

January 2021

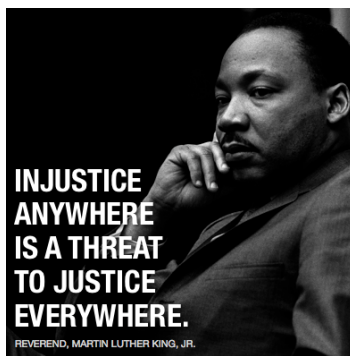
*Celebrating 95 Years of AAUW in Monmouth!*

## Presidents' Report

*Mary Osborne, President*

The beginning of a new year means stocking up on new planners and calendars. I look forward to selecting my wall calendars, because it satisfies my love for office supplies. Moving into a new house in the fall shifted my focus elsewhere, however. When I finally got around to ordering 2021 calendars, my options were limited. I was nevertheless pleased to find a "Bad Girls throughout History" calendar for my office. What better inspiration for someone whose job involves studying women's history? This calendar celebrates historical figures who defied societal expectations. This year's edition includes popular figures, such as Maya Angelou and Amelia Earhart, but also pays tribute to lesser-known women. Actress Hedy Lamarr proved she was more than just a beautiful face by developing the forerunner to Wi-Fi. Artist Élisabeth Vigée-Lebrun offended critics' sensibilities because her self-portrait included an open-mouthed smile. Flipping through the pages reminded me that, although these icons are often depicted as confronting injustices alone, they also had allies who supported their work.

AAUW empowers women to confront inequality, too, and our branch contributes to this work. We need our allies and each other more than ever. Let us begin 2021 united in our objectives, and let us engage peacefully with those who hold different views through conversation and education.



## Program, February, 2021

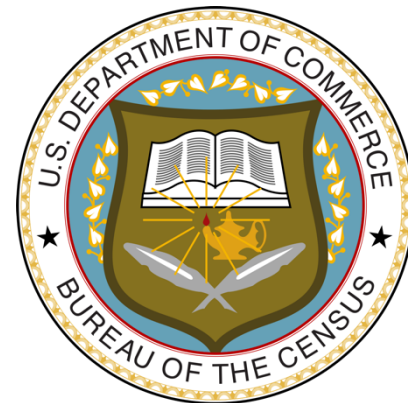
*Mary Osborne*

To be announced

## Program, March 25, 2021

*Michelle Holschuh Simmons*

On Thursday, 3/25, at 7:00 PM via Zoom Dr. Jialin Li, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Monmouth College, will be speaking about a sociologist's perspective of the 2020 United States Census, with special attention to women's issues.



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## **Public Policy**

*Jan De Young*

### ***Not Enough Change***

Over half a century after pay discrimination became illegal in the United States, a persistent pay gap between men and women continues to hurt our nation's workers and our national economy.

Women working full time in the U.S. are paid 82 cents to every dollar earned by men — but it doesn't stop there. The consequences of this gap affect women throughout their lives. Though women now outpace men in higher education, women also hold [nearly two-thirds of the outstanding student debt](#) in the United States. And because of the gender pay gap, women have a harder time repaying loans. The pay gap even follows women into retirement: As a result of lower lifetime earnings, they receive [less in Social Security and pensions](#). In terms of overall retirement income, women have only 70% of what men do.

Pay equity will continue to be an AAUW priority until the gap is fully eliminated. We hope this latest edition of *The Simple Truth* motivates and empowers you to join us in this cause.

I copied these three paragraphs from our AAUW, org. website. I encourage you to read the 2020 update of [The Simple Truth](#) about pay equity, one of AAUW's highest priorities. And while you are navigating the AAUW website, you can find so much good information about our work toward achieving equity in education, the workplace, the board room, and much more. Since we no longer receive a printed magazine from AAUW, it's a good idea to check the website frequently to keep up on current efforts to live our mission.

By the way, Illinois ranks 35th in the nation, in spite of "strong" legislation to support pay equity. In Illinois the pay gap is 22, based on an average man's salary of \$58,579, and a woman's average of \$45,967. The "best" state is Vermont, with a pay gap of 9 (\$51,212 vs

\$46,616); the "worst" is Wyoming, where the pay gap is 35 (\$57,339 vs \$37,302).

## **Book Group**

*Jan De Young*

Book Group will meet on Zoom at 12:30 pm. on Tuesday afternoon, January 19. We will be discussing "The Henna Artist" by Alka Joshi. Described on the flap as "Vivid and compelling in its portrait of one woman's struggle for fulfillment in a society pivoting between the traditional and the modern, "The Henna Artist" opens a door into a world that is at once lush and fascinating, stark and cruel.

We hope that more members will join our discussion. If you are not already on the Book Group email list, please let Marilyn Van Ausdall know, and she will add your name so that you receive the link and are able to join us!

## **AAUW News**

*Marilyn Van Ausdall*

### **Calling all AAUW Artists!**

It's time for AAUW members to flex their creative muscles in our 12th annual art contest! Do you have stunning photography, a stellar sculpture, or a thought-provoking painting to share? Your work could be among the winners featured on a special collection of notecards in the spring. Visit the [2021 art contest web page](#) to review submission guidelines and enter your work!

### **AAUW National Election Comment Period Opens Monday**

This spring members will be asked to vote in the [AAUW National Election](#) on amendments to the Public Policy Priorities and bylaws, in addition to electing members to the national Board of Directors. Every AAUW member has the right to comment on proposed

changes to the bylaws or Public Policy Priorities before they are put to the membership for a vote. The comment period opens Monday, January 11, and comments and proposed amendments can be submitted until February 5 at 5:00 pm ET.

## Top Webinars of 2020

While the pandemic made it impossible for AAUW to host in-person gatherings last year, we extended our reach to more AAUW members than ever through our [virtual 2020 Convenings](#). Thank you for joining us and stay tuned for more webinars in 2021.

Here are our top 5 webinars of 2020:

[Holding Space: How to Start and Continue Conversations on Race, Equity and Inclusion](#): AAUW Fellow alumna Dr. Taharee Jackson leads this conversation on why being able to talk about race is critical to achieving equity.

[Interview with Diane Rehm](#): CEO Kim Churches talks with renowned radio host and author Diane Rehm about how she has managed to remain resilient in the face of challenges and loss.

[Archeology of the Self: Sustaining Racial Literacy in the Movement for Change](#): AAUW Fellow alumna Yolanda Sealy-Ruiz takes us on a collective journey of the “Archeology of the Self” — an action-oriented process requiring love, humility, reflection and a commitment to working against racial injustice.

[Is Your Perspective Inclusive?](#): Lisette Garcia, Ph.D., Pamela Fuller and Sheila Amo explore unconscious bias and what it means to have an inclusive perspective.

[Perspectives from the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund: Justice Ginsburg’s Legacy and the Future of the Court](#): AAUW’s Public Policy team discusses Justice Ginsburg’s legacy and AAUW’s role in shaping history.

## New Inclusion & Equity Resources

AAUW’s Inclusion & Equity committee has rolled out a comprehensive [new toolkit of resources](#) and tips that highlight how critical diversity, equity and inclusion are to AAUW’s long-term prospects. The toolkit includes dozens of resources for branch workshops, for broadening membership and for furthering individual learning.

The news items above include hot links to other resources. If the links don’t work, just go to [aauw.org](#), search for [Membership Matters](#), and scroll down to [News & Resources](#).

# Membership Matters

## Buchanan Center for the Arts

*Kristyne Gilbert*

### *Old Friends Talk Art*

#### *Prairie Tales: Pioneer Podcasters*

Old Friends Talk Art (OFTA) returns to our program schedule with a twist. BCA board members Stacia Mattan, Mary Osborne, and Cathy Sheagren launched a new podcast this past year. *Prairie Tales* is a series of stories about Monmouth and our community that you won’t necessarily read about in a history book.

The BCA will upload a video at 10am Wednesday, January 13 (when we regularly meet) on our website and Facebook page for you to view in the comfort and safety of your home, instead of gathering in the BCA gallery.

We look forward to you joining us virtually for Old Friends Talk Art (OFTA) until such a time that we can gather in the BCA gallery for conversation and coffee with good friends.

### **Community Arts Access Grants**

Buchanan Center for the Arts is accepting grant proposals from local arts and nonprofit educational organizations. Grant funds are designated to support artists and nonprofit arts and educational organizations in Warren County. All eligible grant proposals are reviewed by a four-member peer panel. Community Arts Access grants are available for visual, musical, performing, literary, and inter-disciplinary arts projects that provide community-based programming. Projects or programs must make a concerted effort to serve diverse and under-represented populations. Eligible projects are those taking place between October 16, 2020 - August 31, 2021. Grant applications are available at the Buchanan Center for the Arts (BCA), 64 Public Square, Monmouth. Applications must be submitted to the BCA by Friday, February 5, 2021.

### **Take & Make Art Kits & Puzzlers**

Don't forget **Take & Make** art kits and **Puzzlers** are available for pick up. Even though we cannot be in the BCA classroom together, that doesn't mean we can't create! We have a variety of **FREE** kits and puzzlers to exercise art skills and continue creating throughout the school year. Stop by 10am-5pm Tuesday-Friday and 10am-2pm Saturday. **Remember to use the BCA classroom entrance on "A" Street.** Thank you Blick Art Materials, Addleman Foundation, and Kellogg Printing for your continued support of the arts in our classrooms and community!

**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](http://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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