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FALLS NOTES



AAUW-River Falls, WI

aauwriverfalls@gmail.com

Branch Newsletter:

September 2020

Our next regular AAUW meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13 when Alison Page, CEO of Western Wisconsin Health and AZ Snyder, Health Officer and Public Health Director for Pierce County will talk about "Life in the Time of Covid".

Speaking from their own areas of expertise, both will share their thoughts as to where we are now in the pandemic, what we can expect to happen in the next few months and how we can best prepare & protect ourselves going forward. The meeting promises to be both informative and empowering, so do mark your calendars: Tuesday, Oct. 13 - Business Meeting @ 6:30; Program @ 7:00.

Elaine Baumann will send out the Zoom link a few days before the meeting. If you have friends who are not AAUW members but who are interested in listening to the program, ask them to email aauwriverfalls@gmail.com and request a program link. (You may also make that request for them by emailing that branch address.) PLEASE DO NOT FORWARD TO OTHERS THE LINK YOU RECEIVE DIRECTLY.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Suzanne Hagen, Branch President

Challenges and Opportunities

Our 2020-21 program year got off to a very good start. Eighteen members and eight non-members listened to Kendra Morgan's excellent financial planning advice at our Sept. 8 Zoom meeting. While

we all would prefer to meet and greet each other in person, seeing friends' faces on screen is enjoyable and energizing! We'll continue in our virtual Zoom mode at least until 2021, consistent with sound pandemic guidance and National AAUW recommendations.

As we move forward, I encourage us, individually and together, to

- **Reflect** on the life of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg and her courageous, life-long commitment to advancing equity for women
- **Read** about important initiatives and watch informative webinars on our national website, AAUW.org.
- **Reach out** to friends with personal support and team up on branch projects with fellow members
- **Relay** to others our branch's story of great programs, national recognition, and commitment to equity

There's a lot of key information which follows in this newsletter. Let me just highlight two topics:

Public Policy. The political season is in high gear. Kudos to our members who were on-line for AAUW-Wisconsin's Public Policy information sessions on August 25 and 27. National AAUW's Gender Equity Policy agenda focuses on Education (e.g., Strengthening Title XI, Controlling Student Debt, STEM Education), Economic Security (e.g., Equal Pay, Paid Leave, Raising Minimum Wage, etc.) and Civil a Rights including Voting Rights, Health Care Policy and the Equal Rights Amendment. Please watch for our special Public Policy newsletter with Voter Registration information and links to other non-partisan organizations offering issues information.

Member Recruitment. Thanks to Kendra Morgan and Phyllis Jaworski for sharing AAUW information with other women's organizations and their personal and professional networks. We have gained two new members this fall and have more people expressing interest in our work. (Catherine Flowers' and Gwen Paulson's creative program leadership certainly promotes our organization!)

So, please . . . stay informed, tell our story, be safe, and keep us moving forward!

RIVER FALLS BRANCH MEETING MINUTES – September 8, 2020

Secretary, Gretchen Toman

Virtual meeting via Zoom included 17 members and 8 guests

Suzanne Hagen, President introduced two guests: Bridget Finke and Laura Haugen

Motion to approve the Secretary's minutes from May, 2020's meeting – approved.

Motion to approve the Financial Report submitted by Treasurer, Tina Kelly - approved.

President's Report

Cancellation of all fall 2020 events (including, but not limited to, the book sale [rescheduled to Spring], the STEM event, Moose Lodge Brunch, and our holiday auction) due to the pandemic, as mentioned in the Aug. newsletter. The cancellation is consistent with guidelines recommended by AAUW National.

Please consider making a donation to our funds based on what you might normally donate through the auction, brunch, etc.

There is a probable increase in national membership dues set to go into effect July, 2021.
The increase would be between \$3.00 - \$7.00 annually.

Upcoming Programs: Oct. a panel of knowledgeable people discussing COVID-19.
Nov. A discussion on Systemic Racism

Membership – Kendra Morgan said they have done some extra advertising of our events and some networking among working professional women to increase involvement in AAUW by working women.
We've had good responses for membership renewal so far. Please take care of that soon, if you haven't already!!

Lorraine Davis shared the new NCWSSL dates of May 26 – 29, 2021.
Several people have already expressed interest in being part of the Scholarship Committee.

New Business Two Motions were voted on:
Literacy fund title and clarification - Lorraine Davis/Jean Johnson

Motion 1
To establish the AAUW-RF Heritage Fund, which incorporates the Ethel Johnson fund for literacy education, as a vehicle for memorials and donations to fund literacy grants within Pierce and St. Croix Counties.
*Passed with 16 aye votes

Motion 2
When the budget permits, the branch will provide \$200 annually for the Heritage Fund and will implement the grant process when the fund balance reaches \$2000.
*Passed with 17 aye votes

Purpose of Heritage Fund. Memorials and donations to the Heritage Fund will further the goals of the Ethel Johnson fund and honor the lives of others through literacy education.

Suzanne clarified that only when the Heritage Fund reaches \$2,000 will we solicit applications and then distribute grants. Previous grant amounts were \$250. - \$500. Per grant.

Barb Peterson congratulated us on great participation in the **Public Policy** forums held via Zoom on Aug. 25th and 27th. There were 170 attendees over the two nights for programs that included Fair Maps, Public vs. Private Education and Discerning between real and fake news.
The sessions were recorded and will be available for listening soon. Barb will send a link for those who wish to access these.

How to get out the vote? Talk to your friends, volunteer for a phone bank, encourage absentee ballots. The August newsletter had some very helpful information on how to apply for a mail-in ballot. If you haven't received your ballot by October 1st, contact your County Clerk.

Suzanne will schedule an Executive Board Meeting in late September to address any new issues.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m. for the program.

AAUW PUBLIC POLICY NEWS

Barb Peterson, Chair

Tuesday, November 3rd 2020 is the Presidential Election.

There is ample time for you to get out the vote for candidates that represent your issues. Volunteer to make calls to remind voters of the election.

Do you have your absentee ballot for November 3rd? If not, although October 29 is the last day to request an absentee ballot, it is suggested that you request one **right now**.

If you don't have an absentee ballot, please take your mask and vote in person if you can.

You can find voting information on the website MyVote.wi.gov



[Vote Absentee](#)



[Where Do I Vote?](#)



[What's On My Ballot?](#)



[Register To Vote](#)

On this website you can request a ballot for the next election, see who is on the ballot for your address, check to see if your last ballot was counted and know that our government keeps working on your behalf. Your absentee ballot **MUST** be witnessed and signed on the outside of the envelope.

Please mail those ballots NOW!

In recent years AAUW-WI has been unsuccessful in encouraging our legislators to adopt issues that improve the condition of women and children in this state. It is unlikely to change until and unless we change the way our state divides legislative districts. Wisconsin ranks as the worst for gerrymandered districts. There are two excellent videos that explain how redistricting was handled in WI in 2011. I suggest you view them so you can better understand the unfairness of our current situation. Here is how you can do that:

1. The WI Farmers Union has published a 3-minute video that briefly describes how gerrymandering took place in WI. I am giving you the page that leads to the video. That page has some

prime ideas for how to change the way redistricting is done. Click on the video at <https://www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com/fairmaps>

2. A documentary titled *Slay the Dragon* gives a very thorough history of how redistricting in WI was achieved behind closed doors in utter secrecy in 2011. It also follows a successful grass-roots challenge to redistricting done in Michigan. There is hope for change! This documentary is approx. 2 hours long though it exposes the culprits who drew “election safe” districts in WI. I paid \$4.99 to watch it (rental for 1 month) on Amazon Prime. It is worth \$5 and your time.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF OUR LEGAL ADVOCATE

National AAUW Statement on Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg



America lost one of our most beloved role models tonight, a pioneering jurist and iconic feminist who blazed new trails, not only in her own life, but in the lives of the countless women she championed — and inspired. On behalf of AAUW and its members and supporters who recognized Justice Ginsburg with a 1999 AAUW Achievement Award, we extend our condolences to her family, her colleagues and to every American whose lives and hearts she touched. The nation owes it to her – and to all women – to honor her final wishes and refrain from naming a replacement until after a new president is inaugurated.

Dear AAUW Friends,

As I write this article it does not appear that Ruth’s wish for a successor to be named after the next election will be fulfilled. As women struggle for equal treatment in the law and at the workplace and home, RBG took up our cause. We will greatly miss her advocacy. What a stellar role model she has been. I recommend that you view the RBG documentary with your family when you can.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zo-Uw_n2KF0 – this is the trailer. The film is available on Hulu and Amazon Prime.

RIVER FALLS BRANCH MEETING MINUTES

BOARD MEETING (Virtual via Zoom)

July 24, 2020

By Suzanne Hagen

Present via Zoom: Elaine Baumann, Barbara Peterson, Cheryl Maplethorpe, Kendra Morgan, Lorraine Davis, Tina Kelly, Ann Gustafson, Suzanne Hagen, Gwen Paulson

Minutes of June 15, 2020 board meeting, with correction noting that Wisconsin spring 2021 convention will be in Madison, approved by consensus. **June 30, 2020 finance report** approved by consensus (approximately \$4000 remains in operating expenses).

Updates: Branch profile will soon appear on AAUW.org Membership Matters page acknowledging our 5 Star branch achievement; news item on that award will be submitted to local media in early August (Suzanne's task)

Literacy Fund proposal from Lorraine Davis and Jean Johnson to rename as Heritage Fund which encompasses gifts memorializing any branch member or friend; proposal also clarifies funding (\$200 annually from branch as our budget permits; grant applications to be invited when fund balance reaches \$2000.) Lorraine to draft motions on renaming and funding for member approval at Sept. branch business meeting. Names of those memorialized to be published in newsletter and in annual directory.

Programs for 2020-21. All programs through Dec. 2020 will be on Zoom, with no in-person format unless the safety/pandemic situation significantly improves.

Oct. program on pandemic with Alison Page to potentially include Pierce Co. Public Health Director, AZ Snyder (Suzanne to contact her.) Should have a moderator. Guide questions to be prepared by Catherine Flowers and Gwen Paulson; guide questions may be different for each given their different positions; also ask speakers what they would like to be asked as panelists

Nov. program recommended to be on systemic racism with Dr. Cyndi Kernahan, UWRF Psychology Prof. and that Community Action/Organizing program with C. Mottaz be shifted to Feb. (*Subsequent follow up – this is okay with both speakers.*)

Dec. program on Using Your Voice will be on Zoom with no in-person format (*Subsequent follow up – this is fine with Katharine Grant.*) There will also be an "un-auction" encouraging members to make a donation to the branch in lieu of our usual Dec. auction fund raiser.

Cancellations/re-schedules:

Moose Brunch canceled; Girls in Science canceled for fall (may be reconfigured at later date); Booksale moved to spring; NCCWSL scheduled for last weekend in May (no information on registration timeline or state scholarship applications as yet). WI state spring convention to be in Madison.

Member recruitment: Kendra Morgan and Phyllis Jaworski are making plans to reach potential members via presentations at area women's groups, e.g., St. Croix Valley Girls, Power of 100, Women in Business. Reminders will be sent to non-renewing members mid-August; Tina sending thank you's to those who have renewed. Ruth Lee and Sue Danielson will invite selected lapsed members to consider renewing.

Public Policy: State Public Policy group has been meeting via Zoom. Two Zoom sessions are planned for 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. on August 25 (Topics: Gerrymandering and School Choice/Vouchers)) and August 27 (Topic: Get Out

the Vote). Barb Peterson has been working as part of this group; detailed information will be in next newsletter. Cheryl notes there is a 3 minute video on gerrymandering which might be sent out; *Slay the Dragon* is a longer video on issue available through Amazon at \$4.99.

Other Business: Observations from National Briefing on July 16. Valuable session. Would be good to pull out AAUW positions on key issues and inform/monitor our WI legislators on those issues. Good suggestion to reach out to Minnesota and collaborate with adjoining branches on issues of common interest. Karen Kirkwood suggested as contact; Ann Gustafson knows her and will reach out. Ann and Suzanne will discuss more about the goals and focus of that conversation.

Likely newsletter publication in first two weeks of August, with reminders of Public Policy events and our Sept. program coming closer to those scheduled dates. Barbara asks that Public Policy event information placed early in newsletter so readers see and attend to it.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15.

FINANCE REPORT

Tina Kelly, Finance Chair

AAUW-River Falls Finance Report: August 24, 2020 – September 24, 2020

Checking balance 8/24/2020	\$ 8777.23
Receipts AAUW Membership Dues Contribution to General Fund	\$ 166 30
<i>Total receipts (8/24/2020 – 9/24/2020))</i>	\$ 196
Disbursements AAUW Dues	\$ 144
<i>Total disbursements (8/24/2020 – 9/24/2020)</i>	\$ 144

Balances 9/24/2020

Checking: \$8829.23
Savings: \$2382.47
Total: \$11,211.70

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2020-21

Unless you are a life member, joined as a first time member after March 1, or renewed this spring, your current membership expired June 30, 2020.

Membership dues are:

\$59.00 – national dues (\$56 of which are tax deductible)

\$13.00 – state dues

\$11.00 – branch dues

\$83.00 - Total

You may renew on line at aauw.org.

Or with a check for \$83, payable to AAUW-RF, and mailed to:

Tina Kelly
W9908 State Rd 35
Hager City, WI 54014-8343

NEW MEMBERS

Membership Vice President, Kendra Morgan

New Member - Alyson Sauter



I grew up in Stillwater, MN with my two older siblings and parents. I spent a lot of time on the shores of Lake Superior and exploring the hiking trails of Lutsen, MN. For the last ten years I have been living in River Falls with my husband, Sean, who is an art educator.

I attended the University of Wisconsin River Falls where I earned a Bachelor of Science in Community Planning in 2013. After graduation, I served as a Marshfield Clinic AmeriCorps Member with Youth Action Hudson, a youth serving organization in Hudson, WI. I went on to serve as Youth Programs Manager for the YMCA in Hudson where I created Girls Night In, a program designed to empower young girls to embrace their unique body, spirit and mind. Most recently, as of August 2020, I have stepped into a new role with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Wisconsin as the St. Croix Valley Program Man-

ager. I am excited to continue to serve young people and families throughout the St. Croix Valley in this new role!

In addition to being a dedicated youth worker, I am a mental health advocate and Mental Health First Aid Facilitator. I also serve as the Chair for the Hudson Area Youth Resource Committee and sit on a number of youth focused boards and task forces throughout Pierce and St. Croix County. In my free time I love playing piano, cooking, reading and spending as much time as possible in the water fishing, kayaking and waterskiing at my family cabin.

I first learned of AAUW while looking for funding opportunities for my Girls Night In program. I was beyond thrilled to be a recipient of a 2018-2019 Community Action. I am excited to join AAUW and continue to empower and advocate for girls and women in our community!

AAUW HERITAGE FUND

The **Heritage Fund** is a re-titling of the previously named **Ethel Johnson Memorial Fund**. By board recommendation and member vote at the September branch meeting, the new title was approved and encompasses memorials honoring many individuals. The fund will be used for grants that promote literacy. By so doing, we continue to honor Ethel's passion for literacy education and the life she lived as a teacher, mentor, traveler, and friend. Names of individuals memorialized with donations will be published in the branch newsletter and in the annual branch membership directory.

Please send your monetary support to Tina Kelly, W9908 State Rd 35. Hager City WI 54014 or donate at our monthly AAUW meetings.

AAUW T-SHIRTS



Attention AAUW Members: AAUW t-shirts are in! Please mail cash/check made out to Kendra Morgan at 229 W Charlotte St #3 for \$10. As we are not having any events or meetings, Kendra will bring the t-shirts when we are able to hold meetings in person.

More From Kendra Morgan :

FINANCIAL FOCUS - Tax-deferred Accounts Get (Temporary) Boost from CARES Act - April 14, 2020

You need to primarily rely on yourself to protect your health during the coronavirus. But from a financial standpoint, you may have gotten some relief – or at least some flexibility from the recently passed \$2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Retirement account holders, including owners of IRAs and 401(k)s are usually required to start taking distributions from these accounts once they reach age 72. The CARES Act waives these required minimum distributions (RMDs) for all employer plans and IRAs in 2020, with the exception of defined benefit plans. If you've already taken your distribution for 2020, you can put the funds back in your retirement account if you meet certain requirements.

Of course, if you needed – or will need – the money from the RMD for your cash flow needs, you won't have to return it. But if you don't really need the money, avoiding an RMD in 2020 or returning an RMD to your retirement account will give the funds more time to grow on a tax-deferred basis before the RMDs are once again required in 2021.

Another CARES Act provision allows for the 10% early withdrawal penalty to be waived for withdrawals up to \$100,000 from qualified retirement accounts, including IRAs and 401(k)s, for individuals who qualify for COVID-19 relief. Qualifying individuals include those who are diagnosed with COVID-19, have a spouse or dependent who is diagnosed with COVID-19 or experience adverse financial consequences as a result of COVID-19, including quarantines, layoffs, business closures or child care responsibilities. Income tax on the distribution would still be owed but could be paid over a three-year period. Employer plan participants also may increase the amount that can be taken as a loan from a qualified retirement plan from \$50,000 to \$100,000 for 2020. While the CARES Act allows these penalty-free withdrawals and increased plan loan amounts, you will need to contact your plan administrator to determine whether these options are available in your plan.

Even though you may be able to access these funds penalty-free, it doesn't necessarily mean you should do so. Try to exhaust some of the other provisions in the CARES Act first, such as the mortgage or student loan relief, or using the direct payment to bridge the gap on current expenses before taking a distribution or loan from your retirement account. If you decide to take a withdrawal or loan, work with your financial advisor to consider developing strategies to contribute/pay back these funds over time to reduce any long-term impact to your retirement goals.

Please consult with your tax professional before making any CARES Act-related moves with your retirement accounts. Partnering with your tax and financial professionals can help in the decision-making process. In the meantime, stay safe, stay healthy and keep looking forward to brighter days ahead.

FACEBOOK PAGE - Kendra Morgan is the administrator for our AAUW branch Facebook Page. Our new page has the URL: <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.RiverFalls> . Please **"like it."** by clicking at the top left side under the title. Also, if you have any events or information which are relevant, please send your postings to moke1202@outlook.com. Thank you, Kendra, for assuming this responsibility.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Yolanda Dewar, Chair

SEPTEMBER 2020 INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Protests Decry Polish Government Plan to Leave Anti-violence Deal, Associated Press, JULY 24, 2020

WARSAW, Poland — Thousands of people in Warsaw and some other cities in Poland protested against plans by the conservative government to withdraw from Europe's Istanbul Convention against domestic violence and violence against women and children.

Carrying signs of the "Women's Strike" rights movement, they chanted "Fight against the virus not against women" as they marched through downtown Warsaw.

Protests were also held in Wroclaw, Czestochowa, and some other cities.

The government has recently signaled that it plans to leave the convention that was ratified by the previous, liberal administration in 2015. The government and other critics contend the convention goes against Poland's constitution, Roman Catholic family traditions and say it is wrong to link religion to violence against women. Liberal opposition parties support the convention.

The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence is based on the premise that women are targeted with violence just because they are women. It states that men and women have equal rights and obliges state authorities to take steps to prevent violence against women, protect the victims and prosecute the perpetrators.

<https://www.startribune.com/protests-decry-polish-gov-t-plan-to-leave-anti-violence-deal/571896362/>

National Women's Day-August 9, 2020,

On August 9, 2020, South Africa gets to celebrate National Women's Day. This holiday is celebrated every year on a weekday. Women have had a long history of oppression, but every fight gets women one step closer to freedom and equality.

History of National Women's Day

On August 9, 1956, there was a staged march, a silent protest, on the Union Buildings of Pretoria. Over 20,000 women of all races attended the march in order to protest against the Urban Areas Act of 1950 amendments. This law required all South Africans defined as "black" to carry an internal passport that served to maintain segregation, control urbanization, and manage migrant labor during the apartheid. Thousands of signed petitions were left at the Prime Minister door. It was a peaceful protest but it made a difference, because of it South Africa now has National Women's Day. The day wasn't actually made a holiday until 1995. The day brings attention to the issues African women faced then and still face to-

day, including domestic violence, workplace sexual harassment, unequal pay, girls not being allowed to go to school, and no-help parenting. In 1994, women had very low representation within Parliament, with just nearly 2.7%. Women within the national assembly were at 27.7%. After the creation of this public holiday, the numbers nearly doubled, with women now having 48% representation all throughout the country's government. Read more at:

<https://nationaltoday.com/national-womens-day/>

Remembering Dr. Maria Montessori on her 150th Birth Anniversary, Daily Mirror News, by Sherene Alles Fernandopulle, August 31, 2020

The World of Montessori Education celebrates a very special day on the August 31 (Today) - the 150th birthday of Dr. Maria Montessori.

In 1906 as a young Dr., she experimented with different methods, working with very young children. This was the first House of Children opened in Rome, the "Casa Dei Bambini".

Her work grew from strength to strength until her educational reforms and practices became accepted by the world. Today it is a privilege to be able to send our children to a Montessori House of Children to experience the teaching methods founded, tried and tested by Dr. Montessori.

Born in 1870 in Chiaravalle, Italy, Maria grew up engulfed in the love of her parents. Renilde Stoppani was considered well educated for her time and was a kind of mentor to Maria's encouraging her in all her endeavours.

In today's world, we can call Dr. Montessori one who "broke the glass ceiling".

At the age of 13, Maria enrolled in an "All Boys" school to study technical subjects in the hope of becoming an Engineer.

She met with opposition from all sides including her father Alessandro who was one in thought with everyone else that girls should stay at home becoming a homemaker. Maria graduated at the age of 20 with a certificate in Physics and Mathematics. At this point, she decides to pursue medical studies and become a doctor.

She was met with disapproval by society. This did not deter Maria who forged ahead in the face of opposition studying Natural Sciences at the University of Rome. Earning her "Diploma Di Licenza" in 1893, together with her studies of Italian and Latin she was able to gain admission to study medicine.

During her medical studies, she also was met with hostility and harassment. Maria forged through and won an academic prize in her first year gaining a place as a hospital assistant. In her last two years, she studied Paediatrics, probably bringing out the love for the child in her later years. Maria passed out as a Dr. of Medicine in 1896 and her thesis was published in the "Policlinico" in 1897.

For five years Dr. Maria Montessori worked with children who had delayed cognitive development. In 1897 Dr. Montessori asked that teachers be given special training when she spoke at the First Pedagogical Conference in Turin.

1906 was a breakthrough for Dr. Montessori when she was asked to oversee the care and education of a group of children belonging to working parents who lived in a new apartment block in San Lorenzo.

The first “Casa Dei Bambini” began on January 6, 1906, with 50 - 60 children aged between 2 to 3 years and 6 - 7 years.

Dr. Montessori was eager to begin working with children putting into practice all her research and see for herself the fruits of her labour. In this first classroom, Dr. Montessori noticed and took note of the behaviour of the children, which formed the foundation of the Montessori Method of education.

She noticed the pureness of children’s work and they revealed to her the “Secrets Of Childhood” She noticed deep attention to the task the child was doing, a sense of order and love and care of the environment, spontaneous reaching out to others to help and the urge to repeat activities.

She also realised that the children were drawn to the Montessori material when given a free choice. Dr. Montessori over time discovered that these young children were self-disciplined too.

Based on her observations Dr. Montessori implemented certain practices that became a standard in her teaching methods. She replaced heavy traditional school furniture with a child-size, lightweight tables and chairs and the materials were displayed on low accessible shelves giving the child freedom of choice and building independence too.

Dr. Montessori believed that all children are individuals and should be guided to develop at their own pace excelling in their strengths and overcoming weaknesses. In her observations, she realised that the child can work on his own and the role of teacher or Montessori adult should be an ‘observer and director of the children’s psychological development.’

The first teacher training course was started in 1909 in Italy and continues to this day in many Training Centres around the globe. Dr. Montessori herself was personally lecturing and conducting the Montessori workshops for many years travelling the world.

Maria Montessori visited Sri Lanka in 1944 where she bestowed the legacy of the Montessori Method of teaching to the Good Shepherd Sisters. True to Montessori, The Maria Montessori Training Centre at St. Bridget’s Convent continues the Montessori Method of Education, training teachers and having Houses of Children, and has been doing so for the past 75 years.

Dr. Montessori spoke of peace and education a topic of relevance in today’s world. Dr. Montessori was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize and was a great educator who had the child at heart.

Many countries have honoured Dr. Montessori by minting coins in her honour and printing stamps to mark milestones of the Montessori movement. This year a Two Euro coin has been minted to celebrate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Maria Montessori and Time Magazine has honoured Dr. Maria Montessori as one of the top 100 Women of the year 2020.

The great educator passed away on May 6, 1952, leaving a legacy that generations will look up to years to come.

<http://www.dailymirror.lk/news-features/Remembering-Dr-Maria-Montessori-on-her-150th-Birth-Anniversary/131-194858>

Justin Trudeau names Chrystia Freeland as Canada’s First Woman Finance Minister amid Ethics Scandal, Agence France-Presse, Aug 19, 2020

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau tapped Chrystia Freeland to be Canada's first woman finance minister on Tuesday as an ethics scandal that clipped her predecessor's wings reverberates through the government.

Freeland received a standing ovation after being sworn in at a small ceremony at Rideau Hall, the official residence of Governor General Julie Payette in Ottawa. Guests socially distanced, wore face masks and Freeland greeted Trudeau with an elbow bump after taking the oath of office.

Freeland, 52, has held key posts in the Liberal government including deputy prime minister – a role she keeps – and previously as foreign minister, as well as leading free trade talks with the US and Mexico.

The former journalist, first elected in 2015 and well-respected by her peers, takes on the top finance job as Canada goes through its worst economic crisis since the Second World War.

After five years in the post, Bill Morneau – under pressure from opposition parties – announced his surprise resignation from politics.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/world/united-states-canada/article/3097887/justin-trudeau-names-chrystia-freeland-canadas>

Save our Education - Save the Children special event

From Graduate Women International (GWI), August 19, 2020

With the pandemic crisis, new projections have been made regarding the education field, which is at risk of facing a \$77 billion funding gap over the next 18 months. Ten million children may never return to school, according to the Save Our Education report. On 14 July, Save the Children held a side event on the necessity to invest in education and prevent it from drowning into the crisis. Recommendations on a global COVID-19 education action plan for organisations and governments were provided and the speakers highlighted the efforts made in their countries and the need for innovations. The presentation noted the importance of a focus on girls' access to education through means such as distance learning, ensuring that girls are able to get access to the necessary technologies to this end. A dialogue between all institutions such as ministries of education as well as investment in tools and teachers training will be a necessity to implement sustainable solutions for education. Speakers included Ministers from several countries, as well as Director of Education at the World Bank Jaime Saavedra. The full recording of this noteworthy event can be found:

<https://www.savethechildren.net/save-our-education-report/>

Make Mothers Matter: Care and Education - Cornerstones of Sustainable and Just Economies, From Graduate Women International (GWI), August 19, 2020

All over the world, in both developed and developing countries, women assume the majority of unpaid domestic and care work, often juggling paid work and family responsibilities, to

the detriment of their personal aspirations, their economic independence, and even their health. The Covid-19 crisis has exacerbated this situation. In families with children, mothers, much more than fathers, have seen the time they devote to childcare increase during the lockdown. On 16 July, Make Mothers Matter (MM) held a side event on Care and Education, highlighting the failings of our current economic system in recognising the essential role of Care, especially unpaid care work, and education in the building of a more just and sustainable future for all. The side-event further emphasised how Covid-19 and its economic devastation offers a unique opportunity to “build back better” by prioritising Care for well-being, sustainability and equity. To learn more about MMM and the Care and Education initiative see:

<https://makemothersmatter.org/care-and-education-cornerstones-of-sustainable-and-just-economies/>

-Other information and events —

8 September	International Literacy Day, Global
14 Sept-2 October	Human Rights Council, 45 th session, United Nations Office, Geneva
18-20 September	Centenary of the French Association of University Women (AFFDU)
21 September	International Day of Peace, Global
5 October	World Teacher’s Day, Global
11 October	International Day of the Girl Child, Global
15 October	International Day of Rural Women, Global
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Global
24 October	United Nations Day, Global
	International Student’s Day, Global
17 November	World Toilet Day, Global
19 November	Universal Children’s Day, Global
20 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Global
25 November	
25 Nov-10 Dec	16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Global

Articles of Interest:

Talk about women in STEM! This young woman solved a 50 year old math problem that no one had been able to figure out! See the article [HERE](#) (put cursor over the word and hit CONTROL+click).

Talent is wasted because of race and gender bias. Click [HERE](#).

People you may not know about, but probably should

Every day at 9am, Susie King Taylor and her brother would walk the half a mile to the small schoolhouse, their books wrapped in paper to prevent the police from seeing them. Her grandmother made sure of it - she wanted Susie to be able to read and write.



Susie was barely in her early teens when her family fled to St. Simons Island, a Union controlled area in Georgia, during the Civil War. With her inquisitive eyes and kind demeanor and her education, she impressed the army officers. They asked that she become a teacher for children and even some adults. "I would gladly do so, if I could have some books," she replied. And so she became the first black teacher of freed black students to work in a freely operating freedmen's school in Georgia.

Not long after, Susie married, and joined her husband and his regiment as they traveled. She became their teacher, teaching the illiterate men to read and write. It was also during this time that she became a nurse to the men, thus making her the first black army nurse in the Civil War.

All this she accomplished before the age of 18.

Looking back on her time as a nurse, she said that "I gave my service willingly for four years and three months without receiving a dollar. I was glad...to care for the sick and afflicted comrades."

River Falls Branch: 2020-21 CALENDAR OF EVENTS – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Monthly meetings are usually the second Tuesday of each month September to May with business meetings at 6:30 and programs open to the public at 7:00 p.m. Our meetings through Dec. 2020 will be via **Zoom** unless the health and safety situation improves significantly.

September 8 – Kendra Morgan, branch member and Financial Advisor with Edward Jones, on **Financial Security for Women**.

October 13 – Alison Page (CEO of Western WI Health; previously chief safety officer for Fairview Health Services) and AZ Snyder, Pierce County Public Health officer on **“Life in the Time of Covid”**

November 10 Prof. Cyndi Kernahan, University of Wisconsin – River Falls on **Systemic Racism**

December 8 – Katharine Grant, **Focus on Music: “Using Your Voice”**

January 16 or 23, 2021 (Saturday) – Business Meeting at 1:00 p.m. Program at 1:30 - STEM program & presentation of awards to Middle School essay contest winner(s)

February 9 – Carole Mottaz, Community Member, on **Strategies For Community Action**

March 9 – Jane Hoffmann, River Falls educator and Historical Preservation Committee member - **“Down on Main Street: A Historical Tour.”** Local History/Video presentation (& model unit for engaging elementary students)

April 13 – Gay Ward & Margaret Phinney (UWRF Education Dept. faculty) **“And Justice for All”: Exploring Social Justice and Social Responsibility through Children’s Literature** (Also annual business meeting and officer elections)

April 23-24 – AAUW State Convention, Madison, WI

May 11 – Final gathering of program year and installation of officers



AAUW's MISSION STATEMENT

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

AAUW's VALUE PROMISE

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance. AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

VISION STATEMENT

AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

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