

MT. VERNON VOICES

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

Volume 60 Issue 8 April 2017
Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENTS' CORNER



Writing this note on the first day of Spring, my thoughts turn to renewal, rebirth, and resilience. Spring is a time

of change. One of my favorite quotes that gets at the promise of change is from Thich Nhat Hanh, who says, "Thanks to impermanence, everything is possible."

So, this Spring, let's embrace change! Let's act like everything is possible! Many women in leadership positions have spoken about how they had to overcome pre-conceived notions of not being good enough in or-

der to make lasting and positive changes in their lives. As Sheryl Sandburg observed, "We hold ourselves back in ways both big and small, by lacking self-confidence, by not raising our hands, and by pulling back when we should be leaning in."

Let's not hold ourselves back! As members of AAUW, let's live up to our wonderful feminist heritage and embody self-confidence, raise our hands, and lean in!

Joanna Crane

Mt. Vernon Co-President

**APRIL 21
FRIDAY**

**LITTLE
THEATRE
FUNDRAISER**



7:00 PM

Reception

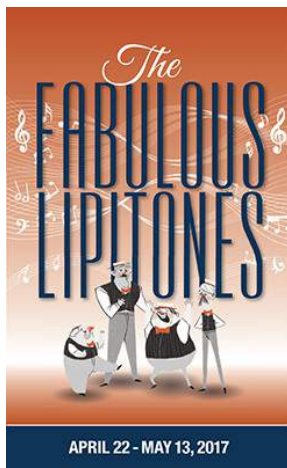
8:00 PM

Play

ANNUAL LITTLE THEATRE FUNDRAISER

You should already have your tickets!

Friday, April 21



The Fabulous Lipitones is a hilarious take on what happens when a barbershop quartet is forced to take on an unconventional replacement when one of their members suddenly dies. Will the four of them have perfect harmony, or will the clash of cultures be too great? This comical and moving story will have the LTA filled with laughs, tears and harmonies!

We need your help!

Our annual Fundraiser with the Alexandria Branch is April 21. For the reception at 7:00 pm, we will bring **wine** and **sweets**. Drop off your items at Shirley's home by noon on April 21. She will take them to the theatre in the afternoon. Otherwise, please have food and wine at the theatre by 7 PM.

We also need wine for the Raffle Baskets. Please contact Shirley Richey – shirley97@verizon.net – phone: 703/780-0834 if you want to donate. She will pick it up from you or you can bring it to her by April 8! **Thank you**

BOOK GROUP

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

DATE: Monday, April 17, 7:30 PM

HOSTESS: Joanne Malkin
8339 Orange Court
Alexandria, 22309
jbmalkin@verizon.net

CO-HOSTESS: Liz Promen



BOOK: The Sparrow by Mary Doria Russell

REVIEWER: Ebba Jo Spettel

Next Book: The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah

GAME NIGHT

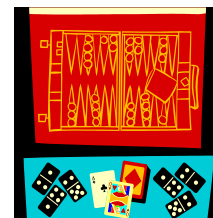
Game Night

Join us on
April 28, 7:30

Home of
Anne Simpson

1604 Old Drummer Boy Ln
Fort Washington, MD 20744-4247
aseyedoc@gmail.com

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



ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 18



Kudos to **Cheryl Spohnholtz** for assembling a wonderfully knowledgeable panel for the Annual Meeting on March 18! The women are, from left to right, **Emily McCoy** from the Fairfax County Commission on Women; **Juli Monroe**, Director of the Women's Business Center in Springfield; **Cheryl**; and **Leslie Tourigny**, AAUW of Virginia VP for Public Policy.

After a delicious brunch, arranged by **Joanne Clark**, we listened to the panel discuss ways their organizations advocate for women. They also talked about ways WE can actively do the same. From three different perspectives, we learned so much!

After the panel discussion, **Mary Ellen Mehler** and **Joanna Crane** led our Business Meeting. Elections of a new branch leadership, reports on membership, AAUW Funds and Named Honorees, Little Theatre Fundraiser, and National Convention rounded out the meeting.

We say farewell to **Carolyn Stewart**, longtime member, who is moving to Atlanta in April. Safe travels, Carolyn, and stay in touch!

DON'T SNOOZE...READ THE NEWS

Unique Branch Leadership Team Elected

At the Annual Meeting held at Mt. Vernon Country Club on March 18, the Mt. Vernon Branch put forth a different approach to branch leadership for the for 2017-2018 Program Year.

The **JEMŞ** Team came forward to run for the branch presidency!

JEMŞ stands for **J**oanne **C**lark, **E**die **B**artlett, **J**oanne **M**alkin, and **S**hirley **R**ichey. These four ladies will share the PRESIDENTIAL responsibilities in order to relieve any one person of what could a burden for someone with such challenges as a demanding job, family responsibilities, or an extensive travel schedule. This is the first time the branch has had four co-presidents, and we are looking forward to the results of the experiment.

As **Lois Passman**, the recruitment coordinator, stated, (partly in jest) "We were overwhelmed with volunteers."

Congratulations to the **JEMŞ** Team on their election to office...and to

Joanna Crane and **Mary Ellen Mehler**, who were elected as Co-VPs for Program.

FAIRFAX COUNTY TITLE I SCHOOLS NEED YOU

GrandInvolve

The board of our branch has been asked to publicize an opportunity for members to volunteer as mentors, classroom helpers, readers, or math helpers in local Title I Elementary Schools. The organization sponsoring the project is **GrandInvolve**, which recruits 50+ individuals interested in either serving in the classroom or serving on a GrandInvolve Steering Committee in the Mount Vernon District. Title I schools are so designated because of the high percentage of students eligible for free and reduced lunch.

Because the branch is already involved with providing resources for the Guest House and UCM's Early Learning Center, the board declined to take this on as a branch project. However, individual branch members may wish to volunteer. Interested members may contact **GrandInvolve** at GrandInvolve@gmail.com. Other contacts are Tania Muskett at tmmuskett@fcps.edu for **Lorton Station Elementary School** and Carolyn Hyman at CMHyman@fcps.edu for **Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School**.

You can hear more about this interesting program at:

<https://soundcloud.com/fairfaxcounty/fairfax-50-plus-grandinvolve-program-dorothy-keen-an-3-2-16>



We wish **Marvel Luykx** speedy recovery! She is receiving care at the Fairfax.

AAUW NIGHT AT D.C. DIVAS FOOTBALL GAME

April 22, Lee High School



Many of you will remember **Allyson Hamlin**, quarterback of the D.C. Divas and also Prince Georges County homicide detective, who was a huge hit on the panel of women in male-dominated professions at the 2016 AAUW State Conference at the Dulles Hyatt. A number of you said we should all go to one of the Divas games. So we are organizing an AAUW evening to attend the D.C. Divas vs. the Boston Renegades game on April 22 at Lee High School in Springfield.

Divas won the national championship in 2015 and 2016, beating the Renegades 47-21 en route to winning the Eastern Championship last year. Boston had won three of the last seven national titles, so these are archrivals. In case you are wondering, it is full contact football. These women are awesome!

The game is at 6:00 p.m. at Lee High School at 6540 Franconia Rd. Tickets are \$12 adults, \$5 seniors and students 7-17, and free under 6 with an adult. You can buy the tickets online at www.dcdivas.com until noon on April 22; tickets at the gate are cash only. Gates open at 4:30 Let's meet at 5:30 near the gate to go in. There is free parking, and tailgating is encouraged.

So grab your spouse and friends and come spend a Saturday night supporting and cheering for the women of the Washington Divas! Patsy Quick is organizing for Mt. Vernon Branch. pnquick@cox.net

Caroline Pickens (carolineaauw@gmail.com)

UCM FRIENDS' INVITATION



**GIVE FROM THE
HEART**
Gala

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2017



US Patent & Trademark Office

600 Dulaney Street

Old Town, Alexandria

Reserve Your Seats Today

ucmagency.org/Gala2017

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Cocktails & Dinner,

Live & Silent Auction

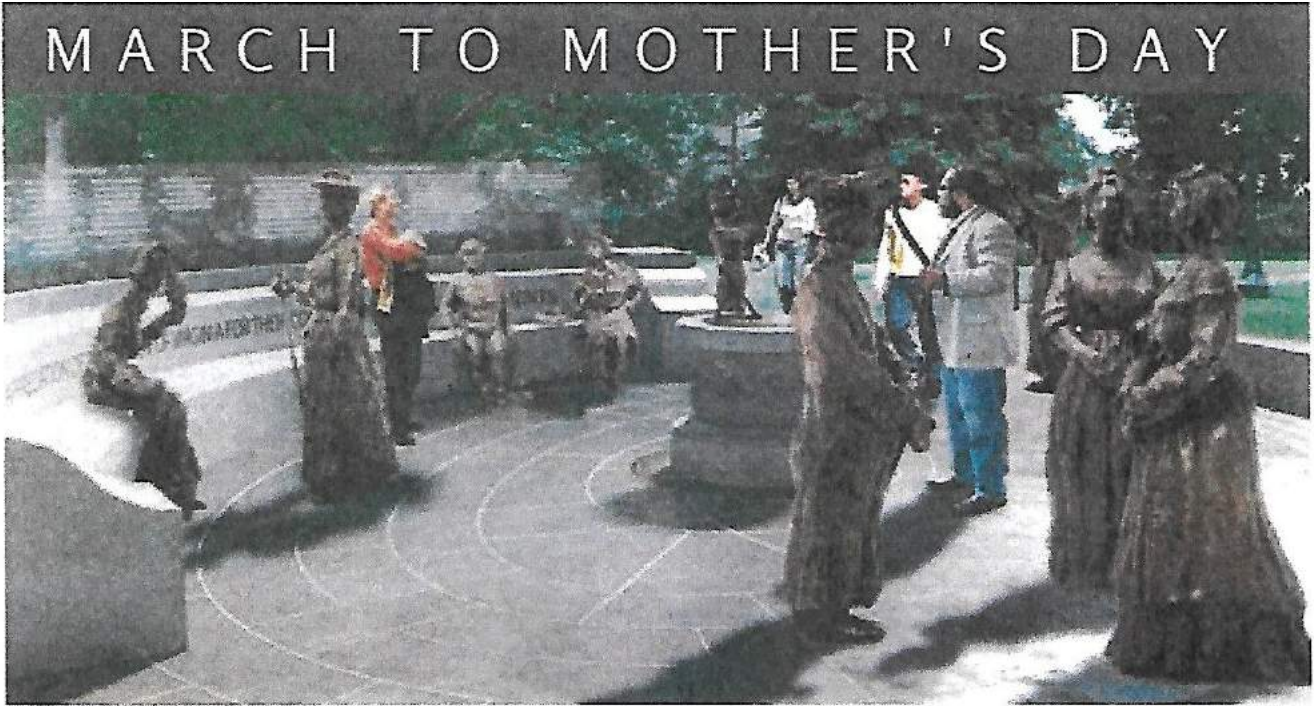
Music & Dancing

Gerald W. Hyland

Humanitarian Award

\$175

MARCH TO MOTHER'S DAY



StudioEIS and The 1717 Design Group

WOMEN'S MONUMENT ON VIRGINIA'S CAPITOL SQUARE

The Women's Monument Commission in partnership with the Virginia Capital Foundation and the 2019 Commemoration present the March to Mother's Day fundraising campaign.

Honor the special woman or women in your life by making a donation today. To learn more or donate visit:

VirginiaLegacy.com

VOICES FROM THE GARDEN

Voices from the Garden is the first monument of its kind in the nation recognizing women's achievements. Voices encompasses twelve bronze statues of significant women from the state, surrounded by a glass panel, etched with names of other noteworthy Virginia women.



AAUW IN THE STATEHOUSE

SPOTLIGHT:

Nevada becomes the 36th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment!

On March 22, Nevada became the 36th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, 45 years to the day after it was passed by Congress and sent to the states. Senate Majority Leader Aaron Ford (D-Las Vegas) noted the bill as “long overdue,” and Sen. Pat Spearman (D-Las Vegas), who introduced the resolution, emphasized that the bill is “about equality, period.” The ERA first passed Congress in 1972, and was last approved by a state—Indiana—in 1977. The amendment fell three states short of being adopted into law nationwide by Congress’ arbitrary deadline. Nevada’s overdue ratification has reignited interest in the ERA; this week, groups across the country told stories of why women still need the ERA in order to highlight that this issue still matters.

FAST AND EASY WAY TO TAKE ACTION

Receive urgent e-mail notices to contact your members of Congress right in your inbox. Join the AAUW Action Network today!

Become a Two-Minute Activist!

<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>

DATES TO NOTE

Upcoming Mt. Vernon Branch Activities

ANNUAL POTLUCK: Saturday, May 20, 4:00 PM, Dinner 6:00 PM

Home of Claudia Creo

ANNUAL PLANNING SESSION: Saturday, June 10, 9:30 AM

Home of Edie Bartlett

State and National Dates to Remember

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

Mt. Vernon

Cynthia Gindlesperger
915 Neal Drive
Alexandria, VA 22308

[www.http://aauw-va.aauw.net/](http://aauw-va.aauw.net/)

www.aauw.org

First Class



APRIL 2017

- **1 AAUW of VA Annual Business Meeting, Charlottesville**
Contact Patsy Quick
pnquick@cox.net
- **4 Board Meeting, 7:30 pm**
Mary Ellen Mehler's Home
- **17 Book Group, 7:30 pm**
Contact Joanne Malkin
jbmalkin@verizon.net
- **22 DIVA's Football Game**
Contact Patsy Quick
pnquick@cox.net
- **28 Game Night, 7:30 pm**
Contact Anne Simpson
H (301) 203-0454

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