



AAUW ABQ UPDATE #2

April 21, 2020

Fairbanks Family Suffragists

Susan Gaffney shared an article from *The Homestead Courier*, a publication of the Fairbanks Family in America. Susan is a descendant through her mother of this family. Charles Fairbanks was vice president under Teddy Roosevelt. Fairbanks, Alaska was named after him. The Fairbanks family has a long history of producing (or marrying) women of strong character and convictions.

Cornelia Cole was born January 14th, 1852 in Marysville Ohio. She graduated from Ohio Wesleyan College in 1872 and Married Charles Fairbanks in 1874. Together they had five children. They moved to Indiana where Charles became a US Senator and Cornelia founded the Fortnightly Literary Club and was on the State Board of Charities. She also joined the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1895 and became the sixth President General in 1905. Charles became Vice-President of the United States under Theodore Roosevelt in 1905. As the leader of the DAR and “Second Lady” Cornelia was considered, for her time, to be the most powerful woman in the entire United States. She oversaw the construction of the DAR’s first purpose built home in Washington, D.C. She used her high position to promote suffrage and was an active and vocal woman’s rights activist. While Cornelia was instrumental in the creation of the 19th Amendment, she sadly did not see it come to fruition in 1920; she died of pneumonia in 1913.



Janet Ayer was born June 7th, 1878 in Chicago, Illinois. From a prominent, wealthy family and a graduate of the University of Chicago, Janet was a member of the city’s elite. She married another one of Chicago’s movers and shakers-lawyer Kellogg Fairbank (heir to the N.K. Fairbanks lard and soap fortune) in 1900.



Janet was best known as a writer, producing seven books, one play, and a number of short stories. One of her books *The Smiths* was runner up for the 1925 Pulitzer Prize in fiction. She was also a very ardent proponent of women’s suffrage. She used her standing and connections to great effect for the cause. At one point she rode a white horse down Michigan Ave. to raise awareness for women’s rights. After helping to gain the right to vote she became in politics, representing Illinois in the Democratic National Convention in 1924 and 1932. She served on the committee of the Illinois Democratic party from 1924 to 1938. After a long and active life, Janet died in 1951.

Interesting historical note: the term “Suffragette” was originally coined by a British reporter and was meant to be derogatory. British women fighting for the right to vote decided to coopt the term and use it for their own. American women however, decided to go with the gender neutral “suffragist”. So if you want to be historically accurate British women working for the vote area called suffragettes while American Women are suffragists.

www.fairbankshouse.org



Join us for upcoming webinar sessions that explore the impact of COVID-19 on family, feminism, and voter access.

2020 Election Voter Access & Education During the COVID-19 Pandemic

April 22, 2020, 5:00 pm E.T.

Tune in to learn about the impact of COVID-19 on voter access, gain key “get out the vote” and voter education resources, and identify priority policy issues facing women and families this election.

Register Now

COVID-19 and Work-Family Justice in the United States

April 23, 2020, 5:00 pm E.T.

AAUW Fellowship alumna and author of *Making Motherhood Work: How Women Manage Careers and Caregiving*, Prof. Caitlyn Collins will join us for a discussion on what it means to balance caregiving and careers during COVID-19 in the United States where work-family policies are the most hostile of any western industrialized country.

Register Now

Mrs. America: Women’s Rights, Family Values and Politics with Marjorie Spruill

April 30, 2020, 5:00 pm E.T.

Join us for a Conversation with AAUW American Fellowship alumna Marjorie Spruill, Professor Emerita, University of South Carolina and author, *Divided We Stand: The Battle Over Women’s Rights & Family Values that Polarized American Politics*.

Heard about the new Hulu series Mrs. America and the fight for women’s rights in the 1970’s?

“Marjorie Spruill describes a polarized America that will be recognizable to any consumer of today’s news ... A story crucial to understanding American politics over the past 40 years ... The question raised by the battle of 1977 — who speaks for women? — still bedevils American politics.” —*Wall Street Journal*

Register Now

Looking for a Few Good Members to Join the State Leadership Team

Have you considered volunteering for an AAUW NM appointed leadership team position? The work is easy and the reward is great. Please consider one of the following positions. "Job descriptions" can be found on the AAUW NM Policy Manual Section II (click: [AAUW NM Job Descriptions](#)) Please consider one of these positions:

The following appointed positions are available for two-year terms:

Awards

Chair

College/University

Diversity

International Interest

Media Relations

If interested, contact Beverly Chambers (flagbab@mac.com) or Sylvia Fink (sjsfink@gmail.com) AAUW NM Co-Presidents.

Editor's Note: I was unable to get the Constant Contact act to load this morning.

If you have interesting information that you believe other members would enjoy reading, please e-mail me at pam1246@me.com

Please consider calling an AAUW friend or two to visit. Many of our members live alone and would appreciate the opportunity to talk with an AAUW friend.

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