

November 2013

Celebrating 90 Years of AAUW in Monmouth!

President's Report

Marilyn Van Ausdall

Our last newsletter came out four days before the government shutdown ended. I'm sure we were all on edge during those weeks, and rightfully so. The U.S. Government has shut down 17 times, and did you know that four of them (three in 1977 and one in 1979) were over a disagreement about women's healthcare? Click [here](#) to learn more about past shutdowns.

If potential members are not impressed by AAUW, then we're just not getting the right information out to them. Check out [aauw.org](#) often to keep updated on what's going on with women's issues and what AAUW is doing for the cause. It's important to be aware of AAUW's work on Capitol Hill, its efforts in promoting STEM careers to females, what's happening on the Legal Advocacy front, the fellowships and grants that are available for post-graduate work and community outreach, and much more. Not sure what to say to prospective members about AAUW? Click [here](#) for help. Also, if you weren't at our October meeting, I showed some videos that you can see on YouTube. Click [here](#) to browse through the list. They'll give you a good idea about what's happening with AAUW outside of the Monmouth area.

Interesting November dates in Women's History:

- **November 1, 1848** – First medical school for women, the New England Female Medical School, opens. In 1874 it merges with Boston University to become one of the world's first co-ed medical schools.
- **November 28, 1881** – **The first organizational meeting is held for the predecessor group to the American Association of University Women!**

Fundraising

Marilyn Van Ausdall

I'll deliver products before Thanksgiving to anyone who ordered from RADA Cutlery through Vicki Gladfelter and me. I'll let you know as soon as orders are received. Thanks so much to all who ordered and/or passed along the ordering information to others.

Please stop by the AAUW table at the VFW on Saturday, Nov. 23, sometime between 9 AM and 3 PM.

We're hoping for a good turnout to benefit AAUW Funds, but also especially to benefit the women of Uganda who made the jewelry we'll be selling through Project Have Hope. There are several informational videos on YouTube about the organization. Let's make our first foray into the craft show arena a big success!

It just dawned on me, as I go to submit this article by the newsletter deadline that my daughters will be coming home from Chicago that Saturday morning to see me in a play that night. I know I already have a couple of members who have volunteered to help. Perhaps I might need more to free me up a little... **Also, does anyone have a cash box I could borrow?**

To order online (and there is still time):

Go to [helpourfundraiser.com](#). Our branch's Internet Ordering # is 500207 and the password is aauw (all lower case.) Then click on Browse at the top left side of the page, and you'll be able to choose from lots of different item categories. This is a great time to do some of your Christmas shopping, as well as for choosing food items to serve on Thanksgiving Day and other holiday gatherings.

The items are delivered directly to you, and you pay the shipping costs. You'll receive your order 2 days after you submit it online. This option will also save money for our branch in shipping costs! And Marilyn will love you even more.

Thanks you so much!!!

Inside this issue

President’s Reportpage 1
 Fundraisingpage 1
 November Program.....page 2
 District 3 Meeting.....page 2
 Public Policy.....page 2
 AAUW News.....page 3
 Film Grouppage 5
 Book Grouppage 5
 Membership Newspage 5
 Mission Statement.....page 6

AAUW November 20, 2013 Program
5 pm
Market Alley Wines

Protecting Yourself Against
Identify Theft

I think those present at our September meeting at Market Alley Wines would agree that our first Cocktails and Conversations event was a great success. We’re hoping to repeat that this month, so please put the date on your calendars. Market Alley Wines is located at 59 Public Square in Monmouth.

Jackie Flater, Assistant Vice President of Electronic Banking at Midwest Bank of Western Illinois, will be speaking to us on the important topic of Identity Theft. We will learn how it can happen and how thieves use our personal information once they’ve stolen it. Tips will be given regarding proactive steps we can take to protect ourselves and our account information. Jackie will also enlighten us on recovering from fraud and the key steps to take if we become victims.

All present will receive an Identity Theft Assistance Guide. Jackie asked for an approximate number of attendees so that she could make sure she brought enough guides for everyone. Perhaps it would be a good idea to let me know (vanausd@frontiernet.net) ahead of time if you’ll be attending so that I can pass along the number to her.

Hope to see you on the 20th! Bring a guest! And perhaps a folding chair wouldn’t be a bad idea, either...



District #3 meeting - AAUW-IL
Shirley Daddona, District Director

DISTRICT 3 MEETING

The District 3 meeting of AAUW-IL was held Saturday, Nov. 2 at the Packinghouse Restaurant in Galesburg with five of our members attending. State Board Members in attendance were Andrea Danis, president; Marcia Wherry, state public policy co-director; Alice Huebner, branch outreach chair; Marilyn Van Ausdall, "Link" editor; Shirley Daddona, district 3 director were present.

Members from Peoria, Morton, Ottawa, and Monmouth Area branches were present. Pekin Area and Rock Island-Moline branches could not attend due to conflicts, though Rock Island-Moline members were able to attend the district 4/5 meeting the previous Saturday. All learned some important things they can take back to their branch.

Marilyn's presentation on new technology in AAUW seemed to be a hit with everyone. All enjoyed lunch and were able to network with one another.



Public Policy
Jan DeYoung

At our District 3 Fall Conference in Galesburg, Marcia Wherry, AAUW-IL co-chair of Public Policy, announced that our state has been awarded two AAUW Impact Grants. Grant #1 involves Social Security and STEM; Grant #2 involves collaboration with AAUW-Missouri to work on ratification of ERA and continuing work on Pay Equity. Another issue is the elimination of violence against women. Stay tuned for more information!

You probably know that ERA was first introduced in the U.S. Senate on December 10, 1923 and in the House on

December 13 of the same year. Don't you think 91 years is long enough to wait?

November 25 is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Although Congress finally passed the VAWA act, there is a great deal of work to be done to enforce it, in the U.S. and around the world! This is another of AAUW's initiatives.

New pay gap statistics are out. They are not encouraging! Women in the U.S. are still paid 77 per cent of men's wages for comparable work, according to the Census Bureau. This is ZERO progress in the past ten years! And for minority women the situation is even worse. Although non-Hispanic white and Asian American women the percentage is 77 and 87, respectively, of the salaries of white men, for Native American/Pacific Islanders, African American, American Indian/Native Alaskan, and Hispanic women, the relationships are 66%, 64%, 60%, and 53%. If you'd like to learn more about these disparities, "The Simple Truth About the Gender Pay Gap" from our website: www.aauw.org. It's not pleasant reading, but AAUW continues to be in the forefront of the effort to close the gap as part of our mission to promote equity and education for women and girls.

AAUW News

C'mon, We've Been at This Forever (132 Years, to be Exact)

On Monday, the *New York Times* published an [article](#) about an [exhibit](#), "Honoring Female Pioneers in Science," now on display at the Grolier Club in New York City. It's awesome that the newspaper is acknowledging such an important topic. It's also heartening that the article appeared on the *Times*' Most Popular web page this week. If AAUW's founders were alive today, no doubt they would be thrilled about women in science making national news! Then again, perhaps AAUW members of yore would not be surprised to see some of the same women they supported featured in the *Times*. After all, AAUW has been recognizing and supporting women in science since our inception in 1881. Did you know AAUW fellowships, grants, and awards were behind **almost half** of the 32 women featured in

that article? Let's take a moment to highlight some of them, many of whom have already graced the pages of our blog.



Chien-Shiung Wu

Realizing that this Chinese physicist was overlooked for the Nobel Prize for her groundbreaking work in overturning a then-widely accepted "law" of physics, AAUW first wrote about the injustice and then recognized her in 1959 with our highest honor, the Achievement Award.



Marie Curie

AAUW members contributed toward the purchase of a gram of radium for Curie in 1920. More importantly, after Curie's death, brilliant AAUW minds worked through the legal system to ensure that the remaining funds were used for their original purpose, thereby creating the Marie Curie Fellowship for a woman studying physics, chemistry, or radiology.

Support 125 More Years of Fellowships and Grants Give to Educational Funding



Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin

The *Times* author writes about Payne-Gaposchkin's mentor, Harlow Shapley, who took her under his wing. For sure, Shapley was a great contributor to the astronomer's success. But please don't omit AAUW, who first granted Payne-Gaposchkin the 1924–25 Rose Sidgwick Fellowship, then gave her the Achievement Award in 1957. Payne-Gaposchkin also contributed to numerous AAUW conventions.



Lise Meitner and Marietta Blau

How could we forget these two Austrian physicists who were unable to continue their work due to the Nazi occupation during World War II? Forced to flee Austria, both women appealed to AAUW's war relief fund (via their peer Albert Einstein) for assistance with finding positions in the field to continue their research.



Florence Sabin

Sabin was an AAUW member who in 1928 was honored by the AAUW Rocky Mountain Region (now AAUW of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming) with an endowment in her name. Sabin, whose likeness is carved into the *Pioneers in Progress* artwork on display here at the national office, was a medical doctor who revolutionized public health laws with her research on tuberculosis.



Barbara McClintock

McClintock received the Nobel Prize in medicine in 1983 for her groundbreaking work in genetics with the discovery of "jumping genes." She was previously recognized by AAUW for those same discoveries not one or two years prior... but **36 years before**, in 1947! Shall I continue? (Yes, there are more AAUW connections with this exhibit.) I am sure you get the picture. But I can't end this blog without noting the *Times* nod to the role of mentors in these women's careers. Despite enormous obstacles and prejudices, the scientists in the Grolier exhibit all excelled in their fields. But given the social climate at the time, they had to have support just to stick around, let alone succeed. AAUW filled that need — and has been for almost 132 years, since long before the women we supported could make front-page news.



Film Group

Nancy Buban

Film group will meet at 7:00 on Monday, November 25, to view The Invisible War, an investigative documentary about sexual assault in the military. It is a 2012 film directed by Kirby Dick. Thank you to Shirley for sharing the film with the group. All are welcome. Viewing is at the usual location, 207 S. Eighth Street. Please let me know if you will be able to attend



¡Adelante! Book Group

Jan DeYoung

Book Group will meet on Monday night, November 18, at 7:00 p.m. at Alice Lawson's to discuss Girls of Atomic city: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II. We hope you'll join us!

Our January selection is Sonja Sottomayor's My Beloved World. Date and place to be arranged.

We are looking for suggestions for books for February through April. We'd love to have some new people give us some new ideas for titles and to join our group!



Membership

Marilyn Van Ausdall

Welcome New Members!

Peggy Watson graduated from the University of Illinois in 1972 with a BA in English Education (6-12th grades) Her subsequent education included certification in Montessori, elementary K-6, Reading Recovery, and a Reading Teacher endorsement. Her husband, Craig, is an English Professor and they have a son and daughter and 3 delightful grandchildren. Peggy's jazzed about reading, cooking, gardening and family. She is eager to become more involved in issues of literacy, the environment, sustainability and food insecurity. And? Peggy laughs a lot!

Vera Fornander lives in Woodhull with her husband, Bob. Vera graduated from the University of Iowa with a BA in Elementary Education, concentrating in Early Childhood Education, and went on to teach 32 years for the Galesburg School District, with most of those years being 3rd grade at Gale School. Vera has been very active with Prairie Players Civic Theater in Galesburg for over 30 years and currently serves on the Governance, Finance, and Production Planning Committees. She is also a Lifetime member of NEA/IEA and belongs to the Western Illinois Retired Educators organization.

Judy Diemer lives in Galesburg with her husband, Larry. She earned her BA in Sociology from Augustana College and worked in social services for the state of Iowa for 10 years before returning to Illinois, where she has been involved with arts management and marketing. Judy recently retired from the Galesburg Broadcasting Company and is currently serving as Managing Trustee for the Verl I. Brooks Scholarship Foundation and is president of Prairie Players Civic Theater. She enjoys traveling, especially to visit Larry and her two daughters' families in Chicago and London.

Alexandra (Alex) Bomphray, Monmouth College Professor of Education, and her husband recently located to Monmouth from Vancouver, British Columbia! Alex earned her BA and MA from the University of Michigan, and her PhD from the University of Victoria. We were very excited that Alex jumped right in and attended our District 3 meeting on November 2.

Please join me in welcoming these new members who joined at Olivia's during our October meeting. Contact

information for them can be found under the Members Only tab on our branch webpage.

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

AAUW-Illinois Web site:

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

Monmouth Branch Web site:

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

AAUW Initiative Editor: Sharon Gilbert,
sharongilbert1484@comcast.net