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From the President

Happy New Year to all! It promises to be an interesting one. AAUW will stay the course and continue our efforts to support equity for women and girls. This has been our mission since 1881. I frequently look back to my early adult years, I am amazed at how our opportunities have expanded. We have forged a new path. Paths are never straight and consist of many divergent forks. Lilly Ledbetter, who died in October, 2024, chose to make a new path. She is one of my heroes. She stood up for equal pay in Alabama in 1998. AAUW partnered with her in this fight. The Supreme Court voted against her in 2007 and she continued to fight. The Equal Pay Act was signed by Obama in 2009. Yes change does take time, but it can happen. There will be many opportunities to speak out and stand up. As AAUW members have done since 1881, we will be vigilant and stay informed.

NCCWSL

As many of you have heard the sponsorship for the NCCWSL Conference is changing. NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, is assuming the sponsorship of NCCWSL as of 2025. Check out their website. Their mission is focused on leadership at the college level and is compatible with the mission of AAUW. This is a great partnership. They are still in the planning stage for the 2025 NCCWSL conference. More to come....

AAUW IL State Conference

Save the date for our annual conference. It will be held in Springfield at the Northfield Inn April 25-26. Hope to see you there!!

Laura Desmarais
aauwilpres@gmail.com

Public Policy

The Illinois lame duck session of the 103rd General Assembly just finished up January 7 and on January 8th the inauguration of new legislators and the start of the 104th General Assembly took place. Karina's Bill, which would allow guns to be removed from domestic abusers finally passed the Senate during the 103rd GA (President Harmon held it up in the Spring pending a supreme court case decision) and the house concurred. As I write this, the new session has only begun so we don't yet have information on what bills will be introduced this session. When Jenni, our lobbyist, gets a list together, Ken and I will get regular updates on what bills we may want to support. There may be witness slips to file or letters to legislators to be written. We will get that info to you through the public policy mailing list and hopefully people on that list will pass it along to their chapter members. There will probably be a lot of bills to consider and we will choose to focus on those that align with our AAUW values and Public Policy priorities.

The Public Policy priorities are currently being revised by the National office and you should have received an email titled **Dues Change and Governance Proposals – Comment Now!** That email includes a link to review and comment on Public Policy priorities updates. If you did not receive the email please go to the AAUW website and look for this information. Also make sure you are subscribed to receive email notices from the National office.

In Solidarity,
Karen Kortsch and Ken Olson
Public Policy Co-Chairs

- Finance Director
- Membership Director(s)
- Secretary

Officers will be elected by electronic vote prior to the State Convention; terms begin July 1, 2025.

Having served on the State Board in many different capacities, including as President, I can attest to how rewarding it is to be part of a dedicated group of people who work hard to advance the mission of AAUW by supporting local branches and promoting National AAUW priorities. In addition, I have made lifelong friends from across the state who share in the commitment to achieve equity for women and girls. Rewarding work and lots of fun – and we would love for you to join us!

Please contact me at danishouse@sbcglobal.net for more information about the state board and the office that appeals to you!

Andi Danis, Nominating & Recruiting Chair
AAUW-IL, Inc. State Board

Branch News

AAUW **Jane Addams Online Branch** Program:

Wed January 22, 7 pm - **Travel Experience as a Solo Woman**

Are you worried about traveling safely as a solo woman traveler? You can get good advice from an experienced traveler. The program includes preparation tips, tour provider recommendations, and examples of savvy, exciting traveling experiences. Get answers to all your questions. Presenter: Maria Manhart, an experienced international traveler of 40 years.

Questions? Contact aauwJaneAddams@gmail.com

[Register](#)

The **Champaign-Urbana Branch** invites you to join us for an in-person talk about the transformative and historical scientific contributions of Dr. Mary Elvira Weeks:

Mary Elvira Weeks and The Discovery of the Elements

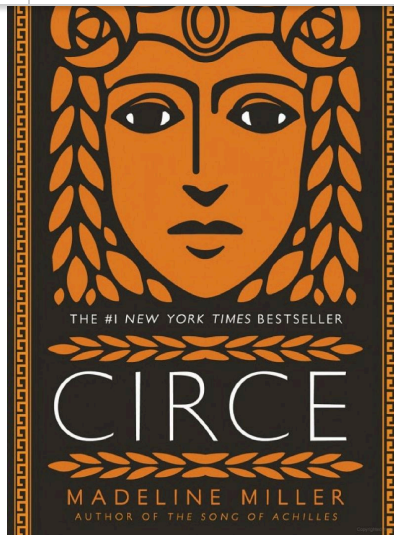
In the 2019 International Year of the Periodic Table, it was appropriate to revisit Mary Elvira Weeks's contributions to the history of chemistry through her publication of the "Discovery of the Elements," and why it became such a popular reference work.

Speaker: **Dr. Vera Mainz**, Chemist, retired Director of the NMR Laboratory in the School of Chemical Sciences at UIUC

Location: **Satterthwaite Room at the Urbana Free Library**, 210 W Green St, Urbana, IL 61801

Time: **10:30am on Saturday January 25, 2025**

We will have coffee and snacks. It will be an opportunity to enjoy seeing one another. Bring a friend too!



The **Northwest Suburban Branch** and the **Jane Addams Branch** invite you to discuss ***Circe*** by Madeline Miller.

Miller reimagines the myth of Circe, the sun god's unloved daughter, who went on to invent witchcraft and enchant Homer's *Odyssey*.

Upcoming Book discussions:

Feb 25: *Signal Fires* by Dani Shapiro
 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!

Register

Navigating Your Retirement Journey: Key Strategies

Sage Private Wealth Group – Speakers Kris Wano and Christina Castrejon

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 6:30pm

All are invited – Please share the link with a friend. Any questions, email chicagoaauw@hotmail.com

Comprehensive Financial Life Planning is more than the active management of investments. It is more than the creation of a retirement plan and it goes well beyond regular portfolio check-ups. In addition to planning basic life events, it also addresses potential events that can drastically alter a person's long-term financial security to include potential threats to their established plan and their quality of life. Sponsored by the **Chicago Inc. branch** of AAUW and Sage Private Wealth Group <https://www.sageprivatewealth.com/>



Register

Chicago Women's History Center Conference, Saturday, March 22, 2025 from 9:30 am - 5:30 pm

Past & Present Strategies to Advance the Rights of Women

Open Call for Submissions

Chicago Women's History Center, Black Metropolis Research Consortium (BMRC), Evanston History Center, and Women & Leadership Archives at Loyola University Chicago are inviting proposals from our community to present lectures, presentations, panels, and workshops at our upcoming Chicago Women's History conference in March 2025. We invite proposals from our community that address the theme: **Past & Present Strategies to Advance the Rights of Women.**

Deadline for Submission Open Call: January 18, 2025

More information and proposal submission form:

<https://www.chicagowomenshistory.org/conference-2025>

If your branch has a program or recognition or an idea you'd like to share, please [email Jennifer Urish](mailto:jennifer.urish@chicagowomenshistory.org) by the 14th of each month.

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Our mission: Gender Equity & Economic Security

Our Values: Intersectionality Inclusive Intergenerational Empowering

Our Focus: Economic Security Education Advocacy



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