



Photo courtesy of Rayner Minerals

The Kentucky Agate



The Kentucky Agate is characterized by its fineness of grain and brightness of color. Agates have a reputation of being quite hardy, resistant to acids, extremely resistant to weathering. **Sharon Marcum**, Bluegrass Central Branch, serves as newsletter editor. Keep her updated with all of your exciting branch news. Send news to her at marcum3@aol.com

Your AAUW of Kentucky State Newsletter

Winter 2022

State President's Message

I've been thinking lately about how we see ourselves as women and how we see the women around us.

My mother passed away just after Thanksgiving after a long illness. As you'd expect, at the visitation and the funeral, friends and coworkers came to pay their respects to the woman they knew.

She was *extraordinarily* good at her job as administrative office manager for a NASA contractor. Every one of her colleagues emphasized how well she managed schedules, travel, budgets, and myriad other tasks I was not aware she did. Her former boss from a good 10 years before shed tears.

Her best friend from quilting spoke at the service, stories of quilt retreats and shows. Her oldest and dearest friend from high school told stories of them trying to win a car by holding on to it the longest (they did not win the car!). What they all had in common was that they saw my mother as a kind, funny, loving, intelligent, hardworking woman. Of course, I knew my mother was all of those, but from the perspective of her child, it was . . . just different. It was so gratifying and gave me such comfort to realize that others recognized her and admired her qualities. The perspective I had of my mother shifted in those 2 days from "oh, that's just how my mama is" to "THAT'S my mama!"

It's important that we reflect on how we see the women around us; important that our perspective shift as we learn more about how strong those women are and how they are perceived by others. It's important that we celebrate their lives, just as those friends and coworkers celebrated my mother's life.

As you will read in this newsletter, we recently lost one of those strong, intelligent, passionate women. Last year we recognized Claudia Crawford for her contributions to advocacy on behalf of women everywhere. Little did we know we would lose her so soon. But her legacy will live on in all of us as we celebrate and continue her passion for service.



Christine Salmon, President
AAUW of Kentucky State Board

KY Branch Presidents 2021-2022

- ♦ AAUW at U of L, Shelby Gardner ♦ Bluegrass Central, Pauline Van Horn
- ♦ Ashland Area, Patricia Hall ♦ Louisville, Kathy Matheny
- ♦ Berea, Jackie Burnside and ♦ Maysville, Sharyn White-Coe
- Samantha Cole, Co- presidents ♦ Owensboro, Susan Walter

2022 State Convention

Theme: Shifting Perspective:
A Personal Examination

April 16, 2022

Via Zoom

Due to continuing COVID -19 concerns, our state convention will be virtual again this year.

That is good news for those who are not ready to travel or be in the midst of a large group. More good news: It also means saving \$ with no registration fee and no hotel costs.

So dust off your Zoom skills and prepare to join the fun and interesting program planned for the convention.

The program will feature Kaitlin Nonweiler, MAIS, who is the founder and CEO of KG Consulting, LLC. Kaitlin works with many different organizations to make participants aware of their cultural identity and world view which shapes how they see the world, others, and themselves. With this insight, we can begin the work to change our inner dialogue and foster greater understanding and empathy.

Kaitlin has a Master of Arts Degree in Intercultural Studies from Union University where she also received her undergraduate degree in Teaching English as a Second Language with a minor in Spanish.

She is a member of the Owensboro Branch.



Public Policy Report

AAUW of KY to reschedule "Women's Day at the Capitol"

In this 60-day session of the KY General Assembly, some 1500 bills may be filed. Your help is needed to highlight bills of importance related to AAUW's mission. **AAUW of KY's Women's Day at the Capitol Program and Reception** set for Feb. 3, 2022, from 11:00A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at the Capitol was canceled due to ice/sleet/snow; however, this is to be rescheduled.

KY Representative Nima Kulkarni is sponsoring these bills and planned to address them.

HB 83 https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/recorddocuments/bill/22RS/hb83/orig_bill.pdf

HB 338 https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/recorddocuments/bill/22RS/hb338/orig_bill.pdf

HB 236 https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/recorddocuments/bill/22RS/hb236/orig_bill.pdf

KY Representative Attica Scott is sponsoring these bills and planned to address them.

HR 34 <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/22rs/HR34.htmlhttps://apps.legislature.ky.gov/re>

HR 39 https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/recorddocuments/bill/22RS/hr39/orig_bill

HB67 https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/recorddocuments/bill/22RS/hb67/orig_bill.pdf

HB 88 <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/22rs/HB88.html>

HB 45 was sponsored by Rep. Lisa Willmer and co-sponsored by Scott and Kulkarni

HB 38, sponsored by Senator Julie Adams, makes incest a violent crime so that perpetrators would serve 85% of their time. Senator Adams was invited to speak.

**Teena Halbig, Public Policy Chair
AAUW of KY**

KY State Board 2021-2022

- ◆ **President and Communication**, Christine Salmon, Owensboro
- ◆ **Vice President/President-Elect**, Open
- ◆ **Treasurer**, Robinil Jameson, Bluegrass Central
- ◆ **Secretary and Newsletter Editor**, Sharon Marcum, Bluegrass Central
- ◆ **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**, Susan Cohn, Bluegrass Central and Joyce Anderson, Louisville
- ◆ **Public Policy**, Teena Halbig, Louisville
- ◆ **C/U Partnerships**, Jamieca Jones, Louisville/Advisor, AAUW at U of L
- ◆ **Historian**, Gae Broadwater, Bluegrass Central
- ◆ **Membership**, Open

The Common Denominator between Black History Month and Women's History Month

As we mark Black History Month—and prepare for Women's History Month—AAUW National invites you to reflect on a common denominator among these 59 days: Black women.

Black women must navigate both racism and sexism every day. People say women must work twice as hard as men for the same opportunities—for Black women, it's more like four times as hard. And yet, still we rise, to use the inspiring words of the great Dr. Maya Angelou.

In Memory of Claudia Crawford

It is with great sadness we report that AAUW lost a strong advocate for legislation with the passing of Claudia Crawford on February 1, 2022. Claudia was passionate in her fight for women's and girl's rights. She was a long-time member of AAUW Louisville Branch and in July 2021, she joined the AAUW of Ky state board as membership chair. At the 2021 AAUW state convention, Claudia received the Advocacy Award sponsored by the state board. Her AAUW colleagues will remember her and her legacy of 38 years of fervent advocacy for women and girls. Our deepest sympathy to Claudia's family and friends who will be holding a memorial celebration in honor of her life..



Claudia is 2nd from the right.

The D/E/I Initiative

Walking along a street you notice a group of people looking at a pamphlet. They are eagerly gesturing at a building across the street. As you pass by, some of the people smile and nod their heads. You stop and try to get a look at the paper they are holding. One of the group comments they are looking for an artist's gallery which seems to be across the street. You are familiar with the spot and offer to walk with them to the door. One of the group immediately invites you to join them in viewing the current display. You accept the invitation and the group begins to cross the street to the gallery.

What just happened? Strangers in a happenstance meeting offer comments and create an impromptu social opportunity. Can you picture this group? Are the members all of one race—the race you belong to? Is this a group of mixed heritage? Does the group include men and women?



The mental image you have created may illustrate inclusivity. One of the three principles of the D/E/I initiative is the practice of providing access and opportunity to people who might otherwise be excluded. If this group had been only white men and women, and the passer-by had been a man of color, would they have been so congenial?



We are more familiar with applying inclusivity in the workplace; in fact, federal laws prohibit discrimination based upon race. But what about our everyday life? Do we shy away and avoid someone who does not look like us? I would hope not. As AAUW members, we need to be particularly aware of the practice of including people who do not look like us. Our branches will be much richer with a variety of experiences and lifestyles and cultures.

By Joyce Anderson, co-chair with Susan Cohn
Diversity/Equity/Inclusion





Spotlight on AAUW Members

Teena Halbig Louisville Branch



Teena is 3rd from the left.



The Spotlight shines on our Louisville Branch member

Teena Halbig. Teena is the Public Policy Chair for the Branch and the AAUW of Ky state board. She works endlessly monitoring pending bills in Frankfort and in Washington giving us all updates on who and where to call when laws are being filed, heard in committee or up for a vote. Teena's work keeps us informed and enables our members and others she emails to participate and be heard on pending legislation. She also alerts us to webinars, seminars, and public meetings we can participate in to be part of the social and political happenings in our state. Teena's educational background in chemistry and her years of research and advocacy work in the community make her informational email alerts an asset to AAUW and beyond! Teena lives in the Floyds Fork area of Louisville and her advocacy over the years in land use planning and preservation helped this area be molded into a model of smart planning and a new park system for eastern Jefferson County. Thank you, Teena!

By Kathy Metheny, President

Louisville Branch



Spotlight on AAUW Branches

Louisville Branch



The AAUW Louisville Branch is working on revitalizing by recruiting younger members and working with the student Chapter at UofL. COVID slowed us down, but we are planning interactive events with the students and have allocated funds to sponsor a program to assist students in preparing for the business world. The group also made donations to two other non-profits—Spirit of Sophia (women's spirituality and public policy) and Water with Blessings (assistance to women in developing countries with water filtering supplies).

The Branch has Lunch Bunch meetings several times a year and we average about 12 people in attendance. This Christmas we had a gathering where we enjoyed talking and being in each others company.

By Kathy Metheny, President

Louisville Branch

KENTUCKY CONGRESSIONAL CONTACTS

U.S. SENATE

Sen. Mitch McConnell

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(606) 864-2026 – London
(270) 781-1673 – Bowling Green
(270) 442-4554 – Paducah

Sen. Rand Paul

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(502) 582-5341 – Louisville
(270) 689-9085 – Owensboro
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(270) 487-9509 – Tompkinsville

Rep. Brett Guthrie, 2nd District

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(270) 842-9896 – Bowling Green

Rep. John Yarmuth, 3rd District

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Rep. Thomas Massie, 4th District

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(502) 265-9119 – LaGrange
(859) 426-0080 – Crescent Springs

Rep. Hal Rogers, 5th District

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(606) 679-8346 – Somerset
(606) 886-0844 – Prestonsburg
(606) 439-0794 – Hazard

Rep. Andy Barr, 6th District

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of Kentucky

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