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**AAUW**

**CONNECTION**

**MORTON, ILLINOIS BRANCH**  
**January 2017**

**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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## President's message

Ring in the NEW YEAR 2017!

As I look back on 2016, I see that our branch suffered a great loss of two very active, mission driven charter members. But I am excited to see progress in our mission to educate girls in STEM activities by offering monthly workshops and by receiving two grants. Our own monthly programs have highlighted innovative young women and girls in our own community, helped to us become more aware of the Gender Pay Gap and teen dating violence, and plunged us into the Art of ZENTANGLE. We welcomed two new members and one returning member. Because of our many hardworking volunteers we have raised money for Relay for Life, offered monthly GEMS sessions, and raised record funds for our local scholarship grant. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you for all your help! We can be proud of our accomplishments in 2016.

As we look ahead in 2017, please join us for our soup supper to be held at the Community Church. Remember our nominating committee is preparing a slate of officers for 2017-2018. Please consider serving on our board. - *Judy, Morton AAUW Branch President*

## January Program News – Yum!

Please join us for our annual soup supper on January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at the Community United Church of Christ, 300 North Main Street. After our meal we will hear a program from Karla Carney Hall, the Illinois Wesleyan Dean of Students. She will be speaking about the 'Student Experience of IWU Women'. - *Paige and Heather, Program Chairpersons*

## AAUW Hostesses for our upcoming programs

January hostesses for soup supper are Lynne Walters, Sally Davis, Betty Fugitt, Suzanne Ligon, Diane Pflederer, and Laurie Zehr. - *Kay Lindley, Hostess Chairperson*

## AAUW Community News

BIG THANK YOU to all for their help/concession donations at the Winter Concert Series! It was a SUCCESS! Thanks to all that are helping out! - *Cheri and Mike Community /Funds Chairpersons*

## Matin-A's

Planning on seeing Hidden Figures and La La Land. An email will be sent out with the times. I still need to see Sing if anybody is going. 2017 has a marvelous start for movies!! - *Patti*

## Grant Update

The Morton Branch of the American Association of University Women Laura Fuoss Memorial Grant applications are available at the library. - *Patti*

## GEMS update

On December 8th, the GEMS Club met at the Library for Microscope Mysteries. There were 22 girls in attendance. Our very own Judy Griffin and Heather Thompson presented the program. We have enough microscopes now that 2 girls can share. What wonders were found in an onion skin and fresh pond water rescued before the pond froze over. The girls were intrigued with what they were viewing. Some even named their pond water friends. Probably the best comments to hear during the event was that some of the girls wanted to ask for a microscope for Christmas. The next GEMS will be on January 24th from 4:30 until 6:00 at the Library. The Society of Women Engineers(SWE) will be presenting: Supercharged Science and Engineering. The girls will work together as a team to build a catapult. They will also participate in a Marshmallow Challenge which emphasizes time management and wise use of resources. Help is always accepted if you want to come see what is going on with this fantastic AAUW endeavor.

Thanks for your support.

The GEMS Committee - *Linda Young*

## Reminder of Last Month's Holiday Fiesta!

