

AAUW-IL Interest Groups 2009

AAUW-IL State Convention April 24-25, 2009 Decatur, IL

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Questions, email chicagoaauw@hotmail.com

Arlington Heights

Book Club

Great Decisions

Aurora Branch

AWARE (Aurora Women Acting Responsibly for Equity) AWARE is the action arm of the Aurora Branch, encompassing the arenas of Public Policy, Equity, Diversity, and the Reality Store.

Books by Night: Inspired by National's AAUW's ¡Adelante! Book of the Month Club. Books by Night bases most book selections on the ¡Adelante! Book Club's book list.

Movie Study Group: Members watch movies together and discuss over dinner or snacks. Group meets monthly, alternating between videos on a Tuesday evening at member's home, and Sunday matinees followed by a meal and discussion at a restaurant.

Barrington Branch

Branch offers 3 book clubs: luncheon, evening and women's issues.

Great Decisions: Meets weekly for 10 weeks to discuss international issues based on materials prepared by the non partisan Foreign Policy Association

Bridge group

Annual wine tasting

Batavia St Charles

AM Literature Group

PM Novel Book Group

2009-2010 Great Decisions: Topics, US and Rising Powers, Afghanistan/Pakistan, Energy & the Global Economy, The Arctic, Egypt in the 21st Century, Global Food Supply, Cuba after Castro, Human Rights

Bridge Group

Coffee-Tea Socials

Coffee Break is an excellent opportunity to introduce neighbors, friends, and co-workers to AAUW in a very casual and low-key social atmosphere.

Belleville Branch

Two book groups. One book group reads recent best sellers and the other group reads whatever each individual wants to read and then each individual reports on the book that they read.

Bloomington/Normal

Hometown Gourmet: This group is made up of members and non-members who choose to dine at local restaurants or one that is in a town near Bloomington-Normal. They try to pick restaurants that are not chain restaurants.

Book Club: Monthly informal gathering. Members take turns hosting. Over the summer, the group plans the next year's schedule. Most books selected are available in paperback and/or at library.

Centralia Branch

Movie Group: Watch films written and/or directed by women.

Champaign/Urbana Branch

Drama Group: Meets in members' homes Sept-May. Plays and other theatrical productions are presented by members. Sometimes guest speakers are invited. Once a year, the group attends a local play together.

Writers Group: Members share their writing with the group and present their favorite writings at the December brunch program. This group has been meeting for over 35 years.

Adelante Book Discussion group: Meets monthly to discuss books featuring various aspects of diversity.

Chicago Branch

Book Club: Meets monthly, books are selected by members – both fiction and non-fiction

Ethnic Dining: Meets at area ethnic restaurants

Hyde Park SWANS movie club: Meets monthly for movie screening and discussion

Occasional, informal play goers group

Crystal Lake Area Branch

AM and PM book groups

Bridge

Bunco

Dining Explorations

Dining Out - The dining groups differ in when they go out to eat

Great Decisions AM and PM

Decatur Branch

Antique Study Group: programs include "Aprons of Yesterday and Today", "Bookplates", "Ivory", "Glass Grinding", "Half Dolls", and "World Fairs". Either members present or they secure experts in the field. (For about 30 years this group helped put on an Antique Show & Sale, whose profits benefited the Educational Foundation.)

Creative Arts: Programs include Preparing for autumn, Snowman Pin, Tour of Madden Art Center, Mystery Craft and Favors for nursing homes. Members present the programs or find speaker. (This group made centerpieces for State Conventions in Springfield, Bloomington, Champaign & Decatur)

AAUW Travel: some travel adventures in homes presented by members, see a play in St. Louis, and see a play in Chicago. Last meeting of the year is an International dinner. (Last year this group sponsored a bus to tour the Jane Addams Museum and Complex.)

Evening Book Review: Each member takes a turn reviewing their favorite book, read lately. Their May program is a 3 minute book review by each member in attendance.

Lunch Bunch: Members take turns making the arrangements at local restaurants and in near by communities.

Bridge Groups: about 4 groups meet at different times of the month.

Golf: May thru September. Every skill level is welcome.

Deerfield Branch

Great Decisions: Great Decisions meets on eight consecutive Wednesday afternoons in February and March to study and discuss current international issues, using a study guide published by the Foreign Policy Association.

Daytime Book Group

Evening Book Group

Culture Vultures: Branch members, spouses, and friends are invited to participate. Cultural excursions are planned.

Downers Grove Branch

Afternoon Bridge

Book Sorters: collecting books and working for our book sale

Helping Girls Navigate Adolescence; HGNA is directed independently but supported by our branch

Arts and Entertainment: The group selects a movie, home video, or a nearby inexpensive event.

History Club: An informal group meets when the mood strikes or we have interesting topic to discuss.

Evening Book Browsers: Members read and review fiction and nonfiction selected by the group.

Downers Grove Branch continued

Lunch and Literature I & II: Fiction and nonfiction books are read and reviewed according to each group's interest. Members take turns preparing lunch in their own homes.

Lunch and Literature III: Members read and discuss fiction and nonfiction chosen by the group -- a great way to share ideas, get acquainted with members and read those books you've been meaning to pull from the shelf. Each member brings a brown-bag lunch.

Great Decisions: World Cultures interest group utilizes the Great Decisions format.

Lyric Opera Subs: Occasional opera tickets are available for the Sunday matinee Lyric Opera series. .

Pri-Merry Players: Participants perform a reader's theater style play from an original material usually on women's history. Audiences include our branch, other AAUW branches, and libraries.

Elgin Area Branch

Elgin Great Books

Current Literature

Morning Book Group

Evening Crafters

Out And About Group: Special activities as scheduled. Example, trip to Chicago to visit the Freedom Museum and afternoon tea at the Drake Hotel.

20's and 30's BOOK CLUB: Men and women in their 20's and 30's are invited to discuss books and meet new people at the Gail Borden Library.

Reel Women/Real Women: Movie and Discussion Club – Meet at the Gail Borden Public Library, Community Room. There will be a guided discussion after the viewing of each movie. We may eat during/and or after the movie – brown bag or purchase from the Library Café.

Bridge 10th year: There is a \$10 fee per person. This program is a fundraiser for the general funds of the branch. Both members and friends are eligible for this activity. We currently have three groups: *Evening Singles* - meet once a month at a specified time, *Afternoon Singles* - meet once a month at a specified time, and *Couples* - times for each table are flexible.

Elmhurst Branch

Books: Reading and Discussion

Noontime Potpourri of Ideas: Noontime Potpourri participants meet four times a year at area restaurant, to enjoy lunch, camaraderie, and to share views on current topics. Members select a subject of general interest and concern for discussion at the next meeting, sharing articles and pertinent information. Each participant orders and pays for her own lunch. Past Discussion topics: Future uses of Wilder Mansion and the proposed Cultural Campus, Should there be an age restriction for licensing elderly drivers, etc.

Glenview Branch

Book club

Members get together to see plays

Huntley Branch

"Women of Mystery" book club meets bi-monthly , no great "important" literature, just popular mystery/suspense novels written by or about women, preferably with an Illinois connection to them.

Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Branch

Great Decisions: We begin the year's study in February and go through June with July and August off, start again in September and finish all topics by November. Discussions get very lively. Sometimes we have a guest speaker; i.e. Lake Forest College is very close.

Book discussion group: Various years, various topics. One year, it was the arts, theater, music, and painting as source of subject. Another year, Spanish speaking authors, 2 years of Nobel Prize winners. This year was the year of local authors; (except for April where we will read scenes from King Lear and discuss them). In January, we have a "Readers' Luncheon" in a local café where we talk about what we're currently reading. In June, a luncheon to decide on book themes for the following year.

Lockport Area Branch

Book group: meets monthly

Informal theater group

Lombard Area Branch

Cinema

Dining on a Dime

Mystery Buffs: Discuss a different theme of mysteries each year.

Lit Wits: Book talks; different selections than Afternoon Literature

Afternoon Literature: Read and converse about a variety of books.

Six in the City (fall and spring mornings): Six cultural visits to Chicago or suburbs.

Women's Issues: Discuss local and global topics relevant to women

Mid-Lake Country Branch

Evening Book Group

Monmouth Branch

AAUW/Monmouth College Great Decisions

AAUW Film Group

Adelante! Book Group

Naperville Branch

Great Decisions: sponsored by AAUW and the Naperville Public Libraries, meets at area library

Book Browsers am and pm

International Relations

Round Robin Bridge: couples and women's evening

North Shore Branch

Monthly International Discussion study group has been running for many years. The format is that each member brings an item from the newspaper or a magazine as a basis to introduce a topic for discussion.

Palos-Orland Area Branch

Book Discussion - meeting continuously for 29 years.

Mystery Monday book discussion - The books are a lighter fare than the other book discussion.

Bridge group meets once a month

Great Decisions: Uses a briefing booklet of articles on topics of current interest in world affairs. Meets between Feb. and May to discuss the articles then opinions are forwarded to the Foreign Policy Assoc.

Gourmet Club: Combines a local cultural event with a meal. Open to members and spouses. A popular trip was to see "Dirty Dancing" in Chicago and dinner at Tabu. This can also be an opportunity to support other local organizations for example a luncheon and fashion show fundraiser.

Peoria Branch

Art Appreciation: Art group visits museums and art events in the community

Afternoon Bridge and Evening Bridge

Ex Libris: Ex Libris has been going for a long time. It is a book group and sometimes they select an author and people read different books by the same author.

International Relations: A study of world events.

Mystery Buffs: Read mystery books and discuss.

Quincy Branch

Book Club---traditional book club meets monthly to review a specific book or author

Current Events---meets monthly and covers current topics of interest both international and national.

Eating Well---meets monthly sometimes in local restaurants and sometimes in private homes. Each year a different theme is addressed. Last year members focused on “eating healthy”. This year they are using an international theme.

Movie Group--- meets occasionally to view movies either written by or directed by women

Rock Island/Moline Branch

International Relations: We meet monthly, and we use the magazine and CD provided by the Foreign Policy Association to supplement and guide our discussions. It costs about \$20 per person per year for the CD and magazine. One member per month "leads" the discussion. Also discuss local events and personal events, which are sometimes more uplifting. Meet for a summer picnic and a winter Christmas party.

Rockford Area Branch

Book Beat: Afternoon book club

Bridge

Gourmet: meet at each other's houses and explore exotic cuisines

Golf: seasonal

International Relations: new group this year: studying Darfur, and other international situations, plan on using Great Decisions Series.

Art Trippers: participants go to galleries, museums and arts even plays.

Schaumburg Area Branch

Novel Approach Group: book club

Art Smart Group: Newly-formed interest group who focuses on attending plays, movies, art galleries, lectures, tours, etc. as suggested by the members.

Couples Dining: This group meets every other month to enjoy conversation and good food. Couples volunteer to choose an area restaurant and follow dinner with a dessert at their homes.

Springfield Branch

Antiques & Collectibles: meets each month to learn more about antiques and collectibles.

Artscapes: new interest group for members interested in or currently producing arts, including guest speakers, hands on art projects and field trips.

Bridge Groups: we have 4 groups, one afternoon, 2 evening groups and a couples group.

Chic Flix: Meets monthly at local theatre to see film and then go to a nearby restaurant for dessert, coffee and conversation. The films selected usually feature strong female characters or stories of interest.

Contemporary Literature: Enjoy a monthly discussion of selected literary works to help expand understanding and appreciation for current literature.

Couples Gourmet -Couples meet and dine with each other in an atmosphere of fun, fellowship and learning. Members will have the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the entire gourmet group by participating in two group functions. Three dinners are held in members' homes, with each member serving as host for three other couples. Rotation is provided for maximum sociability. The menus are prepared by the chair and her committee. Additions to the substitute list are welcomed during the year.

Diversity Book Group - This group meets monthly to discuss book selections which encompass all the ways in which people differ – including gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, and disability. A lively discussion encouraging personal growth always occurs!

Family History - This group encourages the study of genealogy through guest speakers, research sessions, and sharing information. Individual help will be provided to anyone wishing to learn research and recording techniques. Group does not meet every month.

FITA – From Ideas to Action: - This group is to create an on-going forum for consideration of local, state and national policy matters.

Globetrotters - Join a stimulating group offering armchair travel at its best! Come along with us to exotic foreign destinations, as well as nearby attractions. Natural wonders and cultural splendors abound, not to mention personal anecdotes ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous.

International Cooking - Each monthly dinner has a theme representing a different country. Members share the cooking and enjoy the eating. Teams are formed at the September meeting; for other monthly dinners, reservations are required.

Let's Get Moving - Exercise isn't such a chore when done in good company and interesting places. A different walking location is chosen each month. Join us as we move more, sit less, and explore Springfield area parks and neighborhoods.

Lunch Bunch - AAUW friends meet monthly for lively conversation and interesting food in a variety of area restaurants.

Mystery - Whether you prefer cozies or hard-boiled, we are sure to have something to please you.

Springfield Branch continued

Pinochle - Join us for a fun afternoon of Pinochle! All skill levels are welcome.

Quilting -Join the group – learn how to quilt, expand your knowledge of this early American craft, share your personal expertise, and enjoy the company of AAUW friends while creating lovely new projects.

Stitchery – Afternoon and evening: Our group gets together for conversation and camaraderie and for members to work on a current sewing or other creative project. Some do cross-stitch, knitting, embroidery, and photo albums. Join us for a relaxing afternoon or evening as we return to the old-fashioned coffee klatch.

Write Turn: Writer’s group that meets monthly with a rotating “Muse.” They write, eat and share their writing with the group.

Waukegan Area Branch

Book Review: one member gives a review of a book she read

Travel: presentations on travel destinations (mostly given by our members)

Exploring Our Culture: "Field Trips" to area museums, exhibits, restaurants, and other points of interest

Film Discussion: discussion after viewing

Reflections on Reading: members read same book and discuss

Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch

3 Book groups: AM fiction, PM fiction, Non-fiction

Great Decisions: serves as international relations outlet

Film Group: meets usually at the local theater that features art films. Group includes spouses and significant others. After the film we go to a member's home for wine, food, and a discussion.

Cultural Arts: means as cultural events and exhibits come up, usually Chicago museums.

Wood River Branch

Bridge Group: this interest group has become not only a great bonding vehicle for current members, but brought in several new members and big bucks with 50/50 drawings.

Additional copies of this list are available online <http://www.aauw-il.org/resources.htm>