

# Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume **60** Issue 4 December 2016  
Mt. Vernon Branch



## PRESIDENTS' CORNER

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.  
- John F. Kennedy

There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.  
- Albert Einstein

We learned about gratitude and humility - that so many people had a hand in our success, from the teachers who inspired us to the janitors who kept our school clean ... and we were taught to value everyone's contribution and treat everyone with respect.  
- Michelle Obama

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With the holiday season upon us, it is fitting that we will hear many calls for an attitude of gratitude. There is great wisdom in cultivating a sense of gratitude, as the quotations above demonstrate. Yet as we look back on the tumultuous events of 2016, it may be tempting to react by withdrawing into a bubble that feels comfortable and safe. How can we manifest our gratitude when we are feeling a sense of disquiet? Connecting to community is one way to find the strength and purpose to do more than you can accomplish alone. **You can live your gratitude by stepping out of your comfort zone and getting involved.** So, please think of the AAUW Mount Vernon Branch as an important part of your community. Commit to coming to our program meetings, doing activities, and participating in the causes our branch supports -- including the UCM Early Learning Center, the Friends of Guest House, Voter Registration, and the AAUW Funds. **Being involved in our branch's community will lift your spirits and allow you to express your gratitude in a supported and positive environment.** Our annual Holiday Brunch on Sunday, December 11th, is our next opportunity to gather and share our lives. Please join in the fun!

*Joanna Crane*  
Co-President

**SUNDAY**

**DECEMBER  
11**

**HOLIDAY  
LUNCHEON**

**NOON TO 2 PM**

**MT. VERNON  
COUNTRY  
CLUB**

## ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON, DECEMBER 11



# Oh Come All Ye Members!

It's already that time of year again:  
AAUW Mt. Vernon Annual Holiday Luncheon  
at the Mt. Vernon Country Club from 12 to 2 pm.  
5111 Old Mill Road, Alexandria, VA 22309

We will enjoy a buffet meal that will include both chicken and salmon, with veggies, breads, dessert and more. We are really looking forward to seeing you all. This event will be a great way to welcome the new members that have joined over the past few months. Cost is \$38 including tax and gratuity.

**Please send in filled out reservation form on page 3 by December 7!**

# 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



### **REMEMBERING JOAN**

The Mount Vernon Branch lost a beloved member, **Joan Reichard** on November 4, 2016. Joan is survived by her son, David; son-in-law, Scott Ramoth; and granddaughter, Lily Ramoth. Many in the Mount Vernon area will remember Joan for her 20-year career as Director of Hospital Volunteers at the Mount Vernon Hospital. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery.

At the request of the family, the branch will direct our customary memorial donation to the Desmond Tumor Research Foundation in Joan's name.

## Combining fun and fundraising: Branch Members attend Capitol Steps Benefit for UCM



Event sponsor and AAUW Mount Vernon Branch member **Elaine Kolish** with **Suzanne Parrish** and AAUW of Virginia Co-President **Patsy Quick**



These members attended Capitol Steps on Nov 13, 2016

# RESERVATION FORM HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Clip and  
mail !

Please RSVP no later than December 7<sup>th</sup>

I, \_\_\_\_\_, plan to come to the Holiday Luncheon  
at the Mt. Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road, on December 11 from 12 -to 2 pm.

I will be bringing a guest \_\_\_\_\_

Cost for Luncheon Buffet including tax and gratuity is \$38 per person.



*Salad Bar with two Dressings, Fresh Rolls  
Whipped Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables  
MVCC Chicken with Sundried Tomato & Mushroom Stuffing  
Blackened Salmon with Tomato Relish  
Pumpkin & Pecan Pie with Vanilla Ice Cream and Whipped Cream*

--- Cash Bar ---

Mail registration together with check made out to AAUW Mt Vernon to  
**Edie Bartlett - 3204 Battersea Lane - Alexandria, VA 22309**

## Holiday Donations for the UCM Early Learning Center

The AAUW Mount Vernon Branch has adopted the UCM's Early Learning Center. We will collect items at our Holiday Luncheon to donate to the Center. Here are some items on the ELC's Wish List:

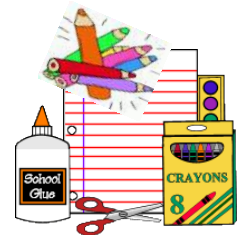


\* Children's Books

Children's books on a variety of subjects, Infant and Toddler board books, preschool ages 3 to 5 books. (Please no commercially-branded books such as Dora, SpongeBob Square Pants, Sesame Street, Mickey Mouse, Winnie the Pooh, etc.)

\* Children's Art Supplies

White paper, colored paper, drawing and construction paper, washable school glue, washable paint, chubby markers, chubby pencils, chubby colored pencils, painting smocks etc.



\* Classroom Area Rugs

Please bring your items to donate to the Holiday Luncheon on December 11.  
Wrapping the gifts is not necessary. Cheers!!!

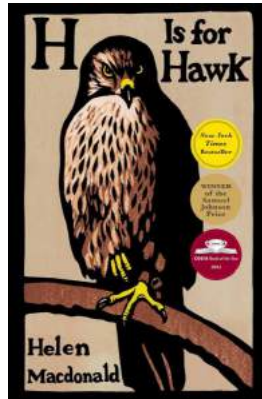
## BOOK GROUP

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

DATE: Monday, December 19, 2016, 7:30 PM

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

CO-HOST: Cheryl Spohnholtz



BOOK: H is for Hawk  
by Helen Macdonald

REVIEWER: Elaine Kolish

NEXT BOOK: Catcher in the Rye

## GAME NIGHT



**NO GAME NIGHT IN DECEMBER!**

- Next Game Night will be January 27, 2017 -

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



Game Night members surprised AAUW of Virginia Co-President and fellow gamer **Patsy Quick** with a birthday cake at the November game night.

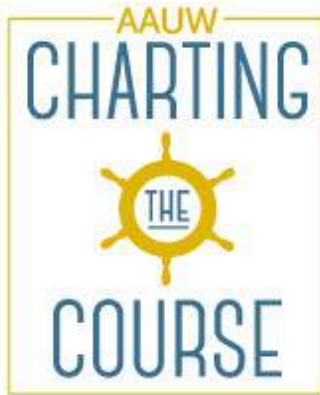
### *Support for United Community Ministries*

AAUW Mount Vernon Branch is again supporting the **UCM food pantry**.

Please consider bringing a bag with non-perishable food items to our holiday luncheon on Sunday, December 11, 2016







AAUW's two-year Charting the Course campaign aims to raise \$1 million in unrestricted funds to ensure that AAUW is well prepared to meet the issues facing us today and into the future. These unrestricted funds will be used wherever the need is greatest, empowering women in our communities, schools, workplaces, and positions of leadership. The campaign began in January 2015 and will end December 31, 2016.

In the past, AAUW's national membership dues covered the costs of managing and running mission-based programs, but this hasn't been the case for quite some time. We've kept national membership dues steady, but program costs have risen. **National membership dues cover just 30 percent of the funds needed to support the mission-based programs and advocacy efforts that are fundamental to AAUW's ongoing effectiveness.**

You may learn more at the link below and also donate there. Or, you can also send a check marked *Charting the Course* to AAUW, 1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005. By putting "Mt. Vernon" on the check, the branch will also get credit. I sent my check last month. I hope you will do the same.

**More than ever we need to monetarily support the organization that advocates for women and girls: AAUW.**

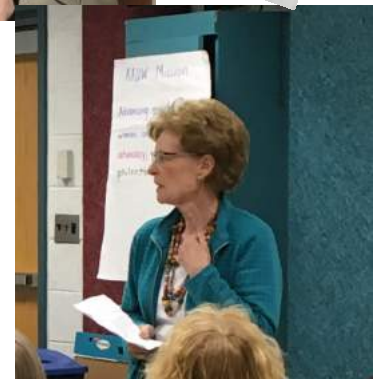
<http://www.aauw.org/chartingthecourse/>

**AAUW is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.  
Donations to this fund are tax deductible  
for Federal income tax purposes.**



Co-President **Mary Ellen Mehler** opened the branch meeting on November 17 with a brief business meeting.

Despite technical difficulties with the audio system **Patsy Quick** delivered an informative and entertaining presentation on the AAUW report "*Barriers and Bias, The Status of Women in Leadership*".



## FROM AAUW NATIONAL

**“It is now, after an election, that the real work begins,”**

(November 9 Press release from AAUW, in part.)



WASHINGTON DC—Voters made history November 8 by electing political outsider Donald J. Trump to the White House. The American Association of University Women (AAUW) intends to approach our work with both the new administration and Congress with our mission in mind. After this hyperpartisan election year, AAUW’s nonpartisan leadership and research-based advocacy is needed now more than ever.

“It is now, after an election, that the real work begins,” said **Lisa Maatz**, the vice president of government relations and advocacy. “AAUW will find common ground with the Trump administration and the new Congress on issues that are important to women and

working families. Women want progress on issues that affect them, and AAUW intends to be a fair critic and a valued ally. **Most importantly, in true AAUW fashion, we will not hesitate to speak truth to power.”**

Election 2016 touched on many issues that affect women and families at every level: local, state, and federal. We still face congressional gridlock over the Paycheck Fairness Act, resulting in more states taking matters into their own hands to work toward equal pay. Students are still waiting for real action on college affordability and high student debt, and they expect a continued commitment to combating campus sexual assault. Working families are still looking for good jobs with paid family and medical leave and other workplace equity policies. And Americans still don’t have the basic necessity of a full Supreme Court.

“Candidates must now work to deliver on their promises,” stressed **Maatz**. “Women voters expect our newly elected officials to work together on solutions. AAUW believes democracy demands work every day of the year, and hyperpartisan rhetoric only damages the chances for reasonable consensus. Women voters are watching. We’ve laid out our priorities, and we will hold each and every candidate accountable.”



***Mark your calendar for the 2017 AAUW National Convention - June 14–17, 2017.***

***The convention will take place at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Washington, DC.***

***To get the best value rate register by January 15, 2017! <http://convention.aauw.org/register/>***

# 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>Mt. Vernon Governmental Center</b> 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	<b>Barriers and Bias:</b> <b>The Status of Women in Leadership</b> AAUW Research Report
Sunday, December 11, 2016, 12:00 pm <b>Mt. Vernon Country Club</b> 5111 Old Mill Rd., Alexandria, VA 22309	<b>Holiday Event</b> <b>Luncheon</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, 2017 9:30 am <b>Home of Edie Bartlett</b>	<b>Annual Planning Session</b>

### **Other Important Dates to Remember:**

April 1, 2017	AAUW of Virginia Annual Meeting, Charlottesville, VA
June 14-17, 2017	AAUW National Convention, Washington D.C.
July 29, 2017	2017 Summer Leaders Meeting, Salem, VA

## AAUW Mt.Vernon

Cynthia Gindlesperger  
915 Neal Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22308

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

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

## First Class



- **6 Board Meeting, 7:00 pm**  
Home of Mary Ellen Mehler  
703/780-8494
- **11 Holiday Luncheon**  
Contact Joanne Clark  
703/768-8996
- **19 Book Group, 7:30 pm**  
Contact Patsy Quick  
703/360-8678

# DECEMBER 2016

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