

October-November 2021

*Celebrating 96 Years of AAUW in Monmouth!*

## Presidents' Report

*Nancy Buban and Sarah Henderson,  
Co-Presidents*

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." Jane Goodall

AAUW has been making a difference for 140 years. On November 17th there will be a virtual celebration of AAUW's 140 years. Details will follow.

Thank you to both Larisa Good and Sarah Henderson for the October presentation on Challenged books. It was informative and fun to guess some of the books like To Kill A Mockingbird that are still challenged after all these years. We had a mixture of members and visitors at the meeting. I had notified several book groups and it proved fruitful. Masking in addition to zooming proves to be challenging. Thank you, Michelle for handling things so well.

The Fall Leadership Conference will occur on October 30th after the Initiative deadline thus more information on this Virtual Conference will be provided at a later date.

Hopefully everyone has been reading the information that Sarah has been sending. We receive quite a bit of information that we wish to share.

Our Holiday Gathering will be on **December 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:30, at the Buchanan Center for the Arts**. A \$10.00 donation for AAUW Funds would be appreciated. There are only two volunteers to help with this so please let us know who besides Lila Blum and Mary Osborne would like to help.

**Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7p.m.** in room 273 of CSB Robin Johnson will present a program on the Virginia Governor's race and its meaning to the midterms and 2024. Please join us. As always, this is free and open to the public, so encourage friends to accompany you.

## Program, November 9, 2021

*Sarah Henderson*

Our next AAUW program will be on **Tuesday, November 9 at 7:00 PM in CSB 273** at Monmouth College. Robin Johnson, Political Science professor at Monmouth College, will be speaking to us on the topic, "The Virginia Governor's Race: What Does It Mean for the Midterms and 2024." Robin always delivers an excellent program, and I am sure this will be no different. I hope to see you there!

For those joining us via Zoom, **please note the change in Zoom address:**

<https://monmouthcollege.zoom.us/j/98655661484?pwd=WVlHTzk3VGUySGxMVXJhWUJFdE1rdz09>

I will be moderating the Zoom portion of the evening since Michelle is unable to attend and will be using my Zoom account instead. **The change of address is for this program only!**



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## Public Policy

Jan De Young

It's hard to believe that October 2021, marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the ERA in the U.S House of Representatives. Last Tuesday, Representative Carolyn Maloney convened the House Oversight and Reform Committee to try to find a way to complete the final steps to certification of the ERA. The amendment has met all the criteria for adoption and addition to the United States Constitution as the 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment. It was ratified by 2/3 of both houses of Congress, and it was finally ratified by 38 states, the ¾ required to become an amendment. Illinois and Virginia were numbers 37 and 38.

It is now up to the National Archivist to certify and to publish the ERA in order for it to become the 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Most scholars say that the arbitrary deadline for passage that some have raised as an obstacle applies only to the preamble and not to the document itself, so the argument that the amendment has "expired" and requires advocates to go back to the beginning is probably just a stalling technique. Both of our Senators, Duckworth and Durbin, and our Representative, Cheri Bustos, favor adding the amendment to the Constitution. Remember, it was first proposed by Alice Paul and the National Women's Political Party in 1923.



## Book Signing by our own author, Susan Van Kirk

Susan Van Kirk's fourth Endurance novel, *The Witch's Child*, is now out in eBook and paperback. A funny, murderous read around Halloween, this novel again features Grace Kimball, TJ Sweeney, Jeff Maitlin, Lettie Kimball, and her senior citizen boyfriend, Del Novak. The legacy of a decade-old murder plunges Grace Kimball and her town of Endurance into poisons, poppets, and an unforgiving past. A bit of witchcraft, a lot of laughs.

I'll be signing copies of this book and my others at Wordsmith Bookshoppe in Galesburg on November 6 from 1 to 3 pm. Hope to see you there.



### Book Group

Nancy Buban  
November 30, 12:30

Book group will zoom on November 30<sup>th</sup> at 12:30. The novel, *A Light Over London* by Julia Kelly will be discussed.

**"Reminiscent of Martha Hall Kelly's *Lilac Girls* and Kristin Hannah's *The Nightingale*, this entrancing story "is a poignant reminder that there is no limit to what women can do. A nostalgic, engrossing read" (Julia London, *New York Times* bestselling author)."**

The novel opens in the present when Cara Hargraves discovers an unfinished diary from WWII while she is working for an antique dealer. It then travels back to 1941 where Louise Keene is introduced. Louise is in the auxiliary branch of the British Army in anti-aircraft as a gunner girl. The story weaves between the present and the past.

Please feel free to join us because we are only a Zoom away!

## A note from Marilyn Van Ausdall

Just a reminder the AAUW Fall Conference is next Saturday, October 30, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The link to register is in the email from the October 15<sup>th</sup> issue of Connection. It isn't too late to register!

Clicking on this link should take you to the registration page:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkdeisqjkjGNBLFIKuVGDTrrorPnSoutkf>

## Buchanan Center for the Arts

*Kristyne Gilbert*

### TASTE OF THE ARTS GALA

You Oughta Be In Pictures

5:30-7:30pm Saturday, November 13, BCA Gallery. In an effort to provide both a festive and safe alternative to celebrate and support the arts in our community, the Buchanan Center for the Arts is preparing a BLOCKBUSTER experience for you to WALK THE RED CARPET and take away an amazing SWAG BAG decorated by LOCAL ARTISTS filled with a delicious meal, wine, and treats. Plus, you can still pick up a gift or two for yourself or friends and family at our A-LIST Shop—CAFE & COUTURE, BUY IT NOW!, or RIDICULOUSLY RESPLENDENT RAFFLE.

Tickets to the event are \$60 per guest. For this donation you will receive:

\*First stop on the red carpet is with the paparazzi! You and your friends can have your photo taken on the red carpet—dress up or come casual. The BCA will mail a print of the photo to you. What a fun keepsake!

\*Second stop is our A-List Shop—a fun and festive way to help the BCA raise money for our programming. At this stop you'll find our CAFE & COUTURE, BUY IT NOW!, or RIDICULOUSLY RESPLENDENT RAFFLE. Shop for all your A-List family and friends or indulge and spoil yourself with an array of wonderful gift baskets, experiences, and gift certificates.

\*Third stop is a catered meal to go by Patton Block Grill & Brewpub. You may select from chicken colette, french roast of beef with red wine demi-glace, or grilled portobello mushroom. Meal includes garlic smashed potatoes, fresh green beans, a sweet Hawaiian roll, and a luscious lemon berry mascarpone cake.

\*Your fourth and final stop on the red carpet is swag bag toppers—a bottle of Market Alley wine or non-alcoholic sparkling bubbly and a sweet treat!

Now that your swag bag is filled and you've shopped for great gifts, you're set to head off to your own after-hours party!

Can we count on your support for this year's Taste of the Arts Gala? Please call the BCA at 309-734-3033 to purchase your ticket by Friday, October 29!

Artist credit: Dana Baldwin "Between the Minds of Men and Make Believe" on view through November 16.

Featured Artists: Tromp-As-Writ

Our featured artists are the members of Tromp-As-Writ. Founded in 1980, Tromp-As-Writ is one of 250 weaving guilds throughout the United States, and has been a part of the Buchanan Center for the Arts since 1989. On view through November 30 in the James Keefe Gallery, you won't want to miss this unique, handcrafted collection of functional art that includes clothing, linens, and 2D artwork. See you in the gallery! Artist credit: Cindy Romano "Shawl with Lattice Fringe" NFS

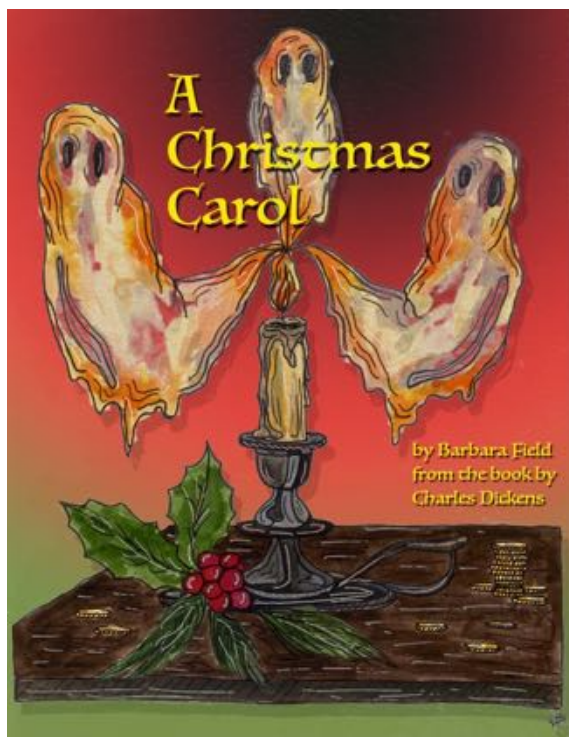
Tickets are available for A Christmas Carol online at [www.monmouthcollege.edu/box-office](http://www.monmouthcollege.edu/box-office) or at the Wells Theatre box office on Monmouth College campus M-W-F 3-4pm and T-TH 2-3pm. Performances are November 18-21, 2021, at the Wells Theatre.

Prairie Tales

Welcome to Season 2, Episode 1 as we celebrate the haunted tale of Crybaby Bridge. Click the link below to listen. Prairie Tales Podcasters Stacia Mattan, Mary Osborne, and Cathy Sheagren will share hair-raising stories of this unusual landmark. Prairie Tales would love to hear from you. Leave your feedback or send

questions to the hosts at:  
[prairietalespodcast@gmail.com](mailto:prairietalespodcast@gmail.com).

<https://soundcloud.com/buchanancenter/s2-e1-the-tale-of-crybaby-bridge?in=buchanancenter/sets/prairie-tales&si=523cb585d9f8476fbd7b5633c001905>



## September and October Program Recaps

*Sarah Henderson*

After a long, long year of Zooming and social distancing, September and October 2021 programs finally brought many of us back together in person with two engaging presentations held on the Monmouth College campus. In September, members of the Monmouth College faculty presented work completed in collaboration with student groups focused on the local community, while October's program brought together two local librarians to discuss Banned Books Week.

Due to a change of programming plans in September after Monmouth's Hispanic Heritage Festival was postponed, our AAUW branch welcomed Monmouth College professors Janis Mars Wunderlich and Dr. Jialin Li, along with their student SOFIA groups, to present their recent work. Summer Opportunities for Intellectual Activities (SOFIA) projects give incoming students an opportunity to work with professors and returning student mentors on research projects for three weeks before the fall semester begins in August. Professor Wunderlich, Dr. Li, and their students shared the results of their summer projects, which highlighted local diversity and examined some of the potential challenges faced by local social groups during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Assistant Professor of Art Wunderlich and her students worked together to plan and execute several murals across the Monmouth College campus and in the community, including an ongoing project to encapsulate the diversity of the Monmouth population in a multimedia mural on the side of the new United Way office. The SOFIA group developed a concept for the large-scale work based on a patchwork quilt, containing images and pieces of fabric representing the different cultures that live side-by-side in Monmouth. Though the project remains in progress, the first square, representing Hispanic culture, is finished and on display on the east side of the building in Monmouth's public square.

Dr. Li, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Anthropology, led her SOFIA group in a project titled A Social Autopsy of COVID-19 in Rural Monmouth, investigating the hypothesis that the ongoing pandemic has imposed additional strain on vulnerable groups living in rural areas by increasing social isolation and economic burden. The students interviewed representatives of the African, Spanish-speaking, and Burmese immigrant populations in Monmouth, as well as elderly members of the community, to develop pictures of each subject's history and pre-COVID social life and explore the impact of the pandemic. Despite limitations on time and data, the group discovered that - thanks to technology and strong familial, religious, and community ties - the people of our community remained socially connected and cared for despite the

physical isolation and financial difficulties inflicted by COVID.

The end of September saw a return of Banned Books Week, an annual event created by the American Library Association in 1982 to celebrate the freedom to read and to highlight books that have been censored by schools and libraries across the nation. October's AAUW program brought together our own co-president Sarah Henderson, director of Monmouth College's Hewes Library, and Larisa Good, director of the Warren County Public Library, to present an overview of Banned Books Week. They introduced their audience to America's most commonly banned books and educated a mixed group of in-person and Zoom attendees about the history of challenged books and other media in America, the ways libraries and educational institutions have worked to counteract these challenges, and what censorship looked like in 2020. Differing backgrounds in academic versus public library spaces allowed Henderson and Good to compare and contrast censorship disputes in each venue, as well as share their predictions for the future of banned media.



**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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