



# News By Degrees

APRIL — MAY 2023

## President's Message



### Upcoming Events

- *Novel Approach: April 17, 1pm*
- *Celebrating Women, April 24, 1pm*
- *AAUW-IL Convention, East Peoria, May 5/6 (branch funds can support registration)*
- *Novel Approach: May 15, 1pm*
- *Flower pick up, Genevieve, home, May 19, 9am to 11am or 5pm to 7pm*
- *End of year dinner, May 23, details TBD*
- *Attachments: AAUW-IL registration form; Pay equity pictures; WINGS items*

March has been a month to mark so many things from the accomplishments of so many women as part of Women's History Month to the work still yet to do with Equal Pay Day falling in the middle of March. The UN started celebrating Zero Discrimination Day on March 1, 2014. Of course, International Women's Day is March 8. Some of us may have celebrated Holi or St. Patrick's Day. (I will also admit my family celebrated Pi day.) These dates are to remind us to take the time to observe, bring awareness to and reflect on important issues. (And maybe wear some green.) This year I learned about Katharine Burr Blodgett (January 10, 1898 – October 12, 1979). She was an American physicist and chemist known for her work on surface chemistry, in particular

her invention of "invisible" or non-reflective glass while working at General Electric. She was the first woman to be awarded a PhD in physics from the University of Cambridge, in 1926. This technology is commonly used for windshields and computer screens today. My point of awareness is the women of color history has erased so we will never know of their amazing accomplishments. My action item is how can I raise up my sisters of color and celebrate their contributions and highlight the disparity in pay. Did you have any reflections in March that spur you to action?

April brings elections. I am looking to educate myself on the candidates so that I can make informed decisions. Ken

has been doing a great job sharing resources for issues that are important to our members. I hope that you have taken advantage of the information and even take action by submitting witness slips or signing up for the AAUW Action Network at <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>.

May will be the State Convention. Our very own, Peg Gallagher, is on the planning committee. That is all I need to know to be assured that the programming will be relevant, the speakers will be engaging, and I will come away better from the experience. I am planning to attend Friday to Saturday. I do think doing a day trip is feasible since the convention is in Peoria especially if you bring someone along. Road trip! The registration form is enclosed; Sue is the registrar or you can use Event Bright. The Branch has \$300 available to help with costs. I hope to see you there. - Genevieve



## 2023 AAUW-IL, 98th STATE CONVENTION—REGISTER NOW

### *Everyone is a Leader for Equity*

Friday - Saturday, May 5 - 6, 2023

Embassy Suites by Hilton East Peoria Riverfront Hotel & Conference Center, East Peoria, IL

This year the **AAUW-IL, INC. 98th State Convention** reminds us that **"Everyone is a Leader for Equity"**. I won't repeat what you read in the *Il Connections* this week, but I want you to know that our branch is actively participating. Sue Stauffer is once again serving as our "mail in" registrar. Please use Event Bright to register on line or send your completed form to Sue (registration form attached to this newsletter). Crystal Owney is a panelist in one of our sessions. Genevieve is attending both days. I hope you will consider attending one or both days. I know you will be glad that you did. More details for you on the [AAUW-IL LINK](#) .

**Early bird registration ends on April 15th, so sign up soon.** There are a few hotel rooms remaining at the block price of \$149+tax. Please call the hotel directly at 309- 427-2424; ask for Kathryn to assist you (tell her you are with AAUW). We will gather at 5pm on Friday and conclude on Saturday at 4:30. Even though our focus is on mission-based programming, we will have time for sharing sustenance and conversation with likeminded AAUW members from across Illinois for part of our session as well.

## Novel Approach April and May

### *Clementine, The Life of Mrs. Winston Churchill* by Soniz Purnell Discussion: April 17

Winston Churchill said about Clementine that victory in WWII would have been “impossible with her.” Described as a “deeply researched” account of the beautiful and intelligent Clementine, this book proves to be an engrossing story of a fascinating woman and her relationships with family, friends and politicians.

Join us in person or on Zoom on Monday, April 17; let Kathy know which it will be [ksickles50@gmail.com](mailto:ksickles50@gmail.com)

**Kathy S.**

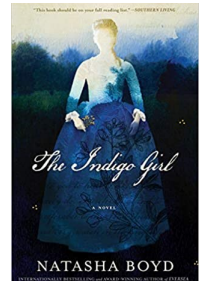


### *The Indigo Girl* by Natasha Boyd Discussion: May 15

This historical fiction novel (1739) depicts the brave accomplishments of Eliza Lucas Pinckney, a teenage agriculturalist, who defied all odds to grow and extract dye from indigo plants. This indigo dye became one of the largest exports out of South Carolina at the time. It brought wealth to the territory, and influenced the course of U.S. history. It is a story which encompasses love, hidden friendship, ambition, betrayal, and sacrifice - a very intriguing story.

Join us on Zoom on Monday, May 15.

**Anne**



## Celebrating Women: Movie discussion on April 24 at 1pm



“She Said” is about the two New York Times women journalists who broke the Harvey Weinstein scandal, which ushered in the #MeToo movement. “Women Talking”, is inspired by real events of sexual assault of girls and women in a remote Mennonite colony in Bolivia.

Watch these on Amazon or Apple TV or check your local provider. Join the discussion if you watch both, one, or none via Zoom on Monday April 24 at 1pm.

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt13669038/>

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt14807308/>

## Jewel Fundraiser: March 27 deadline

Our next Jewel Gift Card order will be placed on Monday, March 27th.

If you would like to be included in this order, please let me know the denominations that you would like to order (\$5 to \$250 per gift card).

Please make your check payable to Schaumburg Area AAUW and mail to Barb by March 27th. If you have any questions about the cards, please call or email me.

Thank you for your continued support of this easy fundraiser. Our branch receives proceeds of 5 percent on each total order that we place.

Sue

## WINGS Mother's Day Gift Bags

Based on generous prior year participation I signed our branch up to donate 4 Mothers Day Gift bags to WINGS. The item list is included in this newsletter. Note the recommendations from WINGS - the idea is specialty items rather than basics. The total value should not exceed \$50 per bag. Let me know if you plan to contribute and which items you plan to donate. You can drop items at my house or I'm happy to pick them up from you. Many thanks in advance for helping.

Lynn



## **SUPPORT FOR OUR BRANCH FUNDRAISERS IS APPRECIATED**

Let your friends and family know to pick up their flowers at 208 W. Beech Drive, Schaumburg on Friday, May 19 from 9 to 11 am or from 5 to 7pm. Your Jewel cards will be available on March 27. Thank you to Judy S and Sue S for championing these efforts to support AAUW Greatest Needs and a student at Harper College.



## ***SAVE THE DATE, TUESDAY, MAY 23rd FOR BRANCH END OF YEAR DINNER***

---

### **March Public Policy Update:**

Thanks to all who helped make our Equal Pay Day a great success. Check out the pictures in the newsletter. We shared information about the Gender Pay Gap with well over 200 people during the event. We were also pleased that Christi Wessel, the district representative for Michelle Mussman was able to stop by to visit and then shared information and some pictures on [Rep Mussman's Facebook page](#). Later that evening we were also able to share some of the information with several of Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi's staff at his Town Hall

Looking at policy activity, one way to tell that the state legislature is in session is that the requests to complete Witness slips are coming in. Thank you to everyone who responded to our recent requests. They only take a little time and they do help to make a difference. The requests will continue to come as our Representative Michelle Mussman shared that 599 bills have been moved out of committee for consideration on the floor. Our AAUW-IL lobbyist will be tracking and reporting on bills related to:

- Reproductive health and justice
- Paid family medical leave
- Supporting public school funding

Opposing vouchers for private schools

The state budget will also be of interest. Governor Pritzker has outlined many admirable priorities like affordable child care, job training, and investment in classroom education in his proposed budget. It will be important to have the proposal move to reality.

The major upcoming policy event for those of us in Illinois is the April 4 General Election. Vote by mail and early voting are currently available. We will be voting for School Board Members (Elementary, High School and Community College), Library Trustees and Park District Commissioners. The best source of information on the elections is the [Cook Country Clerk – Current Elections](#) page. The elections are important as some candidates support the banning of books, refusing to support the genders of all children and adults, and whitewashing our racial history. One note, there are 12 candidates for the four open positions on the District 211 Board, so it will be important to learn about the candidates views and coalesce around a small group of progressive candidates that will work to protect the integrity of our schools. The large number of candidates mean that candidates could be elected with only a small percentage of the total vote.

Ken



# REGISTRATION

## AAUW-IL 98<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention Everyone is a Leader for Equity

### MAY 5-6, 2023

Embassy Suites by Hilton East Peoria Riverfront Hotel & Conference Center  
100 Conference Center Dr, East Peoria, IL 61611

**Early Bird Registration** - Submitted or postmarked by **April 15**

**Final Registration Due** - April 30

**Register online at [aauw-il.aauw.net](http://aauw-il.aauw.net) OR Mail registration form and payment to:**

Sue Stauffer, 1031 Seaview Court, Schaumburg, IL, 60193    Email: [staufferw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:staufferw@sbcglobal.net)

**Register me for:**

\_\_\_ Friday May 5, 5pm-9pm: Meet and greet, buffet dinner, speaker, and President's reception.

\_\_\_ Saturday May 6, 9am-4pm. Programs, Continental breakfast, lunch and snacks included.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Branch Position if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

### Convention Fees

Early Bird (postmarked by April 15):	Friday	\$65 _____
	Saturday	\$65 _____
Registration after April 15:	Friday	\$65 _____
	Saturday	\$70 _____
Display Table (bring table covering)		\$10 _____
Past State President Discount		-\$15 _____
TRIO Stipend (First time AAUW-IL Convention attendee)		-\$65 _____
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	_____

**Check all that apply:** \_\_\_ Branch Board member \_\_\_ AAUW-IL Board member \_\_\_ AAUW Board member  
\_\_\_ Legacy Circle member \_\_\_ Past State President

**Special Needs:** \_\_\_ I have the following dietary restrictions:

\_\_\_ I am interested in finding a roommate.

**Room reservations** at Embassy Suites by Hilton East Peoria Riverfront Hotel & Conference Center, East Peoria, \$149 + Tax. Please call the hotel directly at 309- 427-2424; ask for Kathryn to assist you (tell her you are with AAUW). Please call today as rooms are very limited. **Following current guidelines, masks are optional.**



**Branch members shared details on Equal Pay Day with patrons leaving the Jewel on Tuesday, March 14, 2023**



***Thanks Ken, Lynn, Sue, Judy S, Barb, & Peg***

**SUGGESTED ITEMS LIST FOR MOTHER'S DAY  
LET LYNN KNOW IF AND WHAT YOU WANT TO CONTRIBUTE  
lynnpriebe@gmail.com**



Donors are asked to buy items and fill small gift bags or cellophane bags (see example above) for Mother's Day. Please spend no more than \$50.00 on each bag. Please do not include money in the bags. Gift cards (\$15 Value) can be given, but need to be handed to a staff member to hand out to clients, **PLEASE DON'T PUT THEM IN THE BAGS.**

**NOTE:** The items below are only suggestions, get creative. We ask for specialty items such as Bath and Body lotions and washes etc. We already supply basics that you can get at the grocery store such as Suave shampoo and conditioner. Just think "What would I want for Mother's Day"?

**PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE:** Travel sized toiletries, used products, makeup such as foundation, blush and eyeshadow, since we don't know the client's skin color/shade or footwear since we don't know their shoe size. Also, we can't give out candles.

Body Wash  
Loofah  
Bubble Bath  
Lotion  
Body Spray  
  
Eyeliner  
Lip Gloss  
Mascara  
Compact Mirror

Nail Polish  
Nail Polish Remover  
Manicure Items for hands and feet  
Foot lotion  
  
Adult coloring books with fine line markers, Journal, Day Planner  
  
Gift card to stores such as Bath and Body, Target, Walmart and Kohl's (\$10 only)  
Give to staff member.