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From the President:

Local Branches stepped up to the plate and responded to Nationals appeal to complete the 5-Star Survey for FY 2023. Twenty four Branches received Stars--see below for the entire list! The most awarded categories were Communications and Programs. **Elmhurst Area Branch** and **Batavia-Geneva-St. Charles Branch** both received 5 Stars. What an accomplishment! A total of 5 Branches nationally received 5 Stars; two of those Branches are ours!

The 5-Star Program is the only tool Branches have to communicate Branch activities to National. This is our way of letting National know that we are committed to AAUW's mission to achieve equity for women and children.

Registration for the 2025 Convention in Springfield will open on Monday, February 18th--watch your email and register by March 10th for the Early Bird Rate! This is a great time to get together and experience the comradery of AAUW members. This year the 'Trio Program' has been simplified. The State Board will cover Saturday's Convention fee for all first time attendees. Take advantage of this and show up – experience a room full of women who stand up and make a difference.

Congratulations You're a Star!

The AAUW Five Star Program recognizes branches that align with AAUW's strategic priorities to advance our mission of achieving gender equity for women and girls. In 2024 we focused on more Illinois branches getting recognized for all the great work you do. Last Fall your branch leaders completed in-depth reports to highlight branch achievements in 5 areas: Advancement; Communications; Programs; Governance; and Public Policy.

We are thrilled to report that 23 Illinois branches achieved stars for the program year ended June 2024. Congratulations! <Drum roll> The honorees are:

5 Stars

Batavia-Geneva-St. Charles
Elmhurst Area NFP

3 Stars

Carbondale
Naperville Area
Rockford Area
Schaumburg Area
Wheaton-Glen Ellyn NFP

2 Stars

Aurora
Champaign-Urbana
Chicago Inc.
Jane Addams
Morton
Palos-Orland Area
Springfield

1 Star

Crystal Lake Area
Decatur
Deerfield Area
Downers Grove Area
Elgin Area
Glenview
Monmouth Area
Pekin Area
Waukegan Area

For fiscal 2024-2025 AAUW is moving the reporting window to APRIL. Learn more about the Five Star Program criteria for 2024-2025 and keep reaching for the stars!

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/5-star-program/#FY25>

Sue Topp

AAUW-IL Branch Liaison

What Happened to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)?

By Kathy Battee-Freeman, Co-Vice President of Programs

Have you heard that NCCWSL is going away? Well, the rumors of its demise are a bit exaggerated. Here are the top 5 things you need to know.

responsible for the planning and execution of the conference moving forward.

2. NASPA, previously known as the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, updated their name to the Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education but continues to use the well-known NASPA acronym. NASPA and AAUW share a commitment to advancing leadership and equity in education. NASPA has been organizing impactful leadership events for over a century. This long history exemplifies NASPA's extensive experience and commitment to developing student leaders.

3. Branches may still contribute to NCCWSL scholarships via AAUW. 80% of funds donated will be allocated toward direct scholarship support (registration fees only – not inclusive of travel or incidentals) and 20% of funds donated will be allocated toward the staff time and other direct administrative costs associated with managing the scholarship program.

4. Registration fees and the timing for registering students will be decided by NASPA and communicated to branches on the pages listed below and in AAUW newsletters when available. Branches may still choose to register students once the registration dates are provided.

5. At the time this article was written, the next NCCSWL was scheduled for May 28 - May 30, 2025, in College Park, MD.

While the management of NCCSWL is changing, NCCSWL will continue to be a powerful influence in developing leaders. Read more in depth info at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/events/nccswl/> and <https://naspa.org/events/nccswl/>.



Agent of Change

The AAUW Illinois **Agent of Change Award** recognizes an exceptional AAUW branch member who has served as a catalyst to bring about positive societal change.

The 2025 Agent of Change honoree will be selected by an AAUW Illinois board committee and honored at the AAUW Illinois Convention in Springfield on April 26.

Nominate a deserving changemaker today!

-- Nominations must be received by **March 15, 2025**.

-- Send nominations to aauwildist@gmail.com.

[Nomination Forms with criteria](#) are on the website.

Sue Topp, AAUW-IL Branch Liaison
aauwildist@gmail.com

Public Policy Update

Ken Olson PhD, PAS co-Director Public Policy

review of AAUW Policy priorities for 2025-27. The results are being finalized, and details will be out soon. Recognizing the need to be focused as well as our history AAUW looks to prioritize higher education and domestic issues. AAUW likely will not be in position to comment on all issues of concern but will support coalition efforts to address many issues. You can find links to much of what is being done at:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/documents/>

At the state level there are challenges, but it still operates in an orderly manner. The budget will be a major issue as the state faces a significant deficit while the situation in Washington creates more uncertainty relative to additional financial needs for the state as a result of administration and Congressional action. We are currently reviewing bills submitted for consideration in this session for support or opposition. We will coordinate with various coalition partners to provide a uniform message. We will try to provide as much information as possible, but please watch for and respond to call for witness slips and calls to be a "Two Minute Activist" <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>. Also plan to join us at the State Convention to ask questions and learn more.

Branch News

The AAUW-IL **Jane Addams Branch** invites you to an online program on Wednesday, February 26 at 7 pm, when our state public policy co-chairs, Karen Kortsch and Ken Olson, will lead a discussion. We will review

1. What is happening in the White House and what can we do?
2. What is happening in Illinois and how can we prepare for the spring municipal elections?

Please register in advance. Questions? Email aauwjaneaddams@gmail.com

Register

Book Discussion on Zoom, Tuesday, January 28th, 4 pm - 5.30 pm

The **Northwest Suburban Branch** and the **Jane Addams Branch** invite you to discuss **Signal Fires** by **Dani Shapiro**, which Time Magazine, the Washington Post, Amazon, and others named a best book of 2022.

A teenagers' drunken car accident shatters lives, its secret reverberating through a brilliant boy's friendship with the doctor years later.

Please register to attend.

Upcoming Book discussions:

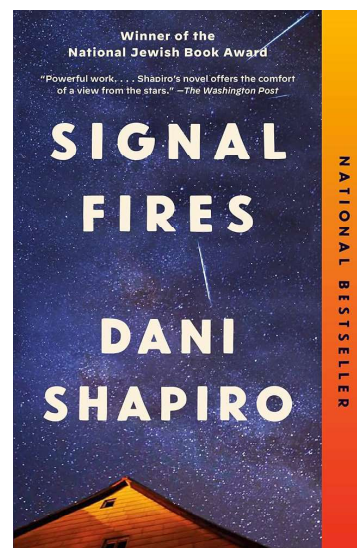
Mar 25: The Wind Knows My Name by Isabel Allende

Apr 22: A Well Trained Wife by Tia Levings

May 27: Crying in H Mart by Michelle Zauner

Jun 24: Fuzz by Mary Roach

Guests are welcome!





THE SUPREMES: WOMEN OF SCOTUS



The Elmhurst Branch is co-sponsoring a program with the Elmhurst Public Library (125 S Prospect Ave., Elmhurst) to celebrate National Women's History Month on Wednesday March 5th at 7PM Live and Virtual.

The Supremes: Women of SCOTUS

Join Tauya Forst, Professor of Justice Studies at the College of DuPage, and Richard J. Forst, attorney, as they discuss the only six women who have been appointed to the United States Supreme Court.

All are invited. Registration is required.

[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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