

Bulletin

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

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Article – Hamilton Play	3
Article – IL Holocaust Museum	3
Article – Work Smart Session	4
Board Meeting Reminder	2
Board of Directors List	9
Branch Program Dates	4
Committee List	9
Grants and Trust Info	6
In Memoriam	6
Interest Group Info	8
Membership & Directory	4
Membership Info	4
President’s Message	1
Program Registration Form	5

Thoughts from the President:

By Dr. Bobbie Weikle

Literacy:

Is It a Basic Human Right???

On the surface, to many of us (especially those who have taught school), this question would seem like a ‘no-brainer’! However, in looking at the current stand-offs between the ‘maskers vs. the “unmaskers’, the ‘vaccinated vs. the unvaccinated’, it would appear that we need to have a serious conversation with ourselves about what really constitutes being ‘literate’ these days! If we cannot answer the question about literacy being a basic human right, we need to look at this issue as being of grave importance to us as a society.



Literacy:

Don’t Leave Home Without It !!!

An estimated **30,000** adults **in our community** do not have a high school diploma to help them with living and working independently. Ultimately, the trap has been set for those individuals who do not acquire literacy skills. Unfortunately, a destructive cycle of poverty and dependency is begun.

Is Reading Literacy Really Enough?

Typically, when people think of ‘**literacy**’, their immediate thoughts are of learning to read – hopefully at least at a 5th or 6th grade level. Unfortunately, there are many people who don’t read much above a 4th grade level. Hence, many news and media sources take great pains to make certain their printed information can be read at about a 4th grade level.

More ‘Literacies’ Besides Reading:

When I was doing research for my dissertation about literacy, I quickly became aware of how many types of ‘literacies’ there really are. In helping people become ‘literate’, society must recognize there are multiple types of ‘literacy’. In other words, it takes more than just having ordinary reading skills to live and function independently and well in society. Besides having the ability to read at higher levels, having skills in math, technology, and language are just a few of the other types of ‘literacies’ needed to prepare people for the jobs and living in the world ahead.

(continued page 2)

(continued from page 1)



Donate Your Books for the Silent Auction:

Don't know what to do with your gently used and interesting hardbacks or soft cover books? Bring them to our AAUW event on October 9th for a 'Silent Auction' fundraiser. The proceeds will be used to fund projects sponsored by our organization.

Research Comparing Literacy Practices:

For my doctoral research, I compared the survey results from over 600 parents of children with and without disabilities to learn more about families and the opportunities for literacy that they provided their children. All the parents had preschool age children and were from various counties throughout Indiana. There were a variety of economic backgrounds and roughly half the parents had a child with a disability and the other half had children who did not have a disability. Examples of literacy opportunities were defined as having the child listen to a tape-recorded book, use paper, pencils, or crayons to imitate parents drawing and writing, playing computer games, using communication devices, and other examples. Interestingly, the research revealed a statistically significant difference in the literacy opportunities provided to the children. Those parents of preschool age children with disabilities gave statistically fewer 'literacy opportunities' than the parents of nondisabled children gave to their children. One of my conclusions from these findings was that if a child has a disability, parents **may** develop the perception that the child is less capable of developing literacy skills, and thus, inadvertently, provide fewer literacy opportunities overall.

[Note: The research was done on the cusp as the internet was being utilized for learning and right before cell phones became more advanced and opened up many of the new forms of media that are now being utilized.]

Impact of Literacy on Our Community: Building AAUW's Literacy Knowledge

Melinda Haines, the new Executive Director for the Literacy Alliance, will help build our collective knowledge about literacy needs within Fort Wayne. Please don't miss hearing about the improvements being made to the literacy programs for adults and children through the Literacy Alliance. Please join us on **October 9, 2021, at 10:00 am at the Allen County Public Library, Rooms A, B, & C**. A box lunch will be catered by Goeglein's and registration for the event is required (see page 5).

Branch Board Meetings

All Board meetings will be at the Allen County Public Library, Room A, 900 Library Plaza FW at 6:00 pm.

September 13, 2021

February 7, 2022

November 1, 2021

April 4, 2022

June 6, 2022

Hamilton Play and Project Updates: Hats Off to Our AAUW Member!

Hamilton Sisters Play Update:

Playwright and author, Ruth Tyndall Baker, wrote a play featuring the lives of Fort Wayne's 'Hamilton Sisters'. Last year at one of our AAUW meetings, she shared many stories about the fun she had researching material for the play. She also shared a scene from the play and had two of her friends give a live performance to our members.

Seeking financial funds to bring the play to fruition, Ruth wrote a grant and submitted it to our AAUW Trust. Our organization has helped provide funds for a portion of the expenses incurred to prepare a live performance of the play on stage to share with our community.

Recently, Ruth gave an update about the live performance being planned. At this time, Ruth has been working with local director and producer, Thom Hofrichter, to help make the production of the play titled: **'Please Call Me Edith'** become a reality. The plan is to perform the play in either late February or early March of 2022 at the "black box" theater on the Purdue Fort Wayne University campus.

Home Fires OUT!

Coincidentally, Ruth had given a previous script of another play she had written to Brad Beauchamp. Right after the virus struck and theaters were not planning a season for performances, Ruth was not holding a lot of hope that the play would be produced. Recently, her play was accepted and Brad will be producing Ruth's play titled **'Home Fires OUT!'** at University of St. Francis University campus.

The ***Home Fires OUT!*** play has a character in it who has a Traumatic Brain Injury. They are hoping one of the actors who typically performs with Jesters' acting troupe will be able to carry the part. The show also has a character in it who has Alzheimer's and the play is a dark comedy. Those characters say appropriate things at inappropriate times to a character who intrudes into the home. The character, Andy, (who has Traumatic Brain Injury) is the hero as he won't let anyone hurt his mom.

The play will be produced at the University of Saint Francis theater on November 12-14 and on 19-21st, 2021. Tickets for the play are only \$12.00 with the curtain time being at 7:30 pm in the evenings and on Sundays at 2 pm.

We wish Ruth the best of luck with all her endeavors and look forward to seeing the live performance of her plays!



New Hamilton Book for Publication:

*Ruth has finished writing a book about the Hamilton family, titled: **Please Call Me Edith**. The book focuses on the life of Edith Hamilton and Ruth has been busy submitting the book to publishers and trying to get her new work accepted for publication.*

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.*

Membership Matters

Co-Director of Membership

Amy Lehman, amylynnl@comcast.net or 260-705-6155

Stephany Bourne, slbourne1@gmail.com or 260-515-3290

Meet new member Gloria Minnich

Gloria is a drama and creative movement teacher, teaching at many different schools and facilities, serving both neurodiverse and neurotypical students. She is also very involved in the local theatre community, most frequently acting and directing at Arena Dinner Theatre in downtown Fort Wayne. She will be seen in the upcoming "The Haunting of Hill House" which opens October 15 and runs through October 30. She is looking forward to getting to know more AAUW members.

Membership Information Changes

The 2021-2022 Yearbook is coming to your mailbox soon!

Please contact Theresa Brady (tbrady822@gmail.com or 262-853-8739) when your information changes and we will print in the next newsletter.

Branch Programs

Co-Directors of Program

Linda Manning, tmlm4733@gmail.com or 260-403-1913

Kayla Crecelius, kmritchie710@gmail.com or 219-617-3593

Save the Dates!

AAUW Fall Branch Meeting

October 9, 2021 – 10:00 am to noon

Allen County Public Library 900 Library Plaza FW, Rooms A, B, & C

The topic will be "All Things Books". Our guest speaker will be Melinda Haines, the new Executive Director for the Literacy Alliance of Fort Wayne. Please plan to bring your interesting gently used hardback or paperback book(s) which will be offered to members during a silent auction. A box lunch will be offered. Registration information is on page 5.

Register Early!

***Mark your
Calendar!***

Holiday Brunch and Silent Auction

Saturday, December 4, 2021 at 9:30 am

Pine Valley Country Club, 10900 Pine Mills Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46845

Celebrate the holiday season AND the 40th Anniversary of the AAUW Fort Wayne Trust. This event includes our popular silent auction, which furthers the AAUW mission. Please consider a contribution of a basket or individual items to include in the auction.

AAUW Fort Wayne Branch Fall Meeting & Brunch!

Everything Books !

Saturday, October 9, 2021 10:00 am to 12:30 pm

Allen County Public Library (downtown), Rooms A, B, & C
900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne, IN (between W. Washington Blvd. and W. Wayne St.)

Literacy is a Basic Human Right!!!

Please join AAUW members in our **salute to literacy** as being a basic **human right!** Our guest speaker, Melinda Haines, will be addressing the need to improve literacy within our community. Melinda is the new Executive Director of the Literacy Alliance in Allen County. She will present the program changes for adults and children that have been created to improve their reading skills at the Literacy Alliance.



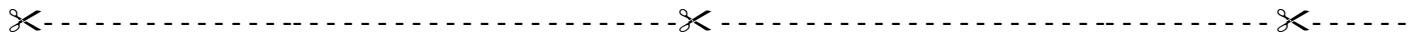
AAUW Fund Raiser: Bring Your “Gently” Used Books for a “Silent Auction!”

Bring your interesting and favorite hardback or paperback books to the AAUW meeting/brunch for donating to AAUW. A silent auction of all the books donated will be held at the meeting and the funds will be used to support AAUW projects.

Early Bird reservation is \$13 per person if received by Friday, Oct. 1st.

On-time reservation is \$15 per person and must be received by Monday, Oct. 4th.

Your **reservation and check – must be received** no later than Monday, Oct. 4, 2021.



Registration for AAUW Fall Meeting & Brunch:

Saturday, October 9, 2021, 10:00 am

Your Reservation and check – **MUST be received by Monday, Oct. 4th.**

Box lunches by Goeglein’s will include: Deli wrap sandwich, fruit cup, carrot cake, assorted pop or bottled water.

Member Name: _____

Guest #1 Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email of Guest #1: _____

Guest #2 Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email of Guest #2: _____

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
Ph: 260-432-7719 Email: eileen.fraser@outlook.com

<p>Enter <u>Number</u> of Sandwich Wrap Choices needed:</p> <p>____ Ham</p> <p>____ Turkey</p> <p>____ Chicken</p> <p>____ Vegetarian</p>
--

Pay online at <https://aauwfortwayne.org/online-payments/>

Check # _____



In Memoriam

Joan Gotschall passed away on August 5, 2021. Her complete obituary can be found at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/fort-wayne-in/kathryn-gotschall-10298462>. Joan had been a member of AAUW for 50 plus years. She had lived at the Kingston Residence for some time. When I last spoke with Joan, she remarked about how much she enjoyed reading our AAUW newsletter and appreciated it. – Bobbie Weikle

*If you would like to make a memorial gift to our AAUW Fort Wayne Trust, please designate the check to AAUW Fort Wayne Trust and send it to:
Barb Kanning at 1573 Tallgrass Trail, Fort Wayne, IN 46804.*

AAUW Trust

By Margy Schimmel, AAUW Trust Chair

Margy.schimmel@yahoo.com or (260) 747-5078

The 2021-2022 AAUW Trust Board would like to welcome two new members to our Trust Board. They are Corinna Weikle as Vice Chair and Staci Lugar-Brettin as Trustee. Two Trust Board positions were needed to be filled because of the passing of Trustee Sandra Tucker and the resignation of Vice Chair Susan Holleran due to health issues.

Thanks to Corinna and Staci for graciously agreeing to be appointed to the Trust Board.

AAUW Fort Wayne Branch Trust Celebrates 40th Anniversary!

At the AAUW Branch meeting being held on December 4, 2021, we will celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the AAUW Trust. The original Trust was established through the gracious bequest from R. Hazel Miller, a member of AAUW and a teacher in the Fort Wayne Public Schools.

This meeting will be held at the Pine Valley Country Club and will highlight some of projects that our grant funds have made possible. More details about the event will be announced in the future. Don't miss this opportunity to commemorate and celebrate the outstanding projects that our Trust has helped fund through the years.

**Grant Applications
accepted
February 1 - 28.**

The Grant Application Form and instructions for applying may be found on the web site at: <http://aaufortwayne.org>.

This section left blank intentionally...

A Worthwhile Trip

By Cheryl Mathews

On Tuesday, July 13, 2021, I had the privilege of participating in a day trip, hosted by the Fort Wayne Parks & Recreation Department, to the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center. This museum is in Skokie, IL, north of Chicago, which has a large international population, including Holocaust survivors. According to the tour guide, this is the 3rd largest Holocaust museum in the world after the one in Jerusalem, and the one in Washington, D.C. It is housed in a spacious, state-of-the-art building, built in 2011, to house interpretive displays, artifacts, photos, recordings and an auditorium for presentations. Our group divided up into smaller groups, each with its own docent, to help give background information, relevant anecdotes, and to answer questions. The exhibit covers the whole timeline from the rise of the Nazis, increased restrictions on European Jews, mass deportation to the camps, the liberation of the camps by advancing soldiers, and the fate of survivors, many of whom were children who had no family left. I appreciated this museum's thoughtful interpretations, its stories, and its historical importance. Our guided tour was 2 hours long, but we could have spent more time taking in the exhibits. If you go, plan to invest a whole morning or afternoon at this remarkable museum.

“Work Smart” Training Session:

Improving Your Work Relationships & Salary Negotiation Skills

One of our newer AAUW members, Dr. Staci Lugar-Brettin and her colleague, Michael Dunne-Steece, Chair of the Human Services & Psychology at Indiana Tech University will present a **Work Smart** Workshop on **Oct. 6, 2021, from 6:30 PM to 8:30 pm**. The event will be held on the campus of Indiana Tech University. The training session will be held in the Seitz Conference Center of the Andorfer Building on campus.

After receiving a grant from our AAUW Fort Wayne Trust, the funding was used to purchase the **“Start Smart”** and **“Work Smart”** training materials from our National AAUW. Staci and Michael have been using the **Start Smart** materials this past year in several training sessions at Indiana Tech. The **Start Smart** materials were specifically designed for students who will be entering the workforce and need to learn skills to negotiate their salaries.

Recently, Staci and Michael have begun hosting sessions using the **Work Smart** materials. These professional materials are specifically designed for individuals who have already been in workforce and want to improve their skills to help build working relationships and improve their salary negotiation skills.

Participants of these presentations have given great reviews about the information they are learning. The Indiana Tech publicity department will be sending out information to the public about the October presentation for **Work Smart**. However, if you know women or men who are in the workforce and who would be interested in acquiring new skills, please have them contact Dr. Stacy at: SRLugarBrettin@indianatech.edu.

October is National Women's Month.

One of our overarching AAUW goals is to help women overcome the wage gap in salaries. The **Start Smart** and **Work Smart** training sessions are designed to increase participants knowledge about working relationships and demonstrate how people can improve their salary negotiation skills. **What a great way to celebrate National Women's Month with this presentation!** AAUW would like to thank Staci and Michael, for all their time and work to make this type of training available to people in our community.

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

Group Leader: Martha Dawson

Group meets at 6-8 pm on the first Tuesday of the month in the Globe Room at the ACPL Main Branch.

October 5 – *The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson Discussion Leader: Lynn Colvin

November 2 – *Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* by V. E. Schwab

Discussion Leader: Linda Manning

December 7 – *Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate

Discussion Leader: Theresa Brady

Current Literature II

Group Leader: Cheryl Mathews

Group meets at 1:30-3:00 pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Community Villas of Heritage Lakes Club House at 8220 St. Joe Road, FW.

September 28 – Choosing books for 2021-22

October 26 – *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett

Discussion Leader: Cheryl Mathews

Great Decisions

Group Leaders: Donna McKenzie and Rita Voors

Group meets at 1:30-3:00 pm on the 2nd Friday of the month at the Community Villas of Heritage Lakes Club House at 8220 St. Joe Road, FW.

September 10 – *China's Road into Latina America*

Discussion Leader: Jane Anderson

October 8

November 12

First Impressions

Group Leader: Cheryl Mathews

Meeting times and locations vary.

Creative Arts & Service

Group Leader: Carol Isaacs

The group meets mostly second Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm.

Creative Stitchery and Service Projects

Group Leader: Patti Davis

The group meets on the First Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm.

Bread for the World is a group that advocates for legislation to end hunger and help those living in poverty. There is a small group in Fort Wayne that is part of a larger, national effort. Check out the Facebook page—[Bread for the World Fort Wayne](#) and our state website: <https://www.breadindiana.org>. Contact Nancy McCammon-Hansen if you have any questions or would like to be on the local email list at nmccammonhansen@gmail.com.

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

Affix Address Label here

AAUW Fort Wayne IN Branch 2021-22 Board of Directors

President: Dr. Bobbie Weikle
Co-Directors of Program: Linda Manning/Kayla Crecelius
Co-Directors of Membership: Amy Lehman/Stephany Bourne
Recording Secretary: Terri Stumpf
Corresponding Secretary: Theresa Brady
Director of Finance: Margy Schimmel

AAUW Fort Wayne IN 2021-22 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