit and add comments to...or not, as you wish. AAUW has set it up so your letter will go directly to your congressperson. I can't think of an easier way to make my opinion count.

### Energy and Memory Savings:

How many website addresses do you remember? Not many, I'll bet.

On the Mt. Vernon AAUW website you will find links to AAUW National, AAUW Virginia, and the Two-Minute Activist, among other links.

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## BRANCH PROGRAM MEETING



PLEASE JOIN US ON  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, TO HEAR  
**EILEEN POWELL, MASTER GARDENER AND AUTHOR**  
SPEAK ABOUT "CONTAINER GARDENS".

It's easy to create beautiful containers if you know a few professional tricks. In this instructive lecture you'll learn to design sophisticated planters with four-season interest using high-impact—but low-maintenance—plants. Eileen will also review container basics, including pot selection, growing media, fertilizers, watering, and plant maintenance.

**Bring your questions for Eileen to answer.**

**Eileen Powell** is a landscaper and garden writer who specializes in small spaces. From townhouse gardens and urban lots to patios and balconies, she brings gardens to life with her creative use of both familiar and exotic plants selected for their striking appearance, compact size and ability to thrive in our difficult climate. She has written numerous gardening columns and articles as well as two popular books, including *The Gardener's A-Z Guide to Growing Flowers from Seed to Bloom*, which will be available for purchase. **Eileen** studied Landscape Design at George Washington University and has worked in the DC area for 25 years.

**FEBRUARY  
19**

**BRANCH  
PROGRAM**

**7:00 PM**

**Gardening:**

**Creating  
A Beautiful  
Container  
Garden**

**SHERWOOD  
REGIONAL  
LIBRARY**

**(Conference Room)**



That means you only have to keep track of **ONE WEBSITE ADDRESS** (<http://mtvernon-va.aauw.net/>) instead of 3 or more.

AAUW of Virginia has lots of information about what is going on in the Virginia General Assembly and other Virginia-related links that could be very interesting to you. When you have a second (well, maybe 10 or 15 minutes), you will probably find one or more of the topics on the Virginia website will appeal to you. If you explore the **AAUW of Virginia website**, you will find so much more out about AAUW than you have ever known...whether you are a long-standing or new member.

AAUW National: My personal opinion is that it is much easier to go through the Mt. Vernon AAUW website to get to AAUW National because you will only have to remember to go to our Mt. Vernon website where you can link to all




the important websites related to AAUW. The **AAUW National website** is a treasure trove – so prepare to spend a little more time exploring. This is also where you can pay

your dues in the Spring without having to spend money on a stamp or write a check! Once you become familiar with the website, you will see that you can pay dues by going to Membership, Join/Renew, fill out the information and you are on your way to never having to write or send a check to AAUW National again. Easy, once you get the hang of it.

If you are not used to roaming around websites, going through the **Mt. Vernon AAUW website** (<http://mtvernon-va.aauw.net/>) is a great way to start exploring what AAUW is doing.

**Try it – you'll like it!**

*BARBARA MANN*



**Need a ride or would like to share a ride to a branch meeting or event?**

Contact **Joanne Clark** ([jclark@meridian.org](mailto:jclark@meridian.org))

## BRANCH LEADERSHIP 2014 – 2015

<p><b><u>Co-Presidents:</u></b></p> <p>Barbara Mann 703/360-3880 speech.solutions@verizon.net</p> <p>Mary Ellen Mehler 703/780-8494 memehler@msn.com</p> <p><b><u>Program Vice Presidents:</u></b></p> <p>Joanne Clark 703/768-8996 jclark@meridian.org</p> <p>Joanna Crane 703/718-8892 joanna.p.crane@gmail.com</p> <p><b><u>Membership Vice President:</u></b></p> <p>Edie Bartlett 703/780-6809 redsse@aol.com</p> <p><b><u>Treasurer:</u></b></p> <p>Trish Smith 703/803-0252 trish-smith@cox.net</p> <p><b><u>Secretary:</u></b></p> <p>Shirley Richey 703/780-0834 shirley97@verizon.net</p>	<p><b><u>Newsletter/Website:</u></b></p> <p>Bianca Daugherty 571/332-8371 d4bnjk@aol.com</p> <p><b><u>Newsletter/Directory Distribution:</u></b></p> <p>Cynthia Gindlesperger 703/619-5262 ngindlesperger@verizon.net</p> <p>Mary Ellen Mehler 703/780-8494 memehler@msn.com</p> <p><b><u>AAUW Funds:</u></b></p> <p>Joanne Malkin 703/360-7725 jbmalkin@verizon.net</p> <p><b><u>Public Policy:</u></b></p> <p><b>VACANT</b></p> <p><b><u>International Affairs:</u></b></p> <p>Joanne Clark 703/768-8996 jclark@meridian.org</p> <p><b><u>Bylaws:</u></b></p> <p><b>VACANT</b></p>	<p><b><u>Hospitality:</u></b></p> <p>Cathy Krebs 703/765-2751 catherinekkrebs@yahoo.com</p> <p><b><u>Nominating Committee Chair</u></b></p> <p>Lois Passman 703/781-7626 LMPassman@msn.com</p> <p><b><u>Book Group:</u></b></p> <p>Louise Meade 703/960-0073 meadelt@cox.net</p> <p>Liz Promen 703/780-7342 epromen@cox.net</p> <p><b><u>ImpromptEvent</u></b></p> <p>Joanne Clark 703/768-8996 jclark@meridian.org</p> <p><b><u>Dining Out:</u></b></p> <p>Elizabeth Lonoff 703/765-2634 elonoff@msn.com</p> <p><b><u>Game Night:</u></b></p> <p>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, February 16, 7:30 PM

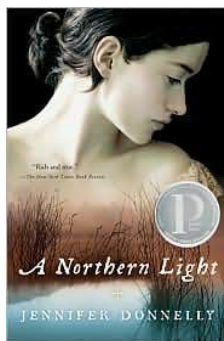
HOSTESS: Joanne Malkin

8339 Orange Court

Alexandria, VA 22309

703/360-7725

Co-Host: Patsy Quick



BOOK: A Northern Light  
by Jennifer Donnelly

REVIEWER: Mary Ellen Mehler

NEXT BOOK: All Quiet on the Western Front  
by Erich Maria Remarque

## GAME NIGHT



### Game Night

Friday, February 27, 2015

7:30 PM

Home of Patsy Quick / 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](mailto:d4bnjk@aol.com))

## LITTLE THEATER OF ALEXANDRIA FUNDRAISER

### The Odd Couple - The Female Version

Our annual fundraiser at the Little Theater of Alexandria is scheduled for

**Friday, April 24**

with a reception at the theatre starting at 7 pm and the performance beginning at 8 pm.

Your tickets will be mailed out shortly. As usual, each member will be mailed 2 tickets. The ticket price is still **\$30**. If you would like more than two tickets, please contact **Shirley Ritchey** by February 15 so she can include them in your envelope. (Tel: 703/780-0834 or email: [shirley97@verizon.net](mailto:shirley97@verizon.net))



Directed by Joanna Henry

Neil Simon's comedy classic with a twist! Unger and Madison are at it again – Florence Unger and Olive Madison, that is – in Neil Simon's hilarious contemporary comic classic. Come watch this time-honored comedy reinvented from a different perspective as the ladies take over the juicy roles of the famously mismatched couple to give this well-known play a whole new life. Watch and laugh as this “odd couple” learn that friendship may have its ups and downs but in the end it overpowers all.

**Board Meeting**  
**AAUW Mt. Vernon Branch**  
**January 6, 2015**

1. Co-president Mary Ellen Mehler called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Present were Bartlett, Clark, Crane, Daugherty, Krebs, Lonoff, Mehler, Quick, and Richey.
2. Minutes of the December meeting were approved as amended.
3. **Treasurer's report:** There is a balance of \$6,596.44 at this time. The \$50 donation to the Wildlife Conservancy has been made, Mt. Vernon Country Club was paid \$991.74 for the December luncheon - \$960 was collected from participants and the branch paid a \$31.74 shortfall for this event-, \$2700 was sent to AAUW Funds and Mary Ellen Mehler was reimbursed \$94.47 for the purchase of AAUW mugs for speakers gifts.
4. **AAUW Funds update:** The total branch donation for September 1 to December 9, 2014 was \$3,460 --\$560 for the Legal Advocacy Fund and \$2900 for the Educational Opportunities Fund. Individual donations from branch members directly to National for the period Jan. 1 to August 30, 2014 totaled \$310, giving a grand total of \$3770.
5. **January monthly meeting plans:** The venue for this has been changed to the Government Center. Shirley will start the telephone tree, Mary Ellen will email the Alexandria Branch to invite them, and members are asked to invite high school and college aged children for this program.
6. **Nominations for Co-president, Co-program and Treasurer:** We hope to get new people involved. Several names were suggested and we will contact anyone we think of and get back to Lois Passman or Mary Ellen.
7. **Plans for Gerry Hyland's Town Meeting on January 31:** For our table at this meeting, Mary Ellen and Patsy have banners, handouts and AAUW mints. Joanna suggested putting out wrapped chocolates as well.
8. **February 19<sup>th</sup> - Monthly Meeting:** This will be on Container Gardening and the speaker, Eileen Powell, will have copies of her book for sale. It will be a PowerPoint presentation – aided by Paul Mehler. Joanne and Patsy volunteered to bring refreshments due to Cathy Krebs' absence at that time.
9. **Dr. Kristy Collins on STEM grant:** Mary Ellen reported that she got the verification of our 501(c)(4) status for Dr. Collins. Dr. Collins will submit the proposal to National by the deadline of January 15.
10. **"From Vision to Reality: Mission Possible":** The board agreed that the March Annual Meeting would be a good time to have Jeanne Elmore introduce this project to our membership.
11. **Additional Items:**
  - a. District Meeting is January 17. Joanne Clark is compiling a list of our best programs to present. She will email them for the board's consideration.
  - b. Public Policy Chair: The board decided we may not need a chair for this. Patsy can forward information to Bianca, who will include it in the Newsletter.
  - c. Speakers' Gifts – Mary Ellen showed us the mugs that will be used.
  - d. Lobby Day is February 4, in Richmond. If you can go and want to carpool, call Patsy Quick.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Newsletter deadline is January 18

Next meeting will be February 3, 2015



## January Program Meeting - "Women in Leadership"

Entertaining and on point! **Joanne Clark** did not promise us too much. In an engaging presentation, **Jessica Grounds**, shared her personal motivation, her "aha" moment, that led her from California to the Hill in Washington and becoming the co-founder of Running Start. A lively Q&A session rounded off the meeting.

*From left to right:* Co-Presidents **Barbara Mann** and **Mary Ellen Mehler**, **Jessica Grounds** and Program VP **Joanne Clark**.

## WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY! BE A BRANCH LEADER

The Nomination Committee and the Mount Vernon Branch are seeking the next Lucky Ladies who want to lead, lead, lead! Actually, there could be lead, lead, lead, lead, lead, lead.

**Co-Presidents; Co-Membership Vice-President, and Co-Secretary.**

All current officers are available to mentor and help with the transition.

Please email to **Lois Passman** ([LMPassman@msn.com](mailto:LMPassman@msn.com)) or call **Lois** (703-781-7626) to take advantage of this amazing opportunity!!!!!!



## AAUW OF VIRGINIA STATE LOBBY DAY



### AAUW of Virginia State Lobby Day is Going to Make An Impact!

On **February 4, 2015**, a cadre of AAUW of Virginia members is headed to Richmond—and we're going to make an impact!! We'll be carrying with us the signed petition that we all have been collecting signatures on since October asking our lawmakers to pass additional measures to provide assistance to survivors of human trafficking, especially sexually exploited minors. At the time we are going to print, we don't have the final figures on how many signatures we have collected, but it is looking good that we will meet our goal of 1000 signatures. Stay tuned for the final count, and thanks to everyone for collecting signatures.

Our Lobby Day activities will start at 8:30 a.m. when we attend the League of Women Voters of Virginia's Legislative Roundtable. We will then meet with the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker's Chief of Staff. All will receive copies of our signed petition and hear about our other legislative priorities. Our group will then fan out so each of us can visit our respective senators and delegates. Following this, we will split into two groups—one going into the Senate Gallery and the other into the House Gallery, where we will be introduced. Everyone who signed up to attend Lobby Day received an email with detailed information. If you plan on attending, but did not receive the email, please let me know right away at [tourigny@gmail.com](mailto:tourigny@gmail.com).

Leslie Tourigny  
AAUW of Virginia  
Public Policy VP

# AAUW STATE CONFERENCE



## Come to celebrate our past and create our future at the 2015 State Conference in Charlottesville, April 18-19!

There is something planned for everyone: serious, celebratory and fun! Join us to hear dynamic speakers (including AAUW's Executive Director and CEO, Linda Hallman), and find out how we can make a difference in Human Trafficking and Campus Sexual Violence. Learn about retrieving the surprises (AAUW branch archives) that might be stored under your bed! And, celebrate with us AAUW of Virginia's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. West Virginia is joining us as they celebrate their 93<sup>rd</sup> anniversary! On Saturday night see a performance of an authentic Parlour Play, directed by an AAUW Fellow. On Sunday, April 19, participate in a special tour and box lunch at Ashlawn Highland, home of James Monroe.

View and print the **conference brochure and registration form** online at

<http://aauw-va.aauw.net/files/2012/08/2015-Conference-Brochure-FINAL3.pdf>

Please register by March 27 to get the discounted registration fee. After March 27 the price goes up by \$10.

To register at the DoubleTree by Hilton for overnight accommodations, please use the one-click booking link to access our group rate.

[http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/C/CHOSHDT-AAW-20150417/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/C/CHOSHDT-AAW-20150417/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG)

You may also call 800/222-8733 to make a reservation by phone. Request the AAUW rate.

# OFFER FROM ALEXANDRIA BRANCH

The **Alexandria Branch** was the recipient of spa cards from **Glam A Day Spa** in Alexandria. They are worth \$45 each and can be purchased by AAUW members, friends, family, co-workers, anyone who is looking for a treat.

Please contact **Ginger Chamberlain**, [gbcuuw@gmail.com](mailto:gbcuuw@gmail.com), to obtain spa cards. We are excited about the opportunity to expand our charitable giving through sale of these cards.



# 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 <b>Fiona's Irish Pub</b> 5810 Kingstowne Center Alexandria, VA 22315	<b>Kickoff Dinner</b> with Speaker on Voter ID Laws <b>Speaker: Sherry Zachry and Sue Worden</b> of Fairfax Area LWV Speaker's Bureau
Thursday, October 16, 2014, 7:00 pm <b>Heritage Presbyterian Church</b> 8513 Fort Hunt Road	<b>Privacy in the Digital Age</b> Speaker: <b>Debbie Diener</b> , of Privacy Made Simple
Thursday, November 20, 2014, 7:00 pm <b>Sherwood Regional Library</b> 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane Alexandria, VA 22306	<b>Sexual Harassment and Bullying</b> Speakers: <b>Lourdes Neilan</b> and <b>Susan Ashcraft</b>
Saturday, December 6, 2014, 11:30 am <b>Mt. Vernon Country Club</b> 5111 Old Mill Rd., Alexandria, VA 22309	<b>Holiday Luncheon</b>
Thursday, January 15, 2015, 6:30–8:30 pm <b>Mount Vernon Government Center</b> 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	<b>Women in Leadership</b> Speakers: <b>Jessica Grounds</b> , Co-founder of Running Start, and <b>Kate C. Farrar</b> , VP of AAUW Campus Leadership Programs
Thursday, February 19, 2015, 7:00 pm <b>Sherwood Regional Library</b> 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane Alexandria, VA 22306	<b>Gardening: Creating a Beautiful Container Garden</b> Speaker: <b>Eileen Powell</b> Master Gardener, Author
Saturday, March 21, 2015 <b>Mt. Vernon Country Club</b> 5111 Old Mill Rd., Alexandria, VA 22309	<b>Annual Meeting</b> <b>From Vision to Reality: Mission Possible</b> Speaker: <b>Jeanne Elmore</b>
Friday, April 24, 2015 <b>Little Theater of Alexandria</b>	<b>Little Theater Fundraiser</b> "The Odd Couple" (female version)
Thursday, May 21, 2015 <b>Home of Cathy Krebs</b>	<b>Annual Pot Luck Dinner</b>
Saturday, June 6, 2015 <b>Home of Joanna Crane</b>	<b>Annual Planning Session (Brunch)</b>

### 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

## AAUW Mt.Vernon

Cynthia Gindlesperger  
915 Neal Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22308

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

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

## First Class



- **3 Board Meeting, 7:30 pm**  
Barbara Mann's home  
703/360-3880
- **16 Book Group, 7:00 pm**  
Contact Joanne Malkin  
703/360-7725
- **19 Branch Program, 7:00 pm**  
Contact Joanna Crane  
703/718-8892
- **27 Game Night, 7:30 pm**  
Contact Patsy Quick  
703/360-8678



# FEBRUARY 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Board Meeting	4 State Lobby Day	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Happy Valentine's
15	16 Book Group	17	18	19 Branch Program	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Game Night	28