

Annual Meeting News

On Saturday, April 6, our branch held its annual meeting, which is the concluding program of the year. Two members of the AAUW-IL Board participated and the group heard President Andi Danis discuss ways our branch can work with the state to promote AAUW and equity for women and girls.

Champaign-Urbana Board 2013-2014

President	Deborah Richie
Co-Vice Presidents for Programs	Helen Miron Brenda Wilson
Vice President for Membership	Denise Taylor
Vice President for Finance	Phyllis Cline
Secretary	Karen Retzer



Karen Retzer

Deborah Richie

Karen Foote Retzer was born in Ann Arbor and grew up in Kalamazoo, Michigan. She attended Grinnell College in Iowa, where she majored in French and Political Science. Following graduation she served in the Peace Corps in Gabon (central Africa) as a math teacher. Returning to the US she moved to Washington, D.C. where she lived for seven years, received her Master's Degree in Demography from Georgetown and worked at the National Academy of Sciences. Karen moved to Champaign-Urbana in 1996; she worked in International Programs and Studies in the Study Abroad Office for four years, and for the past twelve years she has worked at the Survey Research Laboratory on campus.

In addition to some more common pastimes, Karen likes to walk half marathons. She has walked 12 of them in six different states. She was an early feminist; in 1972--the year both houses had passed the Equal Rights Amendment--she was in third grade and wore an ERA bracelet despite being made fun of by some boys in her class.

Deborah Richie is an Indiana native who has lived in the Midwest, New York, North Carolina and Virginia. She recently retired from her full-time position as Executive Assistant Dean of the Graduate College at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she administered fellowship and grant programs. She has served as a member of the Review Panel for the AAUW Career Development Grant Program since 2007, chairing the Panel since 2008. Deborah obtained her BS at Indiana University Southeast, her MA at New York University and her EdD at the University of Illinois.

Deborah is currently working as a consultant with the Office of Community College Research and Leadership at UIUC, while enjoying retirement.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I begin my two-year term as President of the Champaign-Urbana branch of AAUW, I want to thank the members who supported my taking on this role. I have been involved in the branch for several years and am regularly impressed at the dedication and commitment of the core group of participants and leaders in our Branch. I want to particularly thank a few of them in this newsletter:

- Professor Brenda Wilson, who first encouraged me to become involved and remains active in our branch while continuing with her nationally and internationally recognized research and teaching
- Margaret Stewart, active at the state and local level
- Phyllis Cline, who balances her passion for AAUW and opera, providing service and leadership in both arenas
- Sallie Miller, active at the state and local level, who manages our website
- Helen Miron, constant in her support and willingness to work, offering thoughtfulness and creativity
- Pam Erickson, long-time member who seeks to spread the message of AAUW wherever she can
- Jenny Harvey, who is a core member of the branch, participating and leading as needed
- Nancy Dietrich, outgoing president, enthusiastic and hardworking, inspiring in her commitment to the mission of AAUW.

Let's enjoy our time together in AAUW, sharing our interests through participating in the groups, attending events, giving attention to the information shared on the national, state and branch websites, and encouraging others to join. Our branch needs your membership, your ideas, your participation, your wisdom and humor. Join us over the next year – I look forward to getting to know more of you and welcoming new members to our branch.

Deborah

**Don't forget to send in your
membership renewal – support
AAUW mission at whatever level
possible**

All members should have received their dues renewal form and we ask that you submit it before June 30 if possible. We hope you can participate in the activities, but even if that is not possible, your dues support the mission of AAUW, and we appreciate your membership.

And, encourage your colleagues and friends to join! We know that many new members join because of information shared by current members. Share the good news about AAUW!

Questions about membership can be directed to the Branch Financial Officer, Phyllis Cline at pcline@comcast.net or 344-4806.

**2013 AAUW NATIONAL
ELECTION – BE SURE TO CAST
YOUR VOTE**

The One Member, One Vote provides every member the opportunity to have a personal voice in the process of directing the future of AAUW. All national members, including life members, whose dues are current, are eligible to vote on candidates, bylaws amendments, resolutions and proposed Public Policy Program.

All voting will take place online unless a member sends a specific request to AAUW for a paper ballot.

Online voting is open April 15, 2013, through 9 p.m. CDT, June 10, 2013, and may be done online or onsite at the convention.

<http://www.aauw.org/resource/one-member-one-vote/>

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Becomes Partner

The AAUW-CU Branch welcomes the UIUC campus as a college/university partner member of AAUW. Chancellor Phyllis Wise was most appreciative of Branch members Brenda Wilson and Deborah Richie bringing to her attention this opportunity to promote gender equity and empower women in higher education. Chancellor Wise has appointed Provost Ilesanmi "Ade" Adesida as our new AAUW Representative at UIUC.

For a list of other Illinois college and universities that are partners and more information on the college/university partnership program, go to <http://www.aauw.org/membership/college-university-partner/>

BRANCH EVENT NEWS

EQUAL PAY DAY

April 9th, 2013 is the symbolic day when women's wages, on average, catch up with men's wages from the previous year. C-U AAUW's Drinks & Dialogue hosted an Equal Pay Day Event on April 10th at Buvon's Wine Bar to commemorate the day. 21 people attended to learn more about the issue, and to take action on the issue of equal pay. Assistant Professor Monica Bielski Boris from the U of I School of Labor and Employment Relations spoke and led an excellent discussion about the wage gap between men & women (thank you to Brenda Wilson for inviting Dr. Bielski Boris). AAUW's research, "The Simple Truth About the Gender Pay Gap" was available. Handouts from AAUW were distributed, which included action items for individuals, like encouraging our representatives in Congress to support the Paycheck Fairness Act. Snack size "pay day" candy bars were also distributed.

If you did not attend and would like to learn more about how you can take action on equal pay, the **national AAUW website has some excellent resources** to help you. Go to their new page devoted to this issue for information and action ideas: fightforfairpay.org.



MONICA BIELSKI BORIS

For a century, AAUW has advocated for legislation and policies that encourage and enforce fair pay in the workplace, such as the Equal Pay Act of 1963, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, and the yet-to-be-passed Paycheck Fairness Act. These advocacy efforts are supported by AAUW research, including *Graduating to a Pay Gap* (2012), *Behind the Pay Gap* (2007), and *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap*.

<http://www.aauw.org/article/the-simple-truth-about-the-simple-truth/>

AAUW IN ACTION
ILLUMINATING & MOTIVATING TOGETHER

Three members of the Champaign-Urbana Branch are participating in the AAUW IL/MO Joint State Convention, May 3-5 in St Louis Missouri: Past-president Nancy Dietrich; Sallie Miller, who serves as District 2 Director on the State Board; Margaret Stewart, who serves as Co-Membership Vice President on the Board.

More information at <http://www.aauw-il.org/index.html>

AAUW AT THE FARMERS' MARKET!

The Champaign-Urbana Chapter is excited to carry our community outreach to the Urbana Farmers' Market, which runs Saturday, May 4 through October in the Lincoln Square parking lot (on the corner of Vine and Illinois Sts). We will staff a booth from 8:00 am til noon, on the east side of the market across the street from the Urbana Police Department, ONCE A MONTH--ON THE DATES LISTED BELOW--rain or shine.

We KNOW how much everyone loves to attend the weekly market to stock up on fresh and locally produced vegetables, fruits, herbs, meat, baked goods, etc. Since you are likely to be there anyway, PLEASE consider signing up for a few hours to help distribute brochures and other written materials on national, state and local AAUW priorities, positions and programs. We'll also be available to talk with interested people about our local interest groups, fundraising events and scholarships. Hopefully, with a consistent community presence, our membership and local support will grow!

AAUW Dates:
Saturday, May 11
June 1
July 6
August 3
Sept. 7
October 5

<http://urbanaininois.us/market>: For more information about the market

Contact Denise Taylor at denise.l.taylor@gmail.com or (312-343-3335) with any questions or concerns and to get involved!

BRANCH INTEREST GROUPS



ADELANTE

Members and friends welcome!

Meetings are held on 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

Meeting Dates

May 28 June 25 July 23 August 27

Selections

May – *Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China*, Jung Chang (1991, 1992, 2003). The evocative story of how three generations of women in the author's family fared in the political maelstrom of 20th century China. Born just a few decades apart, their lives overlap with the end of the warlords' regime, violent struggles to carve up China, and the vicious cycle of purges orchestrated by Chairman Mao that crushed millions of people, including the author's parents.

U – 1 C – 4 LINC – 1 UI – 1

June – *I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity*, Izzeldin Abuelaish (2010). Abuelaish, a Palestinian physician, born and raised in a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, has devoted his life to medicine and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians. In 2009 three of his daughters were killed by Israeli artillery. Instead of seeking revenge or sinking into hatred, Abuelaish called for the people in the region to start talking to each other. His deepest hope is that his daughters will be "the last sacrifice on the road to peace between Palestinians and Israelis."

U – 4 & 1 large print C – 3 LINC – 4 UI – 2

ADELANTE SUMMER MEETING SELECTIONS

July - *What's the Matter With Kansas?: How Conservatives Won the Heart of America*, Thomas Frank (2004). At the start of the 20th century Kansas was a staunchly left-wing state, but in recent decades it has become extremely conservative, with the political discourse dramatically shifting from social and economic equality to explosive cultural issues that are used to redirect anger toward liberal elites.

U - 2 C - 2 LINC - 5 UI - several in state schools

August - *The Warmth of Other Suns: the Epic Story of America's Great Migration*, Isabel Wilkerson (2010, 2011). The author chronicles one of the great untold stories of American history: the decades-long migration of black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities in search of a better life. From 1915 to 1970, this exodus of almost six million people changed the face of America. The story is told through the lives of three individuals who migrated to different areas of the country.

U - 3 C - many Douglass - 2 LINC - 7 UI - several



DRAMA GROUP will resume meetings in the fall.

Drinks & Dialogue

Tuesday, May 14, 6-8pm at Sun Singer Wine & Spirits on Windsor Road in Champaign. Laura Keller will facilitate discussion on the following article: "Why Gender Equity Stalled." Link: www.nytimes.com/2013/02/17/opinion/sunday/why-gender-equality-stalled.html.

We'll also be discussing where we'll be meeting permanently after the May meeting. Drinks & Dialogue gives AAUW members and non-members an opportunity to get together to discuss current events and issues that are of particular importance to women in a relaxed atmosphere.

It's also an opportunity to invite folks who are not members to introduce them to AAUW, so feel free to invite friends.

GREAT DECISIONS

Meeting May 15, 7 to 8:30 pm at Champaign Public library, 2nd floor meeting room.

Topic - CHINA IN AFRICA (Karen Retzer)

Call Jenny Harvey-344-5339 for info.

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WRITER'S GROUP

Submitted by Barbara Scott –

The AAUW Writers Group meets on the third Friday of the month at Barnes and Noble bookstore at 11:30 pm. They usually reserve a table for us back near the children's section on the left. If you come you may hear poetry, fiction, children's stories, novels, memoirs, news articles, true stories, essays, etc. Some of our writers have already published something. Our group is made up of talented writers of varied backgrounds (teachers, preacher's wives, farmers, etc). Some have lived in foreign countries and different parts of our own country. All have stories to tell. Do you think you children and grandchildren would be curious to know how your parents and grandparents lived – how they looked, what was happening in their lives?

Dr. Loarn Robertson spoke at our March meeting on "How to Prepare a Manuscript for Publishing." He answered questions and invited us to have our work edited, printed, published and sold under his publishing house called "Scotia and Things". Dr. Robertson worked for some years as an editor at Human Kinetics Publishers here in Champaign. A native Scotsman, he has taught history, coached and played rugby, won the gold medal nationally in the Senior Olympics (throwing the discus). He has attended the Midwest Writers Conference in Muncie, Indiana. He has written, published and sold his own books and others.

You are invited to join us on the third Friday at 1:30 at Barnes and Noble. If you would like, write something on spring and bring it to the next meeting. You can continue writing on your present project as well.



WELCOME TO THE NEW MEMBERS THIS YEAR

Kaye Edmonds – BFA degree in 1957 from Ohio University, MA degree in 1982 from Illinois, worked as a Speech and Language Pathologist. She lived in Maine for close to 20 years and moved back to this area last year.

Hannah Kline – BA in 2011 in English Language Arts from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and has a secondary education teaching certificate plus middle school endorsements in Speech communication and Spanish. She works as a Divisional Administrator for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, a student organization at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She volunteers with Illinois Radio Reader and played a role in the Parkland Theatre's production of *You Can't Take It With You* early this year.

Karen Retzer – BA in 1986 from Grinnell College and an MA in 1992 from Georgetown University. Elected as Branch Secretary for 2013-2015. See fuller biography on page one of newsletter.

Stephanie Wragg – BSC degree in 1988 and an MSC degree in 1990 from McGill University, MS degree in 1992 plus a PhD in 1996 from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. She declared a long-standing interest in seeing more women move into leadership positions and pay equity.

Laura Zimmerman – BS degree in 2006 from Millikin University and an MS degree in 2009 from Illinois State university, and she's pursuing a PhD at ISU studying turtles.

**Champaign-Urbana
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www.aauw.org
www.aauw-il.org
<http://champaignurbana-il.aauw.net>

June 9 -13, 2013

AAUW national convention
New Orleans

<http://convention.aauw.org/>

