



August / September 2021

NEWSLETTER

Did you know October is:

ADHD Awareness Month
Blind Awareness Month
Breast Cancer Awareness Month
Down Syndrome Awareness Month
Dyslexia Awareness Month
Fair Trade Month
Filipino American History Month
Health Literacy Month
Healthy Lung Month
Italian-American Heritage and Culture Month
LGBT History Month
Liver Cancer Awareness Month
National Apple Month
National Arts and Humanities Month
National Bullying Prevention Month
National Chiropractic Month
National Dental Hygiene Month
National Domestic Violence Awareness Month
National Pizza Month
Polish American Heritage Month
SIDS Awareness Month
Spina Bfida Awareness Month
World Menopause Month
Vegetarian Awareness Month
and many more
www.thespruce.com

President's Message

Call to Action: Equity Now

Carla D. Washington
President, AAUW Milwaukee Branch
District 2 Coordinator, AAUW Wisconsin



Same mission. Same great organization. "Together, we can achieve a vision of equal opportunity for all."

If not now, when? If not you, who? These past 18 months that we have all been busy surviving, thriving in, and navigating through the pandemic, what has become painfully evident, is the *still* urgent need for **Equity Now** for women and girls. While I could list a myriad of statistics to support why this statement is true, I would rather direct you to visit AAUW's website to read about the issues for yourself. Then spread the word. The more who know, the more we grow.

Like you, I miss being able to gather in person with all of you to hear and share stories of life and ultimate triumphs as a result of our collective efforts and "can do" transformative energy. Let's build upon the wonderful 127 year history of the AAUW Milwaukee Branch and soar to newer heights. We ARE who we have been waiting on to activate and sustain real change for women and girls.

AAUW Milwaukee Branch needs your active engagement more now than ever before. Please join me, AAUW WI, and AAUW National in the ongoing fight to achieve **Equity Now**.

Thank you for your commitment.



Like us on Facebook!

AAUW - Milwaukee Updates



Lyn Hildenbrand – Vice President Membership

AAUW MILWAUKEE held its first in-person affair since Covid 19 arrived! It was our Shape the Future Event!! Thirteen members and nine guests boarded the *Harbor Lady* on Saturday, September 19th on a picture-perfect day, to enjoy a two-hour cruise. We traveled along the Milwaukee River out past the breakwater on to the open waters of Lake Michigan.

As fate would have it Marquette University (MU) and University of Wisconsin Milwaukee (UWM) Sailing Teams were contending in their final competition of the year as we glided out past the breakwater. How perfect was this? Two city Universities competing on the open waters of Lake Michigan on the same day that several alumnae of both schools were on board the *Harbor Lady* enjoying the view - who knew?

The water was placid, as the sun reflected ever so lovey on the river and lake. Members and guests enjoyed a Margarita Fiesta prepared by the staff of the Edelweiss Corporation. The entire ship was at our disposal; inside, outside, upstairs, downstairs, and the crew was so very accommodating.

All in attendance received a gift bag filled with AAUW swag; a face mask, hand sanitizer, pens, magnets, stickers and more. Carla Washington, Branch President, welcomed everyone-introductions were made and the mission of AAUW was shared. I, as Membership VP shared information on Shape the Future and offered any guest in attendance half price membership if they decided to join AAUW Milwaukee, by attending this event.

The two hours flew by, and before we knew it we were pulling into the dock to disembark. As members and guests arrived in port and bid farewell, all in attendance agreed the day was flawless, the event was long overdue and the company of so many established, powerful, strong women inspired everyone to go out and Shape the Future!

There is still time to renew your membership ladies and gentlemen. We have many plans for this up and coming year, you don't want to miss a thing - stay tuned for program updates due to be finalized in early November.





Shirley A. Metcalf, Vice President Finance

Accounting for AAUW Milwaukee was very manual when I became Finance Vice President. It took a bit of time to reconcile the four accounts held at various financial institutions.

Clarity was needed to simplify the branch accounting. QuickBooks Online was purchased which connects to Scribner Cohen CPA firm electronically to the investment firm of Baird. Connecting through QuickBooks allowed Baird to send financial information directly to Scribner Cohen, which makes the process of filing the branch's Form 990 to the IRS more efficient.

My goal for this year is connecting Greater Milwaukee Foundation funds to Scribner Cohen.

Herstory



A guest from our Shape the Future event, Dr. Joan Prince, has joined AAUW - Milwaukee branch. She shared her story of receiving a scholarship from AAUW Milwaukee upon graduation from Wisconsin Lutheran High School. This enabled her to attend University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee earning her undergraduate and master's degrees as well as a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin Medical School. With this scholarship her future had only just begun to take shape! Everyone in attendance was honored and humbled to hear her story, and enjoy the company of the recently retired vice chancellor from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Dr. Joan M. Prince was nominated by President Barack Obama to the 67th General Assembly of the United Nations with the honorary rank of ambassador. As a one-year survivor of breast cancer, Dr. Prince inspired all of us with her story and her compassionate character.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) was launched nationwide in October 1987 as a way to connect and unite individuals and organizations working on domestic violence issues while raising awareness for those issues. Over the past 30+ years, much progress has been made to support domestic violence victims and survivors, to hold abusers accountable, and to create and update legislation to further those goals.

For more information go to:

<https://www.ncadv.org/2021DVAM>



AAUW National

The AAUW Board of Directors has selected [Gloria L. Blackwell](#) as the new Chief Executive Officer of AAUW, effective October 18, 2021.



Blackwell, who currently serves as AAUW's Executive Vice President and Chief Program Officer, was chosen for the role because of her deep executive experience and her impressive record of innovative contributions to AAUW's mission, according to AAUW Board President Julia T. Brown.

"As AAUW proudly celebrates 140 years of advancing equity for women and girls this year, we know that Gloria is the right leader at the right time," Brown said. "Her outstanding talents are unparalleled assets to AAUW. The Board and all our members are privileged to partner with Gloria to continue to uplift our mission and vision of equity for all."

Blackwell, who is also AAUW's main representative to the United Nations, brings more than 30 years of nonprofit, international and government experiences to her new position. Among her many accomplishments is her 17-year management of AAUW's highly esteemed fellowships and grants program, awarding more than \$70 million in funding to women scholars and programs in the U.S. and overseas.

Blackwell has also been the driving force behind AAUW's signature programs, including its [salary negotiation trainings](#), which have reached nearly 190,000 nationwide. She has initiated and built partnerships with major funders, including [The Coca-Cola Foundation](#) and [Arconic Foundation](#). She has worked on pay equity initiatives with public officials in [Washington D.C.](#), [New York City](#), Boston and [Pittsburgh](#), as well as with numerous other state and municipal partners. She also worked with the National Science Foundation to increase girls' participation in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields.

At AAUW, Blackwell established the [Alumnae Recognition Award](#) to honor outstanding alumnae. She has represented the organization across the U.S and [globally](#), including in Dubai, Morocco, Tunisia, Sao Paulo and Rio, Brazil. Most notably, Blackwell has significantly expanded the AAUW's outreach to girls and women of color.

"I am incredibly honored and grateful to the Board for valuing my commitment to global gender equity, my leadership at AAUW and the contributions of my high-performing teams," said Blackwell, who is the second woman of color to lead AAUW in its 140-year history. "I stand in a unique place, and I plan to use my skills and expertise to build a new and stronger vision for AAUW. I vow to grow our impact across *all* communities and expand our commitment to infuse equity and inclusion in everything we do."

Prior to joining AAUW, Blackwell worked at the Institute of International Education (IIE) in Washington D.C., leading and managing girl's education programs in Africa and mid-career fellowships for global professionals. Her lifelong desire to make a difference through international education and gender equity was inspired by her service as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Cameroon and the Country Desk Officer at the D.C. headquarters for five Sub-Saharan countries.

Blackwell is the recipient of multiple honors and awards and has led and served on numerous boards and advisory groups, including the UNA-USA Council of Organizations Executive Committee, the International Book Bank, Latina SciGirls and the Canadian Organization for Development Through Education (CODE). She holds a master's degree education and human development from The George Washington University, and bachelor's degree in foreign service from the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. A fluent French speaker, she also studied at the American University in Paris, France.

Public Policy Corner

The Fight for Fair Maps: the good, the bad and a call to action

Now's the time to contact your state legislators to **support** bipartisan legislative and congressional redistricting reform legislation to end gerrymandering and create a nonpartisan and transparent redistricting process, and to **oppose** bad local redistricting timeline changes.

Tell your legislators to actively champion [Assembly Bill 395/ Senate Bill 389](#).

Suggested statement to your representative:

- “Hello. I urge Senator/Representative _____ to support a ban on gerrymandering, and work to create independent and transparent redistricting modeled after that process used in Iowa. I’m sick and tired of politicians rigging the game. Legislators no longer need to listen to their constituents because of gerrymandered voting districts. We’ve got to make our democracy functional again. Please co-sponsor and actively champion bipartisan Senate Bill 389 and Assembly Bill 395, sponsored by Senator Jeff Smith and Representative Deb Andraca.”

Contact chairs of the Senate Committee on Government Operations, Legal Review and Consumer Protection and Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections and demand that they hold public hearings on these bipartisan bills in 2021!

A suggested statement to committee chairs:

- “Hello. I strongly encourage Senator Stroebel, as chair of the Senate Committee on Government Operations, Legal Review and Consumer Protection, to hold a public hearing on Senate Bill 389, a bipartisan bill to ban gerrymandering and bring nonpartisan and transparent redistricting to Wisconsin. Citizens and experts in the field from around the state should have opportunities to voice their views on how voting districts are drawn. As chair, the Senator has the power and authority to make this happen.”
- “Hello. I strongly encourage Representative Brandtjen, as chair of the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections, to hold a public hearing on Assembly Bill 395, a bipartisan bill to ban gerrymandering and bring nonpartisan and transparent redistricting to Wisconsin. Citizens and experts in the field from around the state should have opportunities to voice their views on how voting districts are drawn. As chair, Rep. Brandtjen has the power and authority to make this happen.”

THEY REPRESENT YOU!

TAKE ACTION

CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIAL TODAY



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which is an annual campaign to increase awareness of the disease. Ready to **RISE** to the occasion? Here are a handful of ways you can help:



Rally In Screening Everyone

- [Make a donation](#) to provide life-saving mammograms to women in need. New this year, choose exactly where your donation goes.
- Take our educational [eBook Quiz](#) to find relevant breast health resources.



Rally In Serving Everyone

- [Make a donation](#) to support patient navigators who specialize in serving at-risk populations.
- [Volunteer](#) to join virtually in Helping Women Now.



Rally In Supporting Everyone

- Spread the word about Breast Cancer Awareness Month on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), or [LinkedIn](#).
- Host a [virtual fundraiser](#) or [Facebook fundraiser](#) benefitting NBCF.
- Leave a hope-filled message on the [Wall of Support](#)
- [Share the story](#) of how you or a loved one have been affected by breast cancer.
- Proudly wear [a pink ribbon](#) during October or year-round.

For more information go to:

<https://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/breast-cancer-awareness-month>



Book Club: 2021-2022 - Anne Lehman & Ellie Moseley

The AAUW of Milwaukee Book Club meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 1:00pm to 2:00pm. This year's meetings will be virtual via ZOOM.

- October 26, 2021: A Gentleman In Moscow by Amor Towles
 - Discussion Leader: Jean Kreul
- November 2021
 - No Meeting
- December 2021
 - No Meeting
- January 25, 2022: The Orchardist by Amanda Coplin
 - Discussion Leader: Ellie Moseley
- February 22, 2022: Memoir of a Geisha by Arthur Golden
 - Discussion Leader: Jean Kreul
- March 22, 2022: The Keeper of Lost Things by Ruth Hogan
 - Discussion Leader: Ann Lehman
- April 26, 2022: Poet Warrior by Joy Harjo
 - Discussion Leader: Ann Lehman
- May 28, 2022: TBA
- September 27, 2022
 - Book Selection for 2022-2023



Hispanic Heritage Month

On September 15th, Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley signed an executive proclamation in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month to mark the start of the month.

He stated, "during this time, we recognize a fundamental truth: Hispanic Heritage is American Heritage," Crowley said. "Whether their ancestors who have been here for generations or if they are among some of the newest citizens, they represent a rich history of country and culture, each adding their own contributions and dynamic perspective to our country."

National Hispanic Heritage Month (Spanish: Mes Nacional de la Herencia Hispana) is a period from 15 September to 15 October in the United States for recognizing the contributions and influence of Hispanic Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States.

September 15 was chosen as the starting point for the commemoration because it is the anniversary of independence of five **Hispanic** countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, who all declared independence in 1821.

For more information go to:

<https://www.tmj4.com/news/hispanic-heritage/milwaukee-county-executive-issues-proclamation-honoring-hispanic-american-heritage/>

Office Hours*

Tuesday and Wednesday

10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Thursday

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

*(hours are subject to change without notice)