

## **Macomb Feminist Network Writing Women Into History**

### **2010 Honorees**

**Wanda Black** was born in Peoria and reared in Monmouth. Wanda is an educator who has lunched with Betty Friedan, marched with Marlo Thomas for the Equal Rights Amendment, belonged to and held leadership roles in many professional and community service organizations, including the American Association of Retired Persons, Business and Professional Women's Organization, the League of Women Voters of McDonough County, and the Retired Teachers Association, and reared four children on her own. Wanda believes that no progress is made without sticking your neck out.

**Mary Ellen Graff** was reared on a farm in Table Grove. She taught in a country school, was a career librarian, and devoted her life to encouraging children to love reading. She demonstrates the commitment of the early women to their profession and to the community and still volunteers for the Macomb schools and organizations such as the American Association of University Women, the League of Women Voters, and the McDonough District Hospital Auxiliary.

**Rosa Julstrom** was born in southern Illinois and moved to Macomb in 1948. She spent years as a solo recitalist and is a piano teacher. She worked with a local group to write a grant to the National Institute of Mental Health which resulted in the establishment of our local mental health center. She is a longtime advocate for peace and justice in our community and around the world.

**Beth Stiffler** was born the year women got the right to vote and was reared in Chadwick, Illinois. She spent three years in the WAVES, was hired on to the Western Illinois Lab School faculty in 1957, joined the faculty of WIU's Department of English and Journalism in 1973, and became the first woman chair of the department in 1982. A lifelong supporter of women's achievements, Dr. Stiffler fought to increase opportunities for women at Western and has been active in many community organizations and local health care issues. She was instrumental in writing the NIMH grant that resulted in the establishment of our local mental health center, and she also helped found the hospital's auxiliary.