



# News By Degrees

SCHAUMBURG AREA BRANCH

SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER 2022

## President's Message

Welcome to the start of a new year. So much has happened since we have last met. There have been additions to families, some moves, and a new member. Welcome Crystal! On the national front, it was so exciting to hear of the Administration's latest action on student loan forgiveness. We know from AAUW's research (and probably some personal experience) how student loan debt holds women back in particular. Women's reproductive health access was impacted by the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision. It seems that the state legislation that is being proposed across the country after this decision is further limiting access to women's health care. These two issues illustrate the benefit of and need for the advocacy and research that AAUW provides.

In the coming several months we will have a lot on our plates. Our welcome meeting on September 14 will give us some insight into being a Ukrainian refugee. We are working on scheduling a call with Gloria Blackwell, the president of AAUW, to celebrate our 5 Star Status. We will soon be considering where we would like to send our educational funds. Both AAUW and Harper College are well deserving of these donations. Those who have ever attended the luncheon at Lamb's farm will be able to attest to how meaningful the AAUW scholarships have been to furthering women's education. The AAUW fall conference is September 24 from 9-11 via Zoom. Unfortunately, I cannot attend but I hope that many of you will be able to. There is a breakout session for everyone's interests.

In November we will be able to make our voices heard by voting. Knowing this group, we will be educating ourselves on the issues and the candidates at all levels of government. Ken continues to be an excellent source of state and national information important to AAUW members.

I am looking forward to celebrating our progress and advocating for equity for all women with you this coming year. Note that Sept. 21 is equity pay day for African American women. It is a stark reminder of the tougher battle that women of color face. If there are advocacy opportunities that you would like the Branch to consider, I encourage you to bring them to the board. The Schaumburg Area Branch may be small in number, but we are mighty in action. Genevieve

### Upcoming Events

- *Welcome lunch: September 14, noon*
- *Welcome meeting: September 14, 7pm, Virtual*
- *Mum delivery: September 16*
- *Novel Approach: September 19*
- *Equal Pay Day for African American Women: September 21*
- *AAUW-IL Fall Conference: September 24, Virtual*
- *Novel Approach: October 10*
- *Jewel Fundraiser: October 17*
- *Celebrating Women: October 24*

## Welcome Meeting

Welcome

Wednesday, September, 14

Join AAUW friends on **Wednesday, September 14, at 7:00 pm via Zoom**. Genevieve will begin with a business meeting to refocus our attention for the 2022 - 2023 year. Following the business meeting, Palak Panchal and her friend Andriy will join us to talk about how they assisted his parents leaving Ukraine a few months ago because of the war with Russia and what life is like for them here. You might recall Palak's name because she is an epidemiologist and previously spoke with us about the pandemic.

Also, **Wednesday, September 14, at 12:00 noon** everyone is invited to meet for lunch on the patio at Panera, 830 N Meacham Rd, Schaumburg. We did this last September and we were lucky to have a beautiful day and many members were able to attend to catch up with each other.

## AAUW-IL FALL CONFERENCE VIRTUAL



Join AAUW friends and colleagues from around the state at the virtual AAUW-IL Fall Conference on Sat., Sept. 24, 2022 from 9 - 11 AM.

Branch leaders, aspiring leaders, branch and national members (members-at-large) all are welcome.

We'll be meeting on Zoom this year; pre-registration is required. You'll be asked to choose a breakout group at this time. **Link To Registration:** [3513e3c0ec1a/](https://3513e3c0ec1a/)

### AGENDA:

- **Remarks from Donna Jean Simon**, AAUW-IL President
- **Public Policy Update: "2022 Midterm Elections"** presented by Tracey Sherman-Falcon & Paula Purdue, AAUW IL Public Policy
- **Mini Workshop: "Introduction to Artificial Intelligence"** presented by the 1948 Project Team: Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) is changing our world. (read full description at the link above)

### Breakout Sessions:

- **Strategic Alliances: Stronger Together.** How can your Branch multiply its policy impact in the community? Leader: Donna Jean Simon ([aauwilpres@gmail.com](mailto:aauwilpres@gmail.com)), AAUW-IL President
  - **Support Public Education through School Board Advocacy.** Leaders: Paula Purdue ([paulapatchwork@gmail.com](mailto:paulapatchwork@gmail.com)), AAUW-IL Co-Director of Public Policy, and Kathy Wessel, AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn
  - **Program Sharing.** Come prepared to briefly share ONE mission-based program or event your Branch held last year or is planning for 2022-2023. This is an opportunity to discover impactful programs your Branch can implement in your community. Leaders: Becky Glimco & Peg Gallagher, ([aauwilprograms@gmail.com](mailto:aauwilprograms@gmail.com)) AAUW-IL Program VPs
  - **Doing the Dues:** Using AAUW's Community Hub to Manage Member Dues & Rosters. Leaders: Carolyn Schelderup ([cs\\_schj@yahoo.com](mailto:cs_schj@yahoo.com)), AAUW-IL Director of Finance, and Ruth Holst ([holstruth@gmail.com](mailto:holstruth@gmail.com)), AAUW-IL Director-Elect of Finance
  - **Reach for the (Five) Stars!** Updates on AAUW Recognition for Branches. Leaders: Amy Green & Nann Hilyard ([nbhilyard@att.net](mailto:nbhilyard@att.net)), AAUW-IL Membership VPs
  - **Grow Your Branch Presence through Social Media.** Leader: Kate Skegg ([kate@skegg.net](mailto:kate@skegg.net)), AAUW-IL Social Media Manager
  - **WordPress Websites Q&A.** Ask questions and get tips & tricks to make your Branch website stand out using the WordPress framework provided by AAUW. Leader: Leslie Sulla ([relsulla@comcast.net](mailto:relsulla@comcast.net)), AAUW-IL Web Manager
- Remember, please register in advance for the Zoom meeting. You'll be asked to choose a breakout session when you register.**

**Novel Approach:** *Hi Booklovers: our first Novel Group will meet on Monday, September 19, at the home of Barb Garvin. You can attend in person or on zoom. We will start at 1:00 PM. Please let Barb know if you will be attending in person. I hope to see everybody there. Thanks, Fran*

***The Atomic Weight of Love***

By Elizabeth Church

In 1941 At seventeen years old, Meridian begins her ornithology studies at the University of Chicago. She soon is drawn to Alden Whetstone, a brilliant, complicated physics professor who opens her eyes of the fundamentals and poetry of his field, the beauty of motion, space and time, the delicate balance of force and energy that allows birds to fly.

Entranced and in love, Meridian defers her own career path and follows Alden west to Los Alamos, where he is engaged in a secret government project (eventually known as the atc bomb).

Church’s debut will likely strike a chord, especially with women who find that not has changed in our patriarchal society since Meri’s time, and that Meri’s story might well be their own.

Please join me for the discussion of this interesting book which takes you back to a time we all can relate to.

We will be meeting at Barbara Garvin’s home, 1865 Eton Dr, Hoffman at 1:00 on September 19<sup>th</sup>.  
[nivragb@aol.com](mailto:nivragb@aol.com)

Barbara Garvin

***Stupid Things I Won’t Do When I Get Old***

By Steven Petrow

Award winning journalist, Petrow, candidly addresses the fears, frustrations, and stereotypes that accompany aging; he does this with wit, irreverence, and humor. Although one might say the book itself is ageist and stereotypical, this will stimulate our thoughts and discussion on aging well. Remember, “getting old is a privilege”.



**Novel Approach Booklist 2022-2023**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Title and Author</u></b>	<b><u>Discussion Leader</u></b>
Sept 19	The Atomic Weight of Love by Elizabeth J. Church (HF)	Barb
Oct. 10	Stupid Things I Won’t Do When I Get Old by Steven Petrow (NF)	Janet
Nov. 21	The Dictionary of Lost Words Pip Williams (HF)	Fran
<b><u>2023</u></b>		
Jan. 16	Go back to where you came from, you terrorist! by Wajahat Ali (NH)	Genevieve-Z00m
Feb.20	Finding Me: A Memoir by Viola Davis	Judy-Zoom
March 20	Take My Hand by Dolen Perkins-Valdez (HF)	Carol-Zoom
April 17	Clementine, The Life of Mrs. Winston Churchill by Soniz Purnell (NF)	Kathy
May 15	The Indigo Girl by Natasha Boyd (HF)	Anne
June 12	Planning Meeting	

## PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE



Ken Olson

As we look ahead to the fall and the new AAUW year, what lies ahead on the public policy front? Both the US Congress and the Illinois Legislature are on a break as I write this, so it is a good time to look at what has been done and what is still needed.

The recent sessions have been very productive at both the state and federal level. In past articles we've highlighted a bit of what has been done in the state level, in particular the state budget that has provided increases in year-to-year spending on Education, Healthcare, Human Services, and Public Safety. We need to continue to support these positive trends that are important for reaching AAUW Goals now and in the future. Illinois is a stalwart in protecting reproductive health care for women. This needs to be supported and continued.

At the Federal level both Congress and the Administration have been active. [The Student Loan Relief for Borrowers](#) that was just announced by President Biden addresses one of AAUW's major goals of making college more affordable. The administration has also taken steps that it can to improve access to health care for all and reproductive care for women, to control inflation and protect the environment.

What has Congress Done? Congress has passed H.R.5376 [117th] - Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, H.R.3967 [117th] - Honoring our PACT Act of 2022, H.R.3684 [117th] - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and H.R.1319 [117th] - American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, to name just a few. They are very large bills in words and dollars, but address inflation, health care, roads, bridges and airports, internet access, research, jobs and more. Some passed with bi-partisan support, while others were with only Democratic votes. If you would like more details, I invite you to visit <https://www.congress.gov/>.

We are now moving rapidly into fall and the mid-term elections. Ads are already becoming very noticeable. At the state level we will be voting for Governor, other state officers, all members of the Assembly, some state Senators and more. One additional item will be an amendment to the Bill of Rights Article of the Illinois Constitution known as the "Workers Right Amendment". It provides that employees shall have the fundamental right to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing for the purpose of negotiating wages, hours, and working conditions, and to protect their economic welfare and safety at work. It was passed by both chambers of the legislature and if it receives 60% or more of the vote in the fall, it will become part of the Illinois constitution.

At the National level, Senator Tammy Duckworth and all members of the House are up for election. We are non-partisan, but it is important to elect candidates at the local, state and national level who are committed to protecting the right to vote, protecting access to healthcare for women and all, providing family and medical leave, addressing gun violence, supporting public education, protecting the environment and working for justice and equity. That is a long list for priorities, but be sure to vote and make your voice heard. We can and will make a difference.

**Continue reading Public Policy Updates on page 6....**



## Fall Mum Sale: Raising funds for AAUW and a Harper College student

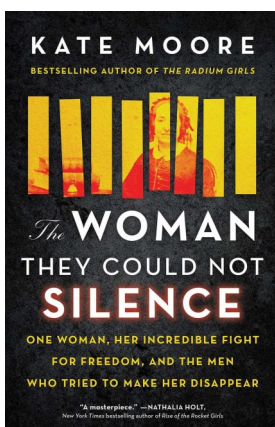
Congratulations is extended to everyone for another successful Mum Sale fundraiser! We sold 96 dark red, yellow, purple, white, and bronze mums at \$17 each or \$16 each if you buy three or more. The pick-up place will be changed this year

due to my move to Lemont. Genevieve graciously offered her lawn at 208 West Beech Drive in Schaumburg. Pick-up times are from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. We will need some volunteers to help with distribution of the mums on that day. Thank you to everyone who supported this educational fundraising effort. You can be proud of your efforts to help women and girls in their pursuit of higher education. **Judy Stewart**

## Celebrating Women

Kathy & Peg

Celebrating Women will resume on Monday, October 17 at 1 P.M. on Zoom when we discuss the HBO documentary, **“The Janes.”** In short, a dozen or so women came together in Chicago in the late 1960s to secure abortions for desperate women at a time when it was illegal in most of the country. They did it not for money, but to give women an option. The HBO link is <https://www.hbo.com/movies/the-janes>. If you do not subscribe to HBO, perhaps you can watch with a friend who is a subscriber. More links will follow later for those who can't watch it but want to read about it.



In December (date TBA) we plan to discuss the amazing story of Elizabeth Packard (1816-1897) an Illinois woman and mother of six who took on the legal system after being committed to the Illinois State Hospital in Jacksonville, Illinois in 1860 at the request by her husband. The book, *The Woman They Could Not Silence* by Kate Moore, is her story. Links to information about her will be sent later for those who aren't able to read the book.

## PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE (continued) Ken Olson

AAUW now has a statement on the student loan forgiveness : [https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/press-releases/aauw-reacts-to-president-bidens-announcement-on-federal-student-loan-debt-cancellation/?\\_\\_source=newsletter%7Cclosingthegap](https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/press-releases/aauw-reacts-to-president-bidens-announcement-on-federal-student-loan-debt-cancellation/?__source=newsletter%7Cclosingthegap)

AAUW has thanked President Biden for the Student Loan Forgiveness program and encourages continued work in this area. [https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/press-releases/aauw-reacts-to-president-bidens-announcement-on-federal-student-loan-debt-cancellation/?\\_\\_source=newsletter%7Cclosingthegap](https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/press-releases/aauw-reacts-to-president-bidens-announcement-on-federal-student-loan-debt-cancellation/?__source=newsletter%7Cclosingthegap)

### Upcoming Equal Pay Days

Equal Pay Day symbolically denote how far into the year women must work to be paid what men were paid the previous year. The date is based on the latest U.S. Census figures. Started by the National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE) in 1996 and publicized by AAUW, the goal of Equal Pay Day is to raise awareness about the gender wage gap. Because the pay gap varies significantly among different communities, Equal Pay Days have been added to the calendar and several remain to be recognized. This reflects that fact that many women must work far longer into the year to catch up to men. These are the remaining dates for 2022.

Black Women's Equal Pay Day is September 21. Black women are paid 58 cents for every dollar paid to white men.

Native Women's Equal Pay Day is November 30. Native women are paid 50 cents for every dollar paid to white men.

Latina's Equal Pay Day is December 8. Latinas are paid 49 cents for every dollar paid to white men.

Note from the Editor:: Join the Chicago branch on September 17th or plan a fall trip to see this monument. See below.

### Chicago AAUW' Outing to Rockford Women's Suffrage Sculpture Plaza, Rockford

When: Saturday, September 17th  
 RSVP: To Paula Purdue by Sept 8th, paulapatchwork@gmail.com



Rockford Suffrage Plaza - August 18th, 2020 marked 100 years to the day that the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, recognizing women's right to vote. The Women's Suffrage Centennial Sculpture, Rockford's first public art installation honoring women's leadership and celebrating that momentous achievement, was dedicated on October 31, 2020. <https://rockfordsuffrageplaza.com/>

## Jewel Gift Card Fundraiser

Thank you for making our Jewel Gift Card fundraiser on August 15th a success. This is an easy fundraiser, and every amount counts and is appreciated.

Our next two Jewel fundraisers are scheduled for Monday, October 17 and Tuesday, November 29. When the dates get closer, I will send reminders.

Gift card amounts range from \$5 to \$250 per card. These cards can either be physical cards or e-cards.

Thanks again, and I look forward to seeing everyone at our first branch meeting this year. Sue

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**Editors Note:** Read the book that all of Arlington Heights is talking about - *Clark and Division* by Naomi Hirahara. One Book, One Village (OBOV), now in its ninth year, invites the community to read the same book at the same time and share in the experience through related programs and book discussions. I checked with the AHML and you can register for virtual programs to discuss this book even if you live in another community. On site discussions might be limited.

Set in Chicago in 1944, *Clark and Division* is a meticulously researched historical fiction and gripping mystery set against the backdrop of World War II and the incarceration of Japanese Americans in internment camps. Aki Ito and her parents have been released from Manzanar, an internment camp, where they had been detained since the aftermath of Pearl Harbor. The Itos resettle in Chicago, where Aki's sister Rose moved months earlier. On the eve of their arrival, Rose is killed by a subway train. The police rule Rose's death a suicide, but Aki refuses to believe her sister would kill herself and so she delves into Rose's life in Chicago to learn the truth of her death.

Editor: Peg Gallagher, send articles for future newsletters

