



ILLINOIS LINK

American Association of University Women – Illinois, Inc.
Spring, 2011 -- Number 291



The PEARLS of AAUW

Philanthropy * Education * Advocacy * Research * Leadership

AAUW-IL 87th Annual Convention

Friday & Saturday, April 29 & 30, 2011

Par-A-Dice Hotel & Casino

East Peoria, IL

COME TO CONVENTION

To learn how our collective efforts are breaking down barriers for all women and girls

To see your branch efforts rewarded

To see long-time friends and meet new ones

Keynote speaker



We are privileged to have Kathleen Cha, AAUW Director-at-Large, as our keynote speaker. On Friday evening we will have the opportunity to get acquainted with her during an informal interview. On Saturday morning she will present the keynote address. She will also lead breakout sessions Saturday afternoon.

Kathleen is a past president of AAUW-California. She is a professional communications specialist who has worked in community outreach, training, and conference coordination for three decades. She is currently the Senior Communications Officer for the Association of Bay Area Governments. She is committed to community, equity, and education.



Ann Gustafson

Chair, AAUW Membership Committee

Ann is a past president of AAUW-WI and a member of the River Falls, WI branch. She has served in numerous positions for AAUW-WI and her branch. She is retired after nearly 25 years as the coordinator of prosecutor-based victim/witness assistance programs that helped crime victims in west central Wisconsin.

Convention Events

PEORIA HISTORICAL BUS TOUR

Friday, April 29, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Departs from the Par-a-Dice Hotel parking lot.

\$22.00 per person * limited to 54 people (minimum 32)

Reserve your space on the convention registration form. (Non-member guests are welcome.)

Learn about Peoria's rich history from Native Americans and French settlers to whiskey distilleries and earth-moving equipment. See Grand View Drive and its century-old mansions and Averyville, Southtown, and Peoria Heights.



Illinois Link

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Editor—Sharon Jenkins
1876 Sextant Drive
Worden, IL 62097
618-692-0231
Sharonj7@madisontelco.com

President—Lois Strom
1708 Clearview Drive
Springfield, IL 62704
217-546-5325
lcstrom@comcast.net

Program Vice President—
Nann Blaine Hilyard
511 College Avenue
Winthrop Harbor, IL 60096
847-872-2688
nbhilyard@comcast.net

Membership Co-Vice Presidents
Jennifer Urish
3708 State Route 3.
Red Bud, IL 62278
Jaux2@htc.net

Medina Gross
833 Prospect
Elgin, IL 60120
medinag@gmail.com

Secretary – Joan Gusewelle
3150 Rock Hill Rd.
Wood River, IL 62095
618-254-2526
joan@thegusewelles.com

Director of Finance – Jean Cairns
1420 71st Street
Downers Grove, IL 60516
630-963-3611
Jeanc5740@aol.com

AAUW Funds Co-Directors
Kathleen Brenniman
428 W. Ethel
Lombard, IL 60148
630-627-5180
kfbrenn@aol.com

Sharon Urban
3 Prestwick Drive
Pekin, IL 61554
309-346-1774
surban@centurytel.net

Administrative Assistant—
Judy Jolly
319 S. Maple St., Box 102
Stillman Valley, IL 61084
815-646-2502
grammajj@aol.com

President's Spring News

By Lois Strom



Spring is around the corner and I can hardly believe that this is the Spring issue of the LINK. Where has the fiscal year gone?

However, there are still opportunities to participate in AAUW activities at the branch, state, and national levels.

The 87th Annual AAUW-IL convention will be an exciting one. Our keynote speaker will be AAUW Director-at-Large, Kathleen Cha, Leader on Loan (LOL) from AAUW. Besides the keynote address, Kathleen will participate in a town hall and will also be one of our breakout presenters. Joining Kathleen at our convention is Ann Gustafson, Chair of the AAUW Membership Committee. Ann will also participate in the town hall and present membership and recruitment ideas to assist branches in these areas. We are very fortunate to have these two respected national AAUW volunteers at our convention. This is your opportunity to ask questions of and learn from the leaders. The convention will take place at the striking Par-A-Dice Hotel and Casino in East Peoria, IL. I encourage you to come on Friday, stay overnight and participate in Friday evening's festivities. You won't be disappointed. Every member attending the IL state convention will vote during the business session. There will be no delegate voting.

The 2011 AAUW National Convention is scheduled for June 16-19. I hope many of you have made your convention and hotel registrations. If not, the early bird registration is through March 22. This convention should prove to be a stimulating experience in Washington D.C. There are so many reasons to attend:

- Join AAUW members from across the country in advocating for change with a Lobby Day.
- Learn new program ideas that you and your branch can implement in your community.
- Acquire new skills and sharpen your leadership skills at workshops.
- Be involved in the future of AAUW by attending strategic planning sessions.
- Attend plenary sessions and be inspired by distinguished speakers.
- Celebrate the inaugural Breaking through Barriers Awards ceremony.
- Enjoy special events such as the Evening at the Embassy, convention banquet, and tours.

And if that isn't reason enough come join the fun and share the joy of an inspiring mission with like-minded women who share AAUW's Value Promise of breaking through barriers so that all women have a fair chance. The One Member One Vote for the national convention will begin on May 1, 2011. Paper ballots will be received on or about April 15. Online voting and ballot scanning begins on May 1. Deadline for mailing paper ballots is May 31 postmarked no later than 11:59 p.m. Deadline for online voting is 9 p.m. EST on June 17.

AAUW has accomplished so much in 2010 and continues to be the most dedicated non-profit organization. Be proud to be an AAUW member and share this organization with your friends and colleagues.



Membership Matters

Jennifer Urish and Medina Gross
Membership Co-Vice Presidents

Medina writes: I got this job because I am passionate about AAUW. AAUW helped shape the course of my life by giving me a strong foundation in the branch and the community and providing me with mentors, the opportunity to learn new skills, develop leadership ability, enrich my knowledge, widen my universe, learn social skills and help make the world a better place for women. I call it my second college education.

I had good friends at work, but when I left that job those connections dissolved and now I only see a few of those friends on rare occasions. AAUW, on the other hand, has been a constant for me for almost 40 years. It has met my needs at many different stages of my life. Right now I'm supporting a young woman running for political office in my community. Although it's not official, many branch members are joining me in that effort. This young woman joined our branch because she knew we had a lot of influence in the community. I hope she sticks around for many years to come.

If we want AAUW to continue to be there for us, we need to reach out to potential members.

Who would benefit from your branch's incredible network and the connections to your community that the women in your branch represent? Who has recently retired and is missing both the social aspects and mission of her job? Who has recently undergone some kind of life change and is open to something new? Who would enjoy hanging out with and working together with the wonderful women in your branch? Who is interested in women's issues? Who wants to make a difference in your community and on a state and national level?

Don't forget once you recruit these members, you have to take care of them, if you want to keep them—welcome them and integrate them into the branch by personally inviting them to events, and involving them by asking them to serve on committees or work at your fundraisers.

To help you recruit new members, AAUW offers a number of incentives: New members who join after March 15 will get 15 month's membership for the price of one year. This could be combined with a Shape the Future event and they could receive half off the national dues. There are other promotions such as Give-a-Grad-a-Gift, and if you recruit some new members, your branch is eligible for a few free memberships. Log onto the member center at AAUW.org and the following link will give you details.
aauw.org/member_center/membership_growth/index.cfm

If you're looking for inspiration and practical suggestions for how to make your branch stronger, access the Chapter Leaders Playground. This is a free service for members and has both printed material and podcasts you can listen to in 15-minute segments, I have been impressed with the simple, practical yet powerful suggestions on this website. chapterleadersplayground.com.

Jennifer and I would like to say that it has been our privilege to serve as your Co-Membership Vice Presidents for the last two years (four for Jennifer). Until July 1, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Jennifer Urish
618-282-3579
Jaux2@htc.net

Medina Gross
847-695-1316
medinag@gmail.com



Public Policy

Pat Porep and Marcia Wherry
Co-Directors of Public Policy

Exercise your right to vote on April 5

After the November election, we barely had time to catch our breath before the media was publicizing the sometimes tumultuous campaigns for local and county level offices. Most communities will be electing candidates to fill municipal leadership positions and/or positions on county, school, convention center, or park boards. The campaign season provides the opportunity for AAUW branches to sponsor forums and panel discussions to help educate voters about local issues and the goals of the candidates. Best of luck to the AAUW members seeking an elected or appointed office at this level.

Equal Pay Day is Tuesday, April 12, 2011

Since 1996, Equal Pay Day has been observed to bring public awareness of the **inequity** between men's and women's wages. Equal Pay Day symbolizes how far into each year an average woman must work to earn as much as an average man earned in the previous calendar year. Branches may wish to request a Proclamation from their local mayor to publicize Equal Pay Day.

Spring Legislative Session

The state budget continues in crisis mode, despite the recent increase in the state income tax. According to the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, 90% of the General Fund budget goes to education, healthcare, human services and public safety. The human services programs have been cut more than other core programs in the last ten years with FY 2011 appropriations for domestic violence, children's services, teen parents, and family planning already at 11% - 30% less than in FY 2009. Furthermore, women take the brunt of the budget cuts because they lose access to services and/or lose employment with the service providers that suffer budget cuts or don't receive state reimbursements.

Our Legislative Consultants, Paula Johnson Purdue and Jenni Purdue, are working to support the AAUW Public Policy agenda. Emphasis is placed on;

- equitable funding for quality public education for all students,
- support for programs to encourage women and girls in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM),
- health care, including reproductive health care, and the protection of women and children from violence, and,
- freedom from harassment and bullying in schools.

AAUW members are encouraged to personally contact and lobby the state representative in their district or come to Springfield to lobby when the legislature is in session. Springfield Lobby Corps members will appreciate your help!

Pat Porep
630-290-0209
pporep@comcast.com

Marcia Wherry
217-585-1296
mjwherry@aol.com

International Affairs Faye Marcus, Chair



AAUW collaborates with international organizations such as: CARE, U.N., National Council of Women's Organizations, and Women Thrive Worldwide to help bring about positive changes for women and girls worldwide. Our International Fellowships, the AAUW International Affairs Committee's reading list-Women in the World-are important resources for branches to become more informed and engaged in crucial issues facing women and girls. Through these collaborations and affiliations, AAUW continues to break down barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.

Go to www.aauw.org/aboutAAUW, and click on International Affairs along the left side of the page for more information.

Read about some important recent news.

The 55th UN Commission on the Status of Women took place in NY from Feb 22-March 4. Representatives from UN programs and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) from all areas of the world attended as did AAUW leaders, members, and staff. AAUW showcased our work in STEM particularly highlighting our outstanding research report: "*Why So Few? Women In Science, Engineering, Technology, and Mathematics*". Last fall, AAUW participated as an observer during the planning phase for this important conference.

International Women's Day was celebrated on March 8. Many branches participated in events to honor this day. AAUW-IL participated in the International Women's Day luncheon that was held in Chicago. The Chicago Inc. Branch has coordinated this event for AAUW. Thank you to Lori Switzer and her committee. For more events, go to the International Women's Day 2011 site. You can begin planning for next year.

Visit the CEDAW website to get some great information about the 30th anniversary of the Convention to End all Forms of Discrimination Against Women. CEDAW is included in AAUW's Public Policy Platform.

If you are planning a program about global issues for women and girls, CARE is a great resource. Helen Robinson, CARE director, will do her best to accommodate your branch. You can contact her through: groups@care.org.

This year, we will again be awarding certificates to those branches who have implemented programs and projects to educate their members and their communities about AAUW's International Affairs programs affecting women and girls. Information has been sent to branch International Affairs chairs and branch program chairs.

Faye Marcus

815-988-4499

fe.marcus@att.net

**AAUW ADVANCES EQUITY FOR WOMEN AND
GIRLS THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION,
PHILANTHROPY, AND RESEARCH.**

Meet the State Board Slate

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the slate for offices for the 2011-2013 term. The members of the Nominating Committee are: Jennifer Urish (District 1), Sarah Jerome (District 2), Donna Sproston (District 3), Doris Schertz (District 4) and Chair Carol Heisler (District 5).



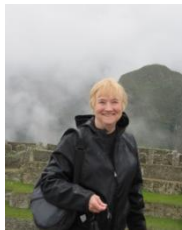
Andrea (Andi) Danis, President-Elect

Andi, a member of Aurora Area Branch since 1993, has served as Secretary, Membership Vice-President, 2 terms as President, Co-Chair for Public Policy, and is currently in her second year as Program Vice-President, and active in the Books-by-Night study group. She is presently serving on AAUW-IL, Inc. Board as District 4 Co-Director, after serving 4 years as Legal Advocacy Fund Chair.

A graduate of Western Illinois University with degrees in Business Education and Music Education, Andi has been employed with Aurora University for 19 years and is currently the Director of Cohort Graduate Degree Programs in the College of Education.

Among other volunteer positions, Andi serves on the Board of Directors of Mutual Ground, Inc. (the Aurora area domestic violence/sexual assault shelter) as Vice-President and the Board of Directors of Fox Valley CourtWatch as Data Manager.

She has been married for 37 years to husband, Ed, has two daughters, both members of AAUW, and one grandson born in May 2010. Andi collects artist teddy bears and rare books and enjoys reading, travel (especially cruising), playing bridge, and spending time with family.



Rachel Campbell, Co-Membership Vice-President

Rachel has been a member of the Elgin Area Branch since 1970. She has served as President of the Branch, VP for Programming and Membership and chair of other committees. She recently finished a term as District 5 Director and currently serves on the State Board as Co-Branch Outreach Director. Rachel is a graduate of Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, MO and received an MS in Library Science from the University of Illinois—Champaign-Urbana. She has been a middle-school teacher and a librarian in middle and high school and public libraries. Rachel has been active on the Board of the Elgin Area Historical Society and various teacher and professional organizations.



Marilyn Van Ausdall, Co-Membership Vice-President

Marilyn grew up in East Moline, IL. She received a BA in mathematics from Morningside College in Sioux City, IA, and a Masters in mathematics from Western Illinois University. Marilyn is retired from the Aledo School District and currently teaches computers part time at Immaculate Conception School in Monmouth. She lives with her husband, John, at Lake Warren, outside of Monmouth. They have two daughters who live in Chicago.

Marilyn has been a member of AAUW since 1983, joining the Monmouth Branch at the suggestion of her former high school algebra teacher, Loryann Eis, who is a Past President of AAUW-IL. Marilyn has served as Branch President, Co-President, and Membership Vice President, and is currently serving her first year on the State Board as District 3 Director.



Cindy Grau, Secretary

Cindy is currently serving as the Co-Vice President of Programs for the Elmhurst branch. She has previously served as President of the Middletown OH branch and the Co-Vice President of Membership for Ohio AAUW, where she helped start a new branch in Lebanon, Ohio.

Cindy is a graduate of Blackburn College in Carlinville IL, graduating with a degree in Social Sciences. She worked for 14 years at MCI in the telecommunications field until she started a family. She currently volunteers at the Chicago Botanic Garden, writes for the Habitat Herald, and is active in her church. She and her husband have two sons who are 13 and 11.

Happy 150th Birthday Jane Addams!

AAUW-ILLINOIS, INC. CELEBRATES THE 150TH BIRTHDAY AND AAUW MEMBERSHIP OF JANE ADDAMS

Linda Henning Cohen, Jane Addams Day Chair

On December 12, 2010, AAUW-Illinois members and friends met at the historic Hull House Museum for a historic brunch. The event celebrated the awarding of the 1931 Nobel Peace Prize to Jane Addams, the 150th Birthday of Jane Addams, and the creation of the Jane Addams Commemorative Holiday in Illinois. The AAUW Carbondale Branch along with students at Dongola, IL Unit School and teacher Cindy Vines, and other key political persons, were involved in creating the first Jane Addams Day on December 10, 2007.

The weather was a challenge, but 70 persons attended the event making for an almost full house. The brunch consisted of historic foods that would have been served at Hull House during the lifetime of Jane Addams. The food that was prepared in the Hull House Dining Hall, served over 6000 immigrants who came to Hull House each week. These menus and foods have been researched and excavated recently by scholars and chefs at the Museum. Hull House chef, Tara Lang, spoke about the historic nature of the items on the menu.

The keynote speaker for the day was author, Louise W. Knight, whose new biography of Jane Addams titled, *Jane Addams, Spirit in Action*, became available in 2010. Louise researched and spoke about the involvement of Jane Addams in the Chicago Branch AAUW. In addition, Barbara Spiegel, Chicago Branch President, researched branch archives and found membership lists that included Jane Addams. Later in the morning, Louise Knight signed her new book for attendees.

Hull House Museum has been extensively renovated in 2010. The square footage of the museum was doubled and the second floor was opened with a replication of Jane Addams' bedroom allowing for many more historic displays. The most prominent display is the Nobel Peace Prize Medal on loan from the Swarthmore College's Peace Museum for one year. As part of the program, Lisa Lee, Ph.D., Director of Hull House Museum, discussed the renovation process. AAUW-IL contributed \$2000 to Hull House Museum as part of a matching grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities that was utilized to remodel and restore the Hull House Museum. AAUW-IL, Inc. is listed on the Plaque of Donors located at the Museum's front entrance. At 12 noon, attendees at the historic brunch were treated to open tours of the renovated Hull House Museum. The attendees enjoyed the tour that brought to life an important part of women's' history and the search for justice and human rights.

Special thanks for planning this event go to the 2010-11 AAUW-IL, Inc. Jane Addams Day Committee that includes Linda Henning Cohen, Chair, Renee Gladstone, Harriett Lindstrom, Sharon Maher, Nancy Rosenberg, Susan Vevang, and Barbara Joan Zeitz.



Linda & Director Lisa Lee



Louise Knight, author

...Continued from page 1

Friday evening

- Dinner
- Conversation with Kathleen Cha and Ann Gustafson
- “Machismo and Mythology: Gender Equity In Cuba” – Marti Sladek (AAUW Downers Grove) will talk about her trip to Cuba with AAUW in November, 2010
- Dessert Reception for all convention attendees

Saturday’s business sessions will include election of officers and branch recognition awards.

Breakout Sessions -- Saturday Afternoon 1:45-2:30 and 2:45-3:30

- All About CARE -- AAUW partners with CARE to provide effective assistance to fight global poverty. CARE works alongside women in developing nations because, equipped with the proper resources, women have the power to help whole families and entire communities escape poverty.
- Illinois Legislative Update – Paula and Jenni Perdue, presenters.
It’s a new session! Find out what’s going on in Springfield from AAUW’s lobbyists.
- Through the Looking Glass: One Hundred Years of Women in the Media – Kathleen Cha, presenter (breakout 1)
Our self worth and sense of empowerment is affected by how we see ourselves.
Learn how to create a media literacy project in your branch.
- Coalition Building—Path to Building Community – Kathleen Cha, presenter (breakout 2)
There is an art to forging partnerships and building a coalition that will be successful and achieve community and project results over the short and long term. This workshop will examine how to reach out and form a coalition or alliance of individuals, groups, organizations.
- The Three Rs of Membership –Revitalization, Retention and Recruitment – Ann Gustafson, presenter
Does your branch suffer from the doldrums? Do you recruit new members but lose just as many older ones? Practice the Three Rs of Membership to help your branch find new members and keep the ones that you already have.

Convention Schedule

Friday, April 29

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 2:00-4:00 | Bus Tour |
| 3:30-5:30 | AAUW-IL Board meeting |
| 4:00-5:30 | Registration |
| 5:45-7:00 | Dinner |
| 7:15-8:00 | Conversation with Kathleen Cha and Ann Gustafson |
| 8:15-9:00 | “Machismo and Mythology: Gender Equity In Cuba” – Marti Sladek |
| 9:00 | Dessert Reception |

Saturday, April 30

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 7:30-9:00 | Registration |
| 8:00-9:00 | Buffet Breakfast, Networking, Sales Tables |
| 9:00-9:15 | Welcome – Lois Strom, AAUW-IL president |
| 9:15-10:00 | Keynote Address – Kathleen Cha |
| 10:00-10:20 | Town Hall – Kathleen Cha, Lois Strom |
| 10:20-10:35 | Break |
| 10:35-10:50 | Awards Presentations |
| 10:50-11:50 | Business Session |
| 12:00-1:30 | Lunch |
| 1:45-2:30 | Breakout Session 1 & AAUW-IL Past State Presidents |
| 2:30-2:45 | Break |
| 2:45-3:30 | Breakout Session 2 |
| 3:30-4:00 | Wrap-Up and Prize Drawings |

Location

Par-a-Dice Hotel & Casino * 21 Blackjack Blvd., East Peoria, IL * 800-547-0711 * <http://www.paradicecasino.com>

Note: the hotel/conference center and the casino are in separate buildings. There is no gambling in the hotel proper.

Use code **0429AAU** to get the AAUW room rate (\$98 + tax, single or double). Rooms must be booked by April 8, 2011 to get this rate.

AAUW-IL, Inc. 87th Annual Convention – “The PEARLs of AAUW”
April 29 & 30, 2011 – Par-a-Dice Hotel & Casino, East Peoria, IL

Registration Form

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____ E-mail _____
Phone (____) _____ Emergency contact # during convention: (____) _____

Please check the appropriate box to indicate your AAUW membership status:

☐ Branch Member Branch _____ Branch Position _____
☐ Member-at-Large ☐ Non-Member

Please check any of the following that apply to you:

☐ First-time Attendee ☐ 50 Year Member ☐ Life Member ☐ Past State President ☐ Present State Board Member

Do you need special accommodations due to dietary restrictions? ☐ Yes (Specify: _____) ☐ No

Do you need special accommodations due to physical disability? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Does your Branch need table space for branch fundraising? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, provide contact information for the branch representative who will be responsible for the table.

Name: _____ E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Please indicate which events you plan to attend:

Friday, April 29: Peoria Highlights Tour, 2:00-4:00 p.m. (\$22) SEATING LIMITED!

Cost Summary

\$ _____

Tour reservations MUST be made by 4/6/11. Guests welcome; please indicate their names: _____

Friday, April 29

☐ Friday dinner, 5:45 – 7:00 PM (cost: \$ 30 for meal)

\$ _____

Entrée choice: Chicken Florentine _____ Salmon _____

☐ Friday evening programs and President's Dessert Reception (Cost: \$0)

\$ _____ 0.00

Saturday, April 30

☐ All Saturday events – hot breakfast buffet and lunch included. (cost: \$ 50 for meals and registration)

\$ _____

Lunch entrée choice: Club sandwich _____ Southwest Chicken Wrap _____

(Note: If you are a Past State President or current AAUW-IL Inc board member, your Saturday cost is \$35.00. You pay food cost only. The \$15 registration fee is waived.)

If your convention registration is postmarked after Friday, April 15, 2011, a **\$10 late fee** applies.

\$ _____

Earlybirds!! If three or more registrations from one branch are received together by April 6, 2011, each attendee is entitled to a **\$5.00 discount** on the Saturday registration fee

\$(_____)

Make checks payable to: AAUW-IL, Inc.

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Fees for attendees cover the costs of meals (including tax and gratuity), a Convention Booklet, speakers, and printed materials. Registration must be **received** by April 6 (if you are going on the tour) or by April 15 (if you are not going on the tour) **to:**

Erika Nicketakis
4378 West Lawn Avenue
Gurnee, IL 60031

Questions regarding registration: contact Erika Nicketakis 847-623-2342 or nicketakis@aol.com

Questions regarding convention agenda: contact Nann Blaine Hilyard at 847-872-2688 or nbhilyard@comcast.net

Hotel reservations for Friday, April 29 must be made by Friday, April 8, to get the convention rate.

Use code **0429AAU** to get the convention rate (\$98+tax, single or double.)

Par-a-Dice Hotel & Casino

Phone: 800-547-0711

E-mail: www.paradicecasino.com

**AAUW-Illinois, Inc.
c/o Lois Strom
1708 Clearview Dr.
Springfield, IL 62704**

TO:



The PEARLS of AAUW

Philanthropy * Education * Advocacy * Research * Leadership

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