

The
Initiative
American Association of University Women — Rockford Area Branch

AAUW
empowering women since 1881
november 2020



Time to Share Your
Bounty

See page 6

See the President's
Letter on page 3

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 February Initiative is Jan. 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—Jean Herro and Judy Schultz

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 Nov. 6

12 p.m. via Zoom

Public Policy Interest Group [Page 8](#)

Sat Nov. 14

1:30-3 p.m. via Zoom

“Women In Leadership”

Program for all members [Page 3](#)

Editor’s Note

It May Not Be a Holiday, But Vote on Nov. 3

Without a doubt, the “holidays” start on Halloween and keep on coming right through the beginning of the New Year.

There was talk earlier this year about making Election Day a holiday. While most of us don’t get to spend the day contemplating and casting our votes, we do need to make sure we get our ballots cast no later than Nov. 3.

This year may be one of the most important on the national level, but also the state and local levels.

If you haven’t already cast an early ballot or posted a mail-in ballot, make sure you turn out Nov. 3.

On the Cover

A table full of harvest bounty reminds us this is the time of year to celebrate and share our abundance. See the story

Tue Nov. 17

1 p.m. via Zoom

Book Beat Interest Group [Page 7](#)

Sat Dec. 5

10 a.m.

“Greatest Needs Virtual Holiday Brunch” [Pages 6-7](#)

Tue Feb. 15

10 a.m.

Female Naturalists 1800-1900 Program for all members

Looking ahead

For many, 2020 has already overstayed its welcome. But we may have to persevere with out COVID precautions into the new year. Look for more Zoom gatherings.

Although it’s not on our formal calendar yet, some board members have talked about a January program. Watch your mail and our AAUW social media for updates and changes.

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

on page 6 to learn about sharing your abundance with AAUW national efforts. The image is by Snapwire is from Pexels.



Sharon Boehlefeld

President’s Message

We Have Lemonade for You

Much of what we have been doing this year is “making lemonade out of lemons”!

In September, Diane Kuehl and her awesome committee made lemon meringue pie by putting on an outstanding scholarships fundraiser at Nicholas Conservatory. The weather cooperated to make it a great Fun and Fundraiser event. See her observations on pages 4 and 5.

Thanks to our renewing and new members, we have increased our membership to 81. We hope each of you will get involved in interest group activities and attend our Zoom programs. We won’t need to worry about going out in winter weather because all activities will be



Jean Herro



Judy Schultz

on Zoom until conditions change.

Even with COVID restrictions, it has been a very busy year for the AAUW Rockford Area Branch.

We have been celebrating the 100th anniversary of women’s right to vote all year with educational programs and participation in the Women’s Suffrage Centennial 2020 collaborative activities by serving on committees and writing editorials for the *Rockford Register Star*.

When the weather is conducive, we hope you will go down to the YWCA Log Lodge to view the community sculpture installed south of the Log Lodge.

AAUW members participated in the WSC2020 effort to erect a permanent community-built sculpture honoring Rockford women.

The tower was dedicated on Oct. 31, but work will continue during the winter on the six benches which will surround the sculpture.

The 13 groups that worked on this project are planning to continue our partnership

— Jean Herro and Judy Schultz, Co-Presidents, Second Quarter

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.

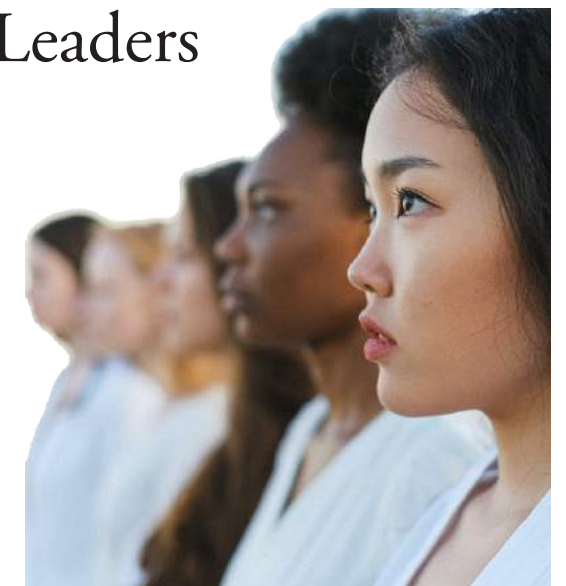
Politics and Litesa Wallace go together. Dr. Wallace has been a state representative in the Illinois General Assembly.

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



(Photo by Anna Shvets on Pexels)

Outdoor Evening at Nicholas a Success for Friends and Funds

After the joy and generosity of the AAUW membership at September's Fun Fundraiser at Nicholas



Diane Kuehl poses with her husband, Ed, who won the 50/50 raffle and then donated his half of the funds to the scholarship program..

Conservatory and Gardens, we have the honor to continue into the 2021 awards fully funded with over \$5,000 in donations, which allows us to offer five STEM scholarships in 2021.

Thanks to all the members for the generous response whether attending the "magical" event or not.

Committee chairs sent appreciations to the wonderful staff at Nicholas for making everything go so smoothly! The food was delicious and the program about carnivorous plants very interesting.

The Nicholas staff organized everything so well so that everyone

could enjoy the evening while staying safe.

The STEM Scholarship Committee is planning to offer four scholarships to current high school seniors and one scholarship to a Rock Valley College or Rockford University nontraditional scholar.

If you know students who meet the application requirements, please direct them to this site — <http://rockfordarea-il.aauw.net/>

AAUW Rockford continues to support regional STEM female scholars!

—Diane Kuehl, STEM Scholarship Team leader; Barbara Simon, AAUW Funds Team leader



Joan Stehulak watches Lindi Toohill, education director at Nicholas Conservatory and Gardens, as she talks about plants. The inaugural program for the 2020-21 AAUW year was about carnivorous plants.



Spending time inside the Nicholas Conservatory during the fundraiser are (from left) Christine Haeggquist, Dave Pearson and Dana Bull-Beckley.



Barbara Giolitto displays the basket she won in a raffle at the Sept. 23 gathering at Nicholas Conservatory and Gardens.



First quarter Co-Presidents Barbara Simon (left) and Faye Marcus wear coordinated outfits and masks to greet AAUW members and guests at the Sept. 23 fundraiser and program.



Board member Deepshika Shukla holds a 2020-21 AAUW yearbook. The booklets were distributed to members who could attend the evening at Nicholas Conservatory and Gardens on Sept. 23.

At the End of the Year, Join Us in Supporting National Efforts

Contribute Now to AAUW Greatest Needs Fund

As the end of 2020 approaches, our branch is grateful for everyone's support in staying strong with 81 members, in our successful fundraising for our branch scholarships and your attendance at our Zoom meetings.

We have one more challenge to complete and that is to lend our end-of-year support to the AAUW

National Greatest Needs Fund. The Greatest Needs Fund helps to support the AAUW Mission — providing equity programming, supporting Work Smart programs and contributing to matching grants when we have a corporate partner.

Every contribution helps to insure that AAUW has a future and that

our voice will continue to be heard.

Branch members will soon receive a letter with a response envelope for the Greatest Needs Fund. Donations contributed by Dec. 15 will be grouped together as our branch gift to AAUW's national efforts.

Thanks very much to each member for her continued support!

—Barbara Simon, Funds Team leader



(Photo provided) Phil Passen performs on his hammered dulcimer for a pre-COVID audience.

Celebrate the Holidays with AAUW Friends and Guests

Join us Dec. 5 for our annual holiday gathering via Zoom at 10 a.m.

In addition to raising money for AAUW National's Greatest Needs Fund, we will enjoy entertainment by Phil Passen who comes to us from the Illinois Humanities Road Scholars Speakers Bureau.

His program, "March of the Women: Music for the 100th Anniversary of Suffrage," consists of songs about women's suffrage from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries.

Phil sings while playing the hammered dulcimer and introduces

each song with information about the song and its historical context.

He regularly performs in the Chicago area and played in the World Symphony Orchestra's performance of The Lord of the Rings Symphony at Chicago's Auditorium Theater.

Please invite friends and family to Zoom with us! Just pre-register them with a preferred email address for Zoom if they will be watching from a separate location.

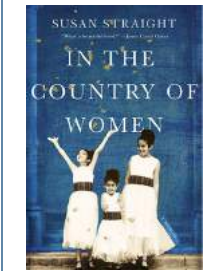
— Judy Schultz, judyls@comcast.net; Jean Herro, areherro@aol.com

Nancy Grace Roman: The Life and Legacy of a NASA Star Roman is known as the "mother of the Hubble." Learn about her career at NASA and her rise to become the first woman with an executive position in the agency at <https://www.aauw.org/>. Scroll down to find the story.

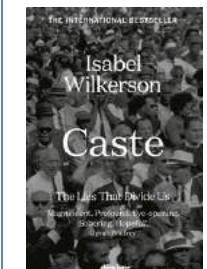
Interest Groups

Book Beat

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



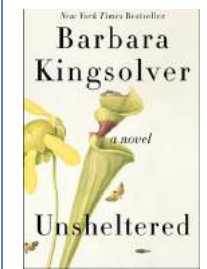
(Photo courtesy Catapult)



(Photo courtesy Penguin House)



(Photo courtesy Harper Collins)



(Photo courtesy Harper Collins)

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 books for the next few months are: Nov. 17 — *In the Country of Women* by Susan Straight. Reviewer: Enid Michalowski

December — no meeting Jan. 19 — *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson. Reviewer: Carol Jacobs

Feb. 16 — *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett. Reviewer: Barbara Simon

March 16 — *Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver. Reviewer: TBA

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

AAUW Remembers RBG

America lost one of our most beloved role models tonight (Sept. 18), a pioneering jurist and iconic feminist who blazed new trails, not only in her own life, but in the lives of the countless women she championed — and inspired. On behalf of AAUW and its members and supporters who recognized Justice Ginsburg with a 1999 AAUW Achievement Award, we extend our condolences to her family, her colleagues and to every American whose lives and hearts she touched. The nation owes it to her — and to all women — to honor her final wishes and refrain from naming a replacement until after a new president is inaugurated.*

— AAUW CEO Kimberly Churches



(Photo courtesy US Supreme Court)

* Justice Ginsburg’s wishes were not respected, as the Senate voted on Oct. 26 to confirm Amy Coney Barrett to the seat.

Read more about Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg at <https://www.aauw.org> and scroll down the

page. You’ll find articles about her life and legacy, as well as discussion about the future of the Supreme Court.

Interest Groups

Public Policy

Come join “Let’s Talk Public Policy.” Members meet via zoom on the First Friday of the month at noon. I’m sure you can guess what have been

our topics of discussion: VOTE!, Fair Tax and the Census. Even though the election should be past, there are plenty topics that are important for AAUW: Equal Pay, Title IX, Supreme Court, etc. Do you have

other ideas for discussion? Contact me, Faye Marcus, if you would like me to send you a zoom invitation. Hope to see you soon.

— Faye Marcus, fe.marcus@att.net

Treasurer’s Report

Sept. 30, 2020

OPERATING FUND MIDLAND BANK #3391

Beginning Balance\$7,761.33
 No Deposits
 Disbursements:
 Membership – National.....\$690.00
 Diane Kuehl -Scholarship Expense.....\$64.67
 Balance as of Sept. 30, 2020\$7,006.66

SCHOLARSHIP FUND MIDLAND BANK CHECKING ACCOUNT #92309

Beginning balance \$2829.19

Ending balance \$1,829.19
 Disbursements
 Check 2005-Scholarship (Khushi Patel)\$1,000.00
 Ending balance as of Sept. 30, 2020.....\$1829.19

ONE-YEAR CD

New CD purchased at Edward Jones* \$6,000
 Interest earned..... \$9.00

*Date of investment: July 24, 2020; Rate: 0.150%; Matures: June 23, 2021; Facilitator: Barbara Simon

— Regina Potts, treasurer, rp226@aol.com

AAUW Reacts to Stagnant Gender Pay Gap Numbers. Read the press release issued by AAUW CEO Kimberly Churches in response to September figures from the U.S.

Census Bureau. Find this and more about AAUW stances and research at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/press-releases/>.