

# ***The Chicago Edition***



September 2025

Volume 102, Edition 1



**Fall Kick-Off meeting**

**Saturday, September 13, 2025**

**11:30 am Private tour of the Ukrainian National Museum**

**Ukrainian National Museum of Chicago**

**2249 W. Superior St. Chicago 60612**

**<http://ukrainsnationalmuseum.org/>**

**RSVP to [chicagoaauw@hotmail.com](mailto:chicagoaauw@hotmail.com) or**

**call/text Lori Switzer 773 230 1063 by Thursday, Sept 11**

**Cost: \$10 per person pay at the door or via zelle**

**[chicagoaauw@hotmail.com](mailto:chicagoaauw@hotmail.com)**

**Optional lunch after tour-Café Shokolad 2524 W Chicago Ave**

**If there is time, we will visit the Ukrainian Cathedral as well.**

The primary mission of the Ukrainian National Museum of Chicago is to preserve and share the Ukrainian Immigration contribution to Chicago's cultural tapestry. The goal of the Museum was the establishment of a museum and archives that would reflect the lives of those forced by cruel circumstances to leave their homeland and who, in love and longing for that ancestral home, formed Ukrainian organizations for cultural continuity and life in their new settlements. Today the Museum is highlighted as the finest achievements of the Ukrainian American community. Its unparalleled array of folk art, exceptional collection of fine art, and extensive compendium of

archival materials make it one of the most unique and dynamic museums in USA, with broad appeal for diverse audiences.

### **President's Message**

*Hope you are enjoying our Chicago summer! I hope you have been able to get out and take advantage of all our great city has to offer.*

*A big thank you to everyone who came to our 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in June at the Osteria Via Stato. We had 34 members and guests attend to celebrate. Also thank you to member Dr. Lesya for speaking to the branch on Ukrainian Women and AAUW. We all enjoyed hearing her perspective. Please see some pictures of the event at the end of the newsletter. I personally must thank everyone for the sweet notes and gifts you all gave me. I had no idea what all the gifts and notes were that everyone was handing me during the lunch. It was so special to spend time reading all the notes and enjoy all the thoughtful gifts. I love AAUW and am proud to be a part of the Chicago Inc. Branch. I am so glad you all have allowed me to lead the group.*

*We have held two program planning meetings this summer and our programs and outings are coming together for the upcoming program year. Thank you to all the members who have given suggestions and are researching programs. Also thank you to Helen Elkiss for hosting us in her home for dinner and program planning. We appreciate it.*

*We still have about 15 members that need to renew. We hope you will renew your membership as we need your voice now more than ever both locally and nationally. If you have a friend, neighbor, daughter, niece or granddaughter please share AAUW with them and invite them to an event or gift them membership.*

*Best – Lori Switzer*

*Chicago Branch Admin*

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

***September 27 – AAUW-IL Fall conference 9-11am via zoom***

***October – museum outing TBD***

***November 8 – AAUW Fellows and Grantees via zoom 10:30am***

### ***Time to renew your membership***

***Membership renewal has started for 2025-26. Dues are \$106-. There was a \$2- increase in national dues but no increase in state or branch dues. Please see the form at the end of this newsletter. You can renew online via our national website [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) or you can pay via Zelle to [chicagoaauw@hotmail.com](mailto:chicagoaauw@hotmail.com). Any questions contact Megan Moser [meganmoser@hotmail.com](mailto:meganmoser@hotmail.com) or Charlaïne Reynolds [charlaïne.reynolds@gmail.com](mailto:charlaïne.reynolds@gmail.com)***



## **Policy Impacts on Women and Higher Education: Learn, Plan, Act**

Date & Time: Sep 27, 2025, 09:00 AM -11:00am

Join us for the AAUW-IL Fall Conference! All branch, state and national members are welcome. Our theme addresses the major governmental policy shifts that will impact women and higher education - educators and students alike. We'll plan ways that we can advocate to ensure that women have the educational and career opportunities they need and deserve. Register for the virtual event via zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/7GWxLd2zRF2AJGm41hKfUw#/registration>

### ***2025-2027 New Officers***

Secretary – Ruth Holst

Director at Large – Barbara Harris

Director ad Large – Loretta Pearson

### ***Branch Steering Committee Meeting – September 8***

We will meet on Monday, September 8 at 6:30pm via zoom. All are welcome to attend. We are looking for more members to join our steering committee. 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)

Here is the zoom meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87287617695?pwd=ds2raDpbQHARbOX2Zblw2pSB1whYso.1>

### ***Daytime Book Club next meeting – Wed. August 20***

Do you like to read? If so, join us for the daytime book club on **Wed. August 20** via zoom at 1:00pm. We will be discussing ***The Covenant of Water*** by Abraham Verghese. Here is the Zoom link for the Aug. 20 Book Club meeting. No need to register in advance.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84903390715?pwd=a8CZbgnWBI4KL9igqfo2X4bcgGpbyY.1>

### **Upcoming Books 2025**

**August 20** - *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese

**September 17** - *The Girls of Atomic City* by Denise Kiernan

**October 15** - *My Name is Emilia de Valle: A Novel* - by Isabel Allende

**November 19** - *Lovely One: A Memoir* by Ketanji Brown Jackson

**December 17** - *The Book Club Club for Troublesome Women: A Novel* by Marie Bostwick

**2026**

**January 21** - *Grace and Grit: My Fight for Equal Pay and Fairness at Goodyear and Beyond* by Lilly Ledbetter

**February 18** - *Remarkably Bright Creatures: A Novel* by Shelby Van Pelt

**March 18** - *What is Government? The Untold Story of Public Service* by Michael Lewis

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](mailto:chicagoauw@hotmail.com)

### **Passing of long-time member**

Gwendolyn Richie, a long-time branch member passed away in July at the age of 96. She was very active in the branch in the 1970, 80, and 90's. She was also branch president from 1974-76 and active in a variety of branch positions. She was instrumental in planning the branch's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary that was held at the Chicago History Museum. Services were held.

<https://legacy.suntimes.com/us/obituaries/chicagosuntimes/name/gwendolyn-ritchie-obituary?id=58985441>

### **AAUW national 5-Star program**

WOW! All but 3 Illinois branches submitted this year's AAUW Branch Survey / 5 Star recognition report. That is a terrific achievement. Thank you so much for taking the time to assess and share your branch impact for 2024-2025. The data you provided will improve communication and alignment between members, branches and the national staff -- and help all of us to have more impact.

Whether your branch earns 1 star or 5 because of your activities, you are all stars for your dedication! The star ratings will come from national in the fall.

As we plan for 2025-2026 -- the branch will use the new FY26 Five Star Criteria to focus our efforts. Find the new criteria here: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/5-star-program/#FY26-Criteria>

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM NATIONAL AAUW**

#### **AAUW Fellowship & Grant Applications Open August 1**

We're excited to announce that applications open August 1! Each year, AAUW provides millions in funding to support women pursuing academic, research, and professional opportunities that advance equity for women and girls. From graduate education to community-based projects, our awards empower changemakers at every level. Spread the word, applications close September 30! Encourage eligible students, scholars, and community leaders to apply today.

#### **Make Your Will and Advance Equity for Women and Girls**

August is Make-A-Will Month, and it's the perfect opportunity to plan while creating meaningful change. By making your will, you protect your loved ones, ensure your assets reflect

your values, and make a lasting impact on the lives of women and girls across the country. We've partnered with FreeWill to offer a secure, easy-to-use tool that helps you create your will online in just 20 minutes—at no cost to you. Including an optional gift to AAUW in your plans will help advance equity in education, economic security, and leadership for generations to come. Make your will today to build your legacy of empowerment.

**We're moving to a new mass email platform to better serve you!**

Is your contact information up to date with AAUW? Access your personal snapshot and update your contact information and preferences. Go to [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) Frequent users, click LOG IN as usual. Non-frequent users, click LOG IN, then below the blue log in button, click FORGOT PASSWORD. Enter your email address and click RESET YOUR PASSWORD to receive and confirm a new password to access your Personal Snapshot. Help? Email: [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) and enter LOG IN HELP in the subject line.

AAUW Chicago, Inc. Branch  
Proposed Budget Report (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)  
Megan Moser, Treasurer

	<b>2025-2026 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>2024-2025 Actual</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
Dues	1100	1012
Donations for Program Expenses	100	0
Member Donations	100	0
Transfer from Investment Acct.	1000	1500
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>2,212</b>	<b>2512</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Insurance	200	200
IL Incorporation fee	20	20
Printing, Supplies, Postage	150	125
Membership Recruitment	70	0
Program Expenses	400	0
Program Planning Meetings	0	0
Annual Meeting Expenses	250	500
Public Policy Expenses	75	0
Contributions to AAUW National	100	1000
Communications Software	400	377
Convention Travel Expense	200	0
Miscellaneous	25	0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,842</b>	<b>2222</b>





**Chicago Inc branch 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon June 7, 2025**

