

President's Report

Donna Sproston, co-president

Welcome to our 91st year as a local branch of AAUW. Surely our local founders would be impressed by how much progress women have made since 1924, but they would be dismayed that we are still dealing with inequality and fighting for equal rights and recognition.

In 2014, 68% of the Broadway audience were women, but not a single play written by a woman opened on Broadway that season. Only 24% of all plays produced across the nation in 2014 were written by women playwrights, living or dead. When plays by women playwrights are produced, they are more often relegated to the small venues, off Broadway vs. Broadway, small intimate stage vs. large auditorium. The number of women directors in theaters across the country reflects these same unbalanced numbers.

There is a glass ceiling in the theater, just like the celluloid ceiling in the film industry. Many of us were present at Wells Theater several years ago when AAUW member Jan Huttner spoke passionately about how women in the audience needed to step forward and demand films written and/or directed by women. Her plea took wings throughout Illinois branches and became a movement known as WITASWAN--Women in the Audience Supporting Women Artists Now. Jan Huttner now lives in New York City and continues to promote recognition of women writers and directors in both film and theater.

Playwright Julie Jordan has said, "Bias in the arts is bad. We should simply know that. The arts are literally our voices. Once you stifle a voice, you can do a lot of other stuff to the population."

Our September 15th meeting focuses on women in the theater, particularly as playwrights and directors. The Monmouth College theater department will feature several women playwrights this upcoming year. Join us

as branch member Emily Rollie, Assistant Professor of Theater at the college, discusses her dissertation research and book project which focuses on women directors in Canada. She will be joined by SOFIA (Summer Opportunities for Intellectual Activity) students who are conducting research under her direction in the Chicago theater community.

Join us at Wells Theater and support women artists.



Wit Women
In
Theatre

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AAUW September 15, 2015 Program

Lila Blum

Emily Rollie, Assistant Professor of Theatre at Monmouth College and branch member, will present "Women in Theatre," on Tuesday, September 15 at the Wells Theater on the Monmouth College campus at 7:00 p.m. Learn more about Emily's research regarding women directors and playwrights in Donna Sproston's column in this issue of the Initiative. The Wells Theater is located near the southeast corner of the Monmouth campus, close to the corner of Broadway and North 9th St. Parking is available along Broadway.

Fall Preview of More Great Programs

October 2015: On Monday October 26 Lobie Stone, First Lady of Monmouth College, will speak on "Community Restoration/Preservation & Tree Campus USA" at Buchanan Center for the Arts at 7:00 p.m.

November 2015: On Thursday, November 19, we will hear from a panel of Monmouth business women presenting "Brains, Determination, and Some Say Blind Faith: Women Creating and Owning Local Businesses," at the Press Coffee Shop, 226 South Main St., Monmouth, at 7 p.m.

Mark these dates in your calendar. More details will be available soon. We'll distribute the branch handbook at the September 15 meeting. Program information is always available at the branch website:

monmoutharea-IL.aauw.net



It's Dinner Time!

Donna Sproston

One of the current issues within the branch is the lack of funds generated by our limited local dues. By the time we pay liability insurance, we have very little left to spend on events and projects. To address this situation, I am going to invite you to my house for dinner. I provide the food, you pay \$10. Whether we have a table of two or eight or two tables, we can enjoy our friendships, our shared interest, and some good. I can serve a total of 12.

Call it Food for Funding or Dinner at Donna's, it is strictly voluntary. What we do with the funds is up to the branch. We can fund an outreach event, provide a small book stipend to a worthy student, and/or send a donation to AAUWFunds. Our Rada sales generate some funds and our Christmas brunch provides a little cash. Those receipts have generally supported AAUW Funds including Eleanor Roosevelt and LAF.

I plan to serve the first meal in October and another one in November. After that we will have to see which weather forecast is correct. El Nino means a mild winter for us, but the Farmers' Almanac says otherwise.



Treasurer's Report

Shirley Daddona

7/31/15:
\$834.21 + \$136.00 = \$970.21 - \$266.00 (liability insurance) for a balance 8/31/15 of \$704.21.

AAUW Funds has a balance of \$81.85 Need to have good Rada sales or we have little for AAUW Funds.

CD will mature 12/11/15 with a balance of \$801.20
We have 32 paid members.



Film Group

Nancy Buban

September 28, 2015

Film group will begin the year with “AMREEKA”, a 2009 film, about a Palestinian mother, Muna, and her son, Fadi, who leave the West Bank because life is becoming more and more difficult. They travel to the U.S. to live in Illinois with Muna’s sister and family. The film, written and directed, by Cherien Dabis tells of the family’s adjustment to their new life. Please join us on Monday, September 28th at 7:00 for popcorn and viewing. We meet at 207 South Eighth Street.



¡Adelante! Book Group

Jan DeYoung

Book Group will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, September 21st at Geneen Gillen's home, 161 210th Avenue. If you would like to carpool, please call Jan or Alice; we can meet in the Farm King parking lot a few minute before 1:00.

The book this month is "The Pearl That Broke Its Shell" by Nadia Hashimii. It's a great read. Hope to see you there!



Membership

Marilyn Van Ausdall

Christy Jones, Vice President of Member and Branch Relations at the national AAUW office says, “One of the reasons I joined AAUW and came to work here stemmed from my mom urging my sisters and me to always strive for equality. She was not allowed to go to college because she was a woman, not allowed to choose a career path because she was a woman, and not allowed to assume some of the responsibilities of her job because — yep, you guessed it — she was a woman. She passed away before I started working here, but I know she would have been thrilled! This is what fuels my work at AAUW.”

Krys Wulff, AAUW National Membership Chair, says, “I am an AAUW member and volunteer leader because AAUW engaged me as a young mother and a working woman and enabled me to hone leadership skills at the branch, district, state, and national levels. AAUW is a perfect fit for me; my issues and passions are front and center in everything the organization does. Just as college students today want to make a difference and give back to their communities, AAUW has enabled me to do that, and that is why I am and remain a proud AAUW member!

Marilyn Van Ausdall says: I joined AAUW 32 years ago. I remain a member because I appreciate the friends and network of wonderful women I’ve met through the organization. I’m proud to be a member of a respected organization whose mission is to tirelessly work toward equality, and I’m proud of the work we’ve done locally, including: planning great educational programs regarding issues of interest to women, supporting Art Presenter for 40 years, organizing and hosting numerous school board candidate forums, registering college voters, and our newest endeavors last year – speaking at the Monmouth College Leadership Conference on the importance of voting, and facilitating two \$tart \$mart workshops on college campuses. I will continue to be a proud member of AAUW.

**Reminder about other
AAUW member benefits:**

At OfficeDepot and OfficeMax, members of AAUW can save up to 80 percent off preferred products, online and in stores. You will also receive free next-day delivery on orders over \$50. To shop or print your in-store savings card, [visit our benefits page](http://www.officediscounts.org/aauw.html) (<http://www.officediscounts.org/aauw.html>.) And spread the word about all the great [AAUW member benefits](http://www.aauw.org/membership/benefits/) (<http://www.aauw.org/membership/benefits/>)!



RADA FUNDRAISER
Marilyn Van Ausdall

Several of you expressed interest in circulating a Rada catalog again this year. Thank you! I will be bringing catalogs to our September 15 program. I ordered a few extra just in case anyone else would like to have one to peruse.

Rada Mfg. Co., located in Waverly, Iowa, has been manufacturing cutlery since 1948. All Rada Cutlery products are 100% American Made. I think the products are amazing for the price charged, and our group makes a 40% profit, which is really nice, too. Products include kitchen knives, utensils, gift sets, cookbooks, stoneware, soy wax candles and quick mixes. It's an easy way to shop ahead for Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers, while at the same time raising money for all the good work done through AAUW Funds.

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 our group put in the order for them. Items will then be distributed to members at the November 19 meeting. For

more information about ordering online, go to our branch website and click on the Fundraisers tab.

Thanks for helping!



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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