



Highlights



AAUW AURORA AREA BRANCH
celebrating 95 years

JANUARY 2015

Empowering Women since 1881

COMMENTS FROM ELAINE'S CORNER

As I write this, our holiday celebrations are almost over. We will soon be headed into the year 2015. At this time, we get all kinds of end-of-the-year "Best Lists," recaps of the year's most significant events, and, often, predictions about the year to come. I have tried to reflect on what has happened in our Branch just since our new fiscal year began in July. I will not list everything—I have only one page!--but here is my partial Best of the Year List, so far:

1. We now have an email address just for our branch, thanks to Vicki Petersen, VP for Communications. It is aauwaurorail@gmail.com. You can use this address for internal announcements and information. Also, remember we have our Branch web address <http://aurora-il.aauw.net> for external Branch information and photos. Vicki will also soon have us on Facebook, so look for that announcement this next year.
2. We had a successful November fundraiser for Educational Opportunities for Women. It has been great to have long-time member and branch leader Jane Zimmerman heading up EF. Please see inside the report from Assistant Treasurer, Julie Bauman, on our profits, which were impressive this year, and on the donations we were able to make to National. We can be very proud to have accomplished this again.
3. We have acquired seven new members: Valerie Burd, Mary M. Elliott, Katie Giannatasio, Christi Johnson, Alicia Schatteman, Susan Zieche, and Lynda Bradford. You will see biographical information about these members in the upcoming newsletters, just as Susan Zieche was featured last month.
4. Co-VPs Michelle Brown-Rodriquez and May Keenan have revitalized the Mentoring Program, so each new member now has a mentor. (If you are one of these mentors, be sure you make contact with your mentee. This makes a huge difference!)
5. We have had successful meetings for four months, September through December, and we have an enticing list of programs for the upcoming year. Next will be our annual chili supper, on February 3 at the home of Mary Hinterlong, our new LAF chair. Mary will be making contact in January to get everything set for the evening, so you may soon receive a call. This is usually one of our best and most anticipated meetings,

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Asst. Treasurer Report	2
February Chili Supper	3
2014 Glass Ceiling	3
20 years of Aurora Branch	3
AAUW Advocacy	5
Study Groups	6
2015 National Convention	7
Branch Board Members	8

BRANCH WEBSITE
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<http://aauw-il.aauw.net>

NATIONAL WEBSITE
www.aauw.org

AAUW
An association of college graduates whose mission is to advance equity for women through, education, philanthropy, and research.

AAUW values a diverse membership and welcomes men and women with an Associate's Degree, or a higher degree.

(Continued from page 1)

and it adds to our LAF funds for the future.

6. The Books by Night and Movie Study groups continue with regular meetings that are very meaningful to those who participate. Please plan to come to one or both; all topics and dates are listed in the Yearbook.

My Best of the Year List is short compared to all I could list; I hope to add more later. Please let any one of us know what we can do to assist you as a member, whether you are new or old. I am sending my best wishes for a good 2015--for you and for our Branch.

Elaine Ross, Co-President

ASSISTANT TREASURER'S REPORT - The EF and LAF report as of December 19,2014.

Our fundraiser resulted in a profit of \$1815.13.

Received: \$3895.00

Expenses: \$2079.87

Net Profit: \$1815.13

We sent a check to the EF in Kay Hurt's name as the Gift Honoree of \$2000.00 and a check of \$500.00 to the LAF. Both checks have been verified and cashed.

Happy Holidays!

Julie Bauman, Assistant Treasurer

Check Book for EF and LAF for 2014-2015

Ck. No.	Date	Notes	EF Check Amount	EF Dep. Amount	Total Account Balance	Notes	LAF Check Amount	LAF Dep. Amount	LAF Balance
	6/27/2014				\$1,895.70				
		Audit Completed on August 2014 - EF Balance = \$1426.53			\$1,895.70				\$469.17
	8/31/2014	Aurora Farmer's Market Book Sale			\$2,124.70			\$229.00	
403	8/8/2014	Eaglebrook Country Club	\$100.00		\$2,024.70	Deposit for Eaglebrook			
Balance	8/30/2014	EF Balance 1326.53			\$2,024.70				\$698.17
404	9/23/2014	Joy Bowling	\$48.00		\$1,976.70	Fundraiser favors			
405	9/30/2014	Nicole Benziger	\$77.96		\$1,898.74	Invitations and card-stock			
Balance	9/30/2014	EF Balance \$1200.57			\$1,898.74				\$698.17
406	11/7/2014	Cash for fundraiser	\$50.00		\$1,848.74				
407	11/15/2014	Jenny Riddle	\$400.00		\$1,448.74	Speaker for fundraiser			
408	11/15/2014	Eaglebrook Country Club	\$1,395.11		\$53.63	Luncheon EF			
	11/19/2014	Deposit		\$3,895.00	\$3,948.63	EF Fundraiser Profits			
	11/19/2014	Deposit		\$50.00	\$3,998.63	Cash			
409	11/19/2014	Jane Zimmerman	\$58.80		\$3,939.83				
Balance	11/21/2014	EF Balance \$3241.66			\$3,939.83				\$698.17
410	12/5/2014	AAUW Funds EF	\$2,000.00		\$1,939.83				
Balance	12/5/2014	EF Balance \$1241.66			\$1,939.83				\$698.17
411	12/5/2014	AAUW Funds LAF			\$1,439.93		\$500.00		\$198.17
Balance	12/19/2014	EF Balance \$1291.76			\$1,489.93				\$198.17

Tuesday, February 3
ANNUAL CHILI SUPPER
LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND (LAF) Fundraiser

Mary Hinterlong is hosting the Annual Chili Supper to benefit AAUW Funds (Legal Advocacy Fund) on Tuesday, February 3rd, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at her home at 126 South Hanks Rd., Aurora, 60506.

After dinner we will view Jackie Cochran: first Lady of Flight, a 2002 documentary of the first woman to fly faster than the speed of sound and set more aviation records than anyone before or since. If you cannot attend a donation will be appreciated.

What a Year for Breaking through the Glass Ceiling

“We are thankful for all the firsts that happened for women in 2014, including Janet Yellen becoming the first female chair of the Federal Reserve Board; Malala Yousafzai becoming the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize; Becky Hammon becoming the first female regular season assistant coach in the NBA; Megan Brennan becoming the first female U.S. postmaster general and chief executive; Adm. Michelle Howard becoming the Navy’s first female four-star officer; Maryam Mirzakhani becoming the first woman to win the Fields Medal (commonly known as the Nobel Prize for mathematics); and Rep.-elect Alma Adams (D-NC) becoming the 100th woman member of the 113th Congress — a new record for women’s representation in government. A special shout-out to 13-year-old Mo’ne Davis for being the first girl to throw a shutout in Little League World Series history **and** becoming the first Little League player to grace the cover of *Sports Illustrated!*”

<http://www.aauw.org/article/aauw-gives-thanks-2014-edition/>

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 20 YEARS AURORA AREA BRANCH OF AAUW
{FROM THE SCROLL GIVEN OUT AT THE NOVEMBER EF FUNDRAISER}

1995: The first Annual Chili Supper was held in January Three EF fundraisers were held this year: a third Progressive Dinner, staffing of a Freedom Flight America event, and an Art Auction. The AWARE (AAUW Women Acting Responsibly for Equity) Action/ Study Group was established. The Branch maintained its Five-Star status.

1996: The Aurora City of Lights Landmarks afghan fundraising project was launched in the fall with Kay Hurt overseeing the project. The Branch co-sponsored a roundtable event with the Aurora YWCA regarding community dialogue on race and ethnic relations. The Books By Night Study Group debuted.

1997: The "Reality Store" project, an educational game about personal finance, was developed to be offered to teens. Mary Bernard and Mary Hauge organized the "Reality Store" for West High. The Branch participated in a statewide Gender Equity Assessment by interviewing Title IX coordinators at local high schools.

1998: A "Sister To Sister" summit for girls ages 12 to 16 was held in May. This event was thought to be the first of its kind in Illinois.

1999: The Aurora Branch made the final payment on its \$100,000 commitment to its American Fellowships Fund in August. The Branch received Six-Star status.

2000: AWARE partnered with Aurora Community Study Circles to launch a series of community discussions on race and ethnic relations.

2001: A Seven-Star Branch award was received. The first of two Antique Appraisal Fairs was held to benefit the EF.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

2002: The Branch membership was linked through e-mail, and a Branch website was developed. Fundraisers included the first Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Walk/ Run in May and an LAF bake sale at the Aurora Transportation Center in August. The Branch was recognized as one of the top ten branches in Illinois for contributions to EF and LAF. The Vivian Wright Research and Projects Grant Fund was established with a \$35,000 goal.

2003: The Aurora Branch received the honor of hosting the AAUW-IL. Convention in Lisle. In November, the first EF Fashion Show was held.

2004: The Aurora Branch "Circles of Understanding" were held in three separate sessions to address the challenges of racism and race relations. The 85th anniversary was celebrated on September 18 at Long Island Sound.

2005: The branch hosted a mayoral candidate forum on February 8.

2006: A community-wide "Day of Dialog" was co-sponsored by the Branch and the Aurora Community Study Circles in April, marking ten years of dialogue on racial diversity in Aurora. The Movie Group kicked off in August with a focus on works by women artists.

2007: Vintage hats and accessories were showcase at a presentation by Treasured Toppers at a November fundraiser for EF.

2008: The 50th Anniversary of the Association's EF was celebrated at this year's EF fundraiser. Also, the Association's Eleanor Roosevelt Fund marked its 20th year.

2009: "Super Science Saturday" was held at Waubensee Community College on March 7 for Girl Scouts working toward science badges. The Branch's 90th Anniversary was celebrated at Ballydoyle on September 19. A wine-tasting event raised money for the Vivian Wright Research and Projects Grant Fund in November.

2010: The Branch partnered with the Naperville Branch and the NIU STEM Outreach Office to sponsor "Science Spooktacular" on October 16 at the Illinois Math and Science Academy. The event focused on fourth- and fifth-grade girls to encourage their interest and confidence in involvement in science.

2011: The Aurora and Naperville Branches were named finalists for the 2011 "Breaking Through Barriers" Award presented by the Association for the "Science Spooktacular" project. The project was showcased in June at the national convention in Washington D.C.

2012: Andi Danis was elected President of AAUW-IL., becoming the fourth Aurora Branch member to hold the office, and the latest since 1965. A Murder Mystery dinner was this year's EF fundraiser, and total funding, \$ 35,000, of the Vivian Wright Research and Projects Grant Fund was completed in November.

2013: The November EF Fundraiser featured a "special guest," Bertha Palmer. A new Holiday tradition was born this year. AAUW members meet at Denise Curts-Lueth's home before attending the annual Holiday Concert at Aurora University. Sherry Eagle, Executive Director of the Institute for Collaboration of Aurora University presented information about the new STEM School to serve 3rd-8th graders from School Districts 129, 131 and 204. The new school, housed at A.U., will open Sept. 2014.

2014: We continue the tradition of inviting an Educational Fund Fellowship recipient to come to our May meeting to speak about her graduate research. The Monthly Movie Study Group and Books By Night Study Group remain popular with members. We look forward to learning .about the first Women's Rights convention at our September Meeting. In October, Jerre Henriksen will facilitate a discussion about The Confidence Code: The. Science and Art of Self-Assurance-What Women Should know.

WOW! WE HAVE BEEN, AND CONTINUE TO BE, ACTIVE, INVOLVED WOMEN!

AAUW ADVOCACY

October 30, 2014

“It’s obvious, but it’s easy to forget: Courts matter. Federal courts determine the scope of workers’ rights and the constitutionality of civil rights laws. The U.S. Supreme Court is the final stop when it comes to many of the most important legal challenges our country faces. On October 22, AAUW members across the country joined a members-only call to hear AAUW’s Legal Advocacy Fund staff analyze some of the pivotal cases the Supreme Court will hear in its upcoming term. If you missed the call, you can listen to a recording. Here’s a summary of what to expect as the Supreme Court’s term gets underway.

1. Fallout from *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*

In this past summer’s disappointing *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* decision, the Supreme Court ruled that closely held corporations can’t be required to cover contraception through their employee health insurance plans. Despite Justice Alito’s assurance that the *Hobby Lobby* ruling would have limited reach, fallout from the decision could seriously threaten many more employees’ access to preventative health care. The first *Hobby Lobby* fallout on the horizon concerns religiously affiliated nonprofits.

When the Affordable Care Act was first passed, the government created (and AAUW supported) an exemption to the contraceptive care requirement for religious organizations and an accommodation for religiously affiliated nonprofits. Under the accommodation, religiously affiliated nonprofits, including religiously-affiliated private colleges, could avoid having to pay for contraceptive insurance coverage. All the nonprofit needed to do was to fill out a form that explained its religious objections to contraception and give that form to the company that provided their employee health care plans.

2. Restricting Choice: TRAP Laws

In the last few years, a number of states across the country have passed so-called TRAP laws in an attempt to restrict and even eliminate women’s access to legal abortion. TRAP stands for Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers. While many anti-choice laws impose restrictions on patients, TRAP laws are designed to prevent doctors from performing abortions altogether. TRAP laws are passed under the guise of protecting women’s health, even though the provisions generally do nothing to increase the standard of care — the laws only make it more difficult for women to find good reproductive health care.

3. Pregnancy Discrimination: *Young v. UPS*

Peggy Young, a UPS driver, requested temporary light-duty work because of medical complications during her pregnancy. UPS refused to provide light-duty work, even though it allowed several other categories of workers to be assigned such work when they were temporarily disabled. Because UPS refused to accommodate her restriction, Young was forced to leave her job, losing her income and health care coverage at a critical time. Young eventually sued UPS under the Pregnancy Discrimination Act. Unfortunately, both the federal district court and the Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit sided with UPS.

4. Voting Rights at Risk

This November, voters in nearly half the country are expected to face new voting restrictions at the polls — restrictions that weren’t there during the last midterm election four years ago. The exact number of voters who will be impacted depends on the outcomes of pending court challenges, but one thing is clear: These voting restrictions will hurt women, minorities, young voters, and the elderly the most. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was supposed to stop states from passing these kinds of voting restrictions. But the court’s 2013 decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* weakened the law, gutting the spirit but leaving the name.

Because the challenges are still being litigated in lower courts, so far the Supreme Court has only been asked to rule on requests to keep the laws from going into effect for the 2014 elections. The Supreme Court’s responses have been a mixed bag, allowing significant restrictions to stay in place in states like Texas but lifting restrictions in states like Wisconsin. Those cases will likely return to the Supreme Court once they have gone through circuit court.

5. Marriage Equality Surging

In the best news of the new term, marriage equality is increasing across the country as one same-sex marriage ban after another is struck down. All but one federal judge to consider the question have ruled that same-sex marriage bans are unconstitutional. Several states whose bans had been rejected by lower courts asked the Supreme Court to review their cases. So far, the court has declined to hear any of the cases, making marriage equality a reality in many states. In a year with so many high-stake cases, it’s exciting to tally the marriage equality victories we’ve won so far. But much is left to be decided, and the court’s term is far from over.”

Go More In-Depth

AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund Manager Mollie Lam discussed these issues and more in an October conference call with members. But now you can listen to it too! Listen now » <http://www.aauw.org/event/2014/10/scotus-2014-15-member-call/>

Stay tuned to our e-newsletter **LAF Express** for updates on these cases and more as the year progresses.

E-mail: laf@aauw.org to subscribe to LAF Express www.aauw.org

STUDY GROUPS

MOVIE GROUP

Meets the second Monday of each month.

Please contact the hostess to let her know if you will be attending. And the dish or beverage you will bring.

Time: 6:15 p. m. (Social) 7:00 p. m. (Movie)

Monday January 12

Hostess: Penny Cameron 335 S Central, Aurora, 60506

630-892-9535 / pennycameron@sbcglobal.net



Film: Belle – 2013 – PG – 104 minutes

The mixed race daughter of a Royal Navy Admiral is raised by her aristocratic great-uncle in 18th century England.

Genre: Drama

Director: Amma Asante

Writer: Misan Sagay

Stars: Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Matthew Goode and Emily Watson

BOOKS BY NIGHT

Meets the fourth Wednesday of each month.

Time 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday January 28th 2015

Hostess: Phyllis Bales, 1730 W. Galena #103W, Aurora 60506

630-896-6633 / psbales@att.net



Game, Set, Match: Billie Jean King and the Revolution in Women's Sports, by Susan Ware

"When Billie Jean King trounced Bobby Riggs in tennis's "Battle of the Sexes" in 1973, she placed sports squarely at the center of a national debate about gender equity. In this winning combination of biography and history, Susan Ware argues that King's challenge to sexism, the supportive climate of second-wave feminism, and the legislative clout of Title IX sparked a women's sports revolution in the 1970s that fundamentally reshaped American society."

"While King did not single-handedly cause the revolution in women's sports, she quickly became one of its most enduring symbols, as did Title IX, a federal law that was initially passed in 1972 to attack sex discrimination in educational institutions but had its greatest impact by opening opportunities for women in sports. King's place in tennis history is secure, and now, with Game, Set, Match, she can take her rightful place as a key player in the history of feminism as well. By linking the stories of King and Title IX, Ware explains why women's sports took off in the 1970s and demonstrates how giving women a sporting chance has permanently changed American life on and off the playing field." www.amazon.com



"Have you ever noticed a tree standing naked against the sky,
How beautiful it is?

All its branches are outlined, and in its nakedness

There is a poem, there is a song.

Every leaf is gone and it is waiting for the spring.

When the spring comes, it again fills the tree with

The music of many leaves,

Which in due season fall and are blown away.

And this is the way of life." - **Krishnamurti** (www.gardendigest.com)



2015 AAUW National Convention

June 18–21, 2015 Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina, San Diego, California

Every two years, hundreds of women leaders from across the country gather to discover new ways to empower themselves and other women and girls. AAUW’s national convention is a unique opportunity to learn new skills, gain insight and inspiration, and connect with other women leaders.

AAUW adopted [One Member, One Vote](#) in 2007 to offer members unprecedented input on AAUW governance and agenda decisions. At that year’s convention, AAUW voted to open the national convention to every member and their guests. Our program is now focused on providing engaging opportunities for professional and personal growth so that women leaders everywhere can maximize their impact. Make no mistake: The national convention isn’t all work and no play. Our program is full of unique entertainment and fun surprises. It’s also a place to meet new friends or catch up with other leaders and advocates from across the country. Plus, you can take in the best culture and entertainment our host cities have to offer on exciting pre-and post-convention tours. www.convention.aauw.org

2015 Registration Rates	Best Value October 1– January 15, 2015	Early Bird January 16– March 31, 2015	Regular April 1– June 21, 2015	Daily
Member	\$449	\$475	\$525	\$225
Non-Member	\$525	\$549	\$575	\$275
Student	\$219	\$235	\$249	\$99
Guest*	\$275	\$289	\$299	\$199

* *Guests may attend only the convention plenary sessions and may purchase tickets for the special events. Guests cannot be AAUW members.*

2015 AAUW Convention Banquet
 Saturday, June 20, 7:30 p.m.
 Tickets \$125

Meals Provided:
 Thursday, June 18: Welcome dinner, 6:30 p.m.
 Friday, June 19: Lunch, noon

To Register by Phone
 Call AAUW Connect at 800.326.2289 or e-mail connect@aauw.org.

To Register by Mail
[Download the registration form.](http://convention.aauw.org/files/2014/10/2015-Convention-Registration-Form.pdf)(<http://convention.aauw.org/files/2014/10/2015-Convention-Registration-Form.pdf>)
 Send the completed form (and check, if applicable) to AAUW Convention, 1111 16th St NW, Washington, DC 20036

Changes and Cancellations
[Log in to your account](#) to make changes to your registration and add special events. You may also make changes by phone at 800.326.2289.
 Any changes must be made by 5 p.m. EDT on Friday, June 12, 2015.
 You may [cancel your registration online](#) or by phone at 800.326.2289.

If you cancel your registration and/or special events by 5 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, May 13, 2015, AAUW will refund your payment, minus a \$100 cancellation fee. All refunds will be processed within 6–8 weeks. After 5 p.m. EDT on May 13, 2015, no refunds will be given.

BRANCH BOARD MEMBERS

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Joy Bowling

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Branch Board Meetings

Saturdays @ 9:00 a. m.

Harris Bank on Orchard Rd/Indian Trail, Aurora

January 24

March 21

June 27 (transitional meeting)

BRANCH EMAIL: aauwaaurorail@gmail.com. For your photos of branch activities for the website

RESERVATION POLICY

- For all meetings RSVP is required; please contact Joy Bowling, Social Chair, for each program that you plan to attend.
- Email: joybowling@att.net or 630-605-4576. If a message is left, Joy will respond to verify a reservation has been made.
- **Note:** You may attend the meeting and not the meal itself, except for the May meeting; the Restaurant is requiring *all attendees* to purchase from their menu. However, please let Joy know you will attend so that we have enough space available.
- Reservations for a meal are binding. No-shows and those cancelling less than 48 hours in advance are still responsible for payment. A *prompt* mailing of your check to our Treasurer, Pat Daugherty, will be appreciated.

Check out the AAUW website - www.aauw.org.

Sign up for weekly or bi-weekly alerts (**AAUW Washington Update and AAUW Action Network**) provide a synopsis of what is happening in Congress. If a particular issue interests you, a link is available to help you send a comment to your congressman or senator.

AAUW Mission & Action AAUW's e-bulletin offers members information on today's hot issues, opportunities to speak out online and through local branches, and updates on the work of AAUW nationwide. <http://www.aauw.org/resource/aauw-mission-action/>

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INFORMATION DEADLINES FOR NEWSLETTER

January 24 February Newsletter

February 21 for March Newsletter