

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 59 Issue 3 November 2015
Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENTS' CORNER

"Suffrage is the pivotal right"

Susan B. Anthony

As Election Day, November 3rd, approaches, it is an opportune time to think about why

women should vote, now more than ever! It was only 95 years ago, on August 26, 1920, that the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, granting women the right to vote, officially became law. Today, women make up over half of the U.S. population, yet in 2014, less than half of eligible women voters reported voting. Let's remember that women fought hard for the right to vote. It's time to use it!

On **National Voter Registration Day**, September 22, **AAUW** ran a Twitter campaign to mobilize women to go to the polls. Some salient facts highlighted by the campaign include: that women make up over half the population but only 20% of the



Congress; that women make only 77 cents for every dollar made by men; and that so far in 2015, 235 bills restricting reproductive health have already been introduced.

How did women's issues fare in the 2014 midterm elections? The **AAUW Advocacy blog** reported that women's voices were heard loud and clear in support of ballot initiatives on raising the minimum wage, paid sick days, protecting choice, and equal rights. In the past, state ballot measures have been used to pass referenda that harm women and

minorities. But based on the 2014 results, it appears that the pendulum has begun to swing the other way. **AAUW** and like-minded advocates were better positioned to stop regressive initiatives and proactively use the power of ballot measures to advance their public policy priorities.

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THURSDAY
NOVEMBER
19

7 PM

BRANCH
PROGRAM

AAUW PUBLIC
POLICY

MT. VERNON
GOVERNMENTAL
CENTER

GUESS WHO IS COMING TO SPEAK?



The **Mount Vernon Branch** is pleased to announce that

Lisa Maatz, Vice President, Government Relations at AAUW

will be the speaker at our **November 19** meeting. If you do not know who she is, you will remember her after she speaks. Her passion for AAUW and public policy shines through every pore of her body. She entertains and informs.

As her bio (page 4) states, she is a sought-after speaker across the nation and in DC. We are very lucky to have her at our meeting.

Come early and get a seat. We have invited the entire Northern District to join us.

Lisa will update us on the latest public policy work being done at AAUW. She will have great stories to tell and will inspire us! We will learn how she felt testifying before a House committee on college campus violence. We will hear about updates to *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap*, and the Supreme Court preview call on October 15, as well as other up-close-and-personal kinds of things that are being done by AAUW staff to carry out our priorities.

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS EVENT!

**Be there on November 19, 7:00 pm, at the Mt. Vernon Governmental Center,
2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306.**

AAUW of Virginia co-sponsored the **League of Women Voters® of the Fairfax Area's** (LWVFA's) fall series of non-partisan candidate meet-and-greets, and our branch provided financial support for the videotaping. Individual members also helped with the strategic planning, and on-site operations at four events.

In preparation for November 3rd, the LWVFA offers some great resources on their website <http://www.lwv-fairfax.org/>. View videos of the meet-and-greets that have been posted. Check out "What's on the Ballot" to learn what offices are up for election. The LWVFA's Voters

Guide of all responses to questions sent to the candidates is being prepared and should soon be posted.

Lastly, **Suffragette**, a new film about women's fight for the voting rights in Britain in the early 20th century, will be opening in limited release on October 23rd and more widely in the weeks thereafter. The film stars **Meryl Streep, Helena Bonham Carter, and Carey Mulligan**. Watch your email for an **ImpromptEvent** to see the movie as a group in the coming weeks!

JOANNA CRANE
CO-PRESIDENT



Hear Ye! Branch members who wish to donate to the **Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF)** or any of the other **AAUW Funds** please plan to bring your checks to the Thursday, November 19 program meeting or send them to Branch AAUW Funds Chair **Joanne Malkin**, 8339 Orange Court, Alexandria, VA 22309, by **November 30**. All donations to the funds are deductible for Federal income tax purposes. Thank you all for your generosity!

Joanne Malkin
AAUW Funds Chair

BRANCH LEADERSHIP 2015 – 2016

<p><u>Co-Presidents:</u></p>	<p><u>AAUW Funds:</u></p>	<p><u>Hospitality:</u></p>
<p>Joanna Crane 703/718-8892 joanna.p.crane@gmail.com</p>	<p>Joanne Malkin 703/360-7725 jbmalkin@verizon.net</p>	<p>Cathy Krebs 703/765-2751 catherinekkrebs@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Mary Ellen Mehler 703/780-8494 memehler@msn.com</p>	<p><u>Public Policy:</u></p>	<p><u>Nominating Committee Chair</u></p>
<p><u>Program Vice President:</u></p>	<p>Patsy Quick 703/360-8678 pnquick@cox.net</p>	<p>Lois Passman 703/781-7626 LMPassman@msn.com</p>
<p>Joanne Clark 703/768-8996 jclark@meridian.org</p>	<p><u>Newsletter/Website:</u></p>	<p><u>Book Group:</u></p>
<p><u>Membership Vice President/</u></p>	<p>Bianca Daugherty 571/332-8371 d4bnjk@aol.com</p>	<p>Liz Promen 703/780-7342 epromen@cox.net</p>
<p><u>Treasurer:</u></p>	<p><u>Newsletter/Directory Distribution:</u></p>	<p><u>ImpromptEvent</u></p>
<p>Edie Bartlett 703/780-6809 redsse@aol.com</p>	<p>Cynthia Gindlesperger 703/619-5262 ngindlesperger@verizon.net</p>	<p>Barbara Mann 703/360-3880 speech.solutions.verizon.net</p>
<p><u>Secretary:</u></p>	<p>Mary Ellen Mehler 703/780-8494 memehler@msn.com</p>	<p><u>Dining Out:</u></p>
<p>Shirley Richey 703/780-0834 shirley97@verizon.net</p>	<p><u>International Affairs:</u></p>	<p>Elizabeth Lonoff 703/765-2634 elonoff@msn.com</p>
<p><u>Bylaws:</u></p>	<p>Joanne Clark 703/768-8996 jclark@meridian.org</p>	<p><u>Game Night:</u></p>
<p>VACANT</p>		<p>Bianca Daugherty 571/332-8371 d4bnjk@aol.com</p>

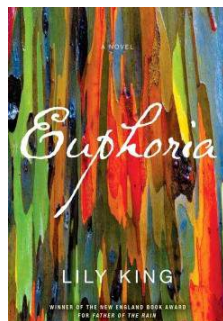
BOOK GROUP

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

DATE: Monday, November 16, 2015, 7:30 PM

HOSTESS: Betty Demarest
6117 Vernon Terrace
703/329-1335

CO-HOST: Joan Howerton



BOOK: Euphoria
by Lily King

REVIEWER: DeJuana Jones

NEXT BOOK: The Children Act
by Ian McEwan

GAME NIGHT

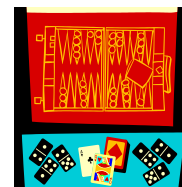


Game Night

November 27, 2015

7:30 PM

Home of Edie Bartlett



Join us for light snacks and fun!

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

DINING OUT

Explore the "True Flavors of Italy," Friday, November 13th, 6:30 pm



Carluccio's Italian Restaurant and Market
100 King Street (on the corner of South Union Street) - Old Town Alexandria



Created by chef, restaurateur and cookbook author **Antonio Carluccio**, the chain has more than 100 locations in Europe and the Middle East. **Carluccio**, who sold the company, remains in a consulting role and says the cuisine still trends toward his motto, "minimum of fuss, maximum of flavor." This first American Carluccio's outpost opened in June as a contemporary restaurant featuring multiregional Italian cooking plus a coffee bar with a wall of artisanal imported foods and related gift items, all in renovated space.

Menu: <http://www.carlucciosusa.com/>

Reviews:

- http://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g30226-d8261166-Reviews-Carluccio_s-Alexandria_Virginia.html
- http://www.yelp.com/biz/carluccios-alexandria?sort_by=date_desc
- <http://www.cherryblossomstheblog.com/2015/07/restaurant-review-carluccios-alexandria.html>

We'll have to walk upstairs since a wedding party has the lower level.

Please reserve seats for yourself and any guests with Elizabeth Lonoff at elonoff@msn.com by November 7th. Watch for a confirmation email the following week.

Want to help pick the next time and place? Then tell **Elizabeth** you want to join the Dining Out Group.

MEET LISA MAATZ



As AAUW's top policy adviser, **Maatz** works to advance AAUW's priority issues on Capitol Hill, in the White House, and in coalition with other organizations. She is a sought-after speaker across the nation and in our nation's capital, and has a large and devoted following on Twitter. **Lisa** also provides leadership to several coalitions working to advance opportunities for women and girls, including the National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education and the Paycheck Fairness Act Coalition. Recently featured in the book *Secrets of Powerful Women*, **Lisa** has developed a reputation for her strategic approach to legislation and advocacy. She has done similar work for the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund and the Older Women's League, and was a legislative aide to U.S. Congresswoman **Carolyn Maloney** (D-NY). Her grassroots advocacy career began when she was the Executive Director of Turning Point, a battered women's program recognized for excellence by the Ohio Supreme Court. **Lisa** is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Ohio University, and currently serves on the university's Diversity Alumni Advisory Board. She has two

master's degrees from Ohio State, and holds an adjunct appointment with the Women and Politics Institute at American University. Honors include the National Committee on Pay Equity's Winn Newman Advocacy Award (2013), National Association of Partnerships in Equity's first-ever Public Policy Advocate for Equity Award (2012) and the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce's 10th anniversary Trailblazer Award (2011). **Lisa** has also received the Women's Information Network's Karen Mulhauser Award (2010) for mentoring and service, and WIN's Young Woman of Achievement Award (2001); she has served on that organization's Advisory Council since 2003. She was a recipient of the Mentor Award from the Public Leadership Education Network (2003), and was recently named to their board of directors (2012). **Lisa** was awarded a Congressional Fellowship in Women and Public Policy from the Women's Research and Education Institute (1997) and was a mayoral appointee to the Washington, D.C., Commission on Women (2006–10). **Lisa** has been with AAUW since 2003. During that time, she also spent 16 months serving concurrently as the interim director of the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund.

Follow [@LisaMaatz](#) on twitter.

OCTOBER BRANCH MEETING

On Thursday, October 15, about 25 AAUW Mt. Vernon branch members came to Sherwood Hall Library for an exemplary presentation by representatives of **Friends of Guest House**, located in Del Ray, Alexandria. Many of us were moved and inspired by what we heard. **Kari Galloway, Executive Director of Friends of Guest House**, described the programs that the organization offers to former female offenders when they come out of prison and beyond. Two alumnae of the programs also spoke to us: about their life experiences that led them to prison (one who grew up poor and in total dysfunction and spiraled into addiction and stealing, and one who had been a very successful attorney whose compulsive shoplifting masked a painful past and led her to 16 months in prison).



This organization is one that offers our branch members numerous possibilities for volunteering: mentoring, resume writing, skills development, etc. They also have a long list of items needed to assist their clients as they make their way back into society. The website is <http://www.friendsofquesthouse.org/>, and I hope you will take the time to visit it and learn about their programs.

*Joanne Clark,
Vice President for Programs*

MT. VERNON BRANCH MEMBERS REGISTER VOTERS

This year again, in October, our Mt. Vernon Branch partnered with the **Mt. Vernon Registrars** to conduct curbside voter registration. On various dates **Anne Simpson, Joanne Clark, Cathy Krebs, Joanna Crane, Cheryl Spohnholtz, Louise Priest** and **Patsy Quick** covered the voter registration tables for a total of 14 hours to register voters in our community. Things were slower this year for us, but we managed to register 18 new voters. In all, during the season the Mt. Vernon Registrars signed up 214 voters matching last year's drive, in fewer days. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with such a dedicated and organized group. Thank you to the Mt. Vernon Branch members who stepped up to civic duty!



*Patsy Quick
Public Policy Chair*

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world;
indeed, it's the only thing that ever has. Margaret Mead*

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Caroline D'Aguiar

BA, George Mason University

Caroline is a retired Department of Defense civil servant who has worked in more than a half dozen Defense Department agencies over her career. A highlight was a two-year rotation as an Army Fellow in the office of Congressman Alcee Hastings. She notes that working in the Legislative branch not only changed her career trajectory, it also turned her into a political news junkie who spends several hours a day channel surfing to keep on top of the latest developments.

In her personal life, **Caroline** is a mother of four including a biologist, a teacher, an office manager, and an artist. Since retiring she is enjoying Yoga and cooking classes and she has traveled to Italy, Turkey, Greece and Alaska. One of her retirement highlights was being able to spend

two months with her daughter's family when grandchild #4 was born.



Kathleen Fitzgerald

B.S., St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN
M.S.C.A., American University, Washington, DC

M.B.A., Trinity College, Washington, DC

Kathleen is retired from the Social Services Department of DC Superior Court. Prior to that, she was an elementary school teacher, including service with Department of Defense

Dependents Schools in Germany. While in Germany, she had the opportunity to travel to the Far East, Middle East, and Russia. She continues her love of travel with recent trips to Japan, China, New Zealand, Kenya, the Czech Republic, and Morocco.

*Mary Ellen Mehler
Co-President*

REPRESENTATIVES AT NORTHERN DISTRICT MEETING

Patsy Quick and **Mary Ellen Mehler** represented the Mt. Vernon Branch at the Northern District Meeting on October 3. **Rachel Gettler** of the Policy Division, Office of Civil Rights, from the US Department of Education spoke on updates to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. This legislation prohibits sex discrimination in education programs and activities.

Each branch received a packet of information provided by **Catherine E. Lhamon**, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. Branch recipients were asked to identify the Title IX Coordinators in their local school Districts and to distribute the information to the Coordinators. The packets provide updated information on the responsibilities and authority of a Title IX Coordinator, as well as the necessary training for Title IX Coordinators.

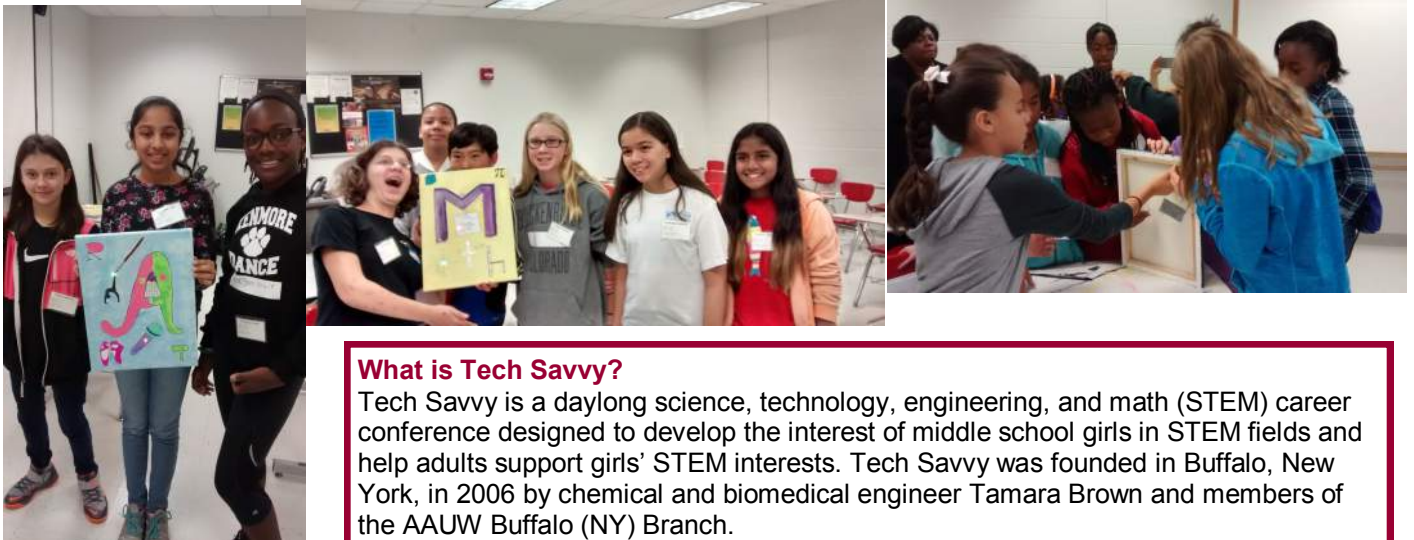
The Northern District co-representatives, **Caroline Pickens** and **Jeanne Elmore**, updated attendees on plans for the AAUW of Virginia State Conference in April 2016. Preparations are well under way.

*Mary Ellen Mehler
Co-President*

MT. VERNON VOLUNTEERS AT TECH SAVVY

Congratulations to all the AAUW ladies who conducted the **TechSavvy** event on Saturday, October 24, at Northern Virginia Community College. The participating middle school girls were introduced to fascinating STEM-related careers by a truly impressive group of women workshop leaders who work in science-related fields. Along with the hands-on activities, the girls learned from these role models just what led them into their careers and could imagine themselves following a similar path. **TechSavvy** was made possible by a grant from BAE Systems to the Alexandria and Arlington branches.

The Mt. Vernon branch was well represented. **Cathy Krebs, Shirley Richey, Edie Bartlett, Kelly Morris, Lois Passman, and Mary Ellen Mehler** all worked as volunteer workshop assistants.



What is Tech Savvy?

Tech Savvy is a daylong science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) career conference designed to develop the interest of middle school girls in STEM fields and help adults support girls' STEM interests. Tech Savvy was founded in Buffalo, New York, in 2006 by chemical and biomedical engineer Tamara Brown and members of the AAUW Buffalo (NY) Branch.

10 WOMEN WHO BELONG ON THE \$10 BILL

From the AAUW Blog, October 14, 2015

“To commemorate 100 years since the passage of the 19th Amendment, the U.S. Treasury has announced it will put a woman on the \$10 bill in 2020. The Treasury called on Americans to submit their proposals for the redesigned \$10, inspiring a widespread discussion about the role of women in U.S. history. We wanted to hear from you, so we conducted a poll where you wrote in the names of more than 100 women and voted for your favorites.



On October 9, 2015, AAUW members and staff were invited to meet with U.S. Treasurer **Rosie Rios** to discuss the results of the poll and key initiatives beyond the \$10 bill, including diversity, equal pay, and the underrepresentation of women in leadership.”

Top picks from the AAUW poll:

1. Barbara McClintock, Nobel Prize-winning geneticist
2. Eleanor Roosevelt, global activist and first lady
3. Harriet Tubman, conductor on the Underground Railroad
4. Rosa Parks, civil rights activist
5. Susan B. Anthony, suffragist

To learn more go to: <http://www.aauw.org/2015/10/14/10-women-on-the-10-dollar-bill/>



2015 - 2016 MT. VERNON BRANCH PROGRAM YEAR

Meeting Date and Place	Focus/Activity
Thursday, September 17, 2015, 6:30 pm Mt. Vernon Country Club 5111 Old Mill Rd., Alexandria, VA 22309	Kickoff Dinner With AAUW Video Screening
Thursday, October 15, 2015, 7:00 pm Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane Alexandria, VA 22306	Friends of Guest House (Rehabilitation of ex-offender women) Speaker: Kari Galloway, Executive Director of Guest House
Thursday, November 19, 2015, 7 pm Mt. Vernon Governmental Center 2511 Parkers Lane Alexandria, VA 22306	AAUW Public Policy Speaker: Lisa Maatz VP Government Relations at AAUW
Saturday, December 12, 2015 Mt. Vernon Country Club 5111 Old Mill Rd., Alexandria, VA 22309	Holiday Event Brunch/Lunch
Saturday, January 16, 2016 Time & Location TBD	Speaker: Virginia Delegate Scott Surovell
Thursday, February 18, 2016 Time & Location TBD	Container Gardening: Speaker: Eileen Powell Master Gardener, Author
Saturday, March 19, 2016, Time TBD Mt. Vernon Country Club 5111 Old Mill Rd., Alexandria, VA 22309	Annual Meeting Breakfast
Tuesday, April 26, 2016 7 pm Reception - 8 pm Performance Little Theater of Alexandria 600 Wolfe St, Alexandria, VA 22314	Little Theater Fundraiser "To Kill a Mockingbird"
Thursday, May 19, 2016, Time TBD Home of Mary Ellen Mehler	Annual Pot Luck Dinner
Saturday, June 4, 2016 Time & Location TBD	Annual Planning Session

Other Important Dates to Remember:

November 15, 2015	Conference Planning Committee Meeting
April 15 - 17, 2016	AAUW of Virginia State Conference, Dulles Hyatt

AAUW Mt.Vernon

Cynthia Gindlesperger
915 Neal Drive
Alexandria, VA 22308

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

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

First Class



- **10 Board Meeting, 7:00 pm**
Mary Ellen Mehler's home
703/780-8494
- **13 Dining Out, 6:30 pm**
Contact Elizabeth Lonoff
703/765-2634
- **16 Book Group, 7:30 pm**
Contact Betty Demarest
703/329-1335
- **19 Branch Program, 7:00 pm**
Contact Patsy Quick
703/360-8678
- **27 Game Night, 7:30 pm**
Contact Edie Bartlett
703/780-6809

NOVEMBER 2015

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