



Iowa Branch Connector

March 2017

A Monthly Electronic Bulletin for AAUW Leaders in Iowa
The Value of Affiliation with AAUW: By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

Welcome to this monthly electronic publication. You are invited to share this information with other members and branch leaders by forwarding it to them or providing a hard copy.

Ann Gale, AAUW Iowa President 2016-18

Maxine Lampe, International Relations Director

First, I would like everyone to be aware of International Women's Day on Wed., March 8. The theme is # **BeBoldForChange**. It is a call to help forge a better working world that is more inclusive and gender equal. Hopefully each branch will plan an activity for that day. If you google International Women's Day, there should be resources and activity ideas.

Second, **I Am a Girl** is currently one of the most significant global initiatives, a movement propelled by Plan International to ensure that girls everywhere can learn, lead, decide and thrive. There is a new study called Counting the Invisible - using data to transform the lives of girls and women by 2030 which is a 40+ page document which would be well worth a branch study group to delve into. Again, you can google Plan International.

Many people have asked me what AAUW has done as far as international relations. Women Graduates is an outgrowth of AAUW IA members who felt AAUW national was not doing enough on global issues. When I contacted AAUW I was told we have a strong history and rich legacy of global work:

- *AAUW efforts have intersected with world history in fascinating ways. International outreach became a priority to AAUW members immediately following World War I, when AAUW member Virginia Gildersleeve and two British women, Caroline Spurgeon and Rose Sidgwick, established the International Federation of University Women to promote peace and understanding among women in different countries.*
- *During the occupations of World War II, AAUW assisted European women scholars whose lives were at risk: AAUW members helped find academic positions in the United States and other countries for students and professors who were forced to flee their homes.*

Activities include:

Fellowships and Grassroots Projects -

“AAUW uses funding and community outreach to make a difference at every level of global advocacy. We’ve awarded fellowships to more than 3,500 women scholars from more than 140 countries and sent delegations to the United Nations to learn about the unique challenges women face globally and share AAUW’s programs and research. AAUW also funds projects that address the needs of women and girls in communities around the world through International Project Grants for fellowships alumnae.” AAUW has consultative status with the UN.

The Future of Our Global Community:

“By expanding relationships with international colleges and universities, such as the University of South Africa and Australian National University, AAUW is expanding our history of engaging with women worldwide.”

Please let me know if you have questions or need more information on a topic within the International Relations parameters. I would be happy to work with your branch on this topic.