

November 2016

*Celebrating 92 Years of AAUW in Monmouth!*

## Presidents' Report

*Jan DeYoung co-president*

### Results of Elections

No matter how you feel about the outcome of the recent Presidential election, one thing is very clear. AAUW will have to continue to be vigilant in pursuing our mission of promoting equity for women and girls. Now, more than ever, we will need to find ways to get our legislators to work together on both sides of the aisle, and to focus on something more than just getting re-elected. We know that both Cheri Bustos and Dick Durban are on the right side of our issues, and we can hope that newly-elected Senator Tammy Duckworth will be, too!

At the state level, those of us who are represented by Norine Hammond can expect some support for women's issues. Jil Tracy is a bit less predictable, and since she will be in a new position in the state senate, we will need to make an effort to get in touch with her "early and often."

Just to refresh our memories, here are our legislative priorities at the state and federal level: getting the ERA passed in Illinois—if, in fact, the three-state option is still open to us; adequate funding for quality public education; and equal pay for comparable work. At the federal level, equal pay is also an issue, as is raising the minimum wage, protecting Social Security, protecting birth control and a woman's right to choose, and seeing that all nominees for the Supreme Court are qualified and thoroughly vetted when vacancies occur. All kinds of environmental issues are going to be hot issues as well. With one party in control of the Executive branch and both houses of Congress, we are facing a challenge to many of our priorities.

In the November 14 issue of Time, Charlotte Alter says, "Election 2016 is, among other things, a national referendum on the treatment of women." And, in a period where sexual harassment and other forms of

discrimination are on the rise, along with other forms of violence, it looks as if AAUW members need to be ready to speak out and lobby hard for the issues that defend women wherever inequality and inequity exist. We have worked so hard and come so far. We can't go backward now! As Gloria Steinem said in The Guardian, "We will not mourn; we will organize!"



### December Brunch

Please join us for social time and delicious food at Saturday, Dec. 3, at 9:30 am at Holt House, 402 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., Monmouth. Cost is \$10, with all proceeds going to support AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund. And bring a guest! Let Marilyn know by Tuesday, November 29, if you're planning on attending. Her contact info is 309-299-7822 or [mvanausd@nova1net.com](mailto:mvanausd@nova1net.com) or [vanausdm@gmail.com](mailto:vanausdm@gmail.com).



### Inside this issue

President's Report .....	page 1
Brunch .....	page 1
November Program .....	page 2
Betty Kaspar on Phyllis Schlafly .....	page 2
GEMS Workshop .....	page 4
Susan Van Kirk .....	page 5
Treasurer Report.....	page 5
Film Group.....	page 5
Book Group.....	page 6
Membership.....	page 6
Program Notes.....	page 7
Meeting Minutes.....	page 7
Mission Statement .....	page 8

# AAUW November 21, 2016 Program

Lila Blum

## Presentation by Professor Janna Deitz, “The Governing Challenge: Policy and Politics after the 2016 Elections”

**Our branch member, Janna Deitz, Professor of Political Science and Director of Public Leadership & Outreach at Western Illinois University, says, “Candidates often claim policy mandates to govern following an election, but the popular vote results of 2016 may constrain the ‘honeymoon period’ for the new president-elect. We will discuss the political context facing the governing party that may influence the success of its policy agenda in the executive, judicial, and legislative branches.” This program will provide some insights for us as we all move forward.**

Janna’s professional biography is impressive:

Janna Deitz is Professor of Political Science and Director of Public Leadership & Outreach at Western Illinois University, with research interests in congressional elections, legislative politics, women and politics, and campaign finance. Her research has appeared in *PS: Political Science & Politics*, *Political Research Quarterly*, and the *Journal of Political Science Education*, as well as in edited volumes on congressional elections. In 2011-2012, she was one of 7 political scientists named as an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow and served in the DC office of Senator Dick Durbin. She was inspired by that experience to create a *WIU in DC* semester-length Washington, DC internship for Western Illinois University students.

Her longtime passion has been the study of women's underrepresentation in political office. As an undergraduate student at UNC-Chapel Hill she interviewed women in state and local office in North Carolina to learn more about gender and political ambition for her honors thesis. Her latest effort includes working with the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University to host one of their nonpartisan candidate training programs in Illinois. The second offering of *Ready to Run Illinois* will be held on June 3rd, 2017 at the WIU Quad Cities campus in

Moline. Janna could not be more excited to get more good folks running for office and focusing on public service.

On campus, Janna’s service has included serving as the vice chair of the faculty senate (currently serving as that body's parliamentarian), co-president of the Western Organization for Women (WOW), and chapter secretary for UPI-Local 4100. In 2013 she was inducted as a faculty member into Phi Kappa Phi honorary society. She is currently teaching Congress and Campaigns & Elections classes, and looks forward to teaching Women and Politics this spring.

Please join us Monday night in **Room 273 of the Center for Science and Business at 7:00 p.m.** for this timely program!



*Branch member Betty Kaspar of Macomb, professor emeritus at WIU, knew Phyllis Schlafly personally. After sharing my memories of Schlafly's role in the defeat of the ERA in the September newsletter, I asked Betty to share her story with the branch. ----Donna Sproston*

## The Passing of a Right Wing Icon Elizabeth Kaspar

In September, 2016, the country lost its Icon of Anti-feminism, its Mistress of Misinformation, its Fuming Female, Phyllis Schlafly. She had spent more than forty of her ninety two years fighting for ultra right causes, especially railing against women's rights and against abortion. She wrote more than a dozen books, including, "Feminist Fantasies", "Who Killed the American Family?", and "The Power of the Christian Woman." As one book cover states, "No assault has been more ferocious than feminists' forty year war against women, and no battlefield leader has been more courageous than Phyllis Schlafly." In 1972, she founded the Eagle Forum, an organization to promote far right causes. Do Google their web page to read their mission statement. In part, it reads: to stop the encroachments on American sovereignty. "Feminist Goals" is one of the many in that list of encroachments. For her publication, Phyllis wrote a weekly column until

just a few weeks before her death. In the 1970s, she claimed that her forum had 50,000 members, and recently she claimed membership has risen to 70,000. (The Trump influence?)

Phyllis was particularly active during the years that the states were voting on the Equal Rights Amendment. I met Phyllis when Governor Thompson appointed her to the Illinois Commission on the Status of Women of which I was a member and vice chair for about eight years. Until her appointment, the sixteen members, four senators, four House members, and eight citizens all were feminists, united in their goal to improve women's status in our society. (I often have wondered, had we been a group fighting for civil rights, would the governor have appointed a member of the KKK?) In one of her forum articles, she referred to us, the commission members, as pigs!

While on the commission, Phyllis was in law school. She explained that she was doing this in order to be better prepared to fight for her goals, and especially to fight against the ERA. She was able to balance her marriage and her children, with law school and her work as head of the Eagle Forum, not exactly representative of the ideas she was espousing for other women! I concede she was bright; she had been a Phi Beta Kappa at Washington University and also held a Masters Degree from Radcliffe.

At the height of the debate in Illinois regarding passage of the ERA, she chartered buses and took groups of housewives to the Capitol to persuade legislators to vote against it. These women took them cookies, and once, I remember, put a rose on every desk with their message. I still can see her, always she wore bright red in order to stand out, and she carried a bull horn that she constantly used to yell instructions to her minions. She frightened these poor women badly, telling them that their husbands would not be required to support them if the ERA passed. Another of her outrageous claims was that men and women would be forced to use the same public restrooms because separate ones then would become illegal! Phyllis claimed credit, along with the forum, for the failure of the passage of the ERA. That absolutely is not true. I know, I was there! That credit belongs to Mayor Richard J. Daley. He withdrew the necessary votes for passage at the last

minute as we sat in the packed chamber awaiting what we all thought was going to be a victorious day. He did so because he was angry at Democratic State Representative Eugenia Chapman, a member of the commission, because she refused to support his nominee at the upcoming Democratic convention.

The commission continued to work diligently to rid the state of the hundreds of archaic laws that discriminated against women and to get new laws passed prohibiting any further discrimination. Phyllis meanwhile repeatedly declared that there was no discrimination against women. We held hearings in the Capital to which legislators came. For example, one hearing dealt with the near impossibility of single and/or divorced women to get credit cards. Women executives who were making more than \$100,000 per year testified that all credit card companies told them that either their fathers or their ex-husbands would have to sign as responsible for their bills before they would be issued a card. (In that hearing, our local representative pounded the table, loudly proclaiming that he would not let his wife have a credit card! She was a graduate of the University of Illinois and a teacher; he had never been to college to which his grammatically awful letters testified.)

Though Phyllis continued to emphasize that woman's place was in the home, certainly not pursuing a career, she seldom was home. Our staff discovered that when they had to call her. I challenged her one time, saying that she was never home when called, though she contended that woman's place is at home. She replied that she was grateful to have a wonderful mother to look after her children. I asked then if we might get a law passed to create more such women caretakers for those less fortunate than she.

When time for the commission's annual report to the legislature, Phyllis always submitted a minority report that for the most part damned the commission's work. Because she was one against the group, she had no real influence. Later, however, several more anti-feminists were appointed by our governors, but thankfully, never enough to allow them to control the commission, just enough to be a terrible pain!

Phyllis strongly supported Donald Trump, and all that

he stands for, as you might expect. In fact, he gave a eulogy at her funeral in St. Louis, saying that she was a great patriot. I wonder what will happen now to the Eagle Forum since she was its guiding light. With the present political situation, I imagine that it likely will flourish for the time being.



## GEMS Saturday

*Donna Sproston*

Ten fifth and six grade students from area schools participated in our first GEMS event at the Warren County Library on November 5th. The Girls were definitely engaged in Math and Science.

The station leaders included branch members and local volunteers. Sarah Hall helped the girls explore Sound Science in a variety of ways, and Jan DeYoung was the leader for Water Wonders in which they analyzed how water molecules cling and create surface tension. Danielle Morrison from the library staff covered Gadget Anatomy. The students found the manual typewriter fascinating. Denise Mann, a sixth grade teacher at Central Intermediate, investigated the effects of air pressure in Peeps Science. Left/right brain control of physical sidedness of hands, feet, eyes, and ears was analyzed in Brain Games as Donna Sproston had them perform a variety of tasks. After reading about the event in the Monmouth Review Atlas, Donna Spears asked she could be part of the event. She used the Great American Cookie Race to make predictions and analyze data as they discussed probability with dice.

Branch members Alice Lawson, Joanie Larson, Michelle Simmons, and Lila Blum provided helping hands and enthusiastic support. Jim DeYoung also helped deliver

materials. Jan DeYoung and Danielle Morrison coordinated the event between the branch and the library and handled publicity and promotion in the schools. Donna Sproston and Denise Mann developed the topics to investigate. As parents arrived that morning they were excited we were offering this program, and as the girls left they were just as enthusiastic and want us to plan another GEMS event. The Girls were definitely engaged in Math and Science.







## Susan Van Kirk's Newest Book To Be Presented at Warren County Library

*Jan DeYoung*

Branch member and co-Membership Vice President, Susan Van Kirk, has a new book! It's called Marry in Haste, and it takes up the story begun in her first book, Three May Keep a Secret and continued in her e-novella, The Locket: From the Casebook of T.J. Sweeney. We are back with Grace Kimball, retired English teacher and amateur detective, in the small town of Endurance, investigating another murder. Released on November 16<sup>th</sup>, Susan's book is available at Buchanan Center for the Arts, Maude Specklebelly's, the Monmouth College bookstore, and the Warren County History Museum, as well as online at Barnes and Noble and Amazon. It's also available on Kindle.

If you purchase your book ahead of time, you will be able to get it signed after Susan's presentation at Warren County Library on Tuesday, December 13 (you can also purchase a book that night at the library). AAUW is co-sponsoring Susan's book talk that night, so please come and bring a friend. Other opportunities to hear her speak and to buy a book and get it signed will be Monday, December 10, from 6:00 to 8:00, at BCA, and on Friday, December 16, from noon to 3:00, at Security Savings Bank.

If you have already read Two May Keep a Secret, you may already be a fan of Grace Kimball and of Susan's

skill at keeping the reader in suspense. If you haven't, you may want to read it before coming to the program at Warren County Library on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Susan admits this is her favorite of her books, and it's mine, too!

## Branch Member Susan Van Kirk's Latest Book

*Marilyn Van Ausdall*

Marry in Haste (An Endurance Mystery), the second book in Sue's Endurance series, will be released on November 16. Pre-orders are being taken now at amazon.com. I just ordered mine!

You'll definitely want to check out:

<http://www.suzanneadair.net/2016/11/15/domestic-violence-in-history-fact-and-fiction/#comments>.

Award-winning crime novelist, Suzanne Adair, invited Sue to do a guest blog on her website. You'll find out more about Sue's soon-to-be-released novel, and also learn about some of the frightening things Sue discovered while researching the topic of domestic abuse.

I also recommend that you scroll down at <http://femmesfatales.typepad.com> to read "Moment of Grace" where Sue shares her memories of visiting the Galesburg Public Library during her childhood.

We are so lucky to have such a talented author as a branch member!

## Treasurer's Report

*Shirley Daddona*

New figures for Nov: Checking. \$602.40  
Savings \$268.60, CD \$801.60





## Film Group

*Nancy Buban*

November 28, 2016 AAUW film

Hopefully turkey will be digested and everyone will be ready for popcorn while viewing the 2015 film, Grandma, starring Lily Tomlin. This film deals with mother/daughter relationships, an unexpected pregnancy and the death of a partner. It is a comedy/drama. We will view the film at 6:30 on Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at 207 South Eighth Street. See you at the movies.



## ¡Adelante! Book Group

*Vicki Gladfelter*

Our November book selection, *The Invention Of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd, will be discussed on Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 in the home of Alice Lawson.

*The Invention of Wings* takes place in Charleston, South Carolina, during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and was inspired by the historic figure of Sarah Grimke, an American abolitionist, writer, and suffragist. The novel focuses on Sarah and Hetty “Handful” Grimke, the slave that was gifted to Sarah on her 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. Over the course of thirty five years, we follow these two characters as they struggle for freedom and liberation during a very dark period in our American history.

Please come join us on the 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss this inspiring novel!



## Membership

*Marilyn Van Ausdall*

I can't help but compare my two states of mind, last month vs. this month. Life was “normal” at branch newsletter article submission time in October. Yes, I was upset by all the applause Trump was getting at his rallies when he made outrageous statements, but I never really believed there were still so many racist, misogynist, bigots in our country. And I'm not sure that the people who voted for him who actually don't share those views realize what they've unleashed - the harm that would ensue from all of his inflammatory statements. Now as I write the submissions for this month's branch newsletter, I sit here feeling emotionally drained and physically ill.

I expected to see the glass ceiling in the White House to FINALLY be broken -I was hoping for SHATTERED. Someone was going to be president who would continue the strides made toward equality. Someone was going to be there to fight for gender equity, to fight for equal pay for equal work, to protect a woman's right to choose. Someone who really believed in equality for all. Instead we have a president-elect who says among other things that “Roe v Wade can be changed.”

Instead we have a president-elect who chooses a man connected with the white nationalist movement to be his co-chief-of-staff. Some things Steve Bannon has said about women:

-- In a 2011 radio interview, Bannon had a hypothesis about why progressive women vilify prominent conservative women like Michele Bachmann and Sarah Palin.

“That's why there are some unintended consequences of the women's liberation movement,” he said, according to BuzzFeed. “That, in fact, the women that would lead this country would be pro-family, they would have husbands, and they would love their children. They wouldn't be a bunch of dykes that came from the Seven Sisters schools up in New England. That drives the left insane and that's why they hate these

women.” (Political Vindication Radio, 2011)

-- Back in 1994, Bannon launched a series of verbal attacks at Abigail Alling, a former employee who was working on his Biosphere II project, which was meant to stimulate the surface of Mars. Prior to Bannon’s arrival on the project, Alling scheduled a break to warn employees that Bannon was not equipped to adhere to safety standards. “I’m going to ram it down her f\*\*\*ing throat,” Bannon reportedly said, referring to what he would do with her safety warnings. Alling and another employee were let go from the company Bannon also referred to Alling as a “29- year-old bimbo,” and said he would “kick her a\*\*,” comments he admitted to having made in a pretrial interview when Alling and the other employee sued the company for breach of contract and abuse of process. (BuzzFeed, August 2016)

Bannon spent the early 1990s working at Biosphere 2. Margret Augustine, a former boss at the company, said that Bannon would talk about the size of women’s breasts and once grabbed her wrist while dancing and told her “that once I’d done it with him I’d never want to do it with anyone else.”

Follow this link <https://www.romper.com/p/how-to-protest-steve-bannons-appointment-to-trumps-white-house-staff-22710> to read more about Bannon and to learn what you can do to protest his appointment.

**Meanwhile, this is a perfect opportunity for us to grow our membership in an organization that has been fighting for women and girls since 1881. Recruit! Recruit! Recruit!**

## Program note



**On Friday, Nov. 18 at 7 pm** the program “Three Remarkable Women” will be presented at Central Congregational Church. This free program will showcase three women who knew each other in the 1860’s in Galesburg—Susan Van Allen Richardson (portrayed by Semenya McCord), Mary Allen West (Gail Masinda), and Mother Bickerdyke (Pam Johnson). You may make a freewill donation.

## Membership Note:

I neglected to include Kristyne Gilbert Bradford’s contact information in last month’s newsletter. I’ve now updated her info on the branch website: <http://monmoutharea-il.aauw.net>. And since I want to encourage all of you to use the website, here’s your opportunity to check it out if you haven’t already. The password for the Members Only section is Initiative92! (There’s an exclamation point at the end of that!) Thanks. Marilyn V.

## Meeting Minutes AAUW Meeting Oct 19, 2016 *Geneen Gillen*

Marilyn Van Ausdall welcomed 15 members and 2 guests to the October 19, 2016 meeting of AAUW held at the Warren County Health Department building. Joan Larsen introduced the speaker for the meeting who spoke about trends in women's health. Jenna Link is the administrator of the Warren County Health Department. Along with distributing pamphlets describing the services offered by the Health Department, Jenna described the history of WCHD. She listed the priorities of WCHD as dental care, diabetes identification and education, and obesity education. Jenna announced that the dental clinic will be opening with the services of a Biggsville dentist on a part-time basis.

Film Group will be Monday, October 24 at 6:30 at Nancy Buban’s house. The movie, Suffragette, will be shown.

GEMS Workshop will be November 5 from 9:30-11:30 at the Warren County Public Library.

Marilyn thanked all who have offered to help and urged others to volunteer for the GEMS Workshop. She asked the members for an old manual portable typewriter that could be borrowed to be used in the Gadget Anatomy station.

Marilyn urged everyone to VOTE on November 8. She also said that the courthouse is open daily for early voting! Google the AAUW Voter Guide for the positions of the Presidential, Vice-presidential, and Illinois Senate candidates on the issues.

The Newsletter deadline will be Wednesday, November 16.

Book Club will meet on November 21 at 1:00 at Alice Lawson's house. The book, Invention of Wings, a fictional account of the Grimke sisters by Sue Monk Kidd, will be discussed.

AAUW's next meeting will be November 21 at 7:00 at The Center for Science and Business in Room 273. Branch member and professor of political science at WIU, Janna Deitz, will be presenting the topic, "Political Compromise and Policy Change after the 2016 Election."

Marilyn closed the meeting by reminding members of the RADA fundraiser. She suggested that those who do not want to order, might like to make a donation. Through this fundraiser and our donations, many of our programs are funded.

Respectfully submitted,

Geneen Gillen, Secretary



**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)

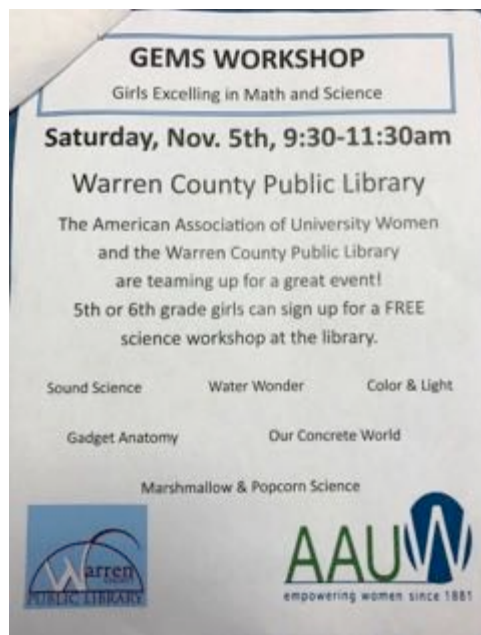
**AAUW-Illinois Web site:**

<http://aauw-il.aauw.net/>

**Monmouth Branch Web site:**

<http://monmoutharea-il.aauw.net/>

**AAUW Initiative Editor:** Sharon Gilbert,  
[sharongilbert1484@comcast.net](mailto:sharongilbert1484@comcast.net)



From Lila Blum