

April 2019

*Celebrating 95 Years of AAUW in Monmouth!*

## President's Letter

*Geneen Gillen, co-president*

Welcome to Spring, AAUW FRIENDS!

In April, we have a meeting at the beginning of the month on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Monmouth College Business and Science Center. After our amazing program, we will have a short meeting to elect new officers. If Ruth Wright, or anyone from her nominating committee, asks you to be an officer, please be generous with your time. The positions needed for a 2-year term are President and Secretary. I have served in both jobs and neither one takes that much time or is that overwhelming! Please call Ruth Wright 309-255-1821 or email her [bwr94ghtr@frontier.net](mailto:bwr94ghtr@frontier.net) if you are interested in being an officer in AAUW next year.

Please visit our state newsletter through our local website, [monmoutharea-il.aauw.net](http://monmoutharea-il.aauw.net). The newsletter has all of the information about the State Convention to be held in Springfield on May 3-4. Early bird registration is due by April 12. More discussion to come at our meeting.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone on April 9<sup>th</sup>!



## AAUW Best of Show Award at Town & Country Art Show at Buchanan Center for the Arts

*Lila Blum*

The winner this year was Elizabeth Hucke for the "The Ballerina," a graphite drawing. This work also won the award for the best pen/ink/pencil entry. Olivia is a freshman at Mercer County High School. We congratulate this talented student! The Town & Country Show continues through April 26, 2019.



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## April Program April 9, 7 p.m.

Join us in Pattee Auditorium for the documentary, “Equal Means Equal”.



## May Program Reminder

On May 20, we will share a potluck at the Social Hall of Faith Presbyterian at 6 p.m.



## Public Policy *Jan DeYoung*

Public Policy April 2019

Good news! HR 7, the Paycheck Fairness Act, passed in the U.S House of Representatives this week by a vote of 242 to 187. Seven Republicans joined their Democratic colleagues in voting in favor of this important legislation. Now, on to the Senate!

Our Representative, Cheri Bustos, is a big supporter of equal pay. And our Senators, Tammy Duckworth and Dick Durbin, are also advocates. However, the outlook for a favorable outcome in the Senate is not promising. The same bill passed the House in 2009 and was defeated in the Senate, so cross your fingers that it will be successful in the Senate this time! It wouldn't hurt to contact our Senators' offices to encourage them to support the bill, S 270. This bill came out of committee in February, but I am not aware that it is scheduled for a vote anytime soon.

The Paycheck Fairness Act was first introduced by Representative Rosa DeLauro in 1997 and has been re-introduced by her eleven times since! (Does that remind you of the history of the ERA?)

Many opponents say that the bill is unnecessary because we have equal pay legislation in place at the

federal level under the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and Title IX, part of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. However, given the data about the wage gap, it is clear that these two laws are not getting us any closer to equal pay. In fact, the Bureau of Labor Statistics says the gap is widening!

Provisions of the new bill attempt to remedy some weaknesses of the earlier legislation:

- \*It bars employers from asking potential employees about their past salary history.

- \*It prohibits retaliation against employees who ask about and compare compensation.

- \*It requires employers to demonstrate that salary differentials are based on legitimate factors such as education or experience and not on gender.

- \*It makes it easier to file class action lawsuits over pay discrimination.

- \*It also addresses the need for training, such as AAUW's Start Smart program, to educate women on negotiating beginning salaries, and Work Smart to help women negotiate salary and benefit increases once they are in the work force.

By the way, Cheri Bustos says the wage gap in our Congressional District is 25%, well above the national average of 20% usually cited.

I am always delighted when AAUW research is cited in the articles on pay equity. Your dues dollars and contributions are helping promote equity for women and girls in more ways than you know!

One thing the Paycheck Fairness Act does not address is the “motherhood penalty.” I will try to address this issue in an article soon.





## ¡Adelante! Book Group

*Geneen Gillen/ Alice Lawson*  
NEA Big Read

We'll be taking part in The Big Read. The place is the Warren County Public Library. The day and time are April 17 at 6:30. It's not too late to read the book because it's very short, but interesting. The title is When the Emperor was Divine by Julie Otsuka. It is a novel about a Japanese/American family during the Second World War. The books are available at the Warren County Library. Please join us. You'll enjoy it.



## AAUW Film Group

**April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

*Nancy Buban*

Monday, April 22, 2019 Film group will view the 2018 film Can You Ever Forgive Me? starring Melissa McCarthy as biographer Lee Israel. Financially strapped, Israel creates and sells cleverly written fake letters from famous people. The film directed by Marielle Heller, written by Nicole Holofcener and Jeff Whitty received three Academy Award nominations: Best Performance by an actress---McCarthy, Best Performance by a supporting Actor---Richard Grant and Best Adapted Screenplay by Nicole Holofcener and Jeff Whitty. The corn will be popped at 207 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street at 6:30.



## Time to Renew!

*Marilyn Van Ausdall*

New members can join now, and their memberships will be good through June of 2020, for the same low price of \$78 (\$59 national, \$10 state, \$9 branch.) Consider bringing a prospective member to our showing of the documentary *Equal Means Equal* on April 9. "*Equal Means Equal* is a groundbreaking exploration of gender inequality in the USA featuring top women's rights activists, leaders, and survivors. A brutal expose of a broken system, the film reignites the dialogue on full legal equality for all Americans."

## Treasurer's Report

*Judy Diemer*

AAUW has implemented changes to streamline dues processing for FY20.

**DO NOT GO TO THE WEBSITE TO RENEW DUES.**

The process is simplified.

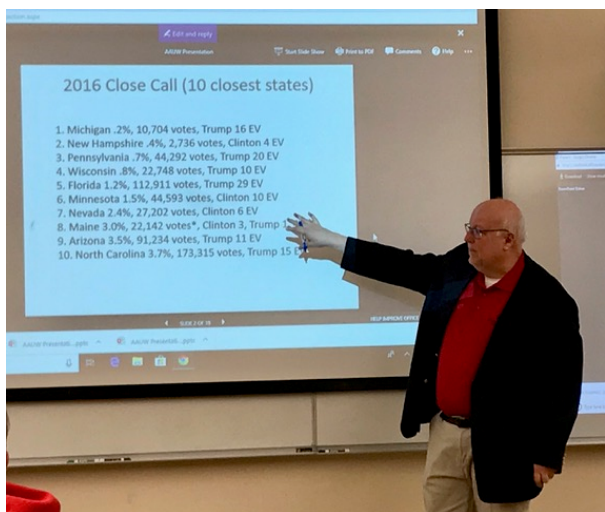
You will now renew through an email that I will initiate. It will contain a secured link you can use to renew your membership. (No going to the website and no login required!)

If you choose not to renew online the invoice contains instructions for mailing a check to me or you can give me your check at a meeting.

If you give me a check, I will process your payment and forward national and state dues. All Finance officers were instructed to get a branch debit card to use in making payments for FY20 (I obtained our card prior to 3/16.) The Membership Payment Program (MPP) will no longer accept checks from local branches.

I have tested the process by sending an invoice to myself and it is so much easier! Invoices will be sent in April after the branch portion of the FY20 membership is approved at the March meeting.





Robin Johnson’s presentation Thursday night emphasized the importance of the Midwest and of the working class for successful candidates in the 2020 election process. According to his research, voters are interested in jobs, infrastructure, and health care. The audience, consisting of branch members, students, and Monmouth College faculty/staff, engaged in a lively and informative question/answer session.

Many thanks to Robin Johnson for a fine presentation and to Michelle Simmons, branch program chair, who organized this event.



If you want some good laughs, come on over to Prairie Players in Galesburg the next 2 weekends, and witness a couple of your branch members “posing” for the calendar. ✍

Prairie Players Civic Theatre presents

# CALENDAR GIRLS

Written by Tim Firth Directed by Anne Carman-Hendel

Marilyn Van Alsdoll, Eleanor Kallig, Betty Hippely, Vera Formander, Chris Curtis, Amy Rutledge

**April 5 Fri 6 Sat 11 Thurs 12 Fri 13 Sat 7:30 pm**  
**April 7 Sun 14 Sun 2:00 pm**

Prairie Players Civic Theatre  
 160 S. Seminary Street, Galesburg

Tickets  
 \$15/adults \$8/students  
 (Cognitive Mature) Thruex

Buy tickets at [prairieplayers.com](http://prairieplayers.com)  
 or call 309-343-7728

Based on the Miramax motion picture  
 by Juliette Tewkside and Tim Firth

sponsored by



## Painting in the Garden with Cherry Simmons

**Date:** May 10, 1:00 PM

**Place:** The Stewart House, 1015 E Euclid Ave., Monmouth, IL 61462

**Cost:** \$20 (includes cost of materials)

**To Register:** Contact Mary Osborne at 309-734-5154/  
[mosborne@kappa.org](mailto:mosborne@kappa.org). **Please register by May 6.**

Enjoy *plein-air* painting at The Stewart House. Cherry Simmons will lead you in painting a scene from the museum’s iris garden. Indulge in a relaxing afternoon and take home your own piece of art. All levels welcome!



**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/>