



# HIGHLIGHTS

AAUW AURORA AREA BRANCH  
CELEBRATING 102 YEARS

WINTER 2022

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

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

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

**We are tenacious and trailblazing—advocating for women and girls since 1881 and into the future.**

**Mission: Gender Equity & Economic Security**

**Values: Intersectional. Inclusive. Intergenerational. Empowering.**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Esters Place	2
Fundraiser	3
Programs	4
Study Groups	5-7
Treasurer	8
Minutes	9-11
Public Policy	12
Organization Information	13-15

## Comments from Andi's World

HELLO AAUW AURORA AREA BRANCH!

Happy New Year! Personally, I am NOT sorry to see 2021 go! But...as I write this, on Wednesday January 5, prospects do not seem brighter for the new year...we are in the middle of another surge – the worst one yet – and many who are vaccinated and boosted are still getting infected. Yet, when I look a little deeper, I do see some light shining waaaaay down at the end of this Covid tunnel. We are fortunate to have vaccines now and they are protecting the majority of us vaccinated ones from serious illness or worse; and more remedies and useful knowledge are popping up every day. Yes – I do believe prospects are already brighter for 2022!

We still need to be mindful of changing conditions, though, so please do not unpack your patience or your flexibility just yet. Our Bookin' It To Lunch group had planned to go back to ZOOM for the winter months, so we are still meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month and our Board meetings have also been virtual throughout this year. We took a break from branch programming because January is such an "iffy" weather month (as I sit here listening to the winds...which are making it feel like -15 degrees...) And the wise decision was just made to cancel this month's Movie Group, with the hope that February will see us over the Omicron mountain.

Despite all the uncertainty, we had a wonderful first half of the program year and we look forward to more of the same in the second half. One program that I want to highlight, in particular, is our April All Branch Book Review and Discussion, scheduled for Thursday April 28<sup>th</sup>! I want to draw your attention to it because you will want to plan ahead: get the book....read the book....bring your thoughts and questions about the book...to this virtual meeting! We will be talking about *All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis*, by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson & Katharine K. Wilkinson, Eds. Notice the title says THE Climate Crisis – not A Climate Crisis or A Possible Climate Crisis...The Climate Crisis is here! It is real! And all of us can do SOMETHING about it! Plus, one of the Editors, Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, is an AAUW fellow! So let's get together, support an AAUW Fellow, and support the planet that we live on. I hope to see you all on April 28<sup>th</sup> (and yes, even if you have not read the book, I still hope to see you on this program!)

Another program to point out is our May Wrap-up meeting. This is the general meeting which will hopefully include a meal, a summary of our State Convention, and a business meeting, where we elect and install Officers who will lead our Branch for the next two years. Now, of course, in order to do all that, we need to have members willing to be nominated as Officers! We are heading into 103 years of an active Aurora Branch and looking to not only survive, but to thrive as we move forward. So please consider serving as a Branch Officer or make your interest known for an appointed Board position – let's keep the fight for gender equity alive in Aurora! PLEASE contact me for more information and to express your willingness to serve.

There are still details to be worked out about several of the spring programs, so please watch your emails and Evites for updates, and as always, thank you so much for your continuing support of AAUW and for all that you bring to our Aurora Area AAUW community.

Andi Danis, President

AAUW Aurora Area Branch

# Happy Holidays @Esther's Place!!





# AAUW VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER



**Vicki Petersen reports that we received 30 donations for a total of \$1,650!! Combined with our current balance of \$734.28, that gives us a new balance of \$2,384.28.**

*Help us plant a brighter future!*

All donations to our Virtual Fundraiser go towards AAUW's efforts to improve the lives of women and girls. At AAUW, we are "sowing the seeds" for a more equitable society where everyone has the chance to grow and flourish. Any amount donated will be greatly appreciated!

**Please, help us make a difference for the future of women and girls everywhere. Donate today. Thank you!**

**Donations are due by November 15, 2021**

**Make checks payable to: AAUW Aurora Area Branch**

Mail ALL checks to:  
AAUW Aurora Area Branch  
Vicki Petersen  
720 Four Seasons Blvd.  
Aurora, IL 60504

**Our AAUW Aurora Branch Board donated \$2,000 to the Greatest Needs Funds. We are left with a balance of \$384.28.**

**Congratulations to all of us ...**

**"When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed."**

**- Maya Angelou**



# 2021-2022 Program Dates

## **JANUARY: No Program**

## **FEBRUARY: Little Traveler Brunch**

Date: Sunday, February 6, 2022

Time: 11:00

Location: Little Traveler, Geneva

Cost: \$9.95 plus TIP

Notes: Reservations will go through the Evite with a deadline of Feb.1; a reservation made is a reservation paid!

## **MARCH: Public Policy Program—TBD**

## **APRIL: All-Branch Book Club: All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis, by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katharine K. Wilkinson, Eds.**

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2021

Time: 6:00p.m.

Location: TBA

Cost: TBA

## **MAY: Spring General Meeting and Review of State Convention; Officer election and Installation**

Date: Saturday, May 21, 2021

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Location: TBA

Cost: TBA

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.

# Study Groups

## AAUW Movie Study Group for 2021-22 @ 6:15 p. m

Movie Study Group meets the second Monday of each month. Movies are selected to support women artists and to address the mission and objectives of AAUW. All selections deal with issues specific to the lives of women and girls, most having women writers, directors, and featured actors. Evites are sent to notify branch members of the upcoming event and to give the hostess an accurate account of those who will attend. Everyone brings a dish to pass for the potluck before the viewing and discussion. **Please RSVP. SOCIAL TIME: 6:15 p. m.; FILMS: 7:00 p. m.**



### Feb. 14, 2022      The Best of Enemies      2019

Hostess: Joy Bowling  
 Genre: Drama  
 Writer/Director: Robin Bissell  
 Actors: Taraji P. Henson, Sam Rockwell, and many other well-knowns  
 Plot: Set in Durham, NC and based on the book by Osha Gray Davidson, the film tells the true story of the rivalry between Ann Atwater and Ku Klux Klan leader C. P. Ellis. They try to settle issues about school integration after the black school burns; very untried methods are used to resolve the conflicts and fears.

### Mar. 14, 2022      The Life Ahead      2020

Hostess: Linda Seyller  
 Genre: Drama (sub-titled)  
 Director: Edoardo Ponti (Sophia Loren's son)  
 Actors: Sophia Loren, Ibrahima Gueye  
 Plot: Set in seaside Italy, this is the last film starring S. Loren. Loren plays a former prostitute and madam but who now runs a kind of daycare center. She is also a former Holocaust survivor, a matter that affects every aspect of her life. Taking in a 12-year-old street kid who has robbed her, she meets the challenge of her life—and the greatest reward.

### April 11, 2022      On the Basis of Sex      2019

Hostess: Jerre Henriksen  
 Genre: Docudrama  
 Director: Mimi Leder  
 Actors: Felicity Jones, Armie Hammer, Sam Waterston, Kathy Bates  
 Plot: Based on the life and early cases of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the film takes us from her years in training as a lawyer through the many obstacles she has to overcome to rise to being an Associate Justice of the U S Supreme Court. She was the second woman to serve on the Supreme Court.

## Movie Group Continued—

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<b><u>Mar. 14, 2022</u></b>	<b><u>The Life Ahead</u></b>	<b><u>2020</u></b>
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Hostess:	Linda Seyller
Genre:	Drama (sub-titled)
Director:	Edoardo Ponti (Sophia Loren's son)
Actors:	Sophia Loren, Ibrahima Gueye
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<b><u>April 11, 2022</u></b>	<b><u>On the Basis of Sex</u></b>	<b><u>2019</u></b>
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Hostess:	Jerre Henriksen
Genre:	Docudrama
Director:	Mimi Leder
Actors:	Felicity Jones, Armie Hammer, Sam Waterston, Kathy Bates
Plot:	Based on the life and early cases of Supreme Court Justice <u>Ruth Bader Ginsburg</u> , the film takes us from her years in training as a lawyer through the many obstacles she has to overcome to rise to being an <u>Associate Justice of the U S Supreme Court</u> . She was the second woman to serve on the <u>Supreme Court</u> .

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<b><u>May 9, 2021</u></b>	<b><u>Herself</u></b>	<b><u>2020</u></b>
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Hostess:	Elaine Ross
Genre:	Drama
Director:	Phyllida Lloyd
Writers:	Clare Dunne, Malcolm Campbell
Actors:	Clare Dunne, Molly McCann, Ruby Rose O'Hara, Harriet Walter
Plot:	A truly inspiring story of a young mother's escape from her abusive husband and her fight against a broken housing system and her culture. Set in Ireland, this single mother enlists a community of friends and supporters to "beat the system" by building her own house. What she builds is her own life and self-worth.

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<b><u>June 13, 2021</u></b>	<b><u>Changing the Game</u></b>	<b><u>2019</u></b>
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Hostess:	May Keenan
Genre:	Documentary, Drama, Sports
Director:	Michael Barnett
Writers:	Amanda C. Griffin, Michael Barnett, Michael Mahaffie
Actors:	Sarah Rose Huckman, Mack Beggs, Terry Miller
Plot:	Transgender high school students from across the country compete at the top of their fields in their individual sport while fighting the many perceptions that hold them back. Boundaries are made to be challenged; discrimination is there to be called out.

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<b><u>July 11, 2022</u></b>	<b><u>Planning Potluck</u></b>	<b><u>Hosted by Denise Curts-Lueth</u></b>
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# AAUW Book Study Group 2021-2022

## BOOKIN' IT TO LUNCH!

Fourth Thursday at 11:30 a.m. (unless otherwise stated)

JANUARY 27            ZOOM

*The Lemon Tree: An Arab, A Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East*, by Sandy Tolan

FEBRUARY 24        ZOOM

*How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America*, by Clint Smith

MARCH 24            TBA

*All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, A Black Family Keepsake*, by Tiya Miles

APRIL 28 (6:00 p.m.) **This will be an all-branch program.**

*All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis*, Edited by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson & Katharine K. Wilkinson    NOTE: Johnson is an AAUW American Fellow Recipient

MAY 26                TBA

*When the Apricots Bloom*, by Gina Wilkinson

JUNE 30                TBA

*The Killing Season: A Paramedic's Dispatches from the Front Lines of the Opioid Epidemic*, by Peter Canning.

JULY 28:                PLANNING SESSION            Location TBA

AUGUST 25:            TBA

*Once I Was You: A Memoir of Love and Hate in a Torn America*, by Maria Hinojosa

Questions:    Contact Andi Danis at [danishouse@sbcglobal.net](mailto:danishouse@sbcglobal.net)

“Kindred spirits are not so scarce as I used to think.  
It's splendid to find out there are so many of them in  
the world.” —L.M. Montgomery,  
*Anne of Green Gables*



# AAUW Branch Treasurer Report/Dues

## Treasurer's Report as of

November 6, 2021

Ending Balance from 8/14/21		\$2326.12
Deposits:	Dues	\$ 651.00
Expenses:	Printing	\$ 142.64
	Postage	11.00
	State and Nat'l Dues	\$ 483.00
Balance as of 11/6/21		\$2350.38

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracey Sherman-Falcon, Treasurer

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## Assistant Treasurer's Report As of November 6, 2021

Balance 8/14/21	\$734.28
Checks: None	
Current AAUW Funds Balance:	\$734.28

Submitted by:

Vicki Petersen

Assistant Treasurer





# AAUW Branch Minutes

## Minutes for Aurora-Area Board Meeting of November 6, 2021 at 9:00 a. m.

### Remote Zoom Meeting in Fox Valley, IL

#### In attendance:

Joy Bowling, Johanna Byram, Andi Danis, Roberta Devorsky, Vicki Petersen, and Tracey Sherman-Falcon.

#### Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a. m.

#### Minutes:

The minutes from August 14, 2021 were approved. Tracey moved for approval of the minutes. Johanna seconded. All approved.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Tracey reviewed her written report. Items of note were the activities due to minor membership updates, printing, and postage. **The balance as of November 6, 2021 was \$2,350.58.**

The November 2021 month end balance needed to be updated so that Tracey will be updating the report for the yearbook. The fundraising expense was reviewed. Invoices are pending for the recent Aurora Public Library event as well as the upcoming Chili and Spaghetti Supper.

#### Asst. Treasurer's Report:

Vicki reviewed her written report. **The balance (in EF/LAF) is \$734.28.**

Figures will be updating due to the virtual fundraiser. The fundraiser is going well. Three (3) checks were already received. Correspondence at the end of November will be forthcoming to determine the amount to be sent to National.

#### Programs:

Andi reviewed the upcoming programs.

Chili and Spaghetti Supper with Women's Economic Security Program on November 18 (5:30 pm with speaker at 6:45 pm). The event was also published in the Yorkville Chamber of Commerce by Val. Joy is the chair for this event and will be calling members of AAUW to donate food/paperware, etc. The outside community is welcome

Craft Party at Esther's Place on December 4. Roberta to get clarification on a few details so that Vicki can send out an invite to members.

Little Traveler Brunch by Joy B. in February is all set. She will contact the restaurant the week before with the final headcount.

March is pending.

April is the Branch Bookin' It to Lunch session via ZOOM.

May considerations include state convention updates, installation of officers, etc. Location TBD with consideration to leverage the state convention activities on May 6 – 7.

## **Minutes—Membership Continued**

### **Membership:**

Johanna has nothing to add on membership. Suzanne Stegeman joined the branch (Tracey's referral).

### **Communications:**

Andi presented Nicole's report in her absence. The website and Facebook pages have been updated as appropriate.

### **AAUW Funds:**

The virtual fundraising idea kicked off ...Nicole created the invitation for "Planting the Seeds for the Future" which was beautiful. A seed packet was attached to a card (roughly 75 cards). Joy addressed, stamped, and mailed the cards. The deadline for donations is November 15 but Vicki acknowledged that checks are often received in December.

### **Public Policy:**

Tracey S. reported that the repeal of parental notification ("PNA") passed.

Paula and Tracey strategized to have letter writing campaigns from other branches/individuals so that labor was effectively delegated.

There is frustration with the progress on the state's paid family leave act.

### **Social Chair:**

Joy B. reviewed her report. Items of note are: Cards were sent for August and September birthdays; get well cards were sent out in October. Thank you cards were sent to Andi, Tracey, & AAUW from Joy B. for the Agent of Change award.

Joy will be calling members regarding the Chili and Spaghetti Supper.

### **Newsletter:**

Jerre Henriksen will be doing the newsletter in January 2022. We will approve the November minutes electronically to include in the newsletter.

### **Yearbook:**

There is nothing new to report.

### **Study Groups:**

Bookin' It: Andi Danis

-Will be Thursday Dec. 2 (due to Thanksgiving) at 11:30 via ZOOM; the book is *New Women in the Old West*, by Winifred Gallagher

Movie Group: Joy/Jerre/Pat

-Will be Monday Nov. 8 at 6:15 at Denise's house; the movie will be "The Bookshop".

### **Old Business:**

The Fall Conference was recapped. It went well. Some things to consider would be agendas and breakout descriptions which Andi will be forwarding along.

DEI position on the Board update. This position is not filled yet. (Andi may consider doing it next year.)

## Minutes Continued

### New Business:

A nominating committee needs to be formed for officers up for election – President, VP of Communications, Secretary, and Assistant Treasurer (Vicki willing to rerun).

Andi is planning to recommend changes to the bylaws to adapt to the current branch structure. More discussion will occur at the January 2022 board meeting.

A survey to membership about leadership is going to be put together by Tracey and Andi to get more information (shortly following the January newsletter).

### Upcoming Events:

November 30, Alzheimer's Disease presentation by the Top Ladies of Distinction (TOLD). Joy B. to send out the invitation.

November 15, Lyon Farm presentation on "The Two Kendalls" (IL and TX). Email Johanna to register and get the ZOOM invite.

Future Board Meetings: Saturdays at 9:00 – how to meet will be revisited as the year progresses.

Saturday, January 22, 2022 (dependent on State Mtgs.)

Saturday, March 26, 2022

Saturday, June 25, 2022

**The next board meeting will be on Saturday, January 22, 2022 via ZOOM.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Devorsky, Secretary



Our very own lady in red could use a little extra love and encouragement:

Symphony The Tillers

Room 307, 390 IL-71

Oswego, IL 60543.

You can also reach her by phone to her room at  
630.636.4300 Ext. 307

## Where We Stand: Civil Rights

AAUW advocates for equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society.

### [Voting Rights](#)

AAUW is committed to open and fair elections, nonpartisan voter education efforts that will promote equitable political participation and representation in appointed and elected office, and the expansion of voting rights.

### [Equal Rights Amendment](#)

AAUW is committed to the passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, which provides the constitutional guarantee that all men and women are truly equal under the law.

### [Human Trafficking](#)

AAUW believes that global interdependence requires national and international policies against human trafficking that promote peace, justice, human rights, sustainable development, and mutual security for all people.

### [Reproductive Rights](#)

AAUW supports choice in the determination of one's reproductive life and increased access to health care and family planning services.

### [LGBTQ Rights](#)

AAUW supports the civil rights of all individuals and opposes all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.



Race-based strategies are especially challenging in a country where living standards have stagnated in recent decades: Working-class families of all races have reason to distrust the notion that they live a privileged lifestyle. Steve Bannon, the far-right political figure, once said that he wanted liberals “to talk about racism every day.” When they do, Bannon said, “I got ’em.”



# New Member Registration Form

For Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022



Annual membership dues are **\$ 93**

National: \$ 62\*

State: \$ 10

Branch: \$ 21

Total Dues: \$ 93

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

Mail To: Tracey Sherman-Falcon  
AAUW Aurora Area Branch  
446 West Park Ave.  
Aurora, IL 60506

## CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CELL \_\_\_\_\_

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

## COLLEGE INFORMATION

SCHOOL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CAMPUS LOCATION (CITY, STATE) \_\_\_\_\_

HIGHEST DEGREE EARNED \_\_\_\_\_

GRADUATION DATE (MM/YYYY) \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact 800.326.2289 or [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) for information about Student Memberships.

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 dues are \$62, of which \$59 is tax deductible. The remaining \$3 is not deductible because it supports the AAUW Action Fund's section 501(c)(4) Capitol Hill advocacy work 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 [aauwaaurorail@gmail.com](mailto:aauwaaurorail@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.

## 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, Tracey Sherman-Falcon, will be appreciated.



# Board Meetings/Membership

**Branch Board Meetings :** Saturdays at 9:00 – how to meet will be revisited as the year progresses.

Saturday January 22, 2022 (dependent on State Mtgs.)

Saturday March 26, 2022

Saturday June 25, 2022

**President**

Andi Danis

**1st Vice President, Program**

Open

**Treasurer**

Tracey Sherman-Falcon

**Assistant Treasurer**

Vicki Petersen

**2nd Vice President, Membership**

Johanna Byram

**Communications Vice President**

Nicole Benziger

**Secretary**

Roberta Devorsky

**AAUW Funds**

Nicole Benziger/Vicki Petersen

**Newsletter Editor**

Jerre Henriksen

**Social Chair**

Joy Bowling

**Public Policy**

Tracey Sherman-Falcon