



Why AAUW Membership?

President's Message by Nancy Dietrich

There is no more important time to be a member of AAUW than now. With many of the rights women have fought for over the past several decades in danger of being rolled back, we need organizations like AAUW to stand up for women's equality. And we need to let others know about our fabulous organization and what we're doing at the National, State, and Local levels to break through barriers for women and girls!

Locally, we have several opportunities for individuals to connect with one another and build both personal and professional relationships (see the rest of the newsletter for more information on interest groups and our general programs). We also put our money where our mouth is by providing opportunities for members to give to our local scholarships and AAUW-National's Fellowships and Grants Program and Legal Advocacy Fund.

At the state level, opportunities for leadership and learning are available to members through informative events like the district meetings to be held this fall, as well as the state convention being held jointly with Missouri in May, 2013 in St Louis. Two of our own C-U branch members are serving AAUW at the state level: Margaret Stewart is serving on the AAUW-IL Board as Co-Membership Vice President, and Sallie Miller is serving as the District 2 Director. Please let me, Margaret, or Sallie know if you are interested in attending the state convention in May.

Nationally, AAUW commissions research on topics like pay equity, sexual harassment, and economic security for older women, and develops action items to address these important issues. They have several leadership opportunities for the next generation of women leaders through various college leadership projects. They advance educational opportunities for women through their Fellowships and Grants program, and work to combat sex discrimination through various programs within the Legal Advocacy Fund. You can also sign up for their 2-Minute Activist to receive Action Alerts via email on current issues and legislation, including how you can respond.

In short, AAUW is more relevant now more than ever, and there is strength in numbers. Tell a friend about the benefits of being an AAUW member, as well as the phenomenal work AAUW is doing at all levels to advance equity for women and girls. Below are our branch, state, and national websites you can refer your friends to, and we have brochures available to give to anyone who is interested in learning more about AAUW.



Invite a Friend and Join Us for Saturday Luncheon November 17

Dr. Hongmei Li, Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Illinois who received the AAUW American Fellowship, will be the featured speaker at the November 17 Noon program at KoFusion, One East Main St., Champaign.

Join us to hear about Dr. Li's research of the honey bee and fruit fly.

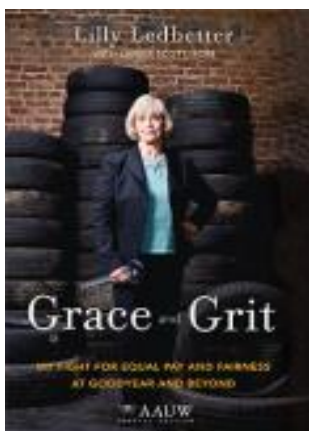
Please call Helen Miron, 344-4225, by Wednesday, November 14 to let her know you plan to attend.

Lilly Ledbetter –A Champion for Pay Equity

In 2009, President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. Consistent with mission of AAUW, The Executive Director stated, "AAUW has been proud to work side by side with Lilly Ledbetter to close the wage gap". If you have not yet read Ledbetter's book, *Grace and Grit: My Fight for Equal Pay and Fairness at Goodyear and Beyond*, take a look.

And, you can join Ledbetter at the AAUW National Convention this summer in New Orleans, where the theme will be "Leading across Generations"

<http://www.aauw.org/convention/index.cfm>.





AAUW Fellowship and Scholarship Recipients

Each year, the Champaign-Urbana Branch gives three scholarships to women who are returning to college after experiencing an interruption in their education. Two scholarships are awarded to Parkland College students and one to a student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Richelle Brown is this year's recipient of our Ida King Stevens Award at the University of Illinois. She attended Parkland College and transferred to UIUC in 2011. She is pursuing a double major in Integrative Biology and Anthropology. After completion of her undergraduate education, she plans to continue in medical school with the intent of becoming a practicing physician.



Richelle has a three-year-old son whom she says reinforces her drive to pursue a medical education. In her spare time she volunteers at Carle's postpartum floor and with the Books 2 Prisoners program.

LAF NEWS

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) works to combat sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. The AAUW Board of Directors recently voted to continue to contribute funds to 7 ongoing LAF cases, along with sending a Board member to speak on behalf of AAUW at an event for the third sexual assault lawsuit filed against the military.

For more information about the important work of LAF, visit <http://www.aauw.org/act/laf/>. And, consider making a [tax-deductible donation to LAF](#) to help balance the scales of justice for women.



News from the Fall District Meeting

On Saturday, November 3, members of the Champaign-Urbana Branch participated in the Fall District 2 meeting, held in Springfield, Illinois.

Attendees totaled 25, including branch members from Springfield, Decatur, Quincy, and Champaign-Urbana. The group heard from several AAUW-IL Board members, including Andi Danis, President, Cindy Grau, Program Vice President, and Alice Huebner, Co-Director of Branch Outreach. Discussion topics included program & membership ideas, public policy, and tips for branches. Time for networking was included.

Overall meeting evaluations were positive including comments such as – it was a good use of time, and participants received lots of information in a well-organized day. A special thank you goes to Sallie Miller, the District 2 Director for organizing this meeting.



Andi Danis



Cindy Grau



BRANCH INTEREST GROUPS

ADELANTE



Meets the 4th Tuesday at
2:30 p.m. at the home of Phyllis Cline, 104 E.
Willard St., Urbana.

Libraries and # of copies:
U = Urbana C = Champaign LINC = Area
System UI = University of Illinois

Upcoming meeting dates

December 18
January 22
February 26

Reading list

December – *Beyond Katrina: A Meditation
on the Mississippi Gulf Coast*, Natasha
Trethewey, 2010. Recently named U.S. Poet
Laureate, Trethewey's book deals with the
intermingling of remembering and forgetting.
U-1, C-2, UI-1

January – *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives
in North Korea*, Barbara Demick, 2009.
Follow the lives of six citizens over fifteen
years living in the totalitarian state.
U-1, C-1, UI-2

February – *The New Jim Crow: Mass
Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*,
Michelle Alexander, 2010. The author argues
for the placement of the occurrence of mass
incarceration of men of color at the forefront
of a new social movement for racial justice.
U-3, C-1, LINC-1, UI-1



DRAMA GROUP meets the 1st
Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

No meeting in December.

DRINKS & DIALOGUE

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month
at Wines at the Pines, a local woman-
owned business, to discuss an article
or relevant current event. Contact
Nancy Dietrich, 337-0334,
nancydietrich@juno.com.

Wines at the Pines, 2860 S. Philo
Road, Urbana.
<http://www.winesatthepines.com/>

GREAT DECISIONS

Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each
month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the
home of Jenny Harvey, 344-5339,
jennygharvey@yahoo.com. Check
with Jenny regarding the November
meeting date.

WRITER'S GROUP

Meets the 3rd Friday of each month
at 1:30 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 66 E.
Market View Dr., Champaign.
Beginning & experienced writers
welcome.
Contact Barbara Scott, 352-7364



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

The Champaign-Urbana Branch is proud to partner with community organizations to sponsor activities and programs consistent with the mission of AAUW. One such program is the Hot Topics Dialogue Series hosted by the Women's Resource Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University YWCA.

Hot Topics seeks to provide a space for dialogue on gender and other social identities and social justice. The programs occur every 2nd and 4th Mondays 7:00 to 9:00pm. Refreshments will be provided. For information, contact Rachel Storm, Program Coordinator, rstorm2@illinois.edu or 217-333-3137. The series is free and open to the public.

Upcoming programs

Nov 12 - "Incarcerated Sisters:
Exploring Women in Prison"
Nov 26 - "Understanding Human
Trafficking"

SAVE THESE DATES – UPCOMING MEETINGS

MAY 3-5

Illinois/Missouri state
convention, St. Louis

JUNE 9-13

AAUW national convention,
New Orleans



Champaign-Urbana
Branch

Illinois 4012

AAUW

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<http://champaignurbana-il.aauw.net>

Mission

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



Breaking through Barriers