



NEWSBRIEF

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Champaign-Urbana Branch of AAUW to host 2017 State Convention in May!

The AAUW-IL State Convention will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 5 and 6 at the IHotel Convention Center in Champaign. Deborah Richie, State Co-Vice-President for Programs, is taking the lead in organizing the meeting. Thanks to input from Co-VP Laura Desmarais and the Champaign-Urbana Branch board members, a proposed program is ready for presentation to the State Board at its January 7 meeting.

The meeting will open on Friday evening with a dinner and program, and Saturday's schedule will include presentations from national AAUW and our state lobbyist, along with a keynote speaker, and breakout sessions. This is a meeting that is focused on the energy and mission of AAUW here in our state.

The keynote speaker is Amanda Simpson, who was Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Operational Energy with the Obama administration. She is an Illinois native, and was the highest ranking openly transgender official in the administration. She also received the AAUW Woman of Distinction award at the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) conference in 2015.

It is important that the C-U Branch have a strong presence at this meeting! It is time to show our pride and commitment by participating to make this meeting a success.

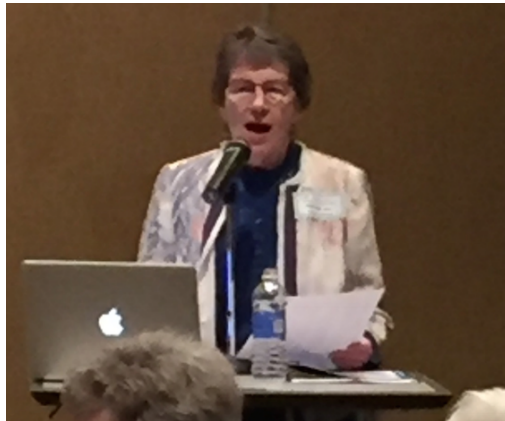
More details will follow. Please contact Deborah Richie (dr_drtwin@comcast.net), Sharon Michalove, or Sallie Miller if you have questions about the convention, or want to share ideas.

--submitted by Deborah Richie, *co-Vice President of Programs, AAUW-Illinois Board of Directors*

RECENT HAPPENINGS

AAUW Fall District Meeting

Three C-U AAUW branch members participated in the fall district meeting held October 15 in Springfield, Illinois – Sallie Miller, Sharon Michalove, and Deborah Richie. There were several informative sessions, including the session provided by Sallie Miller who is current Board President for the state, in which she outlined the roles and connections between local branches, the state board, and national AAUW. Session topics included getting out the vote, gender equity programming, and AAUW funding. Thanks to the District Chairs for organizing a successful event.



--Submitted by Deborah Richie

Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership

Andi Danis, past AAUW-IL president and member of the Aurora branch, spoke to our branch on November 5, 2016, about the status of women in leadership. She used research from AAUW called “Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership”. There is a large gender leadership gap holding women back from leadership roles. She encouraged us to take the AAUW implicit bias gender test (available here: <http://www.aauw.org/article/implicit-association-test/>) and to support legislation like the Paycheck Fairness Act and the Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act. Solutions from AAUW programs include Start Smart and Work Smart workshops, NCCWSL (annual leadership conference for college women), and Elect Her, a program that trains college women to run for office.



--Submitted by Sallie Miller

Equal Means Equal: film showing

On December 15, 2016, five branch members met at Sharon Michalove's house to watch the film *Equal Means Equal*. The film had been shown in September in Chicago to a large group of AAUW members, mostly from the Chicago area and the response had been good so the branch board was eager to show it to interested branch members. Unfortunately, the weather made it difficult for some members to attend. The film is a documentary about the status of women in America. Centered around a continuing push for an equal rights amendment, the film highlights the many ways in which women are still disadvantaged in the United States. There was a short discussion afterwards with the consensus that not much progress has been made, despite the women's movement. The film is available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/dPPEXbBpKmw>. It can also be rented and streamed from Amazon.

--Submitted by Sharon Michalove

Future Dates for Your Calendar

Wednesday, January 11, 6:00 PM January's Social: *Hidden Figures* (see below in this *Newsbrief*)

Saturday in March 4, 2017, 3:00 to 5:00 PM, Wine, Women and Song, Milo's Restaurant, 2870 S. Philo Rd., Urbana. We hope you can join us for this annual event, which is our major annual fundraiser for local scholarships. This year we will also honor the recipient of the "Woman Leader of the Community" award. Dorothy Martirano (violin) and Armand Beaudoin (cello) will be our musical entertainment for the event.

Tuesday, April 4, 2017, Equal Pay Day, Pizza M, 208 W. Main St., downtown Urbana, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Friday and Saturday, May 5-6, 2017, AAUW-IL State Convention in Champaign.



Meet our Newest Member: Julie Laut

After earning my bachelor's degree in history at the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1996, I taught high school social studies and coached track and field and volleyball in Portland, Oregon for 4 1/2 years. During that time I was active in the teachers union at the building, local, and state levels with a particular focus on support for new educators through mentoring and professional development. My proudest achievements were the creation of a district-supported new teacher mentor program and the development of a yearly state-wide conference that focused on educating early-career teachers about their rights as employees and supporting their professional needs as well.

My two children, Julian and Celia, were born in Portland in 2001 and 2003 respectively. I stayed home with them for several years during which time I took active leadership in breastfeeding advocacy. My organization, Nursing Mothers Counsel, applied for and won a federal grant that allowed us to expand lactation services into two area NICUs, offer mothers in the WIC program (now SNAP) the option to borrow a breast pump rather than just receiving formula, and provided in-home lactation support for low income mothers who did not have transportation.

After moving to the Cincinnati, Ohio-area in 2005, I earned my master's in history at Miami University (2008) where I specialized in gender and women's world history. In Ohio, I became involved with a local Democratic women's organization and volunteered regularly at an inter-faith food and clothing bank that was affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist congregation I belonged to. My PhD studies in history at UIUC began in 2008. I moved permanently to Urbana with my kids in 2009, and I completed my PhD in May 2016. My doctoral work focused on feminist transnational history and I have a special passion for research into women's participation in social movements and the role women and gender play in diplomacy and foreign relations. I have decided to take an alternative-academic career path, and to that end I currently work part time at the University of Illinois Press as an associate in the acquisitions department where I assist in the preparation of manuscript materials, write grant applications, and am helping plan a development campaign to launch in the coming year. My second part time job is with the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR); I coordinate their yearly conference, the next of which will take place in the Washington, D.C.-area in June 2017. My primary volunteer activity currently is serving as vice chair of the board at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Urbana-Champaign. I also enjoy contributing articles to the Public-I, volunteering with my kids with the backpack food program, and enjoy teaching parent-led enrichment courses at Urbana Middle School.

I learned about AAUW through Nancy Dietrich, a fellow UU. My interest in joining the organization comes out of my respect for the women I know who are part of our local branch, the AAUW's commitment to research on women's and gender issues, and my personal desire to meet more women of all ages as I continue to build my community in Urbana-Champaign.

Monthly Socials

With the object of giving members more opportunity to get to know each other, the branch has organized monthly socials. In September, October, and November we had informal get-togethers at Pizza M and Crane Alley in Urbana. In December, members got together to view the movie, *Equal Means Equal*, and in January members are invited to attend the movie *Hidden Figures* together. We began meeting at 5:00 PM on the third Wednesday of the month but have varied that schedule recently.

January's Social, this Wednesday, January 11, at 6:00 PM

We will get together to view *Hidden Figures*. This film tells the little known herstory of the three brilliant African-American women who helped NASA launch John Glenn into space. The website for the film with trailer and additional information can be viewed at www.movies.com/hidden-figures/m71299. We will meet in the lobby of the Savoy Theater at 6:00 PM so we can sit together for the 6:10 show. This will be our January social, so we will NOT be meeting for dinner on January 18.

Branch Interest Groups

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

Drinks & Dialogue will continue to meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6-8 pm, at Milo's Restaurant in Urbana. We discuss a variety of topics related to women. On January 10th, we will have a discussion about women's voices in public discourse and leadership. This is open to all members and prospective members of AAUW. Please join us. If you would like to be on our email list, please contact Gail Tittle at gatittle@gmail.com.

Drama Group meets the first Thursday of the month at 3:00 pm at the Windsor Court of Savoy. Future meetings will take place on 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. The next meeting is Wednesday, January 25. We will also meet in April and May. Discussions utilize a DVD and written materials from the Foreign Policy Association on issues of international interest. Please note that the location for the meeting might change in February. Please contact Jenny Harvey for more information: 217-344-5335 or jennygharvey@yahoo.com



Adelante Book Discussion Group We continue to meet on the third Wednesday of each month in the Satterthwaite Conference Room on the lower level of the Urbana Free Library **from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.** The books for January through March are below. All members are welcome; we hope you will join us! 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.

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



The Celebration of the Life for Doris Jones is Saturday, January 28th at 2 p.m. (snow date Sat. Feb. 4) and will be held at Unitarian Universalist Church of Urbana Champaign (309 West Green Street, Urbana) with reception following. If you would like to participate in the service, please contact Sara Ellen Jones at [217-590-6222](tel:217-590-6222). There will be a brief period for sharing remembrances from those present. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Memorial Fund at the UU Church for the purchase of a Chalice in Doris's memory.





Branch Leadership

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Vice-president for Membership:

Vice-president for Finance:

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