

November 2014

Celebrating 90 Years of AAUW in Monmouth!

President's Report

Marilyn Van Ausdall

Three weeks ago, on **Nov. 4**, AAUW marked **90 years in Monmouth!** You'll see later on in this newsletter that we're going to have an informal gathering at Market Alley Wines on Tuesday, December 2, at 5:00 pm. Please join us if at all possible to lift a glass with us and celebrate 90 years and one month for our branch! It would be a great time to bring a guest who'd like to find out more about our group, too.

On the **day after Thanksgiving** this year, **National** will celebrate its **133rd birthday**. I'm thankful for all the good work AAUW has done through the years, helping break through barriers for women and girls. I'm thankful for our branch's founders banding together in 1924 in a home on East Broadway. I'm thankful for all the members who have worked through the years to keep our branch going, so that now we're able to celebrate being part of the community for 90 years.

I'm thankful for the current older members of our branch who have helped me so much by example and advice since I joined in 1983, and as I've served as an officer. I'm extremely thankful for the new members we've gained the last couple of years. It's so exciting to know that younger women are aware that equality is still an issue, and that our branch will have youth to carry the cause forward.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving with your loved ones. After that, I'm looking forward to being with you during the Christmas season on December 2 for wine and conversation, December 6 for our brunch, and December 15 for Sue's book talk. Happy Holidays!



Thanksgiving

Christmas Brunch

Saturday, December 6, 9:30 am

The December brunch will again be at Holt House, 402 E. 1st Ave. Come and enjoy delicious food and lively conversation. The cost is \$10, with all funds going to support LAF (see <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/legal-resources/> for more information about the Legal Advocacy Fund.) Please let Geneen Gillen (ggillen1@hotmail.com) know by November 28, if you plan to come and if you'll be bringing any guests. Hope to see you there!

Treasurer's Report

Shirley Daddona

General Fund Balance as of Oct. 31, 2014 is \$215.51
Expenses ; \$29.60 Yearbooks

Savings for AAUW Funds (formerly Educational Foundation) \$410.45.

Profit from Rada cannot be determined at this time.
Profit from T-shirts was \$277.76

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December Programs *Marilyn Van Ausdall*

December 2, 5:00 pm Market Alley Wines

Monmouth Area Branch is 90 years old!

Monmouth Branch met for the first time at 815 East Broadway on November 26, 1924. Come and celebrate 90 years of “Advancing equity for women and girls” and “breaking through educational and economic barriers.”

Where? Market Alley Wines

When? Tuesday, December 2nd

Drop in any time after 5:00 p.m.



J.H. McMillan House
815 East Broadway



Susan Van Kirk's New Book December 15, 7:00 p.m. Warren County Library

We are fortunate to be among the first groups to feature our own member, Susan Van Kirk, in one of her first public presentations following the publication of her first cozy mystery novel, Three May Keep a Secret,

at our December meeting. Once again we will be collaborating with Warren County Public Library for Sue's book talk. Selected as one of Amazon's "Best Books of 2014," Sue's novel is set in Endurance, Illinois, and features Grace Kimball, a newly-retired high school teacher who is working on a story for the town's 175th anniversary and is offered a job doing book reviews for the local newspaper. When Brenda Norris, a friend who is investigating a cold case murder for the paper disappears and is murdered herself, Grace takes on the task of solving the mystery and gets into a "spot of bother" herself.

Kirkus Reviews says, "Van Kirk's debut novel . . . offers a promising new heroine, who's clever, observant, and smart enough to know when she's been fooled." Publisher's Weekly comments that "cozy fans will find a lot to like."

Please come to hear Sue, and buy a book or two for a Christmas gift. Sue will personalize the book for you right on the spot!

The presentation will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 15th at Warren County Library. Tell your friends! This is sure to be a popular program!



Public Policy *Jan DeYoung*

ERA Yes (or No?)

Apparently the proposal to vote on SJRCA0075, the vote to ratify ERA in Illinois, has been postponed to Tuesday, December 2nd. I don't think this can be good news. What it probably means is that the sponsors don't think they have the votes to bring it to the floor. Or, this being Illinois, it could mean that Speaker Madigan has stalled it for some reason. In any case, what it means for us is that we ALL need to make ANOTHER phone call and/or send ANOTHER email or write ANOTHER letter to urge our local representatives to vote yes. As far as I can tell, none of our three reps has yet signed on as a co-sponsor. NOT GOOD NEWS!

Our branch members live in at least three different districts.

If you live in Jil Tracy's district, IL #74, call her at (217) 223-0833(Quincy) or (217) 782-8096 (Springfield) Her email address is jiltracy@jiltracy.com.

Those of you in Norine Hammond's district, #93, should call (217) 782-0416 (Springfield) or (309) 836-2707 (Macomb). Her email address is rephammond@macomb.com.

And in Don Moffitt's district, #74, the numbers are (217) 782-8032 (Springfield) and (309) 343-8000. His email address is moffitt@grics.net.

Or, you can call the General Assembly switchboard at (217) 782-2000 and ask to be connected to your representative's office.

All you need to do is urge your rep to vote YES to ratify ERA to make Illinois the first state to ratify under the Three-State Strategy. If you want talking points, there are dozens of websites you can access. I'd recommend aauw.org, of course! You might want to mention that, unlike most issues, this proposal COSTS NOTHING!

Please put this on your calendar to do first thing next week!

An Illustrious Branch, part 3, the 1930's *Jan DeYoung*

In October of 1930 Monmouth branch had 32 members and awarded a scholarship to Miss Evelyn Stanger. I believe the scholarship amount was \$20. One of the initiatives of the branch was to encourage the formation of PTA's in the schools. Interestingly, no one volunteered for the Legislative Committee! They decided not to form a committee on movie censorship because it would be too big a project.

In 1931 the branch raised \$72.10 by sponsoring a bridge party. Afterward, \$75 was sent to the Marion Talbot

Fund. Although members discussed sponsoring a performance by a magician, the project was cancelled as too ambitious. However, in May of 1931 the branch cooperated with Miss Ruth Williams to produce a children's play in the Little Theater, "Wappin Wharf" to raise funds for scholarship. Miss Williams was theater director at Monmouth College and a member of the branch.

The branch reached out to try to gain members from Kirkwood and Alexis. Members voted to sponsor and help PTA's, and they signed a petition for disarmament.

In 1932, as an indication of their ongoing interest in International Relations, the branch had a program on "Women Voters of the Spanish Speaking Races," presented by Professor Estrada. The rummage sale netted \$30, of which half was given to Fellowships (now called AAUW Funds) and half to the Permanent Fund. Members also sold cards and earned \$14.

In 1932-33 the branch boasted 42 members, and attendance at meetings was taken and recorded! Many members had perfect attendance! There was a Literature Group and an International Relations group.

In May of 1933 the Literature Group presented a review of The Barretts of Wimpole Street. The May dinner meeting was held at Hawcock's, and \$10 was given to Mrs. Jebens "to cover all expenses to the national convention." Dues went up to \$2.50, with dues of \$1.50 for associate members. In 1933-34 the branch grew to 52 members. Attendance was taken at meetings this year, too!

In 1934 branch members sold tickets to a production of "The Gondoliers" by Gilbert and Sullivan performed by the Monmouth College Choral Society and netted \$14 from selling 353 tickets! The branch had 55 members.

The Civic Works Committee selected a project of organizing and presenting vocational guidance programs for high school seniors in 1935. They produced several successful programs.

AAUW recognized 635 branches in 1934; from an initial list of 8 institutions, the number of institutions recognized by AAUW grew to 248 this year, from 700 colleges and universities admitting women students.

From the 16 founders, membership grew to 65,000 in 840 branches. The state Fellowship fund totaled \$14,000 this year, of which \$253.20 came from Monmouth branch. In December 20 branch members traveled to Galesburg to attend the Galesburg branch meeting. In 1934-35 membership was 53.

Cooperating with Crimson Masque in 1936 made \$56 for the branch. The state fellowship chair told members that the \$30,000 Fellowships goal was not just to raise funds, but “the furthering and bettering of women’s status in the world.” The branch Permanent Fund grew to \$800. The rummage sale raised \$19.29, and a scholarship of \$25 was awarded to Evelyn Stice. Sponsoring a movie, “The Human Adventure” netted the branch \$123.25. Member Ruth Yenerick (later Ruth Pedigo) sang and accompanied herself on the piano at a branch meeting. The branch was up to 67 members.

In 1937 members Jean Liedman and Emma Gibson (recognize those names?) appeared in a play, “The Magic Carpet.” A Senior Tea took place in the home of Mrs. James Harper Grier, and members encouraged the senior women to join AAUW in their communities the following year. This year the branch sent \$266.60 to the Fellowships Fund. Helen Wagner (later to become the famous Helen Wagner Willey) performed some piano numbers for a branch meeting.

In 1938 members continued to work on vocational guidance at the high school, and reorganized the child study and bridge groups; the Art Group continued to meet with Martha Hamilton. Some members told stories at the Community Center on South 3rd Street as part of their community involvement effort. The rummage sale netted \$19.25, and two members were appointed to the Girl Scout Council. The Superintendent of Schools spoke to the branch on the need for a guidance program in the schools. The branch had grown to 75 members. A Silver Tea and a Senior Tea, both in May, kept members busy, and in June the State AAUW President, Hazel Linkfield, visited Monmouth branch at a dinner meeting at Hawcock’s. The new branch President, Martha Hamilton, set forth her goals: increasing interest and participation in study groups, developing a keener interest in Fellowships, and promoting a greater understanding of the aims and ideals of AAUW. Pretty amazing!



Film Group

Nancy Buban

Film group will not meet this month or next month. See you in 2015!



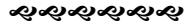
¡Adelante! Book Group

Jan DeYoung

Book Group will discuss [Under the Wide and Starry Sky](#)

We will meet at Alice Lawson’s, 811 North 3rd Street, on Wednesday, December 3rd, at 2:00 p.m to discuss Nancy Horan’s [Under the Wide and Starry Sky](#). This novel portrays the courtship and marriage of Fanny Van de Grift and Robert Louis Stevenson, the Scottish poet and novelist. Fanny, an American, is escaping from an unhappy marriage to philanderer Sam Osborne; she takes her three children to Belgium, where she plans to study art, but she loses one child, Hervey. Fanny and the other two children, Belle and Sammy, move to Paris, where she meets Louis Stevenson. When she finally obtains a divorce from Sam, she marries Louis, 10 years younger than Fanny. For much of her married life Fanny sets aside her own art and writing to care for Louis, who is frequently ill, often very seriously. Ultimately, they move to Samoa, where Louis regains his health and is able to write much of the work for which he became famous, and they live a more comfortable life than they ever have before.

The novel is fascinating. We hope some more of you will read the book and join us for a lively discussion on December 3rd!

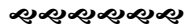


Membership

Marilyn Van Ausdall

Our two December gatherings will be great places to bring guests. No program for the Christmas brunch on December 6 at 9:30 am – just a nice time to catch up with old friends, get acquainted with new ones, and enjoy some delicious food. Our own Sue Van Kirk’s book talk (about her soon-to-be-released first novel) on Monday, December 15, at the Warren County Public Library at 7:00 pm will be one that visitors would definitely enjoy, too. Sue’s programs are always interesting and entertaining.

Again, National has a business card template that members may download and personalize. It’s a fast and convenient way to introduce AAUW to any prospective member with whom you come into contact. If you’d like me to make some for you, just let me know. AAUW is too often a well-kept secret. This is an easy method to help get the word out.



New Member

Marilyn Van Ausdall

Please join me in welcoming our newest member, Michelle Holschuh Simmons. Michelle officially joined our branch last month. The information that she sent to me about herself is so interesting, I wanted to share it all with you:

“I grew up in Green Bay, Wisconsin, as the youngest of a large family, and I went to college at a lovely small liberal arts college for women in central Minnesota called the College of St. Benedict. I was an English major in college, and after college I taught for a year (math and English) to 9th graders in Belize, Central America. When I returned to the U.S., I pursued a Master of Arts in Teaching in English at Minnesota State University in Mankato. For the subsequent three years I taught English to students in grades 9-12 at Omaha

South High School, and my husband Bob was also a high school English teacher in the Omaha district for those years. We decided both to return to graduate school, he in Classics (ancient Greek and Roman literature), and I in library science at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. After I finished my MA in Library and Information Science, I was very fortunate to get a wonderful job as the Consulting Librarian for the Arts and Humanities at Cornell College, which is a school very similar to Monmouth College in size and nature. While working at Cornell, I began the Ph.D. program in Language, Literacy, and Culture at the University of Iowa. I sadly resigned from my position at Cornell in 2004 when I was finished with coursework so that I could concentrate on my comprehensive exams and dissertation. In the spring of 2005, our first child (Ben) was born, and in the fall of 2006 my husband accepted a teaching job at the University of North Carolina Greensboro, so we moved to NC, where I finished writing my dissertation. I graduated from the University of Iowa with my PhD in 2007, just a few months after our second child (David) was born. I began teaching online part-time for the School of Library and Information Science (now called the School of Information) at San Jose State University in January of 2007, and gave birth to our twins (Marc and Alex) in December of 2008. In January of 2010 my position turned into a full-time position, so I now teach classes, advise students, and serve on several faculty committees. In July 2014, we happily relocated from North Carolina to Monmouth for my husband to accept a teaching position in the Classics Department at Monmouth College. Our boys are currently attend ICS, with Ben as a 4th grader, David as a 2nd grader, and Marc and Alex as kindergartners. We are delighted to be back in the Midwest and in such a wonderful community. We love Monmouth so far!”



AAUW Legacy Circle

Anyone who makes a planned gift to AAUW National becomes a member of the AAUW Legacy Circle, affirming her commitment to women and girls. Planned gifts expand AAUW programs and public policy agenda by providing for future generations.

Each member of the AAUW Legacy Circle receives a beautiful pin to honor her generosity and commitment to the future of women and girls. The pin proclaims, "A Legacy of Equity." At the base of the wreath is an open book with a suspended pearl.

Links on the left of the page at <http://aauwlegacy.givingplan.net/plan-your-gifts-greatest-impact> will help you learn more about estate planning, how you can include a gift to AAUW as part of those plans, and how YOU can benefit from your gift. Many of the giving options provide benefits to you and your heirs in the form of tax savings and income in your retirement years.



Member News

Christine Myers

I just had an essay, entitled "Refashioning James Bond as an American Secret Agent: Scarecrow and Mrs. King, 1983-1987", published in a collection on James Bond and Popular Culture. If you want full details of the book, you can find them here:

http://www.amazon.com/James-Bond-Popular-Culture-Influence/dp/0786477938/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1416582498&sr=1-1&keywords=james+bond+and+popular+culture



Kathy Lowe-Arthur

Kathy has a use for canceled USA postal stamps. Her source could benefit from these stamps. Please bring them to meetings and she will pick them up.

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,
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