

# Branching Out

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

## Come to AAUW Iowa Lobby Day

Maureen White, AAUW Iowa Public Policy Director

Join your fellow AAUW members on Wednesday, February 13 for our yearly Lobby Day.

- We'll gather at 9:30 in Room 304 in the Capitol and wrap -up around 1:30.
- To get to Room 304, use the south entrance and go through security, then walk straight ahead toward the Capitol Tours/information desk and keep walking toward the end of the hall.
- The elevator that will take you to the third floor where Room 304 is located is on the right before you get to the end of the hall.
- We will provide information about issues, review strategies for communicating with legislators, legislature protocol, and of course meet with legislators.
- We recommend that you let legislators you want to meet with know that you will be at the Capitol and schedule a time to meet with them on the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Lunch will be on your own (a good time to meet with legislators).
- Information about parking, maps of the grounds and building, logistical information, etc. will be on our AAUW Iowa website [aauw-ia.aauw.net](http://aauw-ia.aauw.net)

If planning to attend, please let us know so that we can prepare sufficient materials for everyone. Bring others with you! Please contact Maureen White at [mwhite@cfu.net](mailto:mwhite@cfu.net) to help us with a number count.

## On the Basis of Sex—Drama

On the Basis of Sex is a movie about a young Ruth Bader Ginsberg as she battled gender discrimination in the courts. It stars Felicity Jones as Ginsberg and Armie Hammer as Marty Ginsberg. It is currently showing in several theaters in the Des Moines area. If you are interested in a group viewing, please get in touch with Ann Gale at 515-320-4404 or [ann.gale9@gmail.com](mailto:ann.gale9@gmail.com). No date has yet been set, but we will make an effort to choose a time that will work for most.

## Postcard Writing at Caribou Coffee

The Des Moines branch of AAUW will meet at 12:00 p.m. on February 18 at Caribou Coffee, 3220 Ingersoll Avenue, Des Moines, for a postcard writing event in the meeting room. We will provide postcards and addresses of members of congress, and some information about AAUW issues. Please come, have some coffee, and use this opportunity to communicate with national and state leaders about issues of importance to you.

## End Violence Against Women

Jerold Monahan, police chief in Arizona and a speaker for End Violence Against Women International, will be working with the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy this spring. He has spoken to AAUW branches Arizona in the past and is interested in speaking with members while he is in the area. We are exploring ways to involve more branches and more organizations to bring in a wider audience. Watch for more news on this.

## Nonprofit Status Update

The IRS revoked the nonprofit status of some branches of AAUW due to failure to file a 990n form in a timely way. AAUW Des Moines was one of the branches to experience this. The reinstatement process involves completing forms, providing financial information, and adding documents about the history of the branch. This collection of documents is sent to AAUW and is reviewed by them. After that review, AAUW covers the fee for the reinstatement application, and sends the documents to the IRS. The IRS reviews documents, and if everything is done correctly, reinstatement goes back to the date of revocation.

Ann Gale recently had a phone confirmation with Thomas Chappell, AAUW Finance Vice President. He has reviewed our documents and said that they look good. They are waiting to a check to accompany those documents to send to the IRS, and that will likely happen this week. There is typically a 6 month waiting period before the branch hears back from the IRS, and this delay will probably be much longer because of the partial government shutdown.

I will keep members informed about this process, but nothing will happen soon.

## International Relations Interest Group

Are you often intrigued by stories about other countries? Do you wish you knew more about the background of some international issues or what lies behind the news headlines? Your Des Moines Branch can help. A long-running interest group on International Relations would love to have you join us to study current events. We use the "Great Decisions" booklet put out each winter by the Foreign Policy Association, founded in 1918 to encourage Americans to learn more about our country and its interactions with others.

Each year we have 8 articles, each written by an expert in that particular field. They run between 8 and 12 pages long. This year's topics are global migration; Middle East; nuclear negotiations; nationalism in Europe; trade with China; cyber conflict; U.S. and Mexico; and state of diplomacy. The booklet costs \$32 plus postage, and you can order directly at [www.fpa.org](http://www.fpa.org) or 800-477-5836. All we ask is that members commit to reading each month's chapter and come ready to talk about it. Don't be intimidated — none of us are experts, just lifelong learners.

We currently meet from March through October on the fourth Monday of the month from 9:30 through 11:00 a.m. at the Scout Center on Southwest 63rd St. in Des Moines. If this time and/or location does not work for you, but you would like to participate, let us know. We are open to changes. Our group has gotten smaller over the years, and we could really use more members, so let's talk. For more information, contact Joanne Page at [page@dwx.com](mailto:page@dwx.com) or 243-5740.

## Proposed Educator Panel

At our holiday tea, we raised the issue of changes in education from the past to the present. We think that this would be an interesting topic for a program. If any of you have contacts with current teachers, please get in touch with a member of the leadership team: Joanne Page (515) 243-5740, Barb Zimany 515-254-9121, Barb Kester (515) 254-0269, Faith Sherman 515-278-2242, Sharon Gee (515) 274-8156, or Ann Gale (515) 320-4404.

## Save the date!

**AAUW Iowa Spring Conference**  
**9:00—4:00 on April 27**  
**DMACC Newton Campus**

## Sharon Gee Hosted Holiday Tea

Our group was small, but we had a lovely time at a holiday tea hosted by Sharon Gee in her home December 15. We enjoyed treats and told stories about our favorite holiday traditions and memoirs.

## Equal Pay Day

Maureen White, AAUW Iowa Public Policy Director

The annual Equal Pay Day is a symbolic date on which the average pay of women finally catches up to what men, overall, were paid the previous year. In addition to the Tuesday in April recognizing all women, there are additional Equal Pay Day recognitions throughout the year.

AAUW Iowa is planning a tabling event at the Iowa Capitol from 2-4 PM for the April 2 Equal Pay Day, staffed primarily by the members of the Des Moines branch. We'll also provide information to each legislator as we've done the past several years. At our table in the rotunda, we will provide pay gap information for the public, recommendations for legislative remedies to close the gap, AAUW membership brochures, and Payday candy bars. Please come to the Capitol building and help us draw attention to the gender pay gap.



### Equal Pay Dates 2019—AAUW

- Tuesday, April 2—**All Women's Equal Pay Day** (women overall v. men overall - \$0.80)
- Tuesday, March 5—**Asian American Women's Equal Pay Day** (Asian women v. white, non-Hispanic men - \$0.85)
- Friday, April 19—**White Women's Equal Pay Day** (white, non-Hispanic women v. white, non-Hispanic men - \$0.77)
- Thursday, August 22—**Black Women's Equal Pay Day** (Black women v. white, non-Hispanic men - \$0.61)
- Monday, September 23—**Native Women's Equal Pay Day** (Native Women v. white, non-Hispanic men - \$0.58)
- Wednesday, November 20—**Latinas' Equal Pay Day** (Latinas v. white, non-Hispanic men - \$0.53)
- **Moms Equal Pay Day**—TBD