



CONNECTION

MORTON, ILLINOIS BRANCH

November 2014

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: Judy Griffin, email: grifjua@gmail.com

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE:

Hello Friends!

November is a special month to remember our blessings. There are so many things to be thankful for and our AAUW friendships may be counted among them. We wish the very best to Elaine Sutter as she begins a new life in California.

Be sure to invite someone to our next meeting at the library. There's a Facebook event and an email will be sent for you to use as well.

A nominating committee will soon be in place to develop a slate of candidates for president and both secretary officer positions for next year. Please keep in mind the good of the Branch if you are contacted.

Looking forward to hearing about the news from the District 2 & 3 Fall conference from Deb Elliott and Mike Gunn.

A caring, considerate person needs to chair the Community committee.

Look ahead dates:

Lunch Bunch-Nov 15th at Cracker Barrel 9 AM

BGBC- Discussion 11/5/14 @ Roberta Beutel's

Branch meeting-11/11/14 @ Morton Public Library, Open to the Public

Board Meeting- 1/27/15 @ Linda Young's

Fine Arts Concert-2/9/15

Take care,
Patti

Local news

Program

November Branch Meeting: November 11, 2014

Location: Morton Public Library
315 W. Pershing

Time: 7:00 PM

Program: **Military Honor Flight** "Historical Information & An Escorts Viewpoint" by Donna Zimmerman and John Dust

Bring a friend to our next meeting, Tuesday Nov. 11th, Veteran's Day. We will learn about our Country's Honor Flight program, its history, and an escort's personal insights. Some of our own members have had their own emotional experiences greeting members of this group at the airport. It should be a great informational meeting and is perfect way to celebrate Veteran's Day. Hope to see all of you!

Deb Elliott/Jan Martin
Program Chairs

Membership

AAUW will be 133 years old on November 28th. AAUW is important to the future generations of women. Celebrate your membership!

Judy Petefish

New Member

Now put a face with a name, we again welcome Pam Westerman to our organization. When you see her at a meeting, please introduce yourself to her.

We say "good-bye" to Elaine Sutter, Charter Member, as she and her husband move closer to their daughters, Vicki in California and Jenni in Washington. She has 7 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Elaine says "It has been a privilege to teach in Morton District 709 for 28 years as a second and third grade teacher. It has been so great to belong to AAUW before and after we began our organization in Morton. I will greatly miss all of you and your very captivating, informative, and fun meetings!" Elaine, we will indeed miss you and your involvement in AAUW as well!

Book Review

The following books have been selected by Sue Roth for our book review next spring:

A Call to Action: Women, Religion, Violence, and Power by Jimmy Carter "The world's discrimination and violence against women and girls is the most serious, pervasive, and ignored violation of basic human rights: This is President Jimmy

Carter's call to action. President Carter was encouraged to write this book by a wide coalition of leaders of all faiths. His urgent report covers a system of discrimination that extends to every nation. Women are deprived of equal opportunity in wealthier nations and "owned" by men in others, forced to suffer servitude, child marriage, and genital cutting. The most vulnerable, along with their children, are trapped in war and violence. A Call to Action addresses the suffering inflicted upon women by a false interpretation of carefully selected religious texts and a growing tolerance of violence and warfare."

The second book, The Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline, is a novel about the so-called orphan trains that ran from the cities of the east coast to the farmlands of the Midwest between 1854 and 1929, based on fact. Penobscot Indian Molly Ayer is close to "aging out" out of the foster care system. A community service position helping an elderly woman clean out her home is the only thing keeping Molly out of juvie and worse...As she helps Vivian sort through her possessions and memories; Molly learns that she and Vivian aren't as different as they seem to be. A young Irish immigrant orphaned in New York City, Vivian was put on a train to the Midwest with hundreds of other children whose destinies would be determined by luck and chance. Molly discovers that she has the power to help Vivian find answers to mysteries that have haunted her for her entire life – answers that will ultimately free them both.

A BIG "thanks" to the Morton Public Library for purchasing several copies of these books for us. Please extend your thanks when you check out a book.

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet on Saturday, November 15, at 9 AM, Cracker Barrel, Morton. RSVP if you can join us by Thursday, Nov. 13th. Email bjpetefish@cs.com if interested.

Judy Petefish

Community

Looking ahead - our branch will provide the concessions on Feb. 9 at the Fine Arts Winter Concert. The Cats Pajamas is the group performing that evening. Sign up at the Dec. and Jan. meeting. Our members usually provide the ingredients for a trail mix that we make there, and some members make cookies and brownies, etc. We will also serve coffee, water and lemonade, maybe we'll switch to fruit punch since it's Feb. and we'd like some red color for Feb.

Thanks everyone,
Cheri and Mike

AAUW FUNDS

It's time for our branch to make our yearly donation to the AAUW Funds division. Each year we make a donation of \$5 per member to a Fund of our choice. The Exec Bd is recommending that we donate to the LAF (Legal Advocacy Fund) this year. Their reasoning is that legal action against the abuse that women have endured costs money. In order to fight against unfair practices in all fields of endeavor, it takes money and lots of it. Many organizations who have large corporations and clout behind them, plan on those bringing charges against them to refrain or stop the legal action because it's so costly. This is where AAUW can help. The Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) can support those who wish to take on the fight against abuse of all types. Women do not have to stand by and be diminished in any way because they lack financial support. At the Nov. meeting we will vote on the Board's recommendation to donate \$5 per member to the AAUW - LAF.

Cheri and Mike

Website

Please check out our local AAUW website: <http://morton-il.aauw.net/>
We thank Heather Thompson for her outstanding work. Click on links to view the current newsletter, BGBG information, photos, events, and much more.

Corresponding secretary,
Judy Griffin

FYI

While attending OLLI classes at Bradley in October, I picked up the following information about a program that some of you may want to attend:

The Institute of International Studies and Peoria Area World Affairs Council in conjunction with the Carnegie Foundation and World Affairs Councils of America presents:

Understanding Muslim Societies, "The Role of Women in Rebuilding the Middle East" by Ambassador Shirin Tahir-Kheli

Since the uprisings of the Arab Spring began in 2010, the dynamics of politics, economics, and social structures have been altered across the Middle East and North Africa. The various situations in the countries present challenges for the people outside the region to make sense of what is happening there. The ambassador will offer her keen insights on the current situation across the region, how the tensions there might be resolved, and outline plans for the rebuilding of the region that include strong roles for women in a variety of capacities.

Thursday, November 13, 2014 Marty Theater, Bradley University Student Center, 7 PM

Please RSVP by Friday, November 7, 2014 for dinner reservations, seating is limited. Tickets for the dinner and presentation are \$30 for World Affairs Council Members and Students, \$35 for non-members. Dinner will be served at 5:30PM. Online registration for dinner is available at <http://artstix.artspartners.net> (\$4 is charged for this service)

The presentation at 7 PM is free and open to the public. Tickets are not needed, but reservations are appreciated for planning purposes. Please RSVP at pawac@bradley.edu