

# Branching Out

*Mission: Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research*

## Rise of the Radical Right April 13 at 1:00 Using Zoom—Invite Friends

Please plan on joining in for the Des Moines branch for a meeting and program on April 13 at 1:00 p.m. using Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2017201809?pwd=WXcyREhjdIOZINQMUmZlCU0RQQT09>.

Joanne Page will present a program, "Rise of the Radical Right," based on the book, *Bring the War Home: The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America*, by Kathleen Belew. Kathleen Belew is on the faculty of the University of Chicago, specializing in the recent history of the United States. Joanne Page is a member of the Des Moines branch of AAUW, and is also a long-time member of the Organization of American Historians. The OAH has recommended the Belew book. Members are encouraged to invite others to sit in on the program. Carletta Knox-Seymour, AAUW Iowa President, would like to visit each branch before her term ends, and she has indicated that



Joanne Page

she will join us for this meeting. More information about the radical right is available on Kathleen Belew's website linked here:

<https://www.kathleenbelew.com/media>

A business meeting will follow the program. Guests are welcome to stay, or if you have guests who would like to attend the program only, that would be fine. Agenda items for that business meeting:

- Report from the nominations committee
- Annual meeting planning, June 8 at 11:30
  - \* Choosing a location. This will be a picnic and annual meeting, so we are looking for parks with shelter houses that are close to the parking area.
  - \* Lunch committee or bring your own lunch?
  - \* Reserve shelter at a cost, or trust on luck?
  - \* Backup plan for annual meeting in case rain is in the forecast
- Reporting results of the member survey
- Need for a diversity director
- Introducing Carletta Knox-Seymour
- May?
- Announcements



## Welcome Caryn Evans



Caryn Evans is a life-long learner. A graduate of Des Moines North High School, Simpson College B.A., Drake University, M.A., and now a retiree from Principal Finance Group and a former business owner, Caryn is a committed volunteer advocate for Children's Mental Health Crisis Services. Community Based Organizing through AMOS, (A Metropolitan Organizing Strategy) occupies most of her time. Caryn has two grown daughters and two grandchildren. She and her husband Bill live in Urbandale. She learned about AAUW through Sharon Gee.

# AAUW-Iowa State Virtual Gathering

Saturday May 8, 2021, 9:00-11:30 AM

Ann Henninger Trax and Katherine Farris. Program Co-Vice Presidents

Plans are now set for this year's state meeting, which will be held via Zoom. Here is the schedule and a few details about our speakers.

- 9:00 AM Welcome by Iowa AAUW President Carletta Knox Seymour
- 9:05 AM Jessica Crawford, Self Help International (SHI) – "Empowering Women & Girls through Education & Small Business: Self-Help International Programs in Ghana & Nicaragua"  
A 10-minute breakout-discussion time will follow her presentation.
- 9:45 AM Dr. Barb Ramos, Simpson College, Professor of Teacher Education – "COVID's Impact on PK-16 Education"
- 10:15 AM AAUW Iowa Business Meeting  
Drawing for a 25 x 34 inches rag rug made from denim jeans and easy to care for: machine washable, line dry, courtesy of Pay Higby. (Recipient must be "present.")
- 11:00 AM Congresswoman Cindy Axne, IA-03 – "Making Both Halves Whole: Ensuring Full Recovery through Investments in Working Women and Moms"

Online registration is free for both members and non-members of AAUW. Complete the form available at

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/Engerlmchsicom1/AAUWIowaStateConferenceRegistrationForm>.

Mark your calendar now and plan to join us May 8, 2021. Bring your coffee and treats to our virtual meeting and share time with friends. Remember, you'll never save more gas and registration money attending an AAUW-Iowa state convention!

## The Speakers

**Jessica Crawford** joined the SHI team as the Africa Programs Specialist in 2019 after returning from a year of independent language study in France. She studied in Rwanda and Ghana while a student at ISU and, after graduating in 2010 with a major in Child and Family Services, worked with various organizations to improve the lives of families in Central Africa, Ghana, and the Des Moines area.

A Central College grad, **Barb Ramos** has advanced degrees in education from Eastern Kentucky, Drake, and Iowa

State. Her expertise includes elementary education and counseling, child and adolescent development, year-round education, and teacher leadership. Her husband Rich joins her at Simpson as Associate Dean of Students.

**Cindy Axne** is a fifth-generation Iowan, a small business owner, mom of two boys and a second-term U.S. Representative from Iowa's Third Congressional District. She earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Iowa and an MBA from the Kellogg School at Northwestern University. She and husband John own a digital design firm.



Jessica Crawford



Barb Ramos



Cindy Axne

## Picnic and Annual Meeting June 8 at 11:30

Plan to join us for a picnic and annual meeting June 8. at 11:30. We plan to choose a location with a shelter house and adequate tables to allow for social distancing, and a short walk from the parking area. Local parks typically work on a first come, first served basis unless reserved for a fee. Choosing a park with more than one shelter house would help us improve the odds of at least one shelter house being available. Bring your own brown bag lunch or appointing a lunch committee are both possibilities to be discussed April 13. A backup plan in case rain is in the forecast will also be discussed. Some park suggestions include Raccoon River Valley Park in West Des Moines (4 shelter houses, restrooms, close to parking area), McHenry Park (2 shelters—one close, one far), Terra Park in Johnston (1 large shelter and 2 small), restrooms), Pete Crivaro Park (2 shelters, restrooms), Walker Johnson Park in Urbandale (shelter with 8-10 tables, restrooms). Please feel free to contact Ann with more suggestions (515-320-4404 or [ann.gale9@gmail.com](mailto:ann.gale9@gmail.com)).



## Diversity Director Needed

AAUW is attempting to increase diversity, in order to better achieve our mission of advancing equity for women and girls. The national organization has directed all branches to appoint someone to serve as a diversity director. AAUW has a lot of resources to help in working to increase diversity in a [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Toolkit](#). Let's take this important step toward becoming an organization that advances equity for **all** women and girls.

AAUW Iowa has a new diversity director who can help in your branch's work toward reaching out to diverse members of your community. Janice Harris-Williams is the president of the Davenport-Bettendorf branch of AAUW, and is the new diversity director for AAUW Iowa. She can be reached at [jdhw.mba@gmail.com](mailto:jdhw.mba@gmail.com) and 661-208-5953.

## In Memoriam:

### Remembering Doris Adamson

Doris was a 50-year member of the Des Moines branch of AAUW, and participated in a varied interests group. Doris died at age 98 in April 2020.



## Member Survey

### Tell Us What You Think by April 11

Thanks to those who participated in the branch member survey. Ann Gale will summarize responses at the April 13 meeting. If you have not yet had an opportunity to participate, you may still do that at this link: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfUJJfDhe6wuZ-Jt-b8ZljTh\\_EBQrqk8HiBmD91kRMdNTGOoQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfUJJfDhe6wuZ-Jt-b8ZljTh_EBQrqk8HiBmD91kRMdNTGOoQ/viewform)

## Vote in the AAUW Election April 7—May 17

There is an AAUW election this spring, and all AAUW members are eligible to vote. This election includes a bylaws change to remove the degree requirement, and a vote on 2021-23 Public Policy Priorities. Voting will open April 7, 2021, and close May 17, 2021. You are encouraged to vote online, but you may request a paper ballot before April 16. You may find information about their rationale in the [Open Membership Toolkit](#). Information about Public Policy Priorities is linked [here](#).

## From the Board of Directors:

"The AAUW National Board of Directors strongly supports elimination of the degree requirement for membership and will put the requirement up for a membership vote this spring. This important change is a critical step in bringing AAUW's bylaws and membership requirement in line with our mission of advancing equity for women and girls. While AAUW is fiercely committed to the educational attainment of all women, given our commitment to inclusion, this is simply the right thing to do."