



Iowa Woman

A Publication of the Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women • Vol. XXXVII, No. 5, September/October 2007

Iowa Women's Hall of Fame

Four remarkable women were recognized for their significant contributions by being inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame on Saturday, August 25 at the State Historical Building in Des Moines. The event was held in conjunction with Women's Equality Day, August 26, which commemorates the day in 1920 when American women won the right to vote.

The Iowa Women's Hall of Fame is sponsored by the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women (ICSW). Secretary of State Michael Mauro and ICSW Vice Chair Kim Painter presented awards to Ruth Ann Gaines and Connie Wimer. Posthumous awards acknowledged Emma J. Harvat and Dr. Ada Hayden.

Also at the ceremony, the ICSW presented Hall of Fame member Marilyn O. Murphy with the Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice. This medal is awarded periodically to an Iowan whose life exemplifies the work of Cristine Wilson, who was the first chair of the ICSW and who spent her life working toward equality and justice.

This year marked the 33rd Iowa Women's Hall of Fame induction ceremony. For a book containing the pictures and biographies of these women, send \$5, which includes shipping and handling, to the ICSW, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319. Biographies of all 132 members can be read on-line on the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame page of www.state.ia.us/dhr/sw/. A publication listing biographies of the Cristine Wilson Medal recipients is also available on-line.

Ruth Ann Gaines

For 36 years, Ruth Ann Gaines has been the Des Moines East High School drama teacher, Des Moines Area Community College speech and drama instructor, and a facilitator of diversity courses through the Heartland Area Education Agency. Since she and her family members have been discriminated against because of the color of their skin, and after adopting a child with a disability as a single parent, she has been motivated to dedicate her adult life to fighting for justice for all. Valued and honored with many awards over the years, in 1998 Gaines was the first fine arts teacher to receive the Department of Education's Iowa Teacher of the Year award. Also in 1998, she showed what a dedicated, serious, and talented individual she is by serving as the Iowa Ambassador for Education. In 2001 Gaines created Sisters For Success, a Des Moines Public School mentorship program for African American middle and high school girls. In 2003, she was one of five educators chosen from around the country to be inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame. And in 2004, she was one of three Iowans to be inducted into the Iowa African American Hall of Fame. Besides being an effective and inspiring leader, Gaines is well known locally for her acting ability. Born in 1947, Gaines has lived in Iowa her entire life.



Emma J. Harvat

Emma J. Harvat was an important historical figure in United States and Iowa history, for in 1922, she became the first woman in the nation to be mayor of a city larger than 10,000. "I believe my experience and training in business won the election for me," she said. Bringing the female perspective to problems in city government, she immediately separated female and male offenders in the city jail and established a juvenile home. Born in Iowa City in 1870, she was the ninth of ten children of Czechoslovakian immigrants Joseph and Mary Harvat. She started her professional life as a store clerk but quickly advanced to owning her own business, a ready-made dress shop. Later she became involved in real estate, home building, and as a landlord. Her home in Iowa City was placed on the National Register of Historic Places and Iowa City's Civic Center was designated as "Emma J. Harvat Hall" in 2000. Harvat was an Iowa woman of remarkable vision, professional achievement, and originality who was a pathfinder for civic leaders in our state. She died in 1949.



See next page for biographies of Dr. Ada Hayden, Connie Wimer, and Marilyn O. Murphy.

Dr. Ada Hayden

After being the first woman to obtain her Ph.D. at Iowa State University in 1918, Ada Hayden was appointed as assistant professor in botany in 1919. She also conducted research on Iowa's plants and ecology, publishing nearly 30 papers based on these studies. "A *Botanical Survey in the Iowa Lake Region of Clay and Palo Alto Counties*" was published in 1943 and is heralded by many authorities as one of the best surveys of Iowa flora. She was also a talented artist and photographer. She devoted much of her time and energy to the Iowa State Herbarium and added over 10,000 high-quality specimens that she personally collected; the Herbarium was named in her honor in 1988. In 2004, Ames dedicated one of its largest parks as the Ada Hayden Heritage Park. Hayden was also keen on environmental conservation, and one of her well known reports was titled "*The Selection of Prairie Areas in Iowa Which Should Be Preserved.*" Several of the natural Iowa landscape areas she described have since been purchased and designated as state preserves. Born on August 14, 1884, Hayden died on August 12, 1950. After her death, a 200-acre preserve in Howard County was named in her honor.



Connie Wimer

Connie Wimer, of Des Moines, has been an active business and community leader for many years. She was the owner and President of Iowa Title Company from 1976 until 1985 when she sold the company to Central Life Insurance Company, but continued as President until 2001. In 1981 she purchased a small legal paper and transitioned it in 1983 to become the *Des Moines Business Record*. She publishes another ten publications including *dsm*, *Intro*, *Daily Business Record*, and *Book of Lists*. Additionally, she created a number of annual events, including Women of Influence and Forty under 40, recognizing women and younger people who contribute to the community. In addition to the publishing business, Wimer sits on a number of business and charitable boards. She founded Winefest Des Moines and was the first woman to chair the Des Moines Chamber of Commerce as

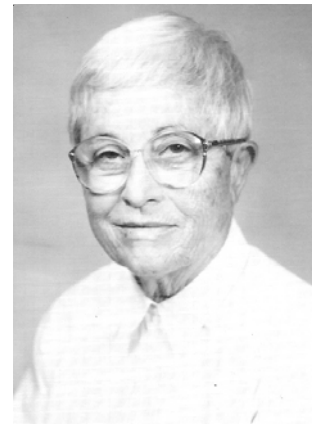


well as the first woman to chair the National Alliance of Area Business Publications. She was the first woman elected to the Greater Des Moines Committee's Business Hall of Fame in 2002 and she has received many other awards throughout her career. Born in Merrill, Iowa in 1932, Wimer moved to Des Moines in 1950 and in Des Moines she earned her reputation as a competent, caring and sharing business leader.

Cristine Wilson Medal Recipient

Marilyn O. Murphy

Marilyn O. Murphy has opened doors for others and serves as a role model for many, often by being the first woman to serve in traditionally male groups. She is an outstanding community volunteer and leader in social services and human rights in the Sioux City area. Her ability to achieve worthwhile



objectives by forming coalitions from disputing factions is remarkable. The extensiveness of her volunteer involvements is evidenced by the variety of areas in which she has been effective: crime prevention, day care, sexual assault and domestic violence, drug abuse, juvenile justice, rural concerns/family farms, and civil rights. Since 1973, she has been Social Concerns Facilitator for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Sioux City and is now also serving in the capacity of Rural Life Contact for the Diocese. She has produced several videos in English and Spanish, on domestic violence, child sexual abuse, rural heritage, rural women, women in the church, elderly women and women in prison. She was the first woman to serve as chairperson of the Council of Community Services and the Iowa Commission on Substance Abuse. She was also the first president of the Community Action Agency and chaired the Sioux City Human Rights Commission for three years. Murphy cofounded the Sioux City Chapter of the Women's Political Caucus. She has received many community service awards. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 1988.

Save the Date
2008 Iowa Women's
Hall of Fame Ceremony
August 23, 2008

Do you know a remarkable woman?

Do you know someone who should be in the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame? Is the community and/or state better for her contributions? Are people in general better because of her accomplishments? Are women in Iowa, the region, and/or United States better, has their status improved, or have opportunities increased for women because of her life and contributions, and/or is the nation, world, or a particular discipline, profession, or field better because of her contributions?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, go to www.state.ia.us/government/dhr/sw/hall_fame/index.html or call the ICSW office at 515/281-4461 or 800/558-4427 for a nomination form. Nominations for the 2008 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame are due by May 1, 2008.

Public Hearing Set

Do you have a vested interest in the improved status of girls and/or women in Iowa? And, would you like the opportunity to influence the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women's 2008 Legislative Proposals?

If so, consider testifying at the Commission's annual Public Hearing beginning at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, October 9 at the 300 East Locust Office Building, Des Moines.

Persons or groups who have an interest in issues affecting Iowa women/girls are invited to participate. Contact the ICSW to receive a participants' form to complete, or download one from www.state.ia.us/government/dhr/sw/legislation/index.html.

Those who wish to present **written information** for consideration at the public hearing must have 15 copies of the material, including the participant form, **in the office by 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 26:** Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319.

Persons or groups wishing to participate in the **oral discussion** of one or more hearing topics (for no longer than 5 minutes) should call or write for scheduling on the agenda. Deadline for scheduling oral discussion is **12 noon, Monday, September 24:** Lori SchraderBachar at 515/281-4470, 800/558-4427, or lori.schraderbachar@iowa.gov.

Topics may include but are **not limited** to family, child care, health, insurance, corrections, pay equity, violence, sports, education, caregiving, displaced homemakers, sexual harassment, employment issues, health care reform, business/economic issues, divorce, housing, and welfare reform.

Endowment Fund Awards

The Friends Endowment Fund was established to provide financial assistance to women, enabling them to pursue educational opportunities with the flexibility and adaptability necessary to meet their needs.

This year, two women were chosen for awards from the Endowment Fund of the Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women.

Ann Knobbe of Fort Dodge was awarded \$500 toward tuition for her last class to get a reading endorsement at Buena Vista University. Evelyn Allfree of Waterloo received \$700 for tuition to Hawkeye Community College where she is studying to become a medical administration assistant. Congratulations to these women and best luck for continued success in their classes.

Selection committee members included board member of Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women. Since 1994, the overall total in awards is \$11,978.14.

Centenarians Wanted

Women 99 and over — centenarians or near centenarians — and their friends and families are needed for research of a nonprofit organization, National Centenarian Awareness Project (NCAP).

For the past 22 years, the NCAP has focused on advocacy on issues of aging and celebration of those who have reached the extraordinary age of 100, and inspiration to others who would like to live their lives to the fullest.

A book about centenarians is currently being written and Iowans' stories are needed. In special need are those who live independently or with family. If you are or know a person over 100 who is interesting and special, consider contacting the NCAP.

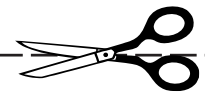
To learn more, call the National Centenarian Awareness Project at 800/243-1889, visit www.adlercentenarians.org or e-mail adler100s@aol.com.



Join Iowans from around the state on Monday, October 15 when Friends of Iowa Civil Rights, Inc. presents Iowa's Mosaic Diversity Conference. The conference will be held at the Polk County Convention Complex in Des Moines. An intensive diversity institute will be held on Tuesday, October 16.

The conference keynote speaker is Chief Red Hawk. Dr. Sondra Thiederman will keynote during the institute. Both days will be filled with exciting workshop presentations. Monday will also feature exhibits and the 12th Annual Friends of Iowa Civil Rights, Inc. awards luncheon.

For more information or to register for conference and/or institute, visit www.iowamosaic.org.



Domestic Violence Crisis Centers

If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, consider calling the domestic violence project nearest you. Also, note that many of the domestic violence projects also serve as sexual assault projects. This list was provided by the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 515/244-8028.

Adel	Des Moines	Oskaloosa
Crisis Line 800/400-4884	Crisis Line 515/243-6147	Crisis Line 800/270-1620
Office 515/993-4095	Office 515/471-8699	Office 641/673-0336
Ames	Dubuque	Pella 641/621-1707
Crisis Line 800/203-3488	Crisis Line 888/332-5899	Ottumwa
Office 515/292-0500	Office 563/588-0048	Crisis Line 800/464-8340
Atlantic	Fort Dodge	Office 641/683-1750
Crisis Line 800/696-5123	Crisis Line 888/356-2006	Sioux Center
Office 712/243-6615	Office 515/955-2273	Crisis Line 800/382-5603
Burlington	Grundy Center	Office 712/722-4404
Crisis Line 800/693-1399	Crisis Line 888/746-4673	Sioux City
Office 319/752-0606	Office 319/824-5522	Crisis Line 800/982-7233
Cedar Rapids	Iowa City	Office 712/277-0131
Crisis Line 800/208-0388	Crisis Line 800/373-1043	Spencer
Office 319/365-1458	Office 319/351-1043	Crisis Line 877/362-4612
Benson Co. 319/472-4032	Keokuk	Office 712/262-4612
Jones Co. 319/462-3422	Crisis Line 800/498-5095	Waverly
Clinton	Office 319/524-8520	Crisis Line 800/410-7233
Crisis Line 800/381-9319	Marshalltown	Office 319/352-1108
Office 563/242-2118	Crisis Line 800/779-3512	Deaf Iowan Against Abuse
Council Bluffs	Office 641/752-3245	TTY Crisis 877/224-0875
Crisis Line 888/612-0266	Mason City	Relay Crisis 847/385-9011
Office 712/256-2059	Crisis Line 800/479-9071	Cell to Cell Text 515/770-3063
Creston	Office 641/424-9071	
Crisis Line 888/782-6632	Floyd Co. 641/228-0015	Latinas Unidas por un Nuevo Amanecer (LUNA)
Office 641/782-2706	Franklin Co. 641/456-5835	Crisis Line 866/256-7668
Davenport	Kossuth Co. 515/295-8646	Office 515/271-5060
Crisis Line 563/326-9191	Mitchell Co. 641/832-8456	
Office 563/322-1200	Winnebago Co. 641/585-1050	State Hotline 800/942-0333
Decorah	Muscatine	
Crisis Line 800/383-2988	Crisis Line 563/263-8080	
Office 563/382-1260	Office 563/263-0067	

GSSTF Holds Summit

The Gender Specific Services Task Force will hold a Girls' Summit in October for a select group of professionals to focus attention on young women who are involved with the juvenile justice system and how to best meet their needs. These young women are also frequently involved in the human services system and end up in adult corrections as well. They make up a smaller portion of the juvenile justice population than boys and are not generally perceived as much of a threat to the community when compared to their male counterparts and as a result can be overlooked.

But, Iowa is holding them in detention for misdemeanor offenses at a higher rate than boys. There is also disproportionate contact with minority girls (particularly African American and Native American girls) and these young women show a significant statistical increase in violent offenses when they recidivate compared to their male counterparts.

These are just some of the findings that we have come across in our search of the data. Participants will take a closer look at these as well as other trends and their implications.

While the Summit is invitation only, the report of findings will be available publicly in 2008. For more information, contact Kathy Nesteby at 515/2281-6915, 800/558-4427 or kathy.nesteby@iowa.gov.

Calendar of Events

September

Latino Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15) and Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

- 7 Iowa Gender-Specific Services Task Force.** 10 a.m.-12 noon, Urbandale Public Library, Urbandale. Kathy Nesteby, ICSW, 515/281-6915, 800/558-4427, or kathy.nesteby@iowa.gov.
- 8-9 Iowa's Latino Heritage Festival.** Blank Park Zoo, Des Moines. For more information call 515/279-0715 or visit www.latinoheritagefestival.org.
- 10-11 2007 ICA CAMP (Care About My Profession).** Sheraton West Des Moines, West Des Moines. Fee varies. Iowa CareGivers Association, 515/241-8697 or information@iowacaregivers.org.
- 8 Blow the Whistle on Asthma Walk.** 8 a.m., Jordan Creek Town Center, West Des Moines. For more information, contact Donna Miller at 515/309-9507 or dmiller@lungia.org.
- 11 School Board Elections.** Vote!
- 13-17 Planned Parenthood of Greater Iowa Fall Book Sale.** 4-H Building, Iowa State Fairgrounds, Des Moines. Hours opening night: 4 - 10 p.m. Hours for the rest of the sale are Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday and Monday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free except for opening night, which is \$5. www.pggi.org.
- 18-20 Being Well, Staying Well: Sexual Health for All Ages.** Gateway Hotel & Conference Center, Ames. Fee varies. FutureNet/Family Planning Update. www.iowafuturenet.org/events.html.
- 19 Diverse Leadership Conference: Diverse Path - Shared Destinies.** 7 a.m. - 2 p.m., Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cedar Rapids. Fee varies. For more information visit www.kirkwood.edu/ce or call 800/332-8833.
- 19 Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at The University of Iowa (OLLI at Iowa) Kick Off Celebration** 11 a.m. - 12 noon. UI Medical Education and Research Facility, Iowa City. For more information, contact Linsey Abbott at 319/384-4221 or linsey-abbott@uiowa.edu.
- 20-21 Laying Claim to Our Spirit: The Iowa African American Women's Leadership Conference.** Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cedar Rapids. Fee varies. For more information or to register, visit www.blackiowa.org or call 319/862-2101 x.14.
- 23 Out of the Darkness Community Walk.** 2 p.m., Gray's Lake, Des Moines. For more information, visit outofthedarkness.org or call 888/33-2377.

- 27 Chrysalis Foundation Insights Luncheon.** 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Embassy Suites, Des Moines. Fee varies. Register by calling 515/255-1853 or visiting www.chrysalisfdn.org.

October

Native American, Domestic Violence, Breast Cancer, and National Disability Employment Awareness Month

- 5 Iowa Gender-Specific Services Task Force.** 10 a.m.-12 noon, Urbandale Public Library, Urbandale. Kathy Nesteby, ICSW, 515/281-6915, 800/558-4427, or kathy.nesteby@iowa.gov.
- 6 NAMI Walks Iowa.** 8:30 a.m., Water Works Park, Des Moines. For more information, contact Jay Brewer, 515/321-8051 or visit www.nami.org/namiwalks/IA.
- 9 Iowa Commission on the Status of Women Meeting and Public Hearing.** 10:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. 300 East Locust Office Building, Des Moines. Free and open to the public. Call or write for special accommodations, 800/558-4427, 515/281-4461 or dhr.icsw@iowa.gov.
- 9 Iowa Women's Foundation Annual Grant Awards Luncheon.** 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. University Athletic Club, Iowa City. \$40. Call the IWF offices for more information or to reserve tickets, 319/337-4222.
- 15-16 Global Iowa -- The Power of We.** Polk County Convention Complex, Des Moines. Fee varies. Friends of Iowa Civil Rights, Inc., www.iowamosaic.org.
- 18 Beacon of Life's Art & More Gala.** 6 - 9 p.m., Botanical Center, Des Moines. \$30. www.beaconoflifedm.org/auction.htm.
- 20 Women of Color Advisory Network's Music & Desserts.** 1-4 p.m., Polk County Central Senior Center, Des Moines. Fee varies. Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault, 515/244-7424 or info@iowacasa.org.
- 23-24 HousingIowa Conference.** Des Moines Marriott, Des Moines. Fee varies. Iowa Finance Authority, www.iowafinanceauthority1.com/HIC/Index.asp.

November

- 1-2 Defining Your Path: Stepping Stones to Success.** West Des Moines Marriott, West Des Moines. Doreen Hayek, 319/273-7300, doreen.hayek@uni.edu, or www.uni.edu/ietti/wayup.

Bits and Pieces

Staff changes at the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women (ICSW): Ellen Failor, who has served as administrative assistant for 17 years, retired from the ICSW on July 12. Rachel Scott began as executive director on August 27. The ICSW welcomes Scott and thanks Failor for her exceptional contributions to Iowa women and girls.



During the recent **National Association of Commissions for Women** convention, ICSW staff member Lori SchraderBachar was appointed to be the public policy chair. She is continuing her third year as a board member.



In order to exercise your right to vote, you must be registered. You may **register to vote** by going, in person, to the office of your city clerk or county auditor. Or, by mail, you may register by

completing the correct postcard registration form, obtainable from your city clerk, county auditor, all state offices, in many public buildings, and on the Iowa Secretary of State's website, www.sos.state.ia.us. Registration must be completed by August 31 to be eligible to vote in the September 11 school elections.



The **Older Iowans Legislature**, an all volunteer organization serving Iowa's senior citizens, will hold the 2007 Older Iowans Legislative Session on September 24th and 25th in the House Chambers of the Iowa State Capitol Building in Des Moines. Members of the public of any age are welcome to observe the session. Senior delegates from throughout the state submit bills and share in the debate to select five priority bills. The top five priority bills are then submitted to the Iowa General Assembly, the Governor and the public.

For information on how to participate or attend, contact Ron Jome at 800/747-5352.



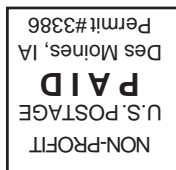
September 29 through October 6 is **Banned Books Week**, an annual celebration of the freedom to read sponsored by the American Library Association. The "10 Most Challenged Books of 2006" were *And Tango Makes Three*, Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell; *Gossip Girls* series, Cecily Von Ziegesar; *Alice*, Phyllis Reynolds Naylor; *The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things*, Carolyn Mackler; *The Bluest Eye* and *Beloved*, Toni Morrison; *Scary Stories* series, Alvin Schwartz; *Athletic Shorts*, Chris Crutcher; *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, Stephen Chbosky; and *The Chocolate War*, Robert Cormier. Learn more at www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/bannedbooksweek.htm.



Help save printing/postage costs!
If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please write or call the ICSW office. You may also send your e-mail address. Thank you!

Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women
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Enclosure of items in the newsletter does not necessarily connote endorsement by the Friends of the ICSW or by the ICSW. All information must be mailed or faxed to the ICSW no later than the 15th day of all even numbered months. The use of any submitted material is at the discretion of the editor. The *IoWoman* is mailed six times per year to 8,400 persons or organizations.

Julie Graden, President • Lori M. SchraderBachar, ICSW Interim Executive Director • Lori M. SchraderBachar, Editor

