

October-December 2020

Celebrating 95 Years of AAUW in Monmouth!

Presidents' Report

Mary Osborne, President

After a long hiatus, the newsletter has returned! You may notice a difference in the content, since many groups are not meeting for the foreseeable future. Given the circumstances, the newsletter will be published quarterly until further notice. We have asked members to share what they have been doing since the pandemic hit, in lieu of the usual reports. In spite of the upheaval, I marvel at how we all find ways to adapt. We have adopted creative solutions to stay connected from learning new technologies to utilizing outdoor spaces. Our programs have gone virtual, and I must say that we are off to an encouraging start. David Simmons delivered an excellent presentation on using 3-D printers to manufacture face shields. We will have another informative program about the November elections later this month.

It has been said that the more things change, the more they stay the same. The upcoming election reminds us that there are always issues that need our attention. Exercise your right to vote! It is the centennial of the 19th Amendment after all; but if you are more motivated by the present and future, I can't think of a more crucial time to make your voice heard.



Program, October 26, 2020

Michelle Holschuh Simmons

Back by popular demand! Robin Johnson will be providing insights about the Election 2020 on Monday, October 26 at 7:00 PM via Zoom. The Zoom link is the same one that we used for the September meeting, and it will be included in emails announcing the event. Robin's talk promises to be especially interesting and relevant since it is occurring just days before the 2020 election. Please plan to attend!

AAUW Town Hall on Zoom

Jan DeYoung

AAUW, September, 2020

This week I participated in the AAUW Town Hall on Zoom. You can access a recording of the presentation on the AAUW website here:
<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/2020-convening/aauw.org> to observe these three outstanding women in person, but here's a brief summary of their remarks.

First, Julie Brown, chair of the AAUW national board, addressed the possibility of an increase in our dues. The board of directors will be meeting in October to discuss how much to recommend to the membership and whether or not to phase in an increase or to increase dues all at once if an increase is approved. The board is considering an increase of between \$3.00 and \$10.00 annually. Currently our national dues are \$59.00; they have been at that level for many years. Once the board sets the amount and the timeline, all AAUW members will have an opportunity to vote to approve or reject the increase next spring. As you may remember, the organization has gone to "one member, one vote" instead of the old way of having such changes voted on

at biennial Association Conventions. This is much fairer, since a very small percentage of the national membership is able to attend a convention. You may be interested in knowing that dues cover only about 15-20% of the annual budget. Other funds come from corporations and foundations. In these crazy times, competition for such funding is even more competitive than usual.

Ms. Brown explained that dues only partially cover the costs of doing the business of AAUW. Our dues cover salaries of staff (which has been reduced from 107 plus interns three years ago to a current 46 Full Time Equivalents currently). Obviously, the staff are dedicated individuals who work extra hard to keep our organization working smoothly. Over four million dollars funded AAUW's various scholarships and grants in 2019. These programs continue because of generous support from branches and members all over the United States.



Book Group

Vicki Gladfelter

October 20, 1 pm

For the month of October book club will be reading Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman. We will be meeting at Monmouth's Pattee Park shelter at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, October 20th. If the weather does not cooperate, we will plan to meet by Zoom. An email will be sent to book club members on the 19th confirming either the location or the Zoom link. For any further questions, contact Vicki Gladfelter at vickiglad861@gmail.com.

A note from Marilyn Van Ausdall

I changed the password for the Members Only section to equityil [equity Illinois.] Let me know if you have trouble logging in.

Buchanan Center for the Arts

Kristyne Gilbert

A Virtual Taste of the Arts

Each year the community looks forward to the Taste of the Arts which supports the efforts of the Buchanan Center for the Arts (BCA). This year's Taste of the Arts will be a virtual event at 7pm Saturday, November 14. The theme is "A Virtual Harvest for the Arts," and I hope you will join me as we show continued support to the Buchanan Center even though we cannot attend in person.

The BCA has become a cornerstone of the downtown area of Monmouth and an important presence for the greater communities of Warren, Henderson, and Mercer Counties. The outreach of the BCA continues to grow each and every year with a wide variety of outstanding art shows in the BCA gallery, art lessons and classes for everyone, theater opportunities for all ages, literary events, and live musical performances in the popular and beautiful Pattee Plaza.

The BCA sets us apart because of its offerings and the support it gives back to the communities served. Please consider giving your support to the BCA to provide the funds necessary to continue its mission to enrich lives and promote enjoyment of the arts by offering opportunities for creative and diverse artistic experiences.

You are a valued supporter of the BCA, and together we can continue, in the virtual days, to provide the resources for the BCA to create artistic, cultural experiences for today, tomorrow, and a healthy future.

Please send your contribution by November 14, 2020 to: Buchanan Center for the Arts, 64 Public Square, Monmouth, IL 61462 or donate online at bcaarts.org.

Featured Artist

Maria Montalvo, Macomb native and multi-media artist, is our Featured Artist for September and October. If you missed her gallery talk, "The Joy of Exploration," there's still time to see her lovely collection of new work in the James Keefe Gallery on view through October 31. Click

the link to hear her gallery talk: <https://youtu.be/LD3-CPg3ogk>

See you in the gallery!

Spooky Scavenger Hunt

What do secret societies, murders, and crying babies have in common? They're all included in our Monmouth fall SPOOKY SCAVENGER HUNT this October!

Back by popular demand, we are currently concocting a cauldron of conundrums and chaos for another scavenger hunt! This time, we will post all the clues on Thursday, October 1, and deadline for entry is Tuesday, October 27 — giving you almost three and a half weeks to hunt! Look for the clues and instructions on our social media and at bcaarts.org.

Everyone who successfully takes a picture of themselves at all 10 locations and submits those images to buchanancenter@mtcnow.net will be entered into a drawing on Friday, October 30. The winner takes home a huge basket of Halloween FUN!

Take & Make Art Kits

That's right — Take & Make, instead of Make & Take. Even though we cannot be in the BCA classroom together, that doesn't mean we can't create art. The Buchanan Center has a variety of FREE student art kits to exercise art skills and continue creating throughout the school year. Supplies and instructions are included. Kits are available for pick up Tuesday-Friday 10am-5pm and Saturday 10am-2pm while supplies last.

Security Savings Bank

39th-Annual Photography Show

October 20-December 11, 2020

Deadline for entry is

2pm Saturday, October 3.

News From Members:

Kristyne Gilbert

I'm a new Mimi of twin girls - Eleanor and Evelyn and they are such a joy and a delight. They will be one in December. I spend my weekends with them. When I'm not with the girls, I'm working at the Buchanan Center

or in my studio at home. I'm working on my own art and ideas again. And, still taking lots of walks with Duane and our yellow lab, Grace.

Susan Van Kirk

I've been keeping a low profile between the dumb virus and my worst asthma season (which is fall). But I have not forgotten AAUW.

I thought I'd tell you I have taken over (since July) the presidency of the Guppies group, which is the online chapter of Sisters in Crime. It's an organization of mystery writers, publishers, agents, etc. We just reached the 1,000-member mark. Guppies was the name the founders used twenty-five years ago because they called themselves the "Great Unpublished." About a third are currently published, and they mentor those who aren't. It keeps me busy and I have a Steering Committee of twelve people who all live in different time zones, so when we try to get together via a virtual meeting, it's pretty funny. The West Coast determines the time. It's a great one-year job for me, and it has helped me meet and work with other mystery writers. Since so many book talks and conferences are online now, I'm able to travel the country via the internet and meet authors online. Safely. Currently, I have one book into publishers and another than I'm writing. I'm also taking a class on the structure of mysteries. So, I'm trying to keep the brain cells working.

Sharon Gilbert

My husband had to be placed in a nursing home around Easter as he fell and injured his neck. What a nightmare, as no one was taking new patients! I finally got him in Toulon and I am so grateful as so far everyone there has been negative for "The Covid". Since then, I bought a house, sold a house and moved. My younger brother died in September, and my sister and I did a lot of driving back and forth to the Cleveland Clinic. Dick says the meals at the home are "phenomenal" so I guess that tells you about my cooking. Eleanor Roosevelt, my Basenji mix, and I are doing okeydokey.

See, it's not hard! Send me your news and I can do a special edition!

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.

Value Promise: By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

Association Web site: www.aauw.org

AAUW-Illinois Web site:

<http://aauw-il.aauw.net/>

Monmouth Branch Web site:

<http://monmoutharea-il.aauw.net/>

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