

Branching Out

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

AAUW Iowa to Host Program on the Reckless Gun Rights Amendment

Connie Ryan, with Interfaith Alliance of Iowa and Iowans for Responsible Gun Laws will present a program on the Reckless Gun Rights Amendment on September 13 at 7:00 p.m. using zoom. All AAUW members in Iowa are invited to participate. The gun rights amendment is dangerous, because it adds the words “strict scrutiny” when it refers to gun rights. The effect of this language is to tip the balance in favor of gun rights above considerations of public health and safety. [Find more information here.](#) The program will prepare members to discuss the issue with family and friends. Please mark your calendars and join in in September. A link will be sent closer to that date.

September 13 was the original date for our next “antique quest” similar to one that we did last year at the Brass Armadillo. Informing everyone about the gun rights amendment is important, so we gave it priority. Expect another antique quest opportunity in the spring.



Nikole Hannah-Jones at Stephens Auditorium at ISU

Nikole Hannah-Jones, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The 1619 Project*, will speak at C Y Stephens Auditorium on November 2 at 6:00 for “A Conversation about the 1619 Project.”

Hannah-Jones has spent her career investigating racial inequality and injustice, and has earned numerous awards. She is originally from Waterloo, Iowa, and currently serves as the Knight Chair of Race and Journalism at Howard University. This event is a Manatt-Phelps lecture in Political Science, and is open to the public. [Find more information here.](#)



Members and friends who are interested in carpooling from the Des Moines area to attend the event are encouraged to meet between 4:50 and 5:00 in the parking lot near Office Depot, 4347 Merle Hay Road, in Haymarket Square on November 2nd. Please contact Ann Gale at 515-320-4404 or ann.gale9@gmail.com to let her know you plan to come, and please arrive early enough that we can be on our way at 5:00.

Date Change for Mary Helen Stefaniak at Beaverdale Books in November

Mary Helen Stefaniak’s “meet the author” event at Beaverdale Books has been rescheduled to November 15 at 6:30. The original date conflicted with Nikole Hannah-Jones at ISU. The new date for Mary Helen’s event will mean that members can attend both events. Mary Helen’s visit will highlight her two most recent books. *The World of Pondsides* is a high-tech thriller set in a nursing

home. Her newest book, *The Six Minute Memoir: Fifty-five Short Essays on Life*, will be published in October. [Find more information here.](#)

Members are invited to meet her for dinner at Christopher’s at 5:00, and then go to the book event at Beaverdale Books at 6:30. Friends are also welcome.



Strategy Planning to Push for ERA

Doris Kelley has invited AAUW members to join her in a zoom call with AJ Conroy, an attorney who is working with the ERA Coalition. That meeting will be held September 12 at 10:00 a.m. To join, click on this link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86445002032?pwd=SnpEYXd1Vm1jekhUOGg1eGVaTctEdz09>

Meeting ID: 864 4500 2032
Passcode: 341180

View ERA Video in October

Members of the Des Moines branch of AAUW will meet at the Kirkendall Library, 1250 District Drive, Ankeny, at 7:00 p.m. on October 4. We will watch the new video about the effort to pass the Equal Rights Amendment, and make some plans about possible action steps, and begin the process of moving forward. Members who would like to take a look at that video before then can [find it here](#). A link is also available on the AAUW Iowa website. This is the video that Doris Kelley spoke about at the spring conference.

<https://hardwonotdone.com/#video-title>



Mark Your Calendar for 1619 Project

We will be studying The 1619 Project, by Nikole-Hannah Jones on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. beginning on January 3 with ground rules and preface. We will cover 2 chapters weekly through March 7. Feel free to invite your friends. Members of AAUW branches in Iowa will also be invited. A zoom link will be sent closer to those dates.



Interfaith Alliance Award Celebration

The Interfaith Alliance of Iowa will have their annual award celebration on August 29 at the Meadows Event Center in Altoona. There will be a reception at 5:45 and a dinner and program at 6:45. The cost for an individual in-person reservation is \$125. You may also attend virtually on YouTube. The keynote speaker is Deborah Turner, MD, JD. Faith and Freedom award recipients are Gavy Smith, March for Our Lives Iowa, and Senator Sarah Trone Garriott. More information is available at www.interfaithallianceiowa.org/.



Renew Branch Membership Now

Annual dues for regular AAUW members is \$67, plus \$10 for state dues, and \$10 for branch dues. \$3 of the national dues goes to the AAUW Action Fund's lobby corps and get out the vote activities. This portion of your dues is not tax deductible, but the other \$64 is tax deductible as a charitable contribution. If you would like to renew your dues online, it is possible to do that through the AAUW membership hub. Ann Gale has done this and promises that it worked, and she received an email receipt quickly.

Many of you will prefer to handle this through the US Mail. In that case, please send your check to treasurer Janet Pickerell, 915 NW Prairie Ridge Dr, Ankeny, IA 50023-1548. Janet can be reached for questions at jmpickerell49@gmail.com or (515) 210-3222.

Lifetime members of AAUW include those who paid extra for this status, and those who have been members for 50 years. We congratulate all of them and thank them for their years of advocacy. Lifetime members are not required to pay dues.



Branch Holiday Tea at Sharon Gee's Home

Sharon Gee will host a holiday tea at her home on December 10 from 2:00—4:00. Members are encouraged to come with an appetizer or sweet treat. Sharon lives at 4323 Grand Avenue, Apt 427. Please park in the back. There is an intercom in the breezeway of the building. Contact Sharon from the breezeway, and she will buzz you into the building. Call Sharon with questions at 515-274-8156.