

AAUW Fairbanks Branch Dec 2023 Newsletter

IT IS TIME FOR OUR HOLIDAY PARTY AND POTLUCK!

December 11th 6:00 til 9:00 pm Raven Landing Building 4 Lounge

Come celebrate with your AAUW friends and families! Bring your spouse, bring a dish to share for the potluck bring a gift for the Women's Shelter, bring a white elephant for the gift exchange.

AAUW has the holiday tradition of making merry at our December meeting. In the spirit of the season we will again support the holiday market at the women's shelter. We provide new toys or gifts appropriate for women or children and wrapping paper and bows. Gifts are not to be wrapped by us. These are taken to the shelter and put into their market from which women may choose gifts for their children and others.

Our traditional white elephant gift exchange has seen several items make repeated appearances. These may be new or gently used or prior gifts you never asked for! These are given out through a Chinese style gift exchange in which you may or may not keep the gift you select. Lots of fun!

OUR NOVEMBER MEETING RECAP

Members supported our Giving Tuesday gathering that was hosted by Jodi Gouwens in her home. This is the second year she has done this and we cannot thank her enough for her kindness. Jodi bakes breads and goodies and gathers items for a "garage sale". She put no prices on anything leaving it up to the buyer as to what she wanted to offer. With an additional array of books from our branch sales, she raised \$1586 for our scholarship fund. A big thank you to Jodi for a major contribution to our fund.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks ever so much to Jodi Gouwens and all who donated to the Scholarship Fundraiser on Giving Tuesday. I am ecstatic about our success!

You have all received an email from the branch Board asking that you complete a **Branch Survey**. Thanks to those of you who have completed one. We want to get a sense about how

you feel about AAUW, how much you utilize their resources, and we are hoping for some interest in new blood for the Board! Bear in mind that the same 4-5 people have been fulfilling the various positions over the past 3-4 years, and another 2-3 members consistently step in to make things happen. Gael Murakami has managed our financials, membership, website, and Facebook page for several years...and will be moving to

Seattle to be closer to family early next summer. So please let me hear from you if you can help.

Spread the word to all those you know with student loans!! **Student Debt webinar – December 7th** at 2pm Eastern. AAUW is hosting an online discussion for people with student loans to help them make informed decisions about their student debt. This free event with The Institute of Student Loan Advisors will provide specific and actionable information about income-driven repayment plans like SAVE, and other student loan resources available from the Department of Education, as well as provide an overview of upcoming regulatory and congressional actions impacting student debt. One does not need to be a member of AAUW to participate! Here's the link...share!!

<https://fb.me/e/1KCF0EyGU>

December 13th commemorates the **100th anniversary** of the first introduction of the **Equal Rights Amendment** in Congress. As part of the ERA Coalition, AAUW will take to the streets in Washington, DC for a march from the White House to Capitol Hill. There will also be a virtual event for those of us far from the action, so look for an informational email next week. This activity could make us feel more connected to National AAUW.

Membership Dues – *don't worry, they're not increasing.* But starting in the Spring they will be *fully tax deductible*. Heretofore, part of your national dues (\$3) has been allocated to the AAUW Action Fund, which is our political arm and, as such, is not tax deductible. The purpose of the Fund is to support and advocate for legislation, policies, and procedures related to women's equity and education. The impending dues changes for individual members is "procedural and will serve to help streamline AAUW's operations." AAUW will continue to do policy work out of the Action Fund, although I'm not clear on how it will be funded.

And finally, PLEASE join us for our Holiday Potluck. Take a look at the wish list for the Interior Alaska Center For Non-Violent Living and bring a gift, or two, to the potluck.

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Carla Willetto's daughter, **Anne O'Hara**, has been hard at it in the curling world. She worked off her Thanksgiving dinner by competing in – and winning – the inaugural KC Cup Junior Mixed Doubles. The event was hosted in Duluth, MN, by World Champion Mixed Doubles partners Cory Thiess and Corey Dropkin. Earlier this fall, Carla got to go watch Anne at a Grand Slam event in Niagara Falls, Ontario. The team was not all that successful BUT Carla got to see the amazing falls with her now-21 year old little girl.