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## 2024 Convention Updates

Online registration is now open!

Early Bird Registration must be submitted or postmarked by March 18th. Final registration must be submitted or postmarked by April 8th.

Use a credit card and register online below, or [download the paper registration form](#) and mail a check to Sue Stauffer.

*Celebrating 100 Years of Empowering Women*

[Register Online](#)

## AAUW-IL Celebrating 100 Years of Empowering Women at the 99th State Convention, April 19-20 in Elgin, IL.

AAUW-IL was established in 1924 and conventions began the following year. For 100 years AAUW-IL has been working to help women by promoting education for all, pressing for equity in the workplace, and pushing for equality in pay. Based on prior convention evaluation data, convention committee contributions, and AAUW-IL board input, along with celebrating our past this year we will recognize and plan for the work ahead. For years to come, AAUW-IL will be supporting the AAUW mission of Advancing gender equity through research, education and advocacy.

AAUW-IL President Donna Jean Simon will kick off the Convention on the evening of April 19th with the President's 100 Year Celebration Reception. As we gather at 5:00 PM at ECC with light appetizers we will enjoy seeing old friends, making new acquaintances, and reminiscing on our past 100 years. Dinner and a program will round out our evening. Take some time at the convention to visit the tables set up in the ECC Business Center vestibule where the Branch Displays are showcased. If you are staying at the Holiday Inn in Elgin, you can jump aboard the hotel shuttle to transport you to and from the Friday evening events.

On the morning of Saturday April 20th, we will start with a buffet breakfast from 7:30 to 9 in room E121. At 9:00 we will kick off our programming with a welcome from our AAUW-IL President Donna Jean Simon. Speakers and members will spend the day on our continued focus on the Biennial Action Priorities. In addition, Jenni Purdue, our lobbyist in Springfield, will provide legislative updates. We will have the annual business meeting, affinity group breakouts, and of course, celebrate our 100 years of AAUW-IL accomplishments as we plan together to advance the AAUW mission in the future.

Plenaries and Panels: Throughout the day, AAUW members will interact with presenters who can help us make a difference.

1. **Dr. Suzanne Chod**, Professor of Political Science, Coordinator of Gender and Sexuality Studies, North Central College, Naperville, IL. Dr. Chod has insights for us on how to navigate the upcoming election, get out the vote, and discern the truth and myth in the media.
2. In a special effort to address the **AAUW priority of economic security**, we will gather a panel to increase our awareness and support our advocacy efforts toward economic security for women and children. For those who are following the AAUW-IL book discussions, *Families Fighting Poverty in the US*, you will have a leg up on this discussion.
3. The Batavia-Geneva-St Charles branch will be sharing **The Dignity Index**, a program for rating political speech. The Dignity Index is an eight-point scale that rates speech from most contemptuous through most dignified. The purpose of the rating system is to make people aware of the tenor of their speech so that it can be modified to ease division and promote healthy dialogue.

Bring your friends and join us at the 2024 AAUW-IL Convention in Elgin. Watch for additional program and agenda updates on the [AAUW-IL website](#).

Room reservations at [Holiday Inn](#), \$109 + Tax. Or you may call: 1-855-797-6733 and use the code AUW (this is correct, 3-digit code).

Reach out to [Becky Glimco or Peg Gallagher AAUW-IL Program](#) with questions.

## Branch News

**"A Community's Guide to Human Trafficking"** Wednesday, February 21, 7:30 pm

Our presenter will be Elisa Munoz, the Human Trafficking Victim Coordinator for the State's Attorney's Office Human Trafficking Unit in Chicago. Elisa has been in the anti-human trafficking field for four years. She is a member of the Core Team of the Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force. Join us to learn about exploitation and community members' crucial role in trafficking prevention.

For more information, contact [chicagoaauw@hotmail.com](mailto:chicagoaauw@hotmail.com) or visit <http://chicago-il.aauw.net/>

## Register

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### Chicago Immigrant Advocacy Then And Now "Protections For Bridges Not Walls"

Legal Historian Felice Batlan on immigration lessons from Chicago's past, which inform our policies today.  
Saturday, Feb. 24th at 2 pm

Professor Felice Batlan will explore the role of the Chicago Immigrants' Protective League, the IPL, founded in 1908. The League was a grassroots social welfare organization in Chicago. Through its activism, its leaders became immigration law experts and disseminators of knowledge about immigration laws. It also provided free counsel to thousands of poor migrants in many situations. Crucially, the League's legal practice was not court-based but rather on the ground, where it provided advice to migrants and their families and represented migrants when dealing with the Bureau of Immigration.

In addition to Prof. Batlan, we will host brief remarks by Angela Medina, Executive Director of the Jane Addams Peace Association, and the Jane Addams Peace Book Awards.

Felice Batlan is Professor of Law at IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law and the author of *Women and Justice for the Poor: A History of Legal Aid, 1863-1945* - Winner of the 2015 Willard Hurst Award for the best book in socio-legal history.

This event is hosted by the [Women's International League for Peace and Freedom US](#).

## Register

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The new AAUW-IL state-wide ABCD book club discussion group will meet online on Tuesday, February 27, at 7 pm to discuss **Nomadland** by Jessica Bruder.

The next book on the overall theme of families fighting poverty in the US will be - March 19 at 7 pm: *Forgotten Girls* by Monica Potts

All AAUW members and guests are welcome to our **AAUW Book Club Discussions**. Questions? Contact [Carolheisler@gmail.com](mailto:Carolheisler@gmail.com)

## Register

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### "To Achieve Justice, We Need More Women in Justice!"

Speaker: Chief Judge of the 18th Judicial Circuit Court, the Honorable Bonnie Wheaton

Location: Wheaton Public Library and Zoom

Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 10:00 AM, Central Time

This Women's History Month event is co-sponsored by the AAUW **Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch** and the Wheaton Public Library.

Judge Wheaton, recently elected Chief Judge of the 18th Circuit Court of DuPage County and

In her presentation, Judge Wheaton will highlight the increasing impact women judges are having on the international front, on the national level, and in our own state and county courthouses. An experienced jurist, Bonnie will focus on what different perspectives a woman judge might bring to a case, and why more females should be elected. Judge Wheaton has mentored many female judges and has actively supported their election bids. Bonnie will share some of her unique cases which have generated the most media attention.

## Register

*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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AAUWILConnection@gmail.com

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