

## Co-President's Report

*Jan DeYoung*

First of all, a big "Thank You" to all of you who helped in any way with the successful Holiday Brunch. I heard many enthusiastic comments from people who attended. Donna, who stepped in and made things run smoothly, as well as bringing pumpkin bread; and the great cooks/bakers who made such delicious goodies: Melinda Grimm, Vicki Gladfelter, Michelle Holschuh Simmons, Susan Van Kirk, Jackie Urban. Thanks, too, to the greeter Ruth Wright. And to Lila Blum, who arranged for our special international student guests and Bren Tooley to attend. And finally, to Carol Bowman, who made the arrangements with the new director of Stewart House, Anna Meyer.



If you've been wondering why nobody has called to ask you to help with voter registration this spring, wonder no longer! We have decided to put our effort into registering voters prior to the General Election in the Fall. And we hope to expand our horizons. In addition to cooperating with Monmouth College (we're working on that), we hope to reach out to community members at First Street Armory, Jamieson Center, or some other location. If you'd like to be a part of this initiative, please contact Jan DeYoung or Joanie Larsen. If you're not already certified as a Deputy Registrar, we'll let you know how to do that so that you are eligible to participate in this project.



If you have time, I highly recommend that you listen to Lisa Maatz' and Anne Hedgepeth's presentation at the National Press Club discussing Sexual Harassment on college campuses. Our two representatives did a marvelous job of analyzing the Crery Report (that 91% of the colleges and universities reported any incidents of rape or sexual violence/harassment on their campuses) and discussing ways to get more accurate

data as well as steps schools need to take to get women and men who have been attacked to report these events, as well as to meet the needs of the victims. Even if you watch only part of the program, you'll be proud of the role AAUW is playing in bringing this issue into the open, where it can be treated. And you'll be impressed by the quality of staff members like Lisa and Anne! One more reason to be proud to be a member of AAUW!



Lisa M. Maatz from the American Association of University Women speaks on campus sexual violence statistics at a NPC Newsmaker press conference, January 14, 2016. She was joined by colleague Anne Hedgepeth (right) and moderator Tony Gallo of the Newsmakers Committee

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**AAUW February 15, 2016  
Program  
6:30 p.m.  
Warren County Library  
Marilyn Van Ausdall**

February Book Discussion

I hope you're all enjoying reading The Whip by Karen Kondazian, for our "branch read." If you haven't read it yet, there's still time. You can get it on your e-reader, or you can probably get it from the RSA through Warren County Library, where you can order it online if you have your new library card. Or, send out an email to branch members and ask who has a copy available. The Whip, inspired by the true story of Charlotte (Charlie) Parkhurst, who led an amazing life. The book is a quick read (I could hardly put it down), and an incredible story of a woman who faced terrible pain and hardship, and, living as a man, became stage coach driver for Wells Fargo. She was also the first woman to vote in America (as a man).

Please join us for a discussion of The Whip at Warren County Library at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. We'll have refreshments available, so you can skip dessert at home in order to get to this early meeting!



**AAUW March 3, 2016 Program  
7:00 p.m.  
Pattee Auditorium  
Lila Blum**

**Women's History Month Presentation**

**Strategies for Success: The Illinois Equal Suffrage Association's Activism in the 1910s" by Dr. Virginia Boynton**

On Thursday, March 3, we'll celebrate Women's History Month with a presentation on women's suffrage by Virginia Boynton, Professor of History at Western Illinois University. Virginia came to WIU in 1995 where she teaches courses which include American women's history and the history of Interwar America (1914-

1945). Her research examines women's involvement through the Illinois Women's Committee in the state's government-sponsored war effort during World War I, and also focuses on elite women's political culture from 1890 – 1940.

Among her several awards, Virginia has received the Outstanding Faculty Award for Service from the WIU College of Arts and Sciences, the WIU HOPE Award for Outstanding Teaching, and the Illinois State Historical Society's award for outstanding scholarly publications in Illinois history. She currently serves as Project Director for the history department's grant from the U.S. Department of Education for Teaching American History.

Virginia received her B.G.S. degree from University of Michigan and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Ohio State University.

Please join us for this presentation on March 3, 2016 in the Pattee Auditorium, Center for Science & Business, Monmouth College, at 7:00 p.m.



Dr. Virginia Boynton

**April 7, 2016 Meeting  
International Student Panel  
Lila Blum**

Our April program will be a panel of three international students, Bota Yergaliyeva (Kazakhstan); Farida Mohammed (Ghana); Angham Jaradat (Palestine) who will tell us their stories and talk about women's issues in their respective countries. Please mark your calendar for April 7th, 7:00 p.m. and plan to attend. Location: TBA

## **Public Policy**

*Donna Sproston*

### **Elevator Speech**

When Ruth Sweetser was president of AAUW, she told us we should all have an elevator speech, a short prepared answer that sums up what AAUW is all about and what it means to us. I have been working on mine with the help of AAUW.org.

We take action on many gender issues, and currently our list includes civil rights, education, economic security, and Title IX. Every member can be involved in our lobbying efforts through the Two Minute Activist.

Our research is ongoing, and our latest document is on the status of women in leadership. The gender wage gap research is updated state by state every three months. (Illinois continues to rank 25th at 79 %.) We recently made headlines when we challenged a report that many campuses across the country are reporting that rape does not exist on their campus. Our research says otherwise.

Our Legal Advocacy Fund supports sexual harassment cases and our educational grants and awards have helped thousands of women and provided outstanding branch outreach programs.

We continue to be at the forefront of STEM encouragement, and we are becoming more and more visible on college and university campuses. We believe that campus leadership is linked to future leadership.

We are gaining new college and university partners around the world and have granted more than 3000 fellowships to women scholars from 134 countries.

We continue to incubate and develop programming that helps women. Our salary negotiations workshops, Start Smart and now Work Smart, are designed to help women learn to negotiate their salary and ultimately their financial security.

Now to sum all of that into a brief answer. The elevator is moving and the doors are about to open.

Here goes: "AAUW works for equity for all through research, through lobbying, through legal and financial support. AAUW believes that gaps in pay and leadership and career opportunities can be closed by education and training. We educate ourselves on issues that are vital to our full participation in society and then we work for that full participation."--Donna Sproston

### **Two Minute Activist**

If you are not currently participating in AAUW's program that encourages us to act on our issues, please visit AAUW.org and search for Two-Minute Activist. When there is work to be done, you will receive an email reminder. It is quite simple and only takes two minutes or less. The message is usually directed to members of Congress before a vote on an issue we support or oppose. However, this past weekend, a Two-Minute Activist was directed at ABC. Based on polling data, ABC decided to leave Carly Fiorina out of Saturday night's GOP Debate. Fiorina garnered the same number of delegates in Iowa as Jeb Bush and John Kasich and more delegates than Chris Christie, and AAUW believed that eliminating only one candidate on suspect polling data was unfair in light of Fiorina's Iowa results and the unreliable of recent polls. We do not endorse candidates, but we do want a level playing field. AAUW cried foul.



### **Film Group**

*Nancy Buban*

Please join us at 6:30 on February 22 to view the 2015 film, "The Intern." Written and directed by Nancy Meyers it stars Ann Hathaway as a successful entrepreneur, wife, and mother and her new seventy year old intern played by Robert De Niro. At first, the film appears "fluffy" but there is no "fluff" in the messages that the film conveys. We will once again meet at 207 South Eighth Street and the corn will be popped.

Take time to read the recent article in Outlook called "The High Cost of Hollywood's Gender Bias" which discusses the lack of women writers and directors and gives good sites to check concerning women filmmakers.



## ¡Adelante! Book Group

*Donna Sproston*

Please join in the discussion on Thursday, March 24, at 1 p.m. at the home of Donna Sproston. We will be discussing [A Spool of Blue Thread](#), Anne Tyler's most recent novel. Tyler has been writing about family relationships for fifty years. In this, her twentieth and (she says) perhaps her last novel, Tyler brings the Whitshank family to life, working back through three generations. Clearly the stories have been embellished or simplified to suit each family member's conscience. Tyler describes the book as a "sprawling family saga" and chose the title to make sure readers will not miss the point of the story. Watch for the spool and enjoy the book.

## Additional Book Study Opportunity

*Marilyn Van Ausdall*

Besides our local branch book group, here's an opportunity to join a national book discussion through a webinar on February 29.

National will be talking with former AAUW American Fellow Asali Solomon, author of *Disgruntled: A Novel*. "A coming-of-age tale and portrait of Philadelphia in the late 1980s and early 1990s, *Disgruntled* examines the double binds of race and focuses on the desire to rise above the limitations of the narratives we're given." Search for Asali Solomon at the AAUW website ([aauw.org](http://aauw.org)) to read more about the book and sign up for the webinar.



## Membership

*Marilyn Van Ausdall*

According to national, the work of branches is critical to AAUW's overall mission. I know that I'm very proud to be a member of such a worthwhile national organization, and I'm so appreciative of the lifelong relationships I've developed through branch membership.

There are many former members of AAUW in our Monmouth area communities. Life happens to all of us, and other priorities take precedence at times, but sometimes former members are in a different position and are able to join AAUW again!

In that spirit, AAUW wants to bring back **2,016** former branch members by the end of March 2016! If you know of a lapsed member, please call her and invite her to either our February 15 or March 3 meetings. Even if she's unfamiliar with "The Whip," I think she would find the book discussion very lively and interesting.

AAUW does so much more than what might come to mind right away. Refer to <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/> to help sell AAUW to new and potentially returning members.

Membership from now through March 15 is \$24.50 for national, \$10 for state, and \$4.50 for branch, for a total of \$39. This membership will last through June of this year.

Online Application to become an E-Student Affiliate of AAUW:  
[https://svc.aauw.org/RECore/wMembership/join\\_esaf\\_member.asp](https://svc.aauw.org/RECore/wMembership/join_esaf_member.asp)



## Branch Facebook Page and Website

*Marilyn Van Ausdall*

If you haven't already done so, please "Like", bookmark, and follow our branch Facebook page. Just Google "Join AAUW Monmouth" or search for "Join AAUW" on Facebook.

Also, please bookmark our website: <http://monmoutharea-il.aauw.net>. That way you'll always be able to check meeting times and member information.

Thanks!



## Changes, Changes

It seems that many of us are making changes—in our addresses, our email addresses, or our telephone numbers. Here are some updates that I know about. If you have something that needs to be updated in our membership booklet and online, please let me know. Marilyn will update it on our website, and Sharon will update her mailing list so that you continue to get the Initiative and all the in-between notifications.

Alice Lawson will be moving on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Her new address is 5 Edwardian Court; she is getting rid of her land line, so you can reach her on her cell at 309-569-8447.

Joanie Larsen has also gotten rid of her land line. Her cell number is 309-536-0600. Her new email is [pjscrapbook@mtcnow.net](mailto:pjscrapbook@mtcnow.net)

These are the other new email addresses:

[susan.i.vankirk@gmail.com](mailto:susan.i.vankirk@gmail.com)

[j\\_urban\\_2@yahoo.com](mailto:j_urban_2@yahoo.com) (Those apparent spaces are actually underlines!)

[janetwdeyoung@gmail.com](mailto:janetwdeyoung@gmail.com)

If you have changes you'd like listed, please let Jan or Marilyn know, and we'll get them posted.

## Other news

Marilyn Van Ausdall is recovering nicely from a broken leg, suffered in a fall on December 19<sup>th</sup>. We're glad you're on the mend, Marilyn!

Michelle Holschuh Simmons lost her father at Christmas time. Our sincere condolences go out to you, Michelle! He had to be a very special man!

## Congratulations to branch members Dr. Emily Rollie and Trudy Peterson

*Jan DeYoung*

Two of our AAUW branch members recently received recognition: Dr. Emily Rollie, a member of the Theatre Department at Monmouth College, has been recognized for the Gunderson Young Faculty Award. Emily was selected in part because of her recent publication of an article in Theatre Annual, as well as a chapter in a book, and at least twelve presentations at theatre conferences. Congrats, Emily! We're proud of you!

And Dr. Trudi Peterson was selected as one of Monmouth's Hometown by Bridget Draxler's Citizenship class. A group of students researched Trudi's career, made a website about her, and gave a live presentation at the Heroes Luncheon in December. Because of the quality of their work, Trudi's website was selected as the best of the group. And, what's more, Trudi focused on her AAUW Sister-to-Sister work as her biggest contribution to the community! You can see the whole project on the Monmouth Hometown Heroes website: <http://warrencountyvirtualmuseum.com/main/exhibit>. We're proud of you, too, Trudy!

# Treasurer's Report

Shirley Daddona

Checking Account Jan. 1, 2016 Balance \$1013.11 - 100 = \$913.11

Savings \$153.60 - 100 = \$53.60

AAUW Funds \$200.00 to legal advocacy and \$300.00 to fellowships (Lois List American Fellowship) Sorry we could not send more this year. We were thankful that we had a great turnout for the brunch.

CD has a balance of \$801.60

**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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