



ILLINOIS LINK

American Association of University Women – Illinois, Inc.
Spring, 2021 – Number 311

Save the Dates
AAUW-IL, Inc. 96th State Convention (Virtual Version)
Equity Empowers – Speak Out for Equity!
Friday - Saturday, April 23 - 24, 2021
Your Zoom Room

Message from the President - Lisa Cherry



“Have you had your shot?” Never did I think, in my first year as President, that that would be the question most commonly asked at the beginning of a meeting. One year into the pandemic, I can hear the cautious optimism in the answers as we go around the Zoom screen. AAUW members are refocusing on the pillars of our mission: Economic Security, Education and Advocacy, but now with an overriding effort to understand and address the systemic racism blocking advancement. It’s a journey, but we know that equity empowers advancement and we are ready to speak out for equity!

Inclusion is a word that has tremendously influenced my thinking and actions over the past few years. Our organization once again is addressing inclusion. We will shortly be voting to eliminate our membership degree requirement and open up membership to all who wish to join us in our mission. AAUW’s National Board and your Illinois State Board have both unanimously voted in favor of the amendment. To hear more, please visit the Open Membership article on page 13 and click on the link to a recording of our recent Town Hall Meeting. All members will receive a personal email link to vote on the amendment. Make your voice count, and please vote!

Please join us at the state convention on April 23-24. Going virtual for the first time has not stopped Sharon Lee and Becky Glimco from putting together a powerful lineup of speakers. The convention kicks off Friday evening with Michelle Duster, great-granddaughter of Ida B. Wells. Ms. Duster’s program will address confronting systemic racism. Saturday morning begins with an AAUW update from Gloria Blackwell, Vice President for Programs and Advancement. Kimberly Stratton will focus on STEM and Dr. Gretchen Goldman will speak about the impact of the pandemic on women. We will once again be voting online for our nominated candidates and at our Annual Business Meeting I will have the pleasure of installing our newly elected officers. Attending the convention will be completely free of charge, but you will, of course, need to receive the link to join the meeting. Watch for an early April special edition of CONNECTION for more information including the link.

I am disappointed that I have not been able to travel to meet with branches this year, but I thank those of you who have invited me to your virtual meetings and shared your plans, successes and challenges. I am amazed at how you have continued with mission-based programs, virtual fundraisers and stayed connected. Sincere thanks for all that you do to empower women and girls!

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Friday Night Keynote Speaker

Michelle Duster



Michelle Duster is an author, professor, public historian, and advocate for her great-grandmother, Ida B. Wells. Her new book, Ida B. the Queen: the Extraordinary Life and Legacy of Ida B. Wells, presents an engaging story of the civil rights icon for racial and gender equity, the continuum of systematic racism in America, and Duster's own struggles as a young woman to find a place in the world. She wrote her book for a new generation of young women and dedicates it to those who speak out against injustice. Duster teaches business writing at Columbia College in Chicago. She earned her B.A. in psychology from Dartmouth College and M.A. in media studies from The New School in New York City. Michelle's program addresses racism in America and the pressing need for activism to promote racial equity and inclusion.

Saturday Keynote Speaker

Gloria Blackwell



As the Executive Vice President and Chief Program Officer, Gloria is responsible for designing and implementing initiatives to expand women's and girls' opportunities in nontraditional spaces through leadership and oversight of \$4 million in fellowships and grant programs; designing and executing a comprehensive set of programs to reshape girls' and women's experiences in educational and career settings; and direction of the organization-wide integration of fellowships and programs into every dimension of strategic and operational planning. Gloria also serves as AAUW's UN main representative, leading global initiatives implemented through collaborations with UN bodies and global coalitions.

Before joining AAUW in 2004 Gloria was the director of Africa education programs at the Institute of International Education (IIE). She also managed fellowships programs during her decade at IIE and has held positions as a Peace Corps staff member and volunteer in Africa. She holds a Master's degree in Education and Human Development from The George Washington University and a Bachelor's degree in International Affairs from the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. Gloria also studied at The American University of Paris. Gloria is committed to supporting opportunities and empowerment for women and girls globally.

Saturday Speaker Kimberly Stratton



Kimberly Stratton is a Senior Engineer at Caterpillar in Peoria. Kim graduated in 2008 from the University of Missouri-Rolla with a degree in aerospace engineering and was hired by CAT as a machine controls engineer. Her focus has been on automation and advanced control systems. She is currently responsible for developing the remote-control software on excavators. She has also coordinated several joint CAT/NASA projects including the NASA 3D Printed Habitat Centennial Challenge. Kim has a passion for delivering a high-quality product, taking ownership for her projects, and being involved in STEM outreach. She is a volunteer engineer for the Morton Branch GEMS program! Kim's program supports our advocacy for STEM.

Saturday Speaker Dr. Gretchen Goldman



Gretchen Goldman is a research director in the Center for Science and Democracy at the Union of Concerned Scientists. Dr. Goldman has led research efforts on topics ranging from federal scientific integrity to fossil energy production, climate change, and environmental justice. Dr. Goldman has testified before Congress and currently serves on the 500 Women Scientists Leadership Board and the Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. She holds a PhD and MS in environmental engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a BS in atmospheric science from Cornell University. Dr. Goldman will be speaking on Fighting the Pandemic's Impact on Women.

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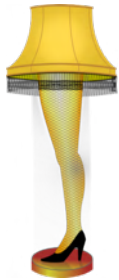
Timing Details and Zoom Link information will follow
in the next emailed issue of CONNECTION

Our virtual state convention **opens on Friday evening, April 23 at 6:30 p.m.**

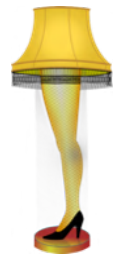
Opening Remarks from President Lisa Cherry
Michelle Duster
Hospitality Session

The convention **opens on Saturday morning, April 24 at 9:00 a.m.**
Gloria Blackwell
Kimberly Stratton

Business Meeting, Installation of Officers
Dr. Gretchen Goldman



Local Engagement Grants
(LEG-Up)!



2020 GRANTS AWARDED by AAUW-IL, Inc.

The following Local Engagement Grants (LEG) were awarded in November & December, 2020:

AAUW Lombard Branch for the purchase of a Zoom License (\$150)
AAUW Rock Island-Moline Branch for the purchase of a Zoom License (\$120)
AAUW Chicago Branch for the purchase of a Zoom License (\$150)
AAUW Jane Addams Branch for the purchase of a Webinar Zoom License (\$400)

Does your AAUW Branch have an idea for a program or activity but need some help with funding? Apply for a grant. LEG grants are intended to help branches fund programs and activities that promote and reflect the mission of AAUW. The simple application forms can be downloaded from the website at <http://aauw-il.aauw.net/grants-for-branches/>. Applications for Start Smart and Work Smart Grants are also on that website. Applications can be submitted anytime during the year and will be acted on within 30 days.

Questions? Contact Carolyn Schjelderup at cs_schj@yahoo.com.

Nominations for State Board

Jennifer Urish, Nominating Committee Chair

Nominating Committee Members:

Cindy Grau, Lori Switzer, Linda Knogl



The Nominating Committee puts forth the following slate of officers:

President-Elect: Donna Jean Simon, Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch

Co-VP, Membership: Nann Blaine Hilyard, Waukegan Area Branch
Amy Green, Springfield Branch

Finance Director: Carolyn Schjelderup, Rock Island-Moline Branch

Secretary: Gaynell Gavin, Alton-Wood River Branch

Donna Jean Simon, President-Elect – Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch



Donna Jean graduated from Valparaiso University with a double major in History and Government. She accepted an opportunity to teach English as a second language in Seville, Spain, where she met her former husband and lived for three years. Upon returning to the US, she graduated from law school at Northern Illinois University with a JD. She practiced law for 10 years with a Chicago law firm and also opened her own practice. She was subsequently hired by Arthur Andersen in their Management Development Department. She spent her career there traveling to Europe, Latin America, and the Pacific Basin training trainers and managing international training programs. She left AA to form Quest International, LLC, a performance consultancy of which she remains a principal. Donna Jean joined AAUW in 2011, to promote equity for women and has served as co-VP of Programs, and co-President of the Wheaton – Glen Ellyn branch. She has served as District Director for District 5 and the Northern District. Donna Jean enjoys the arts – theatre, opera, concerts, reading and traveling.

Nann Blaine Hilyard, Co-VP Membership – Waukegan Area Branch



Nann Blaine Hilyard joined AAUW in 1975 and has been an active member of branches in each state where she worked as a public library administrator: Texas, Kansas, Maine, North Dakota, and (since 1998) Illinois. She has held many branch offices, including five terms as president (16% of her life). She was president of AAUW-ND and has been AAUW-IL public policy director, Link editor, program vice president, and finance director. She served on the AAUW national Public Policy and Branch Program Resources Committees. She is secretary of the Gender Equity Fund. She is actively involved in the American Library Assn., P.E.O., Rotary, and Zion Woman's Club. She makes quilts so that she will not drown in fabric.

Amy Green, Co-VP Membership – Springfield Branch



Amy Green grew up in Springfield. She graduated from Monmouth College in 1979 with a BA in English. After working in retail management for over a decade, Amy studied accountancy at Sangamon State University (now UIS) and earned her CPA credentials. For the next 25 years she worked as an auditor for the Illinois Teachers' Retirement System. She is now happily retired. Amy has been an active member of the Springfield Branch since 1996. She has held many positions on the Springfield Branch board, including president from 2006 to 2008 and she is currently serving as branch president again. Amy was elected to the AAUW- IL board in 2008 and served as the Vice President for Programs, completing her term in 2010. She currently serves as AAUW Funds Co-director for the Springfield Branch. Amy believes whole-heartedly in the importance of AAUW's mission and she also cherishes the friendships she has been blessed with through AAUW.

Gaynell Gavin, Secretary – Alton-Wood River Branch



Gaynell Gavin is originally from Alton, Illinois. She earned her JD from Washington University in St. Louis and her PhD from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is the author of *Attorney-at-Large*, fiction described by one reviewer as “equal parts satirical, funny . . . tender” and of *Intersections*, a poetry collection. Additionally, Gay edited *To Unsnare Time's Warp, an anthology of prose and poetry on dogs and their people*. Her work appears in many journals and anthologies. After retiring from Claflin University in South Carolina, she returned to Alton in 2018, where she has many relatives, and lives with her three dogs. She welcomes visits from friends and family, especially her son, stepchildren, and grandchildren.

Finance Director Elect becoming Finance Director (so not on the ballot):

Carolyn Schjelderup, Finance Director – Rock Island-Moline Branch



Carolyn Schjelderup, Director of Finance-Elect – Rock Island/Moline Branch (District 3) Carolyn graduated from Illinois State University with an MS in Biology and minors in Chemistry and Education. She retired from Illinois Central College in 2007 as Professor of Biology, after teaching there for 33 years. She joined AAUW in 1994, and was a member of the Pekin AAUW Branch for 13 years, serving on various committees, two terms as Treasurer and one term as President. After retiring, remarrying and moving, she transferred membership to the Rock Island/Moline AAUW Branch where she has served as secretary, Finance Officer and currently President. Carolyn has served on the AAUW-IL State Board as District 3 Director and Finance Director.

Details for voting in the Virtual Election follow on the next page.

Election Details

Because we are not meeting in person this year, we will be electing new officers with an online survey. There are three ways to vote:

- ☐ You have received a link to the online ballot in the March 15 issue of Connection. Please follow the link and vote.
- ☐ You can vote online using the "VOTE" button on the [state website](#) [aauw-il.aauw.net/](#)
- ☐ There is also a ballot below that you can mail back with your votes.

The slate of officers is:

President-elect	Donna Jean Simon	Wheaton-Glen Ellyn
Co-Membership Vice Presidents	Nann Hilyard Amy Green	Waukegan Springfield
Secretary	Gaynell Gavin	Alton-Wood River

Jennifer Urish, Chair
Nominating Committee
AAUW-IL, Inc.
JenniferUrish@gmail.com

AAUW-IL, Inc. 2020 Election

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
President-elect	Donna Jean Simon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Co-Membership Vice Presidents	Nann Hilyard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Amy Green	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secretary	Gaynell Gavin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thank you for voting. Please mark your ballot and mail to Lisa Cherry postmarked by April 23, 2021.

Lisa Cherry
2S713 Parkview Drive
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137



Sally Vogl
Co-Membership VP

Membership Matters



Nann Blaine Hilyard
Co-Membership VP

“Reach out, reach out and touch someone....”

Do you remember the catchy tune the Bell System used to promote long-distance calling? It ran from 1979-1982.*

For the past year we’ve been advised to exercise that “abundance of caution” and NOT physically touch anyone who is not part of our household. But not touching doesn’t mean not reaching out!

Blogger Eric Allen writes, “Isolation and social distancing has created a deficit in connection with others that many are discovering can’t be fulfilled by social media, or even texting. There is such value in hearing someone else’s voice, and for them to hear your voice. It’s extremely difficult to convey tone or emotion in a text. There’s an intimacy that can’t be replicated. If you are feeling disconnected, make it a point to connect with someone using that ‘phone’ app on your smartphone. In other words, reach out and touch someone.”**

We are AAUW members because we support the mission. We are also AAUW members because of the people. From making acquaintances at that first branch meeting to lively discussions at interest groups, from field trips to book sales -- we have come to count those in our AAUW circle among our very closest friends.

Think of that circle as elastic and ever-expanding. How do you welcome a new member in your branch? Do you leave it up to the membership chair to provide orientation? Who provides the introduction to the meeting schedule and the interest groups? Do you give the new member an opportunity to help with a project? If you get together with AAUW friends outside of meetings—an ongoing breakfast club or lunch bunch—do you ask that new member to join you, just to get acquainted? When your branch newsletter includes the contact information for that new member have you picked up the phone and made a “hi, nice to meet you, welcome!” call?

We can all use encouragement in these times. Haven’t seen that long-time member at your branch Zoom meetings? Send her a note (try pen to paper, stamp on envelope) or give her a call to say you’re thinking of her.

How have you reached out to touch your AAUW friends? Let Sally and Nann know!

* For more about the Bell campaign:

<https://clickamericana.com/media/advertisements/reach-out-reach-out-and-touch-someone-1979-1982>

** <https://www.b1057.com/show-blogs/erics-blog/reach-out-and-touch-someone-phone-calls-make-comeback/>

Nann – nbhilyard@att.net

Sally – vogl.sally@comcast.net

THE POWER OF LEAVING A LEGACY

Plan Wisely - for Today's Needs and for Tomorrow

How do you take care of the people and things that matter most to you – now and for the future? Through careful planning, you can benefit your loved ones and your charitable interests while investing in equity for women and girls. Some reasons to create a plan include:

- Taking care of loved ones
- Memorializing someone you care about
- Advancing equity for women and girls through AAUW
- Increasing current income for you and/or others
- Passing more on to heirs with reduced taxes
- Reducing income tax
- Avoiding capital gains tax

As you consider what is important to you and how to reflect that in your legacy, we invite you to reach out to us. Our knowledgeable gift planning staff is available to assist with any questions you may have. You may also request a Legacy Circle brochure by calling or emailing AAUW's National Office. **You can make a difference in the lives of women and girls by joining the AAUW Legacy Circle. For assistance, contact Heather Miller**, AAUW National's Director of Advancement, at: 202-785-7766 or by email, at millerh@aauw.org. **Kim Benziger of the AAUW Legacy Circle Team is also available to assist you** and may be reached by email, at marlakim2@aol.com.

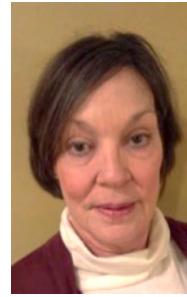
MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR THE FUTURE

If you are considering including AAUW National in your estate plans, please accept our thanks. So often, wonderful and committed AAUW members make these gifts, but we are unable to thank them because we don't learn of their decision during their lifetime. We ask that you let us know so we may honor and celebrate you in the Legacy Circle. These gifts make a huge difference, and we are deeply grateful for your generosity.

Here is some suggested wording for your attorney: "After fulfilling all other specific provisions, I give, devise, and bequeath ___% of the residue [or \$_____ if a specific amount] to AAUW National, a District of Columbia charitable corporation [Tax ID #52-6037388] currently having offices located at 1310 L Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005."



Laura Desmarais AAUW Funds Director



Illinois Branch Contributions to National

As Funds Chair, I receive an annual report from National with a breakdown of our Branches' contributions. I am a number geek, and I started to look at the numbers more out of curiosity than anything else. Here is what I learned.

Greatest Needs Fund:	\$ 89,935.00
Scholarships and Grants	4,650.00
Other identified support areas*	8,067.00
 Total Contributions:	 \$102,650.00

*These include Economic Security Fund, NCCWSL, LAF, Education and Training Fund, Action fund and the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund.

Way to go Illinois Branches!

Contributing to the Greatest Needs Fund allows National a degree of flexibility in their annual planning. This is important as AAUW is exploring ways to advance women's equity. This year they are publishing timely research papers that address women's issues due to COVID and diversity/inclusion in the workforce. They also adapted their programming to offer over 35 webinars which are available to all members and the Equity Network Learning Community. AAUW is developing this Equity Network to attract younger women who are interested in exploring networking, leadership, ways to advance their careers, and other areas that promote women in the workforce.

I encourage everyone to review National's summary of their accomplishments for 2020: <https://www.aauw.org/about/years-in-review/2020-review/>. Highlights include:

- For the 2020-2021 academic year, AAUW granted \$3.9 million to 250 scholarship recipients.
- AAUW is accepting applications for a virtual NCCWSL that will be held May 26-27, 2021. NCCWSL was cancelled due to COVID in 2020.
- AAUW supported 5 LAF cases with \$70,000.00 in FY 2020.



**Tracey Sherman-Falcon & Paula Purdue
Public Policy Co-Directors**



Tracey

Paula

Public Policy Update

Since our Fall Link article, we've had a historic election. On November 3, 2020 Joe Biden was elected President and Kamala Harris was elected Vice President. She is the first female vice president, and the first African American and the first Asian American vice president. Joe Biden is also making history by appointing several women of all colors to Federal positions never held by women before.

At the state level, Illinois is making history itself. The Illinois Senate Legislative Black Caucus has addressed the longstanding root causes of racial inequality and passed the most comprehensive legislative package in the nation to rid Illinois of systemic racism. The Black Caucus built their legislation on four pillars:

1. Criminal justice reform, violence reduction and police accountability
2. Education and workforce development.
3. Economic access, equity and opportunity
4. Health care and human services

HB 2170 addresses disparities in education and workforce development for Illinois' Black population.

HB 3840 eliminates health care disparities for people of color

HB 3653 criminal justice and police reform

The highly controversial criminal justice reform bill, (HB 3653) was signed into law by Governor JB Pritzker on February 22, 2021. Why is AAUW talking about this? Finding how this bill fit into our mission was difficult, however the AIDS Foundation Chicago opened our eyes by putting it in these terms. "Racial justice is health justice. We must engage in the work that roots out racial injustices and inequities with the same fervor and passion that we fight for equitable access to health care for all Illinoisans. It is undeniable that racism has a tremendous impact on the very social determinants that keep our communities safe and healthy. Systemic racism is so deeply rooted and ingrained in every sector of our society, from health care, housing and transportation to social services, education, and the criminal justice system." This is the first step in righting the systemic wrongs that have directly and indirectly impacted the people of color in our communities.

Now on to more legislation that we are trying to also get passed. We have shared the need to repeal the parental notice of abortion law that is currently in place. We encourage you to tell your legislators to make Illinois 100% pro-choice and trust youth with their health care decisions. We are also trying to pass the REACH Act (Responsible Education for Adolescent and Children Health Act.) along with the Illinois Healthy Youth Act (IL HYA) Both bills are seeking to update the personal health and safety education in all grades to make sure they are inclusive, comprehensive, medically accurate and age appropriate.

Please remember that our mission to advance gender equity for women and girls does not happen without public policy. Stay engaged and remain active.



Each year, Equal Pay Days are recognized worldwide to bring greater awareness to racial and gender pay disparities. The dates symbolically mark how far into a new year the women in the groups below must work on the average to earn as much as the average white man did in the previous year.

2021 Equal Pay Day Calendar

- **Asian American and Pacific Islander Women's Equal Day** is March 9. Asian American and Pacific Islander women are paid 85 cents for every dollar paid to white men.
- **All Women's Equal Pay Day** is March 24. Women working full time and year-round are paid 82 cents for every dollar paid to a man who works full time and year round.
- **Mother's Equal Pay Day** is June 4. Mothers are paid 70 cents for every dollar paid to fathers.
- **Black Women's Equal Pay Day** is August 3. Black women are paid 63 cents for every dollar paid to white men.
- **Native American Women's Equal Pay Day** is September 8. Native women are paid 60 cents for every dollar paid to white men.
- **Latina's Equal Pay Day** is October 21. Latinas are paid 55 cents for every dollar paid to white men.



NATIONAL AAUW OPEN MEMBERSHIP AMENDMENT ELECTION

This spring, AAUW members will vote on a long-standing membership requirement, which creates a barrier to women who do not hold a college degree. By eliminating this requirement, AAUW can become a more diverse and inclusive organization, better aligned with the needs of women today.

From the AAUW Board of Directors

The AAUW National Board of Directors strongly supports elimination of the degree requirement for membership and will put the requirement up for a membership vote this spring. This important change is a critical step in bringing AAUW's bylaws and membership requirement in line with our mission of advancing equity for women and girls. While AAUW is fiercely committed to the educational attainment for all women, given our commitment to inclusion, this is simply the right thing to do.

Proposals to eliminate the degree requirement for membership have come before the membership for vote a number of times. The Board feels very strongly that while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW's inception, this requirement is now counter to our mission, and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization. Respectful debate that has always been a hallmark of the AAUW community is encouraged. Please send any **comments** to let the Board know of your thoughts on this proposal and exercise your vote this spring. Voting opens on April 7, 2021 and closes on May 17, 2021 at 4:00 PM CDT. For more information, follow this link to view a webinar recording of the AAUW-IL Town Hall on Open Membership: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=911N-YLsnD4&feature=youtu.be> [Sponsored by the online Jane Addams (IL) Branch.]



2020-2021 AAUW-IL State Board

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TO:



OF ILLINOIS

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“Equity Empowers
Speak Out for Equity!”
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April 23-24, 2021