



News By Degrees

SCHAUMBURG AREA BRANCH

MAY-JUNE 2022

Upcoming Events

- *Novel Approach:*
May 16
- *End-of-year dinner:*
May 25
- *Novel Approach Planning Meeting:* June 13

President's Message

The title of the 97th AAUW-IL State Convention says it all. We were together again. Over 100 AAUW members gathered this past weekend at a hotel, in a F2F format, to learn about AAUW efforts, gain knowledge and enthusiasm for the work ahead, and just enjoy each other's company. I was there Friday evening, then for the Saturday sessions Judy Stewart and Sue Stauffer joined me. I know that you will hear more from AAUW-IL in the days ahead but let me share some pearls that I gained.

Lisa Cherry, the outgoing president welcomed us all to the convention. She has done great work for our State and continues as a member of the advancement committee at association AAUW. Donna Jean Simon is the incoming President. I know her as she was our branch district director this past year. I look forward to working with her in the years ahead. Even though

the venue was F2F, Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO provided her National Update virtually. Some notes from her message:

Reminding us "we are one AAUW with the message, Equity for All!"



June 23, Title IX 50th Anniversary virtual celebration, mark your calendars

Strategic focus areas remain the same:

Education and training: fellowships and grants awarded increased from 5 million in 2021 to 6 million in 2022! Two new programs, AAUW STEM Education, and AAUW

Moneysmart are underway.

Economic security: research showed that 1:3 women in NYC do not earn enough to support themselves; gender pay gap needs attention in our communities

Leadership: virtual programming and higher research continues

Gov and Sustainability: new community HUB is a work in progress—asking for our patience

How can we help: reflect on core mission; donate to greatest needs, recognize Title IX 50th Anniversary, and most important let your voices be heard as a member of AAUW!

Friday evening closed with a

Attachments

Rockford Women's Suffrage Plaza

Public Policy Update

End of Year Dinner

Everyone is Invited to Dinner!

Join AAUW friends at our May dinner celebration on Wednesday, May 25 at 6:30 pm at Riccardo's Ristorante, 1170 S. Roselle Rd. After 2 years of May dinner meetings on Zoom we are

finally able to enjoy dinner in person. (we will miss our remote members) There will be a business meeting, installation of officers and time to chat and celebrate our past year.

Order your dinner off the menu. We will have sepa-



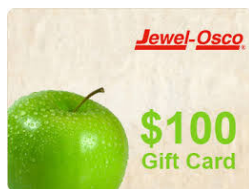
rate checks. Please RSVP to Lynn if you plan to attend. Hoping to see everyone for dinner on the 25th of May!

<https://riccardosschaumburg.com>

Lynn & Mary

Jewel Fundraiser

Our next Jewel Gift Card order will be placed on Tuesday, May 17th. 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. This will be our last Jewel fundraiser for our branch year. This will be a great time to purchase some extra items that you plan to use during the summer. The next fundraiser will be scheduled in mid-August. Thanks again for your continued support of this fundraiser. If you have any questions about the gift cards, please call or email me.—Sue



Membership

We would like to welcome our newest member, **Crystal Owney**, to our branch. Crystal lives in Itasca and is also a member of the Chicago branch. You may have already noticed that her name is listed our branch email addresses for all meetings and special interest events. Welcome Crystal, and we look forward to meeting you soon.

Also, we have the results from our New AAUW Member Survey. The participants are members who have joined our branch within the past three years. We would like to thank them for their time and feedback.

Topics of interest:

Assisting in short-term projects
Helping with events
Communications/publicity
Diversity/inclusion
Public Policy

Issues:

Pay Equity, STEM programming, Advocacy events

Branch and Interest Group Meeting

Preferences: All prefer evening, one chose morning in addition. Options for both virtual and In-person (F2F).—Sue

President's message continued

poignant short documentary, *The Queen of Basketball*, an Oscar winning film about Lusia Harris—a pioneer of women's basketball. In this year when we are celebrating 50 years for Title IX, this free viewing is especially timely. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzVngOA30TQ>

Saturday:

Julie Strauss, PhD: *Social Media: How is it Transforming our Democracy* Julie was eye-opening as she shared the impact of social media on our democracy. She started by reminding us that "we do not search Google, Google searches us". Telling, right? I cannot give justice here to her very insightful presentation. She is faculty at Northwestern so you may hear her in other venues. She encouraged us to read, *Why The Past 10 Years Of American Life Have Been Uniquely Stupid* <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2022/05/social-media-democracy-trust-babel/629369/>

Taking Theory to Reality: Diversity and Inclusion Panel: Four, doctoral prepared women shared insights on diversity and strategies to support inclusion and belonging. They had many pearls for us, describing the work that must be done and efforts they are each making at universities and in communities to promote change.

Luncheon notes:

Jenni Purdue, AAUW-IL Contract Lobbyist: AAUW IL does have a paid lobbyist. We can reach out to her with ques-



tions and we can have her as a speaker. It seems that with redistricting and other IL issues, the IL legislature is having a very short session this spring.

AJ Conroy – ERA update: ratified in 38 states, however, the most recent Virginia is being challenged in court. AJ suggested a process forward might include an affirmation from Congress—this passed the House, but is in the Senate SJRES1; Senator Durbin is the Chair of the Committee which may be helpful. AJ will share her PPT's with us.

Saturday afternoon special topics included:

A presentation from a representative from the American Library Association, *Challenges to Intellectual Freedom: It's not just about banning books.*

Take a look at the "Freedom to Read Foundation" site www.ftrf.org If you hear of books being banned in your library, please alert this organization who will investigate. The goal of the librarians per the ALA includes



“defending access” not “content”.

<https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/> take a look at this site to hear more

The presenter will share her slides on this hot topic and I can pass along

Branch Development: Using AAUW's Mission to Gain Community Recognition

Elgin Branch: local efforts to connect with diverse groups in their community with great success to share stories and to dialog (such as, HS students in STEM, Pride groups, Muslim women at their place of worship)

Naperville Branch, and Naperville's Issues Action Team (I-ACT)

I-ACT is a team of Naperville AAUW members with identified priorities like pay equity, women access to health care, and freedom from violence who are in coalition with other like-minded community organizations to be nimble and ready to act on issues.

<https://naperville-il.aauw.net/>

Of course, there was a lot of discussion on the recent leaked document from the Supreme Court. There was a lot of passion in the room for Roe v Wade and the impact this potential change can have on women. May 14 is a date for a nationwide march to support Roe v Wade. As we vote in upcoming primaries, we are advised to get to know the candidates for all positions. The IL Supreme Court is an elected body so we need to know who we are voting for. I was told to check out the LWV site for a review of each candidate <https://www.lwv.org/>

I even treated myself to a night, alone, in the hotel. I did attend my first AAUW-IL Board of Directors meeting. Even though I was not inducted until Saturday, I had the opportunity to meet the current and incoming members of the BOD and celebrate the work that they do. I look forward to the contributions I can make to the work of the AAUW-IL BOD and our members. We can chat more at our dinner later this month. I look forward to seeing you all there. - Peg

Novel Approach

The Book of Lost Names

By Kristin Harmel

Discussion: May 15

Leader: Anne

A quote from PEOPLE magazine sums up this book quite well: "a heart-stopping tale of survival and heroism centered on a female forger who risks everything to help Jewish children escape Nazi-occupied France."

This historical fiction takes place during WWII in France. It is a story of love, rescue, escape, and bravery. Anne read the book twice and enjoyed it both times. The characters draw you into the story.

Dues

Time of Year to renew your membership to Schaumburg Area AAUW.

It is hard to believe that it is that time of year already. Our year has gone quickly and certainly been filled with all kinds of programs, book discussions, plant sales, zoom catch ups, Jewel gift cards and very pertinent and timely meetings. We adapted well and have succeeded through the toughest of times. 2022 saw us maskless for most of the year and in person meetings. Our hope for 2022/2023 is more of the same.

I am hoping that each of you benefited from our AAUW meetings, book discussions, and acted upon action alerts. We have so much to continue working on and with Roe vs Wade in the news and being discussed on the Supreme Court level we need to continue supporting national, the state and our branch to make sure that what we started so many years ago continues.

The dues this year will remain the same. National is still \$67.00, State is still \$10.00 and our branch dues are \$9.00, making it \$86.00 to continue your

Novel Approach Planning Meeting



The planning meeting for novel approach for next year will be June 13. Please be thinking of the books you would like to suggest for next year and write one or two sentences about the book. More details to come.

- Thanks, Fran

membership. A small cost to continue fighting the issues at hand for women and women of our future.

The board has voted to continue the option of not paying our branch dues of \$9.00. If you opt to not include the branch dues in your payment your membership would then be \$77.00. We have had a few of our members use this option and I am the only one who sees this.

The cool thing about this year is that you can go into the National web site and join independently. (Go to myaauw.org, follow the Membership prompts) Peg was the guinea pig for this and she joined seamlessly. It enables you to join using a credit card, no more checks being sent to me. It is very easy and I hope each of you go in and use this option. If by chance you are

unable to access the membership tab I will be here to help you succeed. It makes so much more sense to do it this way. I don't have to send checks to National or State and we will receive a check from National for the Branch dues. PROGRESS!

I look forward to seeing you all at the End of Year dinner! - Barb

**PAY DUES
ONLINE**



<https://rockfordsuffrageplaza.com/>

Artist

Susan Burton, mosaic artist from Marseilles, Illinois, was contracted to create, orchestrate and guide the Rockford community in designing and building this installation. Burton was selected because of her reputable mastery of the mosaic art form and her storied experience with large, community-build art projects in other cities. Over 200 people in our community — children, adults, and seniors — worked on this project, learning about the women's suffrage movement, identifying local and national women leaders, and experiencing first-hand the art of mosaic.

Women's Suffrage Sculpture

The three-sided composition tells an inclusive, fact-based history, featuring Rockford suffragist Kate F. O'Connor, Rockford voting rights activist Dr. Constance Goode, and Future Voters. The ratification of the 19th Amendment, on August 18, 1920, prohibited the states and the federal government from denying the right to vote to citizens of the United States on the basis of gender. White women were the first women able to vote without legal barriers and extreme discrimination (O'Connor). Only when the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed — a landmark piece of federal legislation that prohibited racial discrimination in voting — could women of color exercise their right to vote (Goode). The group of diverse girls represent our future women voters and activists (Future Voters).

A gifted Rockford artist, Holly Gilbey, created each of the framed mosaic faces that appear on the three sides of the central monument.

The 36 stars wrapped around the tower symbolize the 36 states that were needed to ratify the 19th Amendment. The suffragists sewed a star on the Suffrage Flag as each state voted to ratify. Three colors used throughout the sculpture—purple, white, and yellow—were the official colors of the United States Suffragist Movement. Additional women of note are featured around the base of the tower; these women were chosen for their dedication to suffragist ideals, civil rights activism, and/or their distinguished careers.

Seventeen of the featured women are from Northern Illinois; their careers influenced our region in many aspects including education, the arts and humanities, politics, sports, science, civil rights, justice, and peace.

State and Federal Policy Update – Ken, Public Policy Chair

The Illinois Legislature adjourned its session on April 9. It was a good session, but both of the AAUW Pay Equity Resolutions (HR 751 and SR 925) have not passed. They are going to be dealt with in Veto Override Session. Normally Veto Override is scheduled on the last day of session. This did not happen BUT it will be after the November General Election. IL AAUW is encouraging members to contact our legislators and get them to be co-sponsors of the resolutions. The FY 2023 General Fund Budget passed by the General Assembly increases year-to-year spending on Education, Healthcare, Human Services, and Public Safety—which collectively account for over 95 cents of every dollar Illinois spends on public services through its General Fund. Illinois Comptroller Susana A. Mendoza applauds the legislature for passing a FY '23 budget that saves for the future, utilizes extra revenue to support working families, and addresses the pension shortfall and other structural issues. Remember our primary elections this year were moved back to June 28. Please be sure to vote.

On the federal level one item of good news is that Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson was confirmed for a seat on the United States Supreme Court. She will become the first black female to serve on the court. Congress did also pass an Omnibus Budget bill and COVID relief packages that did include significant increase for social programs. The difficulty is that many of these items like the child tax credit expired and the GOP has blocked extension of funding for them. The supreme court appears poised to overturn Roe v. Wade and severely impact women's access to reproductive health care. It looks like it is setting things back 60 to 70 years relative to reproductive health care. Food insecurity is also increasing due to inflation and the failure to extend funding for various feeding programs.

One action that I think will be of interest and that deserves our attention is that for the first time in over 50 years, the White House will host a Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health this September. The Conference, and the preparatory work leading up to it, is designed to accelerate progress and drive significant change to end hunger, improve nutrition and physical activity, reduce diet-related disease, and close the disparities around them.

The first White House Conference on Food, Nutrition and Health in 1969 was a pivotal event that influenced the country's food policy agenda for the next 50 years. The President sets out to do the same with this year's Conference.

Leading up to the Conference, the Biden-Harris Administration will host listening sessions so that we can hear from every region of the country. Anyone with ideas will soon be able to share their stories to help inform the national plan. For more information, visit [www.WhiteHouse.gov/HungerHealthConference](https://www.whitehouse.gov/HungerHealthConference)

AAUW will continue to fight for workplace and economic equity, education, and increased leadership roles for women. There are many political challenges ahead. We need to speak up and be sure to vote for candidates that share the values of AAUW.