



News By Degrees

SCHAUMBURG AREA BRANCH

NOVEMBER – JANUARY 2022

President's Message

On Saturday, October 30 Lisa Cherry, the current AAUW-IL president led over 100 IL AAUW members in dialog at the Fall conference. This 3-hour zoom was an effective way to get updates on AAUW, gain information, and connect with others who are like-minded. Donna and Ken participated as well. I will share some key take-aways with you:

Lisa Cherry, AAUW-IL President:

Gloria Blackwell is the new AAUW CEO. <https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/aauw-names-gloria-l-blackwell-as-new-ceo/> Please try to join in on the AAUW 140th Anniversary event on November 17th to hear her remarks. I have heard her speak and I welcome her as the CEO. She has a rich history and a documented commitment to AAUW already. Open membership vote. Although it did not pass in 2021, it will come up again. In IL only 25% of AAUW members voted while 74% of those who

did vote were positive. Association now has a better idea of how to target efforts to allow for passage of this amendment in the future.



AAUW-IL publications: there are two, Connections is a mid-month newsletter and LINK is a fall and spring publication. Although current recommendations are for large gatherings to be virtual, AAUW-IL is hoping to have the spring convention on May 6-7 in Lisle IL.

2022 AAUW will be revamping the MSD, member services database. Those who are dual members know that accurately tracking that registration is not easy currently, but there is hope with a new ap-

proach.

Deanie Brown, Attorney; serves as Chief D & I officer for IL Supreme Court: Who do YOU think I am?

Deanie was an engaging and knowledgeable presenter. I will share her slides when I get them. Her focus was on Unconscious Bias (“we use only 5% of our brain, 95% is unconscious thoughts). She equated unconscious bias with a virus as once it is in your head it takes over. As with other viruses we know, we do get immunity from the effects of the virus. Here is a link to a short video clip that she shared that demonstrates unconscious bias: *The Look* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxZBtWGYV1c>
Kristin Olsen, discussed Fund Raising/Grant Writing. Kristen described the various ways to do fund raising; her focus was on how to use this information to raise the group’s visibility. Suggestions like telling the stories of how funds were used and what was accomplished. She

Upcoming Events

- *Novel Approach :* November 15
- *140th Anniversary:* November 17
- *Celebrating Women:* November 22
- *Holiday Brunch:* December 4
- *Tuesday Connection:* December 7
- *Tuesday Connection:* January 4
- *Novel Approach:* January 17

Attachments

Elgin Tapa Fundraiser

Winter Holiday Brunch



Saturday, December 4th at 8:30 a.m.

Join AAUW friends with a cup of tea, coffee or a mimosa. There will be a short business meeting and time to

chat with each other. We may mix it up a bit with breakout groups for fun discussion topics, there may be a short trivia game and there could be a prize or two. Suffice it to say plans are in the works!!!! Watch your email for details and a Zoom link a few days prior to December 4.

Jewel Fundraisers

Our next Jewel Gift Card order will be placed on Tuesday, November 30th.



If you would like to be included in this order, please let me know the denominations that you would like to purchase. This is always a good time of the year to purchase an extra card or two (any denomination) to donate to a charitable organization or to someone who would appreciate some extra help with food expenses for the holidays. Amounts can be \$5 to \$250 per gift card. Please make your check payable to **Schaumburg Area AAUW** and mail to Barb or drop off to Sue who will get it to her. Thank you for your continued support of this fundraiser. If you have any questions about the cards, please call or email me. *- Sue*

Celebrating Women

A recent AAUW press release alerts us to the **“Disproportionate Impact of COVID-19 on Latinas”** and the understanding that the **“Pandemic Experience Underscores Need for Targeted Policy Response”**. Please join the Celebrating Women interest group on Monday, November 22 at 1pm to discuss this critical research, the action steps suggested, and what we might do as a branch for next steps.

This new AAUW study examines how Latinas in the U.S. suffered disproportionate economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic and calls for targeted policy solutions to address their needs. The study is grounded in compelling personal stories of women who faced job loss, financial devastation and debilitating mental and physical health consequences over the past year. It details how the pandemic exacerbated underlying systemic inequities, presenting Latinas with even greater challenges. “As we rebuild from the pandemic, we must lift up Latina voices,” said the study’s

Mums

We once again had a wonderful sale of our mums from our Michigan grower. The mums were huge and gorgeous.

We sold 107 mums and made \$500.00. Even with raised prices, we made the same profit as last year.

I want to thank everyone who supported our Fall Fundraiser for educational funds. Judy L. compiled the orders and collected the checks passing them on to Barb to compile the sales and deposit the money. Peg, Mary, Kathy, Sue, Lynn, Janet, Ken, our husbands, my neighbors, and anyone else who’s name I may have missed, thank you so much for all of your help emptying the truck, organizing the plants by color, and helping to distribute the orders. I also want to thank everyone who purchased mums this year. We wouldn’t have been successful without you.

My white, bronze, and purple mums came back in my garden this year too. They were all beautiful as always.

- Judy S



lead author Irasema Garza, J.D.. “These women are a vital base of support to our nation; their success and that of the U.S. are inextricably linked.”

AAUW’s Latina Initiative resources include 3 documents, all available on the AAUW website (www.aauw.org/resources/research/latina-initiative):

Pandemic Inequity: Latinas and the COVID-19 Experience. This research examines how Latinas fared during the pandemic by documenting the lived experiences of individual women around the United States. Their personal stories are based on interviews with more than 40

President’s Message cont’d

also suggested seeking out local grand funders like United Way.

Other notes:

Donna participated in the Membership break out group. She had some detailed notes that the board discussed yesterday; I will share a few here that relate to all members:

- Share our newsletter with others who might be interested in joining. Once Genevieve sends us the newsletter, you can send it to a friend or ask Sue S or Fran S as member chairs to do so.
- Sign up for 2-minute activist.
- Everyone should have an elevator pitch; what would you say about the AAUW mission and our branch in a few focused sentences?

Ken participated in the Policy group and he will share his comments elsewhere in this newsletter. *- Peg*

women who represent the diversity of the Latina population in the U.S.

The Status of Latinas in the U.S. This fact sheet offers a comprehensive look at the nation’s nearly 30 million Latinas with demographic information and the latest statistics on Latinas’ education levels, workforce participation rates, political engagement, access to health care, economic status and more.

Latina Initiative Policy Recommendations. As our nation explores ways to recover from the COVID-19 crisis, AAUW advocates for specific policies to ensure economic security and access to educational opportunities for the nation’s Latinas. This document outlines AAUW’s priorities and calls for swift action.

Kathy and I hope you will take some time over the next few weeks to read/skim these three AAUW papers. This qualitative research is relatively easy, all-be-it surprising, to read. The stories shared are compelling. The voices of these girls/women must be heard as we learn that by 2060 27% of all women in the US will be Latino. *-Peg*

Novel Approach

The Lost Jewels

by Kirsty Manning

November 15th at 1:00 via Zoom
Fran is the discussion leader.

The story is about the Cheapside Jewels which were found in the 1900's and then disappeared again. It is a story of two women, Essie and Kate living in different time periods trying to uncover the truth. Essie a suffragette in England, Kate a librarian in Boston who goes to London to search for the Jewels. It is historical fiction loosely based on facts. The jewels are now housed in the London Museum and are not currently on display.



Sex Trafficking in Our Own Backyard

Mark your calendar for our November AAUW NW Suburban branch program, Sex Trafficking in Our Own Backyard, on Wednesday, Nov. 17st, at 7:30 pm, co-sponsored with Jane Addams branch.

Women are 90% of victims of sex trafficking which is a form of modern slavery. Trafficking is happening right here in Chicago and the suburbs.

This program will present victim statistics, how to recognize a victim, methods being used to recruit young women, and what we as community members can do to prevent trafficking.

Hopefully we can prevent some young women from being recruited.

Advance Registration is required. After registering you will receive an email with the Zoom meeting link. Please share this information with anyone who would be interested. The public is invited to attend.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84451234567>

SUSAN, LINDA, NINA & COKIE: The Extraordinary Story of the Founding Mothers of NPR

By Lisa Napoli

January 17th at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom.
Diane is the discussion leader.

Just as some women journalists were suing Newsweek and The New York Times over gender discrimination in the 1970s, an upstart nonprofit called National Public Radio (NPR) arrived on the scene offering new opportunities. Unlike its well-resourced competitors, NPR was eager to hire sharp, inventive, low-wage workers who couldn't find jobs anywhere else—in other words, women. Thus, the careers of Susan Stamberg, Linda Wertheimer, Nina Totenberg and Cokie Roberts were launched.

Among other things, the book is a lesson on how NPR, a fringe project of one generation, became a mainstream information source in another. Perhaps short on gritty details, the book takes a "nevertheless, she persisted" approach with the women, who were among the first to make it in the male-dominated journalism world of the 1960s and '70s. According to Napoli, they became true colleagues and life-long friends.

[register/tZIsf-ujjMvE9cu_C4LDW9qdVouh8jx5_pD](https://www.register/tZIsf-ujjMvE9cu_C4LDW9qdVouh8jx5_pD)

Presenter: Priscilla Cruz, Midwest Prevention Advocate at SelahFreedom, B.S. of Psychology, Selah Freedom, Bringing Light into the Darkness of Sex Trafficking
Selah Freedom is a nonprofit anti-human trafficking organization, based in Florida and the Midwest, with the mission to end sex trafficking and bring freedom to the exploited through four strong programs: Advocacy & Awareness, Prevention, Outreach, and Residential. <https://www.selahfreedom.com/about>

Our 2021-22 Branch Strategic Plan includes 2 goals related to diversity:

- Infuse AAUW Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion toolkit into branch programming and interest groups
- Develop Branch Diversity and Inclusion Plan

I should say that we are doing well on the first bullet. At our Sept general meeting we participated in a deep dive into part of the AAUW DEI Toolkit, in August Novel Approach discussed *Just Mercy*, members participated in the Nov. 4 STDL book review *Minor Feelings*, and Celebrating Women will be reviewing the AAUW Latino girls research later this month.

Now to the work of developing our branch DI plan. AAUW provides us a template for this DI plan that will help shape our work as a branch. At the board meeting, we conducted our environmental scan which is the first step—a way for us to understand where we are in areas such as recruiting, retaining, and programming, as they relate to inclusion and our mission. The board determined that our programming has been strong and effective; while we have work to do on recruitment and getting the word out on our work. We know that our mission to support equity for women and girls is paramount, but we have not been able to get that word out into the community to the degree that we want.

The next step in developing our branch DI plan is to establish our scope, which includes identifying several key goals. I will share a draft of those goals here; the board looks forward to hearing from you on these draft 2020 goals:

- Increase branch membership by 10%
- Retain membership at 100%
- Engage branch members in an activity/event that drives the AAUW mission and/or public policy agenda (i.e., recognize all pay equity dates throughout the 2022 year)

These goals are not set in stone and serve as a starting off point. Let us know what you think AAUW Diversity, Structure and Planning: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/diversity-officer/>

The AAUW-IL has identified a State Diversity Chair. She asked each branch to identify their chair. Let me know if you are interested in this role for our branch.

- Peg



Tapas are Terrific!!

Date: Thursday December 2 Zoom on your own device

Time: 6:00

Fee: \$30.00 per device

Register at Eventbrite:

<https://aauwcooktapas.eventbrite.com>

Your shopping list and menu choices will be mailed to you

Are you tired of serving cheese and crackers at your holiday gathering and are looking for delicious, easy to prepare party food ideas made right in your own kitchen? Look no further than The Elgin AAUW branch as we welcome back our favorite chef, Tana Fryer, the RVFoodie. Tapas are small appetizers served either hot or cold. Tana will guide us as we prepare three hot and three cold tapas.

Cooking with AAUW and Tana is a fun way to kick start the holiday season, gather some new recipes, and join with friends. Proceeds will benefit our scholarship fund to support and help create opportunities for women as they pursue higher education.