

# BRANCHING OUT

OUR MISSION: *Advancing Equity for Women and girls through advocacy, education, and research*

May 2014

## GRAND VIEW ART PROFESSOR TO SPEAK AT MAY 19 ANNUAL MEETING

Rachel Merrill-Schwaller, Assistant Professor of Art and Design at Grand View University will be our speaker on May 19. "What a Girl Wants: Women Artists and the Influence of the Female Perspective in Art History" will be her topic. The annual meeting will begin at 6:30 with a light supper at the Northwest Community Center, 5110 Franklin Ave.

### Agenda Item

A point of discussion will be how to use our \$4505.76 recovered from the Great Iowa Treasure Hunt. Last year we agreed to hold on to it until after our centennial celebration in case we had unexpected major expenses. Instead our expenses amounted to just \$553.99 for facility rental and cake. We also voted during the year to send \$500 in support of the University of Iowa's planned Tech Trek summer STEM camp for girls that was to be jointly sponsored by AAUW, but that endeavor did not work out at that site and our money was returned. We are in the process of polling members to determine if we approve the motion, made by Amy Getty and recommended by the leadership team, to award Grand View senior Ella Heinicke \$500 to attend the NCCWSL in June. Our leadership team has further recommended that we give \$2000 to increase the Lois Dell Child Development scholarship fund at DMACC, and retain the rest for some future project, perhaps supporting girls entering STEM fields.

*We're now on*

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*[www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.Des.Moines)*

*[AAUW.Des.Moines](https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.Des.Moines), or*

*just type in AAUW Des*

*Moines the next time*

*you log on. Find out*

*about events and*

*issues!*



The Des Moines Branch at Hoyt Sherman for the Centennial Celebration

## In This Issue

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## Leadership Team Ballot

Election of the leadership team for 2014-15 will be held at the May 19th meeting. The current team, acting as the nominating committee, is recommending the following for your vote:

Faith Sherman  
Administrative Contact  
(President)

Barb Zimany  
Financial Contact  
(Treasurer)

Amy Getty  
Communications and  
Membership Chair

Mary Harlan  
Public Policy Chair

Elaine Avgerinos

JoAnne Cook

Fran Shoop

Sharon Gee

## Email?

Would you rather save the some trees and receive this newsletter in email? If so, please send your email address to Amy Getty at [agetty@grandview.edu](mailto:agetty@grandview.edu)

# REFLECTIONS ON OUR BRANCH CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

## By Faith Sherman

April 11 was a wonderful evening in so many ways! Our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala, "Blooming for a Century: Thriving for the Future," certainly exceeded my expectations, starting off with delightful weather. Hoyt Sherman Place, with its lovely ambiance and historical significance, proved to be a lovely site, just right for our big event.

Special guests included:

Betsy McDowell from the AAUW Board of Directors; Jennifer Dillard, AAUW State Organizer; Kathleen (Wood) Laurila, past Branch and State President, Upper Midwest Director, International Affairs Director, and IFUW Status of Women Committee Member; Sandra Keist-Wilson, past branch and state President; Betty Durden and her granddaughter Erin Romar, Kathy Wallace, Jean Williams, and former members Marilyn Farr, Anne Driscoll, and Jane Magers.

There were 90 in attendance; that's special in itself! Greetings came in from Mary Wiberg, Alice McKee, Sylvie Barge, and Ronda Armstrong.

An art display of beautiful works by members throughout the state, including our own Elaine Avgerinos and JoAnn Van Balen in the south gallery set the stage for the evening's program.

Our extensive AAUW archive, on loan to the State Historical Library in Des Moines from their home in Iowa City, held a wealth of history that combined with the mementoes that members supplied to allow a fine display of interesting items from our past. Marilyn Farr brought her video projector containing pictures of the trip to China that some members took in 1978.

The dinner in the north gallery catered by HyVee's Market Grille on 86<sup>th</sup> was delicious, with cake, centerpieces, and programs provided by our Branch.

Events of the evening included a parade of representatives from the various branches dressed in colorful costumes to represent the time of their founding, including me in my grandmother's shawl and black skirt.

Membership awards included our Branch for its 9.8 percent increase.

Our leadership team and Ruth Anne Petrak delivered a history of our Branch. I will be happy to give anyone a copy — just call me at 278-2242 or email at [wsherman41@gmail.com](mailto:wsherman41@gmail.com).

The evening was capped off with the presentation of the AAUW Equity award to Betty Durden for her lifelong commitment and leadership in the promotion and achievement of equity for women and girls. Her terrific response, challenging us to be watchful and assertive in equity issues, brought the audience to its feet.

The successful celebration was a team effort. I especially want to thank the leadership team: Fran Shoop for arranging the dinner, Elaine Avgerinos for providing music during the evening, making AAUW display pieces that were inserted into the centerpieces, and bringing her art for display, JoAnn Cook for her help in arranging and taking down the Branch display, Mary Harlan for planning the content of the programs, Barb Zimany for helping to select items from our archives for display, Amy Getty for making the centerpieces and designing and printing the programs, and Le Thomas for her help and advice. Sharon Gee and Paula Stewart provided hospitality. Special thanks goes to Kathy Wallace who underwrote the cost of the program printing and centerpieces.



Betty Durden receiving the AAUW Equity Award from Faith Sherman

## Flag to be Donated

The U.S. flag that we received from National in recognition of our Branch centennial and our being the oldest Branch in the state will be presented to the Northwest Community Center in thanks for our free use of their facilities. This flag flew over the Capitol in Washington at AAUW 130th anniversary.

## Membership Renewal Time!

Our AAUW 2014-15 fiscal year begins July 1, 2014. It's time to send in your membership renewal check, in support of the work of AAUW at the local, state, and national levels.

### Please make all checks out to AAUW.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

New or renewal? \_\_\_\_\_

If new:

College/University \_\_\_\_\_

Year Graduated \_\_\_\_\_

Major \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Send a check for \$67.00 for FULL DUES (national, State, and Des Moines).

If you are already a national member (dues already paid or gifted through graduation), you can join the Iowa and Des Moines branches for just \$18.

Mail checks made out to **AAUW** to:

Barb Zimany (AAUW Des Moines Treasurer)  
10021 Valdez Dr.  
Urbandale, IA 50322.

This covers membership at the local, state, and national levels through June 30, 2015.

# ISSUES SURFACE AT STATE AAUW LOBBY DAY

AAUW members had the chance to question and hear from three Iowa legislators, Ames Dem. Senator Quimback, Des Moines Dem. Representative Gaines, and Mason City Rep. Representative Dolcek on March 11. Issues included universal quality preschool, restoration of funding for the AEAs, increased community college support, and increased oversight of home schooling and charter schools. AAUW Organizer Jennifer Dillard was present to help with arrangements.



## Community Activism

To continue our support for the Young Women's Resource Center, we have agreed to provide much needed supper for 30-35 young women and their mentors and resource people.

You can learn more about their mission at their website: <http://www.ywrc.org/>

The food will need to be dropped off at their building at 818 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., by 5:00 on June 2, or by 4:00 at Faith Sherman's home.

You will have the chance to sign up to participate at the May 19 annual meeting.

## Did you know...

State conference highlights can be found on the AAUW Iowa website? go to <http://www.aauwiowa.org/>, or click the image below.



## Thank You, Le!

After years of dedication, Le Thomas has decided to step away from the leadership team. Please thank her for all her service as Communications Chair and with the newsletter the next time you see her!

Help us welcome two new members!

JoAnn Van Balen  
6001 Crestin #16  
Des Moines, IA 50321

Erin Romar  
4873 Woodland Ave #5  
West Des Moines, IA 50266



Also, please consider giving a Mother's Day gift to the Young Women's Resource Center in memory or in honor of your mother.

Mail a check to the YWRC, 818 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Des Moines 50309.



Give a Grad a Gift

Do as Betty Durden did for her granddaughter Erin Romar. AAUW members can give a recent graduate a free one-year membership in AAUW, at no cost! Give a free membership to anyone who has graduated in the last year, who has earned either an associates, bachelors, or doctorates degree, who is not currently a regular member of AAUW.

Go to <http://www.aauw.org/grad-gift/> to do this online, or fill out the form below.

Graduate's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

College/University \_\_\_\_\_

Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Giver's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Des Moines, Iowa, AAUW Branch

Mail to: AAUW Membership Department, 1111 16th St. NW Washington DC 20036

Please let Faith Sherman, 278-2242, know before you mail in this form.

## State AAUW Conference

Our Branch centennial celebration was only the beginning. The State conference continued on Saturday, April 12, at the Blank Park Zoo. It was filled with interesting speakers and resources. Rekha Basu was the terrific keynote speaker, who shared many women's stories of suppression and danger around the world.

"Lens of Faith" was an outstanding panel discussion of issues that women face globally, examined from different faith perspectives. The Rev. Sarai Schnucker Rice moderated the panel, consisting of Dr. Rizwan, Muslim pediatrician, Dr. Nikky-Guninder Kaur Singh, Sikh professor of religion at Colby College, Norene Mostkoff, Jewish President and CEO of HCI Care Services and Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa, and Dr. Kajal Madeka (nee 'Shah), Hindu anthropologist and historian.

Shanna Greene Benjamin assistant professor of English at Grinnell College and AAUW Fellow, spoke about Nellie Y. McKay a co-editor of the Norton Anthology of African American Literature, and the subject of her biography. Kristen Galles, an LAF attorney, talked about her experiences working with Title IX athletic issues. Betsy McDowell was a special guest from the AAUW Board of Directors who shared many new AAUW initiatives and accomplishments.

At the silent auction, which raised \$1403 for AAUW funds, JoAnne Cook's flower arrangement brought in \$25.

Amy Getty was elected the State VP for Membership.



Silent Auction Items

# INTEREST GROUP CALENDAR

## Modern Ideas

Thursday, May 8th, 6:00 p.m. — at the Perkins on Merle Hay. Please note the time change.

## Contemporary Literature

Wednesday, May 28th, 1-3 p.m. — Planning meeting for next year at Janet Wilson's home. Contact her for details.

Wednesday, June 25th, 1-3 p.m. — discussion of The Weird Sisters by Eleanor Brown. At Sharon Gee's home. Contact her for details.

## Women Searching for Self

Thursday, May 8th, 12:30 p.m. — at the Cosi Cucina on Urbandale. Contact Fran Shoop for more details.

## International Relations

Monday May, 19th, 9:30 a.m. at the Urbandale Library. Please contact Mavis Hertzberg for details.

## Contact Us

The Leadership Team is at your service.

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AAUW — Empowering Women Since 1881

### AAUW Des Moines

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