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AAUW

of Illinois

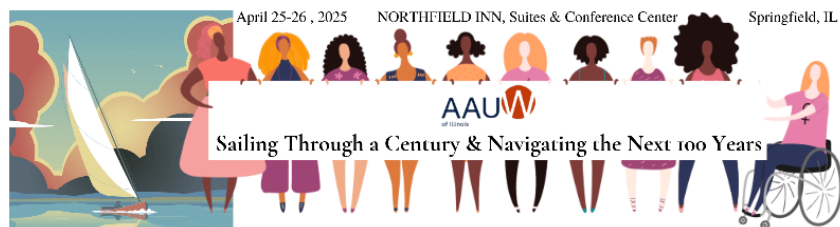
connection

From the President:

It isn't too late to sign up for the Convention in Springfield. We will celebrate the convention's 100th Anniversary. I think back to my first Convention. This is what motivated me to embrace AAUW's mission. The energy of the attendees was welcoming and inviting. Come if you can!!!

Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO, will be the Saturday keynote speaker. She will discuss the changes at National, including the dues increase. More importantly, she will emphasize the political direction AAUW is taking. We can't give up! AAUW has always provided direction and focus for my political action. This is more important now than it has ever been.

Hope to see you at the Convention.
Laura Desmarais



Don't miss out on the 100th AAUW-IL State convention!
Sailing Through a Century & Navigating the Next 100 Years
Friday & Saturday, April 25 & 26, 2025

[NORTHFIELD INN, Suites & Conference Center](#), Springfield, Illinois

We're incorporating a service component by having a menstrual hygiene products drive. If you're able, please bring a menstrual hygiene product to donate. Donated items will be given to a local LGBTQ+ organization.

Visit the [website](#) for details and registration info. Updates may occur between now and April 11th.

See you in Springfield,
Kathyy Battee-Freeman (Springfield)
Jo-An Takamoto-Sabonjian (Waukegan)
Co-Vice Presidents - Programs

Public Policy Update

We all enjoy seeing Spring return and look forward to the fresh rebirth that it brings. We hope and need to work together to ensure that rebirth also occurs in the world of politics. AAUW at the local, state and national level is seeking to make that happen as we strive to fulfill the AAUW Mission: "Advancing gender equity through research, education and advocacy" and our policy goals. While most of the funding for our schools comes from local taxes, the State and Federal Government plays important roles as well.

As a reminder of a few of the things they do, within the Department of Education the Office of Federal Student Aid funds [higher education](#) aid programs like Pell Grants. [Elementary and secondary school](#) spending is used to fund Title I, special education programs, and school improvement programs. The Institute of Education Sciences (IES), which is the [smallest division of the Department of Education](#), funds education research and teaching effectiveness in the US. It also collects and analyzes education data through the National Center for Education Statistics, a sub-agency of IES. You can learn more at the links.

A recap of recent action reported in the news; on March 11, the Trump administration fired nearly half of the Education Department's roughly 4,100 employees, leaving the agency with a skeletal staff of about 2,183. Now the scope and impact of those layoffs are beginning to take shape. Lawyers who worked on regulatory, legislative and education programs in the department's general counsel's office are expected to be terminated alongside policy staff and technical workers in special education and information technology offices.

Other cuts targeted the department's elementary and secondary education office, as well as the agency's office for English language acquisition for immigrant students. The firings are the first step toward the administration's goal of fully shutting down the department, officials said, though such a move would require congressional approval.

AAUW has been speaking out on the issue. In case you haven't seen them, the following are links to recent releases from National:

- [AAUW Condemns Actions to Undermine the U.S. Department of Education, March 12, 2025](#)
- [AAUW Strongly Opposes Linda McMahon's Nomination for U.S. Secretary of Education, February 13, 2025](#)
- [AAUW Denounces District Court's Decision to Vacate 2024 Title IX Rules, February 3, 2025](#)

We have also been invited and encouraged as individual members to raise our voices with letters to Congress through the ["Two-Minute Activist."](#) If you haven't acted already, the currently active advocacy letters are available at the link. Please be sure to join with members from across the nation in signing these and future letters.

At the state level things are quieter as the legislature is beginning their work. We are currently meeting with coalition partners and reviewing proposed legislation, using the AAUW policy priorities as a guide, to identify legislation to support or oppose. As initial action in this session, the following RESOLUTIONS supported by AAUW have been adopted

- HR115 - STOP-IMMIGRATION ACTION
- HR116 - CONDEMNS-SPENDING FREEZE
- HR117 - CONDEMNS-TARGETING DEI
- HR119 - STOP-TARIFF PLANS

As we move forward, we encourage you to vote in the upcoming local elections for candidates who support AAUW priorities, watch for and respond to witness slip relative to legislation being acted on in Illinois and join with members from across the nation signing and sharing letters available through the "Two-Minute Activist." If you have questions please contact us. We look forward to seeing you at the State Convention.

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

Branch News

We are participating in a presentation by Leslie Goddard - **The Mystery of Nancy Drew**. Daring. Decisive. Discerning. What's not to love? Very few fictional characters enjoy the fame, celebrity and longevity of Nancy Drew. Learn more about America's favorite sleuth - her creators, her reach and her impact on generations of readers. The presentation is hosted virtually by Harper College via Zoom. There will be a follow up discussion after the presentation and we would love to meet some of our Illinois AAUW members. Please join us. To register please contact either of the following Schaumburg branch members for the Zoom link.

Lynn Priebe lynnpriebe@gmail.com

Mary Memhardt kzdunek@aol.com



Book Discussion on Zoom, Tuesday, March 25th, 4 pm - 5.30 pm

The **Northwest Suburban Branch** and the **Jane Addams Branch** invite you to discuss **The Wind Knows My Name** by Isabel Allende.

The lives of a Jewish boy escaping Nazi-occupied Europe and a mother and daughter fleeing twenty-first-century El Salvador intersect in this bestselling novel about war and immigration. It is both a testament to the sacrifices that parents make and a love letter to the children who survive the most unfathomable dangers.

Please register to attend.

Upcoming Book discussions:

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](#)

The Jane Addams branch invites you to a **Zoom meeting, Thurs., March 27, 7 pm: Exploring the Dinner Party by Judy Chicago**

What is the symbolism in The Dinner Party by Judy Chicago? A controversial art installation.

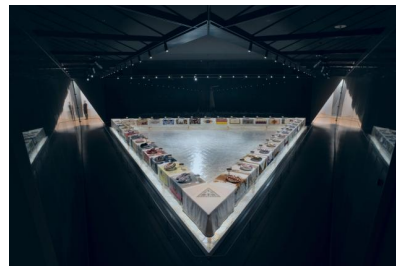
The Dinner Party is a **monument to women's history and accomplishments**. It is a massive triangular table—measuring 48 feet on each side—with thirty-nine place settings dedicated to prominent women throughout history and an additional 999 names are inscribed on the table's glazed porcelain brick base.

Presenter: Kristen Beirne, a dedicated and dynamic historian and art instructor with 20+ years of experience teaching multiple modes of art and diverse aspects of art and humanities within historical contexts. She has a proven record of encouraging and inspiring people to learn about and engage with the humanities.

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

Any questions, contact Elaine

Fisher. edanassoc@hotmail.com



[Register](#)



the 20th Anniversary of the first Illinois SWAN Day International SWAN Day – a project born in Illinois in 2004 to Support Women Artists Now® – is now an annual event held worldwide on the last Saturday of Women's History Month to celebrate the achievements of women in the Applied Arts, Cinema Arts, Literary Arts, Performance Arts, and Visual Arts, and to advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion in all human endeavors.

The screening at the AMC Evanston 12 on March 29 at 1:30 pm is FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, however seating is limited, so you must have a ticket to be admitted:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/swan-day-chicago-2025-tickets-1246532164259?>

WAIT! WHAT? You don't live in Metro Chicago? You're already committed on the afternoon 3/29? Not to worry!

THERE'S A PRIVATE/HOME OPTION!

Screening platform options are

here: <https://www.justwatch.com/us/movie/ghost>

A parallel event will be underway at the AMC Empire 25 in Times Square (NYC)

Save Our Night Skies

April 2, 2025, 6:45 PM

Glen Ellyn Police Department Community Room
65 S. Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn

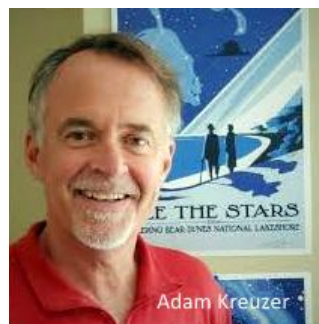
Remember when you could see with your naked eye- thousands of stars, the Milky Way, our galaxy, planets and the man in the moon? On April 2, at 6:45 p.m. the AAUW **Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch** will host **Save Our Night Skies** at its April Branch Meeting. After a brief social time with refreshments, the presentation will begin. Guests are welcome to join us.

Our speaker will be Adam Kreuzer, lawyer, Board Delegate, and member of the International Dark Sky Association. Artificial light at night has revolutionized the way we live and work outdoors, but it has come at a price. When used indiscriminately, outdoor lighting has had devastating effects by disrupting wildlife, impacting human health, wasting money and energy, and contributing to climate change. Join Adam Kreuzer as he discusses the consequences of outdoor light pollution and what we can do to preserve our natural night skies. This program will focus on how light pollution adversely affects migrating birds, our other wildlife friends and what we can do to help save them from the consequences of light pollution. Light pollution may also affect our personal health.

Guests are welcome, in person or via Zoom. To attend the meeting via Zoom, please send an email to wge-aauw@comcast.net. Include your full name and email address. The Zoom link will be emailed to you on the day before the event. More information about the AAUW Wheaton-

Glen Ellyn Branch can be found at

<https://wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net>.



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If your branch has a program of 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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