

AAUW Initiative

Monmouth, Illinois
September 2014



Celebrating 90 Years of AAUW in Monmouth!

President's Report

Marilyn Van Ausdall

Congratulations are in order. **AAUW celebrates 90 years in Monmouth this fall!** While branches in Macomb, Galesburg, and Kewanee disbanded over the years, Monmouth kept going.

With your help, our branch can continue for at least another 90 years. What can you do? Well, it's safe to say that many of us in the branch don't even fit into the middle-aged category anymore. We need young women who will be dedicated to the cause of carrying on the traditions set by our foremothers. When you meet such a young woman, tell her to Google Monmouth AAUW to find out more about us. Offer to bring her to one of our meetings.

Since I retired a year ago, I have had time to make AAUW my job. I spend part of most days doing something with respect to my responsibilities as president (3rd time around), membership vp, fundraising chair, Facebook updater, and webmaster. I've helped with issues concerning programming and dues. This is the fifth article I've written for this month's branch newsletter. Twice a year I edit the state newsletter, the fall edition of which you should have received via email earlier this month (please let me know if you didn't.) I called the Mayor's office today to see about a photo op because of our 90 years in Monmouth, and wrote an article about it that I'm going to TRY to get into the papers. Donna Sproston, Jan DeYoung, and I will be speaking to students at a student leadership conference at Monmouth College on Oct. 18 about the importance of voting and also we'll be registering voters at the conference.

On Friday I will be receiving training to become a facilitator so that I'll be able to offer the **\$tart \$mart Workshop** to area college women who are about to enter the job market. \$tart \$mart prepares them "with the confidence, knowledge, and skills they need to negotiate salaries and benefits." I'm excited (and scared) to be doing this, but it's an important subject for young women and it will be a great opportunity for AAUW to achieve visibility on area campuses.

My plan after this year is to concentrate on my closets, attic, garage, shed, filing cabinets, and even to hit the road some in the Equinox that John and I purchased a year and a half ago with that in mind. **Please don't let me be listed as the last president of the Monmouth Area Branch before it disbanded after 90 years.**

A healthy branch needs a few different people sharing the load, and the load is light when that is happening. **Please use this year to think about what branch position you would be able to fill.** As I've mentioned before, I am a very disorganized person, but during my first term as president, I had two children at home, a full time teaching job, I was working on my Master's and I taught Sunday School. Believe me, if I can do it, anybody can.

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AAUW September 23, 2014 Program

Lila Blum

On September 23 Janna Deitz, Professor of Political Science at Western Illinois University, will present **"Enabling Women's Political Participation: *Ready to Run Illinois*."** Reflecting her ongoing interest of women in politics, Janna will discuss her role in the political education training program which prepares women to run for political office or who want to be a part of the campaign process. Her hope is "for a visible increase in the number of women actively seeking and winning office in this state and in this region." The training sessions in *Ready to Run* highlight the talent and leadership abilities of women and encourage them to run for office.

Janna, who holds a B.A. from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, an M.P.A. from Western Carolina University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Georgia, spoke to our branch in 2008. Her impressive record of publications has recently focused on gender gap in campaign finance and on congressional elections. She presents frequently at national and regional conferences. In 2011-2012 she was the recipient of the prestigious American Political Association Congressional Fellowship during which she experienced the political process first hand in the office of Senator Dick Durbin, serving on his economic and infrastructure team.

Members of the college community, including students in the Women's Studies Program, and members of the community-at-large are invited to join our branch for the first program in the 2014-2015 year. The topic of women's political participation is very relevant, particularly as we approach the 2014 fall elections. We hope you will attend on **September 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the Morgan Room, Poling Hall, Monmouth College campus, 800 block East Broadway.** Please bring a guest and share information about this program with potential AAUW members.

An Illustrious Branch, the Earliest Years

Jan DeYoung

On Thursday evening, November 6, 1924, a group of Monmouth women met in the home of Mrs. J.H. McMillan, at 815 East Broadway, to organize a branch of the American Association of University Women. The first officers elected were Miss Eva Louise Barr, President; Miss Emma Gibson, Vice President; and Miss Marguerite Fox, Treasurer. Miss Fox also served as Secretary. The women discussed the following issues: purposes of AAUW, national and local; requirements for national membership; college eligibility in the national organization and divisional sections of the society. National dues were set at \$2.00 and local dues at \$.50 per year. A constitution and bylaws were to be written, and a list of charter members sent to the national office.

There were ten charter members. Mrs. J.H. McMillan, Miss Eva Margaret Hanna, Mrs. Charles E. Phelps, Mrs. Paul Arnold Peterson, Miss Emma Gibson, Mrs. Charles G. Goodrich, Miss Eva Louise Barr, Mrs. Chester Smith,, Miss Marguerite Fox, and Mrs. H.T. Ricketts and Miss Elizabeth Ricketts (both from Kirkwood). The women represented colleges from Vassar to Whitman, Indiana University to Colorado College, University of Illinois to Northwestern. No members were graduates of either Monmouth College or Western Illinois Teachers College, because, at that time, those two institutions were not recognized for eligibility by AAUW.

When the group met again in January of 1925, they voted to accept the constitution and bylaws from the national organization. A new member, Mrs. Victor Moffett, joined, and two other prospective members were announced, Miss Justine Van Gundy and Mrs. Elsie Gayer Wells.

Early meetings were held in members' homes, although fairly soon the group convened occasionally at the Colonial Hotel, Hawcock's Restaurant, and on the Monmouth College campus at The Terrace and in the "Association Room" in the Carnegie Library.

In February of 1925, among other topics of discussion, including the International Federation of Women, was the Equal Rights Amendment. Members held a lively debate on whether or not "the society should involve itself in specific industrial and political projects, such as a ballot on such an amendment as the one under consideration." At the March meeting, "it was unanimously decided that the club would oppose any direct action taken by the national organization with reference to this amendment."

In later articles, we will take a look at some of the earliest activities of our branch and identify some more of our illustrious foremothers. I hope you have already recognized the names of some of the founders of our branch.

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National News--AAUW

What's better than attending the 2015 AAUW National Convention in San Diego, June 18–21, 2015? The possibility of not paying a dime for your registration! Pledge to register now, and AAUW will send you a reminder email when registration opens October 1. Best of all, if you complete your registration before January 15, you could win a free registration. So pledge to reg today, and tell your friends and fellow members to join the wave, too!

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Public Policy

Jan DeYoung

ERA, Why Do We Need It?

In 1923, Alice Paul, a women's rights activist with three law degrees, drafted the Equal Rights Amendment, which was introduced in Congress in the same year. The Amendment has been reintroduced in every session of Congress since 1923. Originally titled the "Lucretia Mott Amendment," the original ERA was stated this way: "Men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction. Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

The current wording of the Equal Rights Amendment is this:

Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

Why is an Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution needed?

The ERA would guarantee equal protection under the law to both women and men in the courts, where sex discrimination still exists. The courts need a clearer and stricter judicial standard than currently exists for deciding cases of sex discrimination, just as exists in cases of racial discrimination.

Illinois is one of 15 states whose legislatures have not yet ratified the Amendment. The Illinois Senate voted for ratification last Spring; it is now up to the House in the General Assembly of Illinois to approve ratification. If that happens, and two other states also vote to ratify, the Equal Rights Amendment will become part of the U.S. Constitution. This special "Three-State Strategy" was developed after the ratification in 1992 of the 27th ("Madison") Amendment more than 203 years after it was passed by Congress in 1789. Congress voted to extend the ERA time limit based on the ratification of the Madison Amendment.

Illinois' ERA

The Constitution of the State of Illinois does in fact contain an Equal Rights provision, but it does not provide for the highest and broadest protection, which would be guaranteed only by an amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Doesn't the 14th Amendment already guarantee equal rights?

The 14th Amendment was ratified after the Civil War in order to address race discrimination. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia said in 2010 that the Constitution does not prohibit sex discrimination. His comment accentuates the need for full Constitutional protection against sex discrimination. The 14th Amendment has been applied to sex discrimination cases only since 1971, and then only in exceptional cases.

What about the 19th Amendment?

The 19th Amendment, passed in 1920, guaranteeing women the right to vote, is the only wording in the Constitution to protect any rights for women.

Aren't women's rights protected against discrimination in The Equal Pay Act, Titles VII and IX of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and other laws and court cases?

No. In fact, the advances that have been made through statutes and case law are vulnerable to being reversed, ignored, or inadequately enforced. Only inclusion in the

U.S. Constitution would guarantee equal protection. After all, carved in stone above the entrance to the United States Supreme Court building are the words: "Equal Justice Under Law. Only passage of the Equal Rights Amendment will make those words reflect reality.

Do Americans support an Equal Rights Amendment?

In 2012 a poll for Daily Kos/Service Employees International Union found that 91% of respondents favor a Constitutional guarantee of equal rights for women and men. Other polls show similar support. Interestingly, nearly three quarters of people mistakenly assume that such protection is already guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

For further information on the Equal Rights Amendment, go to aauw.org. I'd also like to add the following: "For More information on ERA and our efforts to get it passed in Illinois, please see Marti J. Sladek's article on ERA on pages 17 and 18 in the Fall Illinois Link, our AAUW-IL newsletter, edited so beautifully by our own President, Marilyn Van Ausdall." [Could you just attach that to the end of my ERA article, please? Thanks!]

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Please see Jo-An Takamoto Sabonjian and Olga Weidner's synopsis of our AAUW-Illinois' initiatives on Public Policy on pages 12 and 13 of the Illinois Link, as well as Donna Sproston's "Update on CEDAW" on page 12 in the Illinois Link. That could be under the Public Policy banner.

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

IMPORTANT ADDITION TO OUR PROGRAM LIST

**SAVE THE DATE – MONDAY,
OCTOBER 6!**



Steve Buban, Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at Monmouth College since 1977, and husband of long-

time branch member Nancy Buban, has graciously consented to speak for us on the **Equal Rights Amendment**. Professor Buban received the Hatch Award for Distinguished Teaching in 2011. He had also previously received the Hatch Award for Distinguished Service. The Hatch Award is one of Monmouth College's top faculty honors.

The program October 6 will begin with a showing of the Alice Paul Institute's 17-minute **video "The Equal Rights Amendment: Unfinished Business for the Constitution."** This film portrays the Equal Rights Amendment as a legacy from the equality fighters of the past including Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Lucretia Mott, Alice Paul and the National Woman's Party, and the millions of supporters who put ERA ratification at the center of the women's movement in the 1960's.

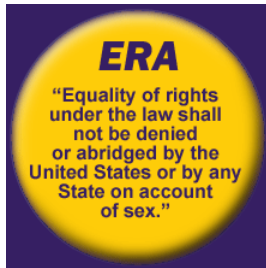
Following the video, Professor Buban will add his insights regarding the ERA. This topic fits in well with one of the courses being taught by him this semester - Social Movements. Substantive focus of the course typically includes the U.S. civil rights movement and the feminist movement. The program will be at the **Morgan Room in Poling Hall at Monmouth College**. Closer to that date, I will be emailing information regarding parking and the shuttling of members closer to Poling Hall for those interested in this service.

In **1923**, Alice Paul, an American [suffragist](#), [feminist](#), and [women's rights](#) activist with three law degrees, and the main leader and strategist of the 1910s campaign for the [Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution](#) which prohibits gender discrimination in the right to vote, drafted the Equal Rights Amendment (originally titled the Lucretia Mott Amendment) which was introduced in Congress in the same year. **The Amendment has been reintroduced in every session of Congress since.**

Illinois is one of the 15 states that haven't ratified the ERA. The Illinois Senate voted for ratification last spring. It is now up to the House in the General Assembly of Illinois to approve ratification. If that happens, and two other states also vote to ratify, the Equal Rights Amendment will become part of the U.S. Constitution.

PLEASE put **October 6** on your calendar. This will be a very good history lesson for the college students who will be attending, and it's important for us to have a **good turnout of our membership** to demonstrate our

support for this issue. This program will enable us to be knowledgeable of the facts in preparation for contacting our Illinois representatives and convincing them to vote **"YES" for the Equal Rights Amendment.**



Film Group

Nancy Buban

Film Group will begin the year with, In a World, a 2013 comedy about a female vocal coach who competes for a voice over movie-trailer in a profession that her father stresses is "a man's world". His feelings are that "no one wants to hear a woman's voice." It is written, directed, produced and stars Lake Bell. The film won the Sundance Film Festival award for best screenwriting. Again this year we will meet at 207 S. Eighth Street at 7:00. Film group meets the fourth Monday of the month so please note that it will be held on **September 22** which is the day before our meeting. Please let me know if you are coming so I will know how much corn to pop---either email (buban@frontiernet.net) or call (734-3369). Thank you.

¡Adelante! Book Group

Jan DeYoung

We had a couple of conflicts on the date we first selected, so, after consulting a few members of the group, we're going to meet on Thursday, September 25th, at my house (1101 East Broadway). We'll meet at 1:00 to discuss Donna Tartt's "The Goldfinch" and try to set up our calendar for the rest of the year—or, at least, the rest of the Fall. Several of you have already read the book, and I'm about 1/3 through it. Discussion should be lively!

I'd appreciate it if you could let me know if you're coming. I hope this date works for everyone!

Thanks! Looking forward to a great year of reading and discussion!

Art Presenter Program

Jonalyn Heaton

The BCA Art Presenter program, for forty years the AAUW Art Presenter program founded by our own Lila Blum and Jan DeYoung, has a new coordinator. Cathy St. George answered our call for a new coordinator due to her love for art and in response to her second grade daughter who was devastated last year as a first grader not to have formal art instruction nor art presenter. The very reason that Lila and Jan started this program so long ago has unfortunately come full circle with no art classes at Lincoln Elementary, nor at United North Elementary.

Cathy St. George lives in Monmouth with her husband and two young daughters. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Political science, with a minor in English from Western Illinois University and recently finished her Master's in business administration, also from WIU. For almost four years, Cathy has worked at Western Illinois University for the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs. She contributes to the management and implementation of the MAPPING program, a strategic visioning and planning program aiding rural Illinois communities with the development of high priority community and economic development goals. Cathy has many responsibilities, among those being working with VISTA members, student workers, and serving as a liaison with community leaders. She has a great deal of experience with volunteers, which makes her uniquely qualified to supervise our art presenter volunteers. As a parent of young children, she also knows many of the parents at our elementary schools. We are excited to have Cathy become part of a program which so many of us in AAUW hold in such high regard.

The fall orientation for volunteers will take place on Thursday, September 25, 1:00 P.M., at the Buchanan

Center for the Arts. Volunteers are still needed at Lincoln Elementary, which is kindergarten and first grade, especially in the bi-lingual rooms (there are three at each grade level). However, other classrooms are still without a presenter, as well. Remember, presentations are just once a month. Since Cathy works full time, there will be times when she needs assistance moving artworks at the end of each month. Kathy Lowe-Arthur has volunteered to assist with this. If you want to help, but don't want to be a presenter, perhaps you would agree to help transport artwork. Please e-mail Cathy St. George at cathymstgeorge@gmail.com to volunteer, or you can contact Jonalyn Heaton jheaton@frontiernet.net, as well

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Member Susan Van Kirk's latest book!

My book that is being published in early December, *Three May Keep a Secret*, has its first review from *Publisher's Weekly*. It was written 9/08/2014. Here it is:

Van Kirk's appealing mystery debut, the first in a series set in *Endurance, Ill.*, introduces recently retired teacher Grace Kimball. At Tully's bar and restaurant, Jeff Maitlin, the dapper new editor of the *Endurance Register*, meets Grace to offer her a part-time job as a book columnist for the paper. That same evening at Tully's, a belligerent Mike Sturgis threatens to sue reporter Brenda Norris for libel. Jeff asks Mike to calm down, and, after two patrolmen intervene, drives a drunken Brenda home. Late that night, Brenda dies in a suspicious fire; Grace subsequently decides to finish Brenda's unfinished feature on the town's upcoming 175th anniversary. After coming across a file about a cold case similar to Brenda's, she begins to investigate Brenda's death. Another murder in *Endurance* raises the stakes—and puts Grace in more danger than she realizes. Cozy fans will find a lot to like. (Nov.) Reviewed on: 09/08/2014
Release date: 12/01/2014

Membership *Marilyn Van Ausdall*

Each year, branches bring in more than 5,000 new members. This year, AAUW has set a goal of growing branch membership by 8,000 new members before the 2015 AAUW Convention in San Diego in June. **All of us can help** in this by spreading the word about AAUW, and

sharing our support for AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls. **Encourage prospective members to check out our branch website** for a list of the great programs we have lined up. Offer to bring them to some of the programs they're interested in. **Call a couple of women who you know used to belong to our branch.** Invite them to come back! Let them know that our branch is changing with the times and experimenting with new programming ideas.

The public is invited to our program on Tuesday, September 23, in the Morgan Room at Monmouth College's Poling Hall where Professor Janna Deitz from WIU will speak on "Enabling Women's Political Participation: *Ready to Run in Illinois*." Through the Shape the Future Campaign, new members and students can take 50 percent off the national dues rate when they join on the spot during an AAUW public event. That means \$24.50 for National, \$10 for State, and \$4.50 for Branch, for a total of \$39, a savings of \$29. Please join us on the 23rd and bring a friend!

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IT'S RADA FUNDRAISER TIME!

Marilyn Van Ausdall

RADA Cutlery Catalogs will be distributed to members at our Tuesday, September 23, meeting at Monmouth College. I have 21 catalogs and we need for all of them to be making the rounds to our friends and relatives until our Monday, October 20, meeting. I am no salesperson, and that's what I love about RADA. In my experience, **this stuff sells itself!** I have friends asking me every year to make sure I let them know when we start our drive.

The RADA Fundraiser features 100% made-in-the-USA kitchen products – kitchen knives, utensils, gift sets (also cookbooks, stoneware, soy wax candles and quick mixes.) There are no upfront costs and our group makes a 40% profit! Buyers have the choice of ordering online and paying the shipping in order to have the product delivered quickly right to their homes, or paying a 50-cent processing fee and having us put in the order for them. Items will then be distributed to members at the November 10 meeting.

It's very important that more than a handful of members help out in this fundraiser! The money raised goes to AAUW Funds, helping to support educational fellowships and grants that benefit women nationally and internationally. If for some reason you're unable to attend our September meeting, I will be happy to make sure you receive a catalog.

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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