

BRANCHING OUT

OUR MISSION: *Advancing Equity for Women and girls through advocacy, education, and research* **Summer 2015**

REMEMBER to RENEW!

Membership dues of \$67.00 will be due by June 30. You can mail your checks made out to AAUW along with the form on page three or bring them to the June 1 annual meeting.

MAUREEN WHITE TO SPEAK AT JUNE 1, 2015, ANNUAL MEETING

The State AAUW President Maureen White will speak at our June 1 Branch annual meeting. She will be talking about her concern for the children of Iowa who may be harmed by more inclusive home schooling legislation and lowered standards.

Our life members will be recognized, including our newest, Mary Harlan. The AAUW Title IX Champion awards will be presented to Charlotte Nelson and Lori SchraderBachar. For the election of officers, Brittany Cottrill has been nominated for a position on the Leadership Team. Brittany teaches at Grand View University. See the ballot on page 4 for all members of the proposed leadership team for 2015-16.

The meeting will be held at the Northwest Community Center, 5110 Franklin. It will begin at 5:30 with a light supper provided by the Leadership Team.



Members enjoy the presentation of Cathy Beck-Cross at our April meeting.

In This Issue

- Year End Meeting June 1st
- Preview of June 22nd Outing
- Membership Renewal Time!
- Recap of April Meeting
- Upcoming dates!

AAUW-IA JOINS THE
INTERFAITH
ALLIANCE MORAL
MONDAY MEETINGS.

Through the month of April, Connie Ryan Terrell, Executive Director of the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa and Action Fund, organized weekly noon meetings at the Capitol with like-minded progressive organizations, legislators, and experts on a number of topics supported by AAUW.

Ruth Anne Petrak, Sharon Gee and Faith Sherman represented our Branch at these meetings. Topics included managed care, budget support for public schools, and medical cannabis.

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

MARCH 30 BRANCH MEETING LOOKED AT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Dawn Taylor spoke about the frightening, pervasive and dangerous activities of human trafficking and sexual violence internationally and right here in central Iowa. Who are the traffickers and the victims, how do traffickers control these victims, why don't they seek help, and how can we help? These were some of the issues Dawn discussed. Besides calling 911 if we observe a questionable activity going on, there is a national toll free number, 1-888-3737-888, that is set up to deal specifically with trafficking problems. If you call that number you will get an immediate call back to report your observation.

The Iowa Senate recently passed SF 450 making trafficking a forcible felony, and requiring the Attorney General's office to develop assistance programs, training for law enforcement officers, and the Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning to collect data to educate about and prevent human trafficking. It lacks adequate funding, according to Taylor. The House has not yet passed a similar bill. We are encouraged to contact our representative to advocate for this issue.

Kathie Farris, President of the Indianola AAUW Branch, spoke to us about the AAUW Tech Trek summer camp for middle school girls they are co-sponsoring with Simpson College. It will be held June 21-27. Eighth grade girls from Weeks, Brody, and McCombs schools in Des Moines and Indianola, Interstate 35, Carlisle, Southeast Warren, Norwalk and Martinsdale-St. Marys schools in Warren County have been accepted. Through hands-on workshops, exposure to female role models, and educational field trips, the girls will be encouraged to see themselves as future scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and computer scientists. The Indianola Branch received a \$10,000 AAUW grant, and the 55 girls will pay just \$50 to attend.

Our Branch voted to contribute \$500 to the program. Sharon Gee, Brittany Cottrill, Barb Zimany and Faith Sherman have volunteered to help. If you would like to join them for a morning or afternoon of that week, please contact Faith Sherman at 278-2242.

We voted to give \$75 to the three Branch members who represented us at the state AAUW conference April 10-11 at the University of Northern Iowa: Barb Zimany, Mary Harlan, and Faith Sherman. Amy Getty, as State Membership Chair, also attended the conference.

Membership Renewal Time!

IT'S JUNE—TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

As the fiscal year draws to a close June 30th, it is time to renew your membership in AAUW. Dues remain at \$67.00 for three levels of membership: local, state, and national. Please use the form below to send with your check to Barb Zimany.

Please make all payable 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, 2016.

**Des Moines Branch
Leadership Team Ballot
2015-16**

Faith Sherman, President

Barb Zimany, Treasurer

Brittany Cottrill

Sharon Gee

Amy Getty

Mary Harlan

Fran Shoop

*We're now on
Facebook!*

*Join us at [https://
www.facebook.com/
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!*

IN MEMORIAM

**Our Branch lost two former
branch members in March,
and we extend our sympathy
to their families:**

Mary Williams on March 11

Edith Ahern on March 20

**STATE AAUW
CONFERENCE,
APRIL 10-11**

A lineup of interesting speakers challenged participants on a variety of topics, including Helen Gunderson and Leigh Adcock on "Women in Agriculture: an Iowa perspective, Mike Ferjak from the Attorney General's office on human trafficking in Iowa, and ReShonda Young, a young entrepreneur on "Pay Equity: the Power of one."

Our Branch supplied a basket of challenging STEM-related games and puzzles to the silent auction to help raise money for AAUW Funds. Our Branch's basket raised \$15 for AAUW Funds.

The total raised was \$1,354. Fourteen branches participated, donating 44 auction items. After the fun of bidding, buyers went home with all sorts of great treasures.

Mary Harlan was recognized as a new life member. Title IX Champion awards were presented in absentia to Charlotte Nelson and Lori Schrader-Bachar. There were 65 people in attendance, representing 19 of Iowa's 27 branches.

**YWRC SUPPER
PROVIDED ON
May 4.**

We volunteered to provide a beefburger supper at the Young Women's Resource Center on May 4. On Mondays and Wednesdays clients who are at risk, girls and young mothers, meet with counselors, mentors, and staff over a meal to discuss the problems and challenges facing the girls and to provide encouragement, help and fun for them. Thanks to Branch members Elaine Avgerinos, Fran Shoop, Amy Getty, Sharon Gee, Barbara Colvig, JoAnne Cook, and Faith Sherman for providing food items.



**TREASURER'S
REPORT**

We had \$5200 in our treasury and 54 members as of March 30.

JOIN US FOR A SUMMER OUTING AT THE BOTANICAL GARDENS ON TUESDAY, JUNE 30

We are planning to meet at the Botanical Gardens for lunch at 11:30 and a tour of the newly designed and enlarged grounds. Come and bring a friend. Admission is \$7.00.

SUICIDE WAS THE TOPIC AT THE APRIL 27 GENERAL BRANCH MEETING

Dr. Cathy Beck-Cross, Assistant Professor of Social Work at Grand View University, gave a talk entitled "In the Prime of their Lives: Understanding what you can do about youth and young adult suicide." She brought a lot of insight and information about the problem.



"SOLVING THE EQUATION" IS NEWEST AAUW RESEARCH REPORT

AAUW has just published the newest in a distinguished line of research reports, "Solving the Equation: the variables for women's success in engineering and computing". It addresses the low number of women, 12 and 26 per cent, in engineering and computing professions.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Two recent graduates from Grand View University received AAUW membership invitations from Amy Getty.

We welcome Donna Smith from Grimes and Helen Hinshaw, from Des Moines!

We also welcome new branch member Katy Knight!

C/U NEWS.

The Grand View CU group has raised money to help send three representatives to attend the AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in Washington, DC, this May. All three wrote essays for and received national scholarships. The University provided additional support, and Dr. Brittany Cottrill will also be attending as their faculty advisor.

AAUW Des Moines
c/o Amy Getty
804 Grandview Ave
Des Moines, IA 50316

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Upcoming Dates

Now—June 19 — All members are eligible to vote electronically at home. Go to aauw.org for details.

May 25 — 9:30 a.m. — International Relations Group. Contact Barb Zimany for details.

May 27 — 1-3 p.m. — Contemporary Literature Book Group. Contact Barb Zimany for details.

June 1 — Branch annual meeting at 5:30 p.m. at the Northwest Community Center, 5110 Franklin, Des Moines

June 18 — 21 — National AAUW Biennial Convention in San Diego.

June 30 — Botanical Gardens lunch and tour at 11:30. Admission is \$7.00.

June 21 — 27 — Tech Trek summer camp for middle school girls at Simpson College

June 24 — 1-3 p.m. — Contemporary Literature Book Group. Contact Amy Getty for details.

Contact Us

The Leadership Team is at your service.

Faith Sherman, President
wsherman41@gmail.com

Elaine Avgerinos
elaineavgerinos@gmail.com

Fran Shoop
fshoop1@aol.com

JoAnne Cook
cookiejar1958@gmail.com

Barb Zimany, Treasurer
bzimany@aol.com

Mary Harlan,
mrharlan@juno.com

Amy Getty,
agetty@grandview.edu

Sharon Gee,
derfgee@mchsi.com