



AAUW — CHAMPAIGN-URBANA BRANCH

NEWSBRIEFS

What's Inside

- 1 Wine, Women and Song
- 1 Ida King Stevens Award
- 1 Nat'l. SAC appointee
- 2 2010 Census
- 2 LAF & EF News
- 2 1 to 1 Mentoring
- 3 Interest Groups
- 4 President's Message

C-U AAUW

*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.

Rachael is a graduate student in Social Work at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is focusing on policy and research within the school's newest specialization in Advocacy, Leadership and Social Change.

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



C-U Branch Calendar of Events

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!** ★
★

- ★ • Earn good pay
- ★ • Get paid weekly
- ★ • Work flexible hours
- ★ • Receive paid training
- ★ • Help your community have a successful 2010 Census

More information, including a practice test, is available at:
<http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs/>
Or 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

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: **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

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: **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 up 12 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.cultol.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 4th** from 6:30 – 8:30 at the Urbana Free Library and
- Thursday, February 11th** from 11:30 – 1:30 at the Mellon Building (703 S. New, C.)

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: **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*



Community Outreach



January Book

¡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

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

Friday, Jan. 15 & Friday, Feb. 19 at 1:30 p.m.
Borders Bookstore, 802 W. Town Center Blvd., Champaign

The AAUW Writers' Group meets on the **third Friday of the month** at Borders Bookstore at **1:30 p.m.** We read our writings and exchange information about writer's conferences and local classes, as well as reading our own creations to each other. We usually present the program in December for the general AAUW members with our original works.

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
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www.aauw-il.org/champurban