**AAUW Chicago, Inc. Branch 2021-2022 Year Recap**

About 15 branch members met in person on June 26, 2021 at McCormick and Schmick Restaurant to celebrate our 130th Branch anniversary. Ruth Holst provided highlights taken from Spanning One Hundred Years, the history of AAUW Chicago Branch, which was compiled for the Centennial Celebration held on October 14, 1989. This was the first in-person meeting in more than fifteen months.

The board members met in person and virtually over the summer to plan programs for the coming year. The proposed programs continue to promote the AAUW mission and philosophy.  We were still working on engaging members both virtually and in person as the restrictions eased in Chicago and Cook County and at the same time, accommodate member comfort levels. Thank you to Helen Elkiss for hosting the planning meeting. The following are highlights of the program year.

September 20 – The Branch engaged the Chicago Architecture Center for a tour on Helmut Jahn:  Life + Architecture, which was a new exhibit honoring the late Chicago architect and style icon.  Members were able to get to know this extraordinary man who will continue to inspire generations to come. Lunch followed.

October 11 – A Zoom webinar with IL House Representative Margaret Croke was used to discussed AAUW Issues, including Repeal of Parental Notice for Abortions, Updating Healthy Education for students, bills that assist educators to help students in crisis, pay equity and our bill for next year Family Leave. The discussion was moderated by Jenni Purdue, Chicago branch member and AAUW-IL Lobbyist along with Paula Purdue, Public Policy Director for both the Chicago branch and AAUW-IL.

October 24 – The Chicago Branch partnered with the Equal Pay Day Chicago Coalition to sponsor a virtual event titled Non-Negotiable: Pay Equity for Women - Equal Pay Day Event. In solidarity with Latina Equal Pay Day, the last Equal Pay Day of the year, the virtual event included a Panel Conversation with Lizzy Diaz-Ortiz, BMO Harris Bank, Karin Norington-Reaves, Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership, Rep. Delia Ramirez, IL-4th District, Analilia Mejia, USDOL Women's Bureau, Dr.  Stacia Thompson, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago, and Moderator: Kelly Suzanne Saulsberry.  Thank you to branch members Barbara Yong and AJ Conroy for their leadership for the event.

October 30 – Members of the Branch were invited to attend the AAUW-IL state fall conference via Zoom. AAUW-IL President Lisa Cherry welcomed attendees and was followed by two speakers: Deanie Brown, Diversity Officer for the Illinois Court System, who spoke on Embracing Diversity and Inclusion by Uncovering and Overcoming Unconscious Assumptions; and Kristin Olson, Grant Writing Specialist and Workshop Facilitator, whose presentation was on Fundraising for Scholarships. Attendees moved into breakout groups to share and discuss best practices, ideas, and changes within AAUW.

November 13 – Our Annual Fellows and Grantees program was held via Zoom in partnership with the Jane Addams Online Branch. Our three presenting fellows were:

* Melissa Mister, Project Director, After School Matters, who received an AAUW Community Action Grant: *Pre-Freshman Program in Engineering and Science*;
* Ramael Ohiomoba, Northwestern University School of Medicine who received a AAUW Selected  Professions Fellowship for her research: *Investigating biological and social risk factors for cardiovascular disease;* and
* Jenny Lopez Alvarado, M.S.W, Loyola University Chicago, who received an AAUW Career Development Grant for her work on *Mental Health in the Latinx Population*.

Thanks to Helen  Elkiss of Chicago Branch and Kate Skegg of the Jane Addams branch for organizing and moderating the discussion.

December – no meeting

January - no meeting

Feb 3 – The Chicago Branch took some time to socialize via a Zoom Happy Hour. Members grabbed a warm drink, dessert, or a glass of wine to spend time catching up with each other.

February 12 – The status of the women in Medicine was the topic for this presentation by Dr. Kim Templeton of the American Women’s Medical Association. We learned about the difficulties women still experience during their residencies and in their work lives despite the fact that the number of women entering medicine is almost parallel to the number of men. Thank you to Barbara Harris for organizing this meeting.

March 19 - Members were invited on a tour of the Evanston History Center at the National Historic Landmark Charles Gates Dawes House with an emphasis on women's history. Lunch followed at Tapas Barcelona. Thank you to Megan Moser for organizing this outing.

April 30 – Attendees at the meeting were treated to interesting facts and personal anecdotes about ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment in Illinois with AAUW-IL state public policy chair Paula Purdue held at the Chicago Public Library – Menlo branch. Thank you to Paula Purdue for speaking to the branch about her ERA work and thank you to Megan Moser for securing the location.

May 6-7 - 97TH STATE CONVENTION: TOGETHER AGAIN WITH A POWERFUL AGENDA! More than one hundred people registered for the 97th Annual State Convention of AAUW-IL at the DoubleTree Hotel in Lisle, IL. The Chicago Inc branch had eight members attend, including AJ Conroy, Ruth Holst, Jeane Lindeke, Megan Moser, Jenni Purdue, Paula Purdue, Ruth Sweetser, and Lori Switzer. Branch members participated in several ways. Ruth Holst was installed as Finance Director-Elect for AAUW-IL. Jenni Purdue talked about the state legislative agenda and A.J.  Conroy provided an ERA update. As a follow-up, AJ Conroy provided some links for members: 1. a video of the presentation is available here:

www.eraillinois.org/update.html 2. The AAUW two-minute activist for the ERA - www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/era/

May 14 - Ruth Holst represented the Chicago Branch at the Rally for Abortion Justice. AAUW was part of a coalition of organizations that brought this rally to Chicago.’s Union Park to protest the leaked draft from the Supreme Court that revealed the court’s intention to completely overturn Roe v. Wade. Riverside branch officer Diane Balin represented AAUW-IL on stage during the event.

June 25 – The Annual Meeting is being held at Athena Greek Restaurant. We look forward to meeting in person and honoring three 50-year AAUW members, Bettye Grand Pre, Jeane Lindeke and Kathie Mallow. Thank you to Ruth Holst, Eledia Gomez, and Megan Moser for organizing and planning this meeting.

The Chicago Branch completed 1 star of the national 5-star program this year for our Public Policy and Research program focus area programming. The program will start over for the 2022-23 year. Thank you to Lori Switzer for completing the application forms.

Thank you to all the Chicago, Inc. branch members that have helped throughout the year. Thank you to Helen Elkiss, Barbara Harris, Paula Purdue, Eleida Gomez, Megan Moser and all the members who helped plan and organize our programs for the year. Thank you to Ruth Holst and Megan Moser for hosting the Zoom programs. Also thank you to all our members for being an active part of our branch through virtual attendance and membership especially during the continuation of the pandemic. We appreciate all of the continued support as we emerge from the pandemic and work with everyone to balance in-person meetings with Zoom events.

Compiled by Lori Switzer Chicago, Inc. Chicago Edition newsletter editor and website/social media chair.

**Communication/Website/Newsletter** – Lori Switzer, editor

Our branch has excellent communication through our continually updated webpage, which is connected to the AAUW-IL website. Make sure you check the website often to see what is new with the branch and AAUW. http://chicago-il.aauw.net

Also, our newsletter is sent to 99% of our members electronically each month. The current and past newsletters are also available on our website. We use Constant Contact for the majority of our communication so make sure you are signed up or contact chicagoaauw@hotmail.com to  be added to the list.

The Chicago branch has a continually updated Facebook page. We have 419 fans (increase of 20 fans from last year). Become a fan of the “Chicago Branch of AAUW” on Facebook. https://www.facebook.com/pages/Chicago-Branch-of-AAUW

There is also a branch Instagram page. This page is still growing but has 57 followers and 119 posts. Check it out – AAUWCHICAGO <https://www.instagram.com/aauwchicago/>

**Membership –** VP of Membership, Anita Moore

We have ended the year with **55** paid members, down from **62** last year. The branch had one new member join this year. Anita sent out many interest emails to women attending AAUW or related events. As of June 20, 2020, 23 members have renewed for the 2022-2023 year.

Thank you to Anita Moore for serving as the branch membership VP. Megan Moser will be the new membership VP for the upcoming term. Megan will contact members who have not renewed by June 30.

**Chicago Branch Budget and Treasury Report as of May 31, 2022** – Ruth Holst, Treasurer

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2021-2022 Budget** | **2021-2022 Actual** |
| **Revenue** |  |  |
| Dues | 1,210 | 820 |
| Program Fees | 100 | 140 |
| Donations from Members | 200 | 0 |
| Transfer from Investments | 1,000 | 0 |
| **Total Revenue** | 2,510 | 960 |
|  |  |  |
| **Expenses** |  |  |
| Insurance | 200 | 200 |
| IL Incorporation fee | 10 | 0 |
| Printing, Supplies, Postage | 150 | 74 |
| Membership Recruitment | 75 | 0 |
| Program Expenses | 300 | 1,250 |
| Program Planning Meetings | 150 | 0 |
| Annual Meeting Expenses | 100 | 0 |
| Public Policy Expenses | 75 | 0 |
| Contributions to AAUW National | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Communications Software | 350 | 326 |
| Miscellaneous | 0 | 3 |
| **Total Expenses** | 2,610 | 2,853 |
|  |  |  |

Chicago Branch Checking Account Balance on May 31, 2022: $1,632.82

Chicago Branch Investment Account Balance (Marston) on May 31, 2022: $13,266.37

**AAUW Funds Report**

Chicago, Inc. branch held its fifteenth “non-event” fundraiser for AAUW’s Greatest Needs Campaign. In November/December 2021, we raised **$2420-** which is up from $2020- from the year before from our members.

**Daytime Book Club –** Lori Switzer and Ruth Holst - Chairs

The Daytime Book Club met via Zoom all year. This accommodated regular members as well as newer members and members from other AAUW-IL branches. All are welcome to attend. The group meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 1:00pm and will use Zoom for the foreseeable future.

Sept 15 - ***56 Days: A Thriller*** - by Catherine Ryan Howard

Oct 20 - ***Golem Girl: A Memoir*** by Riva Lehrer

Nov 17 - ***The Doctors Blackwell*** by Janice P. Nimura

Dec 15 - ***Miss Dreamsville and the Collier County Women's Literary Society*** by Amy Hill Hearth

Jan 19 - ***The Personal Librarian*** by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray

Feb 16 - ***The Plot: A Nove***l by Jean Hanff Korelitz

March 16 - ***The Sociopath next door*** by Martha Stout

April 20 - ***The Last Bookshop in London: A Novel of World War II*** by Madeline Martin

May 19 - ***Afterlife*** by Julia Alvarez

June 15- ***Dreamland*** by Sam Quinones

**Evening Book Club**

The Evening Book Club did not meet all year due to Covid-19 meeting restrictions at the Chicago Public Library. The group is deciding if there is enough interest to restart in person meetings.

**Program Planning meetings for 2022-2023 year**

Join us at the home of Helen Elkiss on **Wednesday, June 29** at 6:30pm for a program planning meeting. Location is 1081 S. Park Terrace Chicago IL 60605. Plenty of guest parking. Please RSVP to Helen Elkiss if you are able to attend at helkiss@comcast.net or by phone or text to 312-316-6229.

Our second program planning meeting will be over Zoom on **Wed. July 20** at 7:00pm. When: Jul 20, 2022 07:00 PM Central Time. Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMof CgqT4iEtDBBo8GA9Ox1FeSb8AFGskv

**Condolences**

The branch lost four members this past year. We offer condolences to their family and friends. Helen Rameriz-Odell

Nancy Burton

Susan Messinger

Jeanne Bunnell

**2021-2022 Board List**

President: Megan Moser

Program Vice-Presidents: open

Secretary: Barbara Harris

Treasurer: Ruth Holst

Membership Vice-President: Anita Moore

Directors at Large: Eleida Gomez, Barbara Thomas (2020-2022) Donna Zimmerman, Lori Switzer (2021-2023)

**2022-2023 Board List**

President: Shared by Steering Committee

Administration/Communication: Lori Switzer

Treasurer: Ruth Holst

Membership VP: Megan Moser

Programs VP: Shared by Steering committee

Secretary – Barbara Harris

Directors at Large – Anne Foley and Margaret O’Hara (2022-2024) Donna Zimmerman and Lori Switzer (2021-2023)

50 Year members

Bettye Grand Pre   
Comments from Pamela Sanner

I met Bettye Grande Pre in January 1974 when I did my student teaching under her. She was adopted as my godmother after my mother passed away. She invited me to join AAUW in the 90's. She has always loved AAUW and knew most of the history of the Chicago branch. She was a master teacher, and I went on to teach 35 years because of the wonderful start I got from her. She literally did teach me everything I know.

Bettye had held a variety of branch positions and was active on the state level as well for many years. She continues to help the branch with membership and making yearly membership renewal reminder phone calls.

Jeane Lindeke

Comments from Lori Switzer

Jeane is my mom. She joined the Arlington Heights branch when I was one year old in 1972. She had seen an announcement about meetings with childcare. She remembered that her mother-in-law was also a member of AAUW. We moved a lot when I was younger but she always joined AAUW where ever we lived and met lifelong friends because of her AAUW involvement. She has held all branch leadership positions and recently was on the AAUW-CO board as AAUW Funds chair. She became a life member in the late 1980’s. Then when I graduated from college, she bought me a life membership and hoped that I would become involved in AAUW as well. We have enjoyed being AAUW members together for the past 25 years and went to 4 national conventions together before national stopped having conventions. She has been a dual member of the Boulder CO branch and the Chicago Inc branch for the past 16 years.

Kathie Mallow

Comments from Lori Switzer

Kathie joined AAUW after she graduated from DePaul in 1971. She has been a member of the Chicago Inc branch for 51 years. She worked in finance. She also has held all the positions in the branch as well as serving on the state board. She also enjoyed attending state and national conventions around the country and meeting other AAUW members. Kathie also gave her daughter, Heather, a life membership in AAUW and attended a national convention in DC with her. Kathie retired to Phoenix 7 years ago but has maintained her membership in the Chicago Inc branch.