



**Meet the AAUW Fellows and Grantees  
Saturday, November 8  
11:00am via Zoom**

Register for the AAUW Fellows and Grantees program:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/REznuoHzRP64lAmDaLBmZQ>

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.

Since 1888, AAUW has been one of the largest funders of women's graduate education, investing in women who go on to change the world. Between FY2020-2025, AAUW awarded nearly \$29.6 million in total (this includes multiple award types and organizational grants) to about 1,538 women and community projects. By 2023, more than \$135 million had been awarded in total since program inception (in 1888) to over 13,000 women and nonprofit orgs.

Types of grants **American Fellowships:** these support U.S. citizens / permanent residents in doctoral / post-doc / publication phases. **International Fellowships:** for women from outside the U.S. studying in the U.S. at master's, professional, or doctoral level. **Career Development Grants:** to support certifications, credentials, second-degrees, re-entry into workforce. **Selected Professions Fellowships:** aimed at fields in which women are underrepresented. **Community Action Grants / International Project Grants:** for community or international projects that further AAUW's mission

## **President's Message**

*Happy Fall! I hope you have been able to attend some of the recent AAUW sponsored events. In September, AAUW national held a fall zoom member gathering. Also, AAUW-IL held its annual fall conference. Members and guests from around the state heard a panel on women in higher education. Thank you to Loretta Pearson for planning and organizing the October branch outing to the Driehaus Museum to see the Tiffany exhibit. We had a nice turnout of members and guests. Hope you are planning on attending the November 8<sup>th</sup> zoom program, one of most popular meetings of the year. We will be hearing from AAUW national fellowship and grantees to see how the fellowship has helped them advance in their studies and community projects.*

*The branch has some new members. At the end of the newsletter, we have bios of some members. We look forward to meeting you soon. We still have about 6 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.*

*Also thank you to the members who have donated to the No Dinner Dinner. The money donated goes to National for the greatest need fund. Donation can be mailed to me or you can submit to national via the [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) website. It is appreciated!*

*Best – Lori Switzer*

*Chicago Branch Admin*

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

***October 18 – No Kings Protest downtown Chicago and various locations***

***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 [chicagoaaauw@hotmail.com](mailto:chicagoaaauw@hotmail.com). Any questions contact Megan Moser [meganmoser@hotmail.com](mailto:meganmoser@hotmail.com) or Charlaine Reynolds [charlaine.reynolds@gmail.com](mailto:charlaine.reynolds@gmail.com)

### ***New 2025-26 Branch Directory***

The branch directory has been updated for the coming year. Thank you to everyone for keeping their information updated and renewing your membership. Please let me know if you have any corrections. The directory is available on our branch website under the password protected page. The password is Illinois. You can also find your membership information on the AAUW national community hub. <https://chicago-il.aauw.net/>

### ***Treasurer Report – Megan Moser***

As of October 1, 2025

Checking account:

Fidelity account:

***Welcome New Members!***

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

*Chris Menyoli*      [chris\\_menyoli@yahoo.com](mailto:chris_menyoli@yahoo.com)

***Bios from our new members***

***Christina Menyoni***

Salam. Shalom. Peace.

Nice to meet you. You can call me Chris.

I was 'born and bred' in West Africa. Immigrated to the U.S. for college. Heard about AAUW from a nursing instructor. AAUW Member (Chicago Branch then Naperville) since 2016. RN (MSN - UIC CON 2019) who loves SKIN! Certified Massage Therapist, VOHRA Wound Certified Nurse, Licensed/Certified Professional Electrologist. Small business owner since 2022. In 2025, I combined my interest in NURSING, SKIN & BOOK PUBLISHING under one umbrella company. Married, with two GENz children in college. A home body who hates ironing, but loves cooking, movies, docuseries, knitting, crocheting, walking/hiking. I didn't know I missed Chicago that much, until I moved back! Looking forward to being more active in our local Chicago Branch. Blessings!

***Devina Mauria-Dhawan***

Devina Dhawan is a staff security engineer, artist, and founder of Devi-Labs, a nonprofit that teaches coding in multiple languages to adult women. Devina is a graduate of UIC, with a degree in computer science and minor in mathematics. With over a decade of experience in technology, she has led projects in software engineering while also building a parallel career as a visual artist, working in ceramics, calligraphy, and large-scale installations.

Through Devi-Labs, Devina creates supportive learning environments that include childcare and community, empowering students to change careers, gain confidence, and solve local problems with technology. She believes the future of engineering must be shaped by diverse voices, cultures, and communities. <https://www.devilabs.org/>

***Suzy Switzer***

Suzy graduated Phi Beta Kappa in May from Carnegie Mellon University with a major in English Literature and Culture with a second major in Psychology and a minor in Hispanic Studies. She has been teaching at a local preschool while preparing for graduate school. She loves travel, reading and baking. She was gifted a Life membership to AAUW by her grandmother, Jeane Lindeke.

***Margo Timmins***

Margo is a graduate of Northern Illinois University with B.S. Accounting. She is a CPA and manager at PwC. She recently ran the Chicago Marathan. She is the granddaughter of member Loretta Pearson.

***Branch Steering Committee Meeting – November 10***

We will meet on Monday, November 10 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.

The next meeting will be Nov 10 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. November 19***

Do you like to read? If so, join us for the daytime book club on **Wed. November 19** via zoom at 1:00pm. We will be discussing ***Lovely One: A Memoir by Ketanji Brown Jackson*** 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:**

**December 17** - *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

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

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM NATIONAL AAUW**

**Last month there was a** AAUW national member gathering at the end of September. Officers and staff from the DC office gave members and guests updated on national public policy, membership, congratulated branches that participated in the 5-Star program and more. If you were not able to attend, the program was recorded. Go to YouTube

<https://youtu.be/3oIEBeSBTCg>

**Also last month** AAUW-IL held the annual fall conference on higher education. Members and guests from around the state heard from a panel of speakers. There were 58 attendees. If you could not attend, the program was recorded, and the link is below.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/CZm-oosDNUTDQIlptPMAqBOxk1BqLQ6ZVZXOUHG-kcpo0lsWAayLOFHLVLftoWyF.RUJT3i5Dwxli5E85?startTime=1758981799000>

### **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.

### **18<sup>th</sup> Annual No Dinner Dinner Fundraiser**

An invitation was mailed out for the branch's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual No-Dinner Dinner. 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.

Thank you everyone who as donated so far – we have raised over \$1200 – of our \$2000 goal.

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

|                                | <b>2025-2026<br/>Proposed<br/>Budget</b> | <b>2024-2025<br/>Actual</b> |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>                 |                                          |                             |
| Dues                           | 1067                                     | 1012                        |
| Donations for Program Expenses | 0                                        | 0                           |
| Member Donations               | 0                                        | 0                           |
| Transfer from Investment Acct. | 1500                                     | 1500                        |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>           | <b>2567</b>                              | <b>2512</b>                 |
| <b>Expenses</b>                |                                          |                             |
| 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       |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>          | 2866.54 | 2028.93 |
|                                |         |         |