



News By Degrees

SCHAUMBURG AREA BRANCH

FEBRUARY—APRIL 2022

President's Message

Happy New Year! I do hope that 2022 provides all of us a bit less stress and a bit more health. 2021 was certainly a difficult year. Whatever is in store for us this year, we will adapt and not lose sight of our mission to advance gender equity for women and girls. The branch board met last week and I am excited for the work and fun ahead. Those minutes are attached to this newsletter. A few items I want to expand on include branch officers and the branch strategic plan.

Branch Officers: According to our branch policies (directory p. 8-9): Branch elected officers should include: president, vice-presidents of program and membership, directors of communication and finance, and secretary.

All branch officers shall take office at installation or on July 1, whichever comes first, and shall serve for a term of two years or until their successors are elected and assume office.



Elections will take place in April. For the last few years the branch officers have agreed to continue in their positions. We are very blessed to those who served several terms (Mary and Lynn/Program; Barb/Finance; Fran and Sue/Membership; Ken/Public Policy) and have done it so well. However, we all know that fresh ideas and new ener-

gy is good for an organization. To that end I ask each of you to consider assuming a role on the branch board. I am happy to provide more information about the positions; our directory does provide some general direction. Of course, the president position is not exempt from this call for the opportunity to serve the branch. I am happy to step aside for a new president. Barb has agreed to continue to serve as our finance officer. I asked her to field inquiries from the branch members who have an interest in one of the positions. Reach out to Barb to discuss board positions. **Branch Diversity/Inclusion Plan:** The board members added a few action steps to our branch goals within our



chronicles that journey which culminates with a State Championship in 1979.

Hope to see you there. Register through the Schaumburg Library site.

Upcoming Events

- *AAUW Webinar:* January 27
- *Close of Election Comment Period:* February 2
- *Jewel Card Orders due:* February 8
- *Celebrating Women:* February 15
- *Novel Approach :* February 21
- *Rockford Program:* February 21
- *Vanishing Half:* February 24
- *Agent of Change Due:* March 1
- *Spring Flower Orders Due:* March 10
- *General Meeting:* March 19
- *AAUW Webinar :* March 24
- *Novel Approach:* March 21
- *Novel Approach:* April 18

Attachments

Upcoming activities

Spring Flower Order

Branch minutes

AAUW contests

General Meeting

On March 19 at 1:30 in the afternoon The Schaumburg Branch of AAUW and the Schaumburg Library will host journalist and author, Melissa Isaacson. Melissa is currently on the faculty of Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism. In the past she was a columnist and feature writer for ESPN.com and the Chicago Tribune. Melissa was the principal beat writer for the Chicago Tribune during

the championship year of the early 90's. She will speak about her book STATE: A Team, A Triumph, A Transformation.

In 1975, just 2 years after Title IX Melissa was a freshman at Niles West High School. She and the rest of the newly formed girls' basketball team spent all their free time and summers playing basketball, improving skills with their eyes on the newly instituted state championship. Her book

The next General Meeting will be in April/May (date TBD) with Dr. Avis Proctor, President, William Rainey Harper College



Celebrating Women

“Women of the Movement” Zoom discussion on Tuesday, February 15, at 1 PM.



Chicago Tribune writer Nina Metz described the Emmett Till story, and that of his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, as portrayed on ABC’s “Women of the Movement” necessary viewing. It’s not easy viewing, but it’s a compelling, well-made series about a Chicago mother and her son. We think it’s worth a discussion. The six-part series began airing on ABC on Jan. 6 and can be viewed on demand or Hulu. Two links are attached, one about the main character who is portrayed by actress, Adrienne Warren and the other about the ABC series itself. Hope you can watch and join the discussion and even if you can’t watch it, join anyway.

<https://parade.com/1321010/walterscott/adrienne-warren-emmett-till-movie/>

<https://abc.com/shows/women-of-the-movement>

-Kathy and Peg

On Thursday February 24th Britt Bennet will discuss her novel *The Vanishing Half* at the Prairie Center for the Arts from 6-9. Mary read this novel and highly recommends it. It certainly widened her horizons with life situations of which she was never aware. This event will also be available to watch live on YouTube at SchaumburgLibrary.tv.

President’s Message cont’d

Branch Diversity/Inclusion plan. Please review the steps in italics and let me know if you think of additional ways that we can achieve these goals.

Increase branch membership by 10%
Advertise upcoming programs like M. Isaacson and Dr. Proctor in the Daily Herald Lunch outside in the spring with invitations to bring a friend

Discuss the possibility for Bunco with Judy S
Keep <https://schaumburg-il.aauw.net/> up to date

Retain membership at 100%
Membership VPs to send new member survey this month. Survey reviewed by board.

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)

Revisit in a month or so when pay equity dates and community involvement are clear.

AAUW Election Comment Period: I hope that you received the email from AAUW (18th) related to the comment period that is open for discussion

Public Policy Update

It is hard to believe, but we are almost a month into 2022. What does this mean for AAUW Public Policy and our advocacy for the issues? We did enjoy several legislative successes at both the state and federal level over the past year, but the basic priorities remain the same. Briefly they include:

Economic Security - AAUW advocates for all women to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

Education & Title IX - AAUW supports a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, and diversity, including vigorous enforcement of Title IX.

Civil Rights - AAUW advocates for equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society.

The National AAUW website includes an area [Where We Stand](#) that provides more detail and quick-facts pages on key public policy issues. Pages are undergoing updates, so check it now, but also check back over the course of the month for new information. We can use the information

through February 2nd. There are two proposed changes to the bylaws. The first relates to the nominations for the board and the second relates to the date for which a new member is eligible to vote. Unfortunately to me and many of you, we will not see a proposal for a more open membership on our ballot this year. I reached out to our IL AAUW president to share with her that we are looking for this to be brought up again sooner rather than later. I suspected it was not coming up soon as it is going to take some strategy on the part of the new CEO and board to make it happen and we have not heard anything about it. I did want you to be aware. Donna Jean was very understanding and asked me what she can do for us... I said to please keep this topic of a more open membership on the table. Feel free to comment on the proposed bylaws changes via the AAUW link provided.

- Peg



in meetings, discussions and to guide activism!

Both Congress and the Illinois legislature are now back in session. This is the mid-term election year, so it is hard to move major legislation, but there will be opportunities to advance AAUW’s key policies. Look for invitations to “file Witness Slips” in Illinois and be a “Two-Minute Activist” sending emails and texts to our legislators to fight for equal pay, family leave, stopping sexual harassment, equality in education and more. In December, members of the Illinois AAUW policy team hosted the first in a series of webinars, [“Exploring Tough Policy Issues Through An AAUW Lens: Political and Non Partisan.”](#) You may enjoy watching the recording to learn about highlights of our proud non-partisan, yet very political, history.

A couple of reminders, Mid-term Elections are this year, While many states have taken steps making it more difficult for people to vote, IL has taken action designed to increase participation by mak-

Novel Approach

Madam Speaker: Nancy Pelosi and the Lessons of Power

by Susan Page

February 21 at 1:00 via Zoom
Genevieve is the discussion leader.

Featuring more than 150 exclusive interviews with those who know her best—and a series of in-depth, news-making interviews with Pelosi herself—MADAM SPEAKER is unprecedented in the scope of its exploration of Nancy Pelosi's remarkable life and of her indelible impact on American politics. Nancy Pelosi has lived on the cutting edge of the revolution in both women's roles and in the nation's movement to a fiercer and more polarized politics.

Jewel Fundraiser

Our next Jewel Gift Card order will be placed on Tuesday, Feb. 8th.



If you would like to be included in this order, please let me know the denominations that you would like to purchase. Amounts can be \$5 to \$250 per gift card. Please make your check payable to **Schaumburg Area AAUW** and mail it to Barb or drop it off to Sue who will get it to her.

Thanks again for your continued support of this fundraiser. If you have any questions about the cards, please call or email me.

- Sue

A big thank you goes out to everyone that participated in our first ever AAUW Greatest Needs Zoomathon at our Holiday Zoom breakfast. We had \$575.00 pledged that morning, which totaled \$1150.00 when matched. Impressive to say the least.

To date we as a branch, either individually or collectively, have given over \$1700.00 to AAUW National. We are a small branch but we are certainly mighty as well as supportive.

Every Day is a Gift

by Tammy Duckworth

March 21 at 1:00 on Zoom
Discussion leader—Kathy Sickelsteel

What a story! I know that sounds trite, but Tammy's memoir makes for compelling reading as you learn about her challenging childhood, distant parents, interesting school years, military service including her devastating injuries as well as her foray into politics. I highly recommend reading it and joining the Zoom discussion.

Spring Flower Sale

After a very successful AAUW Spring Plant Sale last year, we will be returning with another chance for you to stock up on greenhouse grown, beautiful, annual plants in a large array of gorgeous colors and varying types. The flowers last year were much larger at competitive prices with the other area sellers. Some prices did increase this year due to the grower's increases in costs. The quality of the plants we received were well worth the cost. As an example, my geranium baskets and separate geraniums were huge and lasted well into the fall in my yard last year. We will once again offer 25 varieties including many colors of bedding plants, zonal geraniums, premium annuals (grasses and petunias), accent plants (spikes and vinca vine), hanging baskets, planters, tomato plants, and herbs. Your completed **order form** and **check to Schaumburg AAUW** are due to Judy L. by **March 10th**. The pickup date for your flowers is **May 10th** at Judy S. house. Please copy your order form, if possible, and bring it with you to facilitate picking up your plants. The order form is attached to this newsletter. Remember to offer this opportunity to purchase greenhouse plants to your family members and friends. Thank you so much for supporting this fundraiser and helping to provide educational funds and scholarships.

- Judy, Judy, and Mary

West With Giraffes

By Linda Rutledge

April 18 at 1 p.m. on Zoom and in Person
Sue is the discussion leader

"Few true friends have I known and two were giraffes..."

Woodrow Wilson Nickel, age 105, feels his life ebbing away. When he learns giraffes are going extinct, he finds himself recalling his journey to deliver Southern California's first giraffes to the San Diego Zoo.

It's 1938, and The Great Depression lingers.

Hitler is threatening Europe, and world-weary Americans long for wonder. They find it in two giraffes who miraculously survived a hurricane while crossing the Atlantic. What follows is a 12-day road trip in a custom truck from New York to California. Behind the wheel is the young Dust Bowl rowdy Woodrow.

Inspired by true events; **West With Giraffes** explores what it means to be changed by the grace of animals, the kindness of strangers, the passing of time, and a story told before it's too late.



Public Policy Update (con't)

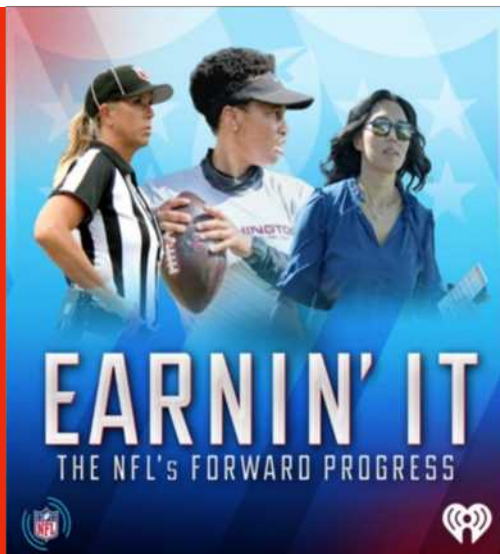
ing curbside voting permanent, setting up voting centers on Election Day where anyone within the election's jurisdiction could vote, regardless of the precinct of their residence and making it easier for people to permanently receive a mail-in ballot. The legislation also moved this year's March 15 primary to June 28. The measure also marked the general election date of Nov. 8, 2022, a state and school holiday, as it was last year. Be sure to participate in both the primary and general elections.

One other item is the "Equal pay days." The exact dates are still being determined, but we will be looking for innovative ways to share information on them.

Happy 2022! May we enjoy success in advancing the AAUW Mission.

- Ken

February is surely filled with Super Bowl talk in many of your homes. Peg watched the first episode of this docuseries, *Earnin' It: The NFL's Forward Progress* A five part docuseries that “spotlights several of the most powerful and trailblazing women working in the NFL”. She did not know that we have a women’s tackle football league in the US. She was not aware of the women who are coaching, refereeing, owning, in the NFL! She watched this first episode free on Peacock, no credit card, just register on Peacock with your email (for now anyhow).



Upcoming AAUW Webinars

Register on the AAUW website.

Creating Allyship

Thursday, January 27 | 4pm ET

What is allyship? How can one truly be an ally? What is the connection between allyship and privilege? Please join us for a discussion of allyship and learn how to hold branch programming on this topic. With diverse allies within their membership, states and branches can better build inclusive spaces and attract new audiences, including potential new members.

Intersectionality Identified

Thursday, March 24 | 7pm ET

Please join the Inclusion & Equity Committee for a discussion of intersectionality. By understanding the dimensions of diversity and how they intersect, we can begin to understand the complex and cumulative impact of discrimination and oppression. In this webinar, participants will learn about intersectionality as well as how to create branch or state programming for members on this concept.

Social Justice: Creating Change

Thursday, May 26 | 7pm ET

Social justice is at the core of what AAUW does every day. Whether at the national, state, or local level, AAUW staff, volunteers and members work incredibly hard to help share a more equitable world. What does it mean to support social justice and how is that different (or the same) as racial justice, economic justice and the other core issues that AAUW works on? Please save the date to join us for a discussion of social justice and what it truly means to be a part of AAUW's impact.

The **Rockford Branch** presents “**Did Black Lives Really Matter in Early Illinois?**” via Zoom on Monday, February 21st at 6:30 PM. Public historian and educator, Caroline M. Kisiel will deliver this program through the Illinois Humanities Council Road Scholar Program and it is free and open to the public. If you would like to participate, please send your email address to fe.marcus@att.net and you will receive a link several days prior to the program. Please join us in exploring Illinois history.

The Illinois Humanities Council Road Scholar Program is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Illinois General Assembly through the Illinois Arts Council Agency (IACA), as well as by contributions from individuals, foundations and corporations. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed by speakers, program participants, or audiences do not necessarily reflect those of the NEH, Illinois Humanities, IACA, our partnering organizations, or our funders.

Schaumburg Area AAUW
 Spring Flower Fundraiser for
 Scholarships for Women
 Beautiful Greenhouse Plants

AAUW SPRING 2022 FLOWER FUNDRAISER

Checks and Orders due Thursday, March 10th
 Pick up is on Tuesday, May 10th

Questions: Email Judy S.

Send order form and check to
Judy L.
Make
checks to Schaumburg AAUW.
 Pick up: home of Judy S.
 Time: Betw. 11:00 am - 7:00 pm.

Choose the plants you want by placing the number on the line by that plant.
 Total the number of plants you are ordering and the cost at the bottom of each section.

BEDDING PLANTS 4 1/2" flat= \$16.00 1/2 = \$9.00	
Number	Cost:
_____ Alyssum White	_____
_____ Alyssum Purple	_____
_____ Begonia Gr. Lf. Red Flower	_____
_____ Begonia Gr. Lf. Pink Flower	_____
_____ Begonia Gr. Lf White Flower	_____
_____ Coleus Wizard Mix	_____
_____ Dianthus Mix	_____
_____ Impatiens White	_____
_____ Impatiens Red	_____
_____ Impatiens Pink	_____
_____ Impatiens Violet	_____
_____ Impatiens Mixed Colors	_____
_____ Lobelia Blue	_____
_____ Marigold Dwarf Yellow	_____
_____ Marigold Dwarf Mixed	_____
_____ Moss Rose Mixed Bright	_____
_____ Petunia White	_____
_____ Petunia Purple/Blue	_____
_____ Petunia Hot Pink	_____
_____ Petunia Mixed Color	_____
_____ Salvia Red Medium	_____
_____ Salvia Victoria Blue	_____
_____ Snapdragons Dwarf Mixed	_____
_____ Vinca Mix	_____
_____ Vinca Peppermint	_____
Total	Cost

Zonal Geraniums 4 1/2" pot. Cost \$3.75 each.		
_____ White	_____ Red	_____ Bi-Color
_____ Pink	_____ Violet	_____ Hot Pink
_____ Total Geraniums	_____ Cost:	_____

PREMIUM ANNUALS 4 1/2" pot. Cost \$3.75 each.	
_____ Pennisetum Rubrum (grass)	_____
_____ Pink Wave Petunias (medium pink)	_____
_____ Purple Wave Petunias (magenta)	_____
_____ Total Premium Annuals	_____ Cost:

ACCENT PLANTS 3" pot. Cost \$2.75 each.	
_____ Spikes	_____
_____ Vinca Vine	_____
_____ Total Accent Plants	_____ Cost:

HANGING BASKETS 10" Cost \$14.00 for each basket.	
_____ New Guinea Impatiens	_____ Impatiens
_____ Non-Stop Begonias	_____ Fuchsia
_____ Ivy Geraniums	_____ Million Bells (Calibrachoa)
_____ Combination of Flowers - SUN	_____ Wave Petunias
_____ Combination of Flowers - SHADE	_____
_____ Total Hanging Baskets	_____ Cost:

PLANTERS 10" Cost \$16.50 each.	
_____ 10" Stock Geraniums	_____
_____ 10" New Guinea Impatiens	_____
_____ Total Planters	_____ Cost:

VEGETABLES 3 1/2" pot. Cost: \$11.00 for a set of three tomato plants. Each bag includes 1 Sweet 100 - Cherry, 1 Roma, & 1 Big Boy	
_____ Total Bags of Tomato Plants	_____ Cost:

HERBS 3 1/2" pot. Cost: \$19.00 for a set of six herb plants. Bag includes 1 each Basil, Cilantro, Mint, Oregano, Parsley, & Rosemary	
_____ Total Herb Bags	_____ Cost:

Name: _____
 Email: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Total: _____

I will be picking up. Yes
 I need delivery. Yes

Make checks out to Schaumburg AAUW. Keep a copy of your order sheet to bring on pick up day.
 Thank you very much for your support of our Schaumburg AAUW Branch Educational Fundraiser.

Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Vision: Equity for all.

Values: Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Principled. Inclusive and Intersectional



1. November 2021 Board meeting minutes approved
2. Peg Report
 - Notes from Brunch: reach out to area libraries with our programming (will do as programs are planned); invite M. Mussman and T. Duckworth to join AAUW (Ken to check on any ethical implications for these officials).
 - Branch Website <https://schaumburg-il.aauw.net/>; up to date, Peg to find out if other officers can send email for additions to site
 - 2022-3 Officers, process: Discussed, peg to include opportunities for branch offices in next newsletter
 - Develop Diversity and Inclusion Plan (see below for status) See updates in BLUE below
3. Finance/fundraising (Barb)
january jewel card money deposited. ON hand: \$3976.26
4. Programming, Mary and Lynn; Peg to add in general branch meetings
Jan 20th STDL zoom book discussion with branch discussion to follow
Feb 24th STDL F2F/You Tube book discussion
Marc 19 1:30 STDL Dr. Isaacson
April or May tbd Dr. Procter, Harper College—include branch general meeting here perhaps
May, tbd End of year dinner
5. Membership, Sue & Fran, review new member survey
Survey reviewed. Membership will edit to be inclusive to those who cannot actively participate at this time but join due to the mission and will delete some items to shorten for ease of use.
6. Public Policy, Ken
<https://www.pay-equity.org/day.html> 2021 dates/detail, to revisit in Feb when dates available
7. Interest group updates, all continuing
 - Celebrating Women, ongoing
 - First Tuesday, ongoing
 - Novel Approach, ongoing
 - Dining Group, Dec meeting
8. Other

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:

- August 2020, Novel Approach reviewed *Just Mercy*
- September 2020 general meeting included a deep dive into part of the AAUW DEI Toolkit
- November 2020 STDL book review *Minor Feelings*, with follow up branch discussion
- November 2020, Celebrating Women reviewed the AAUW Latina research

Now to the work of developing our branch DI plan. Using the AAUW template for this DI plan, the branch board conducted our environmental scan. The board determined:

- Programming is strong and includes a range of diverse topics; meeting times need assessed
- Recruitment and getting the word out on our mission and efforts is weak

The next step in developing our branch DI plan is to establish our scope, which includes identifying several key goals. Here is a list of draft goals for 2021:

- *Increase branch membership by 10%*
 - *Advertise upcoming programs like Isaacson and Dr. Proctor in the Daily Herald*
 - *Lunch outside in the spring with invitations to bring a friend*
 - *Discuss the possibility for Bunco with Judy Stewart*
- *Retain membership at 100%*
 - *Membership VPS to send new member survey this month. Survey reviewed by board.*
- *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)*
 - *Revisit in a month or so when pay equity dates and community involvement are more clear.*

AAUW Diversity, Structure and Planning: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/diversity-officer/>

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[Diversity Webinar 12/2](#)

[Diversity is being invited to the party...](#)

[Inclusion is being asked to dance...](#)

[Belonging is being asked to help choose the music...](#)

Agent of Change

This prestigious award is presented annually to an active member of AAUW-IL. The Nominee should be an outstanding member who has actively promoted change within the AAUW organization or local/national community.

Selection of the best candidate for the award will be based on the candidate's actions or level of support for one or more of the following activities:

- Identifying or bringing attention to a societal problem that disproportionately affects women and girls,
- Addressing a problem related to the economic security or professional advancement of women,
- Addressing an issue related to gender equity or diversity in public education or equal access to specific occupations,
- Taking action related to civil rights or social justice issues affecting women and girls,
- Taking actions that improve the ability of a state or local affiliate of AAUW to address issues of gender equity and civil rights with the community,
- Taking actions related to mission-oriented issues that raise the visibility of AAUW in the local community or at large.

Nominations may be initiated by any Branch member, Branch Board of Directors or Branch President. Multiple members may be nominated from a single Branch. Branches are encouraged to resubmit nominations, if their nominee was not selected for the Agent of Change Award that year.

A committee of the AAUW-IL Board of Directors will review the nominations. The Agent of Change will be announced at the Annual State Convention held each spring.

A nomination form may be found at aauw-il.aauw.net. Nominations must be emailed no later than March 1, 2022 to Marcia Wherry, Southern District Director, mjwherry@aol.com

Questions about the Agent of Change Award or about the process of submitting an application may be addressed to Marcia Wherry.

AAUW Art Contest

In the art world women are underrepresented and undervalued. [Only a third of artists](#) represented by commercial galleries are women and women working in arts professions are paid on average [74 cents to every dollar paid to men](#). This is what motivates AAUW to host an annual art contest—to give women artists the attention they deserve.

Entries for the 2022 art contest will be open from January 5 to January 31. Please see below for contest entry rules and guidelines. Voting will be open from February 2 to February 16. The six winning entries will be featured in a collection of notecards mailed to AAUW members in the spring!

