



May Meeting is Cancelled



We hope to resume our Program Meetings this Fall
Until then: Stay Well and Stay Safe

Reminder: AAUW National Election 2020: Don't Forget to Vote



AAUW's annual member voting is now open through Monday, May 18, 6 p.m. ET. Check your email for reminders on voting and cast your [vote online!](#) Members without email addresses have already received their ballots by mail. Make your voice heard!

Meanwhile DUES Are Due

The AAUW Fiscal Year starts on July 1. Therefore all dues should be paid before the end of June 2020. For those of you with email addresses, you should have received a renewal notice from memberinfo@aauw.org. By following the link on that notice, you may pay your dues by credit card. Do not use the regular AAUW National email address to pay. For those without an email address, your notice was printed and is enclosed with this newsletter.

You may also pay the dues by sending a check directly to the Branch Treasurer....
 Jane Fitzgerald, 2327 Eagle Point Court, GJ 81507.

The total amount is \$95

\$59 goes to National, \$10 to AAUW Colorado, and \$26 to our Branch.

Of the \$59 National dues, \$56 is tax deductible as a charitable contribution, and \$3 is not deductible because it supports the AAUW Action Fund's section 501(c)(4) Lobby Corps.

Branch President Virginia Brown 201-0386
VP Program open
Secretary Becky Zlebnik 242-0918

VP Membership Kathy Singer 261-2112
Treasurer Jane Fitzgerald 241-9684
Newsletter Editor Jane Fitzgerald

UPDATE FROM NATIONAL OFFICE

As part of our ongoing work, AAUW is pleased to announce the launch of our [new website](#), and we hope it will help us to stay more connected than ever.

Our team is thrilled to showcase our important work together towards advancing gender equity. The site is the result of many months of hard work and close collaboration with design experts, staff at all levels and many of you.

It is intended to get you the information you need quickly — whether that's the latest statistics on the [gender pay gap](#) or advice on how to [stay connected with your community](#) through the coronavirus crisis. I hope you will take some time to look around and peruse the striking images, at-a-glance stats and inspiring stories about the world-changing women AAUW supports.

Thank you to the many AAUW members who gave us vital input to guide our approach. You are an integral part of AAUW's rich history, and, because of you, we can now also communicate to a new generation of women and men why equity is as critical today as it was when AAUW was founded 140 years ago.

The [Membership](#) section of the website puts important member resources at your fingertips, including information on:

- [Why](#) membership matters.
- [Tools](#) for effective governance and advocacy.
- [Timely initiatives](#) like the 5-star recognition program and our upcoming board election, which opens April 8.
- [How to support AAUW](#) through fundraising.

The [Member Services Database](#) that many of you rely on will get an upgrade later this year, but meanwhile you can still access it on the new site. And your branch and state websites haven't changed.

As proud as I am of the new site, I'm also committed to continuous improvement and [eager to hear your feedback](#). Websites are never truly finished, but I hope you'll agree that we're off to a very strong start with the new [AAUW.org](#).

Thanks, as always, for your commitment to AAUW. Be safe and healthy, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,



Laura M. Segal, Senior Vice President, Communications and External Relations

HOW DID A PANDEMIC ALMOST STOP U.S. WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

By Debra Adams Simmons, *HISTORY* Executive Editor.... Monday, April 27, 2020

As a young student, I learned about the struggle for American women to get the right to vote, their thin margin of success after a long political battle, and the vehement opposition to the enfranchisement of African American women.

I didn't know that a pandemic almost derailed seven decades of work.



The 1918 flu roared in two big waves, taking the lives of more than 675,000 Americans. Public events were canceled. Social distancing prevented the mass rallies women were depending upon, and halted their protests from congressional galleries. Votes were scheduled by the Senate, then postponed. One leading suffrage supporter died; another, **Carrie Chapman Catt** (pictured), was grounded as she battled the flu.

How did women triumph? By expanding their grassroots campaign, volunteering on the front lines fighting the pandemic (pictured below), and adept political organizing to elect congressional leaders supportive of their cause, **Ellen Carol DuBois** writes for Nat Geo. All that, and a heart-stopping drive to get the amendment approved by 36 states.



Volunteer nurses care for the sick from the 1918 Spanish flu in an auditorium that had been transformed into a temporary hospital in Oakland.

More than 100 years later, America is again living through a pandemic, but the work of the suffragists provides a blueprint for navigating the political landscape and exercising the vote in these dark, uncertain times.

Support Voting Rights

AAUW's voter education and access work is more important than ever as the COVID-19 crisis poses an unprecedented challenge to our electoral process. Now is the time to fight back against voter suppression and ensure everyone can vote by exploring different avenues for voter registration and deepening our understanding of key policies and candidates' stances.

New Member Ingrid Ketcham

To the members of the Grand Junction AAUW branch

I have just joined your branch. I did this without meeting a single member. Fortunately, this is my fifth branch to which I have belonged and I have great memories of all. Thus, my expectations are very high.

If our planet was not in such a sad situation right now, I would have "visited" soon after I moved here, which was the end of January.

We moved here to be closer to family as my husband has had a stroke and we are not getting any younger. I am, however, looking forward to the four seasons and am doing a bit of sprucing up of our yard. I enjoy bridge, scrabble and have belonged to two book discussion groups. We have four children and seven grandchildren.

I originally joined AAUW to be supportive of its Fellowships and Grants programs as I strongly believe higher education is the best pathway for women to continue to gain equality in all aspects. The bonus has been the friends I have made along the way.

Add to Yearbook:

Ketcham, Ingrid 11/16
BS, Oklahoma State U, Education/Home Economics
2157 Castlewood Court, Grand Junction, CO 81507
(970) 314-9357 (h) (970)729-0675 (cell)
imketch@msn.com

Happy Birthday to You

Your AAUW Branch wishes to acknowledge its members and let you know we appreciate you,

Therefore we wish a happy birthday to those with a birthday this summer

Jan Scheevel on May 11th

Erna Kay Ingram on June 2nd, Mary Beth Buescher on June 8th, Dusty Dunbar on June 16th

Barbara Boudreaux on July 2nd, Lorelee Kerr on July 14th, Virginia Brown on July 29th

Jean Yale on August 26th

Scholarship News from Jean Yale

The Scholarship Committee has received the applications. We can give \$1950 to 5 recipients from the "Mary's", \$500 to a WCCC student and as the winner of the Women Veterans Scholarship apparently didn't reenroll, we have that \$500 to award.

I'm waiting to find a 3rd member of the committee and will announce recipients as soon as I know.

THE JANE QUIMBY BOOK GROUP

Meeting is cancelled for Friday, May 15th, 9:30 am

Barbara Boudreaux has compiled your suggestions for **next year's reads**. **To vote**, list your top SEVEN choices in order of preference. Then, let Barbara know by email at nannyo450@gmail.com, by phone at 858-3359, or by snail mail at 1504 Sprague Street, Mack, CO 81525. If you would like to present one of the choices, so indicate. **SO HERE ARE THE SUGGESTIONS FOR 2020-2021:**

The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See

The extraordinary story of Young-sook and Mi-ja, best friends who are professional divers confronting grim fates in the years before the Korean War. 374 pages / Scribner

Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng

374 pages / Penguin

It's a deep psychological mystery about the power of motherhood, the intensity of teenage love, and the danger of perfection. It moved me to tears." —Reese Witherspoon "...unearthing the ways that race, class, motherhood and belonging intersect to shape each individual".

In Our Prime: How Older Women Are Reinventing the Road Ahead

by Susan J. Douglas. ... calls on women of all ages to join together now to fight against gendered ageism, to secure our country's financial safety net, and to make a brighter, more welcome future for older women. 288 pages / W.W. Norton & Company

The Lost Children Archive by Valeria Luiselli

It's structured as a road trip novel. A journalist, her husband and two children head toward the Mexican border to document the ongoing crisis of migrant children. Her own family is in crisis as well — the marriage is unhappy. With her children sleeping in the back seat, a resonant corollary to the lost children she is chronicling, the narrator is preoccupied with how she will tell the story. 400 pages / Knopf Publishing Group

Born a Crime by Trevor Noah

264 pages

This is the story of a mischievous young boy who struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist. It is also the story of that young man's relationship with his fearless and fervently religious mother— a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty and abuse that would threaten her own life.

The Poppy Field by Deborah Carr

271 pages / HarperImpulse

It is the story of two women: Alice, whose story happens during WW1 and Gemma (whose story takes place in the present) is struggling with the traumas she has witnessed through her job.

Becoming by Michelle Obama

In her memoir, a work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her – from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world's most famous address.

400 pages / Random House

The Secret Orphan by Glynis Peters

This book is set in England beginning in 1940 during World War II. It also skips to the present, nearly sixty years later, where a woman is dying and she begins to relive her life.
400 pages / One More Chapter

Hope Rides Again: An Obama Biden Mystery by Andrew Shaffer

In the sequel to the New York Times best-selling novel *Hope Never Dies*, Obama and Biden reprise their roles as BFFs-turned-detectives as they chase Obama's stolen cell phone through the streets .
288 pages / Quirk Books

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson

Inspired by the true blue-skinned people of Kentucky and the brave and dedicated Kentucky Pack Horse library service of the 1930s, this is a story of raw courage, fierce strength, and one woman's belief that books can carry us anywhere....a lush love letter to the redemptive power of books.
320 pages / Sourcebooks Landmark

Beneath a Scarlett Sky by Mark Sullivan

Based on the true story of a forgotten hero, this is an epic tale of one young man's incredible courage and resilience during WWII. Pino Lella is a normal Italian until his family home in Milan is destroyed by Allied bombs. Pino joins an underground railroad helping Jews escape over the Alps. In an attempt to protect him, Pino's parents force him to enlist as a German soldier. But after Pino is injured, he becomes at the age of eighteen the personal driver for Adolf Hitler's left hand in Italy, General Hans Leyers. Now, with the opportunity to spy for the Allies inside the German High Command, Pino endures the horrors of the war and the Nazi occupation by fighting in secret.
524 pages / Lake Union Publishers

Half a Heart by Karen McQuestion

is a fast moving story of a mute 10 year old who is terribly abused by his off his rocker Father. His life is impossible and his health is threatened...a moving novel about *broken hearts*...and what it takes to put them back together.
240 pages / Lake Union Publishing

Conversations with RBG: Ruth Bader Ginsburg on Life, Love, Liberty, and Law

By Jeffrey Rosen This remarkable book presents a unique portrait of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, drawing on more than twenty years of conversations with Jeffrey Rosen, starting in the 1990s and continuing through the Trump era. Rosen is a veteran legal journalist, scholar, and president of the National Constitution Center.
272 pages / Henry Holt & Co.

The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes

In Depression-era America, five extraordinary women embark on a remarkable journey through the mountains of Kentucky and beyond. Based on a true story rooted in America's past, *The Giver of Stars* is a richly rewarding novel of women's friendship, of true love, and of what happens when people reach beyond their grasp.
400 pages / Pamela Dorman Books

A Miracle on Hope Street by Emma Heatherington 401 pages / HarperImpulse

Remember the true meaning of Christmas with this heartfelt and beautiful novel. To many people Ruth Ryan has everything: the perfect job, a home to die for and a loving family. But it's all lies. As Christmas approaches, Ruth feels lonelier than ever. Can one act of kindness really change a person's life? Ruth decides to find out.

Note: this was our selection for May 2020...shall we move it up to December 2020?

Coffee & Chat Group

Postponed for Awhile

Our Work to Ensure Women's Financial Futures

As part of our [2020 Gender Policy Agenda](#), AAUW is pushing for policies that will protect women and their families, including paid leave, access to high-quality health care and stronger Social Security benefits. In the wake of the coronavirus crisis, those priorities are even more urgent. That's why we're partnering with other organizations to advocate for [paid sick leave for public health emergencies](#). It's critical for women to be able to take care of themselves and their loved ones without worrying about a lost paycheck or retaliation from their boss.

Spending time in Quarantine

Several members shared what they have been up to:

Virginia Brown: I am actually Chair for the State Nominations Committee. I have been in Zoom meetings to see if any of the others came up with membership co-chairs and finding a replacement for the AAUW State Secretary who resigned unexpectedly due to health issues.

Jean Yale: I've been catching up on long put off gardening chores. I bought 4-inch tomato seedlings in March and now have 6 plants with blossoms ready to be planted after Mother's Day.

Jane Fitzgerald: I've been going through and editing hundreds of photos from overseas travels to produce photo books through Snapfish....so when my memory has totally gone, I will have these.

Dusty Dunbar: Hints that she might be trying a simple recipe or two... like MOJITOS
(‘Imbibe in Place!!’ ha-ha)

Becky Zlebnik: Sprouting her couch potatoes

Barb Boudreaux: Since she was unable to get books from the Library, she bought a Kindle and has “enjoyed” learning how to use it. She still has not figured how to connect to Overdrive to borrow books.

