

April 2017

*Celebrating 92 Years of AAUW in Monmouth!*

## **“Bonus” Branch Program on April 5th with Lobie Stone**

*Lila Blum*

Lobie Stone, First Lady of Monmouth College, will speak on **“Art: The Heart of the Matter”** in the **Buchanan Center of the Arts Gallery on April 5th at 7:00 p.m.**

Lobie’s remarks will concern what art has meant to her in her life and the importance of art and creativity in the growth and development of students. Her presentation coincides with the annual Town and Country exhibit which features art works by students in K-12 classes from area schools located in Warren, Henderson, and Mercer counties. This program is open the public.

Please join us next week on Wednesday and bring a friend.



## **Don’t forget to Vote April 4!!!**



## **April 4 is Pay Equity Day**

*Jan DeYoung*

Just in case you’ve forgotten, April 4 is Pay Equity Day, the day that marks how far into the year a woman must work in order to “catch up” with what a man made by December 31 of the previous year. Or, to put it another way, a woman has worked for free for over three months, one quarter of the year.

Equal pay has been a primary issue for AAUW since at least 1922. In 1955 Representatives Edith Green, a Democrat, and Edith Rogers, a Republican, proposed a bill, supported by AAUW, requiring “equal pay for work of comparable value requiring comparable skills.” That’s 95 years ago! In 1963 Congress passed the Equal Pay Act, a version of the bill proposed by the two Ediths in 1955. Hmm! Talk about glacial progress! When

President Obama signed the Lily Ledbetter Act as his first gesture toward pay equity as President, we had high hopes, but not much has happened since then.

In spite of the Equal Pay Act, women have made little progress toward pay equity. When I became a member of AAUW, women earned 59 cents to a man’s dollar; today, it’s 80 cents. Not much progress in fifty years!

And, sad as it is, that is not the whole story. The 80 cents is for a white woman working full-time, year round. For an African-American woman, it’s 63 cents; for a Native Hawaiian or Pacific-Island woman working in the U.S. it’s 60 cents. For a Native American or Alaskan Native woman, it’s 58 cents, and for a Latina, an appalling 54 cents.

Equal Pay Day for Asian American women is March 7— that’s the best one, almost a month ahead of the average for all women. However, Equal Pay Day for mothers is one day in May! And for African American women, it’s July 31<sup>st</sup>. For Native American and Alaskan Native women, the date is September 25<sup>th</sup>, and worst of all, for Latinas, November 2<sup>nd</sup>!

At the federal level the Equal Pay Act has not been updated since 1963. According to the latest data, the average salary in the United States for a male is \$51,212, and for a female, \$41,742. In Illinois the figures are just below the national average: in Illinois the average male salary is \$52,161 and the average for a female is \$41,327. That’s 79%. Illinois ranks in the dead center nationally, at 24<sup>th</sup>. We have fallen one position: previously we were tied with Georgia for 23rd.

Equal Pay bills have been introduced or are pending in 30 states. In 2016 these states passed Equal Pay laws: California, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, and Utah. In each of these states AAUW played a role in getting the laws passed! For more detailed information, check the data in the Fall, 2016, edition of “The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap.” (A brand-new 2017 version is available on the

aauw.org website. I will try to order some hard copies to make available to those of you who want them.)

Part of the issue is the Leadership Gap, explored in depth in AAUW's 2016 study, "Barriers and Bias." For example, although 76% of teachers are women, only 20% are superintendents of schools. 75% of non-profit professionals are women, but only 43% are executives in the field. 43% of college professors but only 32% of college presidents are women. And, imagine this; 45% of Standard and Poor's employees are women! And a startling 5 per cent of S & P's CEO's are women!

Here's some more information for us to consider. According to a recent report from the Economic Policy Institute, the pay gap widens as women achieve higher levels of education! A woman who has graduated from high school earns 80% as much as a man with a high school degree. College graduate women are paid an average of \$26.93 per hour, versus a man's \$37.13, \$21,000 less in a year. And for people with advanced degrees, a women's work is worth \$13 per hour less!

In tabular form, here's the breakdown in wages per hour:

Women	Men	Percent
Less than high school \$14.43	\$11.16	77.4%
High school grad \$15.04	\$18.88	79.7%
Some college \$17.08	\$21.27	80%
College degree \$26.93	\$37.13	72.5%
Advanced degree \$34.95	\$47.72	73.2%

So, what do we do about achieving pay equity? First, we need to work to get the Paycheck Fairness Act passed, to provide incentives for employers to follow the law. This will enhance federal law enforcement efforts and prohibit retaliation by employers who ask about wage practices.

Be sure to contact your Members of Congress to urge their support of the Paycheck Fairness Act. As far as I know, all three of them are on board, so your message can be upbeat: "We know that you support the Paycheck Fairness Act and other legislation promoting equal pay. Thank you for your support!" It is important to contact our legislators to thank them and to encourage them to continue to support issues important to us.



## ¡Adelante! Book Group

*Jan DeYoung*  
NEA Big Read

Please join members of the AAUW book group at the Big Read discussion of selected poems of Emily Dickinson at Warren County Library on Thursday, April 6, at 6:30 p.m. The librarian from Galesburg Public Library will lead the discussion.

Copies of a collection of about 30 of Dickinson's poems and some art work for optional coloring, in a small soft-covered book titled Profound By Accident: Galesburg Reads Emily Dickinson are available at the front desk at Warren County Library.

Refreshments will be available. We hope you will join us!

For those of you who like to plan ahead, our selection for May is Ann Patchett's Commonwealth. You can reserve a copy of this novel at the library or get it on Amazon for your e-reader. Date and place are to be arranged.



## Film Group Cancelled this Month

## Treasurer's Report

Shirley Daddona—no report

### AAUW Best of Show Award at Town and Country Exhibit"



Marco Soto with Geneen Gillen and Lila Blum

Marco Soto, a senior at Monmouth-Roseville High School, was the winner of the Best of Show Award for his ceramic work, "The Depth of the Ocean" in The Town and Country Exhibit at Buchanan Center for the Arts. Marco has taken art classes during his four years of high school and recalls, with great enthusiasm, the

Art Presenter Program from his elementary school experience in Monmouth.

### March 20 Program with Megan Hinrichsen:



Megan Hinrichsen, Assistant Professor of Sociology & Anthropology at Monmouth College spoke to 19 AAUW members and 3 guests on the topic "Barriers and Opportunities: Women, Education, and Global Food Security."

## Minutes of the March Meeting

Geneen Gillen

AAUW March 2017

The members of the Monmouth Branch of AAUW met on March 20, 2017 at the Center for Science and Business at Monmouth College. President Jan DeYoung introduced the speaker, Megan Hinrichsen who is an associate professor of Sociology and Anthropology at

Monmouth College. Her program's topic was Barriers and Opportunities: Women, Education, and Global Food Security.

After the program, Jan DeYoung called the meeting to order. President Donna Sproston introduced the District 3 Director, Carolyn Schielderup, from the Rock Island/Moline branch. She gave a brief biography and history of her experiences in AAUW.

Nancy Buban introduced Alice Lawson and Geneen Gillen as co-presidents. There was a correction to the February minutes. The nominating committee is looking for a membership vice president and a secretary. Please contact Nancy if you would like to volunteer for either of those two positions.

Book Club will meet on April 6 at 6:00 pm at the Warren County Library for The Big Read. The poems of Emily Dickinson will be discussed. The discussion leader will be Alice Lawson.

Film Group has been cancelled.

GEMS Workshop for 5-6 grade girls is set for Saturday, April 29 from 9-12 at the Warren County Library. The concentration will be on Physics and Math. Presenters and volunteers to supply refreshments are needed. Please contact either Donna or Jan.

Hayley Hawthorne was introduced as a new AAUW member. She is in the Communication Department of Monmouth College.

Members were encouraged to call their senators and representatives to tell them that AAUW does not support the American Health Care Act.

Susan VanKirk will be at Barnes and Noble on Sunday, March 26 from 2-4 for a book signing.

The next meeting of AAUW will be April 5, at 7:00 at the Buchanan Center for the Arts. Lobe Stone will present Art, The Heart of the Matter.

President Jan DeYoung moved that the meeting be adjourned. Vera Fornander seconded.

**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/>