

May 2017

*Celebrating 93 Years of AAUW in Monmouth!*

## Presidents' Report

*Donna Sproston, co-president*

Your co-presidents are grateful for your support over the last two years. Thanks to those who have given programs, hosted programs, attended programs, prepared food, and volunteered in so many ways, always supporting the mission of AAUW.

Our fellow officers were always on the ball. Lila Blum and her co-veep Michelle Holschuh Simmons made sure locations and presenters were secured for every meeting. We are grateful to them for taking on this sizable task and to all of you who attended the annual planning meeting and offered suggestions. Lila also prepared the copy for the yearbook.

Our membership co-veeps, Marilyn Van Ausdall and Susan Van Kirk, had a successful recruitment year, aided by our added outreach activities in the community and a determination by women that it is time to take to the streets. A highlight for many of us was the holiday brunch where we shared our amazing stories, and our guests joined AAUW.

Somebody has to keep records, and we thank Geneen Gillen, Shirley Dadonna, and Judy Diemer for accepting the on-going tasks of recording events and handling funds.

The book group continues to read interesting books written by women, and our film group has seen an amazing variety of films with women as writers, directors, or in strong female roles. Nancy Buban has been hosting this group in her home from the beginning. It may be the longest running AAUW film group in the country. Nancy was indebted to Joyce Hagemann who continued to help search out thought provoking films even as she was ailing. Joyce was a loyal fifty year member and attended meetings, book group, and film group as long as she could. Sharon Gilbert, as newsletter editor, kept us all informed and never missed a deadline.

Marilyn Van Ausdall continues to be the state newsletter editor and is a Start Smart facilitator.

We continue to appreciate and expand our community partners. We co-sponsored two GEMS events with the Warren County Public Library; established a Best of Show award for the Town and Country art exhibition; and held meetings at Monmouth College, Warren County Public Library, Buchanan Center, and the Warren County Public Health Department. We will conclude our year at the Warren County Museum.

Special recognition goes to Jan DeYoung for continuing to serve through chemo, surgery, and radiation. Not only was she the detail member of our co-presidency, but she also continued to handle public policy and managed to rewrite the by-laws according to AAUW legal guidelines at the height of her battle.

It has been a busy and productive two years, and we thank all of you for being part of it. We persisted!



### Inside this issue

President's Report .....	page 1
May Program .....	page 2
GEMS .....	page 2
Public Policy .....	page 3
In Memoriam .....	page 3
Dues Reminder .....	page 4
Branch Planning .....	page 4
Film Group.....	page 4
Book Group.....	page 5
April Meeting .....	page 5
Slate of Officers.....	page 5
Mission Statement .....	page 5

## **AAUW Potluck/Program** **May 15, 2017** *Jan DeYoung*

The speaker for our May branch potluck meeting, to be held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at Warren County History Museum, 238 South Sunnyslane, is Kellen Hinrichsen.

Kellen's topic is "Historic Women of Warren County, Past and Present." Here is Kellen's synopsis: "Warren County has seen its fair share of historic events, people, and places since its incorporation in 1825. A part of the story that continues to be written to this day focuses on the women from Warren County and how they have influenced our community, our state, and our country. This talk will take a brief look at some of the famous, influential, and celebrated women that have lived in Warren County over the past two centuries. From socialist activists, to early physicians, and bank executives, this county has been home to a number of remarkable women. Come and learn about who has lived here, what they have done, and how our small piece of western Illinois has influenced the world."

This will be an interesting program to which to invite guests. Please come, and invite friends and prospective members!

## **GEMS Event** *Donna Sproston*

Rube Goldberg said why make it easy when it can be difficult. Today students all over the nation from elementary schools to MIT follow his advice and create amazing chain reactions to complete small tasks. Although we had just three students attend our second GEMS event on April 29th, they were up to Rube's challenge. In less than thirty minutes they dreamed up a task and arranged various items of junk and found objects to create a chain reaction. Other stations investigated chance and probability, Lego engineering with gears, and

tower construction with cups and tongue depressors.

Once again, we met at the Warren County Public Library, our co-sponsor. Station leaders were Jan DeYoung, Danielle Morrison, Donna Spears, and Donna Sproston. Assisting members were Marilyn Van Ausdall, Geneen Gillen, Vicki Gladfelter, and Kathy Lowe-Arthur. Central teacher Denise Mann also contributed to the planning and provided some materials.

We are already planning for an outdoor event in the fall.





word on when it might come to the floor. It was placed on the calendar of First Reading, Constitutional Amendments, on April 27<sup>th</sup>. However, you can contact Representative Randy Frese or Representative Norine Hammond and Senator Jil Tracy at any time (and preferably more than once!) before the General Assembly wraps up the session, officially the end of May. Since none of our representatives has yet signed on as a co-sponsor, it would be good to ask each of them to show their support by becoming a co-sponsor!

Here is the contact information:

Representative Randy Frese: 217-782-8096; 225 N Stratton Office Building, Springfield, IL 62706; or [refrese@adams.com](mailto:refrese@adams.com)

Representative Norine Hammond: 217-782-0416; 203 N Stratton Office Building, Springfield, IL 62706; [rephammond@macomb.com](mailto:rephammond@macomb.com)

Senator Jil Tracy: 217-782-2479; M 103A State Capitol Building; Springfield, IL 62706; [jiltracy@jiltracy.com](mailto:jiltracy@jiltracy.com)

Maybe this is the year!



## In Memoriam

Joyce Hagemann, 1928-2017

Many of us were in attendance at the memorial service for our dear friend and 50-year member, Joyce Hagemann. Joyce was a dedicated teacher and leader in her church for many years. She regularly participated in book group and film group, as well as most branch meetings, serving as Secretary and Archivist for the branch.

An interesting note about Joyce's membership was that she could not join AAUW right out of college, because her alma mater, Elmhurst College, was not on the list of "approved colleges and universities" at the time. When Elmhurst was finally recognized, Joyce was delighted and became a member soon afterward.

We will miss her intellectual curiosity and her gentle spirit!

## Public Policy

*Jan DeYoung*

Guess what! ERA has been introduced in the Illinois General Assembly—again! While it is not clear whether the proposal to override the "expiration date" of the ERA will pass Congress, nevertheless, we will persist!

The bill's number is SJRCA0004. It was introduced by Senator Heather A. Steans. At this time there is no

## Dues Renewal

*Donna Sproston*

### Reminders--Voting and Dues

Please visit [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) and vote for program, amendments, and board of directors. Every Member Votes is only a success if every member votes. The current by-laws require a vote of 5% of the total membership, and that threshold was barely met two years ago. The current *Outlook* provides all the details.

While at the website, you can easily pay your dues on line. Marilyn Van Ausdall recently emailed the instructions. Shirley Dadonna greatly appreciates all those who pay on-line.

## Branch Planning for 2017 - 2018

*Lila Blum*

We've had an active year of programs and activities and now it's time to build on this year's success as we plan for next year. We encourage everyone's input of program ideas; a program planning meeting will be held early this summer. Meanwhile, for the purpose of review, the programs and events for the current year are listed below:

Voter Registration - two locations, Fall 2016

Monmouth College Discrimination & Sexual Harassment Policy by Title IX Coordinator, Stephanie Kinkaid

Trends in Women's Health by Jenna Link, Administrator, Warren County Public Health Department

GEMS Workshops for girls, Warren County Public Library, November and April

The Governing Challenge after the 2016 Elections, Janna Deitz, Professor of Political Science, WIU

Book Signing & Talk by Susan Van Kirk

AAUW Research Overview and What the Research Reveals About Gender Bias, Donna Sproston, Co-President, Monmouth Area Branch AAUW

Presentation of "AAUW Best of Show Award" at Town and Country Art Exhibit, Buchanan Center for the Arts

Barriers and Opportunities: Women, Education, and Global Food Security, Megan Hinrichsen, Asst. Professor Sociology & Anthropology, Monmouth College

Art: The Heart of the Matter, Lobie Stone, First Lady, Monmouth College, Buchanan Center for the Arts

Warren County History Museum Presentation, Kellen Hinrichsen, Warren Co. History Museum Director

Please bring your suggestions to our potluck/meeting on May 15 at the Warren County History Museum or send your thoughts to Lila Blum at [blum@maplecity.com](mailto:blum@maplecity.com)

Thank you for your participation!



## Film Group

*Nancy Buban*  
AAUW May 22, 2017 Film

On Monday, May 22, film group will view "Whistleblower," a 2010 film directed by Larisa Kondracki. The drama, based on the experiences of a police officer from Nebraska, is set in post-war Bosnia. Sent as a U.N. peacekeeper the main character uncovers a scandal involving human trafficking. We will meet at 6:30 at 207 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street. The corn will be popped.





## ¡Adelante! Book Group

*Jan DeYoung*

Book Group will meet at 1:00 on Tuesday, May 23, at Jan DeYoung's home. We will discuss Commonwealth by Ann Patchett. The novel follows six stepsiblings and their unpredictable adventures and relationships with parents and step-parents. We are always eager to add new members to our lively discussions! Come and join us!



## April Meeting

*Lila Blum*

At our AAUW meeting on April 5, Lobie Stone gave an inspiring talk, "Art: The Heart of the Matter." at Buchanan Center. She explained what art has meant to her in her life and the importance of art and creativity in students' growth and development. The program was attended by several members of the community as well as branch members. Below is a link to an article about her presentation from the Monmouth College website.

<http://www.monmouthcollege.edu/information/newsEvents/newsDetails.aspx?Channel=%2fChannels%2fCampus+Wide&WorkflowItemID=7509fb80-fde0-4596-80c9-3f39cfbae435>



## AAUW Slate of Officers

*Nancy Buban*

The nominating committee wishes to extend a sincere thank you to the following members who agreed to accept the officer positions. We have a stronger organization when everyone becomes involved.

The slate of officers is:

Co-Presidents: Geneen Gillen and Alice Lawson

Co-Membership Vice Presidents: Marilyn Van Ausdall and Susan Van Kirk

Secretary: Joan Larsen



**Mission Statement:** AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.  
**Vision Statement:** AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.  
**Value Promise:** By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

Association Web site: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

AAUW-Illinois Web site:

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

Monmouth Branch Web site:

<http://monmoutharea-il.aauw.net/>

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