



NEWSBRIEF

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Greetings to the Members of the Champaign-Urbana Branch of AAUW!

We are a special group of people—those who have embraced the AAUW Mission: Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

As you read through this edition of *Newsbrief*, I invite you to think of all the ways you can become more connected to AAUW—at the local branch, the district, the state, or the national level. You will find possibilities to connect with others throughout this newsletter. There are local gatherings of interest groups, special one-time events, volunteer opportunities, and more.

In this issue, you will also be introduced to our newest member, learn about the strategic plan that the Branch's leadership has created, and meet the four scholarship recipients who are attending either Parkland or the University of Illinois.

I'd like to thank Deborah Richie who served this Branch as the editor of *Newsbrief* for the last four years. She and other members of the Branch's board gave me ideas of topics to include in this issue. I invite comments, questions, and ideas for future articles from you.

--Karen Foote Retzer, *Newsbrief* editor

Meet our Newest Member: Maryly Crutcher

Maryly Crutcher is our newest branch member. After earning her bachelor's degree from UCLA, she gained valuable experience working in a pediatrician's office for a couple of years, as well as teaching in a Montessori school. Since moving to Illinois, she's been involved in teen pregnancy prevention efforts and volunteered for Planned Parenthood. Maryly has been a long-time advocate for women's rights. She has served as an escort for women seeking access to abortion clinics and was also active for many years in the local chapter of National Organization for Women. Maryly has attended several of our monthly Drinks and Dialogue get-togethers. We are very glad to welcome her as a branch member!

Strategic Planning Session

On July 31st, members of the CU AAUW Board met at the Urbana Free Library to create a 2-year strategic plan. We spent several hours creating the plan using the AAUW's strategic planning curriculum. The plan with action steps was completed at a follow-up session on August 15th. We came up with 5 vision ideas and goals with actionable steps for each:

- By June 30, 2017, we will be more visible to the public through letters to the news editor; organizing an annual award ceremony recognizing a woman leader in the community at the annual Wine, Women and Song; asking the news media to cover one CU-AAUW event per year; co-sponsoring relevant YWCA/Friday Forum events; placing our events on the News Gazette calendar of events; and hosting one film event per year.
- By June 30, 2017, we will increase membership by 20% through strategic marketing to ensure the sustainability of the Branch. We will educate the current membership about our mission to help support national goals.
- By December 31, 2016, we will start a conversation about mission directions and future funding objectives for our Branch by having at least one membership board meeting.
- By June 30, 2017, we will increase local branch connectivity through regular social gatherings of at least six members per gathering.
- To encourage local membership and make a greater impact, by June 30, 2018, we will send two women to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL); organize and convene a program on AAUW's recent research report, "Barriers & Bias;" find one or two other opportunities for leadership training for members; encourage the branch membership to take AAUW's "implicit bias" test; organize and convene a program on Title IX; and reach out to each of the Branch interest groups to encourage them to follow the Barriers & Bias theme.

--submitted by Gail Tittle

Let's Get Connected—in person, by facebook, or on the web . . .

Please join our Facebook page to keep up on our current activities and events. You can go to <https://www.facebook.com/cuaauw/> or just search C-U AAUW.

Check out our Web page at <http://champaignurbana-il.aauw.net> to see our recent news, learn about our interest groups, and read past issues of the newsletter, *Newsbrief*. You can also link to the national and state AAUW Web pages!

Beginning in September, we're inviting all members to a monthly get-together. This will be a regularly scheduled time to socialize with branch members you may already know and to hopefully make some new acquaintances. We will meet at 5:00 on the third Wednesday of each month for lively conversation and dinner, snacks, and/or drinks . **Our first get-together will be Wednesday, September 21, at 5:00 at Pizza M, 208 W. Main St., Urbana.** This will allow time for anyone who wants to attend our Adelante book discussion group to do both since Adelante will now be meeting at 6:30 close by at the Urbana Free Library. All members are welcome to stop by any or every month. Hope to see you!

Sign up for the Two-Minute Activist You can sign up to receive e-mail notices to contact members of Congress to tell them your thoughts on selected topics. Some current topics that the Two-Minute Activist is highlighting are supporting Title X, telling the Senate to Act on President Obama's Supreme Court Nominee, and encouraging the Commission on Presidential Debates to select a female moderator !, <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>

How to Speak Up Against Everyday Bias If you missed the print issue of the AAUW magazine, you can read this article on line. Get ideas to speak up about sexism and bias in different places where it comes up—a cocktail party, a family gathering, harassment on the street online or at work. <http://www.aauw.org/2016/09/02/how-to-speak-up-against-everyday-bias/>

Dates for your Calendar

October 15, 2016: Fall District Meeting for the AAUW Illinois Southern Conference at the Springfield Public Library. The registration form is due on October 1st and is available at <http://aauw-il.aauw.net>

Saturday, November 5 at Noon, Ko-Fusion, 1 E. Main St., downtown Champaign, AAUW Report, "Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership". Aurora branch member Andi Danis, past president AAUW-IL and Agent of Change 2016 will be the speaker. See more information below.

Thursday, December 15 at 7:00 pm, Film showing: "Equal Means Equal", Home of Sharon Michalove, 307 S. McKinley Ave., Champaign.

Saturday in March (TBD), 2017, 3:00 to 5:00 PM, Wine, Women and Song, Milo's Restaurant, 2870 S. Philo Rd., Urbana. This event is our major annual fundraiser for local scholarships. We will honor the recipient of the 'Woman Leader of the Community' award—see the call for nominations below.

Tuesday, April 4, 2017, Equal Pay Day, Pizza M, 208 W. Main St., downtown Urbana

Friday and Saturday, May 6, 2017, AAUW-IL State Convention in Champaign

More information on some items related to some Dates for your Calendar

Seeking nominations! Nominations open for the "Woman Leader of the Community" who will be honored at WWS next March. Deadline for nomination is November 15. Please send us your nominee's name, position, and why you nominate her. Send nominations to Branch President Sharon Michalove at sdmichalove@gmail.com

Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership What is the Gender Leadership Gap? Why is there a Gap? Why Should We Care about Women Leaders? Learn more about the Barriers and Bias confronting women at the AAUW national website (www.aauw.org/research/barriers-and-bias/) and attend the local event on November 5 (See *Dates for your Calendar*).

Equal Means Equal. Watch the trailer for this important documentary at equalmeansequal.com and plan to join us on Dec. 15th.

Local Scholarships

Each year our local branch presents scholarships to women who have resumed their college coursework following a break in their studies at either Parkland College or the University of Illinois. The four women listed below are the recipients of the scholarships this year. The scholarship news was submitted by the co-chair of the Local Scholarships Committee, Elaine Peppers. You can read more about our scholarships on our Web page at <http://champaignurbana-il.aauw.net/scholarships/>

Alyssa Brewer is the recipient of the Southwood Van Es scholarship. She is a 2nd year nursing student at Parkland College. She plans to get a bachelors degree in nursing. She presently works as a CNA at the Villas of Hollybrook in Monticello to help cover education costs and living expenses. She keeps a 4.00 GPA.

Bieke Opgenhaffen is the recipient of the Amy Kummerow scholarship. Bieke is a single mother with two children and volunteers at her children's school and works full time as a bilingual inclusions aid at a local elementary school. Her career goals evolved in response to her experience as an inclusion aide, and she has decided on a nursing career

Rebecca Dodds is the recipient of the Phyllis Cline scholarship at Parkland College. Rebecca is married and was expecting their 1st child in August. In 2013 she was a mentor in the Big Brother Big Sister program and through this realized she wanted to help people, especially children. In 2015 she was accepted into Parkland's nursing program. She works part time as a CNA.

Stephanie Schmidt is the recipient of the Ida King Stevens scholarship at the U of I. She is majoring in the U of I program in Theatre Studies and Acting following a semester at Parkland College. She will be a sophomore this fall in Theatre Studies and aspires to change the social world by means of storytelling. She graduated from high school in 2007 and feels she has now found her niche.

Branch Interest Groups

We have four active interest groups. All members and soon-to-be members are welcome!

Drinks & Dialogue is open to all members and prospective members of AAUW and is an informal gathering at a local restaurant for drinks and/or dinner. We discuss a predetermined topic that can be found on our Facebook page (CU-AAUW) monthly or through emails to those on our list. Meetings regularly take place at Milo's Restaurant, 2870 Philo Rd., Urbana at 6:00-8:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Please join us. If you would like to be on our email list, please contact Gail Tittle at gatittle@gmail.com.

Drama Group will be meeting the first Thursday of the month at 3:00 pm at the Windsor Court of Savoy. Our first meeting will be October 6 with Roma Chenoweth presenting "First Lady Suite" which is being presented at Parkland; at the November 3 meeting, Margaret Steward will talk about "Hamilton" which she recently saw on Broadway with the original cast. Future meetings will take place on December 1, February 2, March 2, April 6 and May 4. For further information, members can contact Cesaria Lancaster at 217-384-7798, 217-493-9600 or fwclancaster@yahoo.com) or Betty Cook at 815-383-1817.

Great Decisions meets the fourth Wednesday at 7:00 pm at Windsor of Savoy, Apt 121, home of Jenny and Dick Harvey. We will meet in September, October, January, February, March, April, and May. Discussions utilize a DVD and written materials from the Foreign Policy Association on issues of international interest. Contact: Jenny Harvey, 217-344-5335 or jennygharvey@yahoo.com

Adelante Book Discussion Group A new year's worth of reading and sharing with our informal Adelante reading group starts in September. We will continue to meet on the third Wednesday of each month (excluding November) in the Satterthwaite Conference Room on the lower level of the Urbana Free Library **from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.** We hope you will find one or more of the books of interest and join us. All members are welcome. Feel free to bring book-loving friends who may be prospective members. Books are available at the Champaign and Urbana libraries. Questions? Contact Laura Keller or Sallie Miller.

September 21 **The Distance Between Us** by Reyna Grande Memoir

October 19 **White Trash: The 400 Year Untold Story of Class in America** by Nancy Isenberg

December 7 **Soldier Girls: The Battles of Three Women at Home and at War** by Helen Thorpe

January 18 **Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family** by Amy Ellis Nutt

February 15 **Florence "Flo" Kennedy: The Life of a Black Feminist Radical** by Sherie M. Randolph

March 15 **The Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsberg** by Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik

April 19 **What is Visible: A Novel** by Kimberly Elkins

May 17 **Red Kimono** by Jan Morrill

June 21 **The Woman in Cabin 10** by Ruth Ware

July 19 **The Girl on the Train** by Paula Hawkins More

August 16 **Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption** by Bryan Stevenson

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