

March 2019

*Celebrating 95 Years of AAUW in Monmouth!*

## Presidents' Report

*Alice Lawson, co-president*

March is Women's History Month, and I must say "We've come a long way, baby." However, we still have a long way to go. We are still paid only 80 cents for every dollar a man is paid. There is still not 51 percent of us in Congress, and we still do not have a woman President.

The first equal pay act was passed in 1963. That was 56 years ago. We have made a little progress, but not enough. AAUW is trying to do something about this inequality with our "Start Smart" and "Work Smart" programs for recent college graduates and for women already in the work force.

From 1947 when I was not allowed to take physics in high school because I was a girl until now when we actively encourage girls to become engaged in STEM subjects. We have come a long way, but we still do not have enough girls involved.

From 1869 when Wyoming passed the first women's suffrage law to 1872 when Susan B. Anthony was arrested for trying to vote and on through our history to 2016 when a major party had a women Presidential candidate and 2018 when the largest class of women in history was elected to the House of Representatives. The Senate and House are still not 51 percent female and our pay is still not equal to a man's. There is still work to do and AAUW is in the forefront of the fight. We need you to step up. Together we CAN make the difference.



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## Additional AAUW Program March 28, 2019

*Michelle Holschuh Simmons*

Robin Johnson has proposed the following title for his talk: "**The Midwest: Decisive in Campaign 2016 AND Campaign 2020.**" I have scheduled the talk for Thursday, 3/28 at 7:00 PM in the Center for Science and Business, Room 273.

## AAUW Spring Programs

*Lila Blum*

Film: **Equal Means Equal**, Tuesday, April 9, 7 p.m., Monmouth College, CSB Pattee Auditorium, Room 100

Monday, **May 20, Potluck & Year-end review** at Social Hall, Faith Presbyterian Church, 200 South 8th St. Monmouth, 6 p.m.



## Public Policy

*Jan DeYoung*

April 2 is Pay Equity Day, the day when women's earnings catch up with the amount earned by men the previous December 31<sup>st</sup>. We have a long way to go to bridge that gap, which is still 20 cents for all women (in Illinois it's 22 cents, and in the 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District it's 24.8 cents), but much worse for women of color and Hispanic women, as well as for mothers. AAUW's research continues to track the data, but there has been very little change in the past ten or fifteen years. (See the latest edition of AAUW's "The Simple Truth About Pay Equity.") The Paycheck Fairness Act, whose purpose is to close the wage gap, was reported favorably out of the United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions in February. A similar bill, HR7, is in the House. I do not know when either of these bills might reach the floor of the Senate or the House. Both Senators Durbin and Duckworth and

Congresswoman Cheri Bustos are co-sponsors of the bills in their respective houses.

Why is equal pay so important? It is estimated that in a year's time, the disparity in pay robs women of billions of dollars. And for the most vulnerable, equal pay would cut the poverty rate for working women in half, from 8.0% to 3.8%; the poverty rate for working single mothers would be decreased from 28.5% to 14.5%, and for single women in general, the poverty rate would be cut from 10.8% to 4.4%.

Although the General Assembly overrode Governor Rauner's veto of the Equal Pay Act in Illinois, and the law took effect on January 1, 2019, Illinois still has a long way to go in achieving true pay equity. One important component that we need is to prohibit employers from using past salary information in hiring new employees. Salary history legislation would make information on salary ranges for specific jobs available but forbid an employer from asking a potential employee about previous compensation. This widely-used practice especially discriminates against women, who are likely to have been paid less than male colleagues in previous comparable positions. Such legislation should also require employers to collect data on the wage gap in their areas. A salary history ban became effective in January, 2019, for state employees by executive order. The General Assembly needs to expand this ban to all workers.

Another area Illinois needs is state-sponsored education and training programs on salary negotiation. If more communities provided such programs as Start Smart and Work Smart, more women in the work force would be equipped to negotiate salaries and benefits and begin to earn what they deserve!

Much good information is available on the AAUW website. AAUW research is even cited in other respectable fact sheets.





## Film Group

*Nancy Buban*

March 25, 2019

On Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> Film Group will view, "Learning to Drive", a film written by Sarah Kernochan and directed by Isabel Coixet. Two middle-aged people with entirely different backgrounds aid each other in their times of crisis. Starring Patricia Clarkson as a Manhattan writer and Ben Kingsley as a Sikh taxi driver and driving instructor, one critic has called this film, "A giant metaphor for individualism, overcoming odds and trying something new." The corn will be popped at 207 S. 8<sup>th</sup> St. at 6:30.



## ¡Adelante! Book Group

*Alice Lawson*

Adelante Book Club will meet March 25 at 1:00 at Marilyn VanAusdall's home to discuss Educated: a Memoir by Tara Westover. Those who wish can meet at Farm King to carpool, as parking a Marilyn's is limited. We will be discussing Educated by Tara Westover.

In April we will be participating in the "Big Read." The book is When the Emperor was Divine by Julia Otsuka. It is the story of a family during the Japanese internment in WWII. The discussion will be April 17 at 7:30 PM at

the Warren County Library. The books are also available at the library

## Card & stamp project

*Kathy Lowe-Arthur*

I have received some cards & stamps thanks to the information in the AAUW newsletter. I would like to add this address for those who have donated to these two groups they are:

American Philatelic Society

Bellefonta, PA

The stamps go to this group.

The used cards are recycled here at Warren Achievement Center. We send the front of the cards to: Jamieson Center where they put them with their Meal on Wheels delivery. The Veterans Home in LaSalle, IL. and a couple of nursing homes in our area also benefit from these cards.

Thanks for the giving.



**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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