



HIGHLIGHTS

AAUW AURORA AREA BRANCH
CELEBRATING 103 YEARS

FALL 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.

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Comments from Andi's World

Hello AAUW Aurora Area!

Where DID the summer go?! I write this as we suffer through the worst heatwave this year, with the heat index soaring above 100 degrees, lol. But yet...the calendar tells me we are rushing headlong into fall. And that means...membership renewal! The process has been sluggish this spring/summer, but I am hopeful that those of you who have not yet renewed your dues will quickly take care of this. If you are having trouble with the online process, do not hesitate to contact our Treasurer, Linda Seyler – she will be happy to help you! Also...the deadline is quickly approaching for listing our members in the yearbook; if you would like your membership reflected in the yearbook, please renew now!

A lot of the work of planning the new membership year was done this summer: we have a nice line-up of programs, with a mix of social and mission-based offerings; our study groups have chosen the movies and books that will lead to vibrant discussions and lively gatherings; there are plans to be active in public policy, engaging with legislators and promoting the AAUW priorities at the local, state and national levels. And you can learn all about it at our kickoff meeting!

Our first meeting of the year will be on Saturday September 23 at 1:00 p.m. at the Santori Library, in the Dolan Teen Room upstairs. We will go over everything that you can be part of this year, including time to just catch up with one another and share a nice meal, to learning opportunities and active engagement in the work of AAUW. Light refreshments will be provided and your yearbook will be available – I hope you will join us!

Please make sure you are getting our emails! And please make sure that you open and read our emails! That is how you can stay up-to-date on everything we are doing. And please make sure that you open, read, and respond to the Evites that you receive. That allows us to plan effectively for facility and refreshment needs.

Enjoy the rest of this newsletter, and thank you to Jerre Henriksen for putting this together! I hope to see you at our programs and study groups throughout the year. And as usual, if you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me! I am honored to be serving as your President.

Andi

2022-2023 Programs - Continued

Sat./Sun., TBA December, 2023 **1:00 pm**

Place: Plainfield Congregational United Church of Christ;
24020 W. Fraser Rd, Plainfield, 60586

Program: Service Opportunity- A Community based Holiday Event- we will wear our 'ugly sweaters' and help wrap presents for the church's outreach program of Angel gifts for needy children. You will be given a name of a child to help.

January TBA, 2024

Place: ZOOM

Program: Margaret, (Meg) Morley, AAUW Awardee 2022-23, will speak to us about her ethnographic research on Egyptian Dancing and culture at Appalachian State University.

Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024 **10:30 am-1:00 pm**

Place: Santori Library rm 125-126

Program: Black History Program—Ms. Bernita Echols will present a factual history about Tidye Pickett, a Chicago native being one of the other Black athletes who participated in the 1936 Olympics along with Jesse Owens in Germany. In celebration of Black History Month, the community will have a chance to chat with her daughter about the experiences her mother and the other athletes had to endure during that time.

Sunday, Mar.10, 2024 **11:00 am –1:00 pm**

Place: Little Traveler - 404 S. 3rd St., Geneva, IL 60534

Program: Brunch @ the Atrium Café

Come and enjoy a fun luncheon with our members on this annual event. This year we will each share one of our favorite poems composed by a female writer.

Cost: Approximately \$12 plus tax & tip

Friday, April 12, 2024 **7:00 pm**

Place: New England Congregational Church

Program: 'Women Talking' will be the basis of a combined movie and discussion experience with the members of NECC and our AAUW branch members.

April 2024

Place: Santori Library, Downtown Aurora

Program: Dr. Cheryl Frazes- Hill will speak on her book about the life of Dr Margaret Hillis, Founder of the Chicago Symphony Chorus. We will hear some of the actual music she helped prepare for some of the world's leading conductors in music history.

Saturday, May 18, 2024 **9:30**

Event: Wrap-up Meeting for the 2023-24 Program Year

Location: TBA This will be our final general meeting of the year where we will hear from those who attended the State Convention as well as elect and install new branch officers.

2023-2024 Study Group Programs

We're Bookin' It

Will meet the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm, except where noted. Locations will be determined as we go. We are excited about 2023/2024!

Tuesday September 26—6:00 p.m.

BOOK: *The Wind Knows My Name*, by Isabel Allende

Wednesday October 25—6:00 p.m.

BOOK: *I'm Glad Mom Died*, by Jennette McCurdy

Tuesday November 28—6:00 p.m.

BOOK: *#NotYourPrincess: Voices of Native American Women*, by Lisa Charleyboy & Mary Beth Leatherdale, Eds.

No Meeting For December

Tuesday January 23—6:00 p.m.

BOOK: *To Name the Bigger Lie: A Memoir in Two Stories*, by Sarah Viren

Tuesday February 27- 6:00 p.m.

BOOK: *Built From the Fire: The Epic Story of Tulsa's Greenwood District, America's Black Wall Street*, by Victor Luckerson

Tuesday, March 26—6:00 p.m.

The Forgotten Girls: A Memoir of Friendship and Lost Promise in Rural America, by Monica Potts



Programs Continued—We're Bookin' It

Tuesday, April 23—6:00 p.m.

You have a choice! Read one or both (or neither) and listen to summaries and discussion of both!

BOOK: *Who Gets Believed? When the Truth isn't Enough*, by Dina Nayeri

BOOK: *The Patriarchs: The Origins of Inequality*, by Angela Saini

Tuesday, May 28—6:00 p.m.

BOOK: *They Called Us Exceptional: And Other Lies That Raised Us*, by Prachi Gupta

Tuesday, June 25—6:00 p.m.

BOOK: *I'm Afraid of Men*, by Vivek Shraya

Tuesday, July 23—6:00 p.m.

Just Us: An American Conversation, by Claudia Rankine

Tuesday, August 27—6:00 p.m.

You have a choice! Read one or both (or neither) and listen to summaries and discussion of both!

BOOK: *The Worth of Water: Our Story of Chasing Solutions to the World's Greatest Challenge*, by Gary White and Matt Damon

BOOK: *The Storms of My Grandchildren: The Truth About the Coming Climate Catastrophe and Our Last Chance to Save Humanity*, by James Hansen

A SEPARATE PLANNING SESSION IN JULY WILL BE PLANNED.

AAUW Monthly Movie Study Group

Meetings are on the 2nd month of each month unless indicated otherwise. 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/or featured actresses. Everyone brings a dish to pass for the potluck social time. Participants are requested to respond to the Evite as a courtesy to the hostess.

Social Time: 6:15 pm Films Followed by Discussion: 7:00 pm

August (TBD) Barbie Movie- *at a local theater – group outing. We may go eat nearby first.*

Sept. 11, 2023 She Said (2022)

Hostess: Johanna Byrum **Genre:** Drama/ History; 2h,9m

Director: Maria Schrader, starring Carey Mulligan, Ashley Judd

Oct. 9, 2023 Jerry and Marge Go Large (2022)

Hostess: Joy Bowling **Genre:** Comedy/Drama; 96m

Director: David Frankel; starring Annette Benning, Bryan Cranston

Nov. 13, 2023 What Happened Miss Simone? (2015)

Hostess: Linda Seyler **Genre:** Documentary/ Music; 1h,41m

Director: Liz Garbus, starring Nina Simone, Lisa Simone Kelly

Dec. 11, 2023 Soul Surfer (2011)

Hostess: Karel Thompson **Genre:** Drama; 1h 46m

Director: Dennis Quaid, Carrie Underwood; starring Anna Sophia Robb, Helen Hunt

Jan. 8, 2024 Judy Blume Forever (2023)

Hostess: May Keenan **Genre:** Documentary; 1h,37m

Director: Davina Pardo; starring Judy Blume, Molly Ringwald

Hostess: Jerre Henriksen **Genre:** Documentary; 2h,2m

Director: Laura Poitras; starring Nan Goldin, Megan Kalper



Movie Study Group—Continued

Feb. 12, 2024 Tina (2022)

Hostess: Joy Bowling **Genre:** Documentary/ Bio; 1h,58m

Director: Daniel Lindsey; starring Tina Turner

Mar. 11, 2024 All the Beauty and the Blood (2022)

Hostess: Jerre Henriksen **Genre:** Documentary; 2h,2m

Director: Laura Poitras; starring Nan Goldin, Megan Kalper

** March Special Outing to see 'Cabriní' at a Local Theater; date TBA*

Apr. 8, 2024 I Want to Dance With Somebody (2022)

Hostess: Elaine Ross **Genre:** Musical/ Drama; 2h,26m

Director: Kasi Lemmons; starring Whitney Houston, Naomi Ackl

May 13, 2024 He Named Me Malala (2015)

Hostess: Sandy Hipp **Genre:** Documentary; 88m

Director: David Guggenheim; starring Malala Yusafzai

Jun,10, 2024 I Care A Lot (2021)

Hostess: Ina Allen **Genre:** Satirical Thriller; 118m

Director: J. Blakeson; starring Rosamund Pike, Diane Wiest, Peter Dinklage

Jul 8,2024 Planning Potluck

Hostess: Denise Curtis-Lueth

“Happiness is good health and a
bad memory.” —

Ingrid Bergman



AAUW Aurora Area Virtuosity

Generosity
changes everything

Watch your mail this fall for info on our fall fundraiser. After much success, we'll be continuing with a virtual fundraiser to help our branch support AAUW Greatest Needs fund. You also can bring your donation to the chili/spaghetti supper on Saturday, Nov. 18.

Virtual Fundraiser

Take Action

There are lots of ways to get involved with AAUW's work to advance gender equity. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of women and girls.

Support Gender Equity

Be a Part of Our Equity Network

Partner With Us

2023-2024 Public Policy

Public Policy Update

(read to the end for info on our upcoming THANK YOUR LEGISLATORS party!)

Fortunately for us AAUW folks in Illinois, we had some excellent legislative successes! Below are some of the bills passed that AAUW supported.

- Deceptive Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers Act** amends the Consumer Protection and Deceptive Practices Act to prohibit limited services pregnancy centers (more commonly known as crisis pregnancy centers) from engaging in deceptive or fraudulent practices. (SB1909)
 - Bans on Book Banning** requires library boards to adopt written policies opposing book banning in order to be eligible for state library grants (HB 2789)
 - Patient Provider Protection Act** reinforces protections for Illinois health care providers and patients traveling here to access abortion or gender affirming health care. (HB 4664)
 - Assault Weapon Ban** provides that it is unlawful for any person within the State to knowingly manufacture, deliver, sell, purchase assault weapons and high capacity magazines and switches. (HB 5471)
- Affirm Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) Resolution** affirms the Equal Rights Amendment as our 28th Amendment to the US Constitution and asks that action be taken for the ERA's official publication. (HJR 0020)

Unfortunately there was no mention to sunset the **Invest in Kids voucher program** and there was no line item in the budget to fund it either. However, this remains controversial and additional efforts to extend will likely continue. AAUW believes in a strong public school system, and vouchers to private schools only hinder our underfunded public schools.

Medical and Family Leave Insurance Act was not passed in this past session. However, it moved farther than it has in past legislative sessions. Efforts will continue during the veto override session or in the next legislative session.

You will be writing your State Senator and State Representative and thanking them for supporting AAUW bills. Information on your legislators will be provided along with the above bill information. Feel free to bring your own note cards, (AAUW art contest cards are great for this) or cards will be provided as well.

Tracey Sherman-Falcon
Public Policy Chair, Aurora Area Branch

“We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color.” –

Maya Angelou

AAUW Branch Treasurer Report

AAUW Aurora Area Branch 2023-2024 Proposed Budget

Carryover from 2022-23	793.04
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Projected Income

Dues from 35 member @\$21	735
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Total Available Revenue	1528.04
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Projected Expenses

Conventions/Conferences	200
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Memorials: 2 @ \$25	50
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Membership Committee	100
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Programs	680
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Printing: Yearbooks, newsletter	100
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President's Expenses	50
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Treasurer's Expenses	20
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Social Chair	0
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Insurance: Yearly Liability	225
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Board Reserve Fund	103.04
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Total Projected Expenses	1528.04
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Ending Balance as of 6/3/23	\$793.04
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Deposits	\$967.00
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Dues	\$967.00
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Other	\$0.00
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Expenses	\$689.90
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Dues	519.1
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Programs	\$20.00
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Zoom license	\$149.90
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Balance as of 8/17/23	\$1,070.14
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2023-2024 Board Minutes

AAUW AURORA AREA BRANCH BOARD MEETING

August 19, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. at the Santori Library

Call to Order: Andi Danis, President

Meeting was called to order at 9:44 a.m. Board members present were Andi Danis, Ina Allen, Tracey Sherman-Falcon, Linda Seyler, Johanna Byram, and Nicole Benziger.

Approval of Minutes:

There were no minutes shared at this time, as we did not have an official secretary at the June 17, 2023 meeting. Ina Allen was appointed at the end of that meeting. Andi will draw up the minutes from her notes and have for the November 11 meeting. Ina will start taking the note as of today's meeting.

Officer and Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Linda Seyler

Treasurer's Report: Linda reported that the only money that was deposited since the last meeting were from dues. She had a printed sheet describing the current treasury amounts.

Status of Renewing members: We have only had a few of our members return membership forms and dues. There will be an update since more may be incoming during or up until the general meeting in September.

-Proposed Budget: Linda presented a proposed budget. A motion to approve the proposed budget was raised by Tracey and seconded by Johanna. Unanimously carried by all present. The proposed budget will be recommended to the membership at the September meeting.

Assistant Treasurer's Report: Vicki Petersen- No report was presented as Vicki was absent at his meeting.

Programs: Ina Allen

Program Updates: Ina is still waiting for responses for the programs that are planned for the months of Dec, Jan, Feb, and Apr. She will be in contact with those presenters this week and get the days. If not, we can put TBA in the handbook, until we get the exact times. She will also cc a copy of the program schedule to Jerre and Nicole when she sends the information for the yearbook to Linda.

Yearbook: Linda Seyler

Linda will extend the deadline a few more days for getting renewing members names to put in the yearbook. It will be ready for handing out at the September general meeting.

2023-2024 Board Minutes - Continued

Membership: Johanna Byram

There have been 12 renewals as of today's meeting. We have 3 paid Lifetime members who still pay Branch and state dues only. Johanna will send dues forms via email upon request. Linda and Johanna will also send reminders to those who have not renewed their memberships.

Communications: Nicole Benziger

Nicole asked for copies of the schedules from the Movie and Book study groups so she can put in the newsletters. Andi gave her a copy of the Book study group schedule and Nicole will be in touch with Elaine for the Movie group schedule.

AAUW Funds: Vicki Petersen

As Vicki was absent for today's meeting, there was only the mention of the Virtual fundraiser which is TBD.

Public Policy: Tracey Sherman-Falcon

Tracey will be hosting a post card writing gathering on September 10, 2023, asking people to write and thank their individual legislators. She will be attending a state level meeting on September 22.

Newsletter: Jerre Henriksen

Jerre sent a message that she would like the newsletter information by August 25. The newsletter will go out to the membership the first week of September.

Study Groups:

-Bookin' It: Andi Danis

Will be Tuesday August 22 at 6:00 p.m. at The Patio Restaurant to review *My First Thirty Years*, by Gertrude Beasley

-Movie Group: Linda Seyler

Will be Monday, September 11 to review *'She Said'* at Denise's home.

Additional reports as needed:

Audit: Status report – the audit is in progress.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Announcements: None

Adjournment: Andi adjourned the Aurora Area Branch Board meeting at 10:30 a.m.

NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE SATURDAY NOV. 11 AT 9:30 AT SANTORI LIBRARY

Respectfully submitted by Ina Allen, August 2023



2023-2024 Membership

Please contact Johanna Byram jbyram0816@gmail.com regarding any membership issues including renewing.

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. Reservations for a meal are binding.

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 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.

Michelle Obama, *Becoming*

“Friendships between women, as any woman will tell you, are built of a thousand small kindnesses... swapped back and forth and over again.”

2022-2023 Aurora Area Branch Board

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President: Andi Danis danishouse@sbcglobal.net

1st V.P. Programs Ina Allen iall379@aol.com

2nd V.P. Membership Johanna Byram jbyram0816@gmail.com

3rd V.P. Communications Nicole Benziger nicolebenziger@comcast.net

Treasurer Linda Seyler lindainoswego@gmail.com

Asst. Treasurer Vicki Petersen vpetersen74@hotmail.com

Secretary Ina Allen iall379@aol.com

ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS:

AAUW Funds Chair Vicki Petersen vpetersen74@hotmail.com

Public Policy Tracey Sherman-Falcon shermanfalcon@hotmail.com

Social Chair Rebecca Ruffin rebecca91979@yahoo.com

Newsletter Jerre Henriksen jerreh906@gmail.com

Yearbook Linda Seyler lindainoswego@gmail.com

STUDY GROUPS:

Bookin' It to Lunch at Night Andi Danis danishouse@sbcglobal.net

Movie Group Linda Seyler lindainoswego@gmail.com

Aurora Area Branch Board

Meeting Dates

Saturday, November 11, 2023

Saturday, January 20, 2024

Saturday, April 6, 2024

Saturday, June 15, 2024