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## AAUW CONNECTION MORTON, ILLINOIS BRANCH August 2015

**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/>

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### PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE:

As I sit here writing this, I'm thinking that summer can't possibly be over soon! I am looking forward to an exciting year of interesting programs, community service, and fellowship. Deb and Jan, our Program Vice-Presidents, and their committee have arranged programs for our meetings that are diverse, informative, and interactive.

Our Branch meeting on September 8th is just the first of many excellent programs to come and includes our salad supper. This is a perfect opportunity to invite a friend who might be interested in becoming a member of our AAUW branch. All Board Members are to bring a salad for our buffet that evening at Green Acres on Lakeland.

If you like to volunteer, please consider joining us at the Pumpkin Sweet Shoppe tent during the Morton Pumpkin Festival. Our time is 4-7 PM on September 16th.

As another year begins, Board members, remember our meeting on August 25th at the home of Cheri Patterson, 85 Fox Creek Ct., at 7:00 PM. Please let Cheri or myself know if you cannot attend.

Morton AAUW President,  
*Judy Griffin*

### Program News

Our first AAUW meeting of the year will be **Tuesday September 8th at 6:30 P.M.** We will have our annual Salad Supper provided by our board members. This dinner will be held at "Green Acres" which is located near the corner of Lakeland and Veterans road. It is a large beige Morton building. We will have some local talent and have fun socializing.  
Hope to see all of you.

*Deb and Jan*

## **Treasurer Report**

In July, the budget meeting was held with the President, Treasurer and Program Vice-Presidents and several other members in attendance. The Proposed Budget will be presented to the Board at the August Board Meeting for discussion. The membership votes on the Proposed Budget at the September Meeting.

*Linda Young*

## **Community News**

### **Relay for Life:**

Our Relay for Life Team continued to Finish the Fight against cancer on May 30, and had a few more donations over the summer which moved us to a total of **\$2235**. We are very proud of this total, and I want to thank everyone who gave to our team to get us to this goal!

We are Finishing the Fight!

I have two t-shirts left - a large and a small. If anyone did not get their t-shirt, please let me know and I will deliver it to you.

### **Arts in the Park:**

This event was affected by the large amount of rain we had in June. The concert had to be moved inside to the District 709 building former Grace Church. This limited our sales. I know we made over \$400 half of what we made last year. We still had fun being together and all of Sally's delicious leftover BBQ was sold and all leftover soda, chips, candy etc. was given to the We Care pantry for which they were VERY grateful. So all in all it was a worthwhile event. We can't out guess the weather which we have learned over the years. Good weather means more profit. Nasty weather means less profit. The money made is money we didn't have before so that is GOOD! Thanks to all who donated items. Your donations make this event work for the Grant we offer each year. GOOD JOB!!!😊👍

### **Sweet Shop at the Pumpkin Fest:**

We are again signed up to help at the Sweet Shop at the Pumpkin Festival on Wed. at the first shift. I will need to know the names of those who wish to work at this event, so please let me know if you are interested in working with the yummy soft serve, I will pass around a sign -up sheet at our board meeting or call me if you want to be included.

*Cheri and Mike*

## Education News

Just over twenty years ago, Laura Reasoner Jones launched a science and math club especially for girls. Girls Excelling in Math and Science (GEMS) Club was designed to provide a cooperative forum to spark girls' passion for science and math and to encourage girls' natural curiosity and interest in these fields.

This summer, our branch partnered with the Morton Public Library to offer two exciting sessions of a GEMS Club. Girls entering grades 4-6 were invited to explore and discover the math and science in their everyday world.

On June 18th, a class of fifteen girls learned about the science behind fingerprinting.

A Morton police officer spoke to the class about the use of fingerprinting in crime scene investigation and provided fingerprint kits for the girls to take home. The girls then examined their own fingerprints to identify loops, whorls, and arches, and then used this knowledge to figure out our own "who done it". Finally, they created their own, unique stationery using their fingerprints. On July 9th, ten girls explored the history of tangrams, an ancient Chinese geometric puzzle. Next they learned to fold and cut their own set of tangrams from a piece of paper. Then they worked together to solve tangram puzzles.

Cindy Snoke, the Children's Librarian, was instrumental in getting this pilot program off the ground. She printed brochures, spoke about the program at the schools, managed the sign-up, and printed some last minute class materials for us. John Howard, patiently assisted us with the technology and even borrowed equipment especially for our use.

We have received very good feedback from the library and the community at large about GEMS. Thanks to all of you who volunteered to assist with the set-up, class and clean-up. We could not have done it without you.

*Lynda Hootman  
Heather Thompson  
Linda Young  
Laurie Zehr*





## Looking back...

Pictures from the AAUW summer outing on Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup> at the historic Funk Prairie Home and Mineral Museum in Shirley, Illinois.

