



Navigating Your Retirement Journey: Key Strategies

Sage Financial Group – Speakers Kris Wano and Christina Castrejon

Please RSVP to chicagoaauw@hotmail.com for ZOOM LINK by Jan. 27th

All are invited – Please share the info with a friend

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 6:30pm

<https://www.sageprivatewealth.com/>

Comprehensive Financial Life Planning is more than the active management of investments. It is more than the creation of a retirement plan and it goes well beyond regular portfolio check-ups. In addition to planning basic life events, it also addresses potential events that can drastically alter a person's long-term financial security to include potential threats to their established plan and their quality of life.

Kristi Wano, SVP, Senior Wealth Advisor

Kristi Wano, a seasoned advisor in the financial industry, brings a depth of experience accrued throughout her financial career. Her extensive experience includes a notable tenure as a VP Senior Wealth Advisor with Calamos, showcasing her proficiency in navigating the complexities of wealth management. Known for her unwavering dedication to clients, Kristi is recognized for her ability to unravel complex financial challenges and provide comprehensive solutions that align with long-term wealth objectives. As she brings her wealth of knowledge and experience to our team, Kristi Wano stands ready to guide you on your journey to financial success. Kris is also a member of the Chicago branch.

Christina Castrejon, SVP, Senior Wealth Advisor

Christina Castrejon brings a wealth of experience and a passion for empowerment to her role as Senior Vice President, Senior Wealth Advisor at SAGE Private Wealth Group. With a distinguished career as a VP Senior Wealth Advisor at Calamos, Christina has honed her expertise as the lead advisor for over 100 clients. Her commitment to fostering financial knowledge and independence shines through her leadership in the "Women & Wealth" initiative at Calamos. In this role, Christina played a pivotal role in educating advisors, clients, and the wider community on the crucial intersection of women, empowerment, and wealth management.

The DuSable

BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM *and* EDUCATION CENTER

A Smithsonian Affiliate

DuSable Museum of Black History private branch tour

Saturday, February 8, 2025

11:30am 1 hour tour Meet in the lobby

RSVP: To Lori Switzer chicagoaauw@hotmail.com by Feb 6th

\$10 a person - pay at the door or zelle chicagoaauw@hotmail.com

DuSable Museum of Black History 740 E 56th Pl, Chicago, IL 60637

Discounted parking is available for Museum visitors at the University of Chicago Medical Parking Garage B at 5631 S. Cottage Grove Ave.

Optional lunch after the tour – location TBD

The DuSable Museum is proud of its diverse holdings that number more than 15,000 pieces and include paintings, sculpture, print works and historical memorabilia. Special exhibitions, workshops and lectures are featured to highlight works by particular artists, historical events or collections on loan from individuals or institutions.

President's Message

Happy New Year! Hope you are staying warm as we have our first snow of the year. The branch steering committee is working on planning the 2025 programs. We are also open to suggestions. 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.

Please see the announcement from Paula Purdue in this newsletter about contacting President Biden regarding publishing the ERA before he leaves office. You can send a message via www.aauw.org or send a text. Members are encouraged to send a text to President Biden 302 404 0880 and ask him to tell the archivist to publish the ERA.

Don't forget to save the date for the AAUW-IL State Convention in April in Springfield. We will plan to carpool as a branch. The conventions are a great way to meet members from around the state and learn national initiatives.

Hope you join us via zoom for our January 28th Financial Planning program lead by our branch member Kris Wano from Sage Private Wealth Group. She will share important for all members and guests. Please RSVP to chicagoaauw@hotmail.com for zoom link.

*Best – Lori Switzer
Chicago Branch Admin*

Meeting/Activities Dates and Topics

January 28 – Financial Retirement Planning via zoom at 6:30pm

February 8 – DuSable Museum of Black History Private Tour 11:30am

April 25- 26 – AAUW-IL State convention Springfield, IL

June – Chicago branch 135th Anniversary luncheon

Looking Ahead – Branch 135th Anniversary

The branch is also celebrating our 135 Anniversary this year!! We are looking for a location for our year end meeting and 135th Anniversary celebration in June. Please let me know if you have any suggestions for a private room. Chicagoaauw@hotmail.com

Catch Up on AAUW Webinars That You Can Watch Anytime!

Charlaine Reynolds, Membership

Take a few moments to check out these thought-provoking AAUW webinars related to our mission and policy priorities such as pay equity, structural racism, global human trafficking, and women's educational opportunities. These webinars are pre-recorded, so you can watch/listen to them at your convenience. <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/webinars/>

One that I particularly enjoyed was this one:

CEO Gloria L. Blackwell's conversation with AAUW Community Action Grant Alumna, Tiya Miles. Ph.D., about her inspiring book “Wild Girls: How the Outdoors Shaped Women Who Challenged a Nation.” Gloria and Dr. Miles discuss her latest work that puts girls of all races — and the landscapes they loved — at center stage and reveals the impact of the outdoors on women's independence, resourcefulness, and vision. <https://youtu.be/GK6qTJRUDCA>

Welcome to our new member!

Welcome to our new member who joined last month. We look forward to meeting you at an upcoming event.

Jessica Rosenberg

jessicarosenberg8@gmail.com

Start the New Year with Action: Publish the ERA!

As we kick off the new year, there is still a critical opportunity for action on the ERA. President Biden must make publication of the ERA his new year's resolution!

Sign the petition to urge President Biden to act now for publication of the ERA.

The ERA has met all constitutional requirements to become an amendment. Now President Biden must do everything he can to publish the ERA before the end of his presidency.

Women and girls have waited long enough for constitutionally guaranteed equality. Add your name and tell President Biden we demand action.

<https://aauw.quorum.us/campaign/104697/?emci=c1d74f86-34c9-ef11-88ce-0022482a93af&emdi=b3edbddc-40c9-ef11-88ce-0022482a93af&ceid=24889214>

Chicago Branch Treasurer Report – Megan Moser

As of January 1, 2025

Branch checking account balance: \$1,887.14

Fidelity branch savings account: \$14,342.43.

AAUW National 5 Star Program

Thank you for your support in the 2023-2024 year. The Chicago branch earned **2 stars** in the 5-star national program. We earned stars for **Communications & External Relations and Programming**.

The Five Star Program is designed to honor branches that align their work with AAUW's strategic priorities:

1. Advancement
2. Public Policy & Advocacy

3. Governance & Sustainability
4. Programming
5. Communications & External Relations

Earning two stars is an incredible accomplishment, and we are thrilled to celebrate this success with you.

While we will be updating the AAUW website soon to reflect all the branches that have earned stars this year, we wanted to ensure your branch received this good news first. Your achievement will be highlighted alongside other winning branches, showcasing your vital role in supporting AAUW's mission both locally and nationally. State leadership will be informed in the coming days. For more information regarding the AAUW 5 Star program, see the national website. <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/5-star-program/>

Check out the updated Chicago Branch website!

AAUW national has worked to update our branch website. The images and colors have been updated. Also, some of the pages have been updated. Thank you to AAUW national for the update. The AAUW- IL state website has also been updated.

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, 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

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

Daytime Book Club next meeting – Wed. February 19

Do you like to read? If so, join us for the daytime book club on **Wed. Feb. 19** via zoom at 1:00pm. We will be discussing *Sisterhood: The Secret History of Women at the CIA*. Here is the Zoom link for the Feb. 19 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. Any questions, please contact our chair, Lori at chicagoauw@hotmail.com

17th Annual No-Dinner Dinner 2024 Fundraiser

A BIG thank you to everyone who donated to our 17th Annual No-Dinner Dinner. All donation checks have been mailed to national for processing. We raised over \$2500-. 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

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 Jan. 15th. Thanks - Lori Switzer 773/230-1063 or 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

AAUW-IL website: www.aauw-il.org

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

For more information, contact us: 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
AAUW Newsletter
2541 Ridgeway Ave
Evanston, IL 60201

Address correction requested

Chicago, IL branch was founded in 1889. This is our 135th year!!