

## Coming in 2021-22

*Helene Maraghy, Leadership Team*

After more than a year without meetings or gatherings, AAUW Bath-Brunswick is starting to come out of hibernation. The board met recently to start making plans.

The impetus for Bath-Brunswick moving forward is that Maine AAUW has just purchased a Zoom Account, which will give individual branches full access to both state and local meetings. We now have one branch member with experience on how to run Zoom meetings, which will be a big help on the local level.

On June 10, U.S. Representative Chellie Pingree will be the featured speaker at the Annual State AAUW Convention. Keep your eyes open for a notice on how to register for the convention and hear what congresswoman Pingree has to share with the women of Maine.

In addition, there are three speakers Bath-Brunswick had lined up in 2020 who have all agreed to be available in 2021:

**Anne B. Gass** – author of *We Demand: The Suffrage Road Trip*.

Anne, a women's rights history activist, is the granddaughter of Florence Brooks Whitehouse a leading organizer in Maine's movement to get the vote for women.

**Laurie Apgar Chandler** – author of *Upwards*, in which she describes her adventure in the Summer of 2015 when, at the age of 53, she solo thru-paddled New England's Northern Forest Canoe Trail; and *Through Woods & Waters: A solo journey to Maine's new National Monument*.

**Amber Lambke** – is co-founder and CEO of Maine Grains Inc. The website describes Amber as: "A driving force behind Maine's sustainable food movement... she has worked with business and community members to bring the cultivation and processing of grains back to Skowhegan."

We hope you will be able to join us as we reconnect with one another to share informative times and potential in-person social interactions in the months ahead.

## Dear Bath-Brunswick Branch AAUW Members,

*Lucy Stinson, Leadership Team*

In mid-March I attended an AAUW webinar on Membership: Recruitment, Retention and Fund Raising in Covid-19 and Beyond. The main take-aways were that Zoom meetings are here to stay, and that AAUW members across the country have been very creative using Zoom. We are in the 5% of branches that have taken a year off from programming and fundraising. 71% of branches have hosted at least one Zoom meeting. Branches did wine tastings and assorted fundraising all by Zoom – some in their PJs! More fun than pulling on boots.

So, the Leadership Team is resolved to move off the dime and see if we can't manage to get back on track, probably using Zoom to start, and aiming for some in-person gatherings as we approach full vaccination of members and as the reluctance to gather in groups, even with fully vaccinated people, becomes less acute. I emailed with the Leadership Team and told

them I would try to learn to host Zoom. I did a practice run with Debbie Schall, our Newsletter Editor, and after about 3 false starts we found ourselves looking at each other and talking to each other! I managed to reduce the false starts to 2 when I tried it with 5 people on the call. My next step was to attend the State Board meeting at which that board discussed obtaining a Zoom subscription that all the branches could use. It is uncertain exactly how that will work, but the couple of member gurus from our Maine colleges who use Zoom on a daily basis seemed to think it could happen. So I am optimistic that we can do this, and even better, with Zoom, Bath-Brunswick members can participate in/attend other branches' programs. At this writing, I only have a personal Zoom account – 40 minutes, 10 people, no charge. Good for small short meetings and for practice.

It is our hope is that the promise of the foregoing will be enough to entice you to continue your membership in AAUW for another year. Yes, it is that time, once again!

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By your continued membership, you are part of a much larger community committed to the cause, and you are also directly funding AAUW's work to:

- Train millions of women to negotiate for higher salaries and benefits.
- Support state and local fair-pay legislation to ban the use of salary history in hiring, a practice that puts women at a financial disadvantage.
- Develop more women leaders through workshops and conferences.

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- Fund research that is informing national conversations on the gender pay gap, women's student-debt burden, and other key equity issues.

On July 2, 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear a challenge to the Ninth Circuit Court decision that prohibited employers from relying on a person's salary history to justify pay disparities. As such the Ninth Circuit's February 2020 opinion stands; it holds that using prior salary alone, as a "factor other than sex," or in combination with other factors cannot justify a wage differential between employees. Only job-related factors may serve as affirmative defenses to Equal Pay Act claims. In part the AAUW press release stated: "We are honored to have worked with Aileen Rizo, who challenged the practice under the federal Pay Equity Act, and proud to have helped establish important precedent that brings us a step closer to gender pay equity. It's outrageous that a woman's prior pay could play a role in determining her salary in a new job."

Now, after all this good news, we need to talk about re-upping dues for the 2021-22 fiscal year (FY) and beyond. In late October 2020 every member received an email from Julia Brown, Board Chair, stating that "(T)he AAUW Board of Directors voted at its October 16, 2020 meeting to increase Individual Member dues for the next 3 years. The dues will rise by \$3 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, \$5 for FY 2023 and \$5 for FY 2024, making the total (national) dues amount for those years \$62, \$67 and \$72 respectively. All but \$3 of your annual dues remains tax deductible." If the state and branch dues remain unchanged, the total for FY 2022 would be \$87.

The email goes on to say that the increases are necessary to preserve the viability of the organization we all love and are essential for AAUW to continue its mission to achieve gender equity. Dues have been flat since 2018. And as you are probably aware, most nonprofits adjust their dues annually or every other year to keep pace with inflation and rising expenses.

The Leadership Team hopes you will continue your AAUW membership despite this year of chaos and uncertainty. Consider: AAUW is an important partner in taking on one of the most defining issues of our time: gender equity. Your continued membership will help close the gender pay gap by 2030, ensure that schools and workplaces are free of discrimination and harassment, and create more opportunities for women to lead.

We've come a long way, but there is still a long way to go. Please join us.

## Scholarships

*Joanne McDermott*

Scholarship Committee Chair Joanne McDermott and members Donna Walker, Karen Bragow, and Betsy Schmidt reviewed and evaluated four Scholarship Applications sent by Shelley Taylor, Student Services Coordinator at the University of Maine Augusta's Brunswick Center.

The following two candidates were each awarded one of our 2021 AAUW Scholarships which paid for one course and all associated fees and expenses.

### Christina Doucette

Christina, who was recently widowed, has been working toward a Bachelor's Degree for some time. She still has 10 courses to complete for her degree in Applied Sciences with a minor in Accounting, with the goal of graduating in May 2022.

Christina is looking for part-time work, having given up her full-time job while caring for her husband during his illness. She has a positive attitude and is determined to reach her goal and build a new professional career for herself.

### Odette Zouri

Odette is a well-educated immigrant single mother of two children. She has been working full-time as a CNA while attending Nursing School at UMA. She has four semesters left in order to graduate in May 2023 as a Registered Nurse.

Odette is highly motivated, has a GPA of 3.71, and gets strength and encouragement from her community. She is a board member of the Mid Coast New Mainers Group which helps new immigrants navigate an adjust to a new culture.

## Interest Groups

Now that summer is coming and we are able to remove our masks, the board decided that it would be a good idea to offer a couple of interest groups to jump start our return to semi-normal. Nothing is definite yet, but Out to Lunch Bunch and Knitting groups may be up and running soon. Details will be sent by email.

**2021-2022 AAUW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Bath-Brunswick Branch

\_\_\_\_\_ \$87 Dues (\$62 National, \$15 State, \$10 Branch) (\$62 is tax-deductible)  
 (50-year Life members, please pay only \$25 to cover State and Branch Dues)

Optional Donations:

\_\_\_\_\_ Branch Local Scholarships

\_\_\_\_\_ National AAUW Fund

\_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

College(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Degrees(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please fill all blanks to ensure we have your most current information**

**Return form with check for dues no later than June 15 to:**

**Helene Maraghy, Treasurer, 4 Botany Place, Brunswick, ME 04011**

**Membership**

*Joanne Bollinger*

Members all,

How I've missed you. As your Membership Chair -- in name only, seeing as Helene does nearly all the actual work -- I strongly encourage everyone to re-up as we will re-activate and revitalize our branch with programs following the summer. Plus a couple of our interest groups have decided to kick things off during the warm weather months now that we're able to gather safely outside and in certain cases, even indoors.

With so many new folks coming to the area, I imagine a number of you have seen some new faces in your neighborhoods. Recently I heard one of our members say that when she moved here a few years back, the friendliest group she joined was ours! If that doesn't give you all a reason for extending invitations to newbies in the area, I'm not sure what would. Invite someone and make a new friend for AAUW.

My summer won't be nearly as adventurous as 2020's but I'll be journeying in my Zambia Van to my place on Lake Superior, as well as making a few short trips from there. I put my blog to bed on December 31st, but friends have encouraged me to send out some updates and photos once I'm on the road again.

The link to the blog will remain the same and if you feel like reviewing last year's journey, here 'tis: <https://jojobollinger371.medium.com/>

Here I am a day before I set out on the 7000 mile trip last August:



I'll alert Sophie each time I put up a new post. She's amazing at communicating news from AAUW sources, even a "Jammin' Journeying Jo-Jo"!

Back to AAUW: Remember to send in that membership renewal *tout de suite*, otherwise you'll be hearing my nagging voice on your phone or voicemail.

Joanne Bollinger

Board President: WISE-Zambia (Women's Initiatives that Strengthen and Empower)

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