

## President's Report Marilyn Van Ausdall

Happy New Year! I sincerely hope that 2015 is off to a great start for all of you and that only good things come your way this year.

We all are reminded this weekend, as if we need to be, of how essential Martin Luther King, Jr. was to the Civil Rights Movement. Obviously, he is more than deserving of a special day each year designated to honor his legacy. It is also fitting to remember that many women were (and are) involved in the fight for equal rights.. Following is some information about two of these women.



January 17 marked the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **Barbara Jordan's** death. Ms. Jordan's life was filled with firsts. A U.S. congressional representative from 1972-1978, she was the first African American congresswoman to come from the Deep South. In

1966, she had become the first African American woman ever elected to the Texas Senate. During her tenure there, Jordan sought to improve the lives of her constituents by helping pass the state's first minimum wage law. She also worked to create the Texas Fair Employment Practices Commission. In 1972 she became the first African American woman to hold the office of president pro tempore of the state senate.

Ms. Jordan delivered the keynote address at the 1976 Democratic National Convention, the first African American woman to do so. (She had also been mentioned at the time as a possible running mate for Jimmy Carter.) Her convention speech is ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in "Top 100 American Speeches of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century" and is considered by some historians to have been among the best convention keynote speeches in modern history.

A champion debater in high school, Jordan had gone on to earn a law degree from Boston University Law School. After leaving Congress, Jordan was a professor at the University of Texas in Austin and became the Lyndon B. Johnson Centennial Chair of Public Policy in 1982. She served as a special counsel on ethics for Governor Ann Richards in 1991. In 1994, President Clinton awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom. She was the first African-American woman to be buried in the Texas State Cemetery.



Where might MLK Jr. have gotten the idea for his "I Have a Dream Speech"? Many think it is likely that the Rev. Dr. **Prathia Hall** was his inspiration. Born in 1940, Dr. Hall grew up in Philadelphia, the daughter of founders of the Mount Sharon Baptist Church. In 1961, during her junior year at Temple University, Hall was arrested in Annapolis for

participating in the anti-segregation protests on Maryland's Eastern Shore and was jailed for two weeks. After graduating from Temple with a degree in political science, she joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and worked for the SNCC until 1966. One year later, white gunmen shot her and some fellow activists in Terrell County, Georgia. Luckily, it was not a serious injury, but it would not be the last time shots would be fired at her. *(Continued page 2)*

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Dr. Hall became involved with the Albany Movement, where she was known for her oratorical power, speaking at movement meetings and preaching. She preached for the movement's first anniversary program, along with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who praised her oratorical skills, "Prathia Hall is one of the platform speakers I would prefer not to follow." She spoke of her dream for the future at the burned-down site of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church where the movement had its mass meetings. Hall often repeated the phrase "I have a dream" during her speeches. She also worked for the civil rights movement in Selma.

Hall earned a Master of Divinity, Master of Theology, and Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary. She would become one of the first women ordained in the American Baptist Association. In 1978, she began serving as pastor of the Mt. Sharon Baptist Church in Philadelphia. She later joined the faculty at the Boston University School of Theology, holding the Martin Luther King Chair in Social Ethics, with her work focusing on womanist theology and ethics. She became a visiting scholar at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, and later joined the faculty at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, eventually becoming dean of the seminary and director of the school's Harriet Miller Women's Center. She died in Boston in 2002 at the age of 62.

## **Treasurer's Report**

*Shirley Daddona*

Checking account has a balance of \$851.61 less \$100.00 leaving \$751.61 spendable as of 1/15/15.

AAUW Funds account now has a balance of \$139.40 less \$100.00 leaving \$39.40 toward our contribution for 2015. We need to get busy with fundraising. In 2014 we realized a profit of \$277.76 on the T-shirts and \$393.10 from Rada sales.

We sent \$900.00 to AAUW Funds for 2014 (\$500.00 to EF and \$400.00 to Legal Advocacy Fund)

The CD has a value of \$801.20 and will mature again next December.

## **AAUW January 26, 2015 Program**

*Trudi Peterson*

**"F" Word (Feminism) Presentation #2,  
7 pm  
Pattee Auditorium, Monmouth College  
Center for Science & Business,**

**Speakers: Sarah and Ian Moschenross**

"I have never been able to find out precisely what feminist is; I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat or a prostitute." –  
Rebecca West

### **"The Challenge of Social Justice Parenting"**

Sarah Moschenross, Director of the McNair Program at Knox College and Dr. Ian Moschenross, Associate Professor of Music at Monmouth College will discuss their respective feminisms and the feminist challenges of raising two beautiful, intelligent and spirited daughters (Eleanor, 6 and Evelyn, 3). Sarah earned her MA in Student Development and Post-Secondary Education at the University of Iowa and Ian earned his Ph.D. in Music from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The next F Word Series talk will be March 23 delivered by Donna Sproston

The F-Word Speaker Series was created by Dr. Marlo Belschner in 2007 to explore the varied feminisms of faculty, staff, administrators, and alumni.

## Branch Website

*Marilyn Van Ausdall*

Remember to bookmark [monmoutharea-il.aauw.net](http://monmoutharea-il.aauw.net) so that you'll be able to see the most up-to-date information on our branch meetings, along with book group and film group dates. The branch website also provides links to our newsletters, to the National AAUW and AAUW-IL websites, along with AAUW updates, and Legislative Alerts.

## Public Policy

*Jan DeYoung*

### 114th Congress' Education Priorities Must Provide Equitable Opportunities for Students



January 8, 2015, marks the 13th anniversary of the last time the U.S. Congress and the president could agree on the nation's education priorities. In fact, because they have not been able to agree since then, the bill signed in 2002, called No Child Left Behind, expired eight years ago but continues to be the law of the land without changes to reflect current education priorities.

There are new reports that Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), the new chair of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, wants to pass a bill out of his committee by the end of February that would reauthorize No Child Left Behind, also known as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). There is little doubt he is working closely with Rep. John Kline (R-MN), the chair of the House Education and

Workforce Committee, to see if they can find a way to put a bill before the president this year.

But reauthorizing the ESEA will only succeed if Congress can show support for education policies that provide equitable opportunities for all students, and, unfortunately, we've already heard reports that the new legislation might roll back important civil rights gains by including private school vouchers and weakening current accountability measures. We also have no guarantee that new legislation would continue current programs, such as the Women's Educational Equity Act, that serve girls' special needs.

AAUW has called for reauthorization of the ESEA since it expired in 2007, and we need to make sure that this new Congress is committed to ensuring strong academic principles and to closing the achievement gap for all children — objectives at the heart of ESEA. We also must insist on adequate funding for education priorities. The federal government has a critical role to play in attaining these goals, and AAUW endorses the use of a robust accountability system that helps ensure all children are prepared to be successful, participating members of our democracy.



## Branch History

*Jan DeYoung*

### An Illustrious Branch, Part 4 (late 1930's and 1940's)

In the Fall of 1938 49% of Monmouth branch members were employed outside the home, 38% of whom were teachers (a significant number of these were professors at Monmouth College). Interest groups were Child Study, International Relations, Social Studies, and the Arts. Dues were increased from \$2.75 to \$3.25, and 9 new members joined this year. Mabel Bowman was branch president.

AAUW came out against compulsory military service as part of a university degree in 1939. The branch sponsored "Stage Door" as a fundraiser at the Little Theater. Tickets were \$.45 and \$.50. They also sponsored "Moonlight Sonata" at the Rivoli in March and netted \$53.08.

By March of 1939, when Martha Hamilton was branch president, membership was 65. In May, membership was reported as 63 paid and 12 associate members. The branch decided to use the Fine Arts Building for monthly meetings, and the senior tea was held at Mrs. Peacock's home.

In March of 1941, the branch sent a letter urging Warren County Library not to dispense with hiring trained librarians. Ten members signed the letter. A reply from the library indicated that the plan was not to dispense with trained librarians but indicating that the library had experienced a loss of funds resulting in a decrease in circulation. In December branch members discussed a problem with attendance at meetings. A consumer education interest group was also formed.

The December, 1943, meeting was cancelled because of the flu epidemic.

In 1944 the branch planned to meet at Holt House and dispense with refreshments, but then decided to leave that up to the hostess committee. In May both the potluck and the senior tea were at Holt House, but the membership decided to meet in members' homes on the second Tuesday of the month in the following year. Membership in 1943-44 was 48.

A new group to study plays and books was formed in the Fall of 1944; the International Relations and Social Studies groups continued. The branch was concerned about the need for Kindergarten in Monmouth and also discussed the juvenile delinquency problem.

In 1945 members volunteered to attend City Council meetings. Dues went up to \$4.00, and Mrs. Lester Winter became branch president, succeeding Eva Louise Barr. The University of Illinois produced an AAUW Day broadcast, and the branch formed a panel to discuss social problems in Monmouth, planning to make the panel available to other groups.

1946 saw a new Art and Literature interest group, and the branch joined the Monmouth Welfare Council. In October the branch joined with Campus Club to purchase a new heating unit (a hot plate) for the kitchen at the Fine Arts Building and paid part of the

cost of installing the unit. President James Harper Grier sent a letter thanking the branch for the scholarship.

1947 began with a discussion of reconstruction of education in war-torn countries and also of the need to increase teachers' salaries. In November the International Relations group sent a letter to Congress urging educational reconstruction in Europe.

Scholarship recipients were now selected by semester. Monmouth College sent Eva Louise Barr to the AAUW National Convention. The branch now had about 50 members, and the President was Emma Gibson; Vice President Fern (Mrs. Paul) Cramer; and Secretary Ruth Pedigo.

A clothing auction raised \$33.17 in November, and the clothing was sent to Budapest.

Eunice Roller appears on the roster as chair of the Social Committee. Members read Arthur Miller's "All My Sons" at the December meeting, with Ila Walker in charge.

In January of 1948 AAUW helped Campus Club buy dishes for the Fine Arts Building, and in March branch members discussed buying silverware, too. (Five dozen dessert forks and teaspoons) Members held a book auction to raise money for Fellowships.

The new slate of officers for 1949-50: Emma Gibson, President; Mrs. Paul Cramer, Vice President; Mrs. Joseph Dixon, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP; and Mrs. James O'Daniel, Treasurer. [Interestingly, the married women are listed only as Mrs. So-and-so; only the single women are listed by their given names, even this late!] In November a box of shoes and clothing was sent to American Friends Society for European Relief. In May, the dinner meeting was held at the Elks Club, with program following at the Fine Arts Building. Members were encouraged to write to their Congressman on "the margarine bill."

In October of 1949 branch members decided to meet September through May the following year. They expressed their concern for the deplorable conditions in state hospitals, especially mental hospitals, and they thanked Monmouth College Buildings and Grounds Department "for lights and new steps."

In December of 1949, Mrs. Glen Kistler became the branch president.



## Film Group

*Nancy Buban*

Film Group will start the New Year with a 2013 film called Words and Pictures.

Are “words” or “pictures” more important? This film, starring Juliette Binoche and Clive Owen, involves an art instructor and an English teacher who wage a “war” and get their students involved in a competition to see which is more influential---words or pictures.

Please join us at 207 South Eighth Street on Tuesday, January 27 at 6:30. Let me know if you are coming so I can pop enough corn. Thanks.



## ¡Adelante! Book Group

*Geneen Gillen*

Our next Book Club group meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 5 at 1 pm at Alice Lawson's house, 811 N. 3rd St. Monmouth. The book to be discussed will be *On The Rocks* by Sue Hallgarth. This

is a very quick and interesting read and the book may be found at the Warren County Library or Online. Everyone is invited to attend.



## WomenNews

*P. Joan Larson*

### On the Opening of Bickerdyke Bridge

Answering a call to help her fellow man, Mary Ann Bickerdyke from Galesburg, Illinois, found herself ministering to the Civil War “boys in blue”.

She found the troops neglected, unattended and dying in filthy ill-equipped hospital tents. Under her leadership, mothering touch, love and rugged strength, her patients soon knew Mary as “Mother” Bickerdyke. She prepared food, washed walls, bathed patients, bandaged wounds, carried out the dead and lessened the pain of thousands.

Setting up 300 hospitals on 19 battlefields, she knew that clean beds, fresh food and good care were essential to saving lives.

She had several clashes with the doctors who reported her to the military supervisors who were unsympathetic to them. On two occasions the doctors tried to have her court-marshaled, but were never successful.

Her self-less care continued after the war by assisting veterans and other war nurses in getting their well-deserved pensions.

A massive 14-ton granite and bronze memorial statue of Mother Bickerdyke offering a cup to a fallen soldier was dedicated to this woman of genuine human compassion in Galesburg in 1906.

A Liberty freighter, the SS Mary A. Bickerdyke was launched in 1943. It made 29 trips to the Pacific carrying vital necessities to the fighting soldiers of World War 2.

In Illinois, Mother Bickerdyke Day is celebrated annually on the third Wednesday of May.

For many months a new railroad track overpass has been under construction in Galesburg. Several meetings were held to discuss the naming of the new structure. No decision was made. Recently, the Galesburg City Council had the naming of the overpass on their agenda. Two Registered Nurses, Cora Lee Douglas and P. Joan Larsen, graduates of the Galesburg Cottage Hospital School of Nursing and Pam Johnson, in period dress portraying Mother Bickerdyke stood before the council. Each gave their presentation as to why the new overpass should be named after Mother Bickerdyke, a Civil War nurse from Galesburg. A petition with 200 names in favor of naming the overpass after Bickerdyke was presented to the Mayor and Council. The Mayor then proposed another name for the new overpass. After a discussion, the Council voted to name the overpass, Bickerdyke Bridge.

As one of 300 women who changed the world, the Bickderdyke Bridge will change Galesburg by expediting access to medical care.

The dedication and ribbon cutting of the Bickeerdyke Bridge was held on Monday, December 1, 2014 at 11:00 am.



## Thank You!

Please convey my thanks to everyone in the AAUW chapter for co-hosting my book signing Monday night. I know so many people worked very hard on refreshments and the publicity & the room set-up. I really appreciate all the support & encouragement.

**Sue Van Kirk**

If you haven't read Sue's first novel yet, you're missing a good mystery read. Copies are available for checkout at Warren County Public Library and Galesburg Public Library and may also be purchased at Stone Alley Books in Galesburg, at Maude Speckleberry's, Buchanan Center for the Arts, and the Monmouth College bookstore in Monmouth, and online at Barnes and Noble and Amazon.

Sue's publisher has accepted her second novel in the "Endurance Mystery" series, and has asked her to

submit a third!



Many thanks to my AAUW friends for helping me celebrate my birthday! I still am amazed at the abundance of cards and wonderful notes. and, they all helped me start a new decade with joy, fun, and laughter!

This birthday is definitely one I will always remember!

**Ruth Wright**



Please thank everyone for thinking of me in Wesley Village Rehab and for all of their cards and goodies. I was sorry to have missed your December meeting. Since I am stuck here, not allowed to put weight on my leg till Feb., I sadly will miss more. I am quite bored so have especially enjoyed hearing from you all.

**Elizabeth Kaspar**

## November Program Follow-Up - Human Trafficking

*Marilyn Van Ausdall*

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, Tom Colclasure and Dr. Harsha Mehta of Galesburg told us about their organization - Asha for Life Community. Asha was founded to help fight human trafficking and sexual slavery, originally by helping two specific places in India. Through donations to this organization, survivors of human trafficking and sexual slavery are provided with safe housing, psychotherapy, vocational training, medical care, family reunification when appropriate, and psycho-social rehabilitation.

Asha for Life Community is also active in educating the public to the realities of human trafficking and sexual slavery, and promoting the message that "our children ARE NOT for sale," as well as reporting suspected cases of trafficking and slavery to law enforcement. All Asha staff are volunteers. No donations are used for salaries.

Asha for Life Community was able to donate over \$15,000 for direct care services in 2014. One organization that helps raise money for Asha is **Diners**

**for Hope.** The organization meets monthly to share a light supper prepared by volunteers, and to receive updates in the battle against slavery and trafficking. Donations are free will, and any amount is welcome, but attendees are asked to consider donating what a dinner out would cost.

Dinners for Hope meets at 5:30 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, on the NE corner of Ferris and Kellogg Streets in Galesburg, though the organization is not connected with the church. Future meeting dates are January 19, February 16, March 16, April 20, and May 18.

A reminder of our AAUW Mission Statement: **AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.**

What is our branch currently doing to fulfill this mission statement? Becoming a part of Dinners for Hope would be a good way for us to partner with a community organization to help meet that mission. I plan to attend Monday evening, January 19, and as many other of the monthly meetings as I can. Please let me know if you would like to join me. Thank you for considering this opportunity!

**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](http://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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