

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 59 Issue 4 December 2015
Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENTS' CORNER

As 2015 draws to an end, let's take a look back at the old year and look ahead to new challenges. Joanna and I realize that this is a good time to honor our wonderful branch members for all the work, encouragement, and creativity they have given to the branch over the last year. There are too many individuals to name here, but **WE ALL KNOW WHO YOU ARE!**

- Those who maintain our branch structure with meeting minutes, who maintain stewardship of our funds with all the record keeping this entails, and who keep our bylaws up to date.
- Those who persuasively recruit officers and project leaders to keep our branch intact.
- Those who bring ideas and provide speaker contacts at the June Planning Meetings.
- Those creative people who put in countless hours on our fundraising project at LTA.
- Those who represent the branch at state and regional meeting so that we can stay informed.

- Those who maintain contact with the national organization and oversee our donation of funds.
- Those who provide their time and skill to write, edit, publish, and distribute our outstanding newsletter.
- Those who work so hard to organize and arrange the monthly programs (with refreshments!)
- Those who maintain our "fun" groups and are always thinking of new ideas.
- Those who provide hospitality in their homes for various branch events and meetings.
- Those busy members who are unable to attend all planned events but who faithfully support the ideals and goals of AAUW and who contribute as their time and other obligations allow.
- Our faithful telephone tree crew.

A resounding "Thank You" to the branch members. It's all about you!

CO-PRESIDENTS

JOANNA CRANE AND MARY ELLEN MEHLER

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER
12**

12 - 2 PM

**HOLIDAY
LUNCHEON**

**MT VERNON
COUNTRY
CLUB**

\$38

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



Mt. Vernon AAUW Branch Celebrates the Holidays!

Please join your fellow branch members at the

Mt. Vernon Country Club

on Saturday, December 12 from 12:00 – 2:00 PM

for a scrumptious buffet luncheon and celebratory conversations with your Mt. Vernon friends.



The buffet includes a stuffed chicken dish, salmon, salad bar, vegetables, rolls and dessert. Cost is \$38 including tax and gratuity.

We need to provide numbers to the MVCC by Monday, December 7, so please send in the tear-off reservation form (page 2) or send an email to jclark@meridian.org

Please bring a Metro **SmarTrip® Card** (can be purchased at **CVS**) or **toiletory item/s** for Friends of Guest House (see article on page 3) and/or **non-perishable food items** to support the UCM food pantry.

See you on December 12!

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Please make your reservation for the Holiday Luncheon:
December 12, 2015, 12 - 2:00 pm



Clip and mail

Detach and mail together with your check by to

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

Cost is \$38.00 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 7.

Name _____

I will attend _____ Accompanied by _____ people

BRANCH LEADERSHIP 2015 – 2016

Co-Presidents:

Joanna Crane 703/718-8892
joanna.p.crane@gmail.com

Mary Ellen Mehler 703/780-8494
memehler@msn.com

Program Vice President:

Joanne Clark 703/768-8996
jclark@meridian.org

Membership Vice President/

Treasurer:

Edie Bartlett 703/780-6809
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Secretary:

Shirley Richey 703/780-0834
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VACANT

AAUW Funds:

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Patsy Quick 703/360-8678
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Joanne Clark 703/768-8996
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Hospitality:

Cathy Krebs 703/765-2751
catherinekkrebs@yahoo.com

Nominating Committee Chair

Lois Passman 703/781-7626
LMPassman@msn.com

Book Group:

Liz Promen 703/780-7342
epromen@cox.net

ImpromptEvent

Barbara Mann 703/360-3880
speech.solutions.verizon.net

Dining Out:

Elizabeth Lonoff 703/765-2634
elonoff@msn.com

Game Night:

Bianca Daugherty 571/332-8371
d4bnjk@aol.com

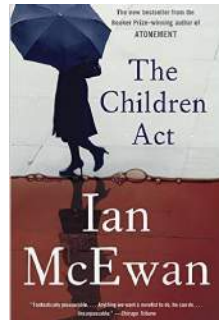
BOOK GROUP

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

DATE: Monday, December 14, 2015, 7:30 PM

HOSTESS: Patsy Quick
5508 Old Mill Road
703/360-8678

CO-HOST: Joanne Clark



BOOK: The Children Act
by Ian McEwan

REVIEWER: Joanna Crane

NEXT BOOK: In Defense of a Liberal Education
by Fareed Zakaria

GAME NIGHT



NO GAME NIGHT IN DECEMBER!

- Next Game Night will be January 22, 2016 -

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



AAUW Mt. Vernon Branch to Support Friends of Guest House (www.friendsofquesthouse.org)

After the excellent meeting we had with **Kari Galloway**, Executive Director, and two alumnae of Friends of Guest House, the Mt. Vernon Branch Board of Directors voted to provide support to this worthy organization. Organizationally, we are not allowed to donate money, so we are going to help them with items for which they are in great need. These include: SmarTrip® cards for Metrorail and local bus fare (can be purchased at CVS), non-perishable food items, gift cards, umbrellas, wash cloths, toiletries, toilet paper and paper towels, bath towels, beauty and feminine hygiene products, cleaning supplies, and more.

We are hoping to select one of these items on a monthly basis and have members provide whatever they can or feel comfortable offering.

At our holiday luncheon, we want to collect **SmarTrip® cards** and/or **toiletries and beauty products**, which would be nice gift items at this time of the year. At Marshall's or TJ's, you can find toiletries at very reasonable prices – soaps, lotions, bath gels, etc.

Please bring what you can. We will be sending out a reminder as we get closer to the date of the luncheon. If you cannot attend the luncheon but would like to contribute, please let **Joanne Clark** know and she can pick up your items.

We look forward to helping these women as they transition from incarceration to a meaningful life in the community.

Support for United Community Ministries

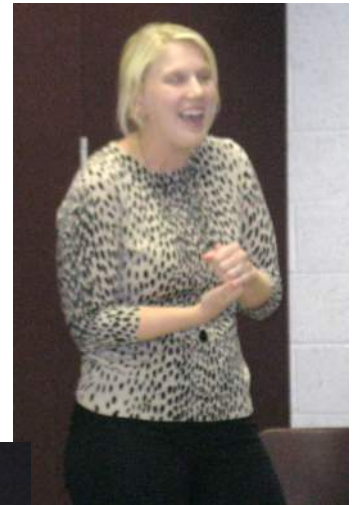
AAUW Mt Vernon Branch is again supporting the UCM food pantry.

Please consider bringing a bag with non-perishable food items to our holiday luncheon.



AN EVENING WITH LISA MAATZ

Lisa Maatz, Vice President of Government Relations at AAUW, was the speaker for our branch meeting on November 19. She gave an update of AAUW's work on Capitol Hill and had great stories to share. Branch members and guests loved her sense of humor and were impressed with her ideas about how we could participate more fully to move AAUW's mission forward.



Lisa Maatz was accompanied by **Elizabeth Holden**, AAUW Grassroots Advocacy Manager



AAUW OF VIRGINIA 2016 STATE CONFERENCE

Join the State Conference Team and Grow Your Life!

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much" - Helen Keller

We are putting together small teams to take on the tasks our branch has volunteered to do at the 2016 State Conference, April 15 - 17. We have three tasks, and we need 2 - 3 members for each. Please look at the list and contact the team leader listed to join up:

- * Welcome Bags - determine contents, procure bags and goodies, assemble - **Joanne Clark**
- * Banquet Table Decorations - create design, obtain items, decorate tables - **DeJuana Jones**
- * Banquet Programs - plan and design layout, print, distribute - **Bianca Daugherty/Elizabeth Lonoff**

This is a **great opportunity to strengthen your friendships** with members of our branch and to make new friends as well! Remember,

"A friend may be waiting behind a stranger's face." - Maya Angelou

Teamwork is Beautiful! Many hands make light work! What would it be like to help the branch do a fabulous job on our tasks? Remember, *"If we do not lay out ourselves in the service of [wo]mankind, whom should we serve?" - Abigail Adams*



MANDATORY BYLAWS REVISIONS

The branch received an email, **"PRIORITY AAUW Mandatory Conformance Memo"** ("conformance memo") on August 10, 2015, from **Patricia Fae Ho**, AAUW Board Chair. It explained that the 2015 AAUW bylaws amendments (that were voted on and approved by the nation-wide membership) require mandatory amendments to all branch bylaws. The mandatory amendments should have no impact on the day-to-day operations of the branch and do not need a vote of the branch membership.

The conformance memo provided instructions for the amendments and stated that they were due to national on or by May 15, 2016. The state bylaws chair sent a follow-up email with specific instructions to all branches and asked the branches to submit their proposed amendments to the bylaws chair by March 15, 2016. The state bylaws chair will review and approve the branch bylaws amendments for submission to national.

However, on October 29, **Patricia Fae Ho** sent all branches an email entitled, **"AAUW Model Bylaws for States and Branches"** ("Model Bylaws Memo"). It included a set of model bylaws for branches. The memo said it provided them in response to many members' requests for model bylaws, and that the model bylaws will simplify the integration of the changes requested by the conformance memo. The memo encouraged the branches to adopt the model bylaws whole-sale and then customize and fill in the gaps as needed.

The model bylaws are significantly different from the current branch bylaws. For example, the model bylaws include a section on "State or Multistate Organizations" that is not currently present in our branch bylaws. The state bylaws committee is reviewing the model bylaws and will provide guidance to all branches.

Joanna Crane, State Bylaws and Resolutions Chair, has taken the lead on amending our branch bylaws, and would welcome assistance and input from anyone who is interested.

PUBLIC POLICY AND KUDOS

The following is a recent email from Leslie Tourigny, State Vice President for Public Policy. It includes information that you all need to know and also a kudos for our branch.

1. First of all, we have gotten off to a great start with **Get Out the Vote** activities. As best as I can determine, we are almost a third of the way towards meeting our goal of registering **1000 voters** by the November 2016 Presidential Election. To be precise, we have registered 318 new voters. **Thanks to** the Greater Richmond, **Mount Vernon**, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach, and Wytheville branches. Once again, a special “shout-out” to the Newport News branch for registering almost half of these voters. At this rate, we should be able to far exceed our goal by November 2016.
2. **Presidential Primary Election Day in Virginia will be March 1, 2016, and Tuesday, February 8, 2016, is the last day on which a person may apply to vote in the Presidential Primary.** This gives us another large window of opportunity to register lots of voters.
3. Also, **AAUW of Virginia** officially partnered with the League of Women Voters-Fairfax Area, as well as Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Fairfax County Council of PTA, and the Voice of Vietnamese Americans to hold a series of Candidate Meet and Greet Events leading up to the General Election in November. **Kudos to the Northern District branches who volunteered time and money to make these events so successful.**



4. **Reminder: December 2, 2015 - League of Women Voters of Virginia Pre-Session Women's Legislative Round Table.** (Contact **Patsy Quick** for more info) Note the location in Richmond, which is different than last year's location.

**January 13 - March 12, 2016
General Assembly Session in Richmond**

5. **State Lobby Day - February 3, 2016.**
Once again, the Greater Richmond Branch will be offering up beds for members who arrive in Richmond the day before Lobby Day on February 2nd. Please let **Kathy Kelley**, Greater Richmond Branch Public Policy Chair, know as soon as possible, **but no later than January 15, 2016**, the names and email addresses of any members who would like to spend the night of February 2nd in Richmond. Kathy's email address is kkelley002@mail.com. Please let me know the names and email addresses of Lobby Day participants by **January 22, 2016**.
6. **NEW AND EXCITING EVENT:
The Centennial Rally in Richmond on Tuesday, February 16, 2016. Please come.**
AAUW of Virginia is participating, along with the League of Women Voters of Virginia, our Greater Richmond Branch, Women Matter (pro-ERA group), Women's Equality Coalition (of which we are a member) and NOW, among other groups. **The rally commemorates a rally held by Suffragists 100 years ago on the steps of the State Capitol in Richmond, as well as highlights the need to pass the ERA. The tentative schedule of events is as follows:**

10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. - Rally on the Capitol steps
10:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. - Photos taken on the steps
11:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. - Line the walk as legislators proceed from the GA to the Capitol
11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Vigil at the Bell Tower
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Luncheon at the Library of VA

Stay tuned for further information, including details on registering and paying for lunch.



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, 12 noon Mt. Vernon Country Club 5111 Old Mill Rd., Alexandria, VA 22309	Holiday Event Brunch/Lunch
Saturday, January 9, 2016 Time & Location TBD	Speaker: Virginia Delegate Scott Surovell
Thursday, February 18, 2016 Time & Location TBD	Container Gardening: Speaker: Eileen Powell
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	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:

February 3, 2016	State Lobby Day, Richmond
February 16, 2016	Centennial Rally, Richmond
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



- **1 Board Meeting, 7:00 pm**
Joanna Crane's home
703/718-8892
- **12 Holiday Luncheon, 12 noon - 2:00 pm**
Contact Joanne Clark
703/768-8996
- **14 Book Group, 7:30 pm**
Contact Patsy Quick
703/360-8678



DECEMBER 2015

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