



News By Degrees

SCHAUMBURG AREA BRANCH

AUGUST—OCTOBER 2021

President's Message

As I watch in awe the athletes who are in Olympic competition I am reminded of our AAUW focus on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). One of our 2021-2022 AAUW Biennial Action Priorities is to: guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society. On one hand aren't you so impressed with Suni Lee, the first Hmong American to be in the Olympics and the first Asian American to win a gold medal? What about Lydia Jacoby... Lydia Jacoby at only 17, an Olympic swimmer who came from Alaska where there is only one 50 meter pool in the state! On the other end of the "age spectrum" we have the oldest Olympians, like 66-year-old Australian equestrian Mary Hanna, who brings ex-

perience and wisdom to the games. Great news, isn't it that breastfeeding Olympians are now permitted to bring their infants to the games?



However, some of these stories remind us that there is more work yet to do. Masomah Ali Zada an Afghan refugee in the Olympic Women's Cycling event, serves as an inspiration to many women in a country where "riding a bike serves as a political event". However, she cannot return to her country, residing with her family in France.

Female Olympian who excelled in sand handball from Norway are saying no to bikini bottoms. These athletes were fined for wearing shorts rather than bikini bottoms during their event. I would be remiss if I did not include Simone Biles in my notes here. As the most decorated U.S. women's gymnast ever with 31 World/Olympic medals, she deserves our thanks for all she has done and our prayers for a healthy life ahead. We see a lot of diversity in these Olympics. According to the AAUW DEI Toolkit, "Diversity means variety and is all about what makes us unique". The AAUW DEI Toolkit is a valuable resource for us as we do our work on the AAUW mission: To advance gender equity for wom-

Upcoming Events

- *Jewel card orders due:* August 16
- *General Meeting:* September 9
- *Mum order pick up:* September 10
- *Novel Approach:* September 20
- *Celebrating Women:* October 4
- *Novel Approach:* October 11
- *General Meeting:* October 14

General Meeting

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion - Thursday September 9, 6:30 pm via Zoom
Bring dinner, dessert or a special beverage to enjoy while catching up a bit with branch friends before we begin our program.
In support of initiatives from AAUW National and State our kick-off program will introduce and focus on dimensions of diversity, equity and inclusion. The AAUW website offers a wonderful tool kit that we will review together as our guideline for discussion.

The AAUW Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) resources aim to identify best practices for promoting diversity, equity and inclusion within AAUW. All of us might be surprised to learn what diversity, equity & inclusion mean.
***In lieu of our traditional September Salad Supper and because our September meeting is virtual we are suggesting that anyone able to get together for lunch meet at Panera at 830 N

Meacham Rd, Schaumburg at noon on September 9. Weather permitting we will gather on the patio.***
-Mary and Lynn



Attachments

- Mum Order Form
- Public Policy Updates
- Equal Pay Dates

Celebrating Women



The first Celebrating Women interest group will meet via Zoom on Monday, October 4th from 1pm to 2pm. Since September 15 to October 15 is Hispanic Heritage Month, we will take a deep dive into the life and works of Frida Kahlo, the famous Mexican painter and feminist. In preparation for this discussion, we suggest you attend the presentation of her work which is on display at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, IL. The exhibit is at COD thru September 6. Here is a link to their site for tickets: <https://www.atthemac.org/events/cleveland-carney-frida-kahlo/>

If you will not be going to the COD exhibit, there are other ways to learn more about this famous artist. You can watch the 2002 movie *Frida* with Oscar nominated Selma Hayek in her role as Frida. *Frida* can be watched on Amazon Prime, where I also see a more recent 2019 documentary. There are a plethora of magazine articles (i.e., [smithsonianmag](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/)) and books that she has written as well as books written about her (i.e., [goodreads](https://www.goodreads.com/)) which will also allow you to better understand her life and work. Kathy and I will send out some discussion questions in advance but please put this on your calendar. We will be recognizing a famous artist who also was a strong feminist of Hispanic heritage. *-Kathy and Peg*



President's message continued

en and girls through research, education, and advocacy. AAUW has charged us with *create[ing] a branch diversity and inclusion plan to help shape and guide our efforts. This plan will help us ensure that our efforts are well thought-out, organized, and in alignment with the broader goals for your branch...a diversity plan is meant to serve as a guide to help organize our programming and efforts to maximize the results.*

At the July branch board meeting, the board voted to add these goals for the 2021-22 year: (1) Develop Branch Diversity and Inclusion Plan and (2) Infuse AAUW Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion toolkit into branch programming and interest groups. These efforts will serve as a guide for the work we will do to support gender equity. At our September meeting we can review and affirm our support for our branch goals. Throughout the year, we will add action steps to these goals.

The branch board also discussed how we

will best provide programming to our members this year. In an effort to be inclusive to all members, (i.e., some who live out of town, some who are employed, some who have young children, some who are immunocompromised) we decided to diversify our programming. I want to send a special shout out to our programming chairs, Lynn and Mary, who have planned programming that will help with these diverse needs. We have become very good at interacting and learning virtually so that will continue, while we will also be back working with the Schaumburg Township Library with face-to-face programming. Of course all safety recommendations will be adhered to and changes will continue to abound I suspect. It is good to know that our membership is strong and our mission is focused. I am looking forward to another great year in AAUW.

- Peg

Mum Sale

Once again we are holding our Fall Mum Sale from our Michigan grower. The mums last year were huge and spectacular. Although not guaranteed, I placed my mums in the dirt over the winter and several of them came back. Three sets are now thriving and blooming in my summer garden.

The size of the mum will be a 12 inch pot and the colors are still dark red, bronze (orange), purple, yellow, and white. All orders are due to Judy L. by August 10th. See the attached form. Please fill it out and send it to Judy L. as stated on the form. Include your check made out to Schaumburg AAUW. Pick up will be September 10th at Judy S.'s house. Thank you for supporting our scholarship fundraiser. *- Judy S*

Jewel Fundraiser

This summer has really flown by, and I hope that it's been an enjoyable one for everyone.



Since we are now into August, it's almost time for our first Jewel Gift Card Fundraiser for the 2021-2022 branch year.

I would like to place our gift card order on Monday evening, August 16th. If you would like to be included in this order, please let me know the denominations that you would like to purchase. Amounts can be \$5 to \$250 per gift card. Please make your check payable to Schaumburg Area AAUW and mailed to Barb at her new home address (since Jan/Feb).

Thank you very much for your continued support of the Jewel fundraiser. Please contact me if you every have any questions about the cards.

- Sue

Novel Approach

The Four Winds

by Kristin Hanna

Discussion: September 20

Kristin Hanna is a bestselling author of more than 20 award winning novels including *The Nightingale and the Great Alone*. This book is a fictional American epic about the struggles of a family during the Great Depression that is based on love, heroism, and hope. It's a story of Elsa Wolcott and her family's fight to survive the 1934 Dust Bowl during this time of crisis when millions were out of work and drought devastated the Great Plains. It begins with Elsa harboring huge doubts about herself and her future. The novel explores how she conquers every hardship that is thrown at her and displays a strength and courage that can inspire all of us today. I extremely enjoyed reading this book and found it hard to put down.

We will offer this discussion virtually and in person at Judy S.'s house at 1:00.

Membership

We would like to welcome two new members, Jessica and Laura, who joined our branch this summer. They will be second-generation members of our branch as well. Our members look forward to seeing/meeting them soon.

The Program Committee has some exciting news.

Through some Morton Grove, Niles West High School connections, we most likely will be co-sponsoring with Schaumburg Library, Melissa Isaacson, the author of *State* at a spring meeting. She has already agreed, and we are working out the details. We will let you know when the program is finalized.



-Mary and Lynn

The Book of Lost Friends

by Lisa Wingate

Discussion: October 11

Louisiana, 1875: In the tumultuous era of Reconstruction, three young women set off as unwilling companions on a perilous quest: Hannie, a freed slave; Lavinia, the pampered heir to a now destitute plantation; and Juneau Jane, Lavinia's Creole half sister. Each carries private wounds and powerful secrets as they head for Texas, following roads rife with vigilantes and soldiers still fighting a war lost a decade before. For Lavinia and Juneau Jane, the journey is one of stolen inheritance and financial desperation, but for Hannie, torn from her mother and siblings before slavery's end, the pilgrimage west reignites an agonizing question: Could her long-lost family still be out there? Beyond the swamps lie the limitless frontiers of Texas and, improbably, hope.

Louisiana, 1987: For first-year teacher Benedetta Silva, a subsidized job at a poor rural school seems like the ticket to canceling her hefty student debt—until she lands in a tiny, out-of-step Mississippi River town. Augustine, Louisiana, is suspicious of new ideas and new people, and Benny can scarcely comprehend the lives of her poverty-stricken students. But amid the gnarled live oaks and run-down plantation homes lie the century-old history of three young women, a long-ago journey, and a hidden book that could change everything.

WINGs Back to School Donations

Many thanks to branch members - we were able to fill almost all of the "tags" that we committed. WINGs supports between 150 - 200 school age children for back to school supplies and our effort is very much appreciated. Kudos to our small but mighty branch.—Barb

Public Policy Update

There is a summer lull in legislative activity as the US Congress is in their August recess and the legislative session is complete in Springfield. It is a good time to look at what has been accomplished and what may lie ahead. AAUW National did review and revise policy goals for 2021-22. Basic goals remain the same, working in support of Pay equity, Gender equity, Paid family leave, Title IX, Lowering student debt and Stopping sexual harassment.

Attached to the newsletter are:

1. A summary of the proposed edits to the national goals
2. General policy updates from AAUW national
3. The IL General Assembly Public Policy Legislative update

Thanks for all you do to advance the AAUW Policy Goals! -Ken

October General Meeting

Thursday, October 14, 7:00 pm at the Schaumburg Township District Library Representative Michelle Mussman, 56th District joins us at the library to talk about the Illinois state legislative process, pending and recently approved legislation, the importance of witness slips and how to effectively be heard in Springfield. This meeting is in person and co-hosted with the Schaumburg library and is open to the public. Please register on the stdl.org website -Lynn & Mary



Spectacular Super-Sized Mums

- Celebrate Fall in style...
- Mums make beautiful gifts for you, your family, and friends.
- Help add to our scholarship fund.
- Pick up on Friday, September 10th
From 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at
Judy Stewart's house located at
805 Seaside Ct. in Schaumburg
Phone: 847-891-6147



Last year's Michigan greenhouse grower is returning to offer their fabulous mum plants again. This beautiful mum arrives in a twelve inch pot. The price has been raised slightly due to an increase by the grower. The mums are \$16.00 each, or \$15.00 each, if you buy 3 or more. Orders and checks are due to Judy Lewis at 1640 Brittany Lane, Hoffman Estates, IL 60192 by August 10th.

These gorgeous mums are guaranteed to be healthy when you pick them up. They can be displayed in sun or part shade. Although not guaranteed to come back, three of mine did and are thriving in my garden. Periodic watering will be necessary. The grower suggests transplanting them in a larger pot. The colors and sizes remain the same and include white.

Send your order form and check made out to Schaumburg AAUW to Judy Lewis.

Plant Color	Number of Plants	Total Cost
Dark Red		
Yellow		
Bronze (Orange)		
Purple		
White		
	Total	Total cost

Deliveries are available – Check here if you would like yours delivered.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Thank you for your support. Judy Stewart (Questions? Call 847-891-6147 or email at JudyStewart@wideopenwest.com)

Public Policy Update

This year's proposed edits to AAUW National Goal make the following changes based on member leader feedback:

- Refinement and added specificity regarding AAUW's commitment to addressing systemic racism
- Refinement of our commitment to equitable access to higher education for all
- Emphasis on the importance of high-quality data collection

The following general policy updates were provided by AAUW National:

Paycheck Fairness Act: untimely failure is very disappointing; Democrats moved forward with a cloture vote, which was filibustered and failed on party lines; we drafted a letter to the White House on behalf of the coalition, meeting with Sen. Schumer's office this summer, and other behind the scenes actions to push it to still move this Congress

Title IX: continuing to work on rolling back the harmful regulations and guidance from the previous administration; working in meetings and coalition to keep this moving; **Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA)** being reintroduced was positive as well

Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA): passed House with huge bipartisan support, and is bipartisan in Senate too; looking positive

Crisis Recovery: thorough resources and robust action toolkit available and will continue to be developed (<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/crisis-recovery-toolkit/>)

Freedom to Vote: we have joined a coalition action on voter rights with Rock the Vote and many leaders; For the People failing was a hit, but we are not giving up (link to come)

Supreme Court case regarding abortion rights: this will be monitored the closer we get; should pick up in the fall with rulings spring 2022

Of interest, AAUW does not have a position on filibuster

Public Policy Update — continued

As noted, the Illinois General Assembly has wrapped up. Here is our state Public Policy Legislative update. It was a very busy and productive session.

- Keeping Youth Safe and Healthy Act SB 818 passed both chambers, awaiting Governor's signature. This updates the curriculum in schools (that choose to teach Health and Safety education) to be age appropriate, medically accurate, all inclusive, culturally appropriate, and trauma informed.
 - Ensuring Success in Schools Law HB 3223 passed both chambers, awaiting Governor's signature. This requires appropriate, trauma-informed responses to the needs of every student.
 - HB 155 passed in both chambers, awaiting Governor's signature. This allows SNAP, WIC, and TANF recipients to use their benefits to purchase menstrual hygiene products and diapers.
 - HB 641 passed in both chambers and requires that public universities and community colleges make feminine hygiene products available at no cost in bathrooms.
 - HB 156 passed in both chambers and provides that menstrual hygiene products shall be made available in bathrooms of every school building that are open for student use in grades 4 through 12 during the regular school day.
 - HB 310 passed in both chambers. Provides that feminine hygiene products be available free of charge at all homeless shelters that provide temporary housing assistance to women or youth.
 - Equal Pay Day Resolution HR 220 passed in both chambers.
 - Repeal of Parental Notice of Abortion HB 1797 did not come up for vote in this session.
 - Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Act SB 835. This was introduced too late in session to get any movement. However, we will be having a big push this summer and fall for AAUW members to contact their legislators to support and co-sponsor this legislation when it gets re-introduced.
 - HB 012 passed in both chambers and provides that an employee of a school district, public university, or community college district who has been employed for at least 12 months and who has worked at least 1,000 hours in the previous 12-month period shall be eligible for family and medical leave under the same terms and conditions as leave provided to eligible employees under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.
- HB 816 passed in both chambers and amends the Employment Teacher School code provides that, in addition to birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, sick leave shall also be interpreted to mean the acceptance of a child in need of foster care.

As we look to help advance legislation in the Illinois legislature, are you interested in learning how to track a bill, fill out a witness slip, get your legislators' information or see how they voted on a bill? On Monday August 16, 2021, at 6:00pm the AAUW IL Public Policy team is partnering with CGFA (Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability) to offer a Zoom training on all of the above, plus more. Simply put, you will learn how to navigate the Illinois General Assembly website www.ilga.gov.

Equal Pay Day reminders

Equal Pay Day denotes how far into the new year women must work to be paid what men were paid the previous year. Started by the National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE) in 1996, the goal was to raise awareness about the gender wage gap. Since then, other Equal Pay Days have been added to the calendar to denote that mothers and most women of color face a wider-than-average gap and need to work even longer to catch up to men's earnings. Here are remaining ones for the year:

Black Women's Equal Pay Day is August 3. Black women are paid 63 cents for every dollar paid to white men.

Native American Women's Equal Pay Day is September 8. Native women are paid 60 cents for every dollar paid to white men.

Latina's Equal Pay Day is October 21. Latinas are paid 55 cents for every dollar paid to white men.

Much work remains to reach equity for all women.

