

**AAUW CONNECTION**

**MORTON, ILLINOIS BRANCH**

April 2016

**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.

Association website: <http://aauw.org> Illinois state website: [www.aauw-il.org](http://www.aauw-il.org)

Morton Branch AAUW website:  [http://morton-il.aauw.net/](http://morton-il.aauw.net/" \t "_blank)

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**President’s message**

Greetings! Spring has sprung! Spring signals new life: daffodils, tulips, open doors and windows, the sounds of birds, squirrels and chipmunks scampering. Spring draws us out of

hibernation and isolation as we emerge from our cozy dwellings, breathe the freshness,

and re-engage with each other. Refresh yourselves with wine and cheese at our Annual

Meeting to be held at Judy Triggs’. This is an important meeting for accepting the slate

of officers presented by the nominating committee. Many thanks to those who said

“yes.” The board is also recommending that you accept the updated by-laws and policies.

Please extend a BIG thank you to Heather Thompson for the many hours she spent

revising and updating these documents. Dues for next year will also be up for discussion

and recommendation. The program for the evening is our book review of Go Set a

Watchman and H is for Hawk. Reading the books is not a requirement for attending the

meeting.

With heavy hearts we said goodbye to a dear friend, Carol Ricketts, as she made her final

journey. Her family appreciated our Chamber Gift Certificates and restaurant gift cards.

We have lost a Charter member, past president, and originator of BGBG (Bad Girls Book

Group) that so many of us enjoy. Carol had the unique ability of drawing us out of our

comfort zone to be enriched by the books that were chosen. We were so blessed to have

known her and she will be greatly missed. As we have done in the past, AAUW Morton

Branch will donate a book to Morton Library in Carol’s memory. Lynne Walters will be

contacting the library and selecting the book.

Many thanks to the GEMS committee and those of you that helped with our successful

“ Microscope Mysteries” workshop which also incorporated Women’s History Month.

Please don’t forget to support or join us on April 30 for the Morton Relay for Life event.

Everyone plays a role in making our AAUW Morton IL Branch engaging, inspiring, and

fun! So come join in the fun at our next branch meeting.

BGBG is April 6 at my house, The Forgotten Garden, by Kate Morton. RSVP by noon

Tuesday.

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*-Judy*

*Morton AAUW Branch President*

**Program News**

**April – Wine & Cheese & Book Reviews**  
April 12th meeting is at the home of Judy Triggs.

At our April meeting we will be reviewing the 2 books we have chosen to read this year.

* *Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee
* *H is for Hawk* by Helen MacDonald

Both books are available at the Morton Public Library.

This is also our Annual Meeting. This is an important meeting for accepting the slate

of officers presented by the nominating committee. We will also be voting on updating the bylaws and policies. Please take a minute to review the attachments. We will be voting on membership dues – perhaps you want to remember your checkbook!

**Hostesses for our upcoming programs**

Thanks to Judy Triggs for opening her house for Book Review meeting on April 12. Also thanks to Marilyn Formhals, Mike Gunn, and Linda Vierling for being on committee.

May 10 hostesses are Suzanne Ligon, Laura Elam, Deb Sommer, and Becky Walker for serving as hostesses. Meeting will be "Who Was Elizabeth Packard" by Christina Lea Smith at American Legion, 24 Adams Street.

Board meeting Salad Supper will be May 24 at home of Joan Rice. Kay Lindley is co-hostess. This is for old and new board members.

Hostess Chairman,

*-Kay Lindley*

**Grant report**

Our wonderful, caring grant committee members are diligently judging grant applicants.

Results will be known by the end of the month. Thank you, Becky Walker, Judy Griffin, Roberta Beutel, and Diane Pflederer for your hard work.

**Matin-A’s**

Big Fat Greek Wedding 2 is coming to Morton.  If anybody wants to go, let me know and we'll set up a time.  I'd love to see it again.

I have requested the movie, *Bordertown*, from the library and will be happy to show it to anyone in my home.  Let me know if you're interested.Judy and I were very impressed with Barbara Martinez Jitner, who spoke at Bradley in March.  The movie is based on a documentary she made.

CASA Got Talent? concert on Thursday, April 7th at 6 PM at Bertha Performing Arts Center.

If anybody would like to go with me, let me know.

-*Patti*

**Membership News**

Finally, I am back from Florida and long forward to the next meeting!  Presently our membership stands at 44, the loss of our good friend Carol, a big loss for many reasons.  We haven't done a lunch bunch, but let's try to fit one in before summer arrives.  How about Tuesday. April 19 or Saturday April 23 at the new downtown digs...SEASON'S GASTROPUB'S?

-*Judy Petefish*

**BGBG**  
BGBG is April 6 at Judy Griffin’s home. The group will be discussing The Forgotten Garden, by Kate Morton. RSVP by noon Tuesday.

**AAUW Community New**

**Relay for Life**

The Morton Relay for Life event will take place on **April 30th at Idlewood Park.  It will be from 3 P.M. to 10 P.M.**  We hope we have enough people to have 2 people walking for an hour each during this time frame.  Please consider walking/donating to our team.  It should be lots of fun! :)

-*Cheri and Mike*

**GEMS News**

The GEMS event was on March 29th at the Morton Public Library. See photos below for a glimpse of the fun event.

-*Deb and Heather*

**Women & Education**

AAUW’s newest research report, Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership, is now available! See the attached PDF for a synopsis. It’s worthwhile to read the full report.

April 12 is Equal Pay Day. AAUW’s The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap succinctly addresses these issues by going beyond the widely reported 79 percent statistic. The report explains the pay gap in the United States; how it affects women of all ages, races, and education levels; and what you can do to close it.

Visit [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) for more information.