

Correction

In the January/February newsletter, I made an error in spelling the name of President Obama. Thanks to the member who brought it to my attention.

Branch President Message

Deborah Richie

We are heading into the final few months of this membership year, and I want to give attention in this newsletter to a number of significant accomplishments and events that have occurred and are upcoming. I hope to acknowledge and encourage all of you to continue your support and share the great news about the mission and work of AAUW.



WOMEN'S ACHIEVEMENT CELEBRATION First, the Board is so pleased to announce that our member, Professor Brenda Wilson, has been recognized by the YWCA as recipient of the 2015 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Leadership Award at its upcoming Women's Achievement Celebration. Please join us there to honor Dr. Wilson and the other outstanding group of award recipients.

Here is a brief biographical look at Dr. Wilson – this information is extracted from the nomination letter. Dr. Wilson began her academic career as an Assistant Professor at Wright State University and joined the faculty at Illinois in 1999 as Associate Professor of Microbiology in the School of Molecular and Cellular Biology (MCB). She was promoted to Full Professor in August 2014 in recognition of her outstanding record of research, teaching and service. Dr. Wilson is from Arkansas and began her higher education with a scholarship to Barnard/Columbia to study Biochemistry and German. After completion of her BA, she spent a year at the Institute for Biochemistry, University of Munich, Germany, then completed her MA and PhD degrees at Johns Hopkins University and served as a Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard Medical School. She excelled in her academic work, evidenced by the scholarships, fellowships and awards she received: which include:

- Four-year scholarship at Barnard, along with German scholarship prize
- German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Fellowship for one year of study in Germany
- AAUW Doctoral Fellowship
- Ernest M. Marks Achievement Award in Chemistry, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore
- Postdoctoral Fellowships, Harvard Medical School.



The YWCA's Women's Achievement Celebration will be held on April 23, 2015, at the I Hotel and Conference Center in Champaign, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. For more information and reservations, go to http://www.ywca.org/site/c.9pLLLSPtEcLUH/b.9243929/k.37D8/Womens_Achievement_Celebration.htm



CONGRATULATIONS PROFESSOR BRENDA WILSON

CANDIDATE FORUMS

AAUW joined with the League of Women Voters, NAACP, News-Gazette and Sierra Club to sponsor 2 candidate forums to provide Champaign-Urbana voters a chance to hear from candidates in a number of important upcoming elections.

On March 11, participants heard from candidates for the Unit 4 School Board and the Urbana Park Board.

On March 18, the forum featured three groups of candidates: Champaign Mayor; Champaign Park Board; and Parkland College Board.

Thanks to our AAUW members who volunteered to help staff the forums.



VOTE ON APRIL 7

BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING – April 14 – Equal Pay Day



The program this year will give attention to Equal Pay Day. We will meet at Pizza M, 208 W. Main, Urbana, 6 to 8 pm. The Branch will purchase the pizza. I expect we will have a lively discussion and invite you to join us.

And, the new officers will be installed – the Board is excited to welcome Sharon Michalove as President for 2015-2017 and Denise Taylor as Secretary for 2015-2017.



AAUW-IL 91st State Convention

May 1-2, 2015, DoubleTree by Hilton, Bloomington, IL.

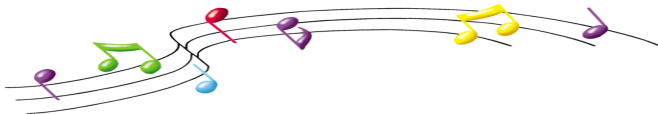
The theme for this year's meeting – *It's a Jungle Out There*. Several branch members will be volunteering – please attend to learn about AAUW national activities, as well as taking advantage of the opportunities to and share and represent our branch. The spring Link has full information - http://aauw-il.aauw.net/files/2015/03/il_link_spring15.pdf

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBER SALLIE MILLER WHO WILL BEGIN HER TERM AS PRESIDENT-ELECT

C-U AAUW Scholarship Committee

Chair Laura Keller convened the sub-committee to review the local scholarship selection process and make recommendations. The committee developed a rubric for use in reviewing applications and the Board approved the rubric with revisions. The committee will pilot the new process for their review of the 2015-2016 applications –

We appreciate their great work in support of our important local scholarships!



WINE, WOMEN AND SONG

Our annual celebration, which benefits Educational Foundation, Legal Advocacy fund, and Local Scholarships, was held on March 7. A special thank is due again this year to Jane Anderson for her continued support. About 45 people enjoyed the entertainment from Champaign Urbana Theatre Company. We were pleased to recognize our member Laura Keller with the Marion Talbot award for her outstanding contributions to the mission of AAUW through her branch activities.





STATE AND NATIONAL NEWS

AAUW-IL – the Spring *Link* is available at http://aauw-il.aauw.net/files/2015/03/il_link_spring15.pdf



The Illinois Senate passed a resolution to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the U.S. Constitution! Visit state site for more information - <http://aauw-il.aauw.net/>

AAUW New STEM Research coming March 26, 2015. Watch the launch event for *Solving the Equation: The Variables for Women's Success in Engineering and Computing* live from Samsung's Mountain View Campus. From the research team who brought you *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics* comes a deeper dive into engineering and computing, fields that offer 80 percent of STEM jobs but still boast dismal numbers of women students and workers.

Join the livestream presentation by a panel of experts at 1:00 to 2:30 pm Central.

To register for this free presentation go to <http://www.aauw.org/event/2015/03/stream-the-solving-the-equation-launch-live/>

JOIN THE AAUW ACTION NETWORK - Become a Two-Minute Activist – Receive email notices about items coming up in Congress – easy way to learn and connect with your legislators.

<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>

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 focus on a wide range of diversity issues. Contact: Phyllis Cline 344-4806, plcline@comcast.net.



Upcoming Adelante Selections:

March 24 - *The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II* by Denise Kiernan (2013).

At the height of World War II, the US government secretly created a city in Tennessee for enriching uranium to fuel the new atom bomb that was being assembled at Los Alamos, NM. Called Oak Ridge, the city housed more than 75,000 workers at its peak, many of them young women. Workers were told that their work would speed the end of the war, but were never told the true nature of their tasks until the war was officially over. Secrecy was strictly enforced and workers were not allowed to discuss their work or to even speculate about its purpose, either with fellow workers or outsiders. The author interviewed former Oak Ridge workers, now in their 80s and 90s, who described their lives and work during this historic time.

April 28 - *Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital* by Sheri Fink (2013).

A riveting story of life, death, and the choices in between at a New Orleans hospital immediately following Hurricane Katrina. A crisis far worse than the storm itself developed when the hospital lost power, the waters rose, and the city was thrown into panic. Without an evacuation plan or clear lines of authority among the multiple layers of rescue personnel, exhausted doctors and nurses tried to care for extremely sick patients when evacuation appeared unlikely. In excruciating detail Fink describes the events, people, and actions faced by those who experienced the horrendous conditions.

May 26 - *River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze* by Peter Hessler (2001) (2006).

For two years in the 1990s the author, a Peace Corps volunteer, taught English and American literature at a teachers college in Fuling, China. The city, like many others in this ever-evolving country, was heading down a new path of change and growth. Hessler worked hard to learn to understand, speak and write Mandarin Chinese, and when not working directly with his students he spent most of his time interacting with residents in the city and exploring the countryside. *River Town* is an unforgettable portrait of a city that is seeking to understand both what it was and what it someday will be.



Drama Group meets at 3:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of February, March, April, May at The Windsor of Savoy, Contact: Phyllis Cline, 344-4806.



Drinks and Dialogue is a monthly discussion group (usually the 2nd Tuesday of each month) that meets 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Milo's in Urbana. Discussion focuses on a current event or topic specifically of relevance to women, usually with a recent article to start the discussion. Contact: Nancy Dietrich, 337-0334, nancydietrich01@gmail.com



PLEASE NOTE THE APRIL 14 EVENT WILL BE THE ANNUAL MEETING AT PIZZA M, URBANA.



GREAT DECISIONS C-U AAUW participates in the program sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association. Each year they issue a book and DVD about eight topics of international importance. Discussion participants read the chapter in the book, and then gather to view the DVD and discuss the topic.

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in the Activity Room at Windsor Court at The Windsor of Savoy. Branch member Doris Jones, a resident of Windsor Court, is the hostess.

The new books are available at \$20 per book. Contact Jenny Harvey at jennygharvey@yahoo.com, 344-5339 to request a book. For directions, contact Phyllis Cline plcline@comcast.net, 344-4806.

Upcoming topics and dates are:

Privacy in the Digital Age - March 18

Sectarianism in the Middle East - April 15

India Changes Course - May 20



Writers Group meets at Windsor Court, 401 Burwash, Savoy, at 1:30 PM on the third Friday. Members are encouraged to present their writings and resources for writers are offered. Contact person is Barb Scott, 352-7364.



**Champaign-Urbana
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Please send news items,
comments or corrections to:

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