

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume **60** Issue 6 February 2017
Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENTS' CORNER

***Be Proud of what AAUW Accomplished in 2016,
Do More in 2017!***

According to a post on the national AAUW website, "Look What AAUW Action Network Accomplished in 2016!," last year was a terrific year for AAUW's advocacy efforts. The list below, taken from the article, shows just some of what AAUW accomplished last year. In 2016:

- * **6** states passed new equal pay laws, with AAUW members playing a key role.
- * **19** AAUW members were elected to state legislatures or state senates.
- * **900+** get-out-the-vote events were organized by members in 46 states.
- * **2,200** signatures were collected on AAUW's petition urging Anheuser-Busch to sign the White House Equal Pay Pledge. Just three months after the pledge was released — on Women's Equality Day — Anheuser-Busch signed the pledge.
- * **200,000+** messages went out to state and federal legislators. AAUW Action Network members in all 50 states made their voices heard. We contacted all 435 U.S. House offices and all 100 U.S. Senate offices throughout the year.

AAUW's nonpartisan voice and advocacy are needed now more than ever. Our branch can be proud of the generous support we provide to AAUW. To ensure that AAUW continues to have numerous successful policy initiatives in the coming year, we increased our branch's 2017 donation to AAUW Funds by 50% over last year's total!

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SUNDAY

FEBRUARY

26

MOVIE
SCREENING

4 PM

HARVEST OF
EMPIRE,
THE HISTORY
OF LATINOS
IN AMERICA

BRANCH PROGRAM MEETING



You do not want to miss this special screening of the award-winning documentary

HARVEST OF EMPIRE

Sunday, February 26, 4:00 PM

Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Rd

At a time of heated and divisive debate over immigration, *Harvest of Empire*, examines the direct connection between the long history of U.S. intervention in Latin America and the immigration crisis we face today.

The film's source is **Juan Gonzalez's** book by the same title. **Gonzalez** takes on an unflinching look at the role that the US economic and military interests played in triggering an unprecedented wave of migration that is transforming our nation's cultural and economic landscape.

******The event is free. Light refreshments will be served. Friends and family are welcome!******

HURRY, HURRY.....DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY

Be an AAUW Leader! Nomination Time is Now!



The following positions will be open for election to the board at the annual meeting in March.

(Co-) President
Program (Co-) Vice President
(Co-) Secretary

All positions can be shared!
Pair up with a friend (or make a new friend).

All current officers are available to mentor and help with the transition.

If you are interested please email **Lois Passman** (LMPassman@msn.com) or call **Lois** (703-781-7626) to take advantage of this amazing opportunity!!!!!!

Interested?

The League of Women Voters and OneVirginia21 are hosting a

Film Screening of "GerryRIGGED" and Redistricting Panel

Thursday, February 23rd, 7:00 pm, Cinema Arts Theater, Fair City Mall, 9650 Main Street, Fairfax

GerryRIGGED: Turning Democracy On Its Head" examines the historical context and consequences of gerrymandering through a multi-partisan lens of Republicans, Democrats, Independents, Libertarians, and the Tea Party. This PBS documentary includes testimonials from strategists, political consultants, and map drawers and interviews with politicians. This documentary aims to help citizens understand that this isn't the way it has to be; that the voters have a right to choose their representatives rather than the representatives choose them." Reserve a seat **here**:

Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/league-of-women-voters-of-the-fairfax-area-8586133136>

One of AAUW of Virginia's state public policy priorities for 2016-2018 is to advocate for legislative districts that are fairly drawn.

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
Dining Out: Elizabeth Lonoff
Game Night: Bianca Daugherty
ImpromptEvent: Barbara Mann

PRESIDENTS' CORNER

(Continued from page 1)



Feeling inspired by what AAUW did in 2016? Then set an intention to involve AAUW in your daily life. Consider becoming a **Two-Minute Activist**, or participating in **Lobby Day**, to advocate for issues affecting women and girls. Or step up and staff AAUW's table for an hour or two at the **Mount Vernon Town Hall Meeting on February 4th**, or become a **Branch Officer**. At a minimum, come to our branch activities, and share your voice when we are planning activities.

Our branch has seen a drop-off in participation by members this year. If this includes you, we would love to hear your reasons for not participating. Perhaps you think that your presence doesn't matter, or that the "usual suspects" will keep the branch chugging along. Please know that the truth is, that **this branch needs you to be involved if we are going to survive and thrive. Do more in 2017!**

Joanna Crane
Co-President

EARLY LEARNING CENTER, NEXT STEPS FOR OUR BRANCH



UCM's **Early Learning Center (ELC)** greatly appreciated the nap rugs, hand knitted blankets, new and gently used books and art supplies the branch contributed at our holiday luncheon. UCM has recognized our contributions by featuring us as a community partner in its [January newsletter](#). Now we as a branch have to decide what's next over the next one-to-two year period.

At the Annual Meeting in March we will discuss options, which include the following:

1. **Read to preschoolers or infants (or just interact with infants).** For preschoolers 9 am -12 pm or 3 - 6 pm are the best times; for infants, any time. Beyond this, the ELC is totally flexible about how much or how often volunteers come. (Note: you have to have a TB test and a criminal background check to work with children).
2. **Put on a breakfast for ELC's teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week in May.** Perhaps give small gifts.
3. **Donate art supplies and books at least once a year** (books, art supplies, etc.), say at our Christmas brunch.
4. **Provide gardening assistance.** We could do a project with kids, or meet on a Saturday and plant kid-safe flowers and vegetables that we donate for the beds outside the main entrance and children's playground garden; pressure wash or pay for pressure washing of the Playground.
5. **Make doll clothing** for the classroom dolls that lack clothes!
6. **Donate opened materials/recyclables: toilet & paper towel rolls, egg cartons, shoe boxes etc.** They use these for art projects. This is something we can implement right away. **Please bring these items to the Annual Meeting in March.**



Elaine Kolish

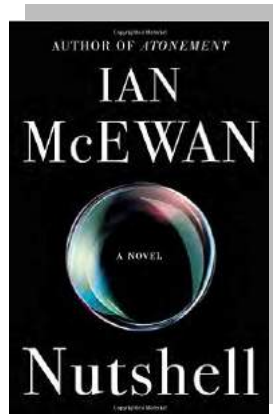
BOOK GROUP

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

DATE: Monday, February 20, 2017, 7:30 PM

HOSTESS: **Barbara Mann**
8716 Falkstone Lane
703/360-3880

CO-HOST: **Liz Promen**



BOOK: Nutshell
by Ian McEwen

REVIEWER: **Patsy Quick**

NEXT BOOK: Under the Wide and Starry Sky
by Nancy Horan

GAME NIGHT

Join us for fun and games!



Friday, February 24, 2017
7:30 pm
Home of Edie Bartlett

Spouses and significant others are welcome!



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

DINING OUT - FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3 - 7 PM

Join Dining Out as we visit the Mosaic District to celebrate Winter Restaurant Week. The special 3-course fixed-price dinner costs \$35 plus beverage, gratuity, and tax, plus any extras you order.



Requin
8296 Glass Alley, Merrifield



Serving food inspired by the Mediterranean coast of France, **Requin** is the first collaboration between **Top Chef** finalists **Jennifer Carroll** and **Mike Isabella**. The seafood-heavy menu is offered with a broad selection of wine and craft cocktails in a warm, comfortable environment. **Requin** opened as a temporary pop-up in December 2015; instead of moving, a second location will open later this year at The Wharf in D.C.'s Southwest Waterfront redevelopment.

Special three-course Restaurant Week menu: <http://requinbymic.com/assets/RW-35-Dinner-3-Course-1.24.17.pdf>

Please feel free to invite a family member or friend. **Requin** is wheelchair accessible. Free parking is available in the garage across the street.

Seating is limited. If you haven't already RSVP'd and received the Group confirmation or if your plans have changed, please contact **Elizabeth Lonoff** (elonoff@msn.com) ASAP.

WOMEN'S MARCH ON WASHINGTON, JANUARY 21

By now you have read the news and seen the pictures of the Women's March. It is a day that made history by being the largest rally of its kind. The streets of DC were deluged with women, men, and children of all races. From the Mt. Vernon Branch, these women attended: **Elaine Kolish, Joanna Crane, Bianca Daugherty, Paula Lettice, Elizabeth Lonoff, Judy Branting, Claudia Creo, Joanne Clark and Patsy Quick**. Several of us brought friends and family members. We gathered at the Newseum with a large number of AAUW members from across the country to walk together to the area of the march. It was a memorable, exhilarating day. The **HUUUGE** crowd was calm and polite, but energized. The speakers were varied as the crowd and brought cheers from everyone. The crowds made it impossible to follow the planned march route, but following repeated chants of March! March! organizers gave the word and the crowd streamed through several avenues to deliver their message to the White House. It is heartwarming to know that there were 670 other such gatherings around the world in support of American women.

It is a day to be proud of!

Patsy Quick



Our State Co-Presidents
Sandy Lawrence and Patsy Quick



Branch Co-President
Joanna Crane with her niece



Paula Lettice and family



AAUW delegation led by board chair Patricia Fae Ho



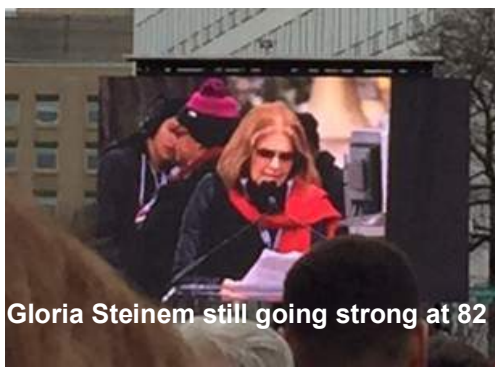
Protest signs at a Metro Station entrance



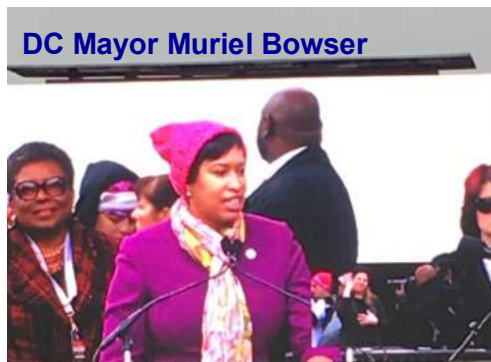
Bianca Daugherty and Patsy Quick



Elaine Kolish (center) and friends



Gloria Steinem still going strong at 82



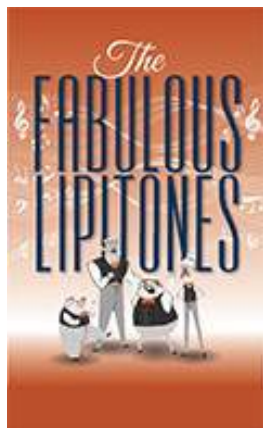
DC Mayor Muriel Bowser



Michael Moore: 'Run for office.'

LTA FUNDRAISER COMING SOON!

Our annual Little Theatre fundraiser is coming up on Friday, April 21, 2017.



This year the show is “**The Fabulous Lipitones.**” It is a hilarious take on what happens when a barbershop quartet must take on an unconventional replacement when one of their members suddenly dies. The replacement is not what they expected! This is a comical and moving story about the power of song, prejudice, and friendship, bringing both laughs and tears, and producing the close harmonies of barbershop quartets.

As usual, each member will receive 2 tickets. These will be distributed at the March Annual Meeting (and mailed to those not in attendance). If you need more tickets (and we hope you do!) please contact **Shirley Richey**. We will have 3 baskets for the raffle, but have no specific themes for them yet. If you have anything to contribute to them, please let **Shirley** know! This year our branch is responsible for sweets and, of course, wine. We will be sending out more information on the evening closer to the date. Meanwhile, we hope you will plan to attend and bring some friends, too!

Shirley Richey

You are invited!

AAUW of Virginia Northern District Leaders Meeting

Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 pm

Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Rd., Burke, VA

[Want to carpool? Contact Patsy Quick \(pnquick@cox.net\)!](mailto:pnquick@cox.net)



Teach-In on Women's Rights by Politics and Prose, a bookstore and coffeehouse.

A review by Elizabeth Lonoff:

The day before the **Women's March on Washington**, Politics and Prose held an overflowing **Teach-In on Women's Rights** in response to customers seeking refuge for honest discourse about American values. The series continue with **climate change, immigration, and the future of political parties. Reading lists will be posted for each topic**

Responses to moderator and audience questions:

- Election reflects lack of social attitudes for character threshold, complacency, and backlash to shifting social values and pressure for white men to share power. Visible sign of barriers people thought were gone. New policies will disproportionately harm/setback women. LGBT data is gone from federal websites. People need to pay attention and show up at town meetings.
- Women's March reflects diversity and interconnected issues. Since women are in the majority, U.S.

feminism needs an inclusive message to move forward through conversations into some way of persuasion, seeking common ground on economic and national security issues.

- Under assault - immediate risk to civil rights through regulatory action, budget cuts, and legislative priorities; long-term erosion of diversity in federal workplace and cuts to safety-net programs; lost opportunities by not taking action or taking inadequate action for equal pay, global economic participation, childcare access, and paid maternity leave .
- Areas for progress - grassroots and young-voter organizing; supporting state and local initiatives; training and helping good local politicians to go further; listening and debating.
- Everyday acts of feminism - if you see something wrong, say something; become politically active; stand up for each other; see where you can contribute the most.

Link for reading list: <http://www.politics-prose.com/learn-talk-act-teach-ins-politics-prose-bookstore>

AAUW OF VIRGINIA IN THE NEWS

Read the column from the **Richmond Times-Dispatch** by AAUW's Vice President for Public Policy **Leslie Tourigny**.

Virginia students won't give back their hard fought Title IX victories

As we begin a new year with a new administration, it's appropriate to reflect on the past success of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and hope that future Title IX enforcement will be as robust.

Since signed into law by President Richard Nixon, Title IX has had the support of both Republican and Democratic administrations. It has enabled a generation of women and girls to realize educational opportunities, especially in athletics, which were previously denied to women. However, the priority we place on schools complying with Title IX today did not happen overnight — it took decades after the law was passed to see real change.

As a member of the **American Association of University Women of Virginia**, an organization that has worked to ensure gender equity in education for more than 135 years, including through the passage of Title IX, I want to thank the **Office for Civil Rights (OCR)**, the enforcement arm of the U.S. Department of Education, for what it has accomplished over the past eight years, and to share why students will always need an energetic and fully-funded OCR.

For decades, students struggled to get OCR to enforce long-standing statutes, regulations, and Supreme Court case law concerning sex discrimination in education — including how schools handle cases of sexual harassment and violence. Time and time again, students — especially women, girls, and LGBTQ students — had to go to court when they faced sex discrimination in education. Although Title IX was law, there was little appetite to expand the resources necessary to make the law meaningful. Some think that the responsibility schools have to address sexual harassment and violence is “new,” when in fact a 1992 Supreme Court unanimously ruled that students who are subjected to sexual harassment in public schools may sue for monetary damages under Title IX. Others think the 2011 OCR guidance on sexual violence and Title IX was “new”

when in fact both **Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush** issued similar guidance on sexual harassment. So what is “new”? Public awareness, increased technical assistance for schools, and enforcement.

Since 2009, we've seen OCR respond to a student movement that demands Title IX enforcement beyond athletics. OCR heard the demands from students to better address sexual violence and hostile climates and helped with school Title IX compliance. When students were severely harassed in school, some to the point of committing suicide, OCR intervened. When schools asked for help in finding ways to accommodate pregnant and parenting students as well as ensuring equal access to career and technical (CTE) programs, OCR provided guidance. Title IX coordinators finally received a detailed description of their responsibilities thanks to OCR. All of these successes occurred, despite limited staffing levels, and an ever-increasing caseload. **In fact, in FY 2016, OCR resolved 1,346 Title IX complaints — that's 1.5 cases per hour!**

OCR recently released a report that documents its work over the past eight years. It shows what students and advocates already know — under Assistant Secretary **Catherine Lhamon's** leadership, OCR's work led to better outcomes and safer climates for countless students nationwide.

OCR plays a critical role every day in assisting schools to better implement Title IX and deal with violations of students' civil rights, which can seriously threaten a student's access to an education. Let's remember a robust OCR is vital to ensure schools and colleges have the assistance they need to proactively implement and comply with Title IX. Their success shows we must remain vigilant and that students and advocates will continue to need a strong ally in OCR.



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, 12:00 pm Mt. Vernon Country Club 5111 Old Mill Rd., Alexandria, VA 22309	Holiday Event Luncheon
Saturday, January 21, 2017 Time and Location: TBD	postponed! 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, 2017 9:30 am Home of Edie Bartlett	Annual Planning Session

Other Important Dates to Remember:

February 1, 2017	State AAUW Lobby Day
February 25, 2017	AAUW of Virginia, District Leaders Meeting
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



- **3 Dining Out, 7:00 pm**
Contact Elizabeth Lonoff
elonoff@msn.com
- **7 Board Meeting, 7:00 pm**
Home of Mary Ellen Mehler
703/780-8494
- **20 Book Group, 7:30 pm**
Contact Barbara Mann
703/360-3880
- **24 Game Night, 7:30 pm**
Contact Shirley Richey
703/780-0834

FEBRUARY 2017

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