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## *connection*

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### **From the President**

It is with deep sadness that we mourn the passing of Marla Kim Benziger on September 24, who was a past State President, as well as long time Deerfield branch member and President, Legacy Circle Chair and a strong AAUW Advocate. She will be missed. The State Board will be making a contribution in her honor to National.

Judy Harrison, Deerfield Area Branch President said "Her grace, love of beauty, and enthusiasm for AAUW endeared her to all who had the privilege to meet her." A memorial service is scheduled for October 21. [Her obituary can be read here.](#)

I had the honor of attending the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Quincy branch on October 6. "Quincy AAUW celebrates 100 years of advocacy for women, education" was the headline on an article in the Herald-Whig, the local paper. The Mayor of Quincy attended the dinner and read a proclamation honoring the branch declaring October 6 as *Quincy Branch of AAUW Day*, and the local TV station interviewed long time branch members. The branch began in 1923 with 22 members which included Lillian Schlagenhauf, the first female Illinois state senator. The group started a cooperative nursery school in 1924 which is now the West Central Child Care Connection. Members helped provide homes for British children during WWII, advocated for building a new high school, and have been active in promoting equal rights, intellectual achievement (providing scholarships to John Wood Community College and Quincy University) and public service. Since 1934, they have met in the Women's City Club in the historic Lorenzo Bull Mansion. Congratulations to the Quincy branch and best wishes for another 100 years.

I have been promoting the National Public Policy Priorities. It is so inspiring to see what AAUW

[Donna Jean Simon](#)

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## ***Save the Date!***

***April 19-20, 2024, Elgin  
AAUW-IL State Convention***

***Celebrating 100 years of Advancing Equity for women and girls in Illinois!***



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**From the State Board**



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The AAUW-IL board has been considering a book club/study group for all Illinois AAUW Members for some time. Well, it's here!!!

The subject of the books will be **FAMILIES FIGHTING POVERTY in the US.**

The first meeting will be solely organizational. We need your help with some of the logistics and the details. This first meeting will be on Friday, October 27, at 6:30 p.m. Please register in advance for this meeting.

### Register for Organizational Meeting

Then, starting in December, we will meet on the second Friday of the month at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the following books:

December 8, 2023: ***The Sum of Us*** by Heather McGhee. This book comes in two editions - an extended adult version and a "teen" version. Read either one, and you will have the basic ideas.

January 12, 2024: ***Three Girls from Bronzeville*** by Dawn Turner-Trice

February 9, 2024: ***Nomadland*** by Jessica Bruder

March 8, 2024: ***Forgotten Girls*** by Monica Potts

The final "ABCD" wrap-up event will be at the AAUW-IL State Convention, April 19-20, in Elgin.

Thanks to Kate Skegg and Elaine Fisher from the Jane Addams Branch, who will coordinate the Zoom meetings.

In Equity,  
[Carol Heisler](#), Nominating Chair, AAUW-IL

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### Branch News



The Fall issue of the Des Plaines History Center newsletter featured the photo above and this bit of AAUW history:

From 1948 to 1957, the **Northwest Suburban** Chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) ran a summer school for the children of migrant farm workers that came to Des Plaines from Texas every summer.

For the first few years, the summer school met in area churches with instruction provided by volunteer teachers. In 1953, the summer school began meeting at Central School. The AAUW raised enough funds by 1953 to hire professional teachers and a curriculum coordinator for the school.

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### **What Chicago Taught Jane Addams About Making Peace: Lessons Learned During America's Long-Troubled Immigration Crisis.**

**Saturday, Nov. 4th at 2 pm**

Relaunching **WILPF**, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Chicago Branch.

Please register to attend and share this event widely.

A little-reported element of Jane Addams' work in Chicago's Hull House Settlement House is the experience she gained by putting herself in the middle of disparate immigrant communities, living in crowded proximity, sometimes even among long-term 'enemies.' Through her experience during these early years at Hull House, Addams was able to see past stereotypes and culture wars to create opportunities for appreciating and even valuing differences. Those experiences were the bedrock of her ongoing work for peace, labor organizing, and conflict resolution. Her commitment to the Hull House motto of "WITH, not FOR" (working in partnership and democratic equity with directly affected populations -- not trying to tell them what was best for them) continued to define the democratic nature of Addams' work.

Addams. Her research on Addams leans heavily on the immigration crisis surrounding those early years of Hull House and how Addams navigated the troubled times and long-term historical conflicts the immigrants brought with them. Schultz was the former Assistant Director of the Hull House Museum and served on the Hull House Museum Advisory Board. She was a scholar-in-residence at the Newberry Library in Chicago. Schultz has written and edited many books, articles, and papers about Jane Addams, feminism, and the Settlement House movement as practiced at Hull House.

The Chicago Branch RESTART team, a WILPF US Membership sub-committee, is planning this event: [membership@wilpfus.org](mailto:membership@wilpfus.org)

If you can forward this announcement to any activist friends or allies in the Chicago area, please do so.

Submitted by Kate Skegg.

## Register

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The **Chicago Branch**, in partnership with the **Jane Addams Branch**, is once again hosting a virtual meeting via Zoom to showcase three AAUW Fellows and Grantees. Join us from 10:30 to noon on Saturday **November 11, 2023**.

This year's presenters include:

### **Aparajita Santra**

International Fellowship, India

University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign

Architecture and design: Ph.D., Contemporary urban spatial production of cities of the Global South Ms. Santra is researching spatial negotiations of working-class women of lower castes in Kolkata, India using the lenses of intersectionality and spatial justice.

### **Seyma Kabaoglu**

International Fellowship, Turkey

Northwestern University

Cultural anthropology: Ph.D., Cultural anthropology

Ms. Kabaoglu is conducting an ethnographic study of politics of doubt and ethical finance in Turkey's Islamic participation banking industry.

### **Dana Fanslow**

Career Development Grant

University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign Library sciences: M.S., Social Justice & Administration

Ms. Fanslow's work consists of educating others that literary collections, programs, and physical spaces should reflect that the world is not one-dimensional so individuals can learn about themselves, as well as others.

Please register in advance for this meeting. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Sponsored by [Chicago Inc. branch](#) in partnership with the Jane Addams Online branch of AAUW. For more information, contact [chicagoaauw@hotmail.com](mailto:chicagoaauw@hotmail.com)

*If your branch has a program or recognition or an idea you'd like to share, please [email Jennifer Urish](#) by the 14th of each month.*

Our Mission: Gender Equity & Economic Security

Our Values: Intersectionality Inclusive Intergenerational Empowering

Our Focus: Economic Security Education Advocacy



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