

February 2017

Celebrating 93 Years of AAUW in Monmouth!

Presidents' Report

Donna Sproston, co-president

Looking at Gaps

2059 or 2152? The wage gap, the difference between the median earnings of men and the median earnings of women, slowly but steadily narrowed from the 1960s, and by the early 2000s women were encouraged that with steady progress, we would achieve income equality by 2059. Then the economy took a nose dive, the gap stagnated, and equity has been postponed until 2152. We can only hope this issue is not overlooked in the current political quagmire.

According to *Time*, President Trump planned to meet with two important CEOs last week to discuss the issues of women in the workplace. Although there are females serving as CEOs, he chose to meet with Doug McMillan of Wal-Mart and Mark Weinberger of EY, formerly known as Ernst & Young. EY has been a leader in the financial sector for generous paid parental leave and other benefits for both men and women, an effort for which they have been highly ranked as a Best Firm for Working Mothers for several years. Wal-Mart, on the other hand, does not share that honor. President Trump depends on advice and notoriously follows the advice of the last one in the room. Women can hope it was Weinberger, not McMillan, that got the last word in.

Also last week, Trump asked that women in the White House dress professionally. It is not known if he made the same request of the male staff members.

This month we will be considering AAUW's most recent report on the wage gap and compare it with our ongoing research on the leadership gap for women in education, industry, and government. There are barriers and bias which keep us from achieving equity. Why should we be paid less for the same work? Why should we not be in positions of power on an equal footing with men? AAUW has been asking those

questions for many years and will continue to ask them and look for solutions.

In preparation for the February meeting, please take the Implicit Bias test. Go to aauw.org and find out how you score.



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AAUW February 13, 2017 Program

Lila Blum

AAUW Research Overview and What the Research Reveals about Gender Bias

Our branch Co-President, Donna Sproston, will present a program on AAUW research, with a focus on gender bias and the gender pay gap, on Monday, February 13th, at 7 p.m., at Buchanan Center for the Arts, 64 Public Square, in Monmouth.

Donna, who has been a member of our AAUW branch since 1993, says "Joining AAUW certainly opened my eyes to the inequities between the genders." Her commitment to our branch and to AAUW has been extensive. She served as branch Co-President with Nancy Buban from 1995 to 1997 and later as treasurer and secretary. She also served several terms on the State Board as International Affairs Director and also District 3 Director.

Donna graduated from Monmouth College with a degree in biology and later earned an MS degree from Western Illinois University. She started her career teaching all of the sciences at a rural high school in Iowa. When she returned to Monmouth, at the time her husband took a position at Monmouth College, she worked for the college food service as a secretary and later for the Monmouth Branch of the Chicago Daily News in charge of subscriptions and circulation. Once her two daughters were in school, she returned to the classroom as a 7th grade general science teacher at Central Junior High in Monmouth for a one-year appointment. As it turned out, she stayed for 23 years!

Although Donna is recovering from knee surgery, she's busily preparing for this presentation with her usual enthusiasm. Please join us on February 13th at Buchanan Center where you can also view the colorful paintings of the artist, Larry Jon Davis.



Forthcoming Event and Program in March:

Saturday, March 11, 2017, Town and Country Art Exhibit Opening Reception, Presentation of "AAUW Best of Show Award," Buchanan Center for the Arts, 62 Public Square, Monmouth, IL, 2-4 p.m.

Monday, March 20, 2017, "Barriers and Opportunities: Women, Education, and Global Food Security," presented by Megan Hinrichsen, Assistant Professor of Sociology & Anthropology, Monmouth College, Center for Science & Business, Room 273, Monmouth College, 7:00 p.m.



Public Policy

Jan DeYoung

Super Bowl Weekend! A time for peak activity in human trafficking—true or false? The answer appears to be: both! While there is a definite increase in prostitution and human trafficking during Super Bowl weekend and any other weekend when there are large crowds, such as conventions and political gatherings, the issue seems to be that the rise in sexual activity follows the laws of supply and demand, rather than a specific connection with the sporting event, according to Nita Belles in “In Our Backyard.” And yes, there are more arrests for soliciting and other sex-related crimes during this weekend than on a normal weekend, partly because more resources are poured into the cities where large sporting events are taking place. Therefore, the increase in arrests doesn’t necessarily reflect a disproportionate increase in activity. Unfortunately, there are no hard data on a surge in activity, according to Polaris. The Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women asserts that the hype surrounding the connection between large sporting events and prostitution is a distraction from the ongoing efforts to identifying causes and getting better control over the problem.

However, in 2015, over 10,000 prostitutes were brought into Glendale, Arizona, during Super Bowl weekend, at least half of whom were human trafficking victims. The traffickers and pimps mostly work the parties and bars in the area of the sporting events, rather than at the games themselves. It is also true that there is a spike in sex ads on Backpage.com, and elsewhere on the internet, leading up to Super Bowl weekend.

Another myth is that trafficking victims are from East Asia and the Middle East; however, the overwhelming majority are native-born American women, lured by “boyfriends” with the promise of protection and making money, to dance at strip clubs and act as “escorts” for clients.

It is also true that many of the young women (and young men) who are trafficked are runaways. They are picked up by “johns” and offered a place to live, a “job,” and safety. In fact, they are frequently introduced to heroin or meth; they become dependent on the pimps

and forced into prostitution (up to 20 rapes in a single day).

According to UNICEF, there were more than 1.5 million victims in 2014 in the U.S. alone, and 27 million worldwide. Fewer than 5000 of these resulted in conviction.

Many groups such as AAUW are working to get better information in order to combat human trafficking, as well as other exploitative practices such as labor trafficking.

One effort to end human trafficking in America is the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), part of the Violence against Women Reauthorization Act in 2013. This act provides services for victims and gives prosecutors new resources to go after perpetrators as well as encouraging partnerships among agencies and groups to protect women and children from trafficking around the world.

Sometime in February, a documentary by Mary Mazzio, “I Am Jane Doe” will be released. This sounds like something we should watch!

AAUW has compiled a Program in a Box on Human Trafficking. There is some excellent information, including some good definitions and talking points for discussion. You might want to check this out.

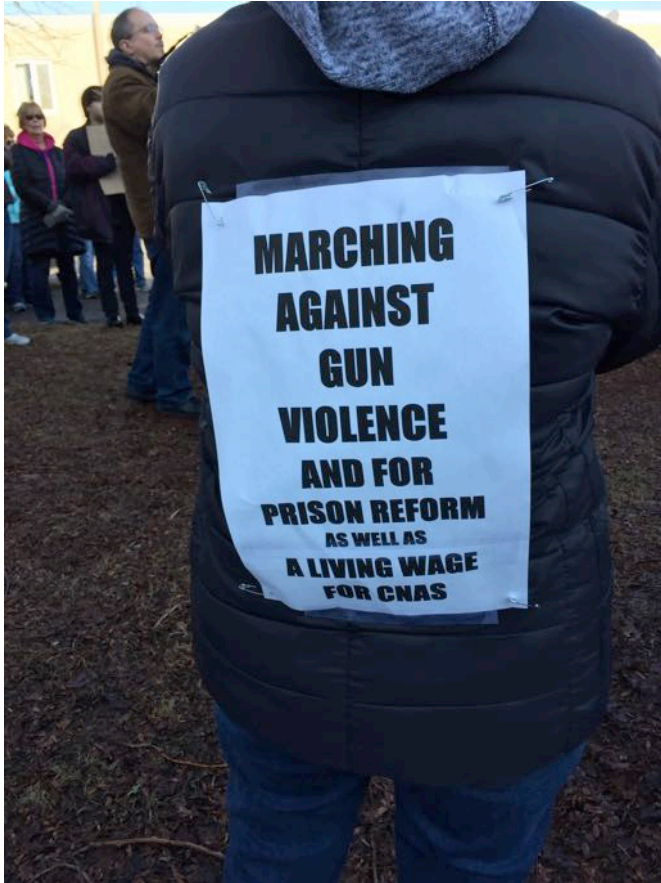
And, on the local level: make a donation to ASHA for Life. Check it out online at <http://www.ashaforlifecommunity.org>.

Women’s March

P. Joan Larsen

Several members and friends joined together with the Women’s March on January 21 held in Galesburg. It was a beautiful (not freezing!) day and we marched peacefully through the downtown area and back to the Court House. Of the hundreds there, several stayed afterwards to talk about future strategies. On the next page are pictures.





Treasurer's Report

Shirley Daddona

No change since last month.



Film Group

Nancy Buban

February 27, 2017

The film group will be convening at the home of Nancy Buban on Monday, February 27 at 6:30 p.m. The film will be a surprise.



¡Adelante! Book Group

Vicki Gladfelter

Our February book selection, The Round House by Louise Erdrich, will be discussed on Monday, February 27th at 1:00. Marilyn VanAusdall will be hosting at her home at Lake Warren. This bestselling, National Book Award winning book tells the story of a young teenage boy seeking justice for his family on an Ojibwa reservation in North Dakota. Hope you can make it!



Membership

Susan Van Kirk

Christy Jones, the branch relations person for AAUW, wrote a most interesting piece on membership for the month of February. She said that seven of the nine women who signed the charter to found the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) were AAUW members. Makes sense, doesn't it?

"The message sent when they signed that charter on February 12, 1909, still rings true today: Civil rights and women's rights are human rights."

Good message to keep in mind for the month of February which celebrates Black History as part of all of our histories.





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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