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## We learn about racial injustice with Native Americans ....because equity still matters!

### February Virtual General Membership Meeting

**Date:** Saturday, February 13, 2021

**Time:** 1:00 p.m. — Program, Meeting

**Program:** Human Trafficking of Indigenous People

**Zoom:** Your home, or wherever you have a device to receive Zoom, hosted by Pam McDonald. *To Join Zoom Meeting,*  
Meeting ID: 369 954 7636  
Passcode: 504788

Oklahoma has received federal funding to hire a murdered and missing indigenous persons coordinator. The coordinator will develop protocols for how law enforcement should respond when tribal members go missing. Cases of missing and murdered indigenous people are complicated by jurisdictional issues partly because the law enforcement response can vary if a crime occurred on or off tribal land.

The state's three U.S. District Attorney's offices will work with the coordinator, and all 39 federally recognized tribes. 40-50 open cases have been identified by the U.S. District Attorney Trent Shores, but Gen Hadley, with the southwest Oklahoma chapter of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women says there are about 130 cases statewide.

The new Coordinator of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) is **Patti Buhl**. Leaders of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes support the hiring of Buhl.

Patti Buhl is a 25-year law enforcement veteran from Tahlequah and a member of the Cherokee Nation. She most recently served as Police Chief of Northeastern State University, and worked in the Cherokee Nation Marshals Service before that.

Buhl is experienced in investigating missing persons and coordinating with tribal governments and organizations. She has also collaborated with the FBI, Secret Service, and IRS while investigating criminal cases. Buhl earned a Master of Science in Criminal Justice and is on track to receive her Juris Doctor from the Mitchell Hamline School of Law in December.



**Patti Buhl, MMIP Coordinator for Oklahoma**



## President's Corner

**We have** many opportunities for our members to Zoom events concerning the observance of the 1921 Race Massacre. Please find these in the newsletter.

**And this month** we try to understand the happenings in our Native American communities concerning missing and murdered women, and the under reporting of this recurring problem.

**I encourage you** to also read Killers of the Flower Moon and follow the Zoom book club review by our state President Jeannette Loutsch. This highlights the killings or disappearance of Osage tribe members back in the 1920s, enabling non-tribal people to acquire oil leases. It propelled the formation of the FBI.

**I hope and pray** everyone is well and signing up to get vaccinated. That way we can get back to being together again in person. What a great day that will be!

### REMEMBER THE 3 Ws!

—Pam McDonald  
President, AAUW Tulsa Branch  
[adamsfamily9857@aol.com](mailto:adamsfamily9857@aol.com)  
or call 918-636-5131.

## AAUW Board of Directors urges elimination of degree requirement Comment period runs through February 5

AAUW members have been sent an email from AAUW Board Chair Julia Brown regarding the proposed bylaws change to do away with the degree requirement for membership. At present members need to have at least an Associate's Degree. We reprint the message here:

*"As we reflect on the state of our country and the deep-rooted beliefs that perpetuate an unequal society, we must consider the role and impact of AAUW and its members in upholding our core values. In pursuing our vision of equity for all, we need to recognize and eliminate the barriers we put on ourselves and on our organization that prevent us from truly achieving our goals.*

*"This spring, the AAUW membership will vote on an important proposal to amend the AAUW bylaws to open membership and eliminate the degree requirement to join AAUW. The national AAUW Board of Directors strongly supports the proposal, along with dozens of member leaders across the country. We believe this is an essential step toward making AAUW a more diverse and inclusive organization, better aligned with our mission, values and the needs of women today. Our full statement appears below this email.*

*"Now through February 5, 2021, you can provide thoughts and comments on the proposed changes to the AAUW bylaws as well as proposed changes to the Public Policy Priorities. To learn more about the proposed changes and submit your feedback, please visit the election page on the AAUW website.*

*"We encourage your participation and look forward to hearing your thoughts. Please join us on Tuesday, January 19, at 4:00 p.m. ET for an interactive town hall on open membership. [Ed note: You can view the Town Hall at <https://youtu.be/bhkHHqKwT3w>.]*

*Best regards,  
Julia T. Brown, Esq., Board Chair"*

### AAUW BOARD OF DIRECTORS STATEMENT ON OPEN MEMBERSHIP

The AAUW National Board of Directors strongly supports elimination of the degree requirement for membership and will put the requirement up for a membership vote this spring. This important change is a critical step in bringing AAUW's bylaws and membership requirement in line with our mission of advancing equity for women and girls.

While AAUW is fiercely committed to educational attainment for all women, given our commitment to inclusion, this is simply the right thing to do.

Proposals to eliminate the degree requirement for membership have come before the membership for vote a number of times. The Board feels very strongly that, while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW's inception, this requirement is now counter to our mission and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization.

**Voting will open on April 7 and close May 17, 2021, 5:00 p.m. ET.**

We encourage respectful debate, which has always been a hallmark of the AAUW community. Please send any comments to let the Board know of your thoughts on this proposal and exercise your vote this spring.

## Interest Groups

### AAUW TULSA BOOK GROUP



Rose Unterschuetz is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting on Friday, February 26, 6:30 p.m. Central Time. This month you are asked to read your choice of books about the Tulsa Race massacre. See a list below\*.

Join the meeting at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8486955672?pwd=ZTUvUWxQV043dGoyUi9JSTRmZ2RmZz09>

Meeting ID: 848 695 5672

Passcode: 943838

If you are interested, please send me your email so I can send you the link directly. The above link will have to be entered manually.

Rose Unterschuetz, phone/text  
918-688-7128, or [tulsarose@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tulsarose@sbcglobal.net).

### MYSTERY BOOK GROUP

Mystery book club will Zoom on **March 17**, St. Patrick's Day, at 7:00 p.m. Read any Irish mystery. Please send me an email and your name to join us. I will send the Zoom link, usually on Tuesday before the Wednesday meeting.



Questions?

Call Linda Brooks, 918-260-3263, or [ishbrooks@yahoo.net](mailto:ishbrooks@yahoo.net)

### \*TULSA RACE MASSACRE: RECOMMENDED READING

If you're interested in learning more about the 1921 Tulsa Race massacre, here are books and other resources to check out:

**Death in a Promised Land: The Tulsa Race Riot of 1921**, by Scott Ellsworth.

**Black Wall Street**, by Hannibal B. Johnson.

**Tulsa 1921: Reporting a Massacre**, by Randy Krehbiel

**Events of the Tulsa Disaster**, by Mary E. Jones Parrish

**Tulsa Race Riot: A Report by the Oklahoma Commission to Study the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921**, by multiple authors



## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

**One of the rights of membership** in AAUW is having a vote on proposed changes to the bylaws. This spring the membership will once again vote on whether or not to eliminate the college or university degree requirement for joining AAUW.

**The National board supports** the change, believing that requiring a degree reflects an elitist, non-inclusive organization. Does requiring a degree limit or prevent diversity and intersectionality in our organization? It is time to give these issues careful consideration and then make your voice heard by voting.

**If you want more information** before making a decision there is an AAUW Town Hall on this issue available on You Tube.\* In addition, Julia Brown, AAUW National Board Chair, sent a letter to the membership regarding this issue in January.

**Let's talk about it during our Branch Zoom meeting on February 13. This is an important membership matter.**

Rose Unterschuetz  
Vice-President of Membership  
[tulsarose@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tulsarose@sbcglobal.net)

\* The link to the Town Hall on membership requirements is below. You will need to manually type it in.

<https://youtu.be/bhkHHqKwT3w>

### PROSPECTIVE MEMBER

Prospect's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # (w) \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_

AAUW Contact \_\_\_\_\_  
(Return to: Rose Unterschuetz, 5820 S. Evanston Ct., Tulsa, OK 74105)

### TULSA VOICE

Monthly newsletter of American Association of University Women,  
Tulsa Branch, 5219 S Joplin Ave, Tulsa, OK 74135

Web Site: <http://tulsa-ok.aauw.net/>

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# News 'n Notes

## AAUW supports creation of Gender Policy Council

CEO Kim Churches has issued a statement in support of the White House Gender Policy Council created by the Biden-Harris Administration. The pandemic has been devastating for women of color and crushing for women in general.

Throughout its nearly 140-year history, AAUW has worked with our nation's leaders. We stand ready to work with the new administration's Gender Policy Council to ensure that racial and gender equity remain front and center.

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## Upcoming webinar and past webinars available to members, branches

*Creating a Diversity Structure and Planning for Success* is the next scheduled webinar, set for Thursday, February 11, 2-3:30 p.m. CT. AAUW's Inclusion and Equity Committee will highlight the process for beginning to engage our branch in the conversation and creating an effective diversity and inclusion plan.

Past webinars are still available to members. The most recent are *Understanding the Digital Divide in Pre K—12 Education*, and *AAUW Public Policy Talks: 2021 Priorities and the New Administration*. Go to the AAUW website to find these and many more helpful and informative webinars.

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## From the AAUW Action Network

**Minimum wage is a women's issue—and it's time for a raise.** The federal minimum wage has not changed in more than a decade. Frontline workers—who are disproportionately women of color—are some of the most underpaid workers in the country.

**Demand Congress pass the Raise the Wage Act!** This Act would gradually increase the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15 per hour by 2025, then index the minimum wage so that it continues to rise along with wages overall. It will also end unfair exclusions for tipped workers, people with disabilities, and youth.

**Raising the minimum wage is an important part of ensuring women's economic security.**

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## Priorities set for 2021

With our help, AAUW will partner with the Biden-Harris Administration, state legislators, and the historically diverse 117th Congress to create an equitable future for all. AAUW's 2021 priorities include:

- ◆ Providing urgent COVID relief and paid leave to the women on whose shoulders our economy depends.
- ◆ Canceling student debt, two-thirds of which is borne by women and which weighs most heavily on women of color.
- ◆ Closing racial and gender pay gaps by outlawing the use of salary history in job applications and adopting other measures.
- ◆ Raising the federal minimum wage to ensure the millions of low-wage and essential workers—most of whom are women—can support themselves and their families.

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## New Research in 2021

AAUW is working hard on a range of research reports that will be ready in early 2021. These include work sponsored by the Arconic Foundation on how to get more women into manufacturing, a project focused on studying and supporting Latinas, and a partnership with the Eos Foundation on women's leadership in academia. Stay tuned!

\* \* \* \*

## It's AAUW's Art Contest time!

Starting February 10 you can vote on the best entries in our 12th annual Art Contest. Entries include art showcasing painting, photography, sculpture and other artwork. The winners will be featured on an exclusive set of member notecards that will be mailed this spring.

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## Equal pay for equal work

January 29th, 2021, marked the 12th anniversary of the signing of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. AAUW has been working on this issue for 24 years! The bipartisan Paycheck Fairness Act has been introduced in both houses. We can help now by contacting our members of Congress, write a Letter to the Editor, and Celebrate Lilly Ledbetter on social media.

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# More AAUW News 'n Notes . . . .

## Historic Diversity of 2021's New Leadership

The 117th Congress includes a record-breaking number of diverse women from both the Democratic and Republican parties.

According to the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, a total of 144 women — or 26.9% of the U.S. House and Senate combined— were elected to serve in Congress. That includes 106 Democrats and 38 Republicans.

Women of color are making Congressional history as well. 52 will serve in 2021, comprising 9.7% of the 117th Congress, including 47 Democrats and 5 Republicans.

A record number of women will serve at the state legislative level in 2021 — at least 2,277 women, or 30.8% of those in state legislative offices nationwide.

It will also be a historic year for state representation from the transgender and LGBTQ communities. Voters elected six transgender candidates to state office.

President Biden has also fulfilled his promise to assemble the most diverse Cabinet in American history. His administration marks many milestones for women and people of color. His cabinet will become the first to achieve gender parity and to include a majority of people of color.

Although we have a long way to go to true parity — this year, just one state (Nevada) has more women than men in its legislative body— every record-breaking year creates new inroads for women, inspiring future generations of women to follow in their footsteps.

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**Tulsa Branch Briefs**

**Note from Treasurer Gabrille Jones**  
As authorized in a recent Tulsa Branch board meeting, I have sent the Weatherford Branch a check in the amount of \$1500.00 for their summer camp. This gift covers a two year period which includes 2020-camp not held, and 2021. The check is actually payable to the SWOSU Foundation (Southwestern Oklahoma State University).

# Our Community

## Updates for Greenwood Rising from *Rising Review*, January, 2021

**Fire In Little Africa** is a multimedia hip-hop project, commemorating the 1921 massacre. The result is an album recorded in the heart of Black Wall Street at the Greenwood Cultural Center.

**The Skyline Mansion**, formerly the Brady Mansion, was the scene of the recording. The mansion is now an event venue owned by former NFL player and Tulsa native Felix Jones.

**In collaboration with the Woody Guthrie Center** and the Bob Dylan Center, the album artists host a weekly podcast that explores art, music, and entrepreneurship with rotating guests and leaders from across the nation.

**Finally, a curriculum will be designed by Fire In Little Africa** for school districts, colleges, museums, and corporate offices that will translate themes developed from the album and film content into an educational view book illustrated by Tulsa artists.

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**Greenwood Rising** is a state-of-the-art history center being built at the heart of Tulsa's Greenwood District, honoring the legacy of Black Wall Street before and after the Tulsa Race massacre of 1921.

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### Professional Development for Educators

The 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission is offering to educators the *Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Educator Institute 2021*. Applications have already been submitted; on Feb. 15 pre-work will be assigned to those registered.

The online virtual classes will meet weekly Thursday evenings, 6:30-9:30 p.m., from March 25 through May 24, 2021. June 3 is set for the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Educator National Day of Learning, from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

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

AAUW, founded in 1881, is open to all graduates who hold the associate's, baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university.

In principle and in practice, 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.

**Our Value Promise:**

"As a member of AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance."

Websites: Tulsa Branch—<http://Tulsa-ok.aauw.net/>  
Oklahoma AAUW—[www.aauwoklahoma.org](http://www.aauwoklahoma.org) National AAUW—[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

### Author and Book Events at Tulsa City-County Library In celebration of Black History Month

**Tuesday, February 16, 6 PM** An expert and scholar on the history of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, author Hannibal B. Johnson will join TCCL to speak about his newest book, Black Wall Street 100: An American City Grapples With Its Historical Racial Trauma, followed by a Q & A session.

The free event will be on Zoom. Please register in advance at [tulsalibrary.org](http://tulsalibrary.org) to receive a Zoom invite for this event.

\* \* \*

**Thursday, February 18, 6 PM** Join the African-American Resource Center for 1921 Historical Trauma: Business Goes on as Usual, a presentation commemorating the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre through the arts as it showcases an array of talented local performers—singers, poets, dancers, actors and spoken word artists.

Visit [www.youtube.com/tulsalibrary](http://www.youtube.com/tulsalibrary), or email [Alicia.latimer@tulsalibrary.org](mailto:Alicia.latimer@tulsalibrary.org) to receive a Zoom invite.

\* \* \*

### Another Book Event in Black History Month

Opal's Greenwood Oasis was authored by Najah Hylton, an Oklahoma City Public Schools teacher and poet, and Quraysh Ali Lansana, poet born in Enid, on faculty staff at University of Chicago and Oklahoma City University. Illustrator Skip Hill, an OU graduate, has had his art shown nationwide and abroad. The picture book was released February 2, 2021, and depicts the life of a black girl in Greenwood prior to its destruction.



### February, 2021 Calendar

**February 10** Voting begins on 2021 Art Contest See Page 4.

**February 11** AAUW Webinar Creating a Diversity Structure and Planning for Success. See Page 4.

**February 13** Virtual General Membership Meeting 1:00 p.m. See P. 1.

**February 16** Zoom Talk with Hannibal Johnson on his book on Black Wall Street. See above.

**February 18** Tulsa Library presents 1921 Historical Trauma: Business Goes On As Usual See above.

**February 20** Deadline for March TULSA VOICE.

**February 26** Tulsa Branch Book Group See Page 3.

#### Looking Ahead . . .

**March 17** Mystery Book Group See Page 3.

**March 25-May 24** Virtual classes begin for Educators re: Tulsa Race Massacre See Page 5.

**April 7** Voting opens on Open Membership in AAUW See Page 2.

**May 17** Voting closes on Open Membership, See P. 2.