

DRIEHAUS MUSEUM

Saturday, October 11 at 11:30am

Tour of the Driehaus Museum <https://driehausmuseum.org/>

Cost: \$15- per person

50 East Erie Street Chicago, IL 60611

Lunch following at True Food Kitchens, 1 W. Erie

**RSVP: To Lori Switzer by Thursday, Oct. 9th to chicagoaauw@hotmail.com
or cell/text 773 230 1063**

The exquisite building was saved twice, first by a collective of over 100 Chicago citizens in 1919, and then by philanthropist Richard H. Driehaus, who sponsored its restoration from 2003-2008.

Tiffany Lamps: Beyond the Shades: From the 1890s to the 1920s. Tiffany Studios created a captivating range of decorative lighting fixtures. To achieve founder Louis C. Tiffany's vast artistic vision and bring lighting designs to life, artisans at the Studios used a range of materials-- including bronze, enamel, pottery, and glass. *Tiffany Lamps: Beyond the Shade* explores this exciting aspect of Tiffany Studios' history and encourages visitors to see Tiffany's beloved lamps in a new light. There is an audio tour that is free to use

throughout the galleries. There will be docents on every floor to help with any questions.

The Driehaus Museum engages and inspires the global community through exploration and ongoing conversations in art, architecture, and design of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

President's Message

Thank you to everyone who came out to our fall kick off meeting. We had a great turnout at the Ukrainian National Museum. We were treated to a private tour by the museum archivist Halyna. Members and guests also enjoyed lunch at the Ukrainian Cafe. Thank you to Lesya Yastrubetska for planning and organizing the event.

We look forward to seeing you at some of our upcoming events. Looking ahead we have our AAUW-IL Fall Conference on Women and Higher Education. Then we have a branch outing to the Driehaus Museum for a tour of the Tiffany glass exhibit. Then in November we will have our most popular meeting of the year – our AAUW Fellows and Grantees meeting. We have invited recent fellows to present to the branch. Hope you can attend.

Our daytime book club is also continuing to meet. Books are listed in our newsletter all are welcome to join at any time. We are looking to add new interest groups. Let us know if there is something you are interested in. We are also planning a community service event for the coming year.

We still have about 8 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 11 – Driehaus Museum Tour 11:30am

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 or you can pay via Zelle to chicagoaauw@hotmail.com. Any questions contact Megan Moser meganmoser@hotmail.com or Charlaine Reynolds charlaine.reynolds@gmail.com

Welcome New Members!

We have two new members who recently joined the branch. We are looking forward to meeting you and having you a part of the branch.

Devina Dhawan devinad@gmail.com

Margo Timmins mtimmins59@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 members and guests 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>

Our Panel of Speakers:

Isabel McMullen, PhD candidate in Political Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and an Institute of Education Sciences pre-doctoral fellow, will discuss the recent politicization of leadership in higher education, share key examples of governing board in/action, and show recent research and data that helps contextualize the current debates. Her research explores the relationship between government and educational institutions, in particular how state politics influence higher ed and the dynamics of public university governing boards. She also conducts program evaluations on college-access programs, and studies the decisions that lead to education policy at the state level.

Meghan Kissell is the Senior Director of Policy and Member Advocacy at AAUW, leading federal policy and grassroots advocacy efforts. With 20+ years in public policy, she has worked on gender equity, LGBTQ rights, public health, and conservation. Previously, she led campaigns protecting public lands in the Western United States and expanding LGBTQ rights in the Deep South. Meghan holds a master's in social work from Howard University and a bachelor's in political science from Allegheny College. Passionate about activism, she helps AAUW members turn frustration into action, ensuring their voices shape policies that advance equity and opportunity.

Dr. Ken Olson currently serves on the AAUW-IL board as Co-Director of Public Policy and on the Schaumburg Area branch board as Policy Director. He is Principal of KEO Consulting, working in dairy and research policy. A native of Wisconsin, he has a PhD in Dairy Cattle Breeding (Genetics) from UW-Madison, was a professor on the faculty of the Animal Science Department at the University of Kentucky, and then the national Dairy and Animal Health Specialist for the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Kathyy Battee-Freeman, AAUW Illinois Program Co-Vice President and member of the Springfield branch, will moderate.

Branch Steering Committee Meeting – October 13

We will meet on Monday, October 13 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 chicagoauw@hotmail.com

Here is the zoom meeting link:

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

Daytime Book Club next meeting – Wed. September 17

Do you like to read? If so, join us for the daytime book club on **Wed. September 17** via zoom at 1:00pm. We will be discussing ***The Girls of Atomic City*** by Denise Kiernan. Here is the Zoom link for the Sept 17 Book Club meeting. No need to register in advance.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81351738193?pwd=0hnbNlKy84FC4m9hbwYkbKYrRmbDag.1>

Upcoming Books:

October15 - *My Name is Emilia de Valle: A Novel* - by Isabel Allende

November19 - *Lovely One: A Memoir* by Ketanji Brown Jackson

December17 - *The Book 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

February18 - *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

Save the Date – Hope you will save the date for our annual AAUW Fellows and Grantees meeting on **Saturday, November 8th at 11am via zoom**. We will have recent local AAUW Fellows and Grantees speak to us about their research and programs. For the 2025–2026 academic year, AAUW is investing over \$5.3 million to support 228 women scholars and community projects. These grants and fellowships are lifelines — especially for women of color and those in STEM fields who continue to face systemic barriers.

Here's the registration link for November 8 at 11 am for the AAUW Fellows and Grantees program:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/REznuoHzRP64lAmDaLBMZQ>

AAUW national 5-Star program

Chicago Inc Branch Earns 4 Stars!

Thank you to all our members and steering committee members for their work over the past year planning and organizing our programs and events. Because of their hard work, the branch was awarded 4 Stars in the National 5-Star program. **The Chicago Inc. (IL) Branch has earned a Public Policy & Advocacy, Governance & Sustainability, Programming and Communications & External Relations Star** in the Five Star Program for FY25! This achievement reflects your branch's commitment to advancing gender equity and aligning your programs, advocacy, and sustainability efforts with AAUW's strategic priorities.

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

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 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 and enter LOG IN HELP in the subject line.

18th Annual No Dinner Dinner Fundraiser

Please watch your mail for the flyer. We are fundraising for AAUW National and the Greatest Need Fund. Please consider donating to AAUW national either by check mailed to Lori Switzer or online to <https://my.aauw.org/donation-product-detail>

All donations will be credited to the Chicago branch, and the donations will help the branch earn our advancement star in the National 5-star program. Donations are taken until December 2025. Every donation counts and helps promote equity for women and girls.

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

	2025-2026 Proposed Budget	2024-2025 Actual
Revenue		
Dues	1210	1012
Donations for Program Expenses	0	0
Member Donations	0	0
Transfer from Investment Acct.	1500	1500
Total Revenue	2,710	2512
Expenses		
Insurance	200	200
IL Incorporation fee	10	10
Printing, Supplies, Postage	150	125
Membership Recruitment	70	0
Program Expenses	400	0
Program Planning Meetings	86.54	0
Annual Meeting Expenses	250	320.14
Public Policy Expenses	75	0
Contributions to AAUW National	1000	1000
Communications Software	400	373.79
Convention Travel Expense	200	0
Miscellaneous	25	0
Total Expenses	2866.44	2028.93