Jan./Feb. 2010 Volume 53, Issue 3



NEWSBRIEFS

AAUW — CHAMPAIGN-URBANA BRANCH

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C-UAAUW

Wine, Women and Song, our annual fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, March 6, 2010 From 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm At Milo's Restaurant, 2870 S. Philo Rd., Urbana

There will be more information in the next AAUW Newsbrief.

Please mark your calendar for this important event.

Sabrina Gosnell

2009-2010 Ida King Stevens Award Recipient

Sabrina Gosnell is the latest recipient of the Ida King Stevens Award. Our branch gives the \$1000 scholarship annually to a deserving female student at the University of Illinois who has experienced at least a two-year interruption in her education. Sabrina is a junior in LAS studying for a degree in Gender and Women's Studies. After earning her degree, she hopes

to work for a year or two at a shelter or through another non-profit whose goal is to protect and support those in need. She would then like to pursue graduate work in either law or social work.

We are pleased to be able to help such a worthy young woman as she pursues her goal to ". . . defend and champion for women, children, and other members of society who would benefit from such support".

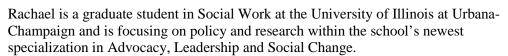
Laura Keller, Local Scholarships Chair

Rachael Dietkus-Miller

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Rachael has been appointed to AAUW's National Student Advisory Council (SAC). The SAC advises on various student programs and also helps with the planning of the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. She is really

excited about this opportunity and hopes there will be ways to bridge national efforts with what is happening locally.



Meet the students who advise AAUW about student programs, work to improve equality for women on their campuses, and help lead various programs at http://www.aauw.org/About/campus_connection/studentcouncil.cfm



January

15 Writers' Group

26 Adelante

February

- 4 Drama Group
- 19 Writers' Group
- 23 Adelante

Reminder!

Of your \$49 national dues, \$46 is tax-deductible.

AAUW C-U BRANCH HISTORY

Check out our website at http://aauw-il.org/champurban/
to read about the history of our C-U
AAUW branch. Our branch was organized in 1901 and is the second oldest branch in Illinois.
You will find many interesting facts from the past!



Be A Part of the 2010 Census Team!

Solution

Be A Part of the 2010 Census Team!

More information, including a practice test, is available at:

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Nore call our Champaign office at 217-239-1240

Opportunities for Giving

We thank all branch members who have generously made donations to our local scholarships, Educational Foundation, and Legal Advocacy Fund. In December the branch sent \$750 to the national office for their educational programs and \$300 for their legal advocacy work. All members who donated to these categories should receive acknowledgments from the national office. These donations are tax-deductible. We will continue to seek donations for these programs in 2010.

We have a balance in our local scholarship account that will cover the costs for the 2010-2011 school year, but we need to raise \$2600 for local scholarships during 2010 in order to stay a year ahead. As you make your budget and giving plans for 2010, contributions to local scholarships will be vitally important to our branch's ability to assist three students in furthering their education and preparing for their careers.

Phyllis Cline, Financial Officer

New Member Welcome! Patsy Jones is a new C-U AAUW

branch member. She was a member of the disbanded Danville chapter.

903 W. Center St.

Danville, IL 61832-2903 443-5132 home phone;

799-0014 cell phone

patsyjones53@sbcglobal.net

Illinois State University, BS Ed. 1976, MS Ed 1981 •

Big Thanks!

Dianna Morris has agreed to do publicity for our branch.



Legal Advocacy Fund News Margaret Stewart, LAF Chair



LAF has been increasing publicity about the Pregnancy Discrimination Act on its Online Resource Library. Melinda Powell, LAF Legal Advisor, believes that this publicity, along with that of other organizations, is responsible for the increase in claims made before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The Act goes back to 1978, when Congress responded to a decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of General Electric v. Gilbert, which allowed employers to exclude coverage for pregnancy and related conditions from their benefits plans. The Act was an amendment to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and requires employers to treat pregnancy and its related disabilities the way they treat all other temporary disabilities.

Nevertheless, the discrimination continues. During the past several years, more and more claims have been filed. In 2008 the number was up12 percent over the previous year, to more than 6.000.

According to a report by the Center of American Progress, pregnant women are among the first to lose their jobs in a recession. This is all the more reason for LAF to continue to provide information about the Act and the rights it gives to pregnant women. For more information on this subject go to www.aauw.org/advocacy/Laf/Lafnetwork/library/PDA.cfm.

New Mentors Needed for CU Schools One-to-One Mentoring Program

We need more mentors all the time! Applications can be found on-line at: www.cu1to1.org or by contacting any USD116 or U4 building Community Connections Coordinator.

Joanna Pelafas will gladly provide applications or other information. Her E-mail addresses is pelafajo@champaignschools.org

The application should be submitted before you attend the training.

Trainings for mentors who will begin second semester are scheduled for:

Thursday, February 4^{th} from 6:30 - 8:30 at the Urbana Free Library and Thursday, February 11^{th} from 11:30 - 1:30 at the

Mellon Building (703 S. New, C.)

AAUW Educational Foundation

2010-2011 AAUW Fellowships and Grant Applications are now being accepted for graduate and undergraduate funding for the 2010-2011 academic term.

See fellowships and grants at http://aauw.org/education/fga/fellowships grants/ index.cfm

C-U AAUW INTEREST GROUPS

Drama Group

The Drama group gets together each month to discuss a selected play. Occasionally the group will host a guest speaker working in the field to discuss a pertinent topic. Once a year the group selects and attends a play together.

New members are always welcome!!!

Drama group meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm, September—May.

Co-Chairs: Phyllis Cline 344-4806 Helen Miron 344-4225



Drama Group does not meet in January.

Thursday

Feb. 4 7:30 p.m.

Home of Dana Lamb 4108 Turnberry Dr., Champaign 355-0511

Hostess: Helen Miron
Discussion Leader: Margaret Stewart **Program:** *Billy Elliot*



¡Adelante! Book Discussion 4th Tuesday of month

Afternoon: 2:30 pm Tuesday, Jan. 26 Tuesday, Feb. 23

Home of Amy Kummerow, 1805 Pleasant St. Urbana

Please attend, even if you haven't read the book!!

Anyone interested in discussing these books is welcome, whether or not you are an AAUW member.

Contact Person: Phyllis Cline 344-4806

Community Outreach January Book



Working Poor: Invisible in America by David K. Shipler (2004)

Shipler guides the reader through the lives of the working poor, shattering the myth that America is a country in which prosperity and security are the inevitable rewards of gainful employment. He interviews people for whom the American Dream is out of reach despite their willingness to work hard, who are struggling simply to survive, trapped in a cycle of dead-end jobs without benefits or opportunities for advancement. Prepare to have any preconceived notions about those living in poverty in America challenged by this affecting book.

February Book: Black History Month

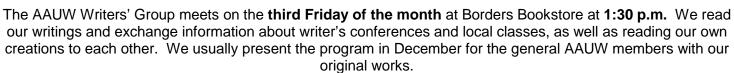
The Help by Kathryn Stockett (2009)

Set during the nascent civil rights movement in Jackson, MS, Eugenia Skeeter Phelan is just home from college in 1962 and, anxious to become a writer, is advised to write about what disturbs her. The budding social activist begins to collect the stories of the black women on whom the country club set relies to raise their children and cook their meals but not to polish the household silver or to use the families' bathrooms. Skeeter overcomes the distrust and fear of the black women and encourages them to tell their stories. The book she puts together is scathing and shocking, bringing pride and hope to the black community, while giving Skeeter the courage to break down her personal boundaries and pursue her dreams.



Writers' Group





All are welcome to attend—beginners as well as more experienced writers. You may come to listen and offer comments, too—we do not require that you present something at every meeting but hope that we interest and encourage people to create. Come join us!! Chair: Barbara Scott 352-7364



What's Happening by Co-President Helen Miron

Happy New Year! In December the Writers Group held its annual luncheon at Barbara Scott's home. The event was very well attended; members of the Group read some of their original works and the potluck lunch was both delicious and interesting. Thank you, Barbara, for hosting this most pleasurable afternoon.

Your letters and phone calls to our Representatives were a strong influence in the drafting and passage of the new health reform legislation. Our legislators in Washington need to know how we feel about the issues, and our comments do count in their decision making.

Another year is here, and with it come more opportunities to work toward our goal of equity for women and girls. Many of you have written or phoned our legislators about pending bills, others have written letters to our local paper about current issues, while others are actively involved in organizations which promote educational opportunities. If we keep the communication going we can make a difference in our community, our state, and in our country.

Equity is the Issue.



DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE www.aauw-il.org/champurban

Champaign-Urbana Branch Illinois 4012

American Association of University Women

Sallie Miller, editor 1101 Foothill Dr. Champaign, Illinois 61821

Mission

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

AAUW's Value Promise

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

Diversity Statement

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in the organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

www.aauw.org www.aauw-il.org www.aauw-il.org/champurban