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## *connection*

### From the President

There were two exciting Branch milestones this month.

#### **AAUW Monmouth Area Branch celebrated its Centennial Week November 6-9, 2024.**

The Branch was formed November 6 1924. This was the middle of the roaring twenties, just after women gained the right to vote. The Branch was formed by a group of educated women, many who were faculty members at Monmouth College. What an exciting time!

Monmouth Branch has accomplished much in its 100 year history. They have supported scholarship programs, hosted candidate forums, worked with voter registration, and hosted workshops for graduating seniors to learn the art of salary negotiation. In addition, they created a presence in the Monmouth Community. For forty years, they sponsored an Art Program which brought monthly art programs to schools in the community. They also conducted an annual essay contest for sixth graders during Women's History Month. The subject of these essays were the significant influences of extraordinary women. Pictured is Rod Davies, Mayor of Monmouth handing a City Proclamation, which honors the accomplishments of the Monmouth Branch to Carolyn Weber, Branch President.





anniversary with a luncheon on November 9th.

Co-Presidents Theresa Gilbert and Christine Haeggquist along with their Anniversary Celebration Committee put on a great party. The Roaring Twenties theme found one member dressed as a flapper in her original dress! Fun facts: AAUW membership dues were \$3.00 annually in 1929. Rockford Branches' first fundraiser earned \$20.00. We have come a long way.

Rockford Area Branch has had a close tie with Rockford College since the very beginning. The Branch offers scholarships to local High School Seniors. They received 4 Stars in the 2023 AAUW Five Star Program.

Their greatest achievement is the Rockford Women's Suffrage Plaza. They wanted to do something to honor the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which recognizes women's right to vote. Rockford Branch led this community effort to fund, design and create this ceramic tower and plaza. This was a significant undertaking.



## 2025 AAUW-IL Convention | Save the date!

[NORTHFIELD INN, Suites & Conference Center](#)

April 25-26, 2025 in Springfield, IL

It's official, we have a confirmed date and location! Mark your calendar now so you can join members from across the state.

- Guest rooms will be \$129.00 plus tax (currently 14%), registration info coming soon
- Interested in presenting, submit a proposal at <https://forms.gle/BZjcf96VbxQ5i5GN9>
- Have a speaker you want to hear from, send us the name/info at [aauiilprograms@gmail.com](mailto:aauiilprograms@gmail.com)

Kathy Battee-Freeman (Springfield) & Jo-An Takamoto-Sabonjian (Waukegan)

Co - Vice Presidents - Programs

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**PUBLIC POLICY**

The veto session for the Illinois Legislature is scheduled to take place on November 12-14 and November 19-21. The veto session is usually held for six days in the fall and was designed to allow the General Assembly to take action on bills that the governor has vetoed. In present times, the session is also used to address pending legislation. This past year there were no pieces of legislation that were vetoed by the governor so the legislature will be addressing only pending legislation. Our lobbyist will meet with me and Ken after the session has ended to brief us on any actions that are relevant to our AAUW public policy priorities. The results of the recent election at the federal level and its impact on our state is sure to be weighing heavily on the minds of the legislators in the Illinois General Assembly. Stay tuned for updates next month and use every opportunity available to contact your legislators and let them know you support AAUW values.

In Solidarity,  
*Karen Kortsch and Ken Olson*  
*Public Policy Co-Chairs*

## Branch News

Book Discussion, Tuesday, December 3rd, 4 pm - 5.30 pm

The **Northwest Suburban Branch and the Jane Addams Branch** invite you to discuss ***The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store***: A Novel by James McBride.

In this book, we're in Chicken Hill, a small Pennsylvania town, where Black, Jewish, and European immigrants, rich and poor, old and young, collide—defending, fighting, entertaining, feeding, and sheltering one another. This cacophonous melody of characters with all their schemes and dreams reveals how home is where you make it—and how all these “outsiders” are anything but.

Guests are welcome!

## Register



JANUARY 8, 2025, 6:45 pm, ZOOM ONLY

**A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON POPULATION  
TRENDS IN ILLINOIS**

The **Wheaton Glen-Ellyn Branch** invites you to hear **Dr. Robert Bruno**, Professor and Director, University of Illinois Labor Education Program, will be our guest speaker. Based on extensive research, Dr. Bruno has published a study which sheds new light on Illinois migration patterns and economic status. He found much information which indicates that Illinois is healthier than the media reports.

This is a Zoom only meeting. To request the Zoom link, send an email request to [wge-aauw@comcast.net](mailto:wge-aauw@comcast.net). Please include your name.

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It is 60" x 66".  
Proceeds go to the Greatest Needs Fund.  
Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10.00.  
Drawing is Friday, December 13. No charge for shipping.

For tickets contact Nann  
Hilyard, [nbhilyard@att.net](mailto:nbhilyard@att.net), 847-445-8510.



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***If your branch has a program or recognition or an idea you'd like to share, please [email Jennifer Urish](#) by the 14th of each month.***

Our Mission: Gender Equity & Economic Security  
Our Values: Intersectionality Inclusive Intergenerational Empowering  
Our Focus: Economic Security Education Advocacy



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