

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 59 Issue 5 January 2016
Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENTS' CORNER

2015 Accomplishments Herald 2016 Growth

With 2015 coming to a close, I was inspired to look back at what types of public policy achievements AAUW's members nationwide had accomplished for women and girls this year. I was impressed with what I found:

- We awarded more than **\$3.7 million in fellowships and grants** to 241 women during the 2015–16 academic year.
- We tackled the gender pay gap on a bigger scale than ever before, by launching the **AAUW Work Smart salary negotiation program in Boston**, which will train more than 85,000 women by 2020.
- We fought to keep students safe from harassment and assault in classrooms and on campus by pushing for enforceable regulations for the Campus SaVE Act.
- We continued to bring women and girls into **STEM fields** through our AAUW National Tech Trek Program, AAUW National



Tech Savvy Program, and acclaimed *Solving the Equation: The Variables for Women's Success in Engineering and Computing* research report.

We can be very proud of the 2015 accomplishments of our organization! Looking forward, in 2016, one of AAUW's most important priorities will be preparing for the November election.

AAUW is ramping up its election work to help young women understand what's at stake and why their votes matter. Many Mount Vernon Branch members have enjoyed participating in voter education and registration in the past year. We have a solid core of trained volunteers, and we are looking to grow. Let's continue to be active in this important AAUW Public Policy effort in 2016!

Happy New Year!

CO-PRESIDENT
JOANNA CRANE

SATURDAY

JANUARY
9

1 PM

SENATOR
SCOTT
SUROVELL

MT VERNON
GOVERNMENTAL
CENTER

BRANCH PROGRAM MEETING



STATE SENATOR SCOTT SUROVELL

Mt. Vernon Governmental Center
2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria VA 22306
Saturday, January 9, 2016 - 1:00 PM



Thanks to our fellow branch member **Elaine Kolish**, we will be honored with a meeting with **State Senator Scott Surovell**, who has represented our area for years in the Virginia Legislature. He was just elected in November to the Virginia Senate.

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the workings of our State legislative process, current policy priorities and the current status of policy issues of key importance to AAUW and its mission. The meeting will be a great follow-up to our November session with **Lisa Maatz**, Vice President of Government Relations at AAUW. If you missed that meeting, you will definitely want to come to this one. We are very, very fortunate that **Senator Surovell** could fit us into his very busy schedule.

*** Please join us on Saturday, January 9 at 1:00 pm at the Mt. Vernon Governmental Center. ***

Unfinished Business: Finding a Branch Membership Chair

When our capable branch treasurer, **Trish Smith**, moved to Florida, we were extremely lucky to have **Eddie Bartlett** agree to take on the treasurer responsibility.

That creates a problem: Eddie was the Membership VP.

We have not yet recruited a new Membership VP and that leaves **Eddie** doing “double duty” in two of the most vital branch positions. **The solution:** we are recruiting now for a new Membership VP.



Eddie describes the responsibilities of the position in this way:

- Working closely with the treasurer to keep current on paid membership and reporting membership data to AAUW database (requires only simple computer skills easily explained by current Membership VP)
- Communicating with prospective new members and actively recruiting new members.
- Obtaining a brief bio from new members for the newsletter.
- Attending monthly board meetings

Please consider serving as Membership VP or recommending someone else who might be interested.

Contact: Lois Passman - Nominating Committee Chair

BRANCH LEADERSHIP 2015 – 2016

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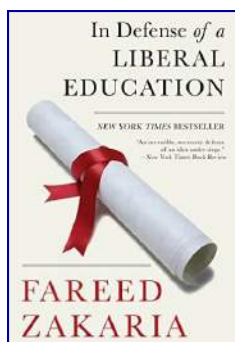
BOOK GROUP

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

DATE: Monday, January 18, 2016, 7:30 PM

HOSTESS: Joanna Crane
6511 Princeton Drive
703/718-8892

CO-HOSTESS: Anne Simpson



BOOK: In Defense of a Liberal Education
by Fareed Zakaria

REVIEWER: Betty Demarest

NEXT BOOK: The Round House
by Louise Erdrich

GAME NIGHT



Game Night

Friday, January 22, 2016

7:30 PM

Home of Cynthia Jacobus



Join us for light snacks and fun!

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

DINING OUT



Dining Out does *Restaurant Week* the last week in January

Join us for a special meal showcasing the best hand-fed, farm-raised, organically grown bounty Virginia and the surrounding countryside have to offer at:

Restaurant Eve
110 South Pitt Street
Old Town Alexandria

Contemporary French/American **Restaurant Eve** is housed in a late 1800's historic warehouse that has been converted into a charming and sophisticated destination. The cobblestone path leading to the restaurant's entrance is lined with candles that set the tone of what is to come. Inside, the space is simultaneously stylish, cozy and refined - a place where special occasions are fondly remembered. Bread and cheese are made on the premises.

Reviews:

- http://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g30226-d465473-Reviews-Restaurant_Eve-Alexandria_Virginia.html
- <http://www.washingtonian.com/restaurantreviews/100-very-best-restaurants-2013-restaurant-eve.php>
- <http://www.yelp.com/biz/restaurant-eve-alexandria>

Contact Elizabeth at elonff@msn.com to see which weeknight the Group picks for a table for 8 at 8 pm.

HAPPY FACES AT BRANCH HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Our annual holiday luncheon was held in a beautifully decorated room at the Mt. Vernon Country Club. We were overlooking the golf course on a warm, sunny morning. Food and company were exquisite!

And best of all, our branch supplied an overflowing basket of food items to UCM and an enormous amount of toiletries and other needed items to Friends of Guest House.

A big **THANK YOU** to all!

Program Vice President Joanne Clark



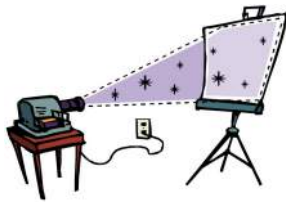
ARE YOU UP FOR A CHALLENGE?

'Tis the Season for Membership Discounts

We have a very interesting speaker on January 9th - **State Senator Scott Surovell!!!**. This is a great opportunity to invite and encourage a friend, neighbor, etc. to come to the meeting and to join our AAUW Mt. Vernon Branch.

New memberships for National will be \$12.25, State \$7.50, and Branch \$13.00, for a grand total of **\$32.75** for a 1/2 year (until June 30th) membership.

It's a challenge - Bring a guest on January 9th!



MOVIE SCREENING

Dejuana Jones has suggested a screening of the documentary **Harvest of Empire - The Untold Story of Latinos in America**.

Watch for email with information on date and venue.

Harvest of Empire examines the role that U.S. military and corporate intervention in Latin America played in triggering massive waves of migration from Mexico, the Caribbean and Central America. Based on the groundbreaking book by journalist **Juan González** of Democracy Now!, this film also offers a powerful glimpse into the enormous sacrifices and rarely noted triumphs of the millions of Latino immigrants who are transforming the nation's cultural, economic and political landscape. With rarely-seen newsreel footage and perspectives from notable U.S. and international leaders, this film will appeal to all those who have an opinion about immigration. **Harvest of Empire** features extensive interviews with and commentary by journalist **Geraldo Rivera**, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer **Junot Diaz**, the Reverend **Jesse Jackson**, NPR reporter **Maria Hinojosa**, Grammy-winning singer **Luis Enrique**, ACLU executive director **Anthony Romero**, and Nobel Peace Prize winner **Rigoberta Menchú**, and many others.



It is not too early to make your hotel reservation for the **AAUW of Virginia Conference**, which will take place from **April 15-17, 2016**, at the **Hyatt Regency Dulles**.

The room rate is a bargain **\$99** plus tax a night with breakfast included.

Rooms can accommodate up to three, but only two breakfast per room!

Don't wait!! Book today at <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/aauw2016>

This is a luxury hotel with free parking and easy access. For those so inclined there is a fitness facility and walking paths.

There is a \$50 rebate per branch when members register for the conference. Branches may decide how it will be used to defray costs

More conference information will be provided as it happens. Step one is to make hotel reservations for the event of the year!

Don't be left out of the opportunity to connect with other AAUW of Virginia members.

Conference Planning Committee Meeting

is on January 24, 2016

at King's Park Regional Library at 1:30 p.m.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY

Write a Letter to the Editor (LTE)



Last year many branches in Virginia engaged in activities to increase awareness of the epidemic of human trafficking. These activities included connecting with local organizations assisting survivors of human trafficking, advocating for human trafficking legislation, meeting with public officials and lawmakers, presenting programs concerning human trafficking, collecting signatures for our human trafficking petition, and having six Letters To The Editor (LTEs) published in newspapers and news outlets around the Commonwealth, i.e. *Sun Gazette*, *Fairfax Times*, *Daily News Record*, *The Virginian-Pilot*, *Alexandria Times*, and *Alexandrianews.org*.

Thanks to our advocacy efforts and those of other organizations and individuals, in a show of bi-partisanship, our General Assembly passed a human trafficking bill during the last session. This was a HUGE step forward, and we hope that we are able to build on this foundation and see legislation introduced in the upcoming 2016 General Assembly Session to address assistance to survivors of human trafficking. Stay tuned!

The state board has once again identified LTEs among our goals and priorities for 2015-2016. January 11, 2016, is Human Trafficking Awareness Day, which is only two days before the 2016 Virginia General Assembly Session convenes. Once again, this presents a unique opportunity for us to draw public attention to human trafficking and to the need for the General Assembly to pass legislation to provide assistance to survivors **by writing LTEs. Although it's not too early to start writing an LTE, you shouldn't submit any to newspapers until early January.**

By nature, **LTEs** are **short** so it won't take long to write one. Here's some how-to information on writing **LTEs**: <http://www.aauw.org/resource/how-to-write-a-letter-to-the-editor/>. Also, the research has been done for you. Take your pick of information to include in your LTEs from AAUW resources: <http://www.aauw.org/resource/quick-facts-on-human-trafficking/>; <http://www.aauw.org/2013/11/15/human-trafficking>, and <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/aauw-issues/human-trafficking>.

If you are moved to write an **LTE** for **Human Trafficking Awareness Day January 11, 2016**, contact **Patsy Quick**, Mt. Vernon Branch Public Policy Chair, and she will be glad to assist.

Leslie Tourigny
AAUW of Virginia VP for Public Policy
Ltourigny@gmail.com



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, 1 pm Mt. Vernon Governmental Center 2511 Parkers Lane Alexandria, VA 22306	Virginia's Legislature - Current Policy Priorities Speaker: Scott Surovell State Senator
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:

February 3, 2016 February 16, 2016 April 15 - 17, 2016	State Lobby Day, Richmond Centennial Rally, Richmond AAUW of Virginia State Conference, Dulles Hyatt
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AAUW Mt.Vernon

Cynthia Gindlesperger
915 Neal Drive
Alexandria, VA 22308

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

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

First Class



- **4 Board Meeting, 7:00 pm**
Mary Ellen Mehler's home
703/780-8494
- **9 Branch Meeting, 1:00 pm**
Contact Joanne Clark
703/768-8996
- **18 Book Group, 7:30 pm**
Contact Joanna Crane
703/718-8892
- **22 Game Night, 7:30 pm**
Contact Cynthia Jacobus
703/780-3806



JANUARY 2016

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