

HIGHLIGHTS

AAUW AURORA AREA BRANCH CELEBRATING 104 YEARS

SPRING 2024

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

Branch EMAIL aauwaurorail@gmail.com

National Website

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 Johanna's World

Dear AAUW Aurora Area Branch Members,

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and the new year finds you happy and healthy.

Through our two fundraisers, the Aurora Area branch met our goal to donate \$1200 to AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund. Thanks to all the members who donated items, set up and ran the garage sale at Linda Seyler's house. Thanks to Vicki Petersen for organizing the Murder Mystery fundraiser at Java Plus, and to all the members who assisted her, promoting the event and to all who attended. Last but not least, thank you to the generous members who made financial contributions. Plans are in the works for a spring fundraiser, "Blind Date with a Book" which will be held on April 5, 2025 with our Tea Party event.

Since my last letter to you, a lot has changed in America. Like many of you, my heart is breaking each time I see the progress in rights that women, girls, and minorities have fought for over the past seventy plus years put in danger of disappearing with the stroke of a pen. I have been watching AAUW webinars and attended zoom meetings about AAUW Priorities in Light of the Election Results to educate myself about what I can do as a citizen. As members of the AAUW it is imperative that we work at a local level and support our organization at the state and national levels to protect the rights that our predecessors fought so hard to win.

I encourage all members to read the e-mails you received from AAUW. I know there are a lot of them, but it is the best way to stay informed about the issues and legislation.

- Visit the national website AAUW.org and watch the webinars.
- AAUWaction.org is a great resource to stay current on legislation.
- Visit the Illinois website aauw-ilaauw.net to keep abreast with legislation on the state level.
- Sign up for the 2-minute activist.
- Follow the AAUW on social media and share with your contacts.

The task of defending and advancing gender equity for women and girls may be a daunting one, but I have faith in the intelligence, tenacity, and power of the women of the Aurora Area Branch.

Johanna Byram, President, AAUW Aurora Area Branch

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We are extremely frustrated at the National Archivist's refusal to publish the ERA. Her decision to side with the Trump administration and against legal scholars and the American Bar Association is reprehensible.

Dr. Shogan, publish the ERA. Women around the country have waited long enough.

 GLORIA L. BLACKWELL Chief Executive Officer

Join us for AAUW's Winter Member Gathering!

Hear from our dynamic speakers, including AAUW Board of Directors Chair Cheryl Sorokin and CEO Gloria L. Blackwell, as they share key updates and celebrate the incredible contributions of our donors, members, and branches. We look forward to seeing you on February 5 at 4 pm ET. Need help with registration? Contact us at connect@aauw.org.



PRESS RELEASES

AAUW reacts to 2024 national election results

November 6, 2024

WASHINGTON – Today, the AAUW (American Association of University Women) responded to Donald J. Trump's reelection as 47th president of the United States.

"The election results are extremely sobering, especially on the heels of a hyperpartisan, gridlocked Congress," said Gloria L. Blackwell, CEO, AAUW. "AAUW is committed to holding all elected officials accountable about women's rights, bodily autonomy, and access to education and economic opportunity," particularly for women of color."

As president, Trump appointed the three conservative U.S. Supreme Court Justices who supported overturning Roe vs. Wade and women's right to abortion care. His Supreme Court picks also helped overturn affirmative action in college admission decisions. Colleges and universities have since reported a downturn in students of color being admitted to their institutions, as a result.

This election cycle, AAUW also championed 10 state ballot measures that would codify into state laws and constitutions women's rights to abortion

Continued

access without government interference. Of the 10, seven states passed measures to maintain or expand abortion access.

"When women are able to make abortion care decisions for ourselves, we're able to control our health and economic security," said Meghan Kissell, AAUW's senior director for policy and member advocacy. "A second Trump presidency puts this fundamental right further in jeopardy."

This electoral outcome means AAUW will double-down in its preparation for the Trump administration and Congress. The organization will deliver its agenda for the 119th Congress ahead of the new session.

"A functioning democracy demands work every day of the year," said Blackwell. "It is now, after an election, when the real work begins. We must come together and continue the fight to advance equity for women."

###

AAUW (American Association of University Women) is the nation's leading organization for equity in higher education and women's economic empowerment.

Founded in 1881 by women who defied society's conventions by earning college degrees, AAUW has since worked to increase women's access, opportunity, and equity in higher education through research, advocacy, and philanthropy of over \$146 million, supporting thousands of women scholars. Learn more at aauw.org.

AAU

Fundraising Spring 2025

Get ready for our spring branch fundraiser: Blind Date with a Book!

This fundraiser will take place during our April branch program, History of High Tea 1 p.m. Saturday, April 5 Santori Library, Aurora.

What's Blind Date with a Book?

It's a wrapped book with clues teasing what the book is about. Books will be sold for \$10 each.

If you're looking to find new homes for your books, consider donating them for our fundraiser. Just wrap the books and watch your email for tags you can fill out with hints about your book.

Then bring them with to the April program.

You also can drop off unwrapped books at Vicki Petersen's house by Saturday, March 22, if you'd like help with the wrapping and writing brief hints. New and used book donations are welcome. Note to book club members: be sure to note in the hint if you're donating a book club selection.

2024-2025 Programs

AURORA AREA BRANCH - IL NORTH DISTRICT,

Sunday, Feb. 9,2025 AND Sunday, Feb 26,2025 Time 2:30 pm
Place: 2/9 = New England Church - 406 W. Galena Blvd, Aurora, IL
2/26=Chapel on the Green- 107 W. Center St., Yorkville, IL
Event: Black History Month Celebration Concert Presentation
Program: A History of the Negro Spirituals presented by Ina Allen

Time 1:00

Saturday, April 5,2025 Place: Santori Library Event: Tea Party All programs are subject to change depending on current restrictions/conditions

Program: A History of High Tea *Note: Bring a teacup and saucer, wear a fascinator hat and gloves. It will be fun!

Sunday, May 18, 2025 Time 1:00 pm Place: Bliss Woods Forest Preserve Event: Wrap-up Meeting for the 2023-24 Program Year

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

. EVENT RESERVATION POLICY

To RSVP use Evite or phone Ina Allen at 312-532-3389. Reservations for a meal or program are binding. Canceling after the deadline date requires payment to our Treasurer, Linda Seyler



2024-2025 Study Group Programs

We're Bookin' It

We are excited about 2023/2024! You will find us at the Oswego Public Library—Montgomery Branch on the fourth Mondays of the month.

FEBRUARY MEETING DATE: **Monday Feb. 24, 2025 at 6:00** BOOK: *Medgar and Myrlie: The Love Story that Awakened America, by Joy-Ann Reid*

MARCH MEETING DATE: **Monday Mar. 24, 2025 at 6:00** BOOK: *The Women: A Novel, by Kristin Hannah*

APRIL MEETING DATE: **Monday April 28, 2025 at 6:00** BOOK: *Complicit: How Our Culture Enables Misbehaving Men, by Reah Bravo*

MAY MEETING DATE: **Monday May 19, 2025 at 6:00*** BOOK: Generations: The Real Differences Between Gen Z, Millennials, Gen X, Boomers and Silents and What They Mean for America's Future, by Jean M. Twenge

JUNE MEETING DATE: **Monday June 23, 2025 at 6:00** BOOK: A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them, by Timothy Egan

JULY MEETING DATES: Sunday July 27, 2025 at 1:00 for BOOK PLANNING Monday July 28, 2025 at 6:00

BOOK: When Women Ran Fifth Avenue: Glamour and Power at the Dawn of American Fashion, by Julie Satow

AUGUST MEETING DATE: **Monday Aug. 25, 025 at 6:00** BOOK: *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store, by James McBride*

*We will meet the third Monday due to Memorial Day

AAUW Monthly Movie Study Group for 2024-25

Meetings are on the 2nd Monday 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 actors. Everyone brings a dish to pass for the potluck prior to the viewing and discussion. **Everyone is requested to respond to the Evite as a courtesy to the hostess.**

Social Time: 6:15 pm Films: 7:00 pm

Feb. 10, 2025 Booksmart (2019)

Hostess: Johanna Byram @ home of Jerre Henriksen Genre: Comedy; 1 h 42 m Director: Olivia Wilde; starring Kaitlyn Dever, Beanie Feldstein, Lisa Kudrow, and Jason Sudeikis; two academic superstars realize, upon their high school graduation, that they should have played more and worked less. They try to pack it all in over one night.

Mar. 10, 2025 Shirley (2024)

Hostess: Joy Bowling Genre: Biography, Drama; 1 h 57 m

Director: John Ridley; starring Regina King, Terrence Howard; S. Chisholm's political career spanned 7 terms in Congress (the first Black woman to be elected to Congress, representing Brooklyn, N. Y.); in 1972 she ran for the nomination to the presidency; the movie tells the story of this trailblazing candidate.

April 14, 2025 Totem (2024)

Hostess: Ina Allen Genre: Drama, International; 1 h 35 m

Director: Lila Aviles; starring Naima Senties; seven-year-old Sol prepares for her father's birthday party at her grandfather's home, as she comes to realize that the grave event is both dreaded and anticipated; film, set in Mexico, was highly recognized and awarded.

Movie Study Group—Continued

May 12, 2025 Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret

Co-Hosts: Sandy Hipp & Elaine Ross Genre: Comedy Drama (2023); 1 h 46 m **Director**: Kelly Fremon Craig; starring Abby Ryder, Rachael McAdams, Kathy Bates; when her family moves to the suburbs, 11-year-old Margaret must navigate a new world of friends, feelings, and the first signs of puberty; a sweet and poignant look at the stages of girlhood and pre-adolescence--as told by Judy Blume.

June 9, 2025 I Am Greta (2020)

Hostess: Mavis Bates Genre: Documentary, Biography; 97 m **Director:** Nathan Grossman; starring Greta and Svante Thunberg; the doc. follows Greta Thunberg, a teenage climate activist from Sweden who is on an international crusade to help effect climate policy and acceptance of scientific findings; her passion for the cause shows what a young woman can accomplish.

July 14, 2025 Planning Potluck

Hostess: Denise Curts-Lueth

Roger Ebert Quotes

"No good movie is too long and no bad movie is short enough."

"Every great film should seem new every time you see it."

"Art is the closest we can come to understanding how a stranger really <u>feels</u>."

"We live in a box of space and time. <u>Movies</u> are windows in its walls. They allow us to enter other minds, not simply in the sense of identifying with the characters, although that is an important part of it, but by seeing the world as another person sees it."

2023-2024 Public Policy

Please Share.

Professional Development Opportunity for K-12 American History and Civics Education

As you know, teaching history and civics is a particular lightning rod—and getting harder as historical facts are being called into question. Educators are sharing that classroom conversations around current events are more challenging due to polarization—the same is true for public library programming and resources. Plus, many K-8 educators do not have formal training or instructional guidance on how/what to teach or integrate content about American history and civics. Similarly, library leaders do not often have formal training on how to support and encourage civic and civil discourse around controversial issues and topics.

I am reaching out today to share a professional development resource for educators that I am hoping you can amplify through your network. JT is working with the <u>Civic Learning Institute</u> (CLI) at Harvard Graduate School of Education, which offers professional learning in history and civics for K-12 educators of all roles and grade levels. These resources may also be helpful to library and nonprofit leaders. These four-week online courses are taught by content experts with live sessions and teacher coaching. Participants who complete the \$15 course will earn a certificate of completion from Harvard Graduate School of Education. Specific CLI courses help educators navigate these challenges, while others take a deep dive into specific historical events. Upcoming courses include:

- A New Birth of Freedom: The Gettysburg Address (registration closes <u>2/14</u>)
- Student-led Civics Projects: Using Project-based Learning to Develop Civic Knowledge, Skills and Dispositions (registration closes 3/6)
- Superpower: The US and the Vietnam War (registration closes <u>3/13</u>)
- A More Complete American Story: The History of Jim Crow (registration closes 7/1)
- Digital Competency in the Age of AI (registration closes 7/1)
- Difficult Conversations in the Classroom (registration closes 7/1)

Tracey Sherman-Falcon

Public Policy Chair, AAUW Aurora Area Branch



AAUW Branch Treasurer Report

Starting Balance as of 11/17/24		\$1,031.50		
Deposits:	2000	Sec. 2	\$0.00	
	Dues	\$0.00		
	Donations	\$0.00		
Expenses			\$100.00	
	Dues	0.00		
	Insurance	\$0.00		
	Programs	\$100.00		
	Yearbook	\$0.00		
Balance as				
of 1/22/25		\$931.50		

AAUW	Aurora Area Branch 2024-2025 B	udget	
		Projected	Actual as of 1/22/25
Carryover from 2023-24		937.58	937.58
Income	and the state of the		
	Dues from 35 member @\$21	735	767.00
	Donations to the Branch	0	100.00
Total Revenue		1672.58	1,804.58
Expenses	1		
	Conventions/Conferences	200	0.00
	Memorials: 2 @ \$25	50	0.00
	Membership Committee	40	0.00
	Programs	680	100.00
	Printing: Yearbooks, newsletters	100	90.16
	President's Expenses	50	0.00
	Treasurer's Expenses	20	0.00
	Social Chair	40	0.00
	Insurance: Yearly Liability	400	200.00
	Board Reserve Fund	92.58	0.00
Total Expenses	1	1672.58	390.16

Proposed Budget Submitted on 8/23/2024 by Linda Seyler, Treasurer. (Branch FY is July 1 - June 30)

Prepared by Linda Seyler, Branch Treasurer, 1/22/25

AAUW Branch Assistant Treasurer Report

Jan. 26, 2025

Assistant Treasurer and AAUW Funds Chair Report AAUW Aurora Area Branch Balance 11/16/24: \$1,316.32 Deposits: 12/13/24: \$230.00 Total: \$1,546.32

Checks: (2019 AAUW \$1,200.00 – not cashed yet) Current AAUW Funds Balance: \$1,546.32 (will be \$346.32 once check clears)

In December, we deposited an additional \$230 of fundraiser donations. This brings our total money raised to \$1,062 between the garage sale, murder mystery and miscellaneous donations. Our branch submitted a \$1,200 donation to national for the Greatest Needs Fund. In previous years, we've seen delays in these checks clearing as national gets flooded with end of year donations. We can follow up with national to ensure we'll get credit for 2024. Our spring fundraiser will be Blind Date with a Book during our branch meeting on Saturday, April 5. Donated books will be wrapped with clues teasing what the book is about. The books will be sold for \$10 each.Members are welcome to bring wrapped books with brief hints to the April branch meeting. New or used books are welcome! Members also can drop off books at Vicki's house by Saturday,

"Always give without remembering and always receive without forgetting."

Brian Tracy

2024-2025 Board Minutes

AAUW Aurora Area Board Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2025

Call to Order: Johanna Byram, President. 2:32 pm Attendees: Johanna, Ina, Rita, Linda, Andi, Joy, Vicki, Nicole

November Minutes: Rita Alviar, Secretary Approve minutes as corrected: Add attendees, updates to Loaves and Fishes notation, 2 nd VP

Communications: correct Nicole Benzinger's name; correct comment on the website update.

Johanna Byram, President

Since the inauguration, everything the AAUW stands for is in danger of being decimated by the stroke of a pen. It is important that members are aware of the issues that the National and State organization are working on. Time to buckle down, read our emails, checking the state and national website.

Donation to greatest needs fund \$1,200 was sent mid-December and the check has not cleared the bank - wasn't reflected in year-end report. Johanna will check with funds director to see if it will be updated in the report.

Officers and Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Linda Seyler Treasurer's Report for November 17, 2024 to January 22, 2025 Starting balance \$1,031.50 No deposits No Donations Expenses \$100.00 – Check written for Programs Ending balance: \$931.50

Programs: Ina Allen

Flyer –

Chapel on the Green, Yorkville – February 23 @ 3:00 pm (change of time). Lecture and Recital New England Program – February 9 @ 2:30 pm Linda, Jerre and Top Ladies are going to MC the program will be giving background on musical Nicole will create an AAUW information card to be available for all of our events. Will have a QR code directing to website.

Secretary: Rita Alviar Email all reports to me to add to minutes

Communications: Nicole Benziger Websites will be updated this week. Will create AAUW information card and it will have a QR code directing to websites. All updated schedules will be up to date on the website. Any changes to programs send an email to Nicole. Our logo has "Aurora Area Branch (Illinois)" dropped off our listing on the AAUW National Website.

AAUW Funds: Vicki Petersen Assistant Treasurer and AAUW Funds Chair Report -AAUW Aurora Area Branch Balance 11/16/24: \$1,316.32 Deposits: 12/13/24/ \$230.00 Total \$1,546.32 as of today Checks: 2019 AAUW \$1,200.00 – not cashed yet C

Continued

2024-2025 Board Minutes - Continued

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Public Policy: Tracey Sherman-Falcon Not present

Social Chair: Joy Bowling Birthday Cards were sent out to: Jo Maupin/January 7, 2025, Elaine Ross/January 25, 2025, Jane Zimmerman/January 27, 2025 Note: Connie Dixon please Text me your birthday-month and day only. 630-605-4576

Newsletter: Jerre Henriksen Needs minutes and letter from the Johanna. Fundraiser information will be sent by Vicki

DEI Chair: Andi Danis

There are proposed public policy changes on the AAUW website that are available for comment by January 29, 2025. They include adjusted priorities and structured changes that are intended to prioritize policy based on what the administration is targeting. Eg. Womens issues, ERA, DEI, Public Education

Proposed increases in National dues would amount to \$5.00 each year for the next 5 years. You can comment on this also by January 29, 2025. State and Branch dues are staying the same. Lifetime members no longer pay for National dues so their dues will remain at \$31. These increases are necessary because AAUW can no longer get corporate grants because the membership is not open; we are viewed as an exclusive organization.

The NCCWSL College leadership workshops held in Washington every year will now be handled by NASPA, an organization that is very experienced in presenting large student conferences.

Study Groups: Bookin' It: Andi Danis Monday, January 27, 2025, at 6:00pm, Oswego Public Library, Montgomery Campus, 111 Reading Drive, Montgomery, IL. Book: Running From Bondage: Enslaved Women and Their Remarkable Fight for Freedom in Revolutionary America by Karen Cook Bell Webinar on the AAUW site by this author. Movie Group: Linda Seyler

Monday, February 10, 2025, at 6:15pm. Hostess: Johanna Byram @ home of

2023-2024 Board Minutes - Continued

Movie Group: Linda Seyler Monday, February 10, 2025, at 6:15pm. Hostess: Johanna Byram @ home of Jerre Henriksen 500 Pineridge Dr. N. #7, Oswego, IL 60543 Movie: Booksmart (2019)

New Business:

Invitation from Elgin Branch to work together on National AAUW – Priorities in Light of the Election. Primary focus is on the immigration issue, to find more areas to take action. More information to follow. We will send a link for an Immigration webinar to our members.

We have been invited to a March 6th program from Batavia, Geneva St. Charles AAUW, -- Dr Paaige Turner, Aurora University Provost and Executive VP for Academic Affairs will present "Stepping Beyond: empowering women to turn fear into confidence and achieve dreams." Batavia Public Library- Networking begins at 6:30 and program begins at 7:00 pm

Announcements: Program(s): A History of the Negro Spirituals presented by Ina Allen February 9, 2025, at New England Congregational Church – 406 W. Galena Blvd, Aurora @ 2:30 pm February 23, 2025, at Chapel on the Green – 107 W. Center Street, Yorkville @ 3:00 pm (time change)

Adjournment: Johanna Byram, President 3:55 pm Next Meeting: Santori Library- March 30 @ 2:00 pm

> The face of DEI is a black or brown face. In reality, white women have benefited most significantly.

2024-2025 Membership

Please contact Johanna Byram <u>jbyram0816@gmail.com</u> 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.

"Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear."

Mark Twain

2024-2025 Aurora Area Branch Board

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President: Johanna Byram jbyram0816@gmail.com 1st V.P. Programs Ina Allen <u>iall379@aol..com</u> 2st V.P. Communications Nicole Benziger <u>nicolebenziger@comcast.net</u> Treasurer Linda Seyler <u>lindainoswego@gmail.com</u> Asst. Treasurer Vicki Petersen <u>vpetersen74@hotmail.com</u> Secretary Ina Allen <u>iall379@aol.com</u>

ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS:

AAUW Funds Chair Vicki Petersen <u>vpetersen74@hotmail.com</u> Public Policy Tracey Sherman-Falcon <u>shermanfalcon@hotmail.com</u> Social Chair Joy Bowling joybowling@att.net Newsletter Jerre Henriksen jerreh906@gmail.com Yearbook Linda Seyler <u>lindainoswego@gmail.com</u>

STUDY GROUPS:

Bookin' It to Lunch at Night Andi Danis <u>danishouse@sbcglobal.net</u> Movie Group Linda Seyler <u>lindainoswego@gmail.com</u>

Aurora Area Branch Board

Meeting Dates 2024-2025

Sunday, March 30, 2025

Sunday, June 1, 2025

Board meetings are held at the Aurora Public Library, @ 2:30 pm at the Santori Branch Library in Aurora unless otherwise noted (and/or via ZOOM as conditions allow).

Board meetings are held at the Aurora Public Library, at the Santori Branch unless otherwise noted (and/or via ZOOM as conditions allow).