



HIGHLIGHTS

AAUW AURORA AREA BRANCH
CELEBRATING 102 YEARS

SPRING 2023

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

Branch EMAIL
aauwaurorail@gmail.com

National Website
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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Letter	1-2
Programming	3-4
Virtual Fundraiser	5
Study Groups	6
State Conference	7
Public Policy	8
Treasurer's Report	9
Memories	10
Organization Information	11

Comments from Andi's World

President's Message

Happy Spring (hopefully soon,) AAUW Aurora Area Members !

I think I have been spoiled by the nice weather we have had most of the winter and now want to slide right into Spring! But alas, I'm afraid we still have a bit of a ways to go.....

Another reason that I am eager for Spring is that we have some great programs coming up that you won't want to miss! Look for more details in this newsletter, but I do want to mention several very special ones: In March we have invested in *Keeping Faith: Sisters of Story* to be held on Saturday March 11 at 5:30 p.m. This is a traveling group of four women who practice different faiths using storytelling and song to combat the divisive and hateful sentiments that are sadly present in our country. They seek to bridge those divides with their stories which compel us to seek common ground. Register for your seat today!

In April we will have another important program – our branch book discussion of *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*, by Heather Mcghee, on Thursday April 20. This book is available at all the area libraries and also for purchase on most online used and new booksellers. The book is a New York Time bestseller and has been the part of national conversations on major talk shows and programs. The author's background is in economics and she wonders why a prosperous nation such as ours not only never reaches its full potential, but very often fails large groups of its citizens. What she discovered is that racism, rooted in our politics and policy costs all of us dearly; if we could come together as one people we would all benefit financially, but in many other ways as well.

Even if you can't read the book, please come and be part of this important conversation (and enjoy the company and refreshments!)

(Letter Continues on Page 2)

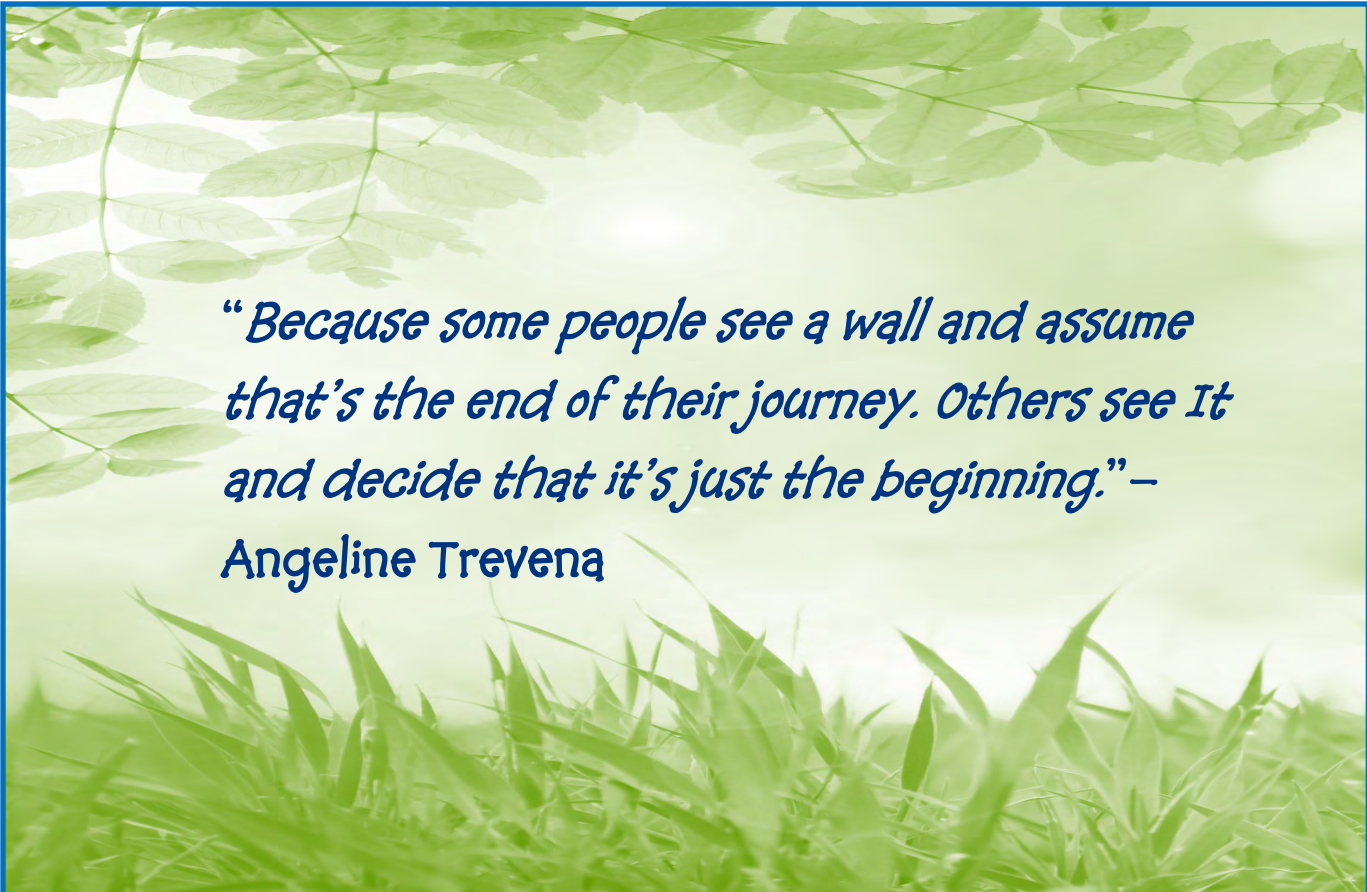
Andi's Letter Continues ...

In May, of course, will be our wrap-up meeting, which could be an especially important day for our branch. Back in the fall, I brought up the struggles that our branch faces in recruiting and retaining members, as well as recruiting members to leadership positions within the branch. We are very fortunate to have several new members this year and we welcome them with open arms! But...we have to have members willing to lead this branch! We have to have members willing to do the work of programming, membership, fundraising, communications...all the functions that make our branch viable and worthy of new members. The Nominating Committee, led by Linda Seyler, is working now to fill a slate of officers for this coming 2-year term. If we cannot fill that slate, our potential to remain a viable branch will be very much in jeopardy, with disbandment the likely outcome. PLEASE...if you can take on a position that is open or serve on the Board in some capacity, please reach out to Linda now!

And lastly, I want to thank the current officers who have helped me manage this branch this year by leading a board meeting, sharing the duties of the President, and supporting efforts to produce a fabulous program year – which we have done! Much gratitude for all of you!

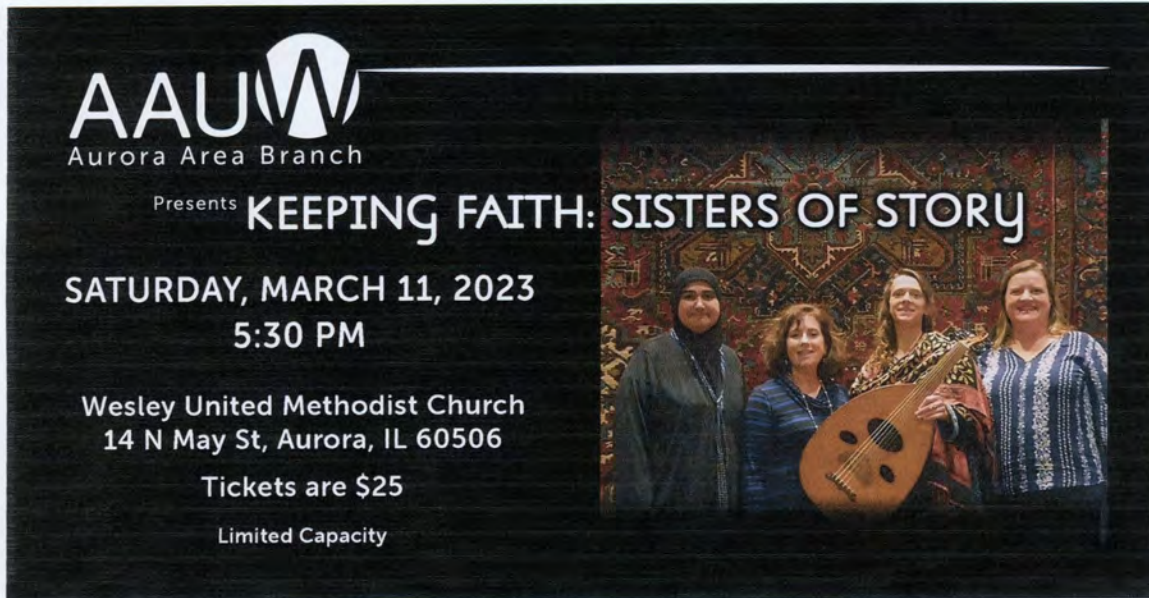
I am honored to be your President and am always available to answer questions, listen to comments...just contact me at danishouse@sbcglobal.net or 630.606.6366 I hope to see many of you at our programs this spring!

Andi Danis



“Because some people see a wall and assume that’s the end of their journey. Others see It and decide that it’s just the beginning.” –
Angeline Trevena

2022-2023 Programs



AAUW
Aurora Area Branch

Presents **KEEPING FAITH: SISTERS OF STORY**

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2023
5:30 PM

Wesley United Methodist Church
14 N May St, Aurora, IL 60506

Tickets are \$25
Limited Capacity

KEEPING FAITH: SISTERS OF STORY Four women who call upon their personal experiences and traditions to demonstrate peace and the commonalities among people of many faiths. They use storytelling and song to bridge the divides fed by the rise of hateful and vitriolic language in our nation. Rohina Malik, a Muslim woman, playwright and storyteller; Susan Stone, a Jewish woman and storyteller; and Kim Schultz who is an actor and storyteller who identifies as Christian came up with an idea: What if we all told stories from our faiths with the goal of bringing people together and showing peace, curiosity, and similarities amongst the faiths. KEEPING FAITH: SISTERS OF STORY was born. Join us for an evening of story and song that examines who we are going to be as a community and as a nation and how we are going to allow our stories to be told. For more information about Sisters of Story, visit their website: <https://sistersofstory.weebly.com/>

Each storyteller tells 3 stories inspired by their personal faith journey. We will be joined by cultural-musical storyteller, Lucia Thomas on violin, oud, and guitar.

Light refreshments will be served and there will be time for Q&A after the performance.

Register at Eventbrite:
<https://tinyurl.com/58jhm9v>
or scan the QR code



What: All-Branch Book Review and Discussion: *The Sum of Us: What Racism costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together* by Heather McGhee

Per Amazon: *NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER* • *LONGLISTED FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD* • One of today's most insightful and influential thinkers offers a powerful exploration of inequality and the lesson that generations of Americans have failed to learn: Racism has a cost for everyone—not just for people of color.

When: Thursday, April 20, 2023 6:00 P.M.

Where: Aurora Santori Library, Rm N126 at 6:00 p.m.

'Light eats and drinks' served.



What: The Wrap-up Program—General Business Meeting and Recap of the State Convention, as well as the Election and Installation of Officers

Where: Aurora Santori Library, Room To Be Announced

When: Saturday June 3 at 11:00



AAUW Aurora Area Virtuosity

Generosity
changes everything

Assistant Treasurer's and AAUW Funds Report
AAUW Aurora Area Branch

Balance 8/1/22 \$484.28

Deposits:
12/15/22 \$1,485.00

Checks:
2016 AAUW \$1,485.00

Current AAUW Funds Balance: \$484.28

Our virtual fundraiser was a hit! We received 18 donations for a total of \$1,485. The board voted and approved sending a donation of \$1,500. Unfortunately I forgot to include our branch's \$15 donation to round up the amount so our donation to the Greatest Needs Fund was \$1,485.

We also received two more donations after the close of the fundraiser, bringing our grand total of funds raised to \$1,635.

Submitted by:
Vicki Petersen
Assistant Treasurer and AAUW Funds Chair

Virtual Fundraiser



\$1635

Study Groups

AAUW Movie Study Group Films are shown on the 2nd Monday of the month, with the potluck at 6:15 and film at 7:00. Addresses of each host are in the Yearbook and will be sent with the Evite

Mar 13, 2023 **Belfast (2021)**
Hostess: Johanna Byram **Genre:** Drama
Actors: Kenneth Branagh

April 10, 2023 **Wild Rose (2018)**
Hostess: Elaine Ross **Genre:** Drama
Director: Tom Harper

May 8, 2023 **Where the Crawdads Sing (2022)**
Hostess: Denise Curtis-Lueth **Genre:** Drama
Author: Delia Owens

June 12, 2023 **The Martha Mitchell Effect (2022)**
Hostess: Elaine Ross **Genre:** Documentary
Directors: Anne Alvergue and Debra McClutchy

July 10, 2023 **PLANNING POTLUCK**
Hostess: Denise Curtis-Lueth

BOOKIN' IT

MEETING DATE: **Tuesday March 28, 2023** **6:00 p.m.**
BOOK: *The Double Life of Katharine Clark: The Untold Story of the Fearless Journalist Who Risked Her Life For Truth and Justice*, by Katharine Gregorio

MEETING DATE: **Thursday April 20, 2023** (All-Branch Program) **6:00 p.m.**
BOOK: *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone And How We Can Prosper And How We Can Prosper Together*, by Heather McGhee

MEETING DATE: **Tuesday May 30, 2023** (Date Change) **6:00 p.m.**
BOOK: *Earth Democracy: Justice, Sustainability, and Peace*, by Vandana Shiva

MEETING DATE: **Tuesday June 27, 2023** (Date Change) **6:00 p.m.**
BOOK: *Tomorrow Will Be Different: Love, Loss, and the Fight for Trans Equality*, by Sarah McBride

MEETING DATE: **Tuesday July 25, 2023** **6:00 p.m.**
BOOK: *The Turnaway Study: Ten Years, A Thousand Women, and the Consequences of Having – or Being Denied – an Abortion*, by Diana Greene Foster

NOTE: WE WILL ALSO SCHEDULE A SEPARATE PLANNING SESSION IN JULY

MEETING DATE: **Tuesday Aug. 22, 2023** **6:00 p.m.**
BOOK: *My First Thirty Years*, by Gertrude Beasley

2023 AAUW-IL, 98th State Convention

Friday evening thru Saturday, May 5 - 6, 2023

**Embassy Suites by Hilton East Peoria Riverfront Hotel
& Conference Center**

100 Conference Center Dr, East Peoria, IL 61611

Following on the heels of our very successful face to face AAUW-IL convention in 2022, plan to join AAUW friends and colleagues from around the state at the 2023 AAUW-IL Convention in East Peoria.

The rooms at the Embassy Suites are truly a suite with a separate bedroom, a foldout sofa in the front room, and a shared bath in between. Very conducive to bringing a friend to the conference! We are lucky enough to have secured 2022 prices which include access to meeting rooms and other support for the convention.

You can reserve your room today at the following link: <https://aauw-il.aauw.net/> then click on the link that says 'click here for details', next to Room Reservation are now Available. Or you may call: **1-800-EMBASSY and use the code AUW** (this is correct, 3-digit code).

Please reserve your room and watch for meeting registration and agenda details coming later in the Connection newsletter and on the AAUW-IL website. You won't want to miss this annual meeting where together we advance the AAUW mission.

**AAUW advances equity for women and girls through
research, education, and advocacy.**

Public Policy

During the lame duck session of the Illinois legislature in early January, several of our public policy priorities were made into law!

The [Protect Illinois Communities Act](#) was signed into law in January 2022. This law bans the sale and distribution of assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, and switches in Illinois, effective immediately. Illinois becomes the ninth state to enact such a ban. This law was designed to hold up to legal challenges, as other state laws also have. (since challenged in court)

The [Paid Leave for All Workers Act](#) was passed! This policy is essential to economic justice and will reduce the gender wage gap. The [Paid Leave for All Workers Act](#) enables all workers in the state of Illinois (with some exceptions for collective bargaining agreements and students who work at their own University) to earn up to 40 hours of paid leave to use for ***almost any reason***. Paid leave is so important for all workers - to be able to stay home if they are sick, without fear of losing wages; to care for a sick child or family member or even a pet; to go to appointments; to spend time with a newborn.

The [Patient and Provider Protection Act \(PAPPA\)](#) was also signed into law during the lame duck session. This law accomplishes many of our legislative priorities regarding reproductive health care in Illinois. It [“shields reproductive and gender-affirming health care patients and providers from legal action originating across state lines in a post-Roe world where some states are moving swiftly to restrict such procedures. Also, it protects the Illinois licenses of health care providers licensed in multiple states who provide treatment legal in Illinois but which might cost them their license in a state where it's not. And, it would prevent insurers from charging more for out-of-network care when in-network providers object to treatment on moral grounds”](#)



AAUW Branch Treasurer Report/Dues

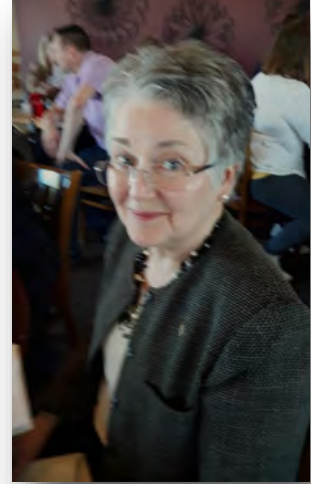
AAUW Aurora Area Branch
Treasurer's Report
January 21, 2023

Ending Balance from 9/10/22		\$2075.02
Deposits:		
	Dues (checks)	\$ 198.00
	Program refund (Esther's Pl)	\$ 50.00
	Dues from Nat'l	\$ 21.00
Expenses:		
	Dues	\$ 298.00
	Programs	\$ 100.00
	(SOS deposit, Chili supper room fee)	
	Insurance	\$ 200.00
	Postage (reim Johanna)	\$ 12.00
Balance as of	1/21/23	\$ 1734.02

Respectfully submitted,
Tracey Sherman-Falcon, Treasurer



Remembering Treasures



Pat Daugherty, Suzanne Deuchler, and Arline Hoban will forever live with us.

Stay Connected with the AAUW Aurora Area Branch

Not on Facebook? We still have our branch website at 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 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

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.

Board Meetings/Membership

Branch Board Meetings : Saturdays @ 9:30 a.m..

June 17, 2023

Administrator

Andi Danis

Program

Roberta Devorsky

Treasurer

Andi Danis

Assistant Treasurer

Vicki Petersen

Co-Vice President, Membership

Joanna Byram

Communications Vice President

Nicole Benziger

Secretary

Suzanne Stegeman

Newsletter Editor

Jerre Henriksen

Social Chair

Joy Bowling

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." ~ Eleanor Roosevelt