
AAUW



CONNECTION

MORTON, ILLINOIS BRANCH

May 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

Morton Branch AAUW website: <http://morton-il.aauw.net/>

Editor: Susan Scott, email: susscott1@yahoo.com

President's message

Greetings!

I thank you for the experiences, opportunities, and memories as your president. I have enjoyed serving you for the last two years.

As this 2016-17 year ends, a big thank you goes to our fantastic board for all their amazing work. Their contributions are so vital for the success of our organization. Many thanks to our inspiring members who have helped our association advance the equality of women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

Come to our May meeting at the Luthy Botanical Gardens to find out what new and exciting things we have planned for our GEMS programs this summer as we evolve into STEAM. The GEMS committee is also doing a GEMS workshop for the Deer Creek Library Summer Reading Program on June 16 at 10:00 AM. Microscope Mysteries have been requested. A BIG thanks to Heather for successfully submitting and receiving a Morton Community Foundation Grant for electric and laser kits to be used this fall for our GEMS sessions.

Please welcome our new members to the board who will be installed at the May meeting:

President-Susan Scott

Co-corresponding secretaries-Jan Martin and Laurie Zehr

Co-recording secretaries-Roberta Beutel and Juel Bennewitz

Remember to pay your \$70 dues to Cathy Durflinger before June 1st.

Please let Betty Fugitt know about any changes in addresses, phone numbers, or emails that need to be made in the program book.

Many thanks to all who supported or participated in the Morton Relay for Life.

Farewell,

- Judy Griffin, Morton AAUW Branch President

May Program News & Hostess information

Meet in the Kmart parking lot on May 9th at 6:20pm to carpool together to Luthy Botanical Gardens, 2520 North Prospect Rd in Peoria. Or just meet everyone at 7pm, when we will be getting a guided tour of the facility.

Established in 1951, Luthy Botanical Garden encompasses five acres and offers over a dozen theme gardens, a Conservatory, a garden gift shop educational programming, numerous events, a rotating sculpture exhibit and magnificent floral displays.

An Herb Garden, a Woodland Garden, a Rose Garden and a Hosta Glade are just a few of the theme gardens you can find in the botanic garden, and the Garden Gift Shop offers a variety of gardening books, accessories and tools, garden-related gifts, unique jewelry and collectibles.

After the tour we will have our branch meeting and simple snacks in Luthy's classroom. Hostesses for May's meeting are: Pam Westerman, Jo Norbutas and Deb Weyhrich.

Since **May is the final meeting for the year**, remember to bring pay your \$70 dues for next year. You might want to bring a thank you note for our outgoing president, Judy Griffin (shhh...).

If you are a board member and you are not planning to attend May meeting, please notify Judy Griffin (grifjua@gmail.com) in advance and send report.

– Paige and Heather, Program Chairpersons

May Board Meeting

Next Board Meeting May 23 @ Karen Loudermilk, 1707 Copperfield Drive. Salads are to be brought by outgoing board. All board members must notify president in advance if they are not able to attend and submit a report. All outgoing board members need to prepare materials for the incoming board.

Grant Update

Helen Plevka, a 2012 graduate of Morton High School, is the 2017 Laura Fuoss Memorial Grant winner. Helen Plevka graduated Summa Cum Laude from Eastern Illinois University in 2016 with a B.A. in English with Secondary Teacher Certification. She will be attending Indiana University to study Comparative Literature with doctoral minors in Musicology and Germanic Studies. Helen was involved during her undergraduate years as a clarinetist in the Wind Symphony, a reader for "The Vehicle" literary magazine, a partner with the Mattoon Middle School Reading Program, an interpreter for the Women's Studies Living History Program, a host for the Admissions Office, and a coach for Girls on the Run. While at EIU, Helen received the Presidential Scholarship, Distinguished Senior Award, Warner Presidential Award in English, and Booth Library Award for Excellence in Student Research. Helen received first prize for the English Studies, Cultural Diversity, and Women's Studies Essay Contests. Helen was involved in Kappa Delta Pi and Sigma Tau Delta, honorary academic societies. Helen was awarded a prestigious undergraduate research grant and developed a lecture-recital where she read from her work and performed excerpts from Olivier Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time*.

Thank you to Judy Griffin, Diane Pflederer, Roberta Beutel and Paige Hadsall for being on the committee.

– Patti

AAUW Community News

Our Relay for Life of Tazewell County was April 29th. The event moved indoors due to the rain. Total so far for our team is \$3195. **FANTASTIC!!!!!!** I don't think that is our final tabulation, but it's so great.

THANK YOU to everyone who donated and who weathered the monsoon Saturday to go to the Relay. Maybe one year the Relay will catch a break and be outside again. I was looking forward to the Levee Triangle area in E. Peoria. I will say after my ordeal last year taking that survivor walk was very emotional, and having my friends there to cheer me on was awesome. Love you all. *Cheri*



Looking at July 6th for Arts in the Park. Please keep that date in mind for one of your summer activities. We are going to buy the BBQ pork from Raber's, and we will be passing around a sign up sheet for donations of other needed items at the May meeting. Our thought is to make it easier in the preparation of the BBQ since Sally is no longer at RMH. It was a big job even with all the equipment she had at her disposal at RHM. Thank you Sally for doing that all these years. Let's hope that the rain stays away for this outside activity.

- Cheri and Mike Community /Funds Chairperson

GEMS update

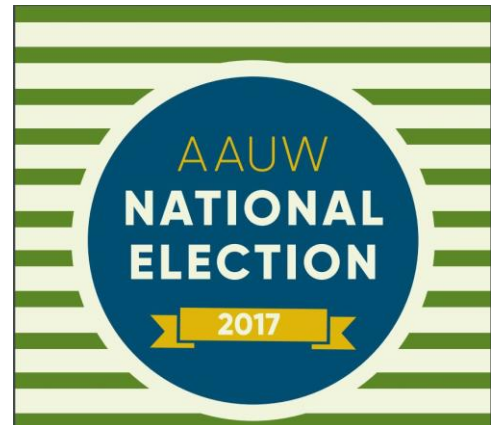
The April 18 GEMS session was presented by the Bradley BUGS (Biology Undergraduate Students). The girls learned about soil textures, osmosis, and photosynthesis from demonstrations and hands on stations conducted by three Bradley seniors.



AAUW Elections – Big Changes

Take a look at the AAUW National Election Voter Guide in your recent Outlook Magazine or the attached PDF. All AAUW members are eligible to elect candidates for the AAUW Board of Directors and to vote on other items of business, including the proposed Public Policy Program changes, amendments to the AAUW Bylaws, and resolutions. Use this voter guide to find out about the issues and candidates on the ballot, and then have your say in AAUW's future by casting your vote!

Below are two proposed BIG changes up for votes. Let your voice be heard.



Proposal 1. Shall Article IV of the AAUW Bylaws be amended to create an **“advocate” category of membership?**

Proposal 2. Shall Article IV of the AAUW Bylaws be amended to **eliminate the degree requirements** for individual members?



'Equal Means Equal'

FREE SCREENING Saturday, May 6 at 3 PM - 5 PM

**Bradley University, Westlake Hall Auditorium,
814 N Glenwood, Peoria, IL 61606**

The Peoria Chapter of the National Organization for Women is hosting a screening of the film 'Equal Means Equal' directed by Kamala Lopez. The event is co-sponsored by Bradley University's Women's and Gender Studies Program.

Peoria NOW would like to invite members of the public to attend this presentation free of charge. There will be a brief discussion about the film immediately after.

EQUAL MEANS EQUAL offers an unflinching look at how women are treated in the United States today. Examining both real-life stories and precedent-setting legal cases, director Kamala Lopez uncovers how outdated and discriminatory attitudes inform and influence seemingly disparate issues, from workplace harassment to domestic violence, rape and sexual assault to the foster care system, and the healthcare conglomerate to the judicial system. Along the way, she reveals the inadequacy of present laws that claim to protect women, ultimately presenting a compelling and persuasive argument for the urgency of ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Brittany Miller @ miller.rampenthal@gmail.com