



News By Degrees

SCHAUMBURG AREA BRANCH

NOVEMBER 1, 2023—JANUARY 2024

Upcoming Events

- *Branch program and meeting: Nov 8 Zoom*
- *Give thanks to a Veteran: November 11*
- *Novel Approach: November 20*
- *Sunshine Breakfast: December 2*
- *Celebrating Women: January 8*
- *Novel Approach: January 15*
- *Novel Approach: Feb 19*

President's Message

I recently saw a commercial from the League of Women Voters encouraging viewers to be aware of misinformation and disinformation. The message resonated with me, not only as it applies to ballot box. How often have we passed on information that we "heard" as opposed to well researched facts? I have done that without even noticing. Today we see so many ramifications of relying on poor sources of information and how quickly that information can spread on social media. (Darn algorithms!) Here are some tips to spot misinformation and disinformation:

- **Consider the source:** Who's sharing this information? Does the URL look strange? (For example, an ".edu" domain followed by ".co" or ".lo" is often a fake site.) Check the About page for verifiable information. Is there evidence of partisanship or bias?
- **Check the date:** It's easy to get incensed over an article on Twitter...only to realize it was published years ago and no longer applies.
- **Cross-check:** Check



trustworthy, reliable news sources to see if they are reporting the same information. Don't

rely on social media as your news source - remember that social media and search engine algorithms often present stories that reinforce your current views, rather than a balanced perspective. Seek a variety of sources.

- **Read past the headline:** You know how tabloids post scandalous headlines and follow them with articles that are relatively mundane? Unfortunately, political outlets do that too. It's easy to take a snippet out of context to make an article look like it will be more dramatic than it actually is. (Continued on page 2)

December Sunshine Breakfast



Let's get together and enjoy the holiday season on December 2 at Richard Walker's, 1300 N Roselle Rd. We will gather at 9 o'clock, enjoy your wonderful breakfast, and then we will put together the stockings for wings. Start the month of December out right with your AAUW friends.

Lynn & Mary

President's Message (continued)

- **Question emotionally charged content:** Is the person or post using emotionally manipulative language? That's a red flag. Reliable sources let the facts influence your response, not emotional language.

When you spot inaccurate information, follow these tips to keep it from spreading:

- **Don't engage:** Every like, click, share, and comment contributes to the piece's rate of engagement, which tells the website that they should show it to more people and tells the search algorithms to show you more content like this. Many outlets take advantage of this, posting headlines that they know will have you firing back a response – because good or bad, that response will promote their piece. (Reader Beware: Some people are paid in either money or political influence to produce and repeat fake news via social media and the internet.)
- **Don't repeat bad information.** Studies show that repeating bad information, even to debunk it, makes people more likely to remember the bad information and not your accurate information. Find ways to call out the bad information without repeating it.
- **Do share accurate trustworthy information.** Without mentioning the wrong information, set the record straight by sharing the correct messages.
- **Do report and block when needed.** If you see content online that you believe is false or misleading, you can report it to the host social media platform. When you see disinformation related to elections and voting online, report it to [ReportDisinfo.org](https://www.reportdisinfo.org). Block users you don't know who share mis- or disinformation.

I am grateful that AAUW does the research and shares the facts that I can rely on. Lynn and Mary also find programs for our group that are presented by well informed speakers. Ken shares great resources on public policy issues facing us today. Even the Novel Approach and Celebrating Women groups bring forth a diverse set of voices to widen our view beyond our own experience. - Genevieve

November Program and General Meeting—Wednesday, Nov. 8 at 7pm

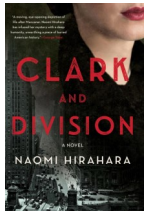
Our next meeting will be a **Conversation with Maya-Camille Broussard**. It will be an online program through the Schaumburg Library.



Maya-Camille Broussard is the star of Netflix's *Bake Squad* and owner of the Chicago-based Justice of Pies. She will share her love of pies, and how she uses her love of food to have a positive effect on the local community. She works hard to encourage young bakers by telling the story of her struggles and success. Get ready to learn how to make the best pumpkin pie ever this holiday season. We will have a short discussion and brief business meeting following the program. Make sure to register through the Schaumburg Library. <https://www.schaumburglibrary.org/>

Lynn & Mary

Novel Approach — November 20



On November 20, I will be discussing the book *Clark & Division*. It will be in person and on zoom. The story takes place in 1944 in Chicago, where Japanese Americans were resettled after the war. The family arrives in Chicago to find out their daughter Rose is dead. As the story unfolds, the sister, Aki (main character) confronts multiple questions. Will she shame the family if she keeps investigating? What happened in Rose's life to make her want to do this? This is a multi-layered mystery. Many of these events happened to Japanese Americans during World War II. I hope you will join us for the discussion. Let Fran know if you are coming to her home. Fran

Jewel Card Fundraiser — November 27

Our next Jewel Card order will be placed on Monday, November 27th, (right after the Thanksgiving weekend). 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 card.

This is always a great time to purchase extra gift cards to donate to charitable organizations or to others who would appreciate a little extra help with their grocery shopping for the holidays. Please send your payment to Barb by November 27th and thank you for your continued support. Sue

WINGS donation—Stocking supplies and assembly

It's beginning to look a lot like....(NOT REALLY) but it's not too early!

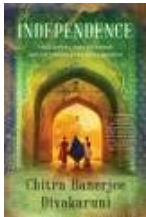
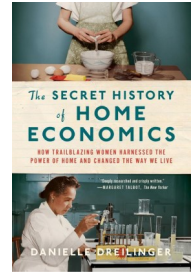
WINGS would love our branch to make holiday stockings again - I've committed to 65 stockings assuming from past participation in this project that everyone would be supportive. I will get the stockings and supply the "magic" gloves and fill in where needed. I think everyone is quite familiar with items that could be included - pencils, play doh, crayons/markers, fidget toys, chapstick, etc. Please drop items at my house when convenient for you - there will be a box on my porch in the event I'm not home. Just let me know if you drop something off.

We plan to assemble the stockings at the December Brunch at Richard Walker's Pancake House. Thank you in advance for your support in the collection of items and assembly of the holiday stockings for WINGS! Best, Lynn

Branch plans for 2024 ...

The Secret History of Home Economics by Danielle Dreilinger

On **Monday, January 8 at 1pm on zoom**, join Celebrating Women for a discussion of the nonfiction book, *The Secret History of Home Economics* by Danielle Dreilinger which tells the unexpected story of how home economics began as an intellectual haven for Black and white women who were otherwise blocked from studying science. Kathy & Peg



Independence By Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

Join us via Zoom at 1:00 on January 15, 2024.

Set during the partition of British India in 1947, a time when neighbor was pitted against neighbor and families were torn apart, award-winning author Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's novel brings to life the sweeping story of three sisters caught up in events beyond their control, their unbreakable bond, and their incredible struggle against powerful odds.

Priya: intelligent and idealistic, resolved to follow in her father's footsteps and become a doctor, though society frowns on it.

Deepa: the beauty, determined to make a marriage that will bring her family joy and status.

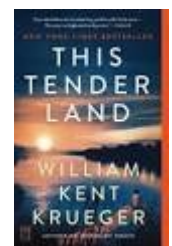
Jamini: devout, sharp-eyed, and a talented quiltmaker, with deeper passions than she reveals.

Theirs is a home of love and safety, a refuge from the violent events taking shape in the nation. Then their father is killed during a riot, and even their neighbors turn against them, bringing the events of their country closer to home.

As Priya determinedly pursues her career goal, Deepa falls deeply in love with a Muslim, causing her to break with her family. Jamini attempts to hold her family together, even as she secretly longs for her sister's fiancé. When the partition of India is officially decided, a drastic—and dangerous—change is in the air. India is now for Hindus, Pakistan for Muslims. The sisters find themselves separated from one another, each on different paths. They fear for what will happen to not just themselves, but each other.. Genevieve

This Tender Land: A Novel by William Kent Krueger February 19 via zoom

Found on the New York Times Bestseller's List and similar to *Where the Crawdads Sing*, this tale of adventure takes place during the Great Depression in Minnesota by the Gilead River, with four orphans (Odie, Albert, Moses, and Emmy) who were mistreated while staying in a boarding school for Native American children. This is a story of courage, cowardice, love, betrayal, and hope that the children experience as they fight demons, prejudice, and cruelty trying to get to safety. A real page turner and a true success story slated as fiction but based on some true events. Judy S



2024 AAUW-IL Celebrating 100 year Anniversary at our Annual

State Convention Friday - Saturday, April 19/20, 2024, in Elgin! I hope you will come and maybe you can give us a hand this year since we are in our backyard. Look for more details in our monthly AAUW-IL Connections newsletter that comes to your email around the 15th of each month. Peg

Public Policy

Spotlight on Politics - Ken Olson - Public Policy chair

In this issue we will look at the state and national legislative scene. They are different, but both impact us so we will take a brief look at both.

Watching the news I'm sure you know that Congress, the House in particular, is in a bigger mess than usual. Three weeks ago the GOP removed Kevin McCarthy as speaker, largely because he worked with Democrats to pass a Continuing Resolution (CR) that was needed to keep the government open. The CR that was passed is a short-term solution as it only provides funding, at the levels included in the previous budget, through November 17. Since ousting McCarthy the GOP tried four speaker nominees. The most recent candidate, Mike Johnson (LA), was elected speaker with all Republicans voting for him on October 25th. Johnson is an election denier who has supported limiting access to reproductive health care while cutting social programs and most agency budgets beyond the levels in the bipartisan debt ceiling agreement that was reached earlier this year. These positions seem problematic for legislative action as they are opposed by Democrats who control the Senate. For a bill to become law it needs to be passed by both houses and signed by the President. This will require bipartisan efforts in order to move through both chambers.

Why is this important? As noted above government funding for most agencies runs out on November 17. Congress has 12 agency budgets for FY24 that need to be passed by that time. There is virtually no way that the budgets can be passed in time, so it is anticipated that another CR will be needed to maintain the FY23 budget levels for agencies and to keep the government open. In early comments Johnson indicated that he would push GOP versions of the budget that are working their way through the House that include funding levels and social policies unacceptable to the Senate. On the other hand the Senate that has been moving budgets toward completion with bipartisan support. There is also a need for aid to the Ukraine and Israel/Palestine. Right now the top priority is maintaining current funding and keeping the government open. Moving forward AAUW will be urging Congress to pass a set of bills that would establish a national standard for paid family and medical leave and paid sick days. Together, the FAMILY Act and Healthy Families Act would provide access to both long- and short-term leave for millions of workers. We will also be seeking to protect access to reproductive health care, assuring fair pay and economic equality, removing bias of all forms in education, maintaining voting rights and more.

In Illinois the Legislature is now in it's six day fall veto session. Governor Pritzker involved more vetoes this session than in the past. I contacted Rep Michelle Mussman and she shared that there are three total vetoes, three Amendatory Vetoes and eight other items to consider in the session. She shared that the most universal issue is whether or not to extend the Invest in Kids Scholarship in some way. I did reaffirm to her that AAUW believes that state funds need to be used for public education and not diverted to private schools.

Please contact me if you would like more information on any of these items.

Thank you to all of our Veterans, Sat., Nov 11

