

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

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Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENTS' CORNER

Suddenly November is here! It is the dwindling down, the "evening" time of the year and we are still far from the emergence of a new year with its sense of starting anew. A feeling of lethargy could be looming over our daily routine.

And yet, I find I do have a feeling of change and renewal emerging - even a feeling of new beginnings in various ways. In a matter of days we will know the identity of a new U.S. President and other office holders.

We know changes are coming and we are assured that, as always, these changes will be monitored carefully by our National AAUW staff to assure that the interests of women and girls in American society are protected. We are proud that so



many of our branch members worked in various ways as non-partisan election workers to encourage all eligible voters to vote and to assist with the voting at polling places. Important work.

As a branch, we are finding renewed energy in the exciting new volunteer project we are taking on with the UCM Early Learning Center

So let's enjoy the brisk fall weather and begin looking forward to the long holiday season as we embrace the many changes ahead.

HAPPY NOVEMBER to all.

Mary Ellen Mehler
Co-President

THURSDAY

NOVEMBER 17

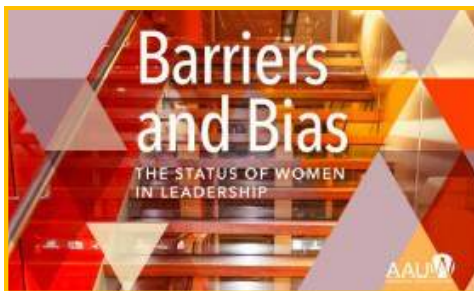
7:00 PM

BRANCH PROGRAM

MT VERNON GOVERNMENTAL CENTER

BRANCH PROGRAM, NOVEMBER 17

WHY ARE WOMEN STILL LAGGING IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS?



Join us on Thursday evening for a video screening and discussion of AAUW's ground breaking report

**Barriers and Bias:
The Status of Women in Leadership**

November 17, 2016, 7:00 pm,
at the Mt. Vernon Governmental Center
2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria VA 22306

The report examines the causes of women's underrepresentation in leadership roles in business, politics, and education and suggests what we can do to change the status quo. Watch **Jennifer Disano** interview **Catherine Hill**, lead author of the report, and **Katie Benson**, AAUW Research Associate, who also worked on the report. The interview aired on "On the go with AAUW", a monthly public access cable TV show focusing on issues of interest to AAUW and AAUW members - education, community, the arts, women's issues, and international affairs.

Join us at 7:00 for refreshments followed by the screening followed by questions and answers, led by Patsy Quick.

Everyone will receive a copy of the research report book!

BRANCH LEADERSHIP 2016 – 2017

Elected Officers

Co-Presidents: Joanna Crane
Mary Ellen Mehler

Program Vice President: Joanne Clark

Membership Vice President: Claudia Creo

Treasurer: Edie Bartlett

Secretary: Shirley Richey

Appointed Chairs

Bylaws: **VACANT**

AAUW Funds: Joanne Malkin

Public Policy: Patsy Quick

Newsletter/Website: Bianca Daugherty

**Newsletter/
Directory Distribution:** Cynthia Gindlesperger
Mary Ellen Mehler

Nominating Committee Chair: Lois Passman

Hospitality: Cathy Krebs

Interest Groups

Book Group: Liz Promen

ImpromptEvent: Barbara Mann

Dining Out: Elizabeth Lonoff

Game Night: Bianca Daugherty

MAKE A DIFFERENCE - LEARNING HOW WE CAN HELP

Notes of October 20 Branch meeting by Cathy Krebs

The twenty-five or more branch members who came to the branch meeting at UCM's headquarters on Fordson Road on October 20, were welcomed by UCM Chief Development Officer, **Margaret Ward**, who noted that UCM has been providing a safety net of services since 1969.

Torria Baker, Director of UCM's Early Learning Center, enthusiastically described the positive effects of a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment on early childhood development. Children leaving the program are well equipped to benefit from kindergarten. Graduates have come back to read to the Center's kids.



From left to right:
Margaret Ward, Claudia Creo, AAUW of Mt Vernon Membership VP,
Torria Baker and Alba Montoya with her son Matthew

We enjoyed "Mount Vernon Kids Video" which shows the positive interaction of volunteers, some of them grandmothers, in the ELC's infant through pre-kindergarten services. Our own **Joanne Malkin** and her husband **Bruce** appear in the video!

Someone asked, "Does UCM run a day care center?"

Torria Baker quickly replied, "No. UCM provides an Early Learning Center. We find the "day" can take care of itself."

A young mother, **Alba Montoya**, talked about how grateful she is for the excellent services her three year old son, Matthew, has been receiving at ELC since he was six months old.

The center has room for 90 children. Currently there are 81 spaces filled. Says **Ms. Baker**, "If you need exercise or cardio development, come work with our terrific two's."

If you want to volunteer to help our branch help the ELC, contact **Elaine Kolish** at 703 360-7219.

For more information see the website,

www.ucmearlylearning.org or call **Emily Griffin**, UCM Development Associate at 571/255-8992.



Elizabeth Lonoff (left)
showing a receiving blanket
she knitted for the ELC to
Torria Baker



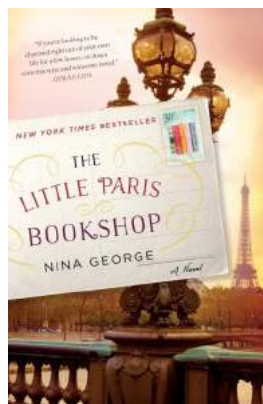
BOOK GROUP

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

DATE: Monday, November 21, 2016, 7:30 PM

HOSTESS: Mary Ellen Mehler
2002 Old Stage Road
703/780-8494

CO-HOST: Joan Howerton



BOOK: The Little Paris Bookshop
by Nina George

REVIEWER: Joanne Clark

NEXT BOOK: H is for Hawk
by Helen Macdonald

GAME NIGHT

Game Night!

Friday, November 25, 2016

7:30 PM

Home of Barbara Mann

Join us for fun and games!

Spouses and significant others are welcome!



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

DINING OUT - NOVEMBER 11

Join Dining Out at a local landmark at 7 pm on Friday, November 11.
An early-November confirmation e-mail will distribute the limited number of seats.

Landini Brothers Restaurant
115 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 , Tel: 703/836-8404

Since opening in 1979, **Landini Brothers** has become an Old Town Alexandria destination for locals and business and vacation travelers to enjoy fresh food prepared in the traditional Tuscan style and exceptional service. **Brother Franco** makes an annual visit to Italy to learn the latest advances in Tuscan cuisine. Trip Advisor ranks Landini Brothers #2 out of 586 restaurants in Alexandria!



Menu: http://landinibrothers.com/download/files/menus/Landini_Brothers_Dinner_Menu.pdf

Reviews: TripAdvisor.com - "Good food, good service, good atmosphere," 09/03/2016
<https://www.yelp.com/biz/landini-brothers-alexandria>

Valet parking is available on Fridays. Wheelchair accessible.

*** Please feel free to invite a spouse or friend. ***

To participate, contact **Elizabeth Lonoff** by November 6 (elonoff@msn.com; Tel: 703/765-2634 recording) so that our reservation can be finalized. *If your plans change, please alert Elizabeth so she can adjust the reservation.*

The Mt. Vernon Branch worked in collaboration with **Mt. Vernon Registrars**, a local group that schedules and sets up voter registration tables in various locations in our community.

ELEVEN branch members participated by giving their time (2-6 hours each) :

Cathy Krebs (4), Shirley Richey (4), Ebba Jo Spettel (6), DeJuana Jones (4), Patsy Quick (4), Elaine Kolish (6), Joanne Clark(4), Mary Ellen Mehler (2), Louise Priest (2), Shannon Dubicki (4), and Edie Bartlett (2).

These members manned voter registration tables (singly or in pairs) in 2-hour increments, on the various dates listed: September 9, 12, 16, 17, 23, 24 and October 3, 5, 8, 14.

In total we registered 21 new voters. In addition we distributed voter absentee information, helped citizens confirm their voter status, answered various voter questions, and encouraged everyone to vote. Many citizens stopped to thank us for asking if they were registered and for doing this job. Most citizens we encountered said they were already registered.

Although our registered numbers were not high, we were honored to work with **Mt. Vernon Registrars**, and to participate in **AAUW's Get Out the Vote** campaign.



THANK YOU, THANK YOU to our branch member participants!!

NORTHERN DISTRICT MEETING, OCTOBER 22

CAROLINE PICKENS, CO-REPRESENTATIVE, NORTHERN DISTRICT

The Northern District meeting was held October 22 with 51 attendees and all branches represented except Greater Manassas. The program was “**Gender Bias in Politics: Is it Real?**” The panel was excellent: **Melissa Richmond**, Vice President of Running Start (which collaborates with AAUW on Elect Her), and **Melissa Jackowski**, formerly AAUW Grass Roots Advocacy manager and now with TargetSmart, which uses data to assist candidates in their campaigns. Both young women are committed to getting more women into politics and have experience in campaigns (both were active in the 2008 campaign, Richmond with Mitt Romney and Jackowski with Joe Biden). They had fascinating insights into gender bias, which often comes from within the woman candidate herself (less confidence in her own skills and self-downplay of her achievements). Encouraging and training young women is crucial. An interesting theory is that when legislatures reach 30% female members, that is the point when the universe for women candidates will

expand quickly: critical mass. Another interesting fact: due to the extensive use of data, you may see a political ad on your TV and your neighbor may see a different one on the same channel—a factor both horrifying and awesome.

Shout-outs for branches were given for new members (12 for Reston-Herndon), filling officer positions (100% for every branch), fundraising (\$50,300 grossed at McLean Area's book sale), three new Honorary Life members [**including Mt. Vernon's Diane Watts**], and special recognition for **Anne Peabody** in the Falls Church Area Branch, who joined AAUW 75 years ago in 1941. **Patsy Quick** and **Sandy Lawrence** presented **Dianne Blais** with her Legacy Circle pin and announced **Marion Stillson** had also recently joined. Eight state board members were present.

Mt. Vernon Branch was represented at the District Meeting by Patsy Quick and Cheryl Spohnholtz.

YOUR VOICE COUNTS

2017 AAUW NATIONAL ELECTION

one member, one vote

It's your AAUW, so your voice counts. It's time to comment on and propose changes to the bylaws and Public Policy Program. The **comment period began October 3 and ends December 5.**

Go to this link at the national website <http://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/>

Or you can go to www.aauw.org and search: *AAUW National Election*

Here you'll find all the information you need to comment on or propose bylaws amendments, Public Policy Program changes, and resolutions. You can also nominate yourself to run for AAUW national office! And check back later for candidate bios which will be posted January 30. Online voting begins April 14, 2017.



Vote!

Make sure to show up at your local polling place **November 8**, and bring a friend or five. While you're there, confirm that everyone is able to practice his or her constitutional right to vote. If you experience a problem or see one at the polls, call the

Election Protection Hotline : 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683).

This number is now in operation for the 2016 election. The toll-free hotline is staffed by thousands of volunteer legal professionals who provide comprehensive support to voters who encounter irregularities or feel they are not being treated fairly at the polls.

BE INFORMED: AAUW IN THE STATEHOUSE

DON'T GET ENOUGH EMAILS FROM AAUW??

An interesting and informative newsletter is now available, monthly!

Get updates on state policy from across the country, tips and resources for more effective advocacy, and insider information from the AAUW Public Policy and Government Relations Department about good and bad bills in the states.



SIGN UP TODAY: <http://www.aauw.org/resource/aauw-in-the-statehouse/>

HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF THE INFO PROVIDED THIS MONTH.

Education

Most states weighed in on education during the 2016 session in some form. On the K–12 side, legislators paid particular attention to accountability, assessments, bullying and harassment, funding, charter schools and voucher systems, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). With regard to vouchers, Arizona, Florida, Indiana, Tennessee, and Wisconsin all enacted bills expanding their voucher school systems, while **Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D-VA) vetoed a voucher bill in Virginia**. To promote STEM education, 12 states instituted new policies. These policies range from counting computer science toward graduation to adopting new computer science standards to creating additional resources and trainings that foster more students' participation. While all of these initiatives are important, AAUW will be watching to make sure more is done to target resources for girls and other underrepresented groups in STEM.

Economic Security

States saw a tidal wave of equal pay bills in 2016. In 2015, approximately 29 states introduced equal pay bills, but that number jumped to 36 this year. Of those 36, six states — California, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, and Utah — succeeded in passing bills. Notably, these are blue, red, and purple states, showing that equal pay is an issue whose time has come. The increasingly fervent conversation about equal pay has also prompted action at the local level, spurring cities to act and prompting employers to voluntarily begin to examine their own practices.



2016 - 2017 MT. VERNON BRANCH PROGRAM YEAR

Meeting Date and Place	Focus/Activity
Thursday, September 15, 2016, 6:00 pm Mt. Vernon Country Club 5111 Old Mill Rd., Alexandria, VA 22309	Kickoff Dinner 60th Anniversary Celebration of the Branch
Thursday, October 20, 2016, 7:00 pm UCM Conference Room 7511 Fordson Rd, Alexandria, VA 22306	UCM Coffee for Children program UCM's educational and recreational programs for children and youth
Thursday, November 17, 2016, 7:00 pm Mt. Vernon Governmental Center 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership AAUW Research Report
Sunday, December 11, 2016, 12:30 pm Mt. Vernon Country Club 5111 Old Mill Rd., Alexandria, VA 22309	Holiday Event Brunch/Lunch
Saturday, January 21, 2017 Time and Location: TBD	Leadership Panel
Sunday, February 26, 2017, 4:00 pm Heritage Presbyterian Church 8503 Fort Hunt Rd, Alexandria, VA 22308	Movie screening: "Harvest of Empire, The History of Latinos in America" Juan Gonzalez (2011)
Saturday, March 18, 2017, 9:00 am Mt. Vernon Country Club 5111 Old Mill Rd., Alexandria, VA 22309	Annual Meeting Breakfast
Friday, April 21, 2017 7 pm Reception - 8 pm Performance Little Theatre of Alexandria 600 Wolfe St, Alexandria, VA 22314	Little Theatre Fundraiser "Fabulous Lipitones"
Saturday, May 20, 2017, 4:00 pm Dinner at 6:00 pm Home of Claudia Creo	Annual Pot Luck Dinner
Saturday, June 10, 2016 9:30 am Home of Edie Bartlett	Annual Planning Session

Other Important Dates to Remember:

November 8, 2016
June 14-17, 2017

Election Day
AAUW National Convention, Washington D.C.

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**
 Home of Mary Ellen Mehler
 703/780-8494
- **17 Branch Program, 7:00 pm**
 Contact Patsy Quick
 703/360-8678
- **21 Book Group, 7:30 pm**
 Contact Mary Ellen Mehler
 703/780-8494
- **28 Game Night, 7:30 pm**
 Contact Barbara Mann
 703/360-3880

NOVEMBER 2016

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