

Branching Out

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

Change of Location for May Meeting—Legislative Wrap-Up with Connie Ryan

Our May 21 meeting has been changed to the **Conference Room D at the Kirkendall Library**, 1250 SW District Dr, Ankeny. The meeting is at 10:00 a.m. Connie Ryan, Director of the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa, will present a legislative wrap-up. The room has a capacity of 10, so it would accommodate our typical crowd, but would probably not be large enough for a lot of guests. Note that the earlier plan was for a brunch, but you should not expect to eat at this event.



Connie Ryan

This spring there have been attacks on public education, attempts to remove books from school libraries, and the leaked Supreme Court opinion suggesting that they are poised to reverse *Roe v. Wade*. Please come to this meeting prepared to write letters and postcards to elected officials about some of these issues. Ann Gale will bring postcards and AAUW support materials.

May Book Club

Amy Getty will review *Convenience Store Woman*, by Sayaka Murata on May 25 at 1:00 p.m. The book club will be held using zoom over the usual link.

Book Club Planning Meeting

Books will be chosen for the next year on June 8 at 1:00 p.m. Watch for upcoming information about the location.

Annual Meeting June 15

The Annual Meeting will be June 15 at 11:30, on Faith Sherman's patio at 3928 Twana Drive in Des Moines. This will be a brown bag lunch. Faith will provide napkins and beverages.

At that time we will elect officers for 2022-23. Current officers are Ann Gale, President; Joanne Page, Membership Vice President; and Janet Pickerell, Treasurer. Current officers have agreed to continue in those positions, and nominations will also be accepted from the floor. We will also do some planning for 2022-23. Please come with ideas about programs that would be of interest for the upcoming year.

The 1619 Project

There has been a lot of interest in *The 1619 Project*, by Iowa native Nikole Hannah-Jones. It was originally published in the New York Times in 2019. In 2021, the book was released, with a lot of new material. The Algona and Keokuk branches of AAUW both did studies of *The 1619 Project* within the past year. In addition to the reading material, study activities included podcasts and talks from guest speakers. Members of those branches did a joint presentation and the recent spring conference in Johnston. Members of several branches are interested in doing a study of this material. There is much more here

than could be covered in one session of a book club. Some groups have held a series of 6 sessions over a course of 6 or 12 weeks. Dev Kiedaisch, the presenter from the Keokuk branch, pointed out the importance of including people of color in the discussion. If you are interested in participating, please get in touch with Ann Gale at 515-320--4404 or ann.gale9@gmail.com, or Joanne Page at (515) 243-5740 or page@dwx.com. Expect further discussion in the future about scheduling, inviting other branches to participate, etc.

Amy Getty Receives Two Awards at Spring Conference

Each year, AAUW Iowa AAUW recognizes a distinguished faculty member at the spring conference. This year the honoree was Dr. Amy Getty, Professor of English at Grand View University. The award is based on the faculty member's exemplary contribution toward creating a climate of gender equity in education in the state of Iowa. When Elaine Kresse, the AAUW Iowa College / University Director, read the letters of recommendation for Amy, she was so impressed that she wanted to create an entirely new award in addition to the one for which Dr. Getty was nominated. Therefore, this year Amy was give the Distinguished Faculty Award, and was also given the Distinguished AAUW Iowa Promoter award to recognize Amy's work with outreach and marketing. Congratulations Amy! We are proud of you.



Dr. Amy Getty and Elaine Kresse

Catherine Evans, 1918-2019

Catherine Evans was a member of AAUW, as well as the League of Women Voters. Her obituary says that she grew up in Des Moines and graduated from Roosevelt HS as

Salutatorian in 1934, two years ahead of her class. She went on to graduate from Grinnell College. She married and lived in Cedar Falls and Spencer before moving back to Des Moines.



50 Year Members Recognized at Spring Conference



AAUW Iowa recognized members who had reached 50 years of membership or more at the spring conference. The Des Moines branch of AAUW has several members who have reached 50 or more years of membership. Certificates were given to Faith Sherman and Kathleen Wood Laurila at the conference. One was delivered to Frances Shoop in Johnston. Certificates will be mailed to Joy Averill, Grace Beasley, Carol Edwards, Beverly Liebold, Gloria Lintner, and Jean Williams.

Left: Kathleen Wood Laurila and Faith Sherman

Dues for 2022-23

Our membership year goes from July 1 through the following June 30. Membership opens on March 15 – in other words, you can pay dues for membership anytime from that point on, and your membership will continue through June of the following year. If you have a friend who is interested in joining AAUW, please encourage her to join on or after March 15 for the best deal. The national AAUW office has announced that dues for fiscal year 23 are \$67, \$64 or which are tax-deductible. Branch dues are \$10, and AAUW Iowa dues are \$10, making the total \$87. Members may pay dues online by logging onto the AAUW member hub using the procedures described

by Joanne Page earlier in this newsletter. The national website has recently undergone some revisions, so if you have some difficulty, you may wish to give them a few more weeks before doing it that way. Or, you can always pay dues by mailing a check payable to AAUW to treasurer Janet Pickerell at 915 NW Prairie Ridge Dr., Ankeny, IA 50023. Paid life members or honorary life members who have reached 50 years of membership are exempt from paying dues. If life members would like to pay state and branch dues as a friendly gesture, that would be appreciated.