



PROGRAM NEWS FROM THE FALL

There were several interesting and engaging events in which our branch members participated this fall. Thanks to those who participated and submitted pictures and information for inclusion in this newsletter.

FALL CONFERENCE

AAUW-IL holds district fall conferences each year and this year we met on October 27. The program included:

- Remarks by President Jennifer Urish who encouraged us to watch a video of AAUW CEO Kim Church, available at <https://www.aauw.org/resource/strategic-plan-engagement-for-members/>
- Start Smart and Work Smart - AAUW is working to close the gender pay gap by 2030! Grants to hold workshops within our state are available from AAUW-IL and applications can be submitted any time during the year and will be acted on within 30 days. For more information about the workshops go to <https://aauw-il.aauw.net/grants-for-branches/>. For more information about these two programs and news of their success around the country, go to <https://salary.aauw.org/>



- Title IX Compliance and Initiatives presentation by Raphaella Prange, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Student Development at Millikin University





BRANCH PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

November 3 - Luncheon was held to honor our four AAUW 50 Year Members, and we were so pleased that three of the four members were able to join us (Mary Dailey was unable to attend). Several family members were in attendance as well and we enjoyed hearing about the members' current interests as well as some of their history.

Please watch for a feature in the next newsletter to learn more about each of these dynamic women!



Helen Ayers

Margaret Stewart

Bette Van Es



November 10 - AAUW International Fellowship recipient in the 1980s, Prof. Pnina Motzafi-Haller, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel and Visiting Professor, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign shared about her work, entitled "Are Batswana women feminists? Reflections on an African three-decade long encounter".

Two of the AAUW Fellowship recipients, Prapti Kafle and Jaime Coon, joined us for this program and our members were delighted to welcome them to the Champaign-Urbana AAUW family.





Branch Supports Parkland Proposed STEM Program

We were delighted to be asked in November to provide a letter of support to Parkland College's application for an AAUW Community Action Grant. These grants provide funds to individuals, AAUW branches, and AAUW state organizations as well as local community-based nonprofit organizations for innovative programs or non-degree research projects that promote education and equity for women and girls (info available at <https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/educational-funding-and-awards/community-action-grants/>).

Here is an excerpt from the letter of support:

The Champaign-Urbana, Illinois branch of AAUW is pleased to endorse Parkland Community College's application for a Community Action Grant to help fund a summer program promoting STEM for girls ages 12-15. Girls' Quest would be offered as part of their well-respected College for Kids program. College for Kids has been part of our community for many years, and their various enrichment offerings are well-attended and highly anticipated by children and their parents. A camp promoting STEM for girls would be a wonderful addition.

Our branch co-sponsored a STEM careers conference at the University of Illinois last year and hopes to do so this year also. That conference targets college-age women who are already in STEM fields and seeks to help them in choosing careers. AAUW's "Start Smart" was one of the programs at the conference last year.

Our branch is excited to be offered this opportunity to partner with Parkland, our area community college, and reach out to a younger group of young women.

Thank you to our Board for their leadership and let's hope for good news about the funding!



CHAMPAIGN-URBANA LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Thank you for your continued support of our three local scholarship programs, which are named in honor of Janet Southwood & Bette Van Es, Amy Kummerow, and Phyllis Cline. Each year we partner with the Financial Aid office at Parkland College to identify a pool of worthy candidates who are entering college after a break in their educational pursuits. Each scholarship provides the student with \$1,000 for the academic year. The scholarship committee members are: Elaine Peppers and Bette van Es, co-chairs; Sallie Miller; Laura Keller; Deborah Richie.

The 2018-2019 AAUW Parkland Scholarship recipients are: Kathy Wilson (Amy Kummerow), Ifeanyi Onyekwe (Southwood-van Es), and Jessica Bartley (Phyllis Cline).



Kathy Wilson, Ifeanyi Onyekwe, Jessica Bartley

Ms. Wilson is a nursing student with plans to complete her bachelors degree. She lives in Tuscola, enjoys camping with her family and participates in regular volunteer activities. In her letter to the branch, she said “Thank you for taking a chance on a woman who has been out of school for 10 years.”

Ms. Onyekwe graduated from a high school in Nigeria in 2002, emigrated to the US in 2013 and now lives in Champaign. She is currently a nursing student at Parkland with plans to get her bachelors degree. Ife shared these comments after the fall luncheon “This scholarship has been instrumental towards the actualization of my dream of being a nurse. Thank you once again. I love teaching. I volunteered in Africa in public health departments and I am very passionate about women and children’s issues.”

Ms. Bartley was selected to receive \$500 for her final semester at Parkland. She is employed as bookkeeper for a small company and credits the position for helping her find her career path. She shared “It’s amazing how I have already accomplished so much...Now I know for sure what I want to do and how I want to support my family.”



Branch Receives “Mystery” Bequest

When branch president and vice-president for finance, Laura Keller and Pam Erickson respectively, received calls and emails concerning a donation from the estate of Audrey Stewart, they were curious about her connection to the branch. A phone call to national AAUW yielded the information that the national office had been notified of Ms. Stewart’s death in May and that she had been 108 years old at the time of her death. They knew that she had been a Life Member for many years and had been a resident of Lexington, Kentucky. However, they had no record of her connection to AAUW-CU.

Noting that a “Mrs. Charles E. Stewart” was listed as a past president of our branch from 1959-1962, we thought we’d figured it out. Thanks to the internet, we were able to verify that, indeed, Audrey Stewart was that past president, and that her obituary included that connection.

Audrey Moore was born in 1910 and attended Champaign public schools. She received her degrees from UIUC, and married Charles Stewart in 1935. The couple lived in Champaign until 1962 when they moved to Lexington, Kentucky. Ms. Stewart was active in Phi Mu and Altrusa Club in that city.

We appreciate the \$500 donation to our scholarship fund from her estate and are glad we solved the mystery of her local connection. When her grandson was told that his grandmother’s donation would go towards helping women continue their educations after an interruption, he said that he knew that would please her.

2018-2019 Board

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Branch Special Interest Groups

Adelante Book Discussion

3rd Wednesday, 6:30 to 8 pm

Satttherthwaite Conference Rm, Urbana Free Library

Contact Sallie Miller millersallie@hotmail.com or Laura Keller kellerla@comcast.net

January selection - ***Educated: A Memoir*** by Tara Westover. Best-selling story of a young girl who was kept out of school by her survivalist family but went on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University.

February selection - ***The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*** by Elaine Weiss. As we approach the 100th anniversary of passage of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote, this new book tells the story of the six weeks in 1920 leading up to the momentous vote.

March selection - ***Becoming Ms. Burton: From Prison to Recovery to Leading the Fight for Incarcerated Women*** by Susan Burton and Cari Lynn. This book is Burton's account of her road from prison to leader in the movement to reform the criminal justice systems.

Drama Group

1st Thursday, 3 pm (March, April, May)

Contact Cesaria Lancaster fwclancaster@yahoo.com or 217 384-7798 or Betty Cook, 815-686-2262 or blcook22@frontier.com

Drinks & Dialogue

2nd Tuesday, 6 to 8 pm

Sun Singer, Champaign

Contact Gail Tittle gatittle@gmail.com

Great Decisions Begins in February in new location

February 13 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. The group will meet in a new location, the home of Carol Veit, 604 W. Stoughton, Apt. 22, Urbana. Future meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of the months of March, April, May, June, September, and October of 2019 and January of 2020.

Great Decisions discussions utilize a DVD and written materials from the Foreign Policy Association on issues of international interest. Books will be available for purchase at the February meeting. For more information contact Carol Veit, 217-552-1486, carol_veit@yahoo.com



News from AAUW (<http://www.aauw.org/>)

AAUW 2018 STRATEGIC PLAN BEYOND ASPIRATIONS: Advancing Equity for Women & Girls

The plan identified three strategic areas:

Education & Training

Economic Security

Leadership

The full plan can be accessed at <https://www.aauw.org/who-we-are/strategic-plan/>

Reflecting and Looking Ahead for AAUW



In their year-end letter to members published in *Outlook*, AAUW CEO Kimberly Churches and Board Chair Julia Brown began, "This will be remembered as a consequential year for women, and we are proud to be leading an organization committed to achieving gender equity at this pivotal moment in history." To read the full letter, go to <https://www.aauw.org/article/outlook-a-year-of-progress-and-possibilities/>

The leadership at AAUW acknowledges that our mission is bold and members/branches are encouraged and challenged to embrace the mission in their local communities. Take a look at the 10 resolutions to help stay aligned with this bold mission <https://www.aauw.org/article/new-years-resolutions-to-support-aauw-strategic-plan/>





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Please send news items, comments or corrections to: Deborah Richie, editor