



# HIGHLIGHTS

AAUW AURORA AREA BRANCH  
CELEBRATING 99 YEARS

SPRING 2019

Branch Website  
<http://aurora-il.aauw.net>

Branch EMAIL  
[aauwaurorail@gmail.com](mailto:aauwaurorail@gmail.com)

National Website  
[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

**Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.**

**Vision: Equity for all.**

**Values: Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality.**

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## Comments from Tracey's World

Welcome Spring!

Welcome many opportunities for you to participate and learn via the events and programs offered by AAUW. Beginning with our own April program, on Tuesday April 9, 2019, you'll learn from our member, Mavis Bates, along with Marta Touloumes Keane what you can do, what your business can do and what your city can do, to save the planet. We are co sponsoring this event with Green Connect along with the Yorkville Area Chamber of Commerce, which we are now a member of. You need to register for this event on the Yorkville Chamber of Commerce website. Email Valerie Burd, VP Programs, if you have any questions.

On Saturday April 13, 2019 is AAUW IL District 5 Educational Opportunities Fund 13th Annual Lunch with Fellows. Here you can learn about the research of three AAUW grant recipients. A great opportunity to see our AAUW funds at work! Email me if you have any questions.

At the state level, I am so excited about our upcoming 2019 AAUW IL Convention on May 3-4, 2019 at the Crowne Plaza Springfield Convention Center. On Friday night we'll be honored to have AAUW CEO Kim Churches speak and then join us for a cocktail reception afterwards. On Saturday the program committee has planned a full day that will not disappoint. Be sure to go to AAUW IL website and click on the LINK to get more information.

While I'm talking about the state, I hope you will also consider going to Springfield Day on May 15, 2019. Susan Scott, my fellow AAUW IL Public Policy Co-Chair, Jenni Perdue, our contracted lobbyist, and myself are planning a Springfield Day that will begin around 10 am with Jenni Perdue educating us on the Illinois State legislative process. Attendees will also learn the "lay of the land" before heading out to meet with representatives. Armed with talking points and leaving behind materials regarding Public Policy issues important to AAUW. Depending on the legislative session that is happening on May 15th, AAUW-IL attendees may even get to sit together in the gallery and be recognized by the Speaker! After advocating at the Capitol, members will regroup for a late lunch together at a nearby cafe before returning home. I hope you'll join me along with members from all across the state to advocate for AAUW.

**Continued**

## Comments from Tracey's World - Continued

At the Branch level, District level or State level there many ways you can participate. And if you have physical limitations, are traveling or committed to other responsibilities you can also be involved by becoming a Two-Minute Activist, or by filing out a witness slip or writing a letter to the editor, or calling your representatives on legislation important to our AAUW mission. Join Facebook, like our page, share the Work Smart free online program with all the women in your life. Let's all be advocates to advance gender equity for women and girls!

Tracey Sherman-Falcon  
President

## 2018—2019 Program Dates

### Active Involvement Builds AAUW Community

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

11:30 a.m.

Kennedy Pointe Restaurant

Co-sponsors: AAUW Aurora Area Branch and Green Connect of the Yorkville Area Chamber of Commerce

Program: Saving the Planet: What You Can Do, What Your Business Can Do,  
What Your City Can Do

Speakers: Mavis Bates and Marta Touloumes Keane

Register: [www.yorkvillechamber.org](http://www.yorkvillechamber.org)

Cost: \$20

Saturday, May 11, 2019

10:00 a.m.

Grandma's Table Restaurant

1700 Douglas Rd, Montgomery

Program: Spring Scholarship Event

Fellowship Recipients: Aisha Motlani, PhD Northwestern University; Jelena Radovic Fanta  
PhD, Assistant Professor at Governor's State University; Noeema Torres, Career  
Development Grant Recipient from Northwestern University

Cost: Order Individually Off the Menu

**"LEARNING IS NOT ATTAINED BY CHANCE, IT MUST BE  
SOUGHT FOR WITH ARDOR AND ATTENDED TO WITH  
DILIGENCE." —ABIGAIL ADAMS**

Evites will be sent out for monthly branch programs to all members. Study group hosts and committee chairs can check the evites at any time for reservation updates. Also, be sure to click "Message from host" for more details about events, including registration fees.

# AAUW Branch Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee has been working on our slate of nominees for next year for our branch. The good news is that all officers' positions are covered except that of 1st VP for Programs. We are reaching out to ask whether anyone would be willing to step forward to fill that position. It is a two-year appointment.

Valerie Burd has been a very active VP for Programs for the last two years, but now she has done her part and is even willing to be nominated for 2nd VP of Membership. **Would any one of you be willing to step forward to help with our need? Page 35 of our Yearbook lists the duties for this position, and, of course, we would have a committee to assist in the duties.**

We had a board meeting this past Saturday (3/9) and discussed many possible ways to deal with *not* having someone to fill this position at all. We even agreed (though no formal vote was taken) that *we will eliminate at least one meeting next year, the annual Chili Supper, and maybe the Christmas social event as well.* We have already dropped having a January meeting, as of a few years ago, so the number of meetings will dwindle further, just as attendance for programs has been dwindling.

We discussed the programs that are already in place and came up with some ideas for ways to do something "new": **one program with the Books By Night group, one with the Movie Study group, an entirely new fundraiser event for EF & LAF funds (stay tuned on this!), and a travelogue from Andi Danis and Elaine Ross based on their upcoming October Seneca Falls & Women's History tour with the Rockford Branch.** All of this is to make the job of the VP for Programs more streamlined and pre-determined and, ideally, to increase attendance for all programs.

We do have a great event coming in the fall, **the September 21 100th Anniversary Celebration of our branch.** Details are coming. We have been in existence for 100 years, and we hope to keep going longer because our organization does so much to further the mission of "promoting education and equity for women and girls" and to provide opportunities for us to grow on the local level.

Your Board members and the Nominations Committee welcome your thoughts, your ideas, and your willingness to serve. Thank you all for your attention to this matter and what you contribute to our branch.

V. Elaine Ross,  
Chair of the Nominations Committee

The best way to find yourself is to lose  
yourself in the service of others.

Mahatma Gandhi

# Study Groups

## AAUW Movie Study Group for 2018-19, @ 6:15 p. m., potluck & viewing/ discussion following



**April 8, 2019 – Linda Seyler**

**Thelma and Louise (1991)**

Director: Ridley Scott

Writer: Callie Khouri

Two best friends set out on an adventure, but it soon turns around to a terrifying escape from being hunted by the police, as these two women attempt an escape from “crimes” they have committed. Fed up with her boyfriend, live-wire Arkansas waitress Louise Sawyer (Susan Sarandon) persuades her friend Thelma Dickinson (Geena Davis), a naïve housewife burdened with a negligent, sexist husband, to hit the road with her for a simple weekend of freedom. But after accidentally killing a man, the two friends wind up outlaws blazing a cathartic trail across America. Callie Khouri won an Academy Award for Best Screenplay for this movie.

**May 13, 2019 – Elaine Ross**

**Mudbound (2017)**

Director: Dee Rees

Writers: Dee Rees & Virgil Williams

Two men return home from World War II to work on a farm in rural Mississippi, where they struggle to deal with racism and to adjust to life after war. In 1940s Mississippi, two families come into conflict after the white McAllan clan acquires the cotton farm lived on by the Jacksons, black tenant farmers who have tilled the land for generations. This film features a breakout role by singing superstar Mary J. Blige, for which she was nominated for an Oscar. It also stars Carrey Mulligan and an all-star cast.

**June 10 – Michelle Brown-Rodriguez**

**The Post (2017)**

Director: Steven Spielberg

Writers: Liz Hannah & Josh Singer

When the "Washington Post" agrees to publish the leaked Pentagon Papers--which point to a secret escalation of the Vietnam War--the Nixon administration tries to block publication, setting off an epic legal and political battle. A cover-up that spanned four U.S. Presidents pushed the country's first female newspaper publisher and a hard-driving editor to join an unprecedented battle between the press and the government. The film asks, "How free is our press?" Starring Meryl Streep, Tom Hanks, and Sarah Paulson.

**July 8 – Denise Curts-Lueth**

**Planning meeting for 2019-20 movies**

Note: The information above is taken from **IMDB**, **Netflix**, and **Wikipedia**.

JOIN US! The mind is a muscle—exercise it! Our study groups include **Books-by-Night** and **Movie Study Group**. Evites will be sent to all members for study groups, committee meetings and monthly branch programs. Same time every meeting—5:00 pm.

### Books-By-Night



**APRIL 24, 2019**

**5:00 pm**

Panera Bread

154 W. Wilson St., Batavia

Book: *I Still Believe Anita Hill*, by Amy Richards

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

**MAY 22, 2019**

**5:00 pm**

Arline Hoban's House

Refreshments TBA

Book: *Evicted*, by Matthew Desmond

**JUNE 26, 2019**

**5:00 pm**

Arline Hoban's House

Refreshments TBA

Book: *Flapper: A Madcap Story of Sex, Style, Celebrity, and the Women Who Made America Modern*, by Joshua Zeitz

**JULY 24, 2019**

**5:00 pm**

The Holmstad Town Center

700 W. Fabyan Pkwy, Batavia

PLANNING SESSION

**AUGUST 28, 2019**

**5:00 pm**

The Spartan House

1032 Prairie St., Aurora

Book: *Educated: A Memoir*, by Tara Westover

Watch for evites for updates or contact Andi Danis at 630/892-6366 or [danishouse@sbcglobal.net](mailto:danishouse@sbcglobal.net) for information or with questions.

# AAUW Branch Treasurer Report/Dues

## TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF March 9, 2019

Ending Balance from 01/26/2019 \$2623.03

DEPOSITS: NONE \$2623.03

EXPENSES: NONE \$2623.03

Balance as of 3/09/2019 \$2623.03

Respectfully Submitted,

Andi Danis, Treasurer

Assistant Treasurer, Vicki Petersen, reports an EF and LAF balance of funds as \$944.28. The named-gift contribution for the AAUW funds will be made in honor of **Valerie Burd** for all her efforts and successes in programs and securing donations from businesses.

**“No one has ever become poor by giving.” —Anne Frank**





## **AAUW is mobilizing a movement to close the gender pay gap — and we're counting on you to help!**

Be part of our signature initiative — **Work Smart** — a program that's empowering women across the country to negotiate for a raise, promotion, or new job.

**Work Smart** is now available online — for free!

**Work Smart** will teach you essential negotiation skills and important facts about the status of gender pay gap. And it will prepare you to be an ambassador for AAUW's efforts.

Join AAUW in the **Members Mobilize a Million** challenge. Working together, our powerful 170,000 members and supporters — each sharing with 20 of their contacts — can help us reach our first phase goal of training 1 million women! By 2022, we aim to train 10 million women through **Start Smart** and **Work Smart**.

**Work Smart** is effective: Nearly all participants report having more confidence and better negotiating skills. After attending a Work Smart program, nearly half are able to negotiate for a raise, promotion, or higher-paying job.

### **VISIT**

**<https://salary.aauw.org/>**



# Public Policy Review for Newsletter Spring 2019

## Public Policy Report

You are all aware that a great deal has been taking place in our state, and nationally, on several fronts.

First, you have received many emails asking you to take action on The Illinois **Reproductive Health Act (HB 2495)**. You have been asked to 1) contact your representatives, 2) write a letter to your local newspaper editor, and 3) submit witness slips. You were provided a Fact Sheet on the bill so that you could inform yourself of its contents. In short, the bill “proposes to modernize Illinois’ reproductive rights laws by repealing outdated and unconstitutional prohibitions on reproductive healthcare and enacting a new Illinois Reproductive Health Act that regulates abortion like any other form of health care.” The bill has made it out of committee and will be voted on in the House. It may be known when this newsletter is published what the outcome will be. You will want to know all that happens, perhaps quite soon.

Second, you have received many emails as well on Repeal the Parental Notice of Abortion Act (SB 1594). You have also been asked to take all forms of action on this proposal, and I hope you have done so. Witness slips were to be submitted by March 18, and by the deadline, 1600 slips had been submitted!

**Submitted by Elaine Ross**

## Public Policy Chair

**Update: As of March 29, 2019, HB 2495 was re-referred to Rules Committee**

**As of March 20, 2019, SB 1594 was placed on the Calendar Order for 2nd Reading.**

*Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future. John F. Kennedy*



*Save The Date!*

The Aurora Area Branch of AAUW celebrates 100 years!

**Saturday, September 21, 2019**

**11:30 am Check-in  
12 Noon Luncheon**

**Aurora Country Club  
1548 Prairie St  
Aurora, IL 60506**



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN  
empowering women since 1881

*Adapted from The Saturday Evening Post*  
(April 7, 2017)

If you were an average American in 1917, you were one of 103 million citizens. (320 million today). The population was 86% Caucasian and lived on a farm or in a town with a population of 2,500 or less. You wouldn't have heard about "jazz" which had only been recorded for the first time in March.

If you were an average women, you would be between 15 and 19, but you wouldn't get married until you were 21. You had a life expectancy of 49 years. You couldn't vote, you couldn't obtain birth control, and you had no education beyond the eighth grade. You were living in your parents' house. You washed your hair just once a month, and you would probably deliver all three of your babies at home.

If you were an average American man you were in the majority of Americans and you were between 20 and 24 years old with a life expectancy of 47 years. You worked 55 hours a week for 22 cents an hour. You would spend 33 percent of your earnings on food (compared to 16 percent today). Every year, you would consume 11.5 pounds of lard, 14 pounds of chicken (it's over 90 pounds today), and 88 pounds of sugar (at 4 cents a pound). Also, your clothing expenses took up 13 percent of your annual income, compared to just 3 percent today. You'd need to save up almost an entire year's income to buy the average new car, which cost around \$450 (today it's around \$34,000).

The average new home today would cost \$5,000 (the equivalent of \$95,000 in today's dollars), and you'd share it with four other people instead of the 2.3 others you'd share it with today. You wouldn't be among the fortunate 14 percent of the population whose homes had bathtubs with running water, or the 18 percent of households with at least one live-in servant. Also, you'd have no phone in your home; that was a privilege enjoyed by only 8 percent of Americans.

# ILLINOIS LINK

American Association of University Women – Illinois, Inc.  
Spring, 2019 – Number 307

## AAUW-IL, Inc. 95th State Convention “Moving Forward”

Friday - Saturday, May 3 - 4, 2019

Crowne Plaza Springfield – Convention Center, 3000 S. Dirksen Parkway

### AAUW CEO Kimberly Churches to attend convention on Friday!



AAUW-IL is very pleased to announce **Kimberly Churches will be our honored guest and keynote speaker on Friday evening.** Kim has said she uses three words every day: focus, relevance, and impact. AAUW's new strategic plan clearly reflects her mantra and her leadership. The plan focuses on 3 key issues where AAUW is uniquely positioned to lead and make a lasting impact: education and training, economic security, and leadership. It prioritizes economic security and pay equity with the goal to close the gender pay gap by 2030 and includes a major effort to train 10 million women in salary negotiations by 2022. The plan provides a path forward, and ensures AAUW will be distinct, relevant, and vital in the future. Kim Churches is a compelling spokeswoman for “**Beyond Aspirations: Advancing Equity for Women & Girls.**” Plan to join us for dinner, her program, and a special reception to celebrate Kim's leadership!

Kimberly Churches became the chief executive officer of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) on June 1, 2017. Prior to joining AAUW, Kim served as the managing director of the Brookings Institution, an internationally recognized public policy think tank. She has also served as an associate vice chancellor at the University of Denver, a director of development at the University of North Florida, and a division director at the American Heart Association. She has extensive experience working collaboratively on education (K-12 and higher education) as well as capacity building among grassroots groups and national and international nonprofits. Churches earned her BA at Florida State University in English Education and the Certified Fund Raising Executive affiliation in 2002. Kim lives in the District with her daughter and is a devoted Washington Nationals fan.

**Early Bird registration:** Submitted or postmarked by April 12, 2019

**General Deadline:** Submitted or postmarked by April 25, 2019

#### 2019 Costs:

Early bird registration = \$55

Registration after April 12 = \$60

Friday dinner = \$45

Display table = \$10

Past State President Discount = – \$15

TRIO Stipend\*\* = – \$55

Registration Information:

<https://aauw-il.aauw.net/state-convention/>

\*\*Members seeking a TRIO stipend certify that they are attending the state convention for the first time, and provide documentation of approval from branch president.

# Member News

On February 26, 2029, the **Chicago Tribune** published an article on [Cynthia Latimer](#) which included the following:

*“Cynthia Latimer former Aurora educator and administrator has been appointed to the Illinois State Board of Education. Gov. J.B. Pritzker made his first appointments to the state board this week, including Cynthia Latimer, who previously worked for both the East Aurora and West Aurora school districts. Latimer worked in Aurora classrooms and school administration for 33 years, according to a news release from Pritzker’s office. .... Pritzker appointed nine individuals to the state board this week, and appointed University of Chicago vice president for strategic initiatives and deputy provost Darren Reisberg as board chairman.”*

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On February 15, 2019, **THE HERALD-WHIG** published the following:

*“Gov. J.B. Pritzker has nominated Rep. Linda Chapa LaVia to lead the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs after former Lt. Col. Jaime E. Martinez requested that his nomination be withdrawn. Chapa LaVia, a veteran, said she was honored to have her name placed in consideration for the position.*

*"Illinois has much work to do to live up to our responsibilities to our veterans, and I am deeply committed to making Illinois the best state in the nation to be a veteran," Chapa LaVia said.*

*Pritzker said Chapa LaVia, who helped direct the Legislature's hearings into the Illinois Veterans Home last year, has been "a steadfast advocate and effective change-maker."*

*Chapa LaVia, of Aurora, was elected to the Illinois House in 2002, becoming the first Latino to be elected to the General Assembly from outside of Cook County. She joined the House Veteran Affairs committee during her first term starting in 2003 and has been the committee's chairman since 2009.”*

## Remembering Mary Bernard

The following are comments made to Tracey Sherman-Falcon, our president, about Mary:

*“Mary was one of the reasons I joined AAUW.” Catherine Hanson— “I taught science with Mary at West and she got me involved with AAUW at that time. Neat Lady.” Sandy Hipp— “My son thought that Mary was an excellent teacher She prepared him well for college chemistry.” Jane Zimmerman — “Many years ago, Mary and I were talking about the history of the women's movement and how long the fight has been for women's rights when Mary said, ‘This generation of women is taking women's rights for granted.’ I said, ‘They certainly are.’ Mary looked me in the eye and said, ‘No, Mavis, I mean your generation.’ Because of Mary Bernard I try to never take for granted my right to vote, choose my own career, or run for office. “ Mavis Bates*

Mary's life was exemplary. Her commitment to strong values and excellence served all who knew her. Taken from her obituary, the following is an outline of Mary's service to her community:

*“Mary started teaching 9th grade science at Washington Junior High in 1965. While teaching and raising a family, she earned her master's degree in education from Northern Illinois University in 1968. In 1973, she transferred to West High as a chemistry teacher. She continued to teach high school chemistry in District 129 until 1988.*

*Mary contributed to the Aurora community in many ways. After retiring, she was elected to the Dist. 129 school board and served as member and president for 14 years. For several years, she was a board member and eventual chairman of the board of the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) in Aurora. While with the VNA, she participated in family health and hospice study groups.*

*Mary was a very active member of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Aurora, serving in many capacities. While a member of AAUW-Aurora Branch, she was instrumental in elevating awareness of gender equity issues in education. She served on the board of the Aurora Community Study Circles Organization where she assisted members in promoting a better understanding of how individuals from diverse groups can work and learn together.*

*Among other honors, Mary was honored as a 1995 YWCA "Women of Distinction", she was a 2002 "School Dist. 129 Golden Apple Award" winner and received the "Hal Beebee Book of Golden Deeds Award" in 2000. Aurora Mayor David Stover proclaimed November 16, 2000 as "Mary L. Bernard Day" in the City of Aurora because "on a daily basis, Mary L Bernard demonstrates a commitment to improving the quality of life in Aurora". “*

# Membership Renewal Form

For Fiscal Year July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019



Annual membership dues are **\$ 90**

National: \$ 59\*

State: \$ 10

Branch: \$ 21

Total Dues: \$ 90

For those who are prepaid Life Members of the Association, dues will be **\$ 31**

(\$ 10 for State and \$ 21 for Branch)

Please check Membership Status:

Annual (\$ 90) –Correct status for Most members

Association Life (\$ 31)—status of only a few members who prepaid in the late 1980's

Contribution to AAUW's Mission: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Fund designated for your contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **AAUW Aurora Area Branch**

Mail To:

Andrea Danis

24 Scarsdale Rd

Montgomery, IL 60538-2517

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CELL \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please select communication preference:

\_\_\_ I prefer to receive newsletters and reminders via email. (This is the most cost effective for the branch.)

\_\_\_ I prefer to be reminded of meetings via email.

\_\_\_ I prefer to receive newsletters via regular mail.

\_\_\_ I prefer to be reminded of meetings with a phone call.

\*AAUW National Individual Membership dues are \$59:

\$56 is tax deductible as a charitable contribution, and \$3 is not (because it supports the AAUW Action Fund's Section 501(c)(4) Lobby Corps and get-out-the-vote activities).

**AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For more than 130 years, we have worked together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.**

## Stay Connected with the AAUW Aurora Area Branch

**Not on Facebook?** We still have our branch website at [www.aurora-il.aauw.net](http://www.aurora-il.aauw.net). The homepage features announcements, latest branch news and upcoming events. There also are sections that explain the AAUW and our branch, how to become a member, branch activities and a newsletter archive.

Remember to take and share photos at branch programs, study groups and events. These photos are posted on both Facebook and the branch website. It is best to send those photos to our branch email address at [aauwaurorail@gmail.com](mailto:aauwaurorail@gmail.com) so they do not get buried in my personal email account. Whenever possible include who is in the photo from left to right and a sentence or two explaining where the photo.

## Save the Date—AAUW-IL

**May 3 & 4 AAUW-IL Convention** – Crowne Plaza, Springfield

## Reservation Policy— AAUW Aurora Area Branch

**Our branch uses evites to manage reservations for branch events.** Evites will be sent out for study groups, committee meetings and monthly branch programs to all members. Study group hosts and committee chairs can check the evites at any time for reservation updates. Also, be sure to click “Message from host” for more details about events, including registration fees.

Please be sure to update evites with your RSVP. Social Chair Joy Bowling will be making follow up phone calls to members who have not RSVP'd to monthly programs. Reservations for a meal are binding. No-shows and those canceling less than 48 hours in advance are still responsible for payment. A prompt mailing of your check to our Treasurer, Andi Danis, will be appreciated.

*Please email Joy Bowling, [joybowling@att.net](mailto:joybowling@att.net) with your birth month and date.*



# Board Meetings/Membership

**Branch Board Meetings** : Saturdays @ 9:00 a.m..

Harris Bank on Orchard Rd/Indian Trail, Aurora

**June 29, 2019**

**President**

Tracey Sherman-Falcon

**Vice President, Program**

Valerie Burd

**Treasurer**

Andi Danis

**Assistant Treasurer**

Vicki Petersen

**Co-Vice President, Membership**

Kathy Schultz

**Communications Vice President**

Nicole Benziger

**Secretary**

Elaine Ross

**AAUW Funds**

Pat Daugherty

**Newsletter Editor**

Jerre Henriksen

**Social Chair**

Joy Bowling