

December 2016

Celebrating 92 Years of AAUW in Monmouth!

Presidents' Report

Jan DeYoung & Donna Sproston, co-presidents

Happy 92nd Birthday! The Monmouth Branch was founded in late November 1924. We look forward to many more years promoting our mission of equity in this corner of Illinois.

We are so grateful for all of your support during our term in office. As we elect a new president, membership vice president, and secretary this spring, we hope you will step forward and agree to take an office or volunteer for any number of ways to serve the branch. Sharing an office is a great way to lessen the load and it has made our job much easier. Most of the goal setting and planning over the last twenty years has been done as a committee of the whole, and we want that to continue. However, there are always those small details that individuals step up and cover. Thank you for your past encouragement and your future commitment.

Many of us have been feeling a bit down over the plight of our public policy with the incoming administration, but as we left our annual brunch on Saturday, we were smiling with connections made and amazing journeys shared. It was truly uplifting. It was a great gathering, and for those of you who missed it, we will want to hear your journeys in the upcoming months.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a happy and healthy 2017.



January Coffee, Tea, and Conversation

Join us on Saturday, January 7th, at the home of Donna Sproston, 1376 200th Ave., Monmouth. The welcome mat will be out at 9 am and the coffee pot on until around noon. Her log home is on the lot just west of the cell tower at the Cameron exit. Parking is a bit limited on the circle drive and carpooling is recommended.



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**AAUW December 13, 2016
Program
6:30 p.m.
Warren County Public Library**

Susan Van Kirk's Newest Book

Our December meeting is Susan Van Kirk's book talk and signing at Warren County Public Library next Tuesday, December 13, at 6:30 p.m. You can purchase a copy of Marry in Haste that night, or you can bring a copy you've bought ahead of time, for Susan to sign. Copies are available at Buchanan Center for the Arts, OSF Holy Family Medical Center gift shop, Maude Specklebelly's, or the Warren County History Museum, or you can buy one online. The price is \$25.95 plus tax. What a great Christmas gift for a friend or a family member!

Hope to see you there!



Pictures from the Brunch
Lila Blum





Treasurer's Report

Shirley Daddona

New figures for Nov: Checking. \$602.40

Savings \$268.60, CD \$801.60



Film Group

Nancy Buban

No film group in December



¡Adelante! Book Group

Geneen Gillen

AAUW January Book Group - We will be reading the book The Light Between Oceans by ML Stedman. This is soon to be a movie of a couple's decision and the moral dilemma that results. The setting is the coast of Western Australia. We will meet to discuss the book on January 16th at 1:00 pm at Vicki Gladfelter's home.



Membership

Marilyn Van Ausdall

I am BEYOND pleased to introduce our two newest members. Many of you were lucky enough to hear Ginny Boynton speak to us last March, recounting how women fought for the right to vote in Illinois. Ginny joined us online at the end of October. Lisa Morrow came to our brunch last Saturday as one of Janna Deitz's guests, and decided to join on the spot. Following is some information about these two AMAZING women! WELCOME, GINNY AND LISA!



Get to Know Ginny Boynton

A native of Detroit, Michigan, Ginny Boynton earned her BA and MSW from the University of Michigan in the late 1970s. After a decade working in Denver and Boston, she returned to the Midwest in 1989 to pursue graduate work in history. She earned her MA (1990) and Ph.D. (1995) in History from THE Ohio State

University (as it is now known!), before accepting a position as an Assistant Professor in Western Illinois University's History Department, where she has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in US History and European and American Women's History since 1995. After a brief sojourn as History Department Chair for four years, she returned in 2012 to the department's full-time teaching faculty, where she continues her responsibilities as a Professor of History and is now the department's senior member (which she says apparently happens if you live long enough). She is eagerly looking forward to offering the department's course on the American Revolution and Early Republic (1763-1824) next Fall -- her first time teaching this course!

Ginny always enjoys opportunities to speak to groups about women's history (year-round, not just in March!), and has recently done so at meetings of the Anna L. Parker Club of Macomb, the League of Women Voters of McDonough County, the League of Women Voters of Adams County, and the Monmouth Area AAUW (!), and this Spring will be the featured speaker at the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Macomb Public Library. She has published numerous articles on her research into twentieth-century Midwestern women's history, has presented research papers at assorted academic conferences, and has supervised thesis research in women's history by both Master's students and undergraduate Honors students in History. A member of the talkative WIU Faculty Senate, Chair of its overworked Nominating Committee, an "apparently" lifetime member of the University Committee on Educator Preparation, Program Coordinator for History Teacher Education at WIU, Faculty Advisor for the department's active "and wonderful" student organization, Chair of her department's "beleaguered" Curriculum Committee, and Administrator of the History Department's Facebook Page, Ginny values service to her university as much as she does to her community and region.

A former member of the Illinois State Historical Society's Board, Ginny is now the President of the Tri-States Public Radio Friends' Board (91.3 FM in Monmouth and Macomb), Board member of the League of Women Voters of McDonough County, Deputy Registrar for the State Board of Elections, and Advisory

Board member of Macomb's Western Illinois Museum. In addition to the AAUW, she also belongs to the ACLU, the NAACP, the Southern Poverty Law Center, the Anti-Defamation League, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, the Feminist Majority Foundation, the League of Conservation Voters, and the ASPCA, among others.

A lifelong animal lover, Ginny grew up with dogs and now has a family of seven rescued cats (yes, you read that right!), although she is always delighted to play with her brother's family's four Golden Retrievers whenever she returns to Michigan for family visits. Her oldest feline baby is 16 years old, and the youngest two are four-year-old littermates. She is an equal opportunity animal lover! In addition to relaxing with her beloved kitties (yes, she is the quintessential "cat lady" and proud of it!), she enjoys listening to classical, jazz, and folk music as well as history-themed podcasts, reading mysteries and histories, browsing the *New York Times*, and spending FAR too much time on Facebook! When she has the opportunity to travel, she loves to spend time recharging her batteries at the glorious Lake Superior shore of Michigan's superb Upper Peninsula, but has also been known to drive west to South Dakota to commune with Custer State Park's amazing and inspiring bison herd.

Get to Know Lisa Morrow

Lisa A. Morrow, PhD is a tenured Associate Professor at the University of Pittsburgh and board certified neuropsychologist. She received her undergraduate degree from Stephens College in Columbia MO and her Master's degree from Cleveland State University. She completed her doctoral work at the University of Pittsburgh, receiving her PhD in 1986. She has worked for over 35 years in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and has been continually funded from the National Institutes of Health in neurobehavioral health research. Areas of research span aging, dementia, head injury, neurotoxic exposure and medical disorders. She has authored over 70 peer-reviewed articles, multiple chapters, and is co-editor of the upcoming textbook *Handbook of Medical Neuropsychology: Applications of Cognitive Neuroscience (2nd Edition)*. She has conducted hundreds

of independent medical examinations and provided expert legal opinions across multiple areas of psychological and behavioral issues, including competency, guardianship, worker compensation, neurological disability, and psychiatric function. She has been an invited speaker for numerous national and international organizations, including a visiting Professor at the University of L'Aquila, L'Aquila, Italy.

Lisa was born and raised in Macomb, IL and attended Western Illinois University Lab School. She will be retiring from the University of Pittsburgh at the end of 2016 and has returned to Macomb where she lives with her husband – Dale Sobotka (retired, industrial sales). Her oldest son, Nathan, graduated from Monmouth College in 2014 and is a co-owner of Front Street Brewery in Davenport Iowa. Her youngest son, Quay, is completing his undergraduate degree at WIU. In addition, to her primary vocation, Lisa is a potter (40 years) and recently began oil painting classes. Lisa says that she is looking forward to the many activities of the AAUW and delighted to be a part of this wonderful group of outstanding women. [Wow. Thank you!]

Meeting Minutes **AAUW Meeting Nov 21, 2016** *Geneen Gillen*

President Jan DeYoung welcomed 18 members and 6 guests to the meeting held at the Center for Science and Business on the campus of Monmouth College. Lila Blum introduced the speaker Janna Deitz. She is the professor of political science and Director of Public Leadership and Outreach at Western Illinois University. Jana also is a member of our AAUW branch. She spoke on the topic *The Governing Challenge: Policy of Politics after the 2016 Elections*.

Marilyn VanAusdall reported that the branch had made a profit of \$300 from RADA orders.

Jan DeYoung announced that the nominating committee will be meeting soon.

President Donna Sproston reported that the GEMS Workshop was a success. It was held at the Warren County Public Library with 10 girls in attendance. Pictures will be posted on the Branch's website.

Book Club will be Monday, November 28th at 1:00 at Alice Lawson's house. The book to be discussed is The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd. It is a fictional account of the Grimke sisters.

Film Group will be Monday, November 28th at 6:30 at Nancy Buban's house. The film will be *Grandma*.

The Christmas Brunch will be December 3rd at 9:30 at Holt House. Reservations are due by Tuesday, November 29.

AAUW will sponsor a book signing and talk by Susan VanKirk on December 13th at 6:30 for her newly released book, Marry in Haste.

Marilyn announced that contributions to AAUW must be made by the December 15th deadline.

Marilyn VanAusdall told those present that on the AAUW website, members may take a Test of Implicit Bias.

Judy Diemer moved and Michelle Simmons seconded that the meeting ended adjourned.

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
AAUW-Illinois Web site:
<http://aauw-il.aauw.net/>
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