

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 59 Issue 6 February 2016
Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENTS' CORNER



LOOKING AHEAD TO A BUSY SPRING

No matter the temperature outside, I have decided to "think spring," - and a busy spring it will be - for our own and all the

Northern Virginia branches as we prepare to host the state AAUW conference in April. Plans are well underway for the conference. Several of us from our branch joined other Northern Virginia members on January 13 to visit the conference site at the Dulles Hyatt and to learn exactly what facilities and resources were available there.

DeJuana Jones and **Marvel Luyks** are in charge of conference banquet table decorations, and the visit gave them an opportunity to learn what decorating resources the hotel could provide and what we need to purchase.

Shirley Richey and her team are also hard at work organizing our **LTA fundraiser** on April 26. They have already met with our

Alexandria branch partner to plan. (You will be hearing from Shirley!) We are hoping that our play, **To Kill a Mockingbird** will be a sellout. Our branch members can always be counted on to be generous with ticket sales, food, labor, basket fillers, etc., for this major fundraiser.

Besides these branch projects, National AAUW continues to lead us forward on the myriad women's issues in which they are always engaged. We can be sure that National AAUW will be deeply involved in this coming election year when so many vital issues depend on legislation that will be decided by the election. We will be hearing from National and from leaders in our own branch who will be organizing us to participate fully in the election process by working in partnership with other organizations who share our particular concerns, such as the League of Women Voters. **GET READY FOR A BUSY SPRING.**

CO-PRESIDENT
MARY ELLEN MEHLER

THURSDAY

FEBRUARY
18

7 PM

BRANCH
PROGRAM

CONTAINER
GARDENS

MT VERNON
GOVERNMENTAL
CENTER

BRANCH PROGRAM MEETING

PLEASE JOIN US ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 7 PM
AT THE MT. VERNON GOVERNMENTAL CENTER 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.

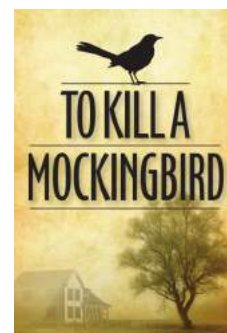
NEED A NICE GIFT? LOOK NO FURTHER!

Do you remember the story of Jem and Scout Finch, whose father is defending a black man for a crime he didn't commit? This theme of **"To Kill A Mockingbird"**- our Little Theater of Alexandria Fundraiser on **April 26th**, is still pertinent today and will make us think!

Tickets will be available in March and would make a great gift!

As always, 2 tickets will be mailed to each member, but if you need additional tickets, simply email or call Shirley Richey (shirley97@verizon.net/703-780-0834) and they will be reserved for you!

Tickets are \$30 each.



National Wear Red Day – Friday, February 5, 2016

On this day, everyone is encouraged to wear red as a symbol of their support of women's heart health.

"Go Red for Women"

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> Edie 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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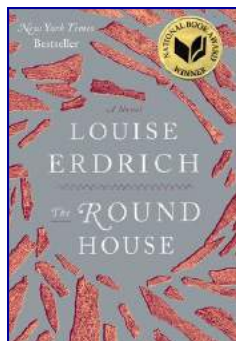
BOOK GROUP

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

DATE: Monday, February 15, 2016, 7:30 PM

HOSTESS: **Cheryl Spohnholtz**
5287 Sandyford Street (22315)
703/313-7534

CO-HOSTESS: **Liz Promen**



BOOK: The Round House
by Louise Erdrich

REVIEWER: **Patsy Quick**

NEXT BOOK: Lila
by Marilyn Robinson

GAME NIGHT

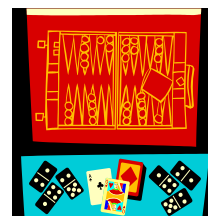
Game Night



Friday, February 26, 2016

7:30 PM

Home of Barbara Mann



Join us for light snacks and fun!

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

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER!

We are pleased to welcome **Clair Wylie** to our branch. **Clair** graduated with a BS in Education from SUNY Oswego, where she was a sorority sister of **Edie Bartlett**. **Clair** was commissioned as an Ensign in the US Navy in 1965 and later graduated from the Naval War College in Newport, RI. Her military career included the following highlights:

- Legislative liaison to the US Senate
- Personal staff to two Chiefs of Naval Operations
- Navy recruiter in New York, Rhode Island and Connecticut
- First woman Flag Secretary to Commander in Chief, US Naval Forces, London, UK.
- Manpower and Health Care analyst to the Secretary of the Navy



After retirement from the Navy in 1985, **Clair** pursued a variety of other interests, including working as a substitute teacher at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria, volunteering at INOVA Mt. Vernon Hospital, and working in retail sales at Talbots in Pentagon City and Alexandria.

Clair is the widow of **Navy JAGC Captain Peter C. Wylie** and mother of **Peter, Jr.** and **Jamie Elizabeth**, both of whom live in Los Angeles, CA.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...



Senator Scott Surovell made a space in his busy schedule to address our branch on **Saturday, January 9, 2016**. The twenty-seven who attended, which included four non-members, were rewarded by his candid appraisal of problems facing the Virginia legislature.

For those who missed this opportunity, a brief synopsis follows.



Senator Surovell represents the 200,000 people of Virginia's 36th District, a long, diverse, heavily gerrymandered area which includes 17 high school pyramids, parts of three counties, and three towns. He plans to introduce 40 to 50 pieces of legislation plus budget amendments and to emphasize the following issues.

Textbooks are needed for every third grader to twelfth grader, especially where there is no broadband access and/or the students' families lack computers.

To bring high school students from the 36th District to Richmond to learn about government, **Senator Surovell** is setting up The Puller Institute, named after retired **Senator Linda (Toddy) Puller**, whom he succeeded.

While Virginia's population has gone up by a million, funds for public education have dropped dramatically, the state's police budget has not increased, and there are twenty-five vacant judgeships.

Human trafficking is a real problem but there is resistance against new laws while there are existing laws which are not enforced due to lack of funding.

Re-entry services for offenders who have served their sentences are also limited for lack of funds.

When **Joanne Clark** asked, "Why did you want this job?" **Senator Surovell** simply replied, "I like to solve problems. It's fun."

Since Virginia abolished parole under former **Governor Allen**, incarcerations are longer and this is expensive. A misdemeanor sentence carries a sentence of up to a year. A felony sentence requires a year or more. Court room joke: "It's impossible for a shoplifter to commit a misdemeanor in Bloomingdale's." The current threshold for a felony is theft of \$200, the cost of perhaps one or two items at that store. Our system over criminalizes and over punishes. We need to raise the felony threshold. We also need to clean up old felony convictions, i.e., take collateral consequences off so people returning to society can get various licenses and get jobs. If there is no successful reentry, there is recidivism.

Senator Surovell is promoting Yellow Line bus/rapid transit for Route 1 since public transit, supported by the federal government, is cheaper than sprawl and widening highways. Approximately 80,000 cars are in and out of Fort Belvoir in a day. Studies for the Route 1 corridor propose parcels of multistory condos located over ground level stores. Maintenance of affordable housing is one of the most difficult problems to solve.



*CATHY KREBS
HOSPITALITY CHAIR*

*Senator Scott Surovell
with co-presidents
Mary Ellen Mehler (left)
and Joanna Crane (right)*

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT PASSES IN VIRGINIA SENATE!

The **Equal Rights Amendment** cleared the floor of the Virginia Senate for the fifth time in six years. The resolution was put forward by **Senators Scott Surovell** and **Jennifer Wexton**.

Next it goes to the Virginia House of Delegates. The Virginia Senate has repeatedly moved to ratify the **Equal Rights Amendment**. However each of the proposals died in the House.



Act now! Call or email your delegates and tell them you want the ERA ratified!

<http://viriniageneralassembly.gov/house/members/members.php>

CENTENNIAL RALLY FOR EQUAL RIGHTS

Tuesday, February 16, 2016

On the Steps of the State Capitol in Richmond

10 am - 11 am	Rally on the Virginia Capitol Steps
11 am - noon	Vigil and Gathering at the Bell Tower
Noon - 3 pm	Luncheon at the Library of Virginia



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.

If you want to attend the luncheon you'll need to register and pay in advance at this link

<http://www.vanow.org/rally>

THIS MIGHT INTEREST YOU!

AAUW is partnering with **DiversityComm Inc.** to provide all AAUW members and leaders with **FREE** digital issues of the company's five nationally recognized diversity-focused magazines,

[Professional Woman's Magazine](#),

<http://www.bluetoad.com/publication/frame.php?i=272781&p=&pn=&ver=html5&pre=1>

[U.S. Veterans Magazine](#),

http://www.bluetoad.com/publication/?i=280060&pre=1#{%22issue_id%22:280060,%22page%22:0}

[Black EOE Journal](#),

<http://www.bluetoad.com/publication/frame.php?i=276544&p=&pn=&ver=html5&pre=1>

[Diversity in STEAM Magazine](#),

<http://www.bluetoad.com/publication/frame.php?i=261707&p=&pn=&ver=html5&pre=1>

[Hispanic Network Magazine](#).

<http://www.bluetoad.com/publication/frame.php?i=280132&p=&pn=&ver=html5&pre=1>

This is a great opportunity to learn about issues and interests that these audiences care about. To access the free issues, copy and paste the link and enter **username** AAUW and **password** 2015. You may also download the DiversityComm app, available on [iTunes](#), [Google](#), and [Amazon](#).

AAUW OF VIRGINIA CONFERENCE



Online Registration is now open !

Instructions for registering online:

You can access the online registration form by going to the AAUW of Virginia website (<http://aauw-va.aauw.net>) and clicking on **CONFERENCE** (top menu bar). On the conference page you will see "**Register for the 2016 AAUW of Virginia Conference.**" Click on and the form will come up. You also can click on "**Registration Form**" in two places on the home page for the form.

After entering your information on the registration form, click **SUBMIT** at the end of the form. You will be directed to a PayPal page. You can pay with a credit card **or** with a PayPal account, if you have one. Following registration, you will receive an email confirmation from AAUW of Virginia as well as a receipt for the charge from PayPal.

Don't Miss the AAUW of Virginia 2016 Conference

There will not be a state conference in 2017, so take advantage of the 2016 conference.

This is a great opportunity to meet members from other branches and share ideas.

The cost is only \$90 for registration, which includes lunch on Saturday. **This is the lowest cost for a week-end conference in years.**

Each branch that attends will receive \$50 that can be used to help defray their members' conference costs.

Don't forget that the **Hyatt Regency** bargain hotel room

rate of \$99 includes 2 full buffet breakfasts. Rooms can also sleep three if you really want to save money because there is a sofa bed in each room. The third person would have to purchase breakfast but still it is a bargain for a luxury hotel.

Remember to book your hotel room at <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/aauw2016>.

Rooms are going fast, don't be left out!

Watch for your Spring Vision which will appear in your email boxes around mid-February for all the details.

Susan Conklin
VP for Communications
sconklin00@aol.com

AAUW ACTION NETWORK

Title IX Coordinators Delivery Project Conference Call

Hundreds of AAUW members have pledged to deliver new resources from the U.S. Department of Education to Title IX coordinators at schools in their area. Join us for an all-member conference call to hear the status of those efforts, including recent success stories and tips for overcoming common challenges from those who have already taken action.



Date: February 3, 2016
Time: 7:30 p.m. ET
Location: Online
Cost: Free

All AAUW members are invited but space is limited. This call will be recorded and made available at a later date.

Register here: <http://www.aauw.org/event/2016/02/title-ix-coordinators/>

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, 7 pm Mt. Vernon Governmental Center 2511 Parkers Lane Alexandria, VA 22306	Container Gardens Speaker: Eileen Powell Master Gardener, Author
Saturday, March 19, 2016, 9 am 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	State Lobby Day, Richmond
February 16, 2016	Centennial Rally, Richmond
March 1, 2016	Virginia Presidential Primary Election Day
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



- **2 Board Meeting, 7 pm**
Joanna Crane's home
703/718-8892
- **15 Book Group, 7:30 pm**
Contact Cheryl Spohnholtz
703/313-7534
- **18 Branch Meeting 7 pm**
Contact Joanna Crane
703/718-8892
- **26 Game Night, 7:30 pm**
Contact Barbara Mann
703/360-3880



FEBRUARY 2016

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