

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



With the new year, I always feel a (maybe irrational) sense of new beginnings. Yes, it is the same life, the same challenges, the same hopes, the same issues to be dealt with. Still, it is a time to make new resolutions to better deal with it all.

Our AAUW organization has been dealing successfully with the same issues since AAUW's inception and their advocacy continues as we go into the new year.

I was greatly inspired by a recent post by AAUW Communications Intern **Hannah Golden** entitled **AAUW**

Today: A Century of Women's Rights through the Eyes of a Centenarian. The post tells of an interview with 105-year-old AAUW member **Martha Ann Miller**.

Martha Ann tells of her pride in seeing a woman on the presidential ballot 96 years after she saw women gain the right to vote when **Martha Ann** was a little girl. She joined an AAUW branch in Virginia in 1944 and she has been a witness to many crucial milestones in women's equality during the last century, as **Hanna Golden** describes the interview. One of these touchstone events includes the Fight for Fair Pay, which she describes as still a work in progress.

She is particularly concerned with the development of more women as leaders in politics. AAUW has a long history of supporting women in politics. **Martha Ann** herself has held numerous branch and state AAUW offices and responsibilities. **Hanna Golden** points out that even in the 1930s, AAUW published lists of women fit for public office.

Martha Ann was proud to be included in the roundtable discussion with **U.S. Treasurer Rosie Rios** regarding the choice of the first woman's picture to appear on U.S. currency. The \$20 bill, on which **Harriet Tubman** will appear, is slated for unveiling in 2020.

And so, we can be assured that AAUW—personified by such stalwart leaders and members as **Martha Ann Miller**, will continue to lead us forward as we grapple with some of the same issues from 100 years ago and some new issues as they arise.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Mary Ellen Mehler
Co-President

SATURDAY

JANUARY
21

WOMEN'S

MARCH

ON

WASHINGTON



INFORMATION
ON PAGE 3!

JANUARY BRANCH MEETING POSTPONED!

PLEASE NOTE:

Our January branch meeting on leadership, which was scheduled for January 21, has been cancelled and will be rescheduled for a later date.



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

WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY! BE A BRANCH LEADER

The Nomination Committee and the Mount Vernon Branch are seeking the next Lucky Ladies who want to lead, lead, lead! Actually, with all the potential “co-officer” options, six volunteers would have leadership opportunities:

**Co-President, Program Co-Vice President, and Co-Secretary
for the 2017 – 2019 term**

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

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



2017 AAUW NATIONAL CONVENTION



Register by January 14, 2017 to get the best value pricing!

<http://convention.aauw.org/register/>

Women's March on Washington January 21

AAUW has determined that the principles on which the Women's March on Washington (WMW) is based fit our mission. Here is what the march is all about:

In the spirit of democracy and honoring the champions of human rights, dignity, and justice who have come before us, we join in diversity to show our presence in numbers too great to ignore. The Women's March on Washington will send a bold message to our new administration on their first day in office, and to the world, that women's rights are human rights. We stand together, recognizing that defending the most marginalized among us is defending all of us.

The Women's March on Washington aims to send a message to all levels of government, including but not limited to the incoming Presidential administration, that we stand together in solidarity and we expect elected leaders to act to protect the rights of women, their families and their communities.

- The location of the rally has been approved by an inter-agency task force. People from across the nation will gather at the intersection of **Independence Ave and Third St SW, near the U.S. Capitol, at 10:00 am on January 21, 2017.**
- The WMW has a team of experienced and professional national organizers working to ensure that every safety protocol is followed. They will release specific details on how to stay safe as we draw closer to the date.
- If you don't plan to attend, but wish to donate, click here: <https://www.womensmarch.com/>

AAUW sent an email asking those who are interested in attending to fill out a brief survey. Members who did that will continue to receive AAUW updates. The latest email said: *We will provide information about scheduled events, tips for your attendance, and opportunities to receive AAUW materials shortly.*

If you wish to participate with AAUW during the march, click here to take the survey: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfR-M4h_xsx-Udi4rbTxLxvmy-OXQU4t568aHP4Cd4D3GEwug/viewform

Then, if you wish to join a group from the Northern District of AAUW, contact Patsy Quick, Mt. Vernon Branch Public Policy Chair, pnquick@cox.net



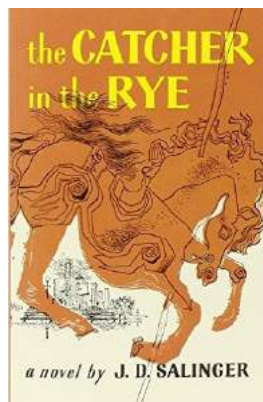
BOOK GROUP

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

DATE: Monday, January 16, 2017, 7:30 PM

HOSTESS: **Ebba Jo Spettal**
3003 Cunningham Drive
703/780-0841

CO-HOST: **Joanne Clark**



BOOK: Catcher in the Rye
by JD Salinger

REVIEWER: **DeJuana Jones**

NEXT BOOK: Nutshell
by Ian McEwen

GAME NIGHT

We are back on - first Game Night in the New Year!



Friday, January 27, 2017

7:30 pm

Home of Patsy Quick

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

SAVE THE DATE!

Join Dining Out for a planned warm winter gathering during DC Restaurant Week on Friday, February 3rd.

The special 3-course fixed-price dinner costs \$35 plus beverage, 20% gratuity, and tax, plus any extras you order.

Seating is limited. Participants will receive a confirmation email once the reservation is made.

Please contact **Elizabeth Lonoff** (elonoff@msn.com) for further info.



HAPPY FACES AT THE DECEMBER HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



Diane Watts was honored for her 50 years as a member of the AAUW Mt Vernon Branch.



Claudia Creo and Elaine Kolish have something to smile about. Branch members followed the call and brought books, and various art supplies to donate to the Early Learning Center.

HOLIDAY DONATIONS DELIGHT ELC YOUNGSTERS

After collecting a lovely spread of donated books, art supplies, area rugs, and afghans at the Holiday Brunch Meeting on December 11, AAUW Mt. Vernon Branch's **Co-Presidents, Mary Ellen Mehler and Joanna Crane**, delivered the donations to the **UCM's Early Learning Center** on December 14th. At the Branch's October Program Meeting, they learned that the ELC makes it possible for the young mothers whose small children go there to complete their educations and enter the workforce, while providing their children with an enriching educational environment. Because the ELC provides outcomes that fit nicely with AAUW's mission to advance fairness and equality for women and girls through education and philanthropy, the Branch is exploring additional ways to provide active and meaningful support to the ELC.

Torria Baker, Director of the ELC, thanked the Branch, saying, "On behalf of all of us at the UCM Early Learning Center, we are grateful to be a focus charity of the Mount Vernon Branch of the American Association of University Women. Thank you so much for the very thoughtful gifts of the new picture books, art supplies, area rugs, and handmade afghans for our students. Exploring and creating with art materials is an important part of The Creative Curriculum (R) that we use in all our classrooms. Young children who engage in expressive art activities gain a sense of accomplishment and grow in their autonomy, a critical part of their social and emotional development. And we certainly appreciate all the beautiful picture books. Our children always love books. Books are interactive and

demand that children think. They help develop and nourish children's imaginations, expanding their worlds and inspiring creativity."

Director Baker expressed her hope that many of the Branch members would come visit the Center soon, to take a tour, meet the students and teachers, and maybe even read a book or two with them. Branch members who want to participate in the philanthropic activities for the ELC should watch for emails and notices in the Branch Newsletter on next steps, or contact **Elaine Kolish**, who is coordinating these efforts.

Joanna Crane
Co-President



*So excited to read the new books!
Stop by for a visit!!!*



*Co-Presidents **Mary Ellen Mehler** and **Joanna Crane** with Director of ELC, **Torria Baker***

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER



Paula Lettice is an experienced senior manager with a career in the public and non-profit sectors.

She earned her B.A. at Trinity College (Washington, DC), and her M.P.A. at George Washington University. After nearly 30 years in the Executive Branch of the US Government she went on to become the Executive Director of the Entomological Society of America, a member-based organization for those with professional and academic knowledge and interest in insects. Later, she served as the Chief Financial Officer for the Architect of the Capitol.

Since then, she has formed two small businesses: Gal Friday Associates, which offers personal and residential organizing and small event planning, and her eBay store offering over 1,000 items ranging from designer cashmere and purses to vintage table.

Paula has been very active in various non-profit organizations for many years as well. She currently serves on the board of The Campagna Center in Alexandria and two committees of other non-profits.

Paula resides in Alexandria, Virginia near George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. She has two grown sons and four grandchildren.

INVITATION TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROCLAMATION

Fairfax County Human Trafficking Awareness Month Proclamation January 24, 2017

The Fairfax County Commission for Women cordially invites you to attend the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors' proclamation ceremony in recognition of Human Trafficking Awareness Month on Tuesday, January 24, 2017.

Please join the Commission for Women for a reception at 8:30-9:30 a.m. in conference room 8 at the Fairfax County Government Center. The Board of Supervisors' meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Board Auditorium.

The Human Trafficking Awareness Month proclamation recipient will be Poe Middle School science teacher Jessica Ittayem, anti-trafficking organizer and educator.

Please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/maps/county/government-center.htm for directions to the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax VA.



Please contact Michelle Mueller to request reasonable accommodation at: michelle.mueller@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-9498 or 703-324-5706 (TTY).





Wednesday, February 1, 2017, is our annual State Lobby Day.

This is a great event! Every year more and more members attend. We hope the same for this year.

Leslie Tourigny, State Public Policy VP, is firming up the agenda and will let us know when all the pieces fall into place. However, you should expect that the day's agenda will begin early (8:30 am or earlier) and should wrap up after lunch. As in the past, those who are interested can join the League of Women Voters (and perhaps other groups) at lunch. Details to follow.

IF YOU WANT TO SPEND THE NIGHT

Once again, members from the **AAUW Greater Richmond Branch** will graciously be opening their homes to host any of our members who arrive on January 31, 2017. If you want to spend the night, space is available. If you spend the night, you can also figure that there will be a home cooked dinner!

RSVP FOR LODGING AND DINNER IN RICHMOND

Please let Kathy Kelley, Greater Richmond Branch Public Policy Chair, know no later than January 15, 2017, the names and email addresses of any members who would like to spend the night of January 31, 2017, in Richmond and those who will also attend the dinner. Kathy's email address is kkelley002@mail.com. Please copy Leslie (ltourigny@gmail.com) on your email to Kathy.

Please email Leslie if you will be attending State Lobby Day no later than January 18, 2017, along with an indication of those who will be going to lunch with the group.

Patsy Quick pnquick@cox.net will be attending, so if you want to carpool, let her know!

The Virginia General Assembly will meet in Regular Session in Richmond from January 11-February 27, 2017. You'll be able to find out lots of useful information about the lawmakers and proposed legislation at the following websites: <http://viriniageneralassembly.gov> and <http://lis.virginia.gov>.



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:

January 21, 2017	Women's March on Washington
February 1, 2017	State AAUW Lobby Day
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



- **10 Board Meeting, 7:00 pm**
Home of Mary Ellen Mehler
703/780-8494
- **16 Book Group, 7:30 pm**
Contact Ebba Jo Spettal
703/780-0841
- **27 Game Night, 7:30 pm**
Contact Patsy Quick
703/360-8678

JANUARY 2017

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