

January 2014

Celebrating 90 Years of AAUW in Monmouth!

President's Report

Marilyn Van Ausdall

Happy New Year, everyone! I'm so excited with the way our program year has started out, and I'm beyond thrilled about our new members! I'm hoping during 2014 that we'll find some new ways that AAUW can make a difference in the lives of women and girls in our surrounding communities.

I will continue to encourage you to check out aauw.org often. It's such a wonderful website these days and it's continually being updated. Perhaps you'll find an idea here that you think we should pursue as a branch. Please let me know if you do. There are some programs that I have my eyes on, but I'd love to have your input on anything that interests you.

The first thing I would like everyone to do is make sure that you can log in to the Member Services Database (MSD) at the website. Here you can edit your contact information, print your membership card, see how much you've contributed to AAUW this year when you're filing your income taxes, and more. Go to aauw.org and click on Login at the top of the homepage. Look up your membership number here if necessary to get logged in.

Then click on Member Tools at the bottom of the homepage and scroll down to click on the link to enter the MSD. Call me at 734-3917 or email me at vanausd@frontiernet.net if you need help getting logged in either to the main website or to the MSD. One of my favorite parts of the MSD: come May or June, you can also use a credit card to easily renew your membership and earn those miles or points or whatever you earn by using that plastic card.

Secondly, I ask you to click on the following link to become a [Two-Minute Activist](#) if you haven't already done so. The first time, you should scroll down to click on Join the AAUW Action Network today! There are

several links then that you can click on under Education, Civil Rights, Economic Security, and Title IX so that you can easily contact your members of Congress regarding any of these issues.

And don't forget about our own very useful [branch website!](#)



Fundraising

Shirley Daddona

Just a short note on our fundraising for 2013. Though we did not have as many RADA orders this year, we did net \$209.75 for AAUW Funds. The jewelry sales netted \$472.00. Many thanks to Marilyn for all her work on these two projects.

The Holiday Brunch netted \$275.00 for the Legal Advocacy Fund.

We sent \$500.00 to fellowships plus individual contributions.

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AAUW January 18, 2014 Program

10:00 a.m.

Warren County Library, 62 Public Square,
Monmouth
Lila Blum

Women Preserving History: One Family's
Paper Trail of Letters from the Civil War

Speaker: Kathleen Fannin

At our January meeting we'll shift to a Saturday morning to hear Kathleen Fannin's presentation about her recent book, "Paper Trail: Letters from the Civil War." Kathleen assembled a collection of letters, passed down through five generations of women in her family, to tell the story of her family, including her great great grandfather, Oscar Stearns, who served in the 13th Vermont Infantry during the Civil War and fought at the Battle of Gettysburg. The one-hundred-eighty-three letters in the book include the correspondence between Oscar and his sweetheart, Jeannette, who later became his wife, and that of other family members. Kathleen researched many historical details, documenting people and places that are mentioned in the letters and incorporated illustrations to enhance the text. In the process she learned how to paint with watercolors and created a work depicting a cannon on the Gettysburg battlefield which she then used for the book's cover.

Kathleen authored this book, her seventh, in the early years of her retirement from Monmouth College where she served as Chaplain from 1997 to 2010. Growing up in a military family, she moved around and had lived in seven states by the time she was eight years old. She earned a B.A. in sociology, psychology, and anthropology from the University of Texas and a Master of Theological Studies at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis. In 2005, she completed the Doctor of Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. She's had a varied work career, including park ranger for the National Park Service, degree counselor at University of Texas, and research manager for the Missouri Department of Economic Development. She continues to preach at a number of Monmouth area churches following her retirement. Her other books

include: "Light Running: Poems for All Seasons," "Remembering God at College," and "Cows in the Church: 80 Biblically Based Children's Sermons."

Please join us on Saturday the 18th at Warren County Library at 10 a.m. for an engaging presentation by an accomplished author who will take us back to the 19th century to share her family's story.



Public Policy *Jan DeYoung*

A topic of great interest to women is the proposed increase in the minimum wage. H.R. 1010/S 460, the Fair Minimum Wage Act, proposes an increase from the current \$7.25 per hour to \$10.10 in three years, in 95-percent annual increments. Why is this a good idea, and why should you go to AAUW.org and click on Two-Minute Activist to encourage our Senators and Representatives to get this legislation to the floor for discussion and passage?

The Federal Minimum wage has been increased only three times in the past 30 years. If it had kept up with inflation, the current minimum wage would now be \$10.70—60 cents more than is proposed in the bill.

Currently, a full-time minimum wage worker (56 percent of whom are women), earns \$14,500 a year, \$4000 below the federal poverty level for a family of three, typically a mother and two children. At the proposed \$10.10 level, the annual wage would increase the annual wage by \$5700 to \$20,200 and officially pull a family of three out of poverty, though not by much! By the end of the third year, other workers who are

currently earning between \$10.10 and \$11.65 per hour would also see their wages increased.

Since 56% of the workers affected would be women, an increase in the federal minimum wage would help improve the wage gap. As you recall, the wage gap for all women is still 77%, while for Black women it's 64% and for Latinas 55%; a majority of minimum-wage workers are women, disproportionately women of color.

An increase in the federal minimum wage does not lead to increased unemployment, as some politicians would like us to believe; in addition, it decreases employee turnover, boosts worker effort, and encourages employers to invest in their workers. Further, for every dollar added to the minimum wage, low wage households will spend \$2800 more the following year; this aids economic recovery. The EPI estimates that by the third year, \$32 Billion dollars in additional economic activity will be generated and about 140,000 jobs will have been added.

Keep in mind that the minimum wage in Illinois is currently \$8.25. The federal increase might not force Illinois to increase its minimum wage until the second year; still, Illinois would have to raise its minimum wage at that time, because states are required to have minimum wage levels at least the same as the federal standard.

Convinced? Then go to aauw.org. On the right side of the screen click on Take Action: Make Your Voice Heard in Congress. There are a lot of choices for you to consider. On Two-Minute Activist, choose Raise the Federal Minimum Wage Gap. Submit your zip code, hit Enter, and a letter will appear. You can tailor it with your own special insights, and, after providing your name, address, and email address, hit Send. Your email will be sent to all three of our Members of Congress. While you're there, click on the button to join the Action Network. Then you will be kept up to date when action is needed on an issue important to us. Or pick up the phone, write a letter, or send an email to Senator Durbin, Senator Kirk, and Representative Bustos. We know that Senator Durbin and Congresswoman Bustos are on the side of wage equality, but they need to hear

from us anyway. Senator Kirk may need a bit more persuading.



January 22 is Roe Day, the 41st anniversary of the passage of Roe v. Wade. While we have taken the protections of Roe for granted for 40 years, these rights are under continuous and increasing threat in cities and states across the nation. As a member of AAUW you are on the forefront of the struggle to keep the protections of Roe v. Wade for all women. We must continue to be vigilant!



Film Group

Nancy Buban

Film group will meet at 7p.m. on Wednesday, January 29th, to view the 2010 film, *Conviction*.

Starring Hilary Swank and Sam Rockwell, it is based on the true story of Betty Anne Waters who for 18 years tries to gather evidence to overturn her brother Kenny's murder conviction. Convinced of his innocence, Betty receives her GED and attends law school when she gets no satisfaction from local authorities. It is an emotional look at the bond between siblings and the struggle to find the truth. Once again viewing is at 207 S. 8th and corn will be popped. Please note that we are meeting on **Wednesday** instead of Monday.





¡Adelante! Book Group

Jan DeYoung

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

So far, through AAUW's Shape the Future Campaign, our branch has earned three free memberships because of the number of new members who have joined at the public events we held at Market Alley Wines and Olivia's in the fall. We're still eligible to earn up to two more. So let's DO it!

Because our next meeting on January 18 at the Warren County Public Library at 10 AM is open to the public, this qualifies as another Shape the Future Campaign event. For every two new or lapsed members who join at that event, our branch earns a free membership. We could have a drawing in May to award the free memberships that we have earned by then to any lucky members whose names are drawn, and/or we could award free memberships to those with current financial need.

As always, AAUW offers half-year national dues of \$24.50 for any new members joining after January 1. However, anyone who joins at a Shape the Future event can join for half of that. So, dues on January 18 for

anyone joining that day would be \$12.25 national + \$4.50 branch + \$10 state, totaling \$26.75!

Also, Monmouth College, Knox College, and WIU students can join AAUW free directly through the aauw.org website, since all three of those institutions are current College/University Partners of AAUW. We need to spread the word on that one...

I hope to see you and your guest(s) next Saturday at the library!

Welcome New Member!

Please join me in welcoming Sarah Hall, who joined at our November meeting at Market Alley Wines. Sarah graduated from Monmouth College and taught elementary school in Aledo (so she and I go way back), retiring from Mercer County Schools last May. She and her husband, Steve (of Hoover Hall Memorial Chapel in Monmouth) reside in Monmouth and stay busy attending their ten grandchildren's activities. Sarah is also a strong believer in providing service to the community. Just the kind of member we need! Sarah's contact information can be accessed under the Members Only section of our branch website. Thanks for joining us, Sarah!



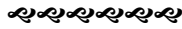
A Huge Thank You!

Marilyn Van Ausdall

Jan DeYoung was president when I joined in 1983, and has been a model of AAUW for me ever since. Last fall, Jan took it upon herself to gather together years worth of Monmouth and Monmouth Area AAUW branch materials, press releases, etc., that had been accumulating in various branch members' homes, hers included. She went on to spend hours and hours going through things, deciding what should be kept for historical purposes and what could be discarded. Then she arranged through new member Stacy Cordery (Thank You, Stacy!) for the materials to be archived in the Monmouth College Hewes Library. We can't thank

you enough, Jan, for spending your valuable time working to preserve our branch history.

You definitely deserve AT LEAST January and February enjoying the warm Arizona weather. Soak some in for us. May your time there be restful and rejuvenating.



January Highlights in US Women's History

January 3, 1949 – Margaret Chase Smith (R-Maine) starts her tenure in the Senate, where she stays in office until 1973, becoming the first woman to serve in both the House and Senate having previously served in the House (R-Maine, 1940-49).

January 5, 1925 – Nellie Tayloe Ross is inaugurated as the first woman Governor in U.S. history (Governor of Wyoming).

January 7, 1896 – Fanny Farmer's first cookbook is published in which she standardized cooking measurements.

January 7, 1955 – Marian Anderson is the first African American woman to sing at the Metropolitan Opera.

January 8, 1977 – Pauli Murray is ordained as the first female African-American Episcopal priest.

January 11, 1935 – Amelia Earhart makes the first solo flight from Hawaii to North America.

January 12, 1932 – Hattie Wyatt Caraway (D-Arkansas) is the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate, and goes

on to become the first woman to chair a Senate Committee and the first to serve as the Senate's presiding officer.

January 25, 1980 – Mary Decker becomes the first woman to run a mile under 4 1/2 minutes, running it at 4:17.55.

January 29, 1926 – Violette Neatly Anderson becomes the first black woman to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court.

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/>

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