

# Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 58 Issue 9 May 2015  
Mt. Vernon Branch



## PRESIDENTS' CORNER



As I write this, I have just returned from the joint Virginia/West Virginia AAUW Conference in Charlottesville.

What an inspiring experience! The Harrisonville Branch hosted a truly outstanding conference for Virginia AAUW's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Our branch was well represented by having six of our members present. We took notes on everything because next year will be our Northern Virginia Division's turn to host the conference at the Dulles Hyatt on April 15-17, 2016.

Conference attendees had the opportunity to listen to and chat with AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman and to learn of her journey from vocal soloist with the U.S. Army

Band to a distinguished career as an executive for non-profit organizations. Participants had a choice of three workshops entitled "Preventing Campus Domestic Violence." "What Stories Are Under the Bed?" (preserving our records), and "Yes, Virginia, We Do Have Human Trafficking."

A special high point of the conference was the distribution of Neola Waller's just-published book, *The History of the American Association of University Women of Virginia, 1925-2010*. This scholarly and inspiring book was a labor of love for Neola, and Virginia members are grateful for her work on this record of our 90-year history. All branches will receive one free copy and others are available for \$10 each.

MARY ELLEN MEHLER

THURSDAY  
MAY 21

ANNUAL  
POTLUCK  
DINNER

6:30 PM

BRING YOUR  
FAVORITE  
DISH!

## ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER

### ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER



THURSDAY, MAY 21ST

6:30 PM

HOME OF CATHY KREBS

2400 NORDOK PLACE,

It is time once again to gather as a branch to share food, fellowship, and fun at our Annual Potluck Dinner on Thursday, May 21st. Cathy Krebs will be our Host. We will each bring something wonderful to eat and our favorite drink to share.

Naturally, we need to balance the array of appetizers, salads, sides, and desserts, as well as a balance of red and white wines. So, please send Cathy an email ([catherinekrebs@yahoo.com](mailto:catherinekrebs@yahoo.com)) by Sunday, May 10th, letting her know what you will bring (with a copy to

Joanna Crane, please, [joanna.p.crane@gmail.com](mailto:joanna.p.crane@gmail.com)). If we have enough in one category, Cathy will ask you to bring something else. So, it is wise to make your intentions known early!

Once again, we will be handing out a Member Survey at the Potluck so you can tell us what programs you liked best this past year, and for next year, what policy direction you would like the branch to concentrate on, if there is a topic you would like to have covered, and if you know of a potential speaker. (The Survey is also attached to this newsletter.)

We will be collecting donations of cash and food for UCM at the Potluck.

Thank you, and let's get ready to welcome the warm weather!

JOANNA CRANE

# CALLING ALL HISTORIANS AND ARCHIVISTS



I know you are out there, you talented women in our branch with an interest in history and the organizational skills to help sort, organize, and save our branch's historical documents. We need your help and your suggestions on how we can proceed. At the present time, most of our records reside in a giant plastic tub in my outside storage shed.

Some years ago, we had a volunteer branch historian and

an effort was made to impose some sort of order. That was long ago. This subject came to my attention at the Charlottesville Conference when I attended **Suzanne Gould's** workshop entitled "What Stories are Under the Bed?" **Suzanne** is the newly appointed full-time archivist at AAUW Headquarters. Most attendees at the workshop confessed that their branch records are, indeed, under some branch officer's bed, in a basement, in the attic, or in a storage shed such as ours. **Suzanne** is eager to help branches organize and preserve the records and perhaps find a permanent place for the records.

Let me hear from you, please.

MARY ELLEN MEHLER



## WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

*The Mt. Vernon Branch extends our deepest sympathy to Ebba Jo Spettel on the death of her daughter, Martha Vandebon.*

## THANKS RECEIVED

Our branch has received a letter of thanks from **United Community Ministries** for the \$95 cash and the food donations collected at the Annual Meeting on March 21.

# BRANCH LEADERSHIP 2014 – 2015

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

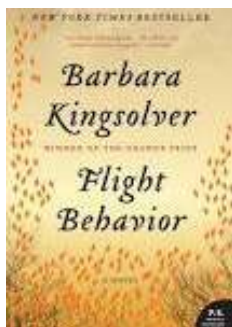
DATE: Monday, May 18, 7:30 PM

HOSTESS: **Joanna Crane**

511 Princeton Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22307

703/718-8892

Co-Host: **Barbara Mann**



BOOK: Flight Behavior  
by Barbara Kingsolver

REVIEWER: Patsy Quick

NEXT BOOK: The Warmth of Other Suns:  
The Epic Story of America's  
Greatest Migration  
by Isabel Wilkerson

## GAME NIGHT



### Game Night

Friday, May 22, 2015 !!!

7:30 PM

Home of Edie Bartlett / 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))

## DINING OUT



**Dining Out: Cannoli and Tiramisu, May 8th, 7 pm**

Enough said! Oh, you want to know where...

**Rosemarino d' Italia**

1905 Mount Vernon Avenue

Between E. Bellefonte and E. Howell Streets in the Del Ray section of Alexandria



The restaurant is handicap-accessible and has a parking arrangement with the Salvation Army across the street.

Menu: <http://www.rosemarinoditalia.com/omenu/>

Reviews:

- [www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant\\_Review-g30226-d4243351-Reviews-Rosemarino\\_d\\_Italia-Alexandria\\_Virginia.html](http://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g30226-d4243351-Reviews-Rosemarino_d_Italia-Alexandria_Virginia.html)
- [www.yelp.com/biz/rosemarino-d-italia-Alexandria](http://www.yelp.com/biz/rosemarino-d-italia-Alexandria)
- [http://www.washingtonpost.com/goingoutguide/rosemarino-ditalia-in-alexandria-the-next-iteration-of-italian-american-cooking/2014/12/23/c169fb90-870d-11e4-a702-fa31ff4ae98e\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/goingoutguide/rosemarino-ditalia-in-alexandria-the-next-iteration-of-italian-american-cooking/2014/12/23/c169fb90-870d-11e4-a702-fa31ff4ae98e_story.html)

Please reserve seats for yourself and any guests with Elizabeth Lonoff at [elonoff@msn.com](mailto:elonoff@msn.com) by May 5th.

# ANNUAL PLANNING SESSION BRUNCH

**Our Annual Planning Session and Brunch will be held on Saturday, June 6th, starting at 10:00 am.**



**Edie Bartlett** will once again be our Host. Plan to bring something to eat and drink to share. More details to follow in the June newsletter.

In preparation for the Planning Session, we will be handing out a **Member Survey** at the May Pot Luck. Please fill it out and return to **Mary Ellen Mehler** or **Joanna Crane**. (The Survey is also attached to this newsletter for your convenience.)

## PASSING THE HAT FOR MOUNT VERNON KIDS

Did you know that **United Community Ministries** runs four programs that help children from infancy through high school? Children aged 0 through 3 and their parents get information and support through the **Healthy Families Fairfax** program. Early care and learning for children aged 6 weeks to 5 years happens at the **Bryant Early Learning Center**. At the community centers that UCM runs, school aged children are taught leadership skills through the **Forward Steps** program, and they gain computer access and literacy through the **Computer Learning Center Partnership**.

If you have a special interest in children and education, you can support UCM's work through the new **Mount Vernon Kids** campaign. The campaign supports all these programs. You'll be making a positive, long-term impact on children, parents, and the future of our whole community.

To see **Mount Vernon Kids** programs in action and hear directly from teachers and volunteers, see UCM's new video at [www.ucmagency.org](http://www.ucmagency.org). To make a donation, please bring a check made out to UCM (please put MVK in the memo line), or food or a children's book, to the May or June AAUW program meeting. This year's campaign runs through June. For more information, see <http://bit.ly/UCM-MVK>

***Thank you in advance for supporting Mount Vernon Kids!***



### GIVE A GRAD A GIFT

AAUW members can give recent college graduates a **free, one-year AAUW membership** within two years of graduation, **at no cost to you or them**.

Expose the grad to the power that comes from belonging to a national women-led organization of more than 170,000 members and supporters who believe in and advance equity and education for women and girls.

Expand their networking opportunities through career development opportunities and community action projects.

Keep them current on the events and people that affect their life as they receive *Mission & Action*, *AAUW Outlook*, Action Network alerts, and more.

Increase their buying power with access to member only discounts

<http://www.aauw.org/resource/give-a-grad-a-gift/>

# AAUW OF VIRGINIA ELECTIONS



## DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

Watch your email for the voting instructions for **AAUW of Virginia's** online state elections. The email message will be coming from **AAUW National**, our service provider for voting and elections.

**It is very important that you vote and help us make our quorum! Although your vote is private, we will have statistics and will be recognizing all branches with over 40% of eligible members voting and especially those with the highest percent voting.**

The state election process **opens on April 27 and closes on May 27**. Those who requested paper ballots by April 21 will be able to vote by mail. All others will vote on line. The process should be quick and easy!

For the full **Voter Guide**, you will find links on the AAUW of Virginia website at [aauw-va.aauw.net](http://aauw-va.aauw.net). If you have additional questions, you may email [4mi15fone@gmail.com](mailto:4mi15fone@gmail.com).

**Please vote and help your branch be recognized for its active participation in AAUW of Virginia's One Member One Vote process.**

*The Voting and Elections Committee  
Mary K Johnson  
Mary Ellen Mehler*

## MT VERNON BRANCH NAMED HONOREES

Because of Mt. Vernon branch's generous financial contribution of **\$4,524.00** to AAUW funds this year, the branch was entitled to have eight of our members mentioned as named honorees. Those named for outstanding contributions to the branch for 2014-2015 were **Joanne Clark, Joanna Crane, Bianca Daugherty, Cynthia Gindlesperger, Elizabeth Lonoff, Joanne Malkin, Louise Meade, and Lois Passman.**

# TRANSPARENCY VIRGINIA

Back in February 2015, **AAUW of VA** joined **Transparency Virginia**. Founded in December 2014, under the auspices of the League of Women Voters of Virginia, **Transparency Virginia's (TV)** mission is to advocate for more transparency and openness to the public in how the Virginia General Assembly carries out its legislative duties. There are over 20 member organizations, including AARP Virginia, ACLU of Virginia, Brady Campaign Richmond Chapter, Fair Elections Legal Network, League of Women Voters of Virginia, NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia, National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association - Virginia Federation, New Virginia Majority, One-Virginia2021: Virginians for Fair Redistricting, Richmond First Club, Virginia Civic Engagement Table, Virginia Coalition for Open Government, Virginia Education Association, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, Virginia NOW, Virginia Organizing, and Virginia Poverty Law Center.



On April 14, 2015, **TV** held a press conference and issued a report about the transparency—or lack thereof—during this past General Assembly session. The report is excellent, albeit disturbing:

<https://transparencylvirginia.wordpress.com/2015/04/14/transparency-virginia-legislative-report-2015/>

*Leslie Tourigny  
AAUW of VA Public Policy VP*

# 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, March 5, 2015, 7:00 pm <b>Mount Vernon Government Center</b> 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	<b>Gardening: Creating a Beautiful Container Garden</b> Speaker: <b>Eileen Powell</b> Master Gardener, Author
Saturday, March 21, 2015, 9:00am <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 7 pm Reception - 8 pm Performance <b>Little Theater of Alexandria</b> 600 Wolfe St, Alexandria, VA 22314	<b>Little Theater Fundraiser</b> "The Odd Couple" (female version)
Thursday, May 21, 2015, 6:30 pm <b>Home of Cathy Krebs</b>	<b>Annual Pot Luck Dinner</b>
Saturday, June 6, 2015, 10.00 am <b>Home of Edie Bartlett</b>	<b>Annual Planning Session (Brunch)</b>

**RESCHEDULED**  
to a later date! TBD

### Other Important Dates to Remember:

May 14, 2015	AAUW Federal Lobby Day
June 18-21, 2015	AAUW National Convention, San Diego

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The board needs your input. We would like your ideas on branch priorities and suggestions for future activities. Please return to Mary Ellen ([memehler@msn.com](mailto:memehler@msn.com)) or Joanna ([joanna.p.crane@gmail.com](mailto:joanna.p.crane@gmail.com)) at the May Pot Luck (05/21) or by mail or email.

## AAUW MT VERNON BRANCH 2015 MEMBER SURVEY

- I. For planning purposes, which AAUW public policy issue(s) do you think our branch should concentrate on next year? (check all you think should be a priority)

Strong System of Public Education

Title IX

STEM

Closing the Achievement Gap

Economic Self-Sufficiency

Gender Pay Equity

Living Wage/Affordable Housing

Equality, Individual Rights, and Social Justice

Equal Rights Amendment

Open and Fair Elections/Get Out the Vote

Access to Health Care & Family Planning

- II. Program Suggestions:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

- III. Do you have a particular skill or knowledge that you could share in a program? \_\_\_\_\_

- IV. Do you have contact with a potential speaker on some subject? \_\_\_\_\_

- V. Would you like to help with one of the monthly programs (contact speaker, and/or reserve location, and/or manage publicity, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

- VI. Would you like to be more involved in the monthly planning for the branch programs? Y N

- VII. What was the most successful activity or monthly meeting topic or presentation this year?

Kick-off Dinner - Get Out the Vote

Voter Registration Drive

Privacy in the Digital Age

Sexual Harassment and Bullying

Women in Leadership - Running Start - Women in Elected Office

Annual Meeting - Vision Project Part I

LTA Fundraiser

- VIII. Please list name and contact information for any potential new members.

\_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

## AAUW Mt.Vernon

Cynthia Gindlesperger  
915 Neal Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22308

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

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


## First Class



# MAY 2015

- **5 Board Meeting, 7:30 pm**  
Mary Ellen Mehler's home  
703/780-8494
- **18 Book Group, 7:00 pm**  
Contact Joanna Crane  
703/718-8892
- **24 Branch Potluck, 6:30 pm**  
Contact Cathy Krebs  
703/765-2751
- **22 May Game Night, 7:30 pm**  
Contact Edie Bartlett  
703/780-6809



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