



December 2020 NEWSLETTER

Save the Dates

Event Meeting - Saturday, January 9, 2021

We hope you will join us for our Event meeting on January 9th as we welcome State Senator Chris Larson. Senator Larson will provide an update of what the Legislature faces in 2021.

Senator Larson has served in the Wisconsin Senate since 2011. He is a life-long Wisconsinite and a graduate of UW- Milwaukee where he earned a B.A. in Finance. He also served as a Milwaukee County Supervisor. His committee assignments include: Education Committee, Tax Exemption Committee, Administrative Rules Committee and Universities, Technical Colleges, Children and Families Committee.

Is there a question you would like answered by Senator Larsen? If so, please email it to the office by Monday, January 4th.

A special Zoom meeting invitation will be sent the week of January 4th. We hope you are able to join us to learn more about our State government.

International Day of Women and Girls in Science

AAUW Milwaukee will be offering an opportunity to screen the film, *Picture A Scientist.* This documentary chronicles the stories of three women scientists and the barriers they have faced being women in STEM. For important information about this event please see below:

Please save the date below on your calendars! In January, a registration link will go out to all our members, and those who register will receive a link to watch the documentary on Vimeo (similar to YouTube) within the 72 hours before our panel/discussion, using a computer or mobile device. As a follow-up, a panel discussion will be held virtually on:

International Day of Women and Girls in Science
Thursday, February 11, 2021
7pm-8pm

If you are interested in helping plan this program (e.g. helping recruit women scientists for the panel and discussion, reaching out to area colleges to invite women students studying STEM to join us, preparing questions for the panel and discussion, etc.), please let Jessica May know so that you can be included in any planning meetings.

President's Message



If you thought our Branch has not been active during this time of COVID-19, you may be surprised by what is going on:

Work on the process to award scholarships to Milwaukee Public Schools students from our branch to continue their education after high school is underway. These awards will be made for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Updates to use a software program rather than spreadsheets to track our finances is underway and will be completed in the Spring of 2021.

The branch currently has two stars in AAUW's Five Star Program (one for programs and one for public policy). We will look for ways the Branch can complete requirements for additional stars in 2021.

In the most recent edition of AAUW's Washington update, AAUW has communicated with the Biden-Harris transition team the actions the organization and coalition partners would like supported in the next administration. Those issues include advancing pay equity, support for economic security and education for women and girls and suspending implementation of the new Title IX rules. Additionally, AAUW urged the new administration for appoint leaders who understand systemic barriers to opportunities faced by historically marginalized communities.

As many of you realize, the impact of the pandemic has been felt more acutely by women and people of color - in job security, pay, and care of a child or elder adult. The work that we do as citizens of our country is more than just voting (although that is a starting point). We must also hold our leaders accountable to work for all as well

A final request for a volunteer to serve as President-Elect for the remainder of the 2020-2021 term and become President in June 2021. Co-Presidents could also be considered. In addition, a volunteer is needed to serve Chair of the Nominations Committee. Our by-laws indicate in 2021, a President-elect along with Membership and Program positions are to be elected. If you have an interest in either the President-Elect position or Nominations Chair position, please let me know.

AAUW National

CHECK OUT AAUW'S NEW DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION RESOURCES

Our new [Diversity, Equity & Inclusion toolkit](#) includes dozens of resources to help AAUW members and others to celebrate their differences and incorporate inclusive practices into their everyday lives. These tools can help you lead branch workshops and further your own learning. There are sections defining key terms and concepts, exploring dimensions of diversity, and giving advice on how to start difficult conversations.

The toolkit was developed by AAUW's Inclusion & Equity Committee, which is led by Committee Chair Dr. Lisette Garcia and AAUW Chief Administrative Officer Sheila Amo. For more information, watch our [recent webinar](#) about how to engage with these resources, and stay tuned for more how-to sessions in 2021. Follow-up webinars will be scheduled in February and April. Meanwhile, if you have questions, please contact the Inclusion & Equity Committee at diversity@aauw.org.



AAUW WI Annual Convention Goes Virtual! Mark Your Calendars!



Planning is underway for the AAUW-WI Annual State Convention to be held virtually Friday, April 23, and Saturday, April 24, 2021.

Have you ever wondered what the AAUW Wisconsin State Convention was like, but didn't want to travel, or couldn't afford the expense? This is your year to experience the convention without the travel or expense.

While a Zoom convention won't be quite the same, it will give you a taste of what an in-person convention is like. Save the dates, and plan on joining via Zoom for all or parts of the convention. There are some interesting speakers already booked, and plans continue to be firmed up for our virtual convention.

Friday, April 23, 2021 (7:00-9:00 PM)

Welcome

Presentation of Conversations between suffragists Carrie Chapman Catt and Jessie Jack Hooper

Saturday, April 24, 2021 (9:30 AM - 3:00 PM)

9:30 – 10:45 Business meeting

11:00 – Noon Featured Speaker: Rep Sheila Stubbs

12:10 – 2:00 Breakout sessions

2:00 – 3:00 Jessica Michna presents “Women Who Dared”

Women's Herstory



On December 19, former Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Shirley Abrahamson passed away. Abrahamson was the court's first woman to be elected to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, the first woman to serve as a chief justice, as well as the longest serving member on the state's supreme court - having served for a total of 43 years from 1976 to 2019.

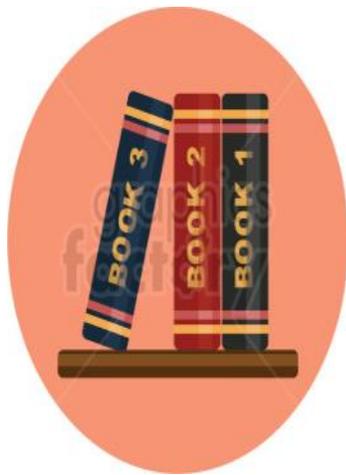
During her time on the court, Abrahamson championed civil rights and aimed to make the court as transparent and accessible as possible for Wisconsinites. She sought to expand civil liberties for Wisconsin based on “New Federalism,” arguing state supreme court's should be able to interpret the state constitution differently than the Supreme Court of the United States interprets the nation's constitution. Notably, she focused on the rights of criminal defendants.

She was the chief justice when the court became one of the first in the nation to hold its administrative meetings publicly - which ended years later, with opposition from Abrahamson. She also supported programs that brought high school students to court's hearing room to hear arguments and one in which justices travelled to other areas of the state annually to hear arguments.

Book Club: 2020-2021 - Anne Lehman & Ellie Moseley

The AAUW of Milwaukee Book Club meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 1:00 to 2:00, September to May (excluding December 2020 and June, July, and August of 2021). This year we will have virtual meetings via ZOOM. These are the wonderful books selected for this season: October 2020 through May 2021.

- Jan. 26: **White Fragility** by Robin DiAngelo
 - Discussion Leader: Christine Brown
- Feb. 23: **All the Light You Cannot See** by Anthony Doerr
 - Discussion Leader: Ellie Moseley
- Mar. 23: **News of the World** by Paulette Jiles
 - Discussion Leader: TBA
- April 27: **Crazy Brave** by Joy Harjo
 - Discussion Leader: Anne Lehman
- May 25: **Caste: The Origins of Discontent** by Isabelle Wilkerson
 - Discussion Leader: Sharon Munson
- Sept. 28: Select books for 2021-22
- Oct. 26: TBA



PHENOMENAL WOMAN

Pretty women wonder where my
secret lies
I'm not cute or built to suit a
fashion model's size
But when I start to tell them
They think I'm telling lies.

I say,
It's in the reach of my arms
The span of my hips,
The stride of my step,
The curl of my lips.

I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me.

Maya Angelou

Sometimes I feel discriminated
against but it does not make me
angry. It merely astonishes me.
How can anyone deny themselves
the pleasure of my company?
It's beyond me.

Zora Neale Hurston

Office Hours

Tuesday and Wednesday

9:30 am - 12:30pm

Thursday

9:30 am - 1:30pm

