

# Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume **60** Issue 2 October 2016  
Mt. Vernon Branch



## PRESIDENTS' CORNER



As we grow closer to one of our most significant events as American citizens - the national election in November - we can be proud of the way many of our branch members are participating to

inform the public and facilitate the election process for our neighbors.

Eleven of our branch members are volunteering as workers for the nonpartisan **Mount Vernon Registrars** to staff information tables at various community locations. Hats off to **Cathy Krebs, Shirley Richey, Ebba Jo Spettel, DeJuana Jones, Elaine Kolish, Joanne Clark, Louise Priest, Shannon Dubicki, Patsy Quick, Mary Ellen Mehler** and **Joanna Crane** for spending hours of

their free time to make sure that all eligible voters have the information they need on voting procedures, locations, and rules.

These women are keenly aware that it has been less than a century since American women have had the right to vote. It was a very close election in 1920 when a young Congressional Representative from Tennessee, **Harry Burn**, cast the one vote that passed the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Now, just as then, every vote counts.

In keeping with AAUW policy, **Mount Vernon Registrars** are strictly nonpartisan. Their message is not FOR WHOM to vote, it is that **VOTING IS A DUTY AND A PRIVILEGE.**

They want to make sure each eligible voter has the information needed to exercise this duty and privilege. Thank you, ladies, for representing our branch in this way.

*Mary Ellen Mehler*  
Co-President

THURSDAY

OCTOBER  
20

7:00 PM

BRANCH  
PROGRAM

UCM  
COFFEE  
FOR  
CHILDREN

## BRANCH PROGRAM, OCTOBER 20



Join us for

**UCM Coffee for Children**

at the UCM Main Office  
7511 Fordson Rd, Alexandria, VA 22306

**Thursday, October 20, 7:00 PM**



UCM  
CONFERENCE  
ROOM

Meet the UCM Team and learn how UCM provides educational and recreational programs for Mount Vernon kids. During the program we will hear how our branch will be able to support the **Early Learning Center (ELC)** and what impact our support will have.

\*\* Refreshments will be served. \*\*

**We are collecting hardcover children's books for the ELC!**

Please no commercial books such as Dora, Sponge Bob, Sesame Street, Mickey Mouse, etc.

**To learn more about the Early Learning Center,  
see Claudia Creo's article on page 4!**



# BRANCH LEADERSHIP 2016 – 2017

## Elected Officers

<b>Co-Presidents:</b>	Joanna Crane Mary Ellen Mehler
<b>Program Vice President:</b>	Joanne Clark
<b>Membership Vice President:</b>	Claudia Creo
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Edie Bartlett
<b>Secretary:</b>	Shirley Richey

## Appointed Chairs

<b>Bylaws:</b>	<b>VACANT</b>
<b>AAUW Funds:</b>	Joanne Malkin
<b>Public Policy:</b>	Patsy Quick

<b>Newsletter/Website:</b>	Bianca Daugherty
<b>Newsletter/ Directory Distribution:</b>	Cynthia Gindlesperger Mary Ellen Mehler
<b>Nominating Committee Chair:</b>	Lois Passman
<b>Hospitality:</b>	Cathy Krebs

## Interest Groups

<b>Book Group:</b>	Liz Promen
<b>ImpromptEvent:</b>	Barbara Mann
<b>Dining Out:</b>	Elizabeth Lonoff
<b>Game Night:</b>	Bianca Daugherty

# NORTHERN DISTRICT MEETING, OCTOBER 22

## WOMEN IN POLITICS: IS GENDER BIAS REAL?

Saturday, October 22, 2:00 PM

Kings Park Library



All branch members are invited to the annual Northern District meeting.

- A thought-provoking panel featuring **Melissa Richmond**, vice president of **Running Start** (a non-partisan organization that trains young women to run for office and that launched **Elect Her** in collaboration with AAUW), and **Melissa Jackowski**, former AAUW Grassroots Advocacy Manager and now Campaign Services Manager for **TargetSmart Communications** (which provides data-driven solutions to campaigns). Both women have incredible backgrounds in politics and campaigns. Interestingly, both were working on previous presidential campaigns: **Richmond for Mitt Romney** and **Jackowski for Joe Biden**. It's a fitting topic for this election year as well as AAUW's most recent research report, "**Bias and Barriers.**"
- Meet and greet old and new friends from other branches
- Hear what's going on with AAUW of Virginia and the other district branches
- Refreshments, too!

Kings Park Library is located at 9000 Burke Lake Road in Burke, not far from Braddock Road and the Beltway.

*Susan Burk and Caroline Pickens  
Northern District Co-Representatives*

# CARPPOOL?

If you would like to give a ride or need a ride, contact  
Patsy Quick, Tel: 703/360-8678

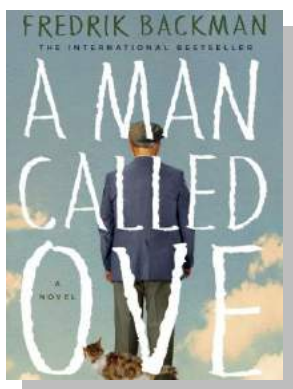
## BOOK GROUP

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

DATE: Monday, October 17, 2016, 7:30 PM

HOSTESS: Louise Meade  
7116 Fort Hunt Rd, #119  
571/312-6688

CO-HOST: Anne Simpson



BOOK: A Man Called OVE  
by Fredrik Backman

REVIEWER: Mary Ellen Mehler

NEXT BOOK: The Little Paris Book Shop  
by Nina George

## GAME NIGHT

### Game Night!

Friday, October 28, 2016

7:30 PM

Home of Bianca Daugherty

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](mailto:biancadaauw@gmail.com))

## DINING OUT

Join Dining Out at a local landmark at 7 pm on Friday, November 11th.  
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](http://landinibrothers.com/download/files/menus/Landini_Brothers_Dinner_Menu.pdf)

Reviews: [TripAdvisor.com](http://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](mailto: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.*

## MT VERNON BRANCH OF AAUW ADOPTS THE EARLY LEARNING CENTER OF UCM

CLAUDIA CREO

The Board and the staff of UCM are extremely grateful and excited that the **AAUW Mt Vernon Branch** has “adopted” the **Early Learning Center**. As many of you know, UCM (United Community Ministries) a secular charitable organization, provides various services for the less fortunate in our community, especially families and children.

For thirty years, UCM has operated the **Early Learning Center** (formerly know as the BEL Center) for children living at or below the poverty level with the overarching goal of breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty. They work to ensure that all early learners enter kindergarten with the requisite knowledge, skills, and resources to succeed both personally and academically.

The students range in age from six weeks to five years and engage in activities that foster their cognitive, linguistic, social-emotional, and physical development. If you are interested, please arrange a visit through the **ELC director Torria Baker**, [torria.baker@ucmagency.org](mailto:torria.baker@ucmagency.org) or [703/765-0909](tel:7037650909) or contact **Claudia Creo**, [claudiacreo@gmail.com](mailto:claudiacreo@gmail.com). The Center is located at 2709 Popkins Lane, Alexandria, Virginia, 22306. **Visiting is an amazing experience.**

As you might imagine, despite the generous contributions that support many of the needed services that UCM provides, there is so much more the **ELC** needs to accomplish these goals.

While the exact definition of “adopting” is not clear, I have included a “wish list” (from least expensive to most expensive) that might provide a starting point to determine what we could do to help.



- \* First and foremost, the ELC needs **classroom volunteers**. Volunteer shifts are from four hours to staying for the full day. The ELC operates from 7:00 AM until 6:00PM.
- \* **Children's Art Materials** (white paper, colored paper, drawing and construction paper, washable school glue, washable paint, chubby markers, chubby pencils, chubby colored pencils, painting smocks etc.)
- \* **Literacy Tools:** (children's books of variety in subject, Infant and Toddler board books, preschool ages 3 to 5 books) Please no commercial books such as Dora, Sponge Bob, Sesame Street, Mickey Mouse, etc..
- \* **Gardening Materials for Children:** (edible and nonpoisonous seeds for planting, small gardening gloves, children's gardening tools).
- \* New cots for Early Preschool, Toddlers and Pre-K.
- \* Infant strollers (5).
- \* Classroom area rugs.
- \* Infant evacuation cribs (4).
- \* Playground equipment and playground pressure washing.

If you are interested in participating and in forming a committee to address these goals, please let us know:

**\*\* Contact: Elaine Kolish, 703/360-7319 \*\***





## CONTRIBUTING TO AAUW FUNDS

JOANNE MALKIN

**Reminder:** Fall is the time we are asked to support **AAUW funds** for **LAF** or the other Funds of AAUW. Anyone who wishes to contribute should bring checks to our October program or mail them to

Joanne Malkin  
8339 Orange Court, Alexandria, VA 22309

Checks should be written to "AAUW- Fund # \_\_\_\_\_" and mention "AAUW Mount Vernon Branch" in the "memo" portion of the check.

Principal funds are the

- Legal Advocacy Fund #3999
- Educational Opportunities Fund #4336
- Leadership Programs Fund #4339
- Public Policy Fund #4337
- the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund #9170
- and the AAUW General Fund #9110

## GUN CONTROL FILM AND PANEL. OCTOBER 27

ELIZABETH LONOFF

### UNDER THE GUN



See a **free** community screening of **UNDER THE GUN** followed by a panel discussion starting at 7 pm in the McLean Community Center theater, 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean.

This event is presented by the Fairfax Area and Falls Church Leagues of Women Voters and the Fairfax County Council of PTAs.

**UNDER THE GUN**, executive produced and narrated by **Katie Couric** and directed by **Stephanie Soechtig**, examines why lawmakers have yet to take meaningful action, despite the increase in gun-related fatalities and the public's outpouring of shock and outrage that comes with them. What is keeping the two sides of this debate - those favoring strengthening our gun laws and those, like the NRA, viewing the Second Amendment as conferring gun ownership rights to individuals - from finding common ground? The film offers a quick history lesson using a timeline that's enriched with news headlines and archive footage, showing how gun violence prevention and legislation have evolved since **Martin Luther King Jr.** and the **Kennedy brothers** were shot. The broader history is blended with the impact of gun violence told through the lens of families impacted by **mass shootings in Newtown, Aurora, Isla Vista, Tucson and Chicago.**

"I've covered mass shootings and gun violence throughout my career, but following the massacre at Sandy Hook, I was confused by the disconnect between public opinion (over 90 percent of Americans supported universal background checks) and public policy," film narrator **Katie Couric** said in a statement. "I hope this film will help people have a better understanding of how we got to this point."

A panel discussion will follow the screening at 9 pm. The panel will include **Matt Bennett**, a founder of "Third Way," a DC based centrist think tank. Matt has worked toward gun violence prevention since the Columbine mass shooting. He served as an advisor to the Sandy Hook families after Newtown and is widely recognized for his expertise on the politics and challenges within the gun debate.

Read an essay of his at [www.brookings.edu/research/essays/2013/sandy-hook-promise-gun-safety](http://www.brookings.edu/research/essays/2013/sandy-hook-promise-gun-safety).

# DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?



## **WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?**

**Prepared by the League of Women Voters®  
of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA)  
(703) 658-9160 [www.lwv-fairfax.org](http://www.lwv-fairfax.org)**

*Printing partially funded by the League of Women Voters Education Fund*

**General and Special Election – Tuesday, November 8, 2016  
Polls open 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

For information on the general election, voter registration, or polling places:  
Fairfax County General Registrar (703) 222-0776 [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections)  
City of Fairfax General Registrar (703) 385-7890 [www.fairfaxva.gov/home](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/home)  
Virginia Department of Elections (800) 552-9745 [www.elections.virginia.gov](http://www.elections.virginia.gov)

Candidates appear in the order they will appear on the ballot as determined at the State Board of Elections by random drawing.

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### **Electors For President and Vice President of the United States**

(Vote for not more than one)

<b>Hillary Clinton (D)</b> Tim Kaine <a href="http://hillaryclinton.com">hillaryclinton.com</a>	<b>Donald J. Trump (R)</b> Michael R. Pence <a href="http://donaldjtrump.com">donaldjtrump.com</a>	<b>Gary Johnson (L)</b> Bill Weld <a href="http://johnsonweld.com">johnsonweld.com</a>	<b>Jill Stein (G)</b> Ajamu Baraka <a href="http://jill2016.com">jill2016.com</a>	<b>Evan McMullin (I)</b> Nathan Johnson <a href="http://evanmcmullin.com">evanmcmullin.com</a>
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### **For the United States House of Representatives**

#### **8th District**

<b>Donald S. Beyer, Jr. (D)</b> <a href="http://friendsofdonbeyer.com">friendsofdonbeyer.com</a>	<b>Charles A. Hernick (R)</b> <a href="http://www.charleshernick.com">www.charleshernick.com</a>	<b>Julio Gracia (I)</b> <a href="http://www.ourcampaigns.com">www.ourcampaigns.com</a>
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#### **10th District**

<b>LuAnn L. Bennett (D)</b> <a href="http://www.luannforcongress.com">www.luannforcongress.com</a>	<b>Barbara Jean Comstock (R)</b> <a href="http://www.barbaracomstockforcongress.com">www.barbaracomstockforcongress.com</a>
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#### **11th District**

**G. E. "Gerry" Connolly (D)**  
[www.gerryconnolly.com](http://www.gerryconnolly.com)

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**Fall 2016 Voters' Guide** - The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) sent questionnaires to all candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives and Herndon Town elections. All candidates queried are those whose names were certified for the General Election ballot. Responses can be found at [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org), at [www.LWV-Fairfax.org](http://www.LWV-Fairfax.org), on [twitter.com/LWVFairfax](https://twitter.com/LWVFairfax), or on our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/lwvfairfax](https://www.facebook.com/lwvfairfax).

#### **NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE?**

To register or update your existing registration online,  
go to [vote.virginia.gov](http://vote.virginia.gov)  
or print an application



Deadline to register or update your registration  
for the November 8 General Election is  
Monday, October 17, 2016

**The League of Women Voters of Fairfax publishes 'What's on the Ballot?'**

For more info visit <http://www.lwv-fairfax.org/Ballot2016.html>

# 2016 - 2017 Mt. VERNON BRANCH PROGRAM YEAR

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

### Other Important Dates to Remember:

October 22, 2016  
November 8, 2016  
June 14-17, 2017

Northern District Meeting  
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



- **4 Board Meeting, 7:00 pm**  
Home of Mary Ellen Mehler  
703/780-8494
- **19 Book Group, 7:30 pm**  
Contact Louise Meade  
571/312-6688
- **20 Branch Program, 7:00 pm**  
Contact Claudia Creo  
703/684-4747
- **28 Game Night, 7:30 pm**  
Contact Bianca Daugherty  
571/332-8371

# OCTOBER 2016

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