

Bulletin

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

www.aauwfortwayne.org www.indstate.edu/aauw-in www.aauw.org

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Thoughts from the President:

By Dr. Bobbie Weikle

AAUW Fort Wayne Branch Salutes Marsha Miller

It has been a privilege and honor to have Marsha Miller serve as our Indiana State AAUW President. She has brought distinction and a creative flair to our organization that deserves to be recognized by our organization. Marsha will be stepping down from her AAUW position this summer.

Besides devoting many years to help AAUW achieve our goal of 'Advancing EQUITY for Women and Girls', Marsha has had a lengthy career coordinating the library social media for Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana. In her work, she has taught more than 4,800 information literacy sessions, is an astute historian and continues serving her community to advocate for the rights of women and preserve our right to vote.

Come & Celebrate!

Members will recall that in celebration of the 100th anniversary of 19th Amendment being ratified, unfortunately our December AAUW Brunch featuring our guest speaker, President Marsha Miller, had to be cancelled. Fortunately, we were able to reschedule her presentation for our May 8, 2021 AAUW Brunch which we hope you will attend.

Her presentation titled, "From Amanda to Zerelda: Hoosier Suffragettes Who Raised a Ruckus" will explore the 69-year chronological history of women's suffrage in Indiana. Marsha will introduce Hoosier women who helped shape the movement, including Amanda Way (who is considered 'the mother of Indiana suffrage'), Helen Gougar (a feisty publisher and lawyer based in Lafayette), Zerelda Wallace (one of the founders of *Indiana's Equal Suffrage Society*), and women who moved into the national suffragist sphere, including May Wright Sewall (educator, and civic organizer), and Ida Husted Harper (a journalist and close friend and biographer of Susan B. Anthony.)

When the 19th Amendment was finally ratified, women throughout the country celebrated their achievement. The battle that our 'Foremothers' took on in Indiana was a long and hard-fought victory. We would like to think that the right to vote was gained for **ALL women**. However, as the journey to improve voting rights continues, we have come to realize that there are still many people in society whose votes are being suppressed. (continued page 2)

(continued from page 1)



'Equal' Suffrage Movements in Indiana

For years, people of color, Native Americans, and others have continued to be denied their right to vote. By 1912, 'Equal' suffrage groups were formed by the commendable efforts of women like Carrie Barnes Ross, who was the first president of Branch No. 7 of the *'Equal Suffrage Association'* of Indianapolis. This Branch became the first African American organization in Indianapolis with its mission to promote **'equal' voting for ALL**. Please continue reading about this historical movement in the article written by our Branch member, Linda Manning. She has written a more thorough account of the efforts made by people of color to gain the right to vote. Our thanks to Linda for her literary and historical efforts!

Suffragettes & the New Tech in Town!

By 1912, the automobile and telephones were the 'new tech' in town. Our savvy Suffragette Foremothers were smart in utilizing these new tools to help *'drive home their mission'* (pun intended!) Through utilizing the new tech tools, networking with other women, and raising a 'ruckus', Hoosier women finally got the Indiana Legislature to ratify the 19th Amendment! (Morgan, A., 2020)

However, there is still much work that is needed in our state. The votes of many Hoosiers are still being suppressed. The battle to get a fairer 'redistricting' of voters throughout the state is still being fought. AAUW still has a great deal more work to improve the lives of **ALL women!**

Don't Miss our Spring Brunch

Don't miss hearing Marsha's presentation at our **Spring Brunch**. Besides being a historian of suffragette history, she has collected a treasure trove of songs and other information about the movement that she will share with us. Please send in your registration forms early for our brunch that will be held on **May 8, at 9:30 am in the Fort Wayne Country Club, 5221 Covington Rd., Fort Wayne, Indiana.** (See the Registration page to make your reservation by May3.)

Nineteenth Amendment Equal Voting Rights – A Call to Action!!!

By Linda Manning

As we know, the nineteenth amendment states that "the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." Even as it was ratified, many African-American women were unable to vote due to state laws. It took nearly five more decades for that to happen. "After the passage of the amendment, women were not broadly mobilized, and in many places, women of color continued to face barriers to voting. This meant that the first women to vote were largely white, wealthy or living in states that made it easier for women to vote." Poll taxes and literacy tests prevented Black citizens from voting until the 1965 Voting Rights Act outlawed discriminatory voting practices. Black suffrage clubs began forming in Indiana in 1917. Carrie Barnes Ross, an African-American woman, was the first president of one of these clubs in Indianapolis. " Black suffrage clubs also organized suffrage schools as crash courses to teach Black women about the state constitution, elected offices, how to register to vote and what the polls would look like." Black ministers were asked to try to get women to join the movement and form suffrage groups. Frances Berry Coston also worked with Ross for the suffrage movement as well as teaching courses in voting within segregated elementary schools. Sadly, many of the works of the Black community are unrecorded due to lack of coverage in many newspapers, especially those owned by white men.

It is reported that many white suffragists discriminated against Black women. "Before a parade in 1913, famed Black journalist and activist Ida B. Wells was asked to march at the back of the parade instead of alongside white suffragists. But Wells refused to join her fellow Black suffragists in the back. Instead, as the all-white Chicago delegation passed, she walked out of the crowd and took her place alongside them." Black women have become essential to the victories of the Democratic party. According to Taylor Crumpton, writing for the Washington Post, "Black women are the country's most powerful political force. " Many Americans today still do not have full voting rights. Voter intimidation and suppression efforts still remain 100 years later. The **100th anniversary** of the nineteenth amendment should not be just a celebration, but **a call to action for full equality to be attained.**

References:

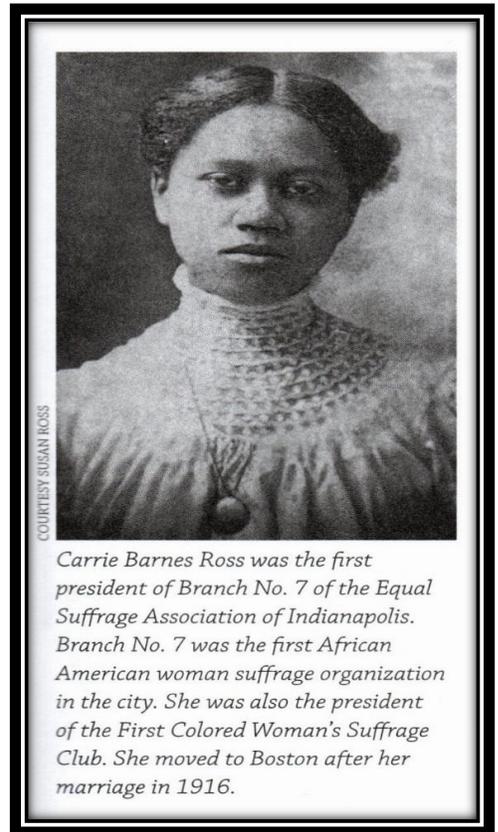
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Carrie Barnes Ross was the first president of Branch No. 7 of the Equal Suffrage Association of Indianapolis. Branch No. 7 was the first African American woman suffrage organization in the city. She was also the president of the First Colored Woman's Suffrage Club. She moved to Boston after her marriage in 1916.

About the Author:

AAUW Fort Wayne Branch thanks our member, Linda Manning, for adding her historical account of how **ALL** women have been affected throughout the journey to gain and protect the right to vote. A retired elementary school teacher, Linda continues to use her talents through her work as Co-Director of Programs for our organization and has been actively involved with AAUW for over 15 years. Her passion for history is truly shown in her article and emphasizes the fact that **we still have a lot of work to do!**

Community Support – AAUW Fort Wayne Branch will Collect Donations for the St. Joseph Missions Women’s Shelter

Collection

Bring items to the May 8 brunch!

- bathroom products
 - personal hygiene
 - paper products
 - kitchen items
-

Want to Get Involved with helping women in Fort Wayne??? A strong supporter of helping women to improve their lives, AAUW member, Cathy Huff Helt, has learned of a new project that needs help!

St. Joseph Missions is sponsoring a newer project to help single homeless women to obtain shelter and get their lives back. Unfortunately, the stories of the women who need help are all too familiar in our city. Many of them wander the streets and neighborhoods with nowhere to go. This leaves them in very dangerous situations and vulnerable to becoming victims of violence, abusive relationships, and of sex trafficking.

How big a problem is it? According to the most recently published report, 1,022 single women identified themselves as homeless when calling in to United Way of Allen County’s 211 Center over the course of a year. The majority were ages 19-39, but the 60+ age group has grown dramatically. Surprisingly, some of these women were employed part-time or even full-time yet found themselves homeless for the first time.

Area homeless advocates confirmed that the population most in need of service among the homeless is single women. In Allen County, there are few, if any, beds allotted to single homeless women on an emergency basis. The **St. Joseph Missions Women’s Shelter** will become **Fort Wayne’s first 24/7/365 days a year emergency shelter for single homeless women**. However, the project is designed to be more than just a refuge for the night. The women’s shelter will provide a safe, supportive, and structured environment that honors women’s dignity and empowers them to become self-sufficient.

For more information about the project, see their website. They have a wish list on their website for anyone who is interested in making donations to the project: <https://www.stjosephmissions.org/>

Our AAUW Fort Wayne Branch will **collect** bathroom products, personal hygiene, paper products, and kitchen items (items that have to be replenished often) at our **Spring Brunch on May 8, 2021**, at the Ft. Wayne Country Club. Anyone wishing to donate can also make arrangements by contacting Cathy Huff Helt via email: cathleenhuff@comcast.net.

AAUW Fort Wayne Branch Spring Membership Meeting/Brunch

Celebrate Our ‘Right to Vote!’

Saturday, May 8, 2021 9:30 am

Fort Wayne Country Club 5221 Covington Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Bring a guest or two when you attend our AAUW Branch Spring Brunch. Enjoy a delicious meal and catch up with your friends. You are sure to enjoy a hearty brunch of Quiche Lorraine, sausage, fruit, breakfast rolls, beverage, and ice cream balls rolled in pecans for dessert!

Since our December Brunch was cancelled, we are honored to have reschedule our featured speaker, **AAUW Indiana State President, Marsha Miller**. A passionate historian, she will present, **“From Amanda to Zerelda: Hoosier Suffragettes Who Raised a Ruckus.”**

Dressed in period costume, Ms. Miller will depict some of the struggles of key women in Indiana who helped get the Legislature to ratify the 19th Amendment. You will gain a whole new appreciation of the strength and determination of women and the need to protect our **‘RIGHT TO VOTE’!**

Our Spring Brunch will also be an opportunity to **‘give back’ and help women** in our community. The **Saint Joseph Mission** is providing a program to help single homeless women get back on their feet and into the community. Please plan to bring a household item to donate to the Saint Joseph Mission program. All items will be collected at our Brunch and donated to the women in the program who are working to regain their lives. (Examples of items needed: toilet paper, tissues, soap, household cleaning products, etc.)

Early Bird reservation is \$24 per person if received by Saturday, May 1st

On-time reservation is \$26 per person if received by Monday, May 3rd

Your **reservation and check must be received** no later than Monday, May 3, 2021.



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May 2021 Spring Membership Meeting/Brunch Reservation Form

Saturday, May 8, 2021 9:30 am

Reservations and checks – **must be received by Monday, May 3rd**

Member Name: _____ \$ _____ Check for gluten free

Guest #1 Name: _____ \$ _____ Check for gluten free

Guest Phone number/email: _____

Guest #2 Name: _____ \$ _____ Check for gluten free

Guest Phone number/email: _____

Total Number Attending: _____ X \$ _____ each meal = Total Check Amount: \$ _____

Mail this form and your check payable to “AAUW Fort Wayne Branch” to:

Eileen Fraser 9726 Silver Shore CT Fort Wayne, IN 46804

[Phone (260) 432-7719; email eileen.fraser@outlook.com]

Check # _____

Membership

NOW

*is the best time to Recruit
New AAUW Members!*

*Every AAUW member is a
part of the membership
team. Experience tells us
that new members who
are recruited by our own
Branch members become
active and **stay** in AAUW.*

**Note: Newly elected
AAUW Branch Board
members are invited to
attend the June meeting.*

Membership Matters

By Amy Lehman, Director of Membership

amylynnl@comcast.net or (260) 705-6155

Included in this newsletter is our Annual Membership Renewal Form. Complete the form and return by June 15, 2021 to our Treasurer, Eileen Fraser (address is on the form).

Charlotte Weybright

1241 W. Berry ST, Fort Wayne, IN 46802, 260-704-5915, cwey0409@frontier.com

Ann Escosa Griffin

604 Lawton PL, Fort Wayne, IN 46805, 928-600-4140, abgriffin89@gmail.com

Update your Membership Information!

The AAUW Fort Wayne Branch Yearbook will be revised soon. Did you move since the 2020-21 version was printed? Get a new email or phone number? Help us make sure the document accurate. Use the Membership Renewal form to tell us your changes or email Theresa directly – tbrady@gsnim.org.

Branch Board Meetings

April 5, 2021 6:00 pm at the Allen County Public Library, Room A, downtown location

June 7, 2021 5:30 pm at the Allen County Public Library, Rooms (A & B), downtown location. Our traditional “potluck” will be adapted this year. The Library will allow food, so this will be an “eating” meeting. Bring your own food to eat, eating utensils, and bottled beverage. Plates and napkins will be provided. **Please note the earlier time of 5:30 pm.** The Library has been closing at 8:00 pm (instead of the previous 9:00 pm). Starting earlier will give us a chance to have some social time, welcome the new AAUW Board members and have our meeting.

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AAUW Trust

By Barb Kanning, AAUW Trust Chair
barbkanning@gmail.com or (260) 432-5228

On Friday, March 5th, the Trust Board of Directors met for our important task of voting on the grant applications. There were FIVE applications selected for grants for 2021. They are listed below, totaling \$11,800.00.

Our AAUW Trust Public Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 14th at 6:00pm** at the downtown library - Room C. Grant recipients from 2020 will report about their projects and how the grant money was used. This year's 2021 new recipients will receive their checks and will be available if anyone has questions.

It is an exciting time, each year, to know that our local Trust that is **40 Years old** this year has helped so many local nonprofits!

We still encourage any donations to our Capital Account whenever you are able.

1. **AAUW Fort Wayne Branch** – \$3,000.00 for our communications - newsletters, yearbook, and website expenses.
2. **Ruth Tyndall Baker** (Member Grant) – \$2,100.00 for play production supplies for “Unleashed Women: The Hamiltons”.
3. **Redemption House Ministries** – \$3,000.00 for household and program supplies for transition homes.
4. **Cancer Services of NE Indiana** – \$700.00 for supplies for memorial cards to grieving families, to be made by volunteers.
5. **Just Neighbors Interfaith Homeless Network** – \$3,000.00 for start-up supplies & updating the new food truck to feed the homeless.

*Grant Applications
accepted
January 1 through February 28.
The Grant Application Form and
instructions for applying may be
found on the web site
at: <http://aauwfortwayne.org>.*

Total number of grants awarded since the Trust's inception is **394** with a total amount awarded of **\$449,012.42**.

Branch Recognitions

By Mary Lou Thomas, Recognition Chair
redning11@aol.com or (260) 672-0803

Each year at our Annual Meeting recognition is given to members or groups who have served the branch in special ways.

Congratulations to the following outstanding women!

Emerging Leader: Amy Lehman

Eleanor Roosevelt Award: Andrea Tarbet

Woman of the Year: Theresa Brady

Special Recognition was given to our President Dr. Bobbie Weikle for her leadership and flexibility during the 2020 pandemic.



National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)

Our national conference for training college women in leadership skills will be held virtually this year on Tuesday, May 25th and Wednesday, May 26th, 2021. Please let young women attending college know that scholarships are available through our National AAUW: <https://www.aauw.org>. Our Indiana State AAUW organization is also sponsoring several young women to attend the conference. Contact: Patricia Crouch at pcrouch@indiana.edu. Due to the Conference being cancelled last year, our local Fort Wayne Branch will be sponsoring the young woman who was previously chosen but was unable to attend last year's event.

Board Members Elected in March

By Dr. Bobbie Weikle, President

Congratulations to the board members elected to serve from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023.

Co-Directors of Membership:

Amy Lehman and Stephanie Bourne

Director of Finance: Eileen Fraser

Recording Secretary: Terri Stumpf

Trust Members:

Susan Holleran, Cheryl Mathews, Sandra Tucker

Interest Groups

Regular group meetings may not be held due to Coronavirus health precautions.

Please check with your group leader to learn if events will be held.

Current Literature I

April 6 – *Becoming* by Michelle Obama

6-8 pm in Meeting Room A at the downtown Library

Great Decisions Book Club

May possibly resume meeting on April 9, 2021.

Contact Rita for information: kekionga3@yahoo.com

Current Literature II

April 27 – Discussion about Book List from October

AAUW FORT WAYNE BRANCH 2021-2022 DUES RENEWAL FORM

NAME: _____

Please select your dues category:

- REGULAR..... \$ **87.00** = National AAUW \$62.00 + State \$7.00 + Branch \$18.00
- PAID LIFE MEMBER \$ **25.00** = State \$7.00 + Branch \$18.00
- STUDENT..... \$ **21.00** = National \$19.00 + Branch \$ 2.00
- HONORARY LIFE \$ **0** ****Please consider a donation for Branch expenditures.**

(Note that \$59 of national dues is tax deductible as a charitable contribution.)

I am also enclosing a National AAUW Fund Donation \$ _____

Donations require separate checks.

Please write the fund name on the memo line. Examples are: AAUW Funds or AAUW LAF

Do you have corrections/changes for the 2021-22 Yearbook? YES NO

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Cell Phone Number: _____

Additional Degree(s): _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Make your renewal check **Payable to AAUW Fort Wayne Branch**
and **MAIL** it with this **completed form** to:

Eileen Fraser 9726 Silver Shore CT Fort Wayne, IN 46804

We always WELCOME new members to AAUW!

If you know of perspective members, please contact our membership directors to send a packet of information.

Amy Lehman

amylynnl@comcast.net

(260) 705-6155

(as of July) Stephanie Bourne

slbourne1@gmail.com

(260) 515-3290

Bulletin Editor
c/o 7209 Tanbark Lane
Fort Wayne, IN 46835

Affix Address Label here

AAUW Fort Wayne IN Branch 2020-21 Board of Directors

President: Dr. Bobbie Weikle
Director of Programs: Linda Manning/Kayla Crecelius
Co-Directors of Membership: Amy Lehman
Recording Secretary: Cheryl Matthews
Corresponding Secretary: Theresa Brady
Director of Finance: Eileen Fraser
Chair of AAUW Trust: Barb Kanning

AAUW Fort Wayne IN 2020-21 Branch Committees

Director of Communications/Media Publicity: Jane Anderson
Director of Diversity and International Relations: Open
Director of Public Policy: Open
College/University Representative (PFW): Dr. Terri Swim
College/University Liaison: Dr. Gloria Shamanoff
Recognition Chair: Mary Lou Thomas
Nominating Committee Convener: Jane Anderson, Ruth Von Deylen
AAUW Funds: Barb Kanning
Bulletin Editor: Theresa Brady
Interest Group: Cathy Huff Helt
Reservations: Eileen Fraser
Member Records: Theresa Brady