

Mt. Vernon Voices

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

Volume 62 Issue 1 September 2018

Mt. Vernon Branch



PRESIDENTS' CORNER



Welcome to the 2018-2019 season of AAUW Mount Vernon!

We all look forward to meeting, greeting, and eating, while sharing ideas at the opening **Pot Luck on Thursday, September 20, at 5:00 p.m.**

Please be prepared to briefly introduce yourself and say why you are a member.

There are opportunities waiting for us. Let's "harness our energies" and work together toward accomplishing AAUW priorities, such as Virginia's ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the U. S.

Constitution and pay equity for women.

As usual, in addition to Book Group and Game Night and Imprompt Events, our branch will have some very interesting monthly programs.

But what good to you are programs if you are not there? Please note that the majority of our programs are now scheduled during daylight hours on weekends and that car pools can be arranged for the evening programs, such as our fundraiser reception and play, "You Can't Take It With You," at the Alexandria Little Theatre in February 2019.

Again, we look forward to seeing you. We need your active participation.

Cathy Krebs and Joanne Malkin
Co-Presidents

IT'S KICKOFF TIME!

Summer has zipped by already and it is time for KICKOFF for the Mt. Vernon Branch. **This year we will start the program year with one of our famous potluck dinners at the home of Cathy Krebs in the Hollin Hills neighborhood.** (Hollin Hills is renowned for its mid-century modern homes designed by the well-known architect, Charles Goodman.) Here are the specifics:

DATE:	September 20, 2018
TIME:	Gathering at 5:00; Dinner at 6:00
LOCATION:	2400 Nordok Place
YOU BRING:	Your favorite potluck item
HOSTESS WILL PROVIDE:	All beverages
OPTIONAL DONATIONS:	AAUW Funds Donation

RSVP with your food item by **September 15** to **Mary Ellen Mehler at 703/780-8494**. To help with planning, please indicate which of these items you plan to bring: appetizer, main dish, veggies, salad or other side dish, dessert (maximum 3 people bring desserts)

Please contact Mary Ellen ASAP to make planning easier for the hostess.

Thursday

*September
20*

5 pm

*Kickoff
Potluck
Dinner*

*Home of
Cathy Krebs*

*Bring your
favorite dish*



DON'T SNOOZE, PAY YOUR DUES

It's time to renew your AAUW membership. As an AAUW member whose branch participates in the Membership Payment Program (MPP), you will be paying all of your dues - branch, state, and national - at once:

\$59.00 National
\$15.00 State
\$13.00 Branch
\$87.00 TOTAL (\$56 is tax deductible as a charitable contribution)

Dues are due now!

Different from prior years, membership will be terminated for any individuals who have not renewed their memberships as of September 30.

RENEW TODAY!

There are two ways to renew.

- 1) **To renew online with your credit or debit card:** Go to <https://www.aauw.org/?s=pay+dues>, click on Membership Payment Program to enter the MSD (Membership Services Database)!
- 2) **To renew by check:** Make your check payable to AAUW, and mail it to your branch treasurer:

Anne Simpson
1604 Old Drummer Boy Lane
Fort Washington, MD 20744



BRANCH LEADERSHIP 2018 – 2019

Elected Officers

Co-Presidents: Joanne Malkin
Cathy Krebs
Program Vice President: Mary Ellen Mehler
Membership Vice President: Shannon Dubicki
Treasurer: Anne Simpson
Secretary: Paula Lettice

Appointed Chairs

Bylaws: **vacant**
AAUW Funds: Joanne Malkin

Public Policy: Patsy Quick
Newsletter/Website: Bianca Daugherty
Newsletter/Directory Distribution: 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

Contact Email: AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com

BOOK GROUP

Annual Book Group Potluck Dinner
Monday, September 17 at 6 pm
Home of Elaine Kolish, 920 Emerald Drive, Alexandria

The dinner is the fun kickoff event for selecting our books, reviewers and hostesses for the year. Please bring a dish to share, your calendars, and be prepared to vote on what books you'd like to read.

Please send your book recommendations, with brief descriptions, to **Patsy Quick**, pnquick@comcast.net, no later than **September 6**.

Please **RSVP to Elaine by September 15** if you can attend and what you plan to bring. elaine.kolish@gmail.com or Tel: 571/282-1263.



GAME NIGHT

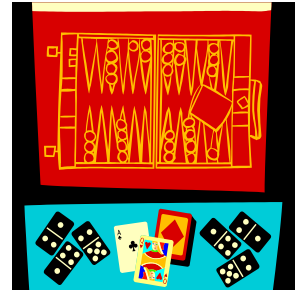


WE ARE BACK!

Join us for fun and games on
Friday, September 28, 2018
7:30 pm
Home of Bianca Daugherty

Spouses and significant others are welcome!

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



2018/2019 Game Night Schedule has been posted to our website.



Dining Out



On August 21, branch members enjoyed **Dining Out** at the **Cedar Knoll Inn** during Alexandria Restaurant Week.

The next **Dining Out** event is scheduled for **Friday, November 9**.

Interested to join the group?
Contact **Elizabeth Lonoff**
(elonoff@msn.com)

The group pictured with Chef and co-owner Andrew Holden.

IMPROMTEvent: THE MUSICAL “19”



Six members attended the musical “19” on June 30, at the 1st Stage Theater in Tysons. The show was actually one act of a work in progress. It was presented readers’ theater style. The story is about the suffragists and what they went through in 1919 to get the vote. Alice Paul is a major character. The music, story line and readers were all excellent! The show was both entertaining and engaging. We all look forward to what is next for this production.

GET OUT THE VOTE - VOTER REGISTRATION

This September and October we will again work with the **Mt. Vernon Registrars** to register voters in our community.

Mt. Vernon Registrars always supply the schedule and materials, we help supply volunteers to stand, with a partner, at a table for a couple of hours, as often as you would like. The online schedule contains locations and times (Mornings/afternoons, Monday through Saturday, in various locations, such as in front of the Post Office or grocery store, or metro station.) Registration will be offered September 3 to October 13.

If you are interested in participating please let **Patsy Quick** pnquick@cox.net know.

In the past volunteers have been encouraged to take the online Voter Registration Training (15 minutes). The link is here: <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/registration-drives/training-video.html>

In advance, thanks so much! This is one easy way to be active in the community and support AAUW’s **Get Out the Vote (GOTV) Campaign**.

Patsy Quick
Public Policy Chair



National Voter Registration Day
September 25, 2018

In Memory

Former member **Sherry Hazen** passed away at the Fairfax on April 14, 2018. **Sherry** was an active branch member and participated in the book group. Due to health issues, **Sherry** dropped out of the branch several years ago. She is remembered for her broad scope of knowledge and wide range of experiences. Services were held on August 21 at the Old Post Chapel, followed by burial at Arlington National Cemetery. We offer our condolences to the family.

NORTHERN DISTRICT START SMART UPDATE

Start Smart is a two hour seminar developed and licensed by **AAUW** to train women before they graduate from college on how to negotiate salaries at the start of their careers, so they are not behind the pay curve from the outset. This supports the national goal of **AAUW** to increase economic security of women entering the workforce. **They set a goal of providing this proven training to 75,000 young women by 2022.** Virginia **AAUW** has made this a priority for the Commonwealth. **The McLean AAUW branch** has taken the lead for the Northern Virginia area and invited other area branches to join in making this an on-going career offering from the three higher education institutions in Northern Virginia:

Marymount, George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community College.

The branches and their representatives - which make up the **Northern Virginia Consortium** - include

- ⇒ **McLean (Sue Christie and Barbara Sipe)**
- ⇒ **Fairfax City (Anita Light and Dottie Joslin)**
- ⇒ **Reston-Herndon (Janine Greenwood)**
- ⇒ **Mt Vernon (Paula Lettice) and**
- ⇒ **Arlington (Meg Trucillo).**

We have met three times so far.

GOAL: The goal of this initiative is to help implement **Start Smart** in the three institutions to the point it is self-sustaining, to include having certified trainers on their staffs. Our estimate is that it will take 3 to 4 years to ensure that every woman graduate can take advantage of this training. We anticipate the first sessions will start in March-April of 2019 at all three institutions.

PROGRESS: We have to date:

- Identified the size of the target audience for the training among the three institutions. Approximately 5,000 women graduate each year. Most graduate in December or May and the three institutions need to be offering multiple sessions in early to mid-fall and spring since many graduates are already interviewing for jobs. We

estimate at full capacity the institutions will be training some 2500 young women each year. This equates to 80 sessions within several weeks each fall and spring, requiring major logistical support.

- Identified a list of potential sponsors/underwriters in the northern Virginia area which have already made strides in ensuring gender equity in their organizations, are headed by women, want to be good community partners or want to increase their visibility or standing in the community. Some of these organizations and businesses already have partnerships with the three institutions and we will focus on those initially.
 - Identified the range of ways in which organizations can be supportive should NOVA, Marymount or GMU require or want support in this effort. Businesses can offer to pay for the licenses; sponsor receptions; pay for or loan staff for the considerable logistics involved; or host follow-up networking events;
- Developed first draft of informational materials to use in discussions with both the institutions and businesses/corporations we meet with. **AAUW** has provided some promotional materials but as of this date do not have camera ready marketing materials.
- Assigned committee members as point person for each institution:
 - **Meg Trucillo: Marymount**
 - **Janine Greenwood: GMU**
 - **Sue Christie: NOVA**

Ways to Help

- **"Talk up" this initiative whenever and wherever possible.**
- **Identify contact people for those organizations we decide to focus on and send that information to a Start Smart Northern Virginia Consortium representative.** We will send out emails to the appropriate branch officers requesting that information at the right time.

Start Smart Northern Virginia Consortium



AAUW OF VIRGINIA'S PUBLIC POLICY

We would like to introduce ourselves and describe our plans for advancing **AAUW of Virginia's public policy priorities** in the coming year.

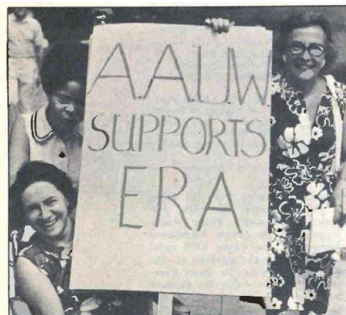
Sylvia Rogers is a 20-year member of AAUW and **Co-President of the Harrisonburg branch**. She is the **outgoing NW District Representative**, serving in that capacity on the state board for four years.

Susan Burk is an 11-year member of AAUW, and a member of the **Springfield-Annandale Branch** where she serves as the **Public Policy Chair**. She most recently served as the **Co-Representative of the Northern District** from 2016-18.

We are grateful to you for electing us to serve as your **Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy** and we are excited about the opportunities **AAUW of Virginia** has to make meaningful progress on a number of public policy issues this year. At the same time, we will need and are counting on your active support and involvement to be successful.

Looking Ahead: You can find the **2018-2020 AAUW of Virginia Public Policy Priorities** as voted by our members at <https://aauw-va.aauw.net/aauw/directors/publicpolicy/>.

We will be following developments on all of these issues and communicating requests for action by branches and members on the full range of priorities including enforcement of **Title IX**, **STEM programs**, efforts to achieve fair, **non-partisan redistricting**, and halting **human trafficking** and supporting its victims.



We will be focusing on **two priorities**, in particular, this year: **ratification of the ERA** and passage of legislation in Richmond on **pay equity**, including prohibiting setting salaries based on employees' salary histories.

With Illinois' recent ratification of the **ERA**, only one more state is necessary to pass the amendment. **Virginia should be that 38th state**, and we believe the climate in Richmond is better than it has ever been to make this happen. We are mapping our efforts to support that of **VARatifyERA**: <https://varatifyera.org/august-26th-launch>. We also are working with the **League of Women Voters**.

Momentum is also building for **equal pay** legislation: five bills were offered in Richmond last year and, while all failed in committee, it is clear that support is

growing in the Virginia legislature. We will soon be reaching out to last year's bills' sponsors to urge their continuing support of stronger pay equity laws. We already have talked to successful advocates for pay equity in Massachusetts to get advice and lessons learned for our efforts in Virginia.



We want to harness our members' energy to make a strong and focused push on both these issues.

Stay tuned for a message from us about specific strategies we can undertake statewide to reach our goals.

If your branch does not currently have a Branch Public Policy Chair, please consider recruiting one for your branch board. We need a "virtual" team of members committed to passage of pay equity legislation and ratification of the ERA in Virginia to make them happen.

SAVE THE DATE: Finally, here are important dates for your AAUW calendars:

- Sep. 27, 2018** AAUW Federal Lobby Day, Washington, DC (details TBD)
- Oct 13, 2018** Rep. Don Beyer's annual Women's Conference, GMU, Arlington Campus
- Nov. 17, 2018** Sen. Mark Warner's annual Women's Conference, Roanoke
- Dec. 5, 2018** League of Women Voters' Pre-Session Legislative Round Table, Richmond
- Feb. 5, 2019** AAUW of Virginia Reception for Women Legislators, Richmond
- Feb. 6, 2019** AAUW of Virginia State Lobby Day, Richmond
- Apr. 6, 2019** AAUW of Virginia State Conference hosted by Roanoke Valley

Thank you for everything you are doing to create opportunities and level playing fields for all women and girls.

Susan Burk and Sylvia Rogers
Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy
AAUW of Virginia

FEDERAL LOBBY DAY - SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

**AAUW-VA Federal Lobby Day is tentatively scheduled for
Thursday, September 27, 2018**
[subject to the Congressional calendar]

This date is a change from the usual spring event and may actually be more convenient for many of us.

Federal Lobby Day is the opportunity for our members to accompany AAUW's Lobby Corps to lobby congressional offices on legislation important to AAUW. It is a fun way to meet other AAUW members and an important way to make AAUW's voice heard on the Hill.

Members will meet the morning of September 27 at a designated spot on Capitol Hill. At that time we will:

1. Receive a briefing from AAUW National on the legislation that will be the focus of that day's lobby efforts;
2. Meet our experienced Lobby Corps partner, and then;
3. We're off to visit congressional offices to advocate for specific bills.



CONTRIBUTING TO AAUW FUNDS

Traditionally our branch collects contributions to AAUW Funds at our September Kick-off meeting. Those who would like to make a 2018 donation to one of the AAUW funds, please bring your check to the September 20 Kickoff Potluck.

Please remember to address the check as listed below and indicate **"Mount Vernon Branch"** in the "memo" portion of the check. Remember, all donations to these funds are tax deductible for IRS purposes - AAUW will send an acknowledgement for you to give to your accountant. If you have any questions, please contact **Joanne Malkin** jbmalkin@verizon.net or (703) 360-7725.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Fund Addresses:

- * AAUW FUND # 9110 (AAUW General Fund)
- * PUBLIC POLICY FUND #4337
- * LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND #3999
- * LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS FUND #4339

Branch members make plans NOW.

We will need to provide the names and email addresses of all participants to our Lobby Corps coordinators so they can prepare.

Deadline for responding is September 15.

If you can attend, please send your name and email address to Susan Burk, Burksu@aol.com ; Tel: 571/236-0426. She will pass them on to the Lobby Corps folks.

If you plan to join us from out of town, let Susan or Sylvia know and they will work to put you up with local members the night before.

**Susan Burk and Sylvia Rogers
Co-Vice Presidents for Public Policy
AAUW of Virginia**

***** Patsy Quick plans to go. *****

***** Let her know if you'd like to join her! *****

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT YES!

AAUW of Virginia announced at the Summer Leadership Meeting July 28, in Harrisonburg, that there will be two main areas of focus for the state this year: **Pay Equity and the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).**

Regarding ERA, only one more state is needed to ratify, and Virginia could be that state! Coalitions have formed, and the campaign is on! **AAUW** is right in the middle of this push. Many legislators in Richmond believe the votes for ratification are there, if it gets out of committee.

There will be much written and talked about the **ERA** from now until the General Assembly session convenes January 9, 2019. On the way to being ratified in the 70's, the movement was stymied in part in the 80's by traditionalist's organizations in Illinois, which literally delivered bread, jam and apple pies to Illinois Legislators. They used slogans like "Preserve us from Congressional jams, vote against the ERA sham." And, "I am for mom and apple pie." They had little girls parading with signs saying, "Don't draft me." That was then. This is now: **Illinois recently became the 37th state to ratify the ERA!**

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Arm yourself with information. Here are 2 great videos to view:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4yHijhForU>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-y4nzjxqwa> (Ruth Bader Ginsburg)
Google ERA and read, read, read.
 - Watch for emails asking you to contact your legislators, and respond immediately.
 - Write letters-to-the-editors.
 - **Wear an ERA button** (<https://www.cafepress.com/+era+buttons>) on your lapel or purse, and have some of these talking points on the tip of your tongue:
1. ***"Equality of rights under the law shall not be abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."***

This simple sentence, the **EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (ERA)**, was first proposed in Congress by the National Women's Party in 1923.

In 1972 Congress overwhelmingly passed the ERA and sent it to the states to ratify. It was slammed by a negative campaign in the 80s and ratification came to a halt. It is now one state short of ratification, thanks to Nevada and Illinois who recently brought it to life.

2. It is the will of the people: most polls say that 90+% of Americans believe we need it. In other polls 88% of the people believe it is already in the Constitution and that equality of rights is a given.
3. Since WWII around the world, every other nation's constitution or charter has been codified to include provisions that state that men and women are citizens of equal stature. Ours does not. Only the Constitution guarantees rights. Currently the only right guaranteed to women is the right to vote.
4. Without this amendment, the Supreme Court has refused to hear cases of gender discrimination. According to **Justice Scalia**, the Constitution does not prohibit gender discrimination.
5. Often the 14th Amendment is referred to in a case against the **ERA**. This amendment, which addresses citizenship rights and equal protection of the law, was proposed in response to issues related to former slaves following the American Civil War. Although it was revised in 1992, the 14th amendment does not reliably guarantee equal treatment for both sexes. (For example in cases of sex discrimination.) Currently women are forced to persuade courts on a case by case basis that sex distinctions and discrimination matters. Interpretations are left up to states.
6. Current legislation can be amended, repealed, inconsistently enforced, or ignored. A good example is the 1964 Equal Pay Act. Change in equal pay is stuck, or moving too slowly. Equal Pay laws are too few and the ones in place are often ignored. Ratification of the ERA will strengthen laws, statutes, ordinances, and state constitutions that are now overlooked, ignored, or misinterpreted.

Who will be the final state to ratify the ERA?
Let's work to make sure it will be Virginia!



VIRGINIA RATIFY ERA

A group of ten to twelve branch members attended the viewing of *Iron Jawed Angels* at Bethlehem Baptist Church on August 26, Woman's Equality Day.

At below listed link, an article describes the event, **which was the kick-off of the campaign for Virginia to be the final state needed to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).**

<http://bluevirginia.us/2018/08/video-after-womensequalityday-screening-of-iron-jawed-angels-actor-alyssa-milano-declares-we-have-a-chance-in-virginia-to-make-history-to-be-the-38th-and-final-state-to-ratify-the-era>

Read more about the ERA:

- <http://virginiaeranet.com/>
- <http://virginiaeranet.com/era-fact-sheet/> and here
- <https://varatifyera.org/>

Share this information with your family, friends and co-workers!
Virginia could make history this year!



Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

VIRGINIA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
David Grandis, Music Director



Music of the Masters
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28TH,
4:00^{PM}
BRIAN GANZ
Featured Soloist



Mozart: Piano Concerto
in D minor, K. 466

Beethoven: Symphony No. 4
in B-flat major, Op. 60

Ernst Community Cultural Center, NVCC
8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA
Free parking; complimentary reception to meet the soloist follows.
Tickets at the door:
Adults \$35 • Seniors \$30, Discount tickets online: \$30
Purchase tickets at www.virginiachamberorchestra.org



We have been invited!

Music of the Masters
October 28, 4 pm
Featuring Brian Ganz

The Virginia Chamber Orchestra is offering a special discounted ticket price of \$ 25 to AAUW members.

Tickets include an art exhibit by a Virginia artist, a complimentary post concert reception to meet the soloist, and free parking.

Please contact Patsy Quick at

pnquick@cox.net

to receive the discount code

2018 - 2019 MT. VERNON BRANCH PROGRAM YEAR

Meeting Date and Place	Focus/Activity
Thursday, September 20, 2018 Gathering at 5pm; Dinner at 6 pm Home of Cathy Krebs	Kickoff Meeting - Potluck
Saturday, October 20, 2018, 2 to 4 pm Heritage Presbyterian Church 8503 Fort Hunt Rd, Alexandria, VA 22308	Organizing your Branch Archive Suzanne Gould - AAUW Archivist and Historian
Saturday, November 17, 2018, 2 to 4 pm Heritage Presbyterian Church 8503 Fort Hunt Rd, Alexandria, VA 22308	Political Polling - Speaker Panel
Saturday, December 8, 2018, 11:30 am Cedar Knoll Inn 9030 Lucia Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308	Holiday Event - Luncheon
Saturday, January 19, 2019, Time TBD Heritage Presbyterian Church 8503 Fort Hunt Rd, Alexandria, VA 22308	Meditation and Mindfulness
Friday, February 22, 2019 7 pm Reception - 8 pm Performance Little Theatre of Alexandria 600 Wolfe St, Alexandria, VA 22314	Little Theatre Fundraiser "You Can't Take It With You"
Saturday, March 16, 2019, 9:30 am Location TBD	Annual Meeting and Brunch
Saturday, April 13, 2019, Time TBD Mount Vernon Governmental Center or Sherwood Regional Library	Delegate Kathy Tran
Thursday, May 23, 2019, 6:30 pm Home of Paula Lettice	Annual Pot Luck Dinner
Saturday, June 8, 2019, 9:30 am Home of Mary Ellen Mehler	Annual Planning Session



Check out our website <https://mtvernon-va.aauw.net/>

Visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/mtvernonvaaauw/>



AAUW Mt. Vernon

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

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

First Class



SEPTEMBER 2018

- **18 Book Group, 6 pm**

Contact Elaine Kolish
571/282-1263

- **20 Kickoff Potluck, 5 pm**

Contact Mary Ellen Mehler
703/780-8494

- **27 Board Meeting, 7:15 pm**

Home of Joanne Malkin
703/360-7725

- **28 Game Night, 7:30 pm**

Contact Bianca Daugherty
703/360-7239

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