



**Volume 61, Number 3**  
**January/March 2018**

## **NEWSBRIEF**



### **Important event Updates**

#### **Wine, Women and Song has been cancelled.**

We regret that the upcoming closure of Milo's has led the Board to cancel this annual event. Thank you to the past and current supporters of this celebratory fund-raiser. If you had planned to make a contribution then to AAUW, either for local scholarships or to the AAUW Fund, please contact our Finance VP, Pam Erickson at [pam.k.erickson@gmail.com](mailto:pam.k.erickson@gmail.com) or mail your check to her at 518 County Road 1900 N, Champaign, IL 61822.

#### **Equal Pay Day date and location have been changed.**

The program will now be held from 2:00 to 5:00 pm on April 15 at the Champaign Public Library and will feature a showing and discussion of the film *Equal Means Equal*, described as "an unflinching look at how women are treated in the United States today. Examining both real-life stories and precedent-setting legal cases, director Kamala Lopez uncovers how outdated and discriminatory attitudes inform and influence seemingly disparate issues, from workplace harassment to domestic violence, rape and sexual assault to the foster care system, and the healthcare conglomerate to the judicial system. Along the way, she reveals the inadequacy of present laws that claim to protect women, ultimately presenting a compelling and persuasive argument for the urgency of ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment." (<http://equalmeansequal.com/>). Thank you to the Gender Equity Fund of AAUW-IL for providing the film. The Gender Equity Fund, a 501(c)(3), was formed in 1997 by interested and involved Illinois AAUW members. (<https://aauw-il.aauw.net/gender-equity-fund/>)

**April 27-28**      **AAUW-IL State Convention, "Make a Difference"**  
Lisle Hyatt Regency & Benedictine University

**May 19**            **Branch Annual Meeting**

## UPCOMING EVENT

The Champaign-Urbana Branch has joined with the Women's Resources Center, Career Center, YWCA of the University of Illinois, and the School of Molecular & Cellular Biology to sponsor the Women's Career Institute, upcoming on February 24. Thank you to Brenda Wilson, our VP for Programs, for her representation in the planning of this career and leadership program. Sallie Miller, our AAUW-IL President and local branch member will participate as a panelist.

For more information, go to <https://oii.illinois.edu/womens-center/our-programs/career-leadership-development-programs>

# Women's Career Institute

February 24, 2018

Are you a woman-identified student interested in developing your leadership and professional skills? You are invited to the day-long Women's Career Institute! Join us for workshops and panel discussion designed to prepare women for the particular challenges they face in the workforce

#### What will you get out of it?

- Strategies for communication and leadership
- Strategies for addressing discrimination and harassment in workplace
- Building Salary Negotiation Skills
- And more!

**Women's Resources Center**  
616 E Green St. Suite 202, Champaign

For more information and to register, please contact Sylvania Dutka at [dutka2@illinois.edu](mailto:dutka2@illinois.edu)

**Sat, February 24**  
**9am-5pm**

## What have our members been doing?

### Kudos to Dr. Brenda Wilson

[piece submitted by Laura Keller]

Dr. Brenda Wilson, our branch vice-president for programs, was honored this fall with two awards from the University of Illinois that recognized her excellence in teaching and her actions to promote diversity and inclusion. In November, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Access (ODEA) awarded her the Leadership in Diversity Award at their annual Celebration of Diversity program. This award is given to a nominee who demonstrates “exceptional dedication to and success in promoting diversity and inclusion via research, hiring practices, courses, programs, and events”. Dr. Wilson was lauded for her innovative teaching practices that make success possible for all students as well as her efforts to ensure that salaries within her department reflects the principle of pay equity.

In December, Dr. Wilson was recognized for excellence in teaching. This was the first such award given by the School of Molecular and Cellular Biology. The Director and Heads of the four departments selected a faculty member who they felt had a long history of outstanding teaching in undergraduate and graduate curricula and outstanding advocacy and curricular advancement in the School, the College and the UIUC Campus. C-U AAUW is proud to have Brenda as a member and officer of our branch. Congratulations, Brenda!



### Jane Addams Day

[piece submitted by Sallie Miller]



On Dec. 10, 1931, Jane Addams brought honor to Illinois by winning the first Nobel Peace Prize ever awarded to an American woman. In 2007, the state of Illinois honored Jane Addams' memory with a commemorative holiday, which was the first time in state history that a day was set aside to commemorate a woman's accomplishments.

The Champaign-Urbana Branch celebrated Jane Addams Day at the Champaign Public Library with a showing of the documentary entitled "Hull House: The House that Jane Built". The approximately 25 participants included AAUW members and individuals from the community, including a woman who had worked at the Hull house in the 1940s, and the daughter of a man who had worked there in the 1930s. In addition, the U of I Press was at the celebration to feature a display of Jane Addams books published by the Press (<https://www.press.uillinois.edu/>). For more information on Jane Addams, visit

[https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/peace/laureates/1931/addams-bio.html](https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1931/addams-bio.html)

## Women's March 2018

On January 20, 2018, people across the country marched and rallied for women's rights. In Illinois, marches were held in multiple cities including Carbondale, Chicago, East Peoria, and Springfield. At least two members of the Champaign-Urbana AAUW branch – Board President Laura Keller and VP for Finance Pam Erickson – participated in the Springfield march which featured Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza as keynote speaker.

Thanks to Pam and Laura for sharing pictures and for representing us in Springfield.



Members Laura Keller and Pam Erickson



National Public Radio (NPR) published a story on the Springfield March in which they stated that it “appeared to be several hundred people gathered around the Lincoln statue outside the State Capitol building to rally and march for women's rights.” The NPR post and pictures can be found at <http://nprillinois.org/post/take-it-sign-womens-march-springfield-2018#stream/0>

You can also read a coverage piece in the *State Journal-Register* at <http://www.sjr.com/news/20180118/mendoza-to-keynote-womens-march-saturday-in-springfield>

---

## NEWS FROM AAUW-IL (<https://aauw-il.aauw.net/>)

The State Board held its winter meeting on January 20, 2018. News items included:

- **Annual Meeting**

**Mark your calendar and plan to participate in this year's meeting!**

The theme for the meeting is "Make a Difference" and program planning is underway. The meeting will convene on Friday evening, April 27 with a banquet and program, and conclude around 5 pm on Saturday, April 28. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Lisle Hyatt Regency at \$120. Watch for more information in the upcoming state newsletter *Link*

If you will be a first-time attendee, contact Branch President Laura Keller to inquire about the process for receiving funding support through the Trio program!

- 45 branches with just over 2,000 AAUW members in the state
- Around 1,200 members-at-large in the state (note: these are members at national level who do not belong to a branch). The Board Membership VP, Lisa Cherry, has reached out to these members and asks that branch Membership VPs alert her when new branch members report that they are members-at-large. In addition, the Board organized a sub-committee to work on strategies for increasing the number of members-at-large who join local branches.

## NEWS FROM AAUW (<http://www.aauw.org/>)

### National Conference for College Student Women Leaders (NCCSWL)



Each year, nearly 800 college and university women and campus professionals from across the United States and around the world attend this meeting held to engage participants in hands-on learning and exploration of leadership. In 2018, the conference will be held from May 30-June 2.

The Champaign-Urbana branch provides \$600 toward supporting one college student woman leader to participate in NCCSWL. **Encourage women you know to register!** For more information, go to <https://www.nccswl.org/>



## 2017 IMPACT

Be proud of your membership and engagement in the activities undertaken by AAUW in support of equity for women and girls. Here is a summary of some of the accomplishments



**17,000**

People learned to negotiate their salary through AAUW workshops



**\$3.7 MILLION**

was awarded to women and community organizations



**270,000**

messages were sent to lawmakers by members and supporters

---

## Branch Special Interest Groups

### Adelante Book Discussion

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 6:30 pm  
Urbana Free Library

Contact Sallie Miller [millersallie@hotmail.com](mailto:millersallie@hotmail.com) or Laura Keller [kellerla@comcast.net](mailto:kellerla@comcast.net)

### Drama Group

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, 3 pm  
Windsor Court, Savoy

Contact Cesaria Lancaster [fwclancaster@yahoo.com](mailto:fwclancaster@yahoo.com) or 217 384-7798

### Drinks & Dialogue

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 6 pm

Contact Gail Tittle [gatittle@gmail.com](mailto:gatittle@gmail.com)

### Great Decisions

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 6:30 pm

Contact Carol Veit [carol\\_veit@yahoo.com](mailto:carol_veit@yahoo.com)



## Adelante Books for 2018

January – *Option B: Facing Adversity, Building Resilience, and Finding Joy*, by Sheryl Sandberg and Adam Grant

February – *In the Sanctuary of Outcasts*, by Neil White

March – *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, by Matthew Desmond

April – *All the Single Ladies: Unmarried Women and the Rise of an Independent Nation*, by Rebecca Traister

May – *Then Comes Marriage: United States V Windsor and the Defeat of DOMA*, by Roberta Kaplan and Lisa Dickey

June – *Euphoria*, by Lily King

July – *The Handmaid's Tale*, by Margaret Atwood

August – *Born a Crime*, by Trevor Noah

## Great Decisions

This program is off to a great start. Discussions for this program utilize a DVD and written materials from the Foreign Policy Association on issues of international interest. The topics for 2018 are:

- The waning of Pax Americana?
- Russia's foreign policy
- China and America: the new geopolitical equation
- Media and foreign policy
- Turkey: a partner in crisis
- U.S. global engagement and the military
- South Africa's fragile democracy
- Global health: progress and challenges





## Appreciation from Local Scholarship Recipients

[piece submitted by Laura Keller]

Last June our branch awarded \$1,000 scholarships to three Parkland College students for the 2017-18 school year. These women have all returned to school after an interruption of two years or more and are pursuing degrees. Each of our recipients is a remarkable woman who is sacrificing to complete her education. Our scholarships are much appreciated by them as evidenced by the thank you letters we recently received. Excerpts from the letters follow:

“...While completing my associates degree, I am also taking math and physics classes to prepare for my bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering. I am passionate about all that is electricity and electronics. It is over my head most of the time and there is always more to learn. I love it. Thank you for helping me continue this journey.”

**Phyllis Renea Walters**

Amy Kummerow AAUW Scholarship recipient

“...I’ve just completed my first semester of 16 hours, as a full-time student, in addition to working full-time as well and being a parent and grandparent. It was tough, and many times a bit overwhelming, but I am happy to say that I finished on the Parkland College Honors List. ...your generosity allows me to focus on my academics without the stress of further indebtedness for the second semester. For that, words cannot express my gratitude...You have made a difference, and now I can continue to do so too.”

**Jennifer Kibbons**

Phyllis Cline AAUW Scholarship recipient

“...The receipt of this scholarship has further strengthened my resolve and aspiration to become an exceptional nurse with a rarely paralleled passion to serve humanity. I am originally from Nigeria and a mother of 3 boys. I attended high school in Nigeria and emigrated to the United States in the Summer of 2013. “

**Ifeanyi Onyekwe**

Southwood-Van Es AAUW Scholarship recipient





Champaign-Urbana Branch  
Illinois  
Branch 4012