

April 2021

Celebrating 96 Years of AAUW in Monmouth!

President's Letter

Mary Osborne, President

This is my final report as branch president. What can I say but "thank you"? To write that the events of 2020 were unexpected is an understatement. I really had no idea how we would function, but I thought it essential that we try to stay connected. Meeting that objective required some imagination and difficult decisions. Thinking outside the box can be uncomfortable and overwhelming. So, thank you for your flexibility, your understanding, and your willingness to adapt. It made my job and that of the other officers just a little bit easier. 2021 will likely be a year of transition as we figure out what "normal" looks like. Our new officers' creativity and energy will help guide us in this process. I hope you will join me in supporting their efforts.

Mary Osborne, President



Vote in your local elections, April 6!

March Program

Michelle Holschuh Simmons

On Thursday, March 25, at 7:00 PM via Zoom (<https://monmouthcollege.zoom.us/j/91878831800>) 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.

April Program

Michelle Holschuh Simmons

On Monday, April 19, at 7:00 PM via Zoom (<https://monmouthcollege.zoom.us/j/91878831800>), Jan Gebauer will be speaking about the Open Table project. The Open Table project is intended to transform communities through sustainable, long-term relationships with people experiencing economic and/or relational poverty. For more information about the project, see <https://www.theopentable.org/>.



Inside this issue

President's Report.....	page 1
March 25 Program.....	page 1
April 19 Program.....	page 1
Public Policy.....	page 2
Treasurer's Report.....	page 2
Book Group.....	page 3
AAUW-IL Elections.....	page 3
Buchanan Center for the Arts.....	page 4
Mission Statement.....	page 5

Public Policy

Jan DeYoung

ERA Update

On Wednesday, March 17, the U. S. House of Representatives passed H.J. Res 17, to remove the arbitrary deadline of 1982 to complete the passage of the ERA. Getting the bill, S.J. Res 1, through the U. S. Senate will be more problematic, however.

Both Senator Duckworth and Senator Durbin have supported the ERA, and if you'd like to thank them, or send them a note of encouragement, you can do that through the Two-Minute Activist button on the AAUW home page, aauw.org. I urge you to do that! Numbers do count in legislative offices, and receiving mail in support of ERA is very important to counteract the negative messages our senators will be receiving!

Consolidated Elections, April 6

On Tuesday, April 6, we will go to the polls (or earlier, or by mail if you prefer) to vote for many candidates for public office in Monmouth and in Warren County. Among them are mayor and city clerk, city council members, school boards, Carl Sandburg College Board, and many others. It's a long ballot! You can see a sample ballot at Warren County Library, or you can access it here:

www.warrencountyl.com/files/uploads/Warren_Publication_REVISED.pdf. If that doesn't work, try going to the WarrenCountyil.com, and click on Documents. Then scroll down to April 2021. Turnout for these local elections is traditionally low, even though these are important local positions; please don't forget to vote! Early voting is already open, so you can drop in at the Courthouse any time during business hours.

Closest to my heart is the Warren County Public Library Board of Trustees. Now consisting of seven members, the board is composed of five women and two men, a big change from the "olden days," when I was elected to the board! Three of the five women are current branch members, Michelle Holschuh Simmons, Sarah Henderson, and Katelyn Audette. Interestingly, the other two women are former branch members, Amy Zesbaugh and Kath Sturgeon. As I look back over the

history of the board, once it became an elected body, AAUW members have played a big role in its functioning. Several current branch members are former trustees: Ronda Willhardt Hall, Marilyn Van Ausdall, Vicki Gladfelter, Joanie Larsen, Susan Van Kirk, and I. And many former members were also trustees: Mary Distin, Sandy Wallace, Elke Narkiewicz, and Peggy Watson. I hope I haven't forgotten anyone!

We can be proud of our branch's commitment to literacy and service through the board of Warren County Library! Be sure to vote for Michelle, Sarah, and Katelyn on April 6 (or before)!

NEA Big Read

This year's selection for the NEA Big Read in our area is [In the Time of the Butterflies](#), by Julia Alvarez. Set in 1960 and before, during the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic, the novel is about four sisters who worked to overturn the regime. Branch members have participated in the Big Read through Warren County Library for many years. Book group has been the mainstay of the discussion, and members have often taken the lead in conducting the discussion. There will be free copies of the book available at Warren County Library soon, and I will let you know when the official meeting is scheduled.

Janis Mars Wunderlich

Janis has a piece, "Apron Strings," in an art show called [50 Women: A Celebration of Women's Contribution to Ceramics](#) at the University of Missouri Jazz Museum Kansas City. There are videos of some of the amazing work on Facebook at 50 Years 50 Women. Congratulations, Janis!

Treasurer's Report

Judy Diemer

The checking account balance as of 12/31/20 was \$1409.12. Two RADA fundraiser checks have been deposited. The January check was \$18.50 and the February check was \$26.54. The reconciled balance as of 2/28/21 is \$1454.16.

FY22 dues collection opened up March 16th. National dues are now \$62 (previously \$56), State dues are \$13 and branch dues are \$9. The new annual membership fee is \$84. I will send out the annual invoices to all current members by April 1.

There is also a fully tax deductible LIFE MEMBER UPGRADE available for \$1240.00. Anyone who upgrades now will be exempt from any further national dues but will still pay state and branch dues. If you choose to upgrade to a Life Member there is a special form that needs to be completed. You can locate it on the AAUW.org website or contact me personally.



¡Adelante! Book Group

Marilyn Van Ausdall

Our April book discussion will be about [The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek](#) by Kim Michele Richardson. We'll Zoom on Tuesday, April 13, at 12:30. If you're not a regular book group participant, let me know if you'd like to be sent the Zoom link. New people are always welcome.

Jan DeYoung adds: (This is) a fascinating and inspiring tale of a group of women in Kentucky during the Depression who delivered books to their remote rural area on horseback.



AAUW-IL Election of Officers

Marilyn Van Ausdall, Membership VP

We'll be voting online again this year. The state newsletter that I'll be emailing this week contains information about the candidates. They're all very impressive. The easiest way to vote will be to click on the following:

[online link to vote NOW](#). There will also be a paper ballot in *The Link* with mailing instructions. Voting will

end on April 23rd, the first day of our virtual state convention. The results will be announced virtually on April 24th.

The Nominating Committee puts forth the following slate of officers:

President-elect: **Donna Jean Simon**, Wheaton-Glen Ellyn branch

Co-VP, Membership: **Nann Hilyard**, Waukegan Area branch

Amy Green, Springfield branch

Secretary: **Gay Gavin**, Alton-Wood River branch

Finance Director: **Carolyn Schjelderup**, Rock Island-Moline branch

(Not on the ballot because she's currently Finance Director-elect)

NATIONAL AAUW OPEN MEMBERSHIP AMENDMENT ELECTION

Marilyn Van Ausdall

This spring, AAUW members will vote on a long-standing membership requirement, which creates a barrier to women who do not hold a college degree. By eliminating this requirement, AAUW can become a more diverse and inclusive organization, better aligned with the needs of women today.

Proposals to eliminate the degree requirement for membership have come before the membership for vote a number of times. The Board feels very strongly that while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW's inception, this requirement is now counter to our mission, and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization. **Voting opens on aauw.org on April 7, 2021 and closes on May 17, 2021 at 4:00 PM CDT.**

For more information, follow this link to view a webinar recording of the AAUW-IL Town Hall on Open

Membership:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=911N-YLsnD4&feature=youtu.be> (Sponsored by the online Jane Addams (IL) Branch)

As long-time branch membership chair, I definitely am in favor of opening membership to anyone interested in supporting equal rights for women and girls. I've often wanted to invite women to be members who unfortunately didn't meet the degree requirement.

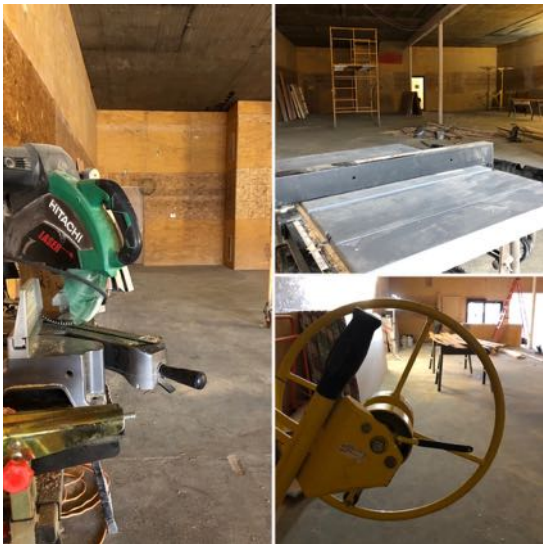


Buchanan Center for the Arts

Kristyne Gilbert

The Art of Construction

Progress continues as the construction crew works to transform the gallery and gift shop. The equipment and tools they use appear as sculptures on display—all part of a grand plan. It's so spacious, and the possibilities are endless. We are excited to host exhibitions, theater productions, and special events in the near future for our community.



Take & Make Art Kits

Pick up your FREE Take & Make art kits and puzzlers that feature Judi Minor's Fused Glass Garden Markers; Andy Warhol inspired works on paper, and mixed media mini galleries.

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, County Market, and Kellogg Printing for your continued support of the arts in our classrooms and community!

Call To Artists

Artist Residency Deadline:
5pm Thursday, April 1, 2021

Application guidelines and submission details are available online at bcaarts.org "Special Events" tab.

The Buchanan Center for the Arts seeks an artist for our Artist in Residence program in Monmouth, Illinois. The residency will run from approximately May-August. This residency is an opportunity for the artist to engage with the community to create public art in the city's downtown area. A selection panel comprised of members from the Buchanan Center for the Arts board of directors and community arts partners will review all the applications and make a final decision by Friday, April 16, 2021.

Prairie Tales

Don't forget to listen to Prairie Podcasters Stacia Mattan, Mary Osborne, and Cathy Sheagren as they share the latest story about Monmouth and our community that you won't necessarily read about in a book. To listen to "The Litigious Lindsays Tale" click the link to the new episode: <https://soundcloud.com/buchanancenter/episode-5-the-litigious-lindsays-tale?in=buchanancenter/sets/prairie-tales>

New episodes are available monthly. If you'd like to leave feedback or send questions to the hosts, contact prairietalespodcast@gmail.com.

64 ARTS

Deadline for Entry: Tuesday, June 1

64 ARTS national juried exhibition is celebrating its 13th year. Open to artists working in all mediums, Jim Shrosbree, Professor of Art at Maharishi International University, will serve as this year's juror and award

\$3,100 in prizes. All entries are submitted digitally through www.callforentry.org.

For more details visit www.callforentry.org or

www.bcaarts.org.

BCA Gift Shop

Ceramic artist, Lillian Rubin, of Burlington, Iowa has brought in some new pieces for the Buchanan Center for the Arts Gift Shop. Her raku pieces are formed on a pottery wheel, carved, and fired to 1830 degrees in an outdoor kiln. The kiln is opened while still hot, and each piece is carefully removed and put into a metal container filled with pine needles. The top is quickly replaced and as the oxygen is consumed, base metals are pulled out of the glaze producing iridescent copper, red, blue, and green colors.



AAUW Membership Renewal

*Renew today and move forward with us.
There's a whole world of women and girls relying
on your support!*



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/>