

# Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 61 Issue 4 December 2017

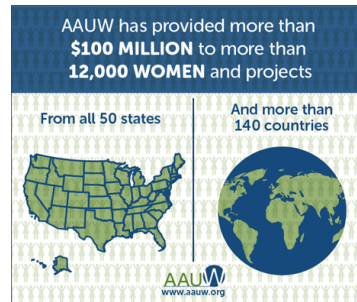
Mt. Vernon Branch



## PRESIDENTS' CORNER

### WHAT DO YOU SAY?

What do you say when someone asks you about **AAUW**? I find it is something hard to explain. There are so many things that the organization does. We provide training to bridge the gap in pay, work against sexual assault, encourage more women to run for government positions, and provide fellowships and grants for education. But, what do you say when someone asks you??? Let me know.



How do you encourage other women to join **Mt Vernon AAUW**? Do you tell them about the wonderful programs we provide each month? Do you come to those? How about the different groups; such as: **Book Group, Dining Out, ImpromptuEvents,** and **Game Night**? Do you read the wonderful newsletter that Bianca puts together?

**It is your turn. Tell us what you want out of the group and send it to [redsse@aol.com](mailto:redsse@aol.com).** We will be waiting for your answers and ideas.



**EDIE BARTLETT**  
CO-PRESIDENT

**Saturday**

**December 9**

**Noon - 2 PM**

**Holiday Luncheon**

**\$35**

**Mt. Vernon Country Club**

## HOLIDAY LUNCHEON, DECEMBER 9



***Let's get together for some holiday cheer!***

**AAUW Mt. Vernon Annual Holiday Luncheon  
at the Mt. Vernon Country Club from 12 noon 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. The cost is **\$35 including tax and gratuities**. We are really looking forward to seeing you all. Please feel free to bring a friend or family member to introduce to the branch.

**We will be collecting non-perishable food items in support of the UCM Food Pantry!**

**Please send in your reservation form on page 3 by December 4!**



Dr Tammy Mann and Paula Lettice

## NOVEMBER BRANCH MEETING A (Delicious) Learning Experience

On November 11, members of the Mt. Vernon and Alexandria City branches were privileged to visit the **Alexandria Campagna Center** to learn the history and mission of the Center.

**Dr. Tammy Mann**, director of the Center, described the programs offered by the Center to enrich the lives of young children in the city, of whom approximately 10 percent are from families struggling with poverty.

Throughout her career working in agencies devoted to young children and their families, **Dr. Mann** has played an active role in shaping the field of early childhood development. Among her many affiliations, she serves as associate professor at George Mason University in the College of Education and Human Development.

Our branch member, **Paula Lettice**, serves as a member of the board of the Campagna Center and arranged the event. After **Dr. Mann's** talk, participants were surprised and delighted to be invited to a delicious catered lunch provided by **Paula**.

**MARY ELLEN MEHLER**  
**PROGRAM CO-VICE PRESIDENT**



The board appointed **Shannon Dubicki** as our new **Membership Vice President**. Shannon agreed to fill the vacant board position.

*Thank you and congratulations Shannon!*

## BRANCH LEADERSHIP 2017 – 2018

### Elected Officers

<b>Co-Presidents:</b>	Edie Bartlett Joanne Clark Joanne Malkin Shirley Richey
<b>Program Vice President:</b>	Joanna Crane Mary Ellen Mehler
<b>Membership Vice President:</b>	Shannon Dubicki
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Edie Bartlett
<b>Secretary:</b>	Clair Wylie

### Appointed Chairs

**Bylaws:** **vacant**

<b>AAUW Funds:</b>	Joanne Malkin
<b>Public Policy:</b>	Patsy Quick
<b>Newsletter/Website:</b>	Bianca Daugherty
<b>Newsletter/ Directory Distribution:</b>	Cynthia Gindlesperger Mary Ellen Mehler
<b>Nominating Committee Chair:</b>	Lois Passman
<b>Hospitality:</b>	Cathy Krebs

### Interest Groups

<b>Book Group:</b>	Liz Promen
<b>Dining Out:</b>	Elizabeth Lonoff
<b>Game Night:</b>	Bianca Daugherty
<b>ImpromptEvent:</b>	Barbara Mann

## HOLIDAY LUNCHEON RESERVATION

**Please RSVP no later than December 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Clip and mail**

**Holiday Luncheon at the Mt. Vernon Country Club,  
5111 Old Mill Road, on December 9 from 12 noon to 2 pm**

**Cost for Luncheon Buffet including tax and gratuity is \$35 per person.**

Mail registration together with check made out to AAUW Mt Vernon to  
**Mary Ellen Mehler - 2002 Old Stage Rd - Alexandria, VA 22308**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

I will attend \_\_\_\_\_ Accompanied by \_\_\_\_\_ people

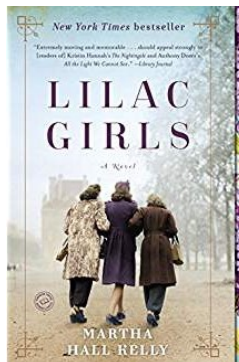
## BOOK GROUP

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

**DATE:** Monday, December 18, 2017,  
7:30 PM

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

**CO-HOST:** Joanne Clark



**BOOK:** Lilac Girls  
by Martha Hall Kelly

**REVIEWER:** Joanne Clark

**NEXT BOOK:** Small Great Things  
by Jodi Picoult

## GAME NIGHT



**NO GAME NIGHT IN DECEMBER!**

**- Next Game Night will be January 26, 2017 -**

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



## SHOULD WE GIVE TO AAUW FUNDS?

A question that arises, especially among newer members, is, “**What are AAUW Funds and why do we give to them?**” **McLean Area Branch member Nancy Richardson**, who has 36 years of experience with McLean’s book sales (serving many times as chair, as well as twice branch president and as state president in the 90’s), recently replied to that question with as good an answer as we’ve ever read.

Here’s Nancy’s response:

Dear Virginia,

I may not be the best person to answer your question, but I have strong feelings when it comes to our funds allocation. When I first joined the branch, we chose to give 80% of our book sale net to AAUW’s Educational Foundation. Not long thereafter, interest in local college scholarships arose. In response, the branch set aside money for these scholarships and began giving AAUW’s Educational Foundation only 66%. As interest in the local scholarships grew, the branch again responded, agreeing that at least 50% of our net would be used to support AAUW Funds (new name for Educational Foundation), with much of the rest designated for local giving.

Many members think local scholarships and awards provide more visible community outreach, give the branch more control over use of the money we earn, inspire young girls, and give women in need the financial support that enables them to return to college to complete their degrees.

Others point out that Virginia AAUW and our branches have contributed more than most at the national level. We’ve supported AAUW research into learning and have built multiple AAUW endowments that support, and will continue to support, post-graduate education for women. It’s long been felt that AAUW’s support for post-graduate education is a strong driver of systemic change because the women selected to receive this money are among the best and the brightest, women whose future work may well impact millions of people.

Another AAUW iron in the fire includes support for female college educators justifiably seeking but denied tenure, redress for discrimination, and justice in sexual harassment cases. Often women are not able to stand up alone against a college or university’s money and power. Recently AAUW expanded this support to women in the work place. Virginia AAUW has regularly contributed funds for this work as well.

Most recently, AAUW launched a series of far-reaching projects aimed at young women, projects focusing on STEM education, landing a good job, negotiating fair pay, learning how to run for campus office, and more. What a boost for this population!

What I’ve written thus far may not cover all that AAUW Funds do, but what is certain is that we are branches of AAUW, not independent clubs. **We subscribe to AAUW’s mission, goals, and efforts to support women and girls. Without AAUW we’d simply be another gaggle of women, a small group with relatively small clout, and likely a group destined for the dust heap. Through its extensive network, trusted national reputation (especially on Capitol Hill), and multiple diverse efforts to support women and girls, AAUW gives us life, and a highly respected life at that.**

Bottom line, let’s continue to support the many talented women and girls who’ve come before our branches and wowed us with their determination and accomplishments, but let’s never forget the true source of our widest reach and greatest success for women, AAUW.

Nancy



**Remember:**



**All donations to AAUW funds are deductible for Federal income tax purposes! Consider to make your gift online at**

**<http://www.aauw.org/contribute>**





Five Mt. Vernon members attended the **Night of Terror Centennial Commemoration**, November 12 at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton. It was a wonderful program honoring the 32 suffragists who were jailed at the Occoquan (Lorton) Workhouse in 1917 for picketing the White House for the right to vote.

## JANUARY BRANCH PROGRAM MEETING

**Mt. Vernon AAUW**  
Presents a Screening and Discussion Of the Documentary



**Sunday, January 14, 2018, Time 4:30 - 6:30 PM**  
**Heritage Presbyterian Church**  
**8503 Fort Hunt Rd, Alexandria, VA 22308**



**GerryRIGGED: Turning Democracy On Its Head** examines the historical context and consequences of gerrymandering through a multi-partisan lens that includes Republicans, Democrats, Independents, Libertarians and the Tea Party. The documentary explores the impact on communities and individual lives by including testimonials from strategists, political consultants, and map drawers, and by incorporating interviews with the men and women in politics who have the most to win – and perhaps lose – through reform. “Gerrymandering is the enemy of representative government. It deliberately manipulates the system to take away from voters the very choice that should be a hallmark of our system,” says program producer William Oglesby. “We hope with this documentary 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.”

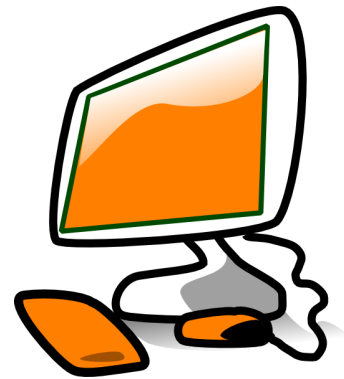
## SKILL TRAINING WEBINARS

At this link <https://www.aauw.org/event/2017/11/skill-training-webinars/> you will find seminars that are useful for branch leaders and members.

The seminars are online, and are one hour in length and focused. The ones I have listened to have been very good and informative.

**The next one is December 12.** The topic is **Transition and Succession Planning**, and has to do with leadership changes in branches. You can register at the link. These seminars are also archived so you can listen any time.

**PATSY QUICK**  
**PUBLIC POLICY CHAIR**



### 40 Years of Activism for Women: The 1977 National Women's Conference in Houston, Texas

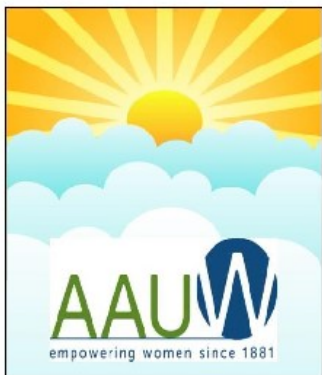
*AAUW First Vice President Nancy Joyner, Ph.D. (left) and AAUW President Marjorie Bell Chambers, Ph.D. (right) attend the National Women's Conference in Houston, TX, in November 1977. Image from AAUW Archives*



Although the conference was meant to be a unifying starting point to larger discussions about the status of women, it quickly became polarized over the issue of the **Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)**, which AAUW supported at the time. AAUW was among a number of women's organizations that organized a caucus in support of the ERA. A smaller anti-ERA group was also in attendance and held a counter-rally organized by spokesperson Phyllis Schlafly.

Despite the hot debate surrounding the ERA, the 1977 NWC gave rise to the expansive National Plan of Action, which dealt with 26 areas of interest to women, including child care, employment, the ERA, reproductive freedom, and diversity.

**ERA has been ratified by only 36 states, two states short of the 38 required to put it into the Constitution. The Equal Rights Amendment cleared the floor of the Virginia Senate five times in six years. However each of the proposals died in the House of Delegates.**



**Changing the Climate for  
Women and Girls**

AAUW of Virginia Conference  
Portsmouth Renaissance Hotel  
April 20-22, 2018

**Special group room rate \$129 per night**

[Book your room for AAUW of Virginia State Conference](#)

**Last day to get the group rate is March 20, 2018**

## 2017 - 2018 MT. VERNON BRANCH PROGRAM YEAR

Meeting Date and Place	Focus/Activity
Thursday, September 21, 2017, 6:30 pm <b>Mt. Vernon Country Club</b> 5111 Old Mill Rd., Alexandria, VA 22309	<b>Kickoff Dinner</b>
Saturday, October 21, 2017, 1:30 pm <b>George Mason Regional Library</b> 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA, 22003	<b>Northern District Meeting</b> Meet new AAUW CEO, <b>Kim Churches</b>
Saturday, November 11, 2017, 11 am <b>The Campagna Center</b> 418 S Washington St, Alexandria, VA 22314	<b>Early Childhood Education and its Effect on Women</b> <b>Dr. Tammy Mann, President and CEO</b>
Saturday, December 9, 2017, 12 noon <b>Mt. Vernon Country Club</b> 5111 Old Mill Rd., Alexandria, VA 22309	<b>Holiday Event - Luncheon</b>
Sunday, January 14, 2018, Time 4 pm -6 pm <b>Heritage Presbyterian Church</b> 8503 Fort Hunt Rd, Alexandria, VA 22308	Film screening and Discussion <b>"GerryRigged: Turning Democracy on its Head"</b>
Saturday, February 24, 2018, 11 am – 3 pm <b>Lorton Prison Workhouse</b> 9518 Workhouse Rd, Lorton, VA 22079	<b>Tour of Lorton Prison Workhouse</b>
Saturday, March 17, 2018, 9:30 am <b>Mt. Vernon Country Club</b> 5111 Old Mill Rd., Alexandria, VA 22309	<b>Annual Meeting and Brunch</b>
Sunday, April 15, 2018, 6 pm <b>Heritage Presbyterian Church</b> 8503 Fort Hunt Rd, Alexandria, VA 22308	<b>Immigration and its Effects on Women and Children</b>
Tuesday, May 1, 2018 7 pm Reception - 8 pm Performance <b>Little Theatre of Alexandria</b> 600 Wolfe St, Alexandria, VA 22314	<b>Little Theatre Fundraiser</b> <b>"Harvey"</b>
Thursday, May 17, 2018, 6:30 pm <b>Home of Paula Lettice</b>	<b>Annual Pot Luck Dinner</b>
Saturday, June 9, 2018, 9:30 am <b>Home of Mary Ellen Mehler</b>	<b>Annual Planning Session</b>

## AAUW Mt.Vernon

Cynthia Gindlesperger  
915 Neal Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22308

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

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

## First Class



Mt. Vernon (VA) Branch

- **5 Board Meeting, 7:15 pm**  
Home of Joanne Malkin  
703/360-7725
- **9 Holiday Luncheon**  
**Mt. Vernon CC, 12 noon**  
Contact Mary Ellen Mehler  
703/780-8494
- **18 Book Group, 7:30 pm**  
Contact Patsy Quick  
703/360-8678



# DECEMBER 2017

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