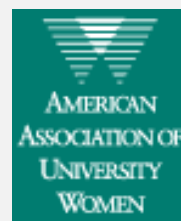


AAUW Initiative



**Monmouth, Illinois
September 2006**

Celebrating 82 Years of AAUW in Monmouth

From the Co-Presidents

Lila Blum and Marilyn Van Ausdall

A great big thanks to all of you who attended the kickoff meeting at Lila's on Aug. 21. It was wonderful getting to visit with old friends and meet new ones. Nineteen members and ten guests were present. The kickoff meeting provides a special opportunity for us to share with guests what AAUW is about at all levels, and to share how we value the work AAUW continues to do for women and girls.

We're thrilled to announce that two new members joined at the kickoff meeting: Ruby Pentsil-Bukari and Corrine Lim-Kessler. New member Jane Jakoubek joined before our meeting. More information regarding these exciting new people can be found later in this newsletter.

A special thanks to program vice-president Nancy Buban for organizing the delicious food donations. Her three wonderful salads were joined by contributions from Ronda Willhardt, Shirley Daddona, Donna Sproston, Kathy Lowe-Arthur, Joyce Hagemann, and Marilyn Van Ausdall. Thank you!

Jan DeYoung, Marilyn Van Ausdall, Ronda Willhardt, and Amy Zesbaugh enjoyed a pleasant ride to Lisle on June 11 where they met Lila Blum and Shirley Daddona for the AAUW Illinois Convention. Lila and Shirley were already there attending the AAUW Regional Conference. The annual Convention this year was moved to June and abbreviated to a Sunday afternoon, so that Regional Conference attendees could conveniently attend both.

The Monmouth branch was recognized in the convention booklet for monetary contributions to the Educational Foundation and the Legal Advocacy Fund, and for maintaining 100% of the previous year's membership numbers. Ruth Wright and Carol Bowman received certificates (in absentia) recognizing them as recipients of the AAUW Loyalty Award. Amy Zesbaugh was awarded a certificate for best newsletter in District 3. Congratulations, Ruth, Carol, and Amy!



Marilyn Van Ausdall, Ronda Willhardt, Lila Blum, Shirley Daddona, Jan DeYoung, Amy Zesbaugh
at the AAUW Illinois Convention

We had an extremely productive program planning meeting this summer at Marilyn Van Ausdall's home on June 15. Thanks so much to those who attended and contributed such great ideas. As a result, you will see a list of excellent programs as you browse through your yearbooks. A big thank you to Erika Solberg for updating and printing the yearbooks, and to Lila Blum for putting them together and organizing them for distribution.

We extend Get Well wishes to two of our members who are recuperating from surgeries. Audrey

Swanson had a knee replaced last month, and Betty Kaspar recently had foot surgery. Our wishes for a speedy recovery go out to each of them.



AAUW President Ruth Sweetser, Amy Zesbaugh, Cheryl Anderson, (former) Branch Outreach Director

AAUW – Monmouth Branch Program and Meeting

Ronda Willhardt

On Monday, September 18, 2006, at 7 p.m., the monthly meeting of the Monmouth Branch of AAUW will feature Dorothy Ricketts of Security Savings Bank. Dorothy will present "Women's Economic Security and Financial Literacy." The meeting will be held in the social hall of Faith Church, 200 S 8th Street, Monmouth.

Dorothy Ricketts is Vice President of Depository Services at Security Savings Bank, where she oversees a department of seven employees responsible for opening and administration of deposit accounts, electronic payments to and from accounts, retirement accounts, debit and ATM card administration, internet banking services, and most importantly, customer service. She also serves on several management committees within the bank.

Dorothy is Financial Partner of the Today's Woman Investment Club, to which she has belonged since 1988. In her volunteer positions, she currently serves as Secretary of the Community Medical Center Board of Directors. She is treasurer of the Titans Music Boosters and secretary/treasurer of the Monmouth Maroon softball organization.

Dorothy is the 1997 recipient of the Athena Award, given to recognize a woman in our area who has shown community commitment, professional accomplishments, and has demonstrated community service and assistance to business and professional women.

WITASWAN

Donna Sproston

The Monmouth Swans film group will meet at 7 p.m. on Sept. 12 at the home of Nancy Buban, 207 S. 8th St. The "Swans" refer to WITASWAN which stands for Women in the Audience Supporting Women Artists Now, an initiative of AAUW-Illinois. We select films written and/or directed by women. Read more about WITASWAN at www.films42.com, a web site maintained by Jan Lisa Huttner, an enthusiastic AAUW-IL board member and film critic.

We will be viewing **Earth** (1998), a film by Deepa Mehta. Mehta is an Indian born Canadian film director, and *Earth* is the second film in her elements trilogy. *Fire* was released in 1996, and *Water* is currently being shown in large metropolitan areas. *Earth* tells the story of the partition of India in 1947 from the vantage point of a young Parsi girl. It is based upon Bapsi Sidhwa's novel *Cracking India*. The running time is 101 minutes.

Adelante! Book Discussion Group

Vicki Young

The Adelante! Book Discussion Group will meet Thursday, September 14, at 7 p.m. at Amy Zesbaugh's (300 South B Street, Monmouth) to discuss the first three sections of *Tales From the Expat Harem*, edited by Ashman and Gokmen.

Upcoming books are *Case Histories* by Kate Atkinson for October 12 and *The Doctor's Daughter* by Hilma Wolitzer for November 9. Locations to be announced.

Membership Update

Kathy Lowe-Arthur

It was so exciting to meet ten guests at our Kick-Off Dinner in August. This must be a record! I'd like to thank our members for connecting with women in our communities and getting the word out about AAUW. Please continue to bring a guest or two to our next meeting September 18th.

Please update your yearbooks and join me in welcoming our newest members:

Jane Jakoubek
1103 E. Detroit, Monmouth, IL 61462

734-8766 (h)
jakoubek@monm.edu

Corrinne Lim-Kessler
1138 E. Detroit, Monmouth, IL 61462
734-0428 (h)
clim-kessler@monm.edu

Ruby Pentsil-Bukari
322 W. 2nd Ave., Monmouth, IL 61462
(765) 409-0908
rpentsilbukari@monm.edu

Happy Anniversary!

On a personal note, **Estelle Barnes** and her husband Bud will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on Monday, September 18.

Public Policy

Jan DeYoung

This year we have a Public Policy Committee, composed of Dierdre Danahar, Joan Larsen, and me. We will try to keep you informed of issue importance to AAUW members through the *Initiative* and through announcements at branch meetings.

One of our ongoing issues is **education**, with emphasis on equity in education for women and girls and over the life span.

Some of the ways of accomplishing equity and putting into action our biennial theme, "Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security," include the following, taken from the Association and the AAUW Illinois public policy positions.

- Equity for women and girls in all phases of public education through bias-free opportunities.
- Increasing the number of girls enrolled in math and science courses and to encourage girls to consider careers in math and science.
- Working with school districts to eliminate sexual harassment in the schools.
- Forward funding of public education at all levels.
- Working for full and equitable funding of all mandated programs.
- Vigorous enforcement of Title IX.

For more details, check the AAUW.org and the AAUW-IL.org web sites.

Since the Gubernatorial campaign begins in earnest this month, you can check out the positions of both candidates and see how each one is rated by A+ Illinois, of which AAUW is a member. Go to aplusillinois.org and check out the ratings. While you're there, sign the petition for full and fair funding of Illinois schools linked with property tax relief. AAUW Illinois has been working on this issue as long as I can remember!

In future issues of the *Initiative*, look for discussions related to health and other topics related to "positive societal change."

Also, I have learned that Barbara Zeitz, of the St. Charles Branch, will probably be doing a "Road Scholar" presentation at Monmouth College on October 10th. I'll keep you posted!

Art Presenter Program

Lila Blum and Jan DeYoung

Preparations are underway for starting the 34th year for the program in elementary schools in the United District, District 238 and ICS. Our coordinator, Lori Ockert, is in the process of recruiting presenters and working with school coordinators to find volunteers for the 67 classrooms that will be served in '06-'07. We welcome your participation. Please call Lori (734-7743) if you or someone you know would like to serve as a presenter this year.

Our annual **Kickoff and Orientation meeting** is **Thursday, September 21** at the Buchanan Center for the Arts. A new feature this year will be a presentation by **Stephanie Baugh**, art presenter and art education instructor at Monmouth College, who will talk about "Presenting Art to Elementary Students." Stephanie's presentation will begin at **6:30 p.m.** followed by an **Orientation** conducted by the Directors at **7 p.m.** Branch members are invited to attend this event. We also welcome two or three volunteers to assist us from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on the 21st.

This year we will introduce a new work to the Art Presenter collection, "Through the Leaves," a painting by Paulette Thenhaus who spoke at the February branch meeting and whose works were exhibited at Buchanan Center. The painting will rotate at the second grade level.

We extend a huge thank you to the crew that assisted with portfolio cleanup in June: Marilyn Van Ausdall, Jonalyn Heaton, Heather Baldwin, Erma Smallwood, Amy Zesbaugh, and Kathy Lowe-Arthur. Their enthusiastic support made the cleanup a more enjoyable task. And thanks to all our branch members for their continued support of the AAUW Art Presenter Program.

International

Erma Smallwood

At our next meeting, new AAUW member Ruby Pentsil-Bukari, Monmouth College's director of intercultural life, will familiarize you with the host family program for MC students. Please consider volunteering to welcome a new student and acquaint him or her with our local/regional culture.

Monmouth College International Luncheon

On September 27 at noon in the Highlander Room of the Stockdale Center, Shigeko Mato and Arthur Fowler will speak about Mexico and Mexican Elections. An optional buffet lunch is available for \$6.50. Reservations should be made in advance by contacting Professor Sue Holm at (309) 457-2150 or emailing susan@monm.edu.

Future luncheon topics: On October 11 at noon Terri John and Holly Trotter will discuss their studies abroad in Costa Rica and Mexico. On November 8 at noon, Ruby Pentsil-Bukari and James Bukari will talk about Ghana

Host Families for International Students

Ruby Pentsil-Bukari

The Office of Intercultural Life at Monmouth College is looking for families willing to be host families for our international students. The students do NOT live in host family homes. If you are interested in sharing American values and cultures with them and, in turn, learning about their culture, please contact me by emailing rpentsilbukari@monm.edu or calling (309) 457-2241 for more information.

AAUW Regional Conference

Lila Blum

On June 9 – 11, Shirley Dadonna and I met with our AAUW sisters from five states, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio, at the Regional Conference in Lisle/Naperville. I was reminded, once again, of what a powerful voice this

organization is for women and girls as we listened, participated, and conversed throughout the three days of conference sessions.

The new program theme, "Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security," was given emphasis and has inspired the program planning for our branch this year. In a session called "The Power of the Purse" we learned that 95% of women are responsible for money management at some point in their lives. Jennifer Wilken of IL gave a dynamic, "hands on" presentation, distributing calculators and worksheets to each of us as we learned what we need to know about the ongoing process of financial planning.

Another impressive session was led by Georgia Duerst-Lahti, a professor at Beloit College, whose topic was "Power: Women Leading Political Change." She emphasized that government will only work for women when policy reflects what women want. She described the leadership needed for policy change and the basic principles of leadership that women should follow for success in effecting change. Georgia is a featured commentator on Wisconsin public radio and writes extensively on gender and politics.

The most moving of the presentations was the story told by Dr. Charlene McMahon, a professor of chemistry who was denied tenure by Carroll College in WI. Although a faculty committee of five unanimously voted in favor, based on merit, the president and the board denied her tenure. She started the biochemistry program at the college, taught in more areas than other chemistry faculty, and had larger classes. She said "I thought the world was a fair place until this happened." She has accumulated a total of \$300,000 in legal fees.

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, which now supports her case, has contributed \$21,500. Charlene has put in \$17,500 of her own money and her friends have donated \$10,000. She reminded us that only 27% of tenured professors are female and that there's a big gender gap in math, biology, chemistry, and physics where women are obviously undervalued. Asked if she was a member of AAUW, she said, "I am so grateful. I will be a member of this organization until the day I die."

Our eyes filled with tears as we got out our checkbooks to make extra donations, totaling \$4,342 to LAF. It was a very proud moment, knowing that our organization's Legal Advocacy

Fund is the largest legal fund which supports plaintiffs in sexual discrimination cases in higher education. (And when we in the branch buy Rada knives and Gwen Frostic stationery, we can be proud that we are contributing to a most important and deserving cause.)

The regional conference certainly provided another opportunity for me to expand my knowledge and appreciation of AAUW.

First Annual AAUW-IL 2006 Loyalty Awards

Lila Blum

The AAUW-IL Loyalty Award is presented to a long-term branch member who continues to support the mission of AAUW and has made a significant impact on the work of the local branch and/or AAUW-IL, Inc. Our branch has several members who would qualify for this award; however, we have chosen to honor Ruth Wright and Carol Bowman for reasons described in the following citation:

The Monmouth Branch would like to nominate Carol Bowman and Ruth Wright for the Loyalty Award. Three years ago, our branch was in danger of folding because no one wanted to step up and assume the presidency. Carol was just completing her two-year term as branch president, succeeding Ruth who had served as president for two years. To keep the branch going, Carol and Ruth decided to be co-presidents for the next two years.

Ruth is currently one of three branch members making district elementary schools aware of AAUW's "Hostile Hallways," and as such was one of the presenters for our branch on March 20, 2006. Besides president, Ruth has served as women's issues chair, parliamentarian, topic chair, and nominating committee chair for the branch, and is an active member of the branch book study group. Carol, who is currently parliamentarian for the branch, has served as membership vice president, Educational Foundations chair and also actively participates in the book study group.

Both Carol and Ruth have attended several state and district conferences. During their presidencies, they set the bar for what branch leaders ought to be. They are always willing to help with whatever endeavors the branch undertakes, from garage sales to "meet the candidates" nights. These two women are definitely deserving of the AAUW-IL Loyalty Award.

Congratulations, Ruth and Carol, and many thanks for your loyalty and service to the Monmouth Branch of AAUW!

Personalize Your Messages to Congress

American Library Association
Washington Office Newsline
ALAWON
Volume 15, Number 078

In a recent survey by the Congressional Management Foundation (CMF) it was found that over half of Congressional staffers polled said they believe the form-emails they receive from constituents are sent without the constituents' knowledge. The CMF report concludes that:

"Quality is more persuasive than quantity. Thoughtful, personalized constituent messages generally have more influence than a large number of identical form messages. Grassroots campaigns should consider placing greater emphasis on generating messages of higher quality and reducing form communications..." (Communicating With Congress: How Capitol Hill Is Coping With the Surge in Citizen Advocacy <http://www.cmfweb.org>).

Additionally, many congressional offices have small staffs that struggle to manage thousands of emails received by the office each day. Staff must quickly skim emails and faxes to determine whether the communications are spam or are related to real federal issues. Staff skim emails and faxes looking for personalized communications, which get pulled for greater consideration. Meanwhile, form emails and faxes are more likely to be mistaken as spam or set aside with other form letters.

(Though this message is obviously directed toward librarians' advocacy messages, it relates to our communication with Congress about AAUW's equity and justice issues. Nann Blaine Hilyard Waukegan Area Branch, AAUW Director, Zion-Benton Public Library ALA Executive Board)

From AAUW ActionALERT

Get Out the Vote
AAUW members have a new resource to reach women and encourage them to



vote: *Woman-to-Woman Voter Turnout: A Manual for Community-Based Campaigns to Mobilize Women to Vote*. The manual presents a step-by-step plan to maintain and grow the women's vote and maximize local civic participation. Publication was made possible by a generous gift from AAUW member Lilo Leeds and Gerard Leeds of Great Neck, N.Y.

In addition to the new manual, a members-only PowerPoint presentation is available on the website, perfect for use in branch and state-based programming. Members planning get-out-the-vote activities can request technical assistance and a printed copy of the manual by contacting the Public Policy and Government Relations Department at VoterEd@aauw.org or (800) 608-5286.



Member-Get-a-Member Campaign

It's your chance to help us grow! As part of the brand-new *AAUW Keys to the Future: A Member-Get-a-Member Campaign*, AAUW is challenging every member to recruit at least one paid new member between June 1, 2006 and June 15, 2007. The most effective way for membership organizations to grow is through referrals from members, and this is especially true for AAUW.

Successful recruiters will be listed in the "Hall of Fame" and be eligible for commemorative lapel pins, awards, and the grand prize.

Each member holds a key to the future of AAUW. We encourage you to use yours now and open the door to AAUW's next 125 years.

Candidates Don't Make the Grade

A+ Illinois

A+ Illinois has released a side-by-side "report card" analysis of the education funding plans proposed by Democratic gubernatorial candidate Rod Blagojevich and Republican candidate Judy Baar Topinka, grading the strength of each candidate's proposal in five key areas:

- Fair and adequate school funding that meets the recommendations of the state Education Funding Advisory Board.
- Sustainable school funding source that provides reliable, stable long-term resources for schools.
- Meaningful property-tax relief.
- Strategies to close the student achievement gap.
- A plan to improve the state's ailing fiscal health and protect funding for essential programs such as health care and human services.

A+ Illinois is disappointed that both leading-party candidates have ideas to improve school quality, but neither has proposed a comprehensive, sustainable school funding plan that ends our over-reliance on local property taxes. All candidates — for governor and legislative office — should listen to Illinois voters, who are worried that our schools don't have the resources they need to prepare kids for the jobs of the 21st century.

View the [Topinka Report Card](#)

View the [Blagojevich Report Card](#)

A+ Illinois is currently analyzing the education proposals of Green Party gubernatorial candidate Rich Whitney, who was recently authorized to appear on the November ballot.

New Poll Finds Education Is Top Election Issue in Illinois

A [recent poll](#) by Harstad Strategic Research found that Illinois voters rank public education as the top issue they want to see state leaders address during this election year — higher than jobs, gas prices, or health care. Nearly two-thirds of voters want to see an increase in the state's share of funding for public education.

The study found that support for increased funding is broad-based, including in Chicago, suburban, and downstate communities. The survey even found extensive support from those without children in public schools.

Tell state leaders that voters want education reform this year!

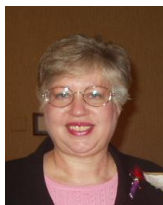
[Sign](#) the petition for school funding reform with property tax relief.

[Circulate](#) the petition in your community.

Stay up to date with the latest [news](#) from A+ Illinois.

AAUW-IL State News

Nancy Daugherty, AAUW-IL, Inc. President



We can now feel fall just around the corner, the favorite season of many people. It is always an exciting time to get back to branch activities, renewing friendships, meeting new friends, and working together for AAUW's equity and education goals. Dues have been paid, officers are in place, and we are off to another great year. The Fall Link is on its way to you with the Fall Conference registration form, directions, and I am looking forward to seeing a large number of you at the conferences. You will be able to pick up your copy of the State Directory there.

Theme-based programming should now be well planned and in place so that your branch can be offering high quality programs that attract members and help to brand your Branch as AAUW through and through with a focus on the Mission, and the theme, Education as a Gateway to Women's Economic Security. We like having fun, but we are not just another social club like so many others. We want to be distinct and offer more substance in our programs. Where is the sweet spot for programming? Come to the Fall Conference to find the answer. Please contact **Lois Strom**, Vice President of Programs, lstrom@siu.edu, or (217) 546-5325 (p.m.), if you have questions on programming.

Here are five "partnering" goals with states and branches that the Association Board has set. Ruth Sweetser asks that branches and states find alignment to work in tandem in achieving these goals for FY07.

1. To promote participation by students with the state in the National Conference of College Student Women leaders and encourage at least two participants from an institution that does not participate.
2. To encourage state theme teams to be in place and functioning to promote the

programmatic theme Education as the Gateway to Women's Economic Security.

3. To encourage state and branch delegations to be filled as feasible for the 2007 Association Convention.
4. To set a goal of at least 50% participation of members in the Member-Get-a-Member program.
5. To have every state celebrate the 125th anniversary of AAUW.

How will your branch work on this? I hope you will talk this over within your branch to have a plan in place to align your branch with the goals of AAUW-IL, Inc. Please refer to the AAUW and AAUW-IL web sites regularly for news and check out the links indicated below for more resources and tools.

Nominations

The Nominating Committee is seeking nominees to fill open, elective state offices for the next biennial term 2007-2009. President Elect, Co-Membership Vice Presidents, and Secretary are the positions to be filled. Nominations can be sent to **Alice Huebner**, Nominating Chair, 3776 Ashley Court, Decatur, IL 62526, phone her at 217-876-1446 or email at ahuebner@prodigy.net. The deadline for submitting nominations is November 1, 2006.

AAUW Fall Conference

Celebrate a legacy of leadership that began in 1881 when 17 women college graduates held their first meeting. Since that first meeting in 1881, AAUW has been a catalyst for change and making great strides in improving women's lives. Celebrate our contribution to a more promising future for women and girls. As long as inequity exists, AAUW needs strong advocates to continue the work of our foremothers. Join us at a District Fall Conference near you to explore such a future for AAUW-Illinois.

Date: October 28, 2006, District 1, 2, and 3

Location for District 1, 2, & 3: The Buckminster Fuller Geodesic Dome at Southern Illinois University — Edwardsville campus

Time: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Theme: Legacy of Leadership 125 Years AAUW Birthday Celebration

Cost: \$18.00

Directions and additional details will be provided in the Link, via e-mail and on the www.aauw.il.org web site.

The conference will provide:

- **Leadership training** — Team leadership or how to be a branch leader and maintain a reasonable time/energy commitment.
- **AAUW web site** – Techniques to maneuver through the web sites.
- **Film and discussion** – how the creative energies of women have been sapped by mundane tasks, and in turn how such tasks reflect a ritualistic approach to life.
- **Membership recruitment** – Learn to market AAUW and recruit new members with the new Keys and MGM program.
- **Speedboarding** – Back by popular demand, speed dating with your state leaders.
- **Paradigm shift** – How to discard those sacred cows.

Celebrate! Join us in celebrating our 125-year-old heritage.

Branch Dates to Remember

Now through October 26: “Varian Fry – Assignment Rescue,” an exhibition from the United States Holocaust Museum at the Buchanan Center for the Arts

WITASWAN Film Group: September 12, 7 p.m.
207 S. 8th St.

Adelante! Book Group: September 14, 7 p.m.,
300 S. B Street

Branch Meeting: September 18, 7 p.m., Faith
United Presbyterian Social Hall, 200 S. 8th Street

Holocaust Presentation: September 19, 7 p.m.
by Dr. Alan Goldfarb, Buchanan Center

Art Presenter Kickoff and Orientation:

September 21, 6:30 p.m. Buchanan Center

Fall Conference: October 28, Edwardsville,
Illinois

**AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls,
lifelong education and positive societal change.**

Association web site: www.aauw.org

AAUW-Illinois web site: www.aauw-il.org

Monmouth Branch web site: <http://department.monm.edu/aauw/>

Initiative Editor: Amy Zesbaugh, zestib@hotmail.com