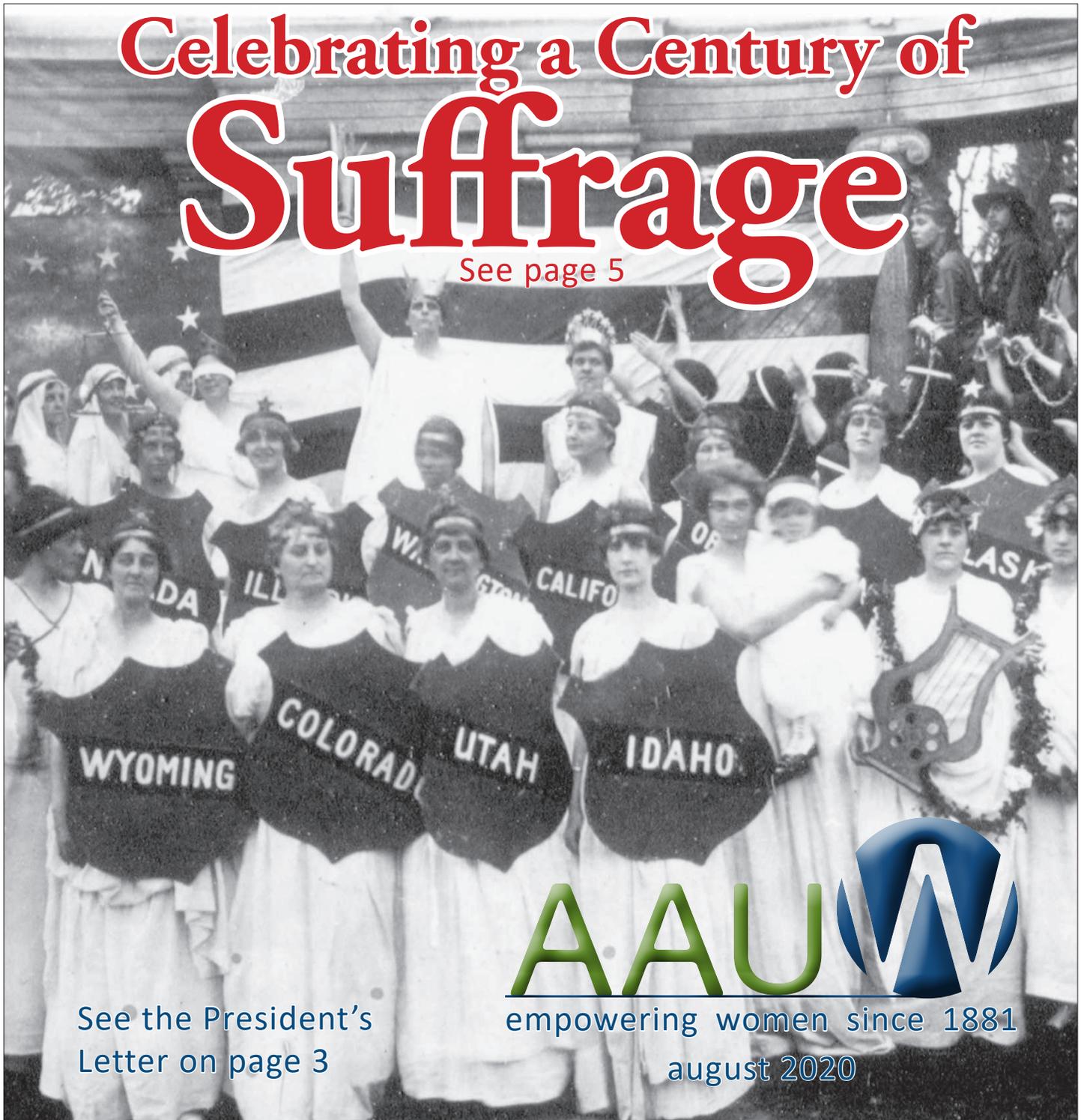


The *Initiative*

American Association of University Women — Rockford Area Branch

Celebrating a Century of **Suffrage**

See page 5



See the President's
Letter on page 3

empowering women since 1881
august 2020

The Initiative

Published by and for AAUW
Rockford Area Branch members

Editor: Sharon Boehlefeld

Submission information:

Send items to initiative.rockfordarea.il.aauw@gmail.com at any time.

Deadline for the November Initiative is Oct. 15.

Photos should be high resolution .jpg or .pdf files.

Text should be unformatted and may be included in the body of your email or as an attached Microsoft Word, Apple Pages or Google Docs file. Other formats will be returned.

Your Branch Officers

Co-Presidents—Faye Marcus and Barbara Simon

Co-Vice-Presidents Membership—Christine Haeggquist and Karen Hoffman

Co-Vice-Presidents Programs—Judy Schultz and Jean Herro
Secretary—Erna Colborn

Treasurer—Regina Potts

Board meetings: 6:30 p.m., third Wednesday of the month via Zoom

Contact Us

aauwrockford@gmail.com

Your Branch Online

Website

<https://rockfordarea-il.aauw.net/>

Webmaster: Donna Ogle
dogle@rockford.edu

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/AAUWRockfordIL/>

Administrator: Diana Vlase
diana21vlase@gmail.com



Calendar

Watch our website, Facebook and your email for calendar updates.

Fri Sept. 4

12 noon via Zoom
Public Policy Interest Group [Page 6](#)

Tue Sept. 15

1 p.m. via Zoom
Book Beat Interest Group [Page 6](#)

Wed Sept. 16

6:30 p.m. via Zoom
Board meeting; members welcome

Wed Sept. 23

5-7 p.m.
Fundraiser for STEM Scholarships at Nicholas Conservatory [Page 4](#)

Editor's Note

Change is Afoot in Branch Communications

With this issue of *The Initiative*, you're seeing something a little different from what you're used to.

As the new editor, I thought it was time for something fresh. I hope you like and find it useful.

Send me your comments, suggestions and ideas at our new email address — initiative.rockfordarea.il.aauw@gmail.com.

And the changes aren't just in the

On the Cover

A photograph from the Library of Congress suffrage collection shows suffragists dressed in costumes. The image accompanied a letter by National

Tue Oct. 6

6:30 p.m. via Zoom
"Hear About Suffragists from our Region"
Program for all members [Page 5](#)

Tue Oct. 20

1 p.m. via Zoom
Book Beat Interest Group

Sat Nov. 14

1:30-3 p.m. via Zoom
"Women In Leadership"
Program for all members [Page 6](#)

Tue Nov. 17

1 p.m. via Zoom
Book Beat Interest Group

Sat Dec. 5

10 a.m.
"Greatest Needs Holiday Brunch"
TBA—Save the date!

newsletter.

Our first quarter Co-Presidents Faye Marcus and Barbara Simon want to be sure you check out our website at rockfordarea-il@aauw.net to see the updates for 2020-21. Donna Ogle is the new webmaster.



Sharon Boehlefeld

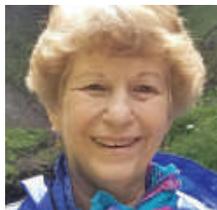
American Woman Suffrage Association President Carrie Chapman Catt to state presidents, describing how to organize their own *tableau vivant* protest, 1916.

We Hope to See You This Fall

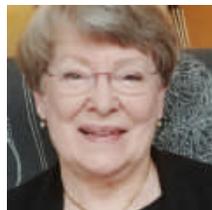
Keeping connections and finding new ways to connect—these are the challenges to planning for the AAUW Rockford Area Branch (and every group) for 2020-21. We have to be physically distant for the time being but we want to stay socially connected and remain committed to the mission of AAUW—to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

We are grateful for the continuing support of our members even though every meeting has to be carefully weighed for risk. Thank you for renewing! Thank heavens for Zoom! We look forward to “seeing” more of you at meetings this fall. If you have not tried it, please ask how you can join in by computer or phone. It's easy and any board member can help you!

We are thrilled to be a part of the **Rockford Area Women's Suffrage Centennial 2020 Celebration** which has enabled us to join with 12 other groups in Rockford to plan a 100th Anniversary celebration of voting rights and to participate in building a community sculpture honoring Rockford women. We are



Faye Marcus



Barbara Simon

now working full steam ahead in a safe space and hope to be finished this fall. If you haven't tried being a mosaic artist, that's easy, too. Please sign up to be a part of this community-built project. We also thank those who wrote articles for the celebration for the media.

The **fundraiser for our local scholarships** has a new look this year. It will be outdoors at Nicholas Conservatory on Sept. 23, with pre-ordered dinners and physical distancing but plenty of social interaction in a beautiful space. Please see page 4 for the details. Thanks, Scholarship and Funds Teams!

Our next **educational program**, “Hear About Suffragists from Our Region,” will be Oct. 6 via Zoom. Thanks to Mary Weaksbaxter from Rockford University and Zoe Norwood from Rockford Public Library who have created a

program about women suffragists of northern Illinois. Please see page 5 to learn about the speakers for that event.

As we have all coped with the pandemic, we have seen new voices step up to help our city and area through the processes of staying safe. Our **November program** will be about “Women in Leadership” and we will have a diverse and interesting panel of Rockford women to speak to us via Zoom.

Public Policy Interest Group is meeting regularly to discuss the status of the census and encouraging everyone to vote. Please join the Public Policy Interest Group for this important work. It meets on the first Friday of the month at noon via Zoom.

Lastly, we would like to especially thank Kathe Heyer, who has produced several years of beautiful newsletters and Sharon Boehlefeld, who is now stepping up to keep our connections vital. Please see the other pages in *The Initiative* for more information about our programs and interest groups.

— Faye Marcus and Barbara Simon,
Co-Presidents, First Quarter

Rockford Area Branch thanks Nicholas Conservatory, the Hibiscus Cafe at Nicholas Conservatory, the Rockford Park District and Prairie Street Brewhouse for their help in

planning our outdoor event and fundraiser on Sept. 23. They are very supportive of AAUW's mission to help educate women in STEM subjects. *Thank you!*

September Membership Gathering

Help More Young Women Prepare for STEM Careers

2021 will be the 10th year that AAUW Rockford has offered scholarships to regional female Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) students.

During this COVID pandemic, the scholarship team wondered how to raise funds safely so we can continue offering the STEM awards.

We have depended on the generosity of the membership and their friends during previous University Club "Tip the Bartender" gatherings, but this year we need a different venue.

Three cheers for the Rockford Park District for offering us a safe, outside venue with beautiful views and interesting activities at Nicholas Conservatory and Gardens' tented patio.

This year's gathering will include:



2019 Tip the Bartender at the University Club

◆ Tented patio space for social distancing with masks all around;

◆ Participant limit of 50 people for a private gathering on a night the conservatory is closed to the public;

◆ Educational presentation from the Nicholas Conservatory program director;

◆ Beautiful gardens and

conservatory for strolling;

◆ Safe food for dining on the patio (pre-ordered);

◆ Adult and soft drink beverages for purchase;

◆ Donation opportunities including a 50/50 raffle.

Please join us in raising funds to celebrate 10 years of STEM scholarships!

Look for more information in your email soon.

— Diane Kuehl, scholarship team leader, d.kuehl@comcast.net



**AAUW STEM SCHOLARSHIP
FUN & Fundraiser**

Wednesday, September 23, 2020
5 - 7 pm • Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens

Private Outside Event

- Presentation: Carnivorous Plants
- Walk around Gardens
- Conservatory access (optional)
- Food / Beverages for purchase
- Social distancing with friends
- Donations & 50/50 Raffle
- Board Challenge \$\$

• Masks required
• RSVP required (limit of 50)

To RSVP email
bjsimon61114@yahoo.com

AAUW
empowering women since 1881

October Membership Gathering



Jane Addams



Kate F. O'Connor



Ida B. Wells-Barnett



Catharine Waugh
McCulloch

Hear about Women who Helped Pass the 19th Amendment

Please join us on Oct. 6, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom for a program which continues the history of the 100th anniversary celebration of the 19th Amendment.

It will feature four Rockford women telling us about the lives of four famous suffragists from northern Illinois.

Suzanne Crandall will discuss Jane Addams; Lynell Cannell will talk about Kate F. O'Connor; Professor Paulette Gilbert will discuss Ida B. Wells-Barnett, and Susan Goldberg will talk about Catharine Waugh McCulloch.

What were their lives like and what were their motivations in

supporting the 19th Amendment?

After this membership meeting, you'll have answers to this question.

This event was organized by Rockford Public Librarian Zoe Norwood and Professor Mary Weeks-Baxter from Rockford University.

Pre-registration will be required, including your preferred email address for Zoom events. If you plan to "bring a guest," be sure to preregister her or him with a preferred email address for Zoom if your guest will be watching from a separate location.

— Zoe Norwood, pznorwood@gmail.com; Mary Weeks-Baxter, mweeks-baxter@rockford.edu

November Membership Gathering

Explore the Worlds of Women Leaders

Our meeting on Nov. 14 will feature five women in leadership roles. Local women are representing politics, medicine, military, business, and education. Of course due to the pandemic this will be on Zoom.

Politics and Litesa Wallace go together. Dr. Wallace has been a state representative in the Illinois General Assembly.

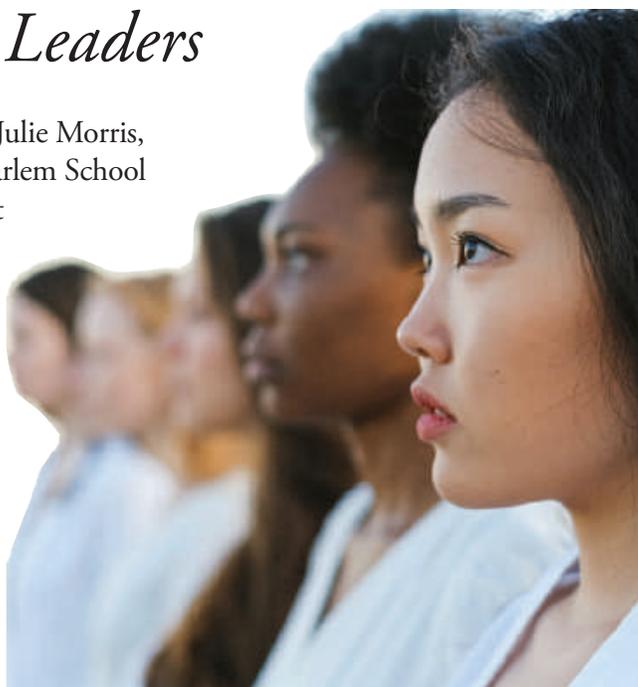
Dr. Lauren Ives, a young internist in Rockford; Nancy Clark, a representative from SheVets; Tamika Brown, owner of Infinite Soul Vibrations in Rockford who makes

custom jewelry; and Dr. Julie Morris, superintendent of the Harlem School District, will tell us about their struggles and successes.

Zoom in on Zoom at 1 p.m. on Nov. 14. It will be a great way to spend a fall, Saturday afternoon.

— Faye Marcus, fe.marcus@att.net

Be sure to pre-register guests with a preferred email address for Zoom.



(Photo by Anna Shvets on Pexels)

Interest Groups

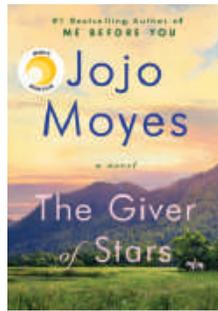
Book Beat

Book Beat Interest Group meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. Currently, we are meeting via Zoom.

Everyone is welcome to join in by letting Enid Michalowski or Barbara Simon know that you

would like to receive the Book Beat emails.

The book for Sept. 15 is *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes. It is a delightful book about the women



(Photo courtesy Penguin House)

who set up a library and went on horseback to deliver materials to patrons in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky post-WW II.

— Enid Michalowski, endiski@yahoo.com; Barbara Simon, bjsimon61114@yahoo.com

Public Policy

Join this stimulating group to talk about important issues facing all of us. We are meeting on the first Friday of the month beginning Sept. 4 at noon on Zoom. Some of the topics we will discuss are Census 2020 and Get Out the Vote. These are important issues for AAUW members.

Do you have other ideas? Join us! Contact Faye Marcus for information.

Hope to see you soon.

— Faye Marcus, fe.marcus@att.net

Welcome New Members

Dr. Mandolen Mull holds a Ph.D. in Organisational Development and Change and an MBA in International Business. She serves as the chair of the Puri School of Business at Rockford University where she is also an assistant professor of Leadership.

Mandolen moved to the Rockford area in 2018 from Texas, where her family still lives. Outside of work, she enjoys her three basset hounds, leadership consulting, and Texas Rangers baseball.

Joan Stehulik is a returning member who previously served as treasurer for the Rockford AAUW. She moved to Stillman Valley from Pennsylvania in July 2007.

A good friend of hers in Pennsylvania contacted two Rockford Area AAUW members who contacted Stehulik. She connected with Judy Jolly, also in Stillman Valley, and Stehulik says she “met the best group of friendly, interesting women all positively devoted to the betterment of the local population.”

She had to take a break a few years ago when work got too busy. She says she’s “still probably too busy with work to be active,” but wants to continue to support to the group.

Dr. Litesa Wallace of Rockford

has served the community in the State Legislature, where she represented the 67th District. Her term ended after she ran for lieutenant governor with gubernatorial candidate Daniel Bliss.

She has an Ed.D. and an MS from Northern Illinois University and a BA in from Western Illinois University.

Sha’Donna A. Woods was born in Chicago, but moved to Rockford as a child and graduated from Auburn High School. She earned a B.A. in English from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and an M.S.Ed. from Northern Illinois University.

She has worked in higher education for 10 years at Northern Illinois University, Kishwaukee Community College, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, and University of California Berkeley. She is the Upward Bound coordinator at Rock Valley College.

As a first-generation college student, “I know how transformative the college experience can be,” she said.

Her hobbies include reading, learning new languages, and the arts, dance and theater, especially.

— Christine Haeggquist, chaeggquis@aol.com; Karen Hoffman, kkhoffman01@gmail.com, membership co-vice-presidents

Treasurer’s Report

July 2020

OPERATING FUND

Beginning balance	\$8,634.60
Ending balance	\$7,568.97

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Beginning balance	\$829.19
Ending balance	\$2,829.19

ONE-YEAR CD	\$6,000.00
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— Regina Potts, treasurer, rp226@aol.com