



HIGHLIGHTS

IN EQUITY

AAUW Heights-Hillcrest-Lyndhurst, Ohio Branch

A newsletter for members and friends who support gender fairness
September 2021, Volume 2021-2022, Issue 1

National AAUW Advocacy Updates



PROGRAM WORTHY

Donna Black, Program Chair

This Month's Meeting:

Hello AAUW members and friends. Please join HHL Branch on Wednesday, September 22, 2021 from 6:45 pm to 9:00 pm for our Start-of-the-Year meeting. AAUW has undergone a lot of change over the past few years. We thought it would be a good idea to conduct an orientation for old and new members and provide you with National Advocacy Updates. Bring questions.

Also, PLEASE bring a recent college graduate or an old friend that might be interested in membership. The next generation needs to know what we know if they are ever to experience justice and equity in treatment and pay in the work force. The old generation must share what we have learned to help the next generation move forward and improve the gains we have already made and yet are constantly faced with losing.

Once again, because of the COVID-19 epidemic here in Ohio, we will meet via Zoom. (see link below)

Branch Elected Officers:

Your Executive Committee members for July 1, 2021—June 30, 2023 are:

Kay Rasmusen, President
Donna Black, Program Vice President
Phyllis Benjamin, Membership Vice President
Kathe Mayer, Secretary
Nancy Stellhorn, Finance Officer

Audit Committee Report:

The Audit Committee met in August to review our financial books. We are pleased to announce that the books are in order.

Looking Forward to October:

HHL AAUW is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: AAUW HHL Fall Zoom and business meeting
Date and Time: September 22, 2021, 06:45 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87136676902?pwd=cytweVpiY0ZYd2x1Qy9nUTBlc1hBUT09>

Meeting ID: 871 3667 6902

Passcode: 001419

Branch News: President's Column—Kay; Looking Ahead

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Looking Ahead—

On Tuesday, October 5 at 7 pm we will join Northeast Branch for a ZOOM program on Human Trafficking and the Lake County SOAP (Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution).

Marilyn was the Corresponding Secretary. Marilyn said May was such a good leader and advocate and very open about things along with being a perfectionist. They worked long hours together to make plans and became great friends—being recognized at the M&Ms. At May's 100th, Marilyn gave May a large bag of M&Ms and shared the story of how they became the M&Ms.

At May's party The City of Euclid honored May with a proclamation. Mayor Kirsten Holzheimer-Gail thanked May for the work she has done over the years in supporting women's rights, which she said paved the way for her to become the first woman President of City Council in Euclid, and now the first Women Mayor.

Sometimes we don't know how our influence or activism will affect others.

Our HHL AAUW branch has loyal members who inspire each other to keep learning, and we are working to make this year, 2021-22, an interesting program year. Our knowledge of and inspiration from each other helps us and other women to grow.

Kay

President's Column—Kay Rasmusen



I am a bookaholic so have tons of books. I was rereading *Feminist Fight Club A Survival Manual For A Sexist Workplace*, by Jessica Bennett for some inspiration for our first meeting.

I also have a liking for trivia, so I'll ask a trivia question from the book. Who said, "You don't have to have mentors who look like you. Had I been waiting for a black, female Soviet specialist mentor, I would still be waiting?" * (Our Membership Vice President, Phyllis Benjamin knew who it was.) Answer on page 8 of this newsletter.

This has made me think about women or people who have inspired me in my life. My first thought was a former coworker who was a social worker at my job at the Euclid Senior Programs. She told me that what I was doing at work was social work and suggested I get a social work license. This started me back to school to take some more courses and go for the test. I did admire this co-worker and I think I have thanked her over the years even though we have lost touch. When someone takes an interest in us and encourages us, it makes a difference.

One of our longtime members May Bana recently celebrated her 100th birthday. She and fellow AAUW member Marilyn Kornowski met at an AAUW Interbranch Council meeting where representatives from the several NE Ohio branches met monthly, to work for "Equity and Education for All Women and Girls." May was elected AAUW Ohio President and

September birthdays:

11 Clara McCann

October birthdays:

None



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More News: AAUW Ohio—Nancy; Donna’s Reflection

AAUW Ohio—Nancy Stellhorn



AAUW Ohio Plans for 2021-22

AAUW Ohio will gather members from across the state at its Fall Summit set for Saturday, October 16, 2021, 9 am to noon. Four discussion leaders will join us for the October Zoom event. Watch for more information soon. The branch must have at least one member present to be eligible for the Model Branch Award, formerly called the Starz Award.

If we can gather in person in April, the April 2, 2022 Convention and Annual Meeting will be in Columbus. If we still cannot meet in person, the event will be by Zoom. Besides the program events the business will include election of officers. If you would like to run for a State office, be ready by November/ December when the nomination forms should be posted. We also need at least one attendee at this event. Plan to report back to the branch. Some funding is available to offset your travel to Columbus.

AAUW Ohio continues its diversity and inclusion discussions with the Coffee and Convos online book discussions. Registration for the books *Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead on September 18 and *Moment of Lift* by Melinda Gates on November 20 can be found at AAUW Ohio. See you there.

Finance Officer—Nancy Stellhorn



We will need to approve a branch budget for 2021-2022. The board has approved it for presentation to and voting on by the branch. A copy of the proposed budget is attached to this newsletter. We will vote on it at our September 22 Zoom meeting.

Nancy

Check out our branch website for the latest branch information
<https://hhl-oh.aauw.net>
and our blog: <https://aauwahl.wordpress.com>
and find us and like us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/AAUWHHLOH>



It costs you nothing to do this. Your help is needed to provide mammograms for those who cannot afford one.



Reflect on This— New Beginnings From Old Flowers

Fall is not generally thought of as a time for new beginnings. But that is exactly what happens. Life is constantly preparing for rebirth and renewal. Old ideas and notions fall away to make room for exciting new beginnings. Your HHL Branch leadership team is excited about the new direction we envision for the near future. We think you are ready for a bold, new and exciting programmatic direction.

Last program year our branch members re-examined our personal beliefs and biases. Our programs helped us see that the past is prologue for the future. We realigned with the idea that we are a wise and experienced group of men and women anxious to support and influence the next generation as they set out on their path to re-envision and rebuild the future. That is why our board established a Task Force to investigate starting a mentoring program for girls and young women just starting out. We know you are all wisely suited to the task.

AAUW teaches its members that diversity, like flowers, makes our world a beautiful place in which to live. We know that a blank canvas becomes beautiful when we add the color and form of people from different walks of life to find ways to make our ideas and desires work well together. AAUW Family and Friends, join me in this realization throughout May, 2022. The world needs us and is depending on us to lead and beautify the way.

In the meantime, revisit your personal reason for joining our great organization and claim an even better version of your vision for humanity. Then, commit to working with the branch by dedicating your talents and skills to our agenda. Thank you.

Donna



Diversity—Cindy Goldberg, Co-Chair



Gabrielle Thomas exceptional in every way

How many times have we talked to young people about their role models and found they focus on individuals who have excelled in just one thing--a famous athlete, a famous scholar, perhaps a singer or a dancer. Those who wish to model themselves over an athlete will say, "I don't want to be a "geek' or a 'nerd'." Those who think of themselves as academically inclined say something different but also distance themselves from others seeing athletes is non-intellectual. Here is the story of Gabrielle Thomas who has combined academic and athletic excellence in a way that can inspire all young people to achieve in as many ways as they can.

From *Wikipedia*:

Gabrielle Thomas (born December 7, 1996) is an American track and field athlete. She is the third-fastest woman of all time in the 200 meters with her result of 21.61 seconds, which was set at the 2020 US Olympic trials. She won an individual bronze medal and a team silver medal at the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.



Thomas was born in Atlanta, Georgia to American mother Jennifer Randall and Jamaican father Desmond Thomas. She has a twin brother named Andrew. Thomas is African American on her mother's side and Jamaican on her father's side. In 2007, Randall moved the family to Massachusetts to teach at the University of Massachusetts after completing her PhD at Emory University. While the family settled in Florence, Massachusetts, Thomas initially played softball and soccer, then joined the track and field team. She was inspired to run by Allyson Felix, stating that her first memory of a track race was watching Felix while at her grandmother's house. In high school, Thomas ran all 4 years for Williston Northampton School, where she set multiple school records, was MVP every year, and was coached by Michelle Lawson.

A graduate of Harvard University, she studied neurobiology and global health as an undergraduate. While at Harvard, Thomas won 22 conference titles across her three years of athletics in six different events, setting the school and Ivy League records in the 100 meters, 200 meters, and the indoor 60 meters. She signed a contract with New Balance and turned pro in October 2018, forgoing her last year of collegiate eligibility.

After Harvard, she moved to Austin, Texas to be coached by Tonja Buford-Bailey. In May 2020, Thomas was provisionally suspended for three "whereabouts failures," sanctioned with a two-year period of ineligibility. She submitted new evidence in

June to invalidate one failure, and was finally cleared in July.

Thomas experienced a health scare in 2021 when an MRI revealed a tumor on her liver, but it turned out to be benign. She is pursuing a master's degree at the University of Texas at Austin in epidemiology.

Thomas represented the United States in the 200 meter race at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Her time of 21.61 seconds in the event at the United States Olympic trials on June 26, 2021 was the third-fastest ever, surpassed only by Elaine Thompson-Herah and world record holder Florence Griffith-Joyner. The time even surprised Thomas herself; after the race, she said "It definitely changed how I view myself as a runner. I am still in shock... my dream was to make the Olympic team... Now that I've accomplished [that], I'm going to set higher goals."

On August 3, 2021, at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo, Thomas won a bronze medal, running in the 200 meter finals with a time of 21.87, behind Elaine Thompson Herah (gold) and Christine Mboma (silver). Three days later, on August 6, 2021, the U.S. team having qualified for the finals of the 4 x 100 meters relay, Thomas ran anchor, and the team came in 2nd place behind the Jamaican team, securing her the silver medal along with teammates Javianne Oliver, Teahna Daniels, and Jenna Prandini.

In the case of Gabrielle Thomas we have an athlete/scholar of exceptional talent and ability. She can be held up to young people as someone who has done so much with her life, excelled in so many areas and can be a model to us all.

Fondly,
Cindy,
for the Diversity Committee

PS Hope you all had a fine and meaningful summer



AAUW Diversity Policy: AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of sex, gender identity, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.



It's About Justice— Meryl Johnson



S.P.E.A.K. Coalition says “NO” to HB 322 and 327 and “YES’ to the TRUTH!

Did you know that during the decade known as Reconstruction (1867-1877), 2000 African Americans held public office, from the local level all the way up to the US Senate? Did you know that the brutal Tulsa massacre of 1921 was just one of many, and that race massacres were commonplace and are blatantly (and purposely) ignored in history books?

There are some legislators and misinformed residents who want to hide undeniable facts and realities about our nation, deny students their voice and identity, and disempower families, educators and school boards. There are two bills pending in the Ohio Legislature, House Bill 322 and House Bill 327, that would prohibit educators in K-12 and in higher education from promoting the truth about America's history under threats of suspensions/revocation of licenses and loss of district/institution state funds. To read these dangerous bills, go to legislature.ohio.gov. This is from HB 327:

“No school district shall teach, instruct, or train any divisive concepts, nor shall any school district require a student to advocate for or against a specific topic or point of view to receive credit for any coursework.”

These types of bills are sweeping the country. Six states have passed them, and 25+ states are considering their passage. Local school boards are being assaulted at board meetings because, allegedly, white children are being made to feel “uncomfortable.” Dark money is coming into Ohio to attempt to control who ends up on school boards. We cannot sit still and allow our Ohio classrooms to be turned into places of censorship and untruths.

What can you do? Get involved in school board races. Ask direct questions of candidates. Contact your legislators and let them know how you feel. Contact the House State and Local Government Committee Chairperson, Rep. Scott Wiggam at (614) 466-1474 or rep01@ohiohouse.gov. Contact the Committee Co-Chairperson, Rep. Marilyn John at (614) 466-5802 or rep02@ohiohouse.gov. For more information go to www.honestyforohioeducation.info. Members of the S.P.E.A.K. Coalition (Students Promoting Equity and Knowledge) are fighting back by putting their thoughts in writing.



Dear Editor:

My school prides itself on teaching education in the best way possible. They ensure that the students there understand what is being taught by making sure that the class is interactive and that we have group discussions about the topics being discussed. Because of this way of teaching, the history of historical events like Reconstruction and the Civil War were taught in-depth. I gained the full picture of these events and nothing was censored. If house bills 322 and 327 were passed, events that deal with slavery, sexism, and racism won't go into detail about what happened and why. A curriculum could skip over the fact that Reconstruction was a failure and that it failed because people were unwilling to make the

changes needed to implement African American leaders in American society. This is why I'm against these bills. They would impact how students learn and how a curriculum is being taught. In the future, I hope to see that America's past isn't censored to paint America as a perfect country. To share my viewpoint I have joined S.P.E.A.K. (Students Promoting Equity and Knowledge), a student-led group bent on educating people to take a stance against discrimination, racism, and censorship.

Jeremiah Al-Jeleel, Cleveland School of Science and Medicine

Dear Editor:

My name is Kayla Blake. I'm a Cleveland high school student from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. I am one of the first students in a newly founded group, the S.P.E.A.K Coalition (Students Promoting Equity and Knowledge), which fights the regression of racial education in Ohio. There are two bills in the Ohio legislature aimed to limit conversation about race, gender, and current events, HB 322 and 327. As a black student in America, it is already hard enough to have my identity recognized and my history acknowledged, especially in the classroom, but these two bills would only make everything worse. They would prohibit and punish teachers (possibly removing their licenses) and school districts (possibly removing funding) from addressing America's unfortunate history regarding the construct of race and talking about current events. Legislators who pushed these bills believe that not discussing these topics altogether would create a less tense environment. However, in my personal beliefs, it would make them more taboo and would allow more room for hate which would inevitably lead to more division. In addition, not mentioning the struggles of People of Color in America and their history is just another form of indoctrination and censorship. The goal, as I mentioned in a recent radio interview, is to (as the preamble said) create a “more perfect union,” not teach that our current union is flawless. I wish to see a more fair and objective school curriculum that includes the voices of people who look like me in addition to acknowledging the complex history of America and the racism built into the fabric of it.

Kayla Blake, Cleveland School of Science and Medicine

Dear Editor:

I am writing concerning house bills 322 and 327. For those who are unaware of house bills 322 and 327, they were introduced by Rep. Don Jones and Rep. Diane V. Grendell along with Rep. Sarah Arthur. These bills were introduced in hopes of silencing history by defunding schools and withholding teachers' licenses when teachers talk about race, sexuality, nationality etc. If passed the bills will not only be abhorrent but will also belittle the little history taught about race and the factors alongside race. As an African American woman and student of Ohio education, it disturbs me that people would rather history be silent than to teach why history shouldn't repeat itself and how history left behind generational trauma and disadvantages to people of color. Just because you're too ashamed to talk about your history doesn't mean you get to silence and dismiss our history. You may say “I'm not racist-I don't see color” but that belittles



Forum Page: More It's About Justice—Meryl

the justice that people of color have been fighting for, for 400+years. Color blindness is a systematic excuse to justify conversations people aren't ready to have. Our education shouldn't be blind; the Ohio education system has every race and nationality. History should be versatile because history has its good parts and bad parts. Just because you're uncomfortable doesn't mean the conversation shouldn't be held; it should be held in hopes of bettering our future and preventing history from repeating itself.

La'Erica Butts, Cleveland School of Science and Medicine

Dear Editor:

House Bills 327 and 322 are being passed across America and now Ohio, and these bills are trying to cover up the truth in History. Right now, as a high school student, I want to be able to learn accurate information without being fed false baloney, or my teachers being penalized for doing their job. The idea that we should exclude the "embarrassing" parts of American history is wrong and upsetting. We should be able to learn the truth, accept that it happened, and do better. It is also important for K-12 students and teachers to talk about racism and sexism, both social and systemic constructs that exist today, and create an environment where kids can grow up to be accepting and understanding people. If House Bills 327 and 322 are passed in Ohio, kids will not know true current, and past events, and won't be able to have the resources to talk about the discrimination in America.

Avery Douglas, Westlake High School

Dear Editor:

House Bills 322 and 327, if implemented, will be laws that only serve to censor history and harm the education of the future leaders of this country. To begin, the stated "reason" for these bills is rooted in a problem that does not exist, and that problem is the perceived teaching of critical race theory. Unfortunately, what many uneducated voters do not realize is that critical race theory is not even a subject taught in high school. In fact, CRT is found primarily in college-level law courses. The reason? To teach future lawyers and defenders of justice the history of laws and regulations that were created to hinder the rights and freedom of minorities. Today, modern legislators are arguing that this teaching of CRT is dangerous and causes white children to hate themselves. Really, these legislators are pushing these bills so the status quo is preserved, and the systemic racism in the United States continues to exist. If these bills are passed, education in Ohio will be significantly worse as students would never know the true nature of events in American history and the reasoning behind laws that are still in use today. Moreover, these bills prohibit the teaching of "divisive topics." Without a true definition, this could mean anything. These legislators most likely hope to stop the teaching of true history and systemic racism, but there are far-reaching implications. Divisive topics, to some, could mean World War II and the Holocaust, The Civil War, slavery, the Civil Rights Movement, and more issues that may paint America and the world in a poor light. Overall, these bills prevent the



Teaching of real history, and those who do not know the history of America and its shortcomings, are doomed to repeat it.

Greg Ganor, Rocky River High School

Dear Editor:

I am writing about two pending bills in the Ohio House of Representatives, House bills 322 and 327. These bills actively censor hard history and other "divisive concepts." They punish teachers for violations, and school districts as well via removal of teaching licenses or limiting state funding. I want to make it exceptionally clear that these bills will harm students in Ohio public schools and universities. Proposed by House Republicans, these bills exist only to silence the actual history of our country, such as slavery and its effects, systemic racism, and many more important topics. They silence minority communities only to preserve an idyllic false sense of security.

If these bills were to pass, the education of Ohio students would be greatly harmed. For example, we would not be able to discuss current events to a deep level, and we would be unable to have debates in class about "divisive concepts." This would create a generation of students who would be unable to think critically about themselves, the past, or the world they currently live in. This would be detrimental to the development of our democratic society.

To close, I would like to urge readers to contact their representatives about these bills and tell them exactly why these bills cannot pass. And while much of this appears to revolve around critical race theory, I want to make abundantly clear that CRT has never been, and is not currently taught in schools.

Owen Ganor, Rocky River High School

Dear Editor:

I would like to stress the urgent need for the Boards of Education and individuals across the state to combat Ohio House Bills 322 and 327. As a student who has benefitted from curriculum and extracurricular content focused on identity, bias, and how power is manifested, maintained and undermined, we respectfully ask state leaders to leverage *their* leadership position and engage school leaders, teachers and the larger education community in this work, as well. The bills prohibit the promotion, teaching, and training of "Divisive Concepts" across Pre K-12, Higher Education, and Political Subdivisions with consequences ranging from losing 100% of school funding to revoking the licenses of teachers. These bills use the vague language of "divisive concepts" to prohibit any teaching and discussion of America's racial history and current events in school today.

HB 322 and 327 hide as an attempt to limit "divisiveness" in what is really an attack on the values that schools should hold most at its core: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. They encourage narrow, singular viewpoints that perpetuate racist, discriminatory and exclusionary abuse, trauma, behavior and narratives in the classroom while also discouraging the student voices and advocacy that is central to Shaker's student organizations. If passed, House Bills 322 and 327 would harm students and communities tremendously. We call on the school boards across the state to mobilize against this legislation and do everything in their power, vested in them by the community, to combat their passage.

Carly Lehman, Shaker Hts. graduate 2019, presently a freshman at Harvard University

Meryl

Itsaboutjustice@gmail.com

Listen to Meryl every Saturday on

"Its About Justice?"

1:00 to 2:00 pm

WRUW. 91.1 FM

More Branch News: A Neighborhood Voice—Phyllis; Fair Districts



A Neighborhood Voice—

(looking ahead to our March 2022 meeting)

I am reading the book titled *Neighborhood Voices* produced by Literary Cleveland and the Cleveland Public Library. On page 116, I read the essay titled, *I Think I'm Missing Glenville*, by Sonya Pryor-Jones. Her essay relates to our program plans to learn more about the current status of our Greater Cleveland Neighbors. When I was teaching at Glenville in the late 80's, Sonya came to talk with me about the needs of my students.

Sonya Pryor Jones is an educator, facilitator, strategist and leader in the STEM education community. She was born in and lives in Cleveland, and works as a citizen of the world. Her roots are tied to the growth of Cleveland. She is driven by a global perspective that is displayed through her work history and civic engagement. Her motto, *Tribe, Love, Courage*, exemplifies her dedication to her community, the love she shares for others, and the courage to pursue her beliefs and ideas. She speaks, writes, and advocates for change.

Sonya has created the *Fab House/Fab Labs*, located in her Glenville family home. As a resident, she works to bring technology and to promote positive change in the heart of the Glenville neighborhood where she grew up and is now living. This new community center provides Glenville residents opportunities to become proficient in digital and technology skills, thereby lessening the issues of the opportunity divide, i.e. barriers to jobs, wealth building, health, and overall quality of life.



The *Fab House/Fab Labs* brings advanced technology and human capital support for residents who live in one of Cleveland's most impoverished neighborhoods. The lab will be staffed by experts from around the world who help teach residents to create projects of their own design.

The *Fab Lab*, a platform for innovation, is a place to play, create, learn, mentor and invent. Participants use computer-guided fabrication tools, like laser cutters and mills for carving materials, 3D printers and tools that allow everyday people to invent and create. These tools are now only available to large manufacturers and companies.

Sonya serves as the Chief Implementation Officer for the Fab Foundation. This nonprofit organization is part of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center for Bits & Atoms FabLab Program.

"There continues to be a significant tech divide that leaves African-American communities behind and unable to leverage technology for the growing STEM opportunities in school, work and business," says Jones.

For more information, please go to <https://www.myfab.house>.

Phyllis



Fair Districts—

The time has come to finish what we started. Ohio's redistricting process is officially underway and now the work of redrawing Ohio's General Assembly and congressional districts can finally begin. This is the first step to creating the fair districts that millions of Ohioans supported at the ballot box in 2015 and 2018.

Redistricting reform earned overwhelming support by Ohioans for one simple reason - we want fair districts that let voters choose their representatives, not politicians picking their voters. We have lived through the consequences of gerrymandered districts for the past ten years. Over the previous decade we have seen our elected leaders cater to the political extremes and their deep-pocket donors, rather than work to solve the issues facing the people of Ohio. Unaccountable politicians running in uncompetitive elections is bad for Ohio. We demanded change, and now is the time to make that change happen.

We are on the verge of the once-in-a-decade opportunity to deliver the fair and equitable districts that Ohioans deserve. We cannot afford to sit this one out. The stakes are too high. Ask yourself, can Ohio go another ten years without elected leaders answerable to their constituents? No. We cannot. The time is now to join together and secure the fair districts we demanded in 2015 and 2018. Sign your name and tell the General Assembly and the Ohio Redistricting Commission that transparent mapmaking is essential. Urge them to follow the will of the people and draw fair and equitable districts that keep communities together.



More Branch News: Public Policy—Kathe; Trivia Answer

Public Policy—Kathe Mayer



We need to concentrate on our Ohio State Legislature where what happens effects education. Funding bills were introduced, focused on different types of testing for students, schools, and school districts.

Because of vouchers, an attempt was made to help local school districts avoid large local tax increases due to state laws. I know of no requirement that a student attend a public school before requesting a voucher. Many districts have students moving in and requesting vouchers to save families some of the cost of private schools.

Two other items of interest are: HB 61 to enact The Save Women's Sports Act, and SB 66 to establish a career pathways apprentice program.

HB 61's title sounds good, but to me it tries to prevent transgender students from participating in the way they want to be known. I think the idea was to prevent a male born child from participating in women's sports if he had achieved some male maturity. The bill provides for transgender students who have had a year of appropriate sex change treatment. I will try to follow this as we move along.

SB 66: Write your state senators and house representative and urge them to pass SB 66. Our schools have tried to push every student to college. Many would do better becoming plumbers, electricians, or automotive repair mechanics. This program would give them a chance to understand these other ways of earning a living. Apprenticeships would be created in the fields: manufacturing, information technology, financial services, business services, healthcare, and education.

Mark Your Calendars—

You will soon receive your copy of our 2021-2022 Yearbook. It contains, among other things, the full program year for HHL Branch.

In the meantime, for those of you who like to plan ahead, here are the dates of our monthly events:

September 22, 2021	October 5, 2021
November 17, 2021	December tba
January 26, 2022	February 23, 2022
March 23, 2022	April 20, 2022
May 25, 2022	June 22, 2022



Applications Open for 2022-23 Fellows and Grantees

--We're pleased to announce that the application period for AAUW Fellowships and Grants is open for the 2022-23 academic year. Follow in the footsteps of award-winning authors, scientists, scholars and trailblazers by applying for educational funding through AAUW. Deadlines run from November to December 2021. Help spread the word!

Reproductive Rights Are Human Rights

"AAUW strongly condemns the U.S. Supreme Court's refusal to suspend implementation of a dangerous Texas law that would virtually strip individuals of their well-established, Constitutional right to control their bodies and erode their economic security. The nation's highest court is enabling a vicious system of vigilante lawsuits that aims to turn citizens against one another in furtherance of the most extreme anti-choice agenda. This ruling, which bypasses Constitutional review, effectively abolishes a pregnant person's ability to make personal choices. Curtailing reproductive rights is a seismic affront to all Americans and AAUW vows to ferociously fight to ensure quality, affordable, and accessible health care for all."—Kate Nielson, AAUW's Senior Director of Public Policy, Legal Advocacy, & Research

Answer to President Kay's trivia question:

*Condoleezza Rice is the answer.

The quote is longer. "Search for role models you can look up to and people who take an interest in your career. But here's an important warning: you don't have to have mentors who look like you. Had I been waiting for a black, female Soviet specialist mentor, I would still be waiting. Most of my mentors have been old white men, because they were the ones who dominated my field."

Condoleezza Rice was planning a career in music as a concert pianist at the University of Denver. She met her mentor, a former Czech diplomat called Josef Korbel who was teaching a course on international politics. She took his class, and "It was love at first sight," she later said. Inspired by Korbel, she decided to make a radical shift away from music and towards international relations, setting her on the path to becoming the first female African American Secretary of State. Rice credited him with a great influence on her ideas and outlook, saying he was "one of the most central figures in my life."



AAUW National News



We hope you had an enjoyable summer. The AAUW team has been hard at work over the past three months. We released an important report on the status of Latinas during COVID-19, made progress on ensuring that our priorities are part of a monumental relief package currently working its way through Congress, took steps to strengthen Title IX, and tackled many projects to set us up for a successful rest of the year.

The summer was marked by many tragedies—from Hurricane Ida, to the plight of women and girls in Afghanistan, to devastating attacks on our rights through state anti-voter and anti-choice bills. While our hearts are heavy, our mission is clear and each of you makes it more possible to continue the hard work of advancing gender equity. The coming months will provide opportunities to make our mark, and many key issues are quickly evolving. Keep an eye out for *Washington Update* emails, follow AAUW on social media, and sign up for Action Network alerts.

Thank you for being a critical part of positive change,
The AAUW Public Policy & Legal Advocacy Team

Act—Take action on the most pressing policies

On August 24, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R.4). Our democracy works when everyone can fully participate—and we need the protections in this legislation to realize that promise. In 2021 alone, 49 states introduced more than 400 anti-voter bills, and at least 18 states passed 30 of them.

The legislation now moves to the Senate. You still have time to make your voice heard on this and other key AAUW priorities. Write to your Senators to protect the freedom to vote!

Learn—Dig deeper into the issues that matter **Crisis Recovery Update**

Crisis recovery talks took center stage this summer, with a focus on building an equitable and sustainable future for everyone.

Women aren't seeing the same rate of job recovery as men. While job growth is picking up in 2021, women are yet to be consistently included: Job gains are slow to reach women of color, and 1.5 million mothers still had not returned to the workforce as of April. Over half of mothers who left their jobs during the pandemic reportedly did so because their child's school or daycare closed. And women who are returning to the workforce are predominately looking for work (97%) while most men returning are already employed (88%).

On August 24, the House adopted a budget resolution (H. Res. 601)—already agreed to in the Senate (S. Con. Res. 14)—that paves the way for committees to draft the pieces of the budget. Once that happens, Congress can vote on the reconciliation package in late September.

This budget package is expected to incorporate key elements of the American Families Plan proposal—including AAUW priorities such as making child care more accessible and affordable, expanding and

making permanent the Child Tax Credit, providing universal pre-kindergarten to every 3-and-4-year-old child, and guaranteeing paid family and medical leave. This resolution was a big first step, and it's a testament to the hard work of advocates like you.

Despite their popularity, supports that profoundly benefit working women and families could still be underfunded or left out of the final budget this fall. When Congress returns from recess late this month, we will have a small window when big decisions are expected to be made.

We need you to stay informed and engaged as the process picks up speed. AAUW's Crisis Recovery Activist Toolkit will keep you up to date on what's been done and when to take action. Your elected officials need to hear from you!

Engage—Share the important work we're doing

- Latinas in the U.S. were among the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. AAUW's new report, *Pandemic Inequity: Latinas and the COVID-19 Experience*, documents the health and economic repercussions of COVID-19 on Latinas—and outlines policy priorities to aid in the recovery.
- The Department of Education does not plan to propose a new Title IX rule until May 2022. If the Department follows a similar timeline to the last rule (which took 21 months to become law), a new rule won't take effect until February 2024! By then, many students will have spent nearly all of high school or college under the harmful current rule. AAUW signed on to a letter calling for swift action and joined the ED ACT NOW coalition. Educators are encouraged to sign onto a similar letter at the individual level (by Friday 9/10)!
- "AAUW strongly condemns the U.S. Supreme Court's refusal to suspend implementation of a dangerous Texas law that would virtually strip individuals of their well-established, Constitutional right to control their bodies and erode their economic security," says an AAUW statement on September 2. As the situation unfolds in courts and legislatures, AAUW will work in coalition to ensure quality, affordable and accessible health care—including abortion care—is available for all.
- AAUW stands with the 85 women and human rights organizations who wrote to urge President Biden and Vice President Harris to protect women and girls in Afghanistan.
- In August, the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) announced that it will administer a 2021-22 Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC), marking the first time that OCR has conducted a CRDC, including all public school districts and their schools, two years in a row. This survey—critical to understanding and addressing the needs of students and educators and ensuring schools and districts comply with civil rights laws—is needed more than ever, since the pandemic has changed our educational landscape.

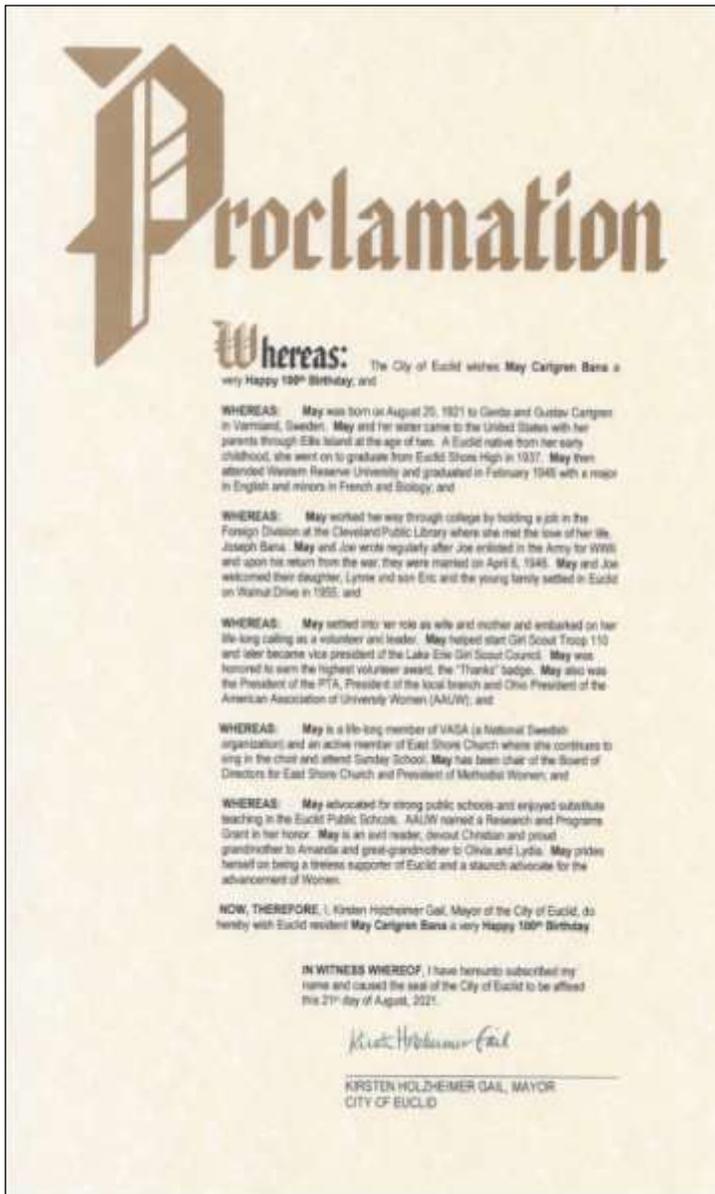
Best Grapevine Ever!!



Meet A Member

“When my family moved to Ohio, AAUW was my introduction to a community of active, intelligent and supportive women. Of course, joining another branch led to much more than social friends. Looking at my AAUW experiences, I recognize that they have acted like a graduate program in leadership and activism.”—Nancy Stellhorn, President, AAUW Ohio

So one day your editor was cruising the web looking for some AAUW graphics to use in this year’s yearbook, when she saw a familiar face looking back at her—our own Nancy Stellhorn was being highlighted as a “Face of AAUW.” This was done when she was AAUW Ohio State President, a couple of years ago. How very cool!! (aauw.org/State and Branch Tools/Faces of AAUW/Meet a Member.) She shies away from this sort of publicity, but I think it bears mentioning.



Our dear member May Bana celebrated her 100th birthday in August with a party given in her honor by her children Lynn and Eric. Euclid Mayor Kirsten Holzheimer Gail, presented her with a proclamation from the city in her honor. The party was attended by members of the many organizations in which she has had an impact through the years, including AAUW. Her party and honors made the front page of the Euclid *Observer* newspaper too. Congratulations May!!



May with daughter Lynn (on the right) and son Eric and his wife.

Mayor Holzheimer Gail reading May’s Proclamation. (notice her crown)



****NOTE:** If you have an item or know of an item for the Grapevine, be sure to let Jan Bowden know at either jeb7747@aol.com or 440-255-6631.**