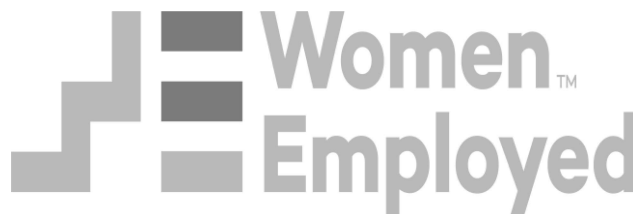


# *The Chicago Edition*



January/ February 2024

Volume 85, Number 3



**What:** Public Policy with Sarah Labadie

Director of Advocacy and Policy from Women Employed

**When:** Saturday, January 13, 2024, at 10:00am via Zoom

**Register:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAsfurqjgvHdRvIkHgHFcex70Dw40rNqy>

**Questions:** Contact [chicagoauw@hotmail.com](mailto:chicagoauw@hotmail.com)

AAUW IL has been working on a bill to provide insurance for folks to take paid medical and family leave. One of the reasons that women have less earning power and fewer retirement resources is that often, it is the woman who leaves the job force to care for ailing parents, in-laws, siblings, partners, and children. This legislation, when passed, will allow all workers to take paid family and medical leave. We have been working on this legislation for several years. The proponents only sometimes agree, and many opponents do not accept this idea.

On January 13 at 10 am, Sarah Labadie from Women Employed will share the ups and downs of getting this complicated legislation passed. As you better understand this issue, we hope you will contact your Representative and Senator and share why this bill needs to become law. Developing and passing legislation is how we get AAUW values working for everyone.

Sarah Labadie has expertise in various issues, such as paid sick days, postsecondary education and training, fair wages and schedules, and work and family. A member of the Women Employed staff since 2008, Sarah promotes the passage and effective implementation of laws and regulations at the local, state, and federal levels that improve the economic status of women and remove barriers to economic equity. She has spearheaded the campaign to pass paid sick days legislation.

*Sponsored by the Chicago Inc. branch in partnership with the Jane Addams Online branch of AAUW.*

*Meeting/Activities Dates and Topics*

December – no meeting

Jan. 13, 2024 – AAUW-IL public policy and Family and Medical Leave Bill via zoom

Feb. 21 – Human Trafficking via Zoom with Jane Addams branch

Feb. 24 – Protection that Build Bridges Not Walls-Chicago Immigrant Advocacy 2pm via zoom

***\ February 2024 Program Event***



***A Community Guide to Human Trafficking***

***Join us on February 21 at 7:30pm via Zoom***

The Chicago Branch, in partnership with the Jane Addams Branch will present A Community's Guide to Human Trafficking presenter with Elisa Munoz, the Human Trafficking Victim Coordinator for the State's Attorney's Office Human Trafficking Unit in Chicago. Elisa Munoz has been in the anti-human trafficking field for 4 years. She is a member of the Core Team of the Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force. <https://www.cookcountytaskforce.org/>

Join us to learn the facts about exploitation and the crucial role community members have in trafficking prevention. Human Trafficking doesn't discriminate based on race, gender or geographical location. It happens everywhere, be it downtown Chicago, the wealthy suburbs, or the rural parts of the state. What does differ is the way in which victims of human trafficking are viewed and treated by law enforcement and the legal system. Victims of human trafficking are protected under United States and Illinois law. To report a tip, or get help, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888

***Register in advance for this meeting:***

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZltcOGrpjluHtMLMo953RLjkTo-CN0vs8Pt>

***Sponsored by Chicago Inc. branch in partnership with the Jane Addams Online branch of AAUW. For more information, contact [chicagoaauw@hotmail.com](mailto:chicagoaauw@hotmail.com) or <http://chicago-il.aauw.net/>***

**President's Message**

**Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! Wow 2024!!**

Thank you to AJ Conroy for representing the Chicago branch as our delegate for the October Midwest Regional AAUW convention in St. Louis. 150 members from 11 states attended the conference. We are looking forward to hearing more about the convention and how we can learn from other branches in Illinois and around the region. Please see AJ's recap later in the newsletter.

Thank you to the members who donated by check and online to the No Dinner Dinner this fall. We raised almost \$2000- for the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund. There is still time to donate online for the year 2023 or you can donate anytime throughout the year. Go to [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) to donate in honor of the Chicago Inc Branch. These donations are used to fund all of the great programs and events with AAUW national as well as support all branches around the country.

I started a new feature last month -member spotlight. Thank you to the members who have sent in bios and photos so we can get to know everyone a bit better. I have learned new facts that I did not know about our members. All are welcome to participate, send your bio to [chicagoaauw@hotmail.com](mailto:chicagoaauw@hotmail.com).

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership and participated in the branch this year by attending an in-person or zoom program, attending book club or leading a book discussion, attending brunch bunch, writing to your congressperson or senator, attending the state or regional convention, serving on the state board or a national committee, serving on the branch steering committee, helping to find a speaker or location for an event, donating to AAUW national, inviting a new member to attend a meeting or join the branch, or promoting equity. I appreciate you and your time dedicated to AAUW. Happy New Year!

*Best – Lori Switzer, Chicago Branch Admin*

### ***History Makers Event a Big Success!***

On October 28, ten of us attended the discussion and tour of the building housing the History Makers Organization, a 501(c)(3) non-profit headquartered in Chicago's South Loop. We watched a video detailing goals and achievements over the last 20 years and toured the offices seeing the archives and many posters of those interviewed. It was a most interesting, enlightening and delightful day. Director and founder, Julieanna Richardson, was most gracious in spending time detailing the birth and growth of this organization. Her dedication and enthusiasm are infectious!

Education is the mission of the History Makers. The Library of Congress is its official repository for a digital collection of over 3,471 video oral history interviews-- the digital repository for the black experience. These provide real-life counter narratives, role models, content and success frameworks for racial understanding across socio-economic, racial and ethnic lines. These resources educate those inside and outside of the African American community about African American achievement and its relationship to American culture and progress - something that is sorely needed.

For more information, research opportunities and donations check out the website: <https://www.thehistorymakers.org/> Donations are needed and welcomed to carry on this ambitious project.

After a sendoff with a tote and tee shirt, we lunched at a nearby Mexican Restaurant. We all had a great time and tasty meal! Spending time socializing and getting to know each other better was an added perk! Thanks to all who attended and worked on this memorable event! - Helen Elkiss

### ***Thank You***

Thank you to Helen Elkiss and Ruth Holst for planning and organizing the November Fellows meeting. It was educational and well attended by members and guests from around the state. It is always eye-opening to hear and learn from these young women about their careers and studies.

### ***Region convention draws crowd, inspires by Chicago branch delegate AJ Conroy***

The three-day October meeting in St. Louis drew over 150 attendees from fifteen states. In addition to updates from AAUW-HQ, there were "swap sessions" where branches could provide a short presentation about a successful initiative. AJ Conroy shared the 2018 ERA coloring book for the Chicago branch. There were almost 40 of these quick swaps showcasing how creative AAUW members are in advancing the mission. The smorgasbord of ideas are posted and worth a look for inspiration: <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/swap-shops-sharing-branch-projects/>

Another take-away from the convention was an inclusion ice breaker exercise that could be added before any regular meeting. Attendees were instructed to interview each other with a question like "What was your favorite job" or "what are you most proud of" or "how do you make an impact on someone's life?". Each person had a minute to answer and then switched roles. It was a quick and fun way to find different points of connection beyond the surface.

Despite the long drive, the sisterhood of like-minded members was energizing for the road ahead. Action is the anecdote to despair.

I think there were 15 people who attended my session, and the attendees were enthusiastic and asked a bunch of questions, so I'm thrilled. Two folks said they planned to take the idea back to their branch. I was so grateful to have attended. Thank you for letting me represent Chicago.

### ***Chicago Branch Steering Committee Meetings***

We will continue to hold monthly Steering Committee meetings on the Second Monday of the month via zoom. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. This is a great way to become more involved with the branch and get to know other members.

No meeting in December. Jan 8, February 12, March 11th at 6:30pm.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84111918464?pwd=dW9CbXdXNWVWLVVdZWw5Zy9Ub1grUT09>

## **ABCD, AAUW BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION Group**

The AAUW-IL board announces the AAUW-IL Statewide Book Club. The theme is **FAMILIES FIGHTING POVERTY in the US.**

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

### **List of Upcoming Books:**

**Three Girls from Bronzeville A Uniquely American Memoir of Race, Fate, and Sisterhood** by Dawn Turner-Trice on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 7:00pm.

To Register: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqf-GrqDosGdcnlaRo\\_PU8iQ7SZLFdGxjM#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqf-GrqDosGdcnlaRo_PU8iQ7SZLFdGxjM#/registration)

**Nomadland**, by Jessica Bruder February at 7:00PM.

**Forgotten Girls** by Monica Potts March at 7:00PM.

TBD, Wrap up. Hoping to do something at the State Convention.

Contact Carol with questions: [carolheisler@gmail.com](mailto:carolheisler@gmail.com)

### ***Daytime Book Club next meeting – Dec. 20***

Do you like to read? If so, join us for Daytime book club on Wed. Dec.20 via zoom. We will be meeting at 1:00pm. We will discuss **The Nurse's Secret: A Thrilling Historical Novel of the Dark Side of Gilded Age New York City** by Amanda Skenandore – Helen Elkiss will lead the discussion

No need to register in advance.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3255659137?pwd=VTduNVN6UmtrV3ZuZVhDTzILQ05PQT09>

Looking Ahead to 2024

**January 17** - *Lady Tan's Circle of Women: A Novel* by Lisa See - leader is Margaret O'Hara

**February 21** – *The Children's Act* by Ian McEwan - leader is Ruth Holst

**March 20**- *The Indigo Girl* by Natasha Boyd - leader is Donna Zimmerman

**April 17**- *The Diamond Eye* by Kate Quinn - leader is Margaret Rohrer

**May 15**- *The Little Old Lady Who Broke all the rules* by Catharina Ingelman-Sundberg - leader is Barbara Harris

**June 19** - *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett- leader is Anne Foley

Feel free to attend online even if you don't have time to read and bring some suggestions for future books. If you have any questions, please contact our book club chair, Lori Switzer [chicagoaauw@hotmail.com](mailto:chicagoaauw@hotmail.com)

### ***THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT - 16<sup>th</sup> Annual No- Dinner Dinner Fundraiser***

A big thank you to all the members who donated to the Fall No-Dinner Dinner. Checks and donations have been forwarded to national. We raised \$1992- Our branch goal was \$2,000-.

You can still donate online <https://my.aauw.org/donation-product-detail> and indicate the greatest need fund and Chicago Branch affiliation.

***Welcome New Members***

We have had two new members join this month. We welcome new and renewing members all year long. We look forward to meeting you at an upcoming event. Please join me in welcoming them to the branch.

Krystle Ann Everett  
Geneva Schlafly

[kevere3@illinois.edu](mailto:kevere3@illinois.edu)  
[gschlafly@uchicago.edu](mailto:gschlafly@uchicago.edu)

**AAUW-IL State Convention: Celebrating 100 Years of Empowering Women  
April 19-20, 2024, Elgin Community College, Elgin, IL**

AAUW-IL is 100! Join your friends and colleagues in Elgin, IL as we celebrate 100 years of Advancing Equity for Women and Girls in Illinois! We'll have an engaging program focused on saluting our accomplishments and pursuing new ways to support women as we look forward to the next 100 years. Watch for details on registration, programming, and activities on the AAUW-IL website and via the monthly Connection.

**Venue: University and Business Center at Elgin Community College** - As AAUW has deep roots supporting academic opportunities for women, it seems fitting that we should gather for this significant anniversary at an educational institution. The conference center at Elgin Community College (ECC) in Elgin, IL is perfectly poised as the setting for us to come together. Elgin is situated between Chicago and Rockford on the scenic Fox River Valley and home to Elgin Area Branch, an active AAUW-IL branch.

**Hotel:** The Holiday Inn & Suites Chicago Northwest - Elgin, a contemporary hotel just off I90, is holding a block of rooms for us. This full-service hotel is less than 5 miles from the ECC. We have a free shuttle to transport us to and from the Friday evening convention session. The address of the hotel is 495 Airport Road, Elgin, IL 60123. The cost for the double queen standard room is \$109 and the junior king suite is \$124 (plus tax).

For your convenience, a booking link and group code has been created. To receive the honored discounted rates per night, please click on the link below, customized to your group's name.

[Click here to Reserve Your Room in the AAUW-IL Block](#)

**Group Code:** AAU You can also make reservations by calling 847.488.9000 but say that you are part of "AAUW-IL Room Block" to receive the discounted rate. Please reserve early to guarantee your spot in the hotel block, reservations made after April 5th, 2024, will not be eligible for the group discount.

***The Chicago Edition by Lori Switzer***

Is there something you want to see in the newsletter? It is your newsletter. Articles for the March/April Chicago Edition newsletter are due Feb. 15th. Thanks -Lori Switzer 773/230-1063 or [ChicagoAAUW@hotmail.com](mailto:ChicagoAAUW@hotmail.com)