

February 2022

Celebrating 97 Years of AAUW in Monmouth!

Presidents' Report

Sarah Henderson, Co-President

Happy New Year

Greetings! Although January sometimes seems so quiet after the hustle and bustle of the holidays, there are still plenty of activities to keep us busy. Our next program will be Monday, February 7, and will be held via Zoom. You will read more about the program and the fabulous Dr. Andre Audette a little further along in the newsletter. There has been no further discussion as to whether we will return to in-person meetings or continue strictly on Zoom. The challenge is to balance the desire for being together with the safety of our members. We will continue to monitor the numbers in the county and make an announcement before the March meeting.

AAUW's last Membership Matters newsletter had several items of interest. Please note the following:

- * The Membership Services Database will be down February 4-15 as they upgrade the system and will not be accessible by anyone, including AAUW staff.
- * Starting July 1, AAUW national dues will be \$67, \$64 of which will be tax-deductible. AAUW-IL dues stay at \$10 and branch dues will remain \$9 Total: \$86 (up \$5 from this last year.)
- * Official member count on February 1 is 28.
- * AAUW continues to provide a number of excellent webinars including *Intersectionality Identified* on March 24 and *Social Justice: Creating Change* on May 26. If you are unable to attend a webinar, please check back on their webinar page. Recordings are usually posted about a week after the presentations.

AAUW February 7, 2022 Program

Katelyn Audette

Via ZOOM

7:00 pm

Gender Equality and Happiness

Around the Globe

Dr. Andre Audette

Our February program will take place virtually on Monday, February 7, 2022, at 7:00 pm. A Zoom link will be sent out closer to the date of the program. Dr. Andre Audette, assistant professor of political science at Monmouth College, will speak on "Gender Equality and Happiness around the Globe." Much of Andre's research involves identity politics, voting and elections, and political inequality. This presentation is based on co-authored research in the *Journal of Happiness Studies* and featured in *Greater Good Magazine's* "Top 10 Insights from the 'Science of a Meaningful Life' in 2018." The research suggests that societies with greater gender equality tend to promote higher life satisfaction, both among women and men. It concludes that if we want to be happier, one way we can do so is by working toward greater gender equality in the United States and abroad.



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Other Special Programs: 50th Anniversary of Title IX

Join the Monmouth College Alumni Office for their panel discussion on February 2, 2022, on the 50th Anniversary of Title IX and what's next for the landmark legislation. The panel moderator will be Dr. Simon Cordery, who many of you may know from his time at Monmouth College. The link to register is below, along with more information about the discussion.

<https://www.monmouthcollege.edu/calendar/event/7978-title-ix-50th-anniversary-panel>



Diversity in Language in Monmouth- Roseville School District

On Tuesday, March 22, 7:00 PM Amy Freitag will be speaking about diversity and language programs in the Monmouth-Roseville School District. Depending on the state of the pandemic, we may hold the event in CSB 273 on the Monmouth College campus OR we may have it on Zoom. Watch your email for a confirmed location closer to the date.

Public Policy *Jan DeYoung*

We are getting closer!

It is just possible that ERA will become the law of the land this week! On Wednesday, January 26, the department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel agreed that Congress cannot block the adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment. That same office, under then-President Trump, asserted that the ERA could not be adopted because the deadline in the Preamble had expired. The archivist for the Trump administration also refused to certify the ERA, blocking it from becoming 28th Amendment to the U.S Constitution.

A recent amicus brief asserts:

"The language of Article V is mandatory: an amendment to the Constitution 'shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several states.'"

On January 27, Representatives Jackie Spier and Carolyn Maloney spoke in a press conference to say that the ERA has already been ratified and should be recognized as the 28th Amendment and that the archivist should do his job and publish the ERA. Representatives Spier and Maloney, along with 120 co-sponsors, introduced a resolution in the U.S. House, pronouncing that the ERA has been validly ratified and is now in effect as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Representative Jackie Spear said, "Two years ago, the final state Virginia ratified the amendment. The amendment says two years hence, it is law. And that's today. The ERA is fully ratified, no question about it."

Ellie Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority, said "The ERA has been ratified. It is the law. It should be certified and published by the archivist. The fight now is that we're going to enforce the ERA. Without enforcement, it's just a symbol. We want the ERA enforced."

On January 27 President Biden also issued a statement of strong support for getting ERA into the Constitution: "No one should be discriminated against based on their

sex--and we, as a nation, must stand up for full women's equality. "

I'm wondering why this wasn't the lead story on the news on January 27! Oh, yeah! The media spent hours on Justice Brennan's retirement and speculation on who would be Biden's nominee for his replacement!

Cross your fingers!



Film Group

Nancy Buban

In years past, Monmouth AAUW Branch took film recommendations from **WITASWAN** which stands for Women in The Audience Supporting Women Artists Now. It was launched by Jan Huttner who credits AAUW Illinois for being instrumental in this. Going to the WITASWAN site one can find a complete list of films directed or written by women.

We have been truly grateful to Jan Huttner who met Donna Sproston at convention, gave us a push, and got us started in 2006. Over the years our group has watched **76 films**. *Lady Bird* was the last film that we viewed in 2020 when Covid 19 hit. Everyone became cautious about meeting for films, so the theater (my small TV room) was closed. We have not resumed even though all who regularly attend have been vaccinated.

Most of the films were on WITASWAN lists but a few were selected because they were either produced by women or had strong female characters. The two short films by John Behnke were shown because he is a Monmouth success story and his mother lived down the block.

I have always loved films and was eager to take the lead in selecting what we would view. Recommendations from the group were shared. I have compiled quite a list of films that I hope one day we will gather again and begin viewing, but for the present we must stay safe.

If anyone would enjoy seeing the complete list of films that we viewed , please let me know and I will email them to you.

"That's All Folks"



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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