



BRANCHING OUT

MAY 2021



NEXT MEETING:

BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING

When: Fall 2021

Our usual May Annual Meeting has been postponed to the Fall. We're hoping to meet and celebrate in person with refreshments and conversation. You will receive more information later.

Triad: Cathleen Bauschatz, Janet Givens, Fran Haines

NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM – 2021-2022

President: shared by leadership team members

Liaison to National AAUW: Janet Givens

Secretary: Cathleen Bauschatz

Treasurer: Fran Haines

Membership:

Public policy: Susan Wishkoski

AAUW funds: Andrea Mercado

College/University Representatives: Mary Cathcart, Susan D'Angelo

Scholarship Advisors: Joanne Boynton , Melba Wallace

Historian: Janice Osgood

Diversity: Judi Coburn Harris

Communications: Susan D'Angelo

Members at large: Susan Landry, Lee Davis

Web Page: Fran Haines

Branching Out editor:

Thank you for all who voted online. Your input is necessary and appreciated.

We need volunteers for **Membership chairman and **Branching Out** editor. Please help.**

MARCH 13, 2021 BRANCH MEETING (Cathleen Bauschatz, secretary):

Sarah Clark introduced Francine Umutori, who was a scholarship applicant this past year. She is from Rwanda, and is a graduate student in School of Policy and International Affairs (SPIA) at UMaine.

Francine's presentation:

She is from a big family of six children, in Rwanda which is in East Africa. Her parents were killed in the genocide there, during the civil war in the 1990's. She gave some background on the problems after the end of the Belgian colony, Hutu vs. Tutsi, etc. Refugees went to Uganda, and tried to attack from there. Her father was put in jail, after he founded a news organization critical of the government. In 1994 her mother sent the two girls to live with their grandparents, and while they were gone, their mother was

killed. Now, as orphans, they went to live with an Aunt. Francine studied journalism at the University of Rwanda. She understood that this was the road to financial independence.

She finished her undergraduate degree in 2009, and worked for National Broadcasting in Rwanda for two years. Francine had to help her younger sisters get an education. Then, looking for graduate programs which would accept her, she found Jim Settele at the University of Maine, and she applied to the SPIA program online. She was accepted, but did not receive a scholarship. She found a sponsor for \$10K, but after she arrived in Feb., 2020, the pandemic shut down the business of her sponsor, and she lost her scholarship. Still, she is enrolled in the program now, which has speakers including diplomats coming in via zoom, to talk on issues of foreign policy, security, etc.

A question period followed, including questions about her job goals, which probably involve working in the public sector. It has been a big adjustment to being in a racial minority, here. Now she understands racism.

She does have an unpaid internship, at the moment. We are hoping to help her find a paid internship in the near future.

MEMBERSHIP AND TREASURER NEWS – Dues!

Dues: Our Branch dues will total \$87 (\$62 National; \$15 State, \$10 Branch) payable now. All but \$3 of our annual dues remains tax deductible.

[We now have two ways to pay dues.](#) National will send you an email from memberinfo@aauw.org, with the subject line: AAUW membership Renewal for Fiscal Year 2022 and your member number. The letter has the link for you to pay by: 1. **Credit card**; or 2. **Check** (as in the past). If you pay by credit card, National deposits state and local dues to the correct accounts. If paying by check, there is no need to sign anything (except your check, of course). Please send checks to Fran Haines, 24 Page Place, Orono, ME 04473.

Address change: Jacqueline Leonard: 29 Bodwell Street, Old Town, ME 04468

New Member 2020 – 2021: Rosemary Buetens, 9 Alumni Drive. Apt. 128P, Orono, ME 04473, tel. 207-568 7488, MA: Farleigh Dickinson

Membership Directory : Please volunteer to continue the Membership Directory. Otherwise, we'll just email our membership list from National or send it in the mail for those without email.

PIZZA AND POLITICS MEETING:

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 19, 2021

An intrepid group of Penobscot Valley AAUW members met by ZOOM in April to discuss our current political scene both local and national. The good news is that pretty much all of the group is fully vaccinated and doing well so we made the decision to hold our next meeting in person at Mason's Brewery on the Brewer waterfront at 4:30 on Wednesday, May 19. Hope you can join us for our first in person meeting for over a year. We will raise our mugs and celebrate the beginning of the end of COVID.

FUNDRAISING:

Our branch members contributed \$1495.00 towards the scholarship fund. Thank you very much for your support! Also, don't forget to take your deposit bottles and cans to **Burby and Bates** in Orono. Let them know to deposit the refunds into the Penobscot Valley Branch account.

MEMBER NEWS:

Mary Cathcart, a senior policy associate at the University of Maine's Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center, has received the 2021 Minerva Award. The Minerva Award is presented annually by [Maine NEW Leadership](#) to recognize a Maine woman who exemplifies the values of the program, including leadership for the betterment of Maine; a commitment to civil dialogue; and a passion for civic engagement. Click the above link for more information about Mary's contributions and Maine New Leadership.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS' UPDATE:

Chanthu Millay:

Hello everyone! I am doing well. I was one of the students who had the most works accepted into the student show at the University of Maine. I have six art works up to view including two 3D, 1 painting and 3 drawings. It is in Lord Hall Gallery all of April 9am-4pm so please come take a look if you have time! COVID regulations apply. I have strong A's in all my classes and because of my good academics I have been helping my fellow students. I will be taking two summer classes including photography and painting 2. I plan to workout and travel if traveling opens up again. I started my seedlings for my garden so I am looking forward to fresh veggies and fruit! I plan to work on some large art projects over the summer including opening a website to sell my works on. I hope you all have a good summer and see you in the fall!

Cydnee Atwater:

I am so happy that the semester is coming to an end! This past year has been quite a doozy for us all in so many ways. My plans for the summer are to take a break from my classes and spend time with my family. My aunt is finishing her chemo so I plan on being with her a lot. My hopes for next year are to possibly enroll in three classes instead of two so that I can complete my studies faster. I am still working on my Gen-Ed courses, so I will keep plugging away. I hope everyone is well, have a safe and sunny summer!

AAUW NATIONAL VOTING 2021- IMPORTANT!

AAUW has emailed information on how to vote in the critical [AAUW National Election](#). This includes a proposal to eliminate AAUW's longstanding [membership degree requirement](#) plus changes in public policy wording. You'll also vote on four unopposed candidates to join AAUW's 15-person board of directors." This is very easy - just follow the link. **Voting closes at 5:00 pm ET on Monday, May 17, 2021. Those without email received a ballot in the mail.**

AAUW OF MAINE:

AAUW of Maine is purchasing a subscription to Zoom for board and branch meetings. Andrea Mercado is the contact person and will set up each branch.

We plan to have an annual state-level meeting of AAUW in early June, mostly like one evening on a weeknight or a Saturday morning (lasting no more than two hours). The meeting will be via Zoom. Date/time/program/link will follow.

AAUW OF MAINE (cont.)

We also will hold elections electronically. Voting opens Saturday **May 29, 2021 and closes on Saturday June 5, 2021 at 11:59 PM**. Keep an eye out for a Google Form coming in an email during this date range. It is easy to use, and our goal is to get 100% participation.

BUDGET REPORT:**Penobscot Valley AAUW. 5/1/21**

Carry forward from prior year 2,101.63

Resources

FY'21 dues collected in FY '21	712.00
FY'22 dues paid in FY'21	112.00
Scholarship Donation (Erhardt)	500.00
Scholarship fundraising (Includes Burby@Bates)	1,617.55
Other donations	50.00
Interest	0.78
Total income	\$2,992.33
Total resources	\$5,093.96

Expenses

Dues FY21 Nat'l	472.00
Dues FY21 state	120.00
Dues FY22 Nat'l pd.in FY'21	0.00
Dues FY22 state pd. In FY'21	0.00
Newsletter/directory/ letter printing	0.00
Newsletter postage	26.80
Leadership team expenses	0.00
Membership expenses	0.00
AAUW funds \$10/member	210.00
Scholarship Marge Erhardt \$500 donation, \$300PVB	800.00
Non traditional scholarships (3@500)	1,500.00
Maine New Leadership	300.00
Program costs	50.00
Project costs (including raffle basket	0.00
Special projects	0.00
Maine Women's Lobby	50.00
Total expenses	\$3,528.80

Balance **\$1,565.16**