



## President's Message

*I want to thank Anne Foley for planning and organizing the October outing to the National Museum of Mexican Art in Pilsen. We had 10 members attend and some met for lunch beforehand. We all enjoyed the private tour. See the photo at the end of the newsletter.*

*Thank you to Ruth Holst and Helen Elkiss for inviting our fellows to speak at our November Fellows and Grantees zoom. We partnered with the Jane Addams branch for the webinar. We had about 30 attendees from the branch and members from around the state. Thank you for keeping up the long-standing Chicago branch tradition and one of our most popular meetings of the year.*

*Hope you are planning on attending one of our upcoming meetings. Thank you to the members who have been organizing and planning the events. We are not having a program in December due to the holidays. We are working on events for 2025. If you have any ideas for programs or places to meet, please let me know. We are open to programs or community service projects that align with our AAUW mission.*

*Just an FYI! Potential members can join the branch at any time. So, if you have a friend or colleague that might be interested just let us know and we will reach out to them. Membership is yearly based on when you join, so they can join at any time of the year.*

*Happy Holidays – Lori Switzer  
Chicago Branch Admin*

### ***Meeting/Activities Dates and Topics***

December 10  
January 1, 2025

Jane Addams Day – Open House Tours at Hull House  
Happy New Year!

### ***Looking Ahead***

There is no formal meeting in December due to the holidays. We are working on planning programs for Winter and Spring 2025. Please contact Lori Switzer with any program ideas or speakers for the coming year. The branch is also celebrating our 135 Anniversary this year!! We are looking for a location for our year end meeting and 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Please let me know if you have any suggestions for a private room. [Chicagoaauw@hotmail.com](mailto:Chicagoaauw@hotmail.com)

### ***Jane Addams Day – December 10, 2024***

Hull House Museum Open House. Take a guided tour of Hull-House and receive a personalized poem from our friends at Poems while you wait. Guided tours will start at 12pm and 2pm. On December 10<sup>th</sup> Jane Addams was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her work in international peace activism. She was the first woman to receive this prize and Dec 10<sup>th</sup> is Jane Addams Day in Illinois due to her achievement.

### ***Public Policy Update***

We have a wonderful opportunity. President Biden just has to tell the archivist to accept the 28th Amendment (ERA). President Trump 'made up' reasons to tell the archivist not to accept the 28th Amendment (ERA). President Biden needs to hear from as many folks as possible to tell the archivist to accept the Equal Rights Amendment.

Go to [bidenpublishtheERA.org](http://bidenpublishtheERA.org) and write a letter, make a call or all that you are able to do. Please pass the information to your friends and family. We passed the ERA in Illinois in 2018. Virginia passed ERA in 2020. The ERA has been sitting wherever? We need to get President Biden to get the ERA done.

THANKS FOR ALL OF YOUR EFFORTS.  
Megan Moser and Paula Purdue

### ***Chicago Branch Treasurer Report – Megan Moser***

As of December 1, 2024

Branch checking account balance: \$2206.93

Fidelity branch savings account: \$14,822.66

### ***AAUW National Webinar Recording – Nov. 19th***

Moderator Meghan Kissell and the three panelists who came together for the November 19th webinar, “*Securing the Future: A Post-Election Conversation on Women’s Economic Security*” described the current administration’s work to address the economic inequalities affected by gender, class and race. Lack of quality childcare has led to employment gaps which AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell described as the motherhood penalty for rearing children. Though women are currently being paid 83 cents/man’s dollar, women tend to make 15% less for every child they have under the age of five which results in women having only 70% of what men have in retirement. Reproductive justice allows women to parent with dignity. Blackwell strongly affirmed the need to protect the gains made. Economist Heather Boushey, economist and 1997-98 AAUW American Fellow, described the robust return of women aged 25-54 to the labor market; however, lack of quality childcare has reduced the numbers of those in nursing and other care-giving employment. Dr. Jamila Taylor, President and CEO of the Institute for Women’s Policy Research emphasized the imperative for health insurance-having access to both mental and physical healthcare. She described the importance of this, especially for families where the anticipated mass removal of immigrant breadwinners will highly impact children and mothers. If you were not able to attend the Nov 19<sup>th</sup> program, it was recorded and you can watch at your convenience.

Please find the link to the recording if you would like to share or rewatch the discussion:  
<https://youtu.be/ku1D3t6q1Lq>

### ***Join AAUW's Legacy Circle and Make a Lasting Impact***

Are you thinking of updating your estate plan?

You can support AAUW's mission through planned giving by including AAUW in your estate plans. Options include a bequest, charitable gift annuities that provide lifetime income, or naming AAUW as a beneficiary of your retirement accounts or life insurance. These choices offer tax benefits while allowing you to leave a legacy of equity and empowerment for women and girls. Want to know more? Contact Lisa Cherry, National Legacy Circle Liaison, at [lisacherryhome@aol.com](mailto:lisacherryhome@aol.com) or 630-800-7665.

### ***Stay Connected: Re-Subscribe to AAUW Emails***

Do you think a member may be missing out on vital updates and important announcements from AAUW? Don't let valuable information slip through the cracks! Ensure they stay connected with us by re-subscribing to AAUW emails. Simply forward this link - [aauw.us/emailoptions](http://aauw.us/emailoptions), to the member to re-subscribe and guarantee that they receive all the latest news, webinars, and opportunities from AAUW.

### ***Branch Steering Committee Meeting – January 13***

We will meet on Monday, January 13 at 6:30pm via zoom. All are welcome to attend. We are looking for more members to join our steering committee. There is no meeting in December. You can be as involved as your schedule allows. We meet the second Monday of each month. Please join the next meeting or email Lori [chicagoaauw@hotmail.com](mailto:chicagoaauw@hotmail.com)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81297426120?pwd=C9eJyebaNVuxQkN6VmyqJbFloEbPUZ.1>

### ***Daytime Book Club next meeting – Wed. Dec 18***

Do you like to read? If so, join us for the daytime book club on **Wed. Dec 18** via zoom at 1:00pm. We will be discussing ***The Expatriates* by Janice Y.K. Lee**. Here is the Zoom link for the Dec 18 Book Club meeting. No need to register in advance.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83899924106?pwd=rBGsGWaUKyLit1b68o1OjeCMn70kb6.1>

### **Upcoming Books 2025**

**January 2025** – no meeting

**February 19** - *Sisterhood: The Secret History of Women at the CIA* by Liza Mundy - leader Ruth Holst

**March 19** - *Women in the Valley of the Kings: The Untold Story of Women Egyptologists* by Kathleen Shephard - leader Anne Foley

**April 16**- *The Cliffs* by J Courtney Sullivan - leader Donna Zimmerman

**May 21** - *By Any Other Name* by Jodi Picoult - leader Barb Yong

**June 18** - *The Women* by Kristin Hannah - leader Margaret Rohter

**July 16** - *The Wilds: A Novel in Five Acts* by Louis Bayard - leader Helen Elkiss

**August 20** - *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese - leader Barb Yong

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  
[chicagoauw@hotmail.com](mailto:chicagoauw@hotmail.com)

**17<sup>th</sup> Annual No-Dinner Dinner 2024 Fundraiser**

*A BIG thank you to everyone who donated to our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual No-Dinner Dinner. All donation checks have been mailed to national for processing. We raised \$1500- so far. We have not made our goal but you are still able to donate online. Thank you to all of the members who donated for your support. You are also welcome to donate at any time of the year via [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)*

**Members at the National Museum of Mexican Art in October**



**2025 AAUW-IL Convention | Call for Presentation Proposals**



<https://forms.gle/BZjcf96VbxQ5i5GN9>

- The 2025 convention is tentatively scheduled for April 25-26, 2025 in Springfield, Illinois.
- We have a lot of wisdom among our members and the 100th convention is a great opportunity to share that wisdom with others across the state.
- Whether you want to do a quick 15-minute table talk, a long 45-minute in-depth training, or something in between, share your idea for consideration using the link above.
- The priority submission deadline is November 30th.

Kathy Battee-Freeman (Springfield) & Jo-An Takamoto-Sabonjian (Waukegan) | Co-Vice Presidents – Programs

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

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

**Mission Statement of AAUW:** AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

**Value Promise:** By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so all women have a fair chance.

**Vision Statement:** AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

AAUW membership is open to any graduate who holds an associate or equivalent degree from a qualified educational institution or a baccalaureate of higher degree from an accredited institution of higher education.

AAUW's **Legal Advocacy Fund** provides funding and support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace.

AAUW National website: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

AAUW-IL website: [www.aauw-il.org](http://www.aauw-il.org)

Chicago branch website: <http://chicago-il.aauw.net>

For more information, contact us: [chicagoaauw@hotmail.com](mailto:chicagoaauw@hotmail.com)

**Join the Chicago branch on Facebook:**

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=16337662299&ref=mf>

**Join the Chicago branch on Instagram:**

<http://www.instagram.com/aauwchicago>



Chicago Inc. (IL) Branch

Lori Switzer, editor  
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*Address correction requested*

*Chicago, IL branch was founded in 1889. This is our 135<sup>th</sup> year!!*