

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume **60** Issue 7 March 2017
Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENTS' CORNER

AAUW and *Top Secret Rosies*

I recently saw the fascinating movie *Hidden Figures* based on Margot Lee Shetterly's book about three women mathematicians who possessed some of the brightest minds of their generation and who played a vital role in America's success in the space race. As African American women, Dorothy Vaughn, Mary Jackson, and Katherine Johnson battled the racism of Virginia's Jim Crow laws as well as sexism as they worked at the Langley Memorial Aeronautical Labs in Hampton, Virginia.

The movie led me to think of AAUW's constant support of women in their struggle for equality in the workplace. Curiosity led me to read again the story that I vaguely remember about all the women mathematicians - then called "computers" - who worked at the University of Pennsylvania from 1942 to 1946 using pencils, slide rules, and adding machines to calculate ballistics tables for missiles being used by allied forces overseas. This time frame was prior to the time depicted in *Hidden Figures*, when NASA

was beginning the transition to computer use and Fortran programming.

So what does this have to do with AAUW? It was a recipient of an AAUW Community Action Grant, LeAnn Erickson, who told the stories of these women pioneers in her documentary film, *Top-Secret Rosies: The Female Computers of WW II*. Her Community Action Grant was sponsored by six AAUW Project Grants from Pennsylvania including the Allentown, Lancaster, Levin/Makefield, Philadelphia, State College, and Valley Forge branches. LeAnn Erickson's film is now being used in middle school, high school, and college classrooms and is well known in educational circles to promote STEM projects. (available on Amazon)

Funds raised by AAUW members go to support many wonderful programs and worthy causes. Surely we can be very proud of the AAUW grants that produced *Top Secret Rosies*.

Mary Ellen Mehler
Co-President

SATURDAY

MARCH
18

9 AM

ANNUAL
MEETING
AND
PANEL
DISCUSSION

MT VERNON
COUNTRY
CLUB

\$ 25

BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING AND PANEL DISCUSSION



IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN.
CROCUSES AND DAFFODILS ARE POKING UP AND
THE MT. VERNON BRANCH IS HOLDING IT'S ANNUAL MEETING!

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2017 – 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Join us at the Mt. Vernon Country Club for breakfast, a panel discussion on women leadership in advocacy, and our business meeting.

We will begin at 9 am for socializing over Mimosas, Bloody Marys or coffee, followed by a delicious **breakfast buffet** at 9:15, a **panel discussion** at 9:45 (see article on next page), and our **business meeting** at 11:45. We will be finished by 12:30.

Spring is the time for new beginnings. We have a couple of new members we will introduce at the meeting. Be there to welcome them to our branch. See you all there!

WOMEN'S ADVOCACY PANEL AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Are you frustrated by the news? Do you want to make your voice heard?

**Then join us at our annual meeting on Saturday 18 March
for an exciting panel on Women's Advocacy!**

We have three outstanding women joining us:

- ◆ Fairfax County Commissioner **Emily McCoy**,
- ◆ the Director of the Women's Business Center, **Juli Monroe**,
- ◆ and our very own AAUW State Public Policy Chair, **Leslie Tourigny**.

We are meeting at the Mount Vernon Country Club and will start the panel at 9:45 AM, following a breakfast buffet from 9:15 - 9:45 AM.

Please invite your friends and neighbors to this enlightening panel.

*** [Learn more about our panelists on page 5.](#) ***



Remember... to bring opened materials/
recyclables for the **Early Learning
Center** to our **Annual Meeting on March 18**.
We are collecting **toilet & paper towel rolls, egg cartons, shoe
boxes** etc. They use these for art projects.



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

RESERVATION FOR ANNUAL MEETING

PLEASE RSVP NO LATER THAN MARCH 15!
Price for buffet breakfast is \$25 per person all inclusive



I, _____, plan to come to the March 18 Annual Meeting and Breakfast at the Mt. Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road.

I plan to bring a guest: _____

My check, made out to Mt. Vernon AAUW, for ____ x \$25 = total \$ _____ is enclosed.

**Mail registration together with check to:
Joanne Clark, 6607 10th Street, Apt A2, Alexandria VA 22307**

Please note that if you make a reservation and find you'll be unable to attend, you must cancel by the due date to avoid being charged for the meal. No refunds after due date!

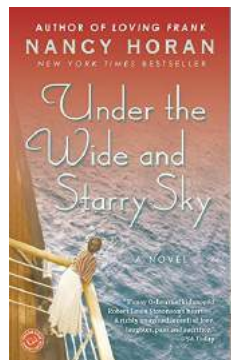
BOOK GROUP

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

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

HOSTESS: Diane Watts
4403 Robertson Boulevard
703/780-1753

CO-HOST: Joanne Malkin



BOOK: Under the Wide and Starry Sky
by Nancy Horan

REVIEWER: Elizabeth Lonoff

NEXT BOOK: The Sparrow
Mary Doria Russell

GAME NIGHT



Join us for fun and games!

Friday, March 24, 2017

7:30 pm

Home of Shirley Richey



Spouses and significant others are welcome!

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



Elections will take place at our Annual Meeting, March 18

These members have agreed to be nominated for the following leadership position in the Mt. Vernon Branch for the two year term of 2017-2019:

- Program Vice President: **Joanna Crane**
- Co-Secretary: **Shirley Richey and Clair Wylie**
and for the first time:
- Co⁴-Presidents: **J E M S Quartet**



Meet the Quartet at the Annual Meeting!

Nominations may also be made from the floor with the consent of the nominee.

BRANCH MEMBERS VISIT THE BELMONT SEWALL HOUSE

On Saturday, January 21, eleven Mt. Vernon Branch members met at the **Belmont Sewall House** on Capitol Hill for a tour of this most historic building, which became the home of the National Women's Party after the Suffrage Movement succeeded in gaining the vote for American women across the country. Our tour guide was a young man, a National Park Service ranger, fairly new to this particular piece of NPS history but an excellent, enjoyable person to tell us the history of the U.S. fight for women's right to vote. He engaged us all with questions, many of which were thought provoking. The elements of the suffragists' struggle that have been preserved bring home how easy it is to take for granted the rights that we have, the shoulders upon which we stand, and how much of the struggle still remains to be fought. I encourage you all to try to visit this National Historic Monument (thanks to President Obama), for some inspiration and introduction to quite a bit of information that is not generally in the public arena. Our group had lunch together following the tour.

A good time was had by all and I am currently thinking about our next **Impromptevent**. It's a great way to get to know each other in a venue other than a monthly meeting!

Joanne Clark
Program VP





Emily McCoy is a long time activist for women's rights in Fairfax County and Virginia. She currently serves as the Lee District Commissioner on the Fairfax County Commission for Women; the Board of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association; the Fairfax County Domestic Violence Prevention, Policy and Coordinating Council; and served on the Fairfax County Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee. She works through the Virginia Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW), having served on and chaired its Political Action Committee and as lobbyist and state President. She worked on such issues as the Equal Rights Amendment, child support, divorce law, abortion rights, and the prevention of child abuse, teen pregnancy, and domestic violence, and for equality in the courts and in athletics. Her activism is mentioned in the book *Changing History, Virginia Women Through Four Centuries*.

counsels clients and teaches classes in all aspects of starting and growing a new company. Her approach to life and business revolves around building relationships, both in person and online.



Leslie Tourigny joined AAUW in 2008 as a member of the Virginia Beach branch, where she served as president, president-elect, and as newsletter editor. Since she relocated to Alexandria in 2014, she has maintained dual membership in the Alexandria and Virginia Beach branches. Leslie first served the state board as state Voting and Elections Committee chair in 2013. In November 2013, as the result of vacancies, the state board appointed Leslie to fill the unexpired term of vice president for public policy. In 2014, she was elected to a full term as vice president for public policy and is now seeking reelection for a second two-year term. Leslie currently does consulting work in Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO). She retired from a 32-year career with the federal government as an EEO manager and congressional liaison officer, which also included service as an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow. Since 1995, Leslie has been certified by the Supreme Court of Virginia as a General District Court mediator. Leslie holds a bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Albany (now the University at Albany) in political science and a master's degree in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.



Juli Monroe is the Director of the Women's Business Center, located in Springfield, Virginia and the author of *The Enthusiastic Networker*. Previously, she was an entrepreneur, focused on coaching clients in growing their business through effective networking and word of mouth marketing. Juli continues that work with new business owners from pre start-up to two years in business. She also

Little Theatre Event - "The Fabulous Lipitones"



Our annual fundraiser at the Little Theatre of Alexandria is coming up on April 21! As we said in last month's newsletter, it is our turn to provide sweets and wine this year. We will also be doing 3 raffle "items" – these can be baskets, a dinner out, or some other raffle item. Each should have a value of about \$100. Of course, we will do a wine basket (always sells well!), and whatever else is donated. If you have any ideas, please contact **Shirley Richey** or, if you wish, bring items to the March annual meeting. We can then determine a theme from what we have available. Tickets are \$35 each and will be distributed at the meeting, as well.

Please keep this in mind! THANKS!

Shirley Richey

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors issued a Proclamation on January 24, 2017 in recognition of Human Trafficking Awareness Month.

Ms. Jessica Ittayem, a science teacher at Poe Middle School in Annandale, received the proclamation. **Ms. Ittayem** set up a club at Poe MS to raise awareness about the dangers of human trafficking. She started with 10 girls but the club now has 25 members including boys. The Club's goal is to educate Poe students about human trafficking. **Ms. Ittayem** said that some female students had contacted her privately to tell her that they were offered money for sex.

The Proclamation was introduced by **Supervisor Herrity** and seconded by **Supervisors Cook and Gross**. Speakers emphasized that child exploitation has not been talked about enough and commended the "Just Ask" program in schools. **Braddock Supervisor Cook** noted that Northern Virginia is a "hub" for HT and he would be looking into creating a position to address this and sexual assault, but noted that it would be difficult as there is "no money lying around." **Mason District Supervisor Gross** tied the proclamation back to the Women's March and commended the momentum as a result of the march.

Susan Burk, Springfield-Annandale Branch, and **Dianne Blais**, Fairfax City and Springfield-Annandale Branches attended the event.

Patsy Quick



Early Birds at the Annual Town Hall Meeting!

On February 4, several branch members reported for duty very early in the morning to set up our table at **Supervisor Dan Stork's annual Town Hall Meeting** at Mt. Vernon High School. Members manning the table were able to chat with attendees about AAUW's mission and activities, answer questions, and give out our promotional literature. A number of the visitors signed up to receive more information. Some indicated that they were interested in joining AAUW.

Mary Ellen Mehler



2017 AAUW NATIONAL CONVENTION



Don't miss out!
Early Bird Registration until March 31!

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

AAUW OF VIRGINIA LOBBY DAY, FEBRUARY 1

From Leslie Tourigny: AAUW of Virginia rocks!! Twenty-five participants (including a family member) from nine branches invaded Richmond on February 1 to make our voices heard to our lawmakers—and to listen to what they had to tell us. Thanks to everyone for making the trip and for bringing along boundless intelligence, commitment, and passion.

From Patsy Quick: What a busy day it was! We first met with **Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam** for about 30 minutes. **Leslie Tourigny**, State Public Policy VP spoke about Pay Equity, Human Trafficking, and Redistricting. The Lt. Gov. stated that redistricting should be a top priority.



Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam with AAUW of VA delegation

Next we moved on to speak with **Senator Adam Ebbin** (Northern Virginia), whose bill on training the police to recognize human trafficking failed to get out of committee.



Some delegation members waiting in Senator Adam Ebbin's office.

A visit with **Speaker William Howell** was pleasant. He gave us names of Representatives who might be willing to sponsor a human trafficking bill which would provide assistance to victims. Later, from the floor of the House, he commented on how many of AAUW of

Virginia members had gathered in his office that morning.



AAUW VA Delegation with Speaker William Howell

During the day we spoke with the aide of newly elected **Senator Jennifer McClellan**, who received 89.78% of the vote in her election in the Richmond Area. Many of us visited the representatives from our own districts. **Patsy** visited **Delegate Dave Albo** and left info with his aide.



Some of the VA delegation with Senator Jennifer McClellan's aide (front, right)

From Leslie Tourigny: Both before and after Lobby Day I've heard suggestions from some members about expanding our public policy efforts and providing more opportunities for members to become involved. If any of you have any suggestions, please send them to me by **March 1, 2017**. We are also hoping to solicit additional ideas from the upcoming District meetings so we can discuss any suggestions at the next State Board meeting.

AAUW OF VIRGINIA BUSINESS MEETING APRIL 1



AAUW of Virginia Annual Business Meeting
Join Us for Business and Play
April 1, 2017
English Inn Charlottesville, VA

AAUW of Virginia is having an **Annual Business Meeting** (ABM) this spring, instead of a conference, at the **English Inn of Charlottesville, April 1**. The meeting will begin at 10:00 AM and end after lunch. The reason we are keeping the meeting short is to help members save money for the National Convention which is being held in Washington, D.C. in June.

The **Virginia Vision** that was emailed to everyone recently has all the details, including a **Registration Form (deadline March 24)**. After the meeting, members are invited to participate in creating a beautiful glass bowl or other item (see photos in the *Vision*) at **The Glass Palette**. We want to give our minds some fun!

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO ATTEND THIS MEETING?

- ◆ The Keynote speaker, **Dr. Sidney Bland**, will talk about “**Echoes of the Woman Suffrage Past: Parades, Demonstrations, and Memorials, with Eyes Always on the Prize.**” Dr. Bland is on the Board of the TURNING POINT SUFFRAGIST MEMORIAL.
- ◆ This is a great chance to network with AAUW members from around the state.
- ◆ Branches will be recognized and rewarded for their work this year, and Named Honorees will be presented, along with door prizes.
- ◆ Most important reason to attend is to be a part of the unified spirit of AAUW of Virginia and to be nourished by your connection with other like-minded women.

You don't want to miss this opportunity to work and play with AAUW of Virginia!

Patsy Quick and Sandy Lawrence
Co-Presidents, AAUW of Virginia



Link to the Virginia Vision:
http://aauw-va.aauw.net/files/2012/11/Final02_Vision2017-Winter_Spring.compressed.pdf

REGISTRATION FORM Annual Business Meeting April 1, 10:00 AM



Name _____ Branch _____

Address _____

Email _____

Designation: ___ Branch Member ___ Branch Board Member ___ State Board Member ___ Guest

_____ **I will attend the Annual Business Meeting and Box Lunch (\$15.00) \$_____**

(English Inn, 2000 Morton Dr. Charlottesville, VA, 10 AM)

Lunch includes Red Skin Potato Salad, Brownie, Whole Fresh Fruit, Bottled Water

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE:

- ___ Smoked Turkey with Gouda Cheese on Wheat
- ___ Honey Roasted Ham with Swiss Cheese on Rye
- ___ Chicken Salad on Croissant
- ___ Vegetarian Wrap with Artichoke, Roasted Red Peppers, Mozzarella & Greens in a Pesto Tortilla

_____ **I will attend the event at The Glass Palette. (1304 E. Market Street, Charlottesville VA, from approximately 1:45-3:45) <http://theglasspalette.net/>**

My choice of project is checked below. My amount is on the line: \$_____

(At the time of the event, there will be a postage charge added.)

- ___ Small pendant or ornament \$20
- ___ 4" Square window hanging or bowl \$22
- ___ 5" Square window hanging or bowl \$26
- ___ 6" Square window hanging, plate or bowl \$34
- ___ 4" x 8" Rectangle plaque or tray \$36
- ___ 3-dip or Olive Tray (4" x 12") \$48
- ___ 8" Plate or Bowl \$54

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (Make check to AAUW of VA) \$_____

Mail to Patsy Quick, 5508 Old Mill Rd. Alexandria, VA 22309 by March 24, 2017.

NO refunds for cancellations after March 24.

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	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 and Panel Discussion on Women's Advocacy 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:

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



- **7 Board Meeting, 7:00 pm**
Home of Mary Ellen Mehler
703/780-8494
- **18 Annual Meeting, 9:00 am and Discussion Panel**
Contact Joanne Cark or Cheryl Spohnholtz
703/768-8996
703/313-7534
- **20 Book Group, 7:30 pm**
Contact Diane Watts
703/780-1753
- **24 Game Night, 7:30 pm**
Contact Shirley Richey
703/780-0834

MARCH 2017

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