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September/October 2013

Welcome to the new academic year. Classes are underway at both Parkland College and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and our branch has a year of activities underway. We look forward to engaging with you in the year ahead.

Our members are a dedicated group committed to the mission of AAUW. As noted on the AAUW website, “volunteer leaders make their communities stronger and more vibrant by bringing AAUW’s mission to life” and we appreciate the efforts and participation of our officers and members.

As we talk with neighbors, friends and students and respond to the question of “What is AAUW”, here is information that might help explain who we are, and why it is important for others to join AAUW (this information was pulled from the website www.aauw.org).

AAUW Empowers Women

AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For more than 130 years, we have worked together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.

The 4 Program Areas

- Research – Analyzing gender equity in education and the workplace. For example, see the 2013 publication *Women in Community Colleges: Access to Success (2013)*, which recommends policies and practices to help women succeed in community colleges (available at <http://www.aauw.org/research/women-in-community-colleges/>)
- Campus Leadership – Shaping the lives of the next generation. The National Conference for College Student Women Leaders (NCCSWL) is held annually.
- STEM Education - leveling the playing field in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. For more information, see <http://www.aauw.org/tag/stem/>
- Public Policy – advocating for policies to advance equity.

JOIN US

The AAUW District 2 meeting will be on Saturday, October 19, 2013 from 10:30am to 2:30pm at the Springfield Public Library at 326 South 7th Street, Springfield, IL 62701. Topics to be covered include membership, program ideas, public policy impact grants, TRIO Stipend, and networking. **Mark your calendar now and plan to attend. All members are welcome!**

Several members of the AAUW-IL Board of Directors will be in attendance, including: Carol Heisler, President-Elect; Cindy Grau, Vice President of Programs; Kelly Orban, Co-Vice President of Membership; Alice Huebner, Director of Branch Outreach; and Marcia Wherry, Co-Director of Public Policy. They have information to share and want to know from you how AAUW-IL. can support the local branches.

Thanks to Sallie Miller, the Director for District 2 on the AAUW-IL., Inc. Board of Directors for her leadership in planning what is sure to be an informative meeting that includes time for networking among the branches. There is no charge for attending this meeting, but there will be a charge for lunch. For more information, contact Sallie Miller at millersallie@hotmail.com or 356-9214.

2013-2014 MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

Programs are open and we encourage members to bring along friends and family members.

Saturday, October 12, Noon, Ko-Fusion, 1 E. Main St., Champaign

Topic: History of Women in Higher Education

Speaker: Sharon D. Michalove

Saturday, November 9, Noon, Ko-Fusion

Topic: Women's Health in the Dominican Republic

Speaker: Michelle Jimenez de Tavaréz, AAUW International Fellowship recipient

Saturday, December 7, 10:00 a.m. Holiday Brunch

Location: 5 Bellamy Court, Champaign (home of member Barbara Scott, 352-7364)

Readings from members of the Writers' Group

Saturday, March 8, 2014, 3:00 to 5:00 pm WINE WOMEN AND SONG

Location: Milo's Restaurant, 2870 S. Philo Rd., Urbana, beverages and light food

Entertainment: Margaret O'Brien, singer

Saturday, April 5, Noon, Ko-Fusion, ANNUAL MEETING

Speaker: Jenni Purdue, Legislative and Political Consultant, state of Illinois

AAUW Co-sponsors Friday Forum Series

Angela Davis, activist, scholar and author, will be the featured speaker at the University YMCA noon Friday Forum series on Friday, September 27 at Latzer Hall, 1001 S. Wright St., Champaign. The lectures are free and open to the public. Lunch is served for \$6.50. C-U AAUW is a co-sponsor of the Y's Friday Forum series which consists of 10 lectures this fall. The theme for the lecture series is Re-thinking Security Beyond Mass Incarceration. The title of Ms. Davis's lecture is "Abolishing the Prison-Industrial Complex."

ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO JOIN AAUW

Your message about the value and importance of AAUW is critical. Stories abound of women joining after hearing about the mission of AAUW from others – scholarship or fellowship recipients or women who have benefited from the Legal Advocacy work of AAUW.

Shop at Schnucks? You can support AAUW

Schnucks has established a program through which community organizations can register and receive financial support from Schnucks when shoppers designate their interest in supporting the organization. To participate, individuals can obtain a Schnucks Customer Card and register it in the Schnucks eScrip program to designate the AAUW branch as the recipient of a rebate on their Schnucks purchases.

In order for the branch to receive the funds, shoppers must show their Schnucks Customer Card to the cashier at each visit. We appreciate the support of our members and encourage others who shop at Schnucks to use the eScrip program to help the branch receive this rebate money.

The easiest way to participate in the eScrip program is to ask for a card at the Customer Service desk, then call 1-800-931-6258 and register your card. Each card has its own 12 digit number. In addition to giving your card's number and your name, address, etc., you need to give the Champaign-Urbana Branch Group ID number, which is 500043846. Please note that our branch is currently registered in the eScrip programs as American Association of University Women, not AAUW.

BRANCH INTEREST GROUPS

Participation is welcome by members and non-members. Invite others to join us and introduce them to the variety of interests shared by the members of our branch.



ADELANTE BOOK DISCUSSION

Meets the fourth Tuesday at 2:30 PM at 104 E. Willard, Urbana. The books, primarily non-fiction, focus on a wide range of diversity issues in the US and abroad. Contact: Phyllis Cline 344-4806, plcline@comcast.net. Complete reading list is available at <http://champaignurbana-il.aauw.net/groups/>

Upcoming Meetings:

- October 22: *The Center Cannot Hold: My Journey Through Madness*, 2007, Elyn R. Saks. The author is an endowed professor at the Gould School of Law, University of Southern California who has lived with schizophrenia.
- November 26: *Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History*, 2010, S.C. Gwynne. A vivid historical account of the forty-year battle between members of the Comanche Nation and white settlers for control of the American West.
- December 17 (note change to third Tuesday): *Fire in the Ashes: Twenty-five Years among the Poorest Children in America*, 2012, Jonathan Kozol. The author returns to the scene of his previous books to share the journey of the children he has portrayed as they grow into adulthood.

DRAMA GROUP

Meets the first Thursday at 7:30 PM in members' homes several times a year. Programs about plays and other theatrical productions are presented by members and refreshments are served. Contact: Phyllis Cline 344-4806, plcline@comcast.net.

DRINKS & DIALOGUE

Meets the second Tuesday from 6:00-8:00 PM at Milo's Restaurant, 2870 S. Philo Rd., Urbana. Each month an article or current event of relevance to women is discussed. Come enjoy a glass of wine or cup of coffee (food, too, but not required!), and join in the discussion, even if you don't have a chance to read the article. Contact: Nancy Dietrich, 337-0334, nancydietrich01@gmail.com

Upcoming Meeting:

October 8: Kelly Halcom will facilitate discussion on the following articles.

Author regarding her distaste for many young women's posts on social media sites:

<http://givenbreath.com/2013/09/03/fyi-if-youre-a-teenage-girl/>

This is an example of many articles that have offered opposing viewpoints to the above:

<http://www.bust.com/fyi-an-open-letter-to-teenage-girls-who-dont-always-wear-a-bra.html>

GREAT DECISIONS

Meets the third Wednesday from 7 to 8:30 PM eight times a year at the Champaign Public Library, 200 W. Green St., Champaign.

Discussions are based on materials prepared by the Foreign Policy Association (FPA) covering eight topics of international interest. The Foreign Policy Association is a non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1918 that is dedicated to inspiring the American public to learn more about the world. Each year, the FPA selects eight areas of global concern for study and discussion. Our resource materials are a "Briefing Book" (available for \$20.00) and a DVD to see at each session containing background material and statements of varying positions on policy by citizens, scientists, and humanitarian and foreign service professionals from around the world.

Our AAUW Branch is just one of several kinds of civic organizations to use FPA materials.

Contact: Jenny Harvey, 344-5339, jennygharvey@yahoo.com

Upcoming Meetings:

October 18: Threat Assessment. Facilitated by Jenny Harvey

November 20: Iran. Facilitated by Phyllis Cline

The new season will begin when the new Briefing Books are available after January 2014. Some of the new topics include: Turkey, US and Israel, and Climate Change and Food Shortages.



WRITERS GROUP

Meets the third Friday at 1:30 PM at the Champaign Public Library, 200 W. Green St., Champaign. Members share their writings with the group, and present the program at the December Holiday Brunch. Contact: Barbara Scott 352-7364

Upcoming Meetings:

October 18
November 15
December 7 Holiday Brunch

Laura Keller named Champaign County CASA 2013 Advocate of the Year



Congratulations to AAUW member Laura Keller! Laura has been a Champaign County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children) since the fall of 2005. During that time, she has been a courtroom advocate note taker and representative for children. Additionally, she serves on the Advocate Panel during the training for new CASAs.

STAY INFORMED

AAUW Sites:

Champaign-Urbana Branch: <http://champaignurbana-il.aauw.net/>
AAUW-Illinois: <http://aauw-il.aauw.net/>
AAUW: <http://www.aauw.org/>



**Champaign-Urbana
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