



ILLINOIS LINK

American Association of University Women – Illinois, Inc.
Fall, 2008 – Number 286

Breaking Through Barriers -- District Fall Conferences 2008

Amy Green, Program Vice President

AAUW has been a leading force in the battles for suffrage, property rights, reproductive rights, access to higher education, and fair treatment in the workplace. AAUW has historically employed effective strategies and leveraged the strength of our numbers to break through one barrier after another.

At this year's District Fall Conferences, we will explore barriers women have conquered and barriers women still face. Conference highlights will include:

- **Where the Girls Are** – An overview of AAUW's latest research report which evaluates girls' progress and debunks the myth of a "boy crisis" in education.
- **Public Policy Update** – What's happening with Illinois education funding, health care legislation, etc.
- **Daring to Lead** – An impressive panel of guest speakers shares their experiences and analyzes challenges.

Join us at one of the two conferences as we explore where the women are, what barriers remain, and what we can do to break through those barriers.

Districts 1, 2, and 3 Fall Conference will be on Saturday, October 25, 2008 at Hoogland Center for the Arts in Springfield. Registration, coffee and socializing will begin at 9:15 a.m. The program will be from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Districts 4 and 5 Fall Conference will be on Saturday, November 8, 2008 at College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn. Registration and buffet breakfast will begin at 8:30 a.m. The program will be from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

See page 10 for more information. Registration form is on page 11.

AAUW Adopts Value Promise

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

You'll see many references to the Value Promise in this issue of The Link. AAUW-IL President Linda Henning Cohen explains how the state board has adapted it. In the Membership Column AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman expands on it. Other officers and directors relate it to their efforts. We are part of the AAUW community, breaking barriers for the betterment of all women!

Illinois Link

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President's Message Linda Henning Cohen



2008-09 offers new ways for us to experience and enjoy AAUW!

Our Fall Conferences will focus on the *Value Promise* (see page 1). AAUW-IL has shortened the phrase to “*breaking through educational and economic barriers*.” It is the theme not only for the fall conferences this October but also for the state convention on April 24 and 25 in Decatur. Come to the Fall Conference and to the State Convention to be part of the changes that are happening and to renew friendships, make new acquaintances, and get energized to help AAUW break through those barriers.

Another way to experience the revitalized AAUW is to attend next summer's Association Convention from June 26-28, 2009, at the Renaissance Grand Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri. This historic hotel was the site of a 1919 women's suffrage convention that led to the founding of the League of Women Voters. The convention format has been streamlined to two days and two nights, from mid-day Friday to mid-day Sunday. This is the closest Association Convention location in recent years and I hope that many of us from AAUW-IL will be there!

AAUW's new research report is *Where the Girls Are: The Facts About Gender Equity in Education*. This study describes the remarkable progress girls have made in educational achievement in the past 35 years, and refutes the myth of the “boys' crisis” in our schools. The study found that family income level and race/ethnicity are closely associated with academic performance. At the Fall Conference there will be a presentation of this research study and discussion of its implications.

With all that is new for AAUW, it is important to celebrate our heritage! 2008 marks the 50-year anniversary of the AAUW Educational Foundation. In 1958 EF was officially established to administer AAUW's fellowship and grant programs advancing educational and professional opportunities in the United States and around the globe. Today the Educational Foundation is a standout success story, providing \$4 million annually in funding to women for graduate education.

The upcoming AAUW year offers members quality opportunities to celebrate successes and to be part of the new initiatives and changes that are rolling out for 2008-09. Join in and help us create a new, re-energized AAUW that breaks through barriers.



GREAT LAKES PERSPECTIVE

Ruth Brown, Regional Director

"Proposed Bylaws" are key words in AAUW these days. As part of the historic transformation of AAUW proposed bylaws have been presented for your review. Each AAUW member should take time to read and think about the changes that are being discussed. Keep in mind they are only proposals at this point.

The proposed bylaws will be posted on the AAUW website, presented in the AAUW Outlook, and discussed at the National Association Convention in June 2009 in St. Louis prior to a vote by delegates.

Our national leaders want AAUW to be a vibrant organization for the 21st century and one that will live on forever. Remember that the mission of AAUW and the tenets upon which it was founded will never change. Higher education for women and girls and scholarships to fund higher education are what AAUW is all about. We know that higher education opens doors for women and girls and empowers them to get the higher-paying jobs they need to support themselves and their children. We know that an educated woman can do anything she dreams of. These values are too important to give up on. Though the proposed bylaws may seem uncomfortable, keep your eye on the prize, and visualize in your mind the faces of AAUW, the Women and girls who need and deserve our support.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR STATE OFFICERS

Erika Nicketakis, Nominating Committee Chair

The nominating committee is seeking nominees to fill open, elective state offices for the next biennial term. The chair will lead representatives from the five AAUW-IL, Inc., districts--elected at the 2007 Fall Conferences--in deliberations via telephone and e-mail. The chair will contact potential candidates selected by the committee.

For the biennium 2009-11, the following elected positions need to be filled:

President Elect: Nominee shall have served one or more two-year terms as a member of the state board and shall have had extensive branch experience, including branch presidency

Membership Co-Vice President: Nominee shall have served one or more terms as a member of the state board and shall have had extensive branch experience such as president or membership chair

Membership Co-Vice President: (see description above)

Secretary: Nominee shall possess skills required to perform the duties of the office

I plan to attend both fall conferences and will have nominations postcards to hand out at these events. On behalf of the committee, I will also accept nominations by mail (4378 W. Lawn Avenue, Gurnee, IL 60031) or e-mail (nicketakis@aol.com). The deadline for nominations this year is **November 15.**

GET OUT THE VOTE!

Diane Balin and Faye Marcus, Co-Directors of Public Policy

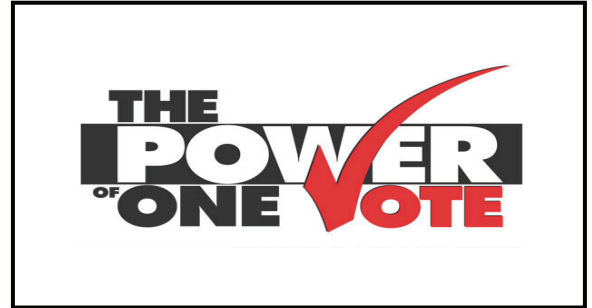
Many historical barriers were broken during the 2008 primary season. We have had presidential hopefuls who are a woman, an African-American, and a Mormon. Millions of young people are involved in the process. The world continues to watch the U.S. because the U.S. presidential choice will have a global impact.

The Public Policy section of the AAUW website is:

<http://www.aauw.org/advocacy/>

Information on the site includes:

- AAUW's voter education manual, with tips to encourage voter registration and ways to get more women to the polls.
- The Congressional Voting Record on key AAUW issues.
- Sign up for AAUW's Action Alerts, so you can be informed about breaking legislative news.



We hope you and your branch are also closely monitoring the mounting problem of the lack of state funding for public education in Illinois. Although the state constitution says that the state will provide the majority (that's 50%!) of school funding, the state borrows from teachers' pension programs to fund state operating expenses instead of funding this educational mandate. State funding for public education in Illinois is one of the lowest in the nation. This is a disgrace! Good schools start with adequate funding, not testing. There is great interest in fixing this situation of over-reliance on local real estate taxes to fund local schools.

How can you and your branch be part of the solution? We encourage branches to create Local Lobby Corps. AAUW members can visit legislators in their district offices to inform and educate them about AAUW issues. There are rumors and lack of understanding about the effects of proposed legislation on women and girls. Explain AAUW's policy positions, which are backed by research. With your involvement we can reach decision makers and tell them our position on the issues.

We have funds available to help you start a Local Lobby Corps! The money remains from a 2007-2008 Association grant. We'd like to create a model for AAUW branches nationwide. More information will be available at the Fall Conference. You are welcome to contact us at any time: Diane, balin.diane@gmail.com; Faye, fe.marcus@comcast.net



INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Donna Sproston, International Affairs Director

Branches and individuals wishing to make a significant impact on the lives of women and children in the developing world might consider contributing to the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund. 100% of your contribution is distributed to the current projects, and it is tax-deductible for individuals. VGIF was established in 1969 by members of AAUW and IFUW. To date it has contributed more than \$1.3 million to support more than 300 projects worldwide. Many branches support VGIF annually. Learn more about the fund, the current projects, and the remarkable career of the fund's namesake at www.thegildersleeve.org

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The AAUW Community: A Shared Understanding of Membership

Linda Hallman, AAUW Executive Director



While each of us brings our own understanding of what AAUW membership means to us personally, there is another aspect to our membership that reflects our shared understanding of the AAUW community and why we are involved. It is this shared vision of ourselves that attracts others to join our community, and reinforces our own allegiance.

As we consider what it means to be a member of AAUW in the 21st century, let's use our Value Promise as a starting point: *By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.*

First, the Value Promise tells each member what she/he gets for her/his dues, i.e., the value of membership. The Value Promise has been a wonderful way for us to think about ourselves as a nationwide community with a common commitment to breaking through educational and economic barriers in order to advance our shared value—a fair chance for all women.

Second, the Value Promise serves as a yardstick to measure whatever AAUW (at any level) does. When members offer programming that breaks through targeted barriers, we keep our Value Promise to members, potential members, collaborating organizations, the media, decision-makers and the general public.

Third, the Value Promise also provides us a useful communication vehicle to express our complex and challenging agenda to varied constituencies – a consistent elevator speech for our members.

What the Value Promise doesn't fully articulate, however, is the potential force behind this commitment – that is, the incredible power of **100,000 members in 1000 branches nationwide**, all dedicated to breaking through these barriers so that all women have that fair chance that we believe is their right. How can each of us be that force?

- **We need to see ourselves first and foremost as members of the entire organization.** Too often, our experience and vision of AAUW is limited to our branch and/or state.
- **We need to see ourselves as others see AAUW members—a powerful and influential nationwide community deserving of respect.**
- **We need to see how aligned work across the organization leads to results (i.e., breaks down barriers), and results lead to funding and attracting new members.**

Few organizations other than AAUW can claim such a rich and deep history of commitment and achievement. Few other organizations are galvanized with such clarity of vision about a shared value. Few other organizations can demonstrate that their members come together from such varied geographic, political, and professional backgrounds all dedicated to advancing a shared mission. Few other organizations work in so many different ways to achieve their goals.

As we see ourselves anew—as members first and foremost of the entire AAUW community—we become agents for ensuring that all women will have a fair chance. In other words, we keep our AAUW Value Promise and reap all the benefits of doing so!

A NEW AND IMPROVED LAF

Andi Danis, Legal Advocacy Fund Director

By now most of you are aware that the Legal Advocacy Fund is undergoing some major changes. They result from the strategic process that the Association has undergone over the last three years. After talking with foundation board members, reading correspondence from plaintiffs, consulting with lawyers, and doing some personal soul-searching (in the form of letting go of personal biases) I am convinced that we are headed in the right direction.

The LAF changes are consistent with AAUW's newly-adopted Value Promise. They will maximize the impact of LAF's resources.

LAF will expand the **Campus Outreach Programs**.

These programs inform faculty, staff, and students about sex discrimination in higher education. They offer guidance and support in preventing or handling discriminatory practices. Existing programs have been successful in educating and empowering women at all levels.

LAF will transition from direct plaintiff funding to **increasing support of strategic, landmark cases**. LAF will fight to protect the rights of all women. AAUW will expand the use of amicus curiae ("friend of the court") briefs in workplace discrimination cases and other cases that affect women's and civil rights. We have the opportunity to make a difference in precedent-setting cases that can secure the rights of ALL women for many generations to come. AAUW will seek more opportunities to collaborate with other like-minded, well-respected organizations to enhance our impact in the courts and on the Hill.

LAF will continue the **Online Resource Library**

(<http://www.aauw.org/advocacy/laf/>). It will continue the **Legal Resource Referral Network** of 300 partners in 48 states who can provide advice and information to those considering or conducting legal action against discrimination. It will continue the **Plaintiff Travel Grants** so that women can share their stories at AAUW events and campus programs.

Your support of LAF is more important than ever! If we are to expand programs, then expanded resources must be available. You can designate that your LAF donation go to a specific program, such as Campus Outreach or Plaintiff Travel. You can also support individual cases or specific initiatives.

I am excited about the impact that LAF can make on women's lives by fighting the ongoing battle to achieve true gender equity. I hope you will join me in being an advocate for the New and Improved LAF.

EF MATTERS

Kathy Brenniman, Educational Foundation Director

I am pleased to be the new Educational Foundation Director for AAUW-IL. I have served on the Research and Projects Panel for 6 years and on the Educational Foundation Board for 5 years. I will bring an interesting and different perspective to this role. I am also an AAUW grant recipient, so I can tell you from experience that the Foundation is an important contributor to the education, advancement, and success of women.

Illinois is an awesome state when it comes to EF giving! We received 3 certificates for the 2007-08 year:

- Second in total giving to the Foundation (California was first)
- Second in per capita giving to the Foundation
- Sixth in total contribution growth over previous year to the Foundation.

I thank all the Illinois branches and individuals who make our accomplishments possible. I thank former Illinois State EF Chair Barbara Wyne for coordinating the effort. I hope that we can match it or do even better this year. We already have been

credited with individual contributions of over \$30,000!

This year one of my goals is to revive The Legacy Circle. This is a wonderful opportunity for members to provide for the Foundation in their wills and through annuities. I will have more information on this at the Fall Conferences.

December 15, 2008, is the deadline for 2008 EF donations. Donation forms will be at the fall

conferences and are also online at www.aauw.org. **Please!! Complete 3 copies of the donation form. Keep one for your branch and send two to me with your check(s). I will send the checks and the paperwork to the Association!** Checks should indicate what branch and what fund (if any) should be credited. Though you can send checks directly, it is much, much easier to credit your branch properly if you send everything to me. (Note: see sidebar, p. 2, for mailing addresses.)

Celebrate HerStory: Jane Addams Day is December 10!

Marla Kim Benziger, Jane Addams Committee



Why should we mark Jane Addams Day on our calendars? Is it because she is a great Illinois woman? Is it because Hull-House attracted remarkable women? Is it because Jane Addams was the first American woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize? Yes, yes and yes! We need to learn and understand Jane Addams' history and all women's history to inspire us to continue to work for human parity.

Let's face it, women's history barely appeared in the written history of the world. It has been only in the last 100 years that women's contributions to history are being reported and explored regularly. Men dominated writing history and they wrote about male contributions. Now is the time for us to learn more about our own history, share it, learn from it, and give women an equal footing in our world.

In the 1970's Laurel Thatcher Ulrich coined the phrase, "Well-behaved women seldom make history." Thirty years later in her book of the same title she explores what it means to make history. The women whose stories she recounts weren't trying to make history, but they did.

AAUW-IL's Jane Addams Committee gives you permission to misbehave! Remind your local schools, libraries, bookstores, and media outlets about the second Jane Addams Day this December 10. Let's make history!

Calling all AAUW Quilters!

Join us in making a "Jane Addams Star" block for our fundraising quilt. The finished quilt will be raffled at the State Convention in Decatur in April, 2009, with the proceeds going to benefit the Jane Addams Committee's activities.

The blocks are 12". The size of the quilt will depend on how many blocks we receive. We're hoping to make it 80 x 80 (queen-sized).

Instructions and kits will be available after October 1. If you or anyone in your branch is interested, contact Nann Blaine Hilyard, Waukegan Area Branch, nbhilyard@comcast.net



THE NATIONAL GIRLS COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

Opening Opportunities for Girls in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

There are many projects across the country devoted to increasing the number of girls interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). The premise of the National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP) is that these programs could be more effective if they worked together.

To that end, AAUW members across the country are acting as Regional Liaisons for the NGCP. These Regional Liaisons help the people involved in the NGCP to make connections – to one another, to resources on gender equity, and to AAUW.

The NGCP is creating a Program Directory of girl- serving STEM projects. Local organizations who want to create more STEM opportunities for girls can find out about similar efforts nearby. The NGCP offers mini-grants of \$1000 to collaborations of 2 or more participating programs. These activities of the NGCP are funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

Another purpose of the NGCP is to strengthen existing and evolving STEM projects by sharing research and program models, outcomes and products. A research component of NGCP will determine the effectiveness and impact of collaboration and promising practices.

The Regional Liaison for the Great Lakes Region is Geraldine L. Obermann, Ph.D. If you would like to hear more about this exciting project in your branch, or have a speaker at a branch program to talk about the National Girls Collaborative Project, you can contact Dr. Obermann at 773-330-1150. Her email is goberman@uchicago.edu.

COMMUNITY ACTION GRANT POLICY APPROVED

At the summer meeting, the AAUW-IL Board of Directors adopted a policy to support Community Action Grants awarded by the Educational Foundation to Illinois branches.

The policy says, “AAUW-IL will consider funding any partially funded (by the Educational Foundation) Community Action Grant that is received by an AAUW-IL Branch.” It will encourage creative and effective Branch programs that promote the AAUW mission.

To qualify, the Branch must complete and submit the application required by EF, and then apply in writing to the AAUW-IL President describing the project and the amount needed to complete it. The Board of Directors will vote on the award.

FALL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

The Fall District Conferences are half-day learning and sharing opportunities where you'll hear the latest about AAUW activities and accomplishments. Consider bringing a non-AAUW guest!

Districts 1, 2 & 3		Districts 4 & 5
9:15 – 9:45	Registration and coffee – Dist. 1, 2, & 3 Registration and buffet breakfast – Dist. 4 & 5	8:30 – 9:00
9:45 – 10:00	Welcome, announcements and introductions	9:00 – 9:15
10:00 – 10:15	Value Promise, Mission Statement and Vision Statement – AAUW-IL, Inc. President Linda Henning Cohen will explore what they mean and how to use them effectively.	9:15 – 9:30
10:15 – 10:45	Where the Girls Are – Andi Danis / Kathleen Brenniman will present an overview of AAUW's latest research.	9:30 – 10:00
10:45 – 11:00	Public Policy Update – legislative consultant Paula Johnson Purdue will tell us what's happening (or not happening) at the State Capitol.	10:00 – 10:15
11:00 – 11:15	Break, Networking, EF/LAF Shopping	10:15 – 10:30
11:15 – 12:15	Daring to Lead – panel of guest speakers will share their experiences and provide analysis of barriers women face	10:30 – 11:30
12:15 – 12:30	Break, Networking, EF/LAF Shopping	11:30 – 11:45
12:30 – 1:15	Lunch in Interest Round Table groups – Dist. 1, 2 & 3 Interest Round Table discussions – Dist. 4 & 5	11:45 – 12:15
1:15 – 1:30	Wrap Up, Thank You and Evaluations	12:15 – 12:30

“Daring to Lead” Panelists

Districts 1, 2 and 3 Conference

Diane Rutledge, Executive Director of the Large Unit District Association. Formerly, Superintendent, Springfield Public School District 186.

Laura Marks, Senior Vice President of Retail Banking for Jacksonville Savings Bank, and community leader.

Jacquelyn Quin, Associate Professor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Southern Illinois University School of medicine.

Mable Cole, Teachers' Retirement System. Ms. Cole has overcome a multitude of barriers including poverty, racism, domestic violence and educational deficits. With courage, resilience and determination, Ms. Cole has faced each challenge to build a better life for herself and her family.

Districts 4 & 5 Conference

Kamala Buckner, Superintendent, Thornton Township High School Dist. 205.

She is a founding member of the Better Funding for Better Schools Coalition and is active in a number of other organizations.

Alyse Lasser, partner, Insight Executive Search Partners Inc. Prior to launching this venture, Ms. Lasser was a senior vice president at a Chicago executive search firm.

Jill O'Brien, Attorney, Laner, Muchin, Dombrow, Becker, Levin and Tominberg, Ltd. She represents public and private sector employers in numerous areas including collective bargaining negotiations, drafting and implementation of harassment and discrimination prevention programs, and compliance obligations.

Kim Zimmermann

Currently CFO for Alexian Brothers, a multi-state health care system, Ms. Zimmermann has achieved success at a young age in a competitive industry. She brings a fresh perspective from an organization where women have shattered the glass ceiling.

Driving Directions to the Districts 1, 2 & 3 Fall Conference

Destination: Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 S. Sixth St., Springfield, IL 62701-1808
The Hoogland Center for the Arts is located in downtown Springfield. 6th St. is one-way going north. The Center is on the right (east) side of the street.

From the East:

Follow I-72W/IL 97W (Clearlake Ave) for approximately 3 miles. Turn left (south) on 5th St. to Lawrence (.4 mile), turn left on Lawrence and go one block east, turn left (north) on 6th St. and the Center will be two blocks north on the right side of the street. Pass it to enter the parking garage.

From the North: Take I-55S to IL 97W/Clearlake Ave., Exit 98B. Then follow the directions from the East.

From the South: Take I-55N to the 6th St. exit, 92A-B on the left toward I-72. Follow 6th St. north for 4.4 miles. The Hoogland Center will be on the right side of the street. Pass it to enter the parking garage.

From the West: Follow I-72E to the 6th St. exit, 97B. Then follow the directions from the South.

Parking: Free parking in the garage just north of the arts center. If the gate is down push the button marked Hoogland Center for the Arts.

Driving Directions to the Districts 4 & 5 Fall Conference:

The College of DuPage is located north of Butterfield Road and west of Park Blvd. In Glen Ellyn. We will be in the Jack H. Turner Conference Center, 2800 Student Resource Center, 2nd Floor. The closest parking lot is Parking Lot F off Fawell Blvd.

From the North - I-355 to Roosevelt Rd (Rt38), West on Roosevelt Rd to Park Blvd, South on Park Blvd to Fawell Blvd, West on Fawell Blvd to Parking Lot F.

From the South - I-355 North to Butterfield Rd (Rt.56), West on Butterfield Rd to Park Blvd., North on Park Blvd to Fawell Blvd, West on Fawell Blvd to Parking Lot F.

From the West - I-88 East to Park Blvd, North on Park Blvd to Fawell Blvd, West on Fawell Blvd to Parking Lot F.

From the East - I-88 West to Park Blvd, North on Park Blvd to Fawell Blvd, West on Fawell Blvd to Parking Lot F.

Districts 1, 2, & 3

Saturday, October 25, 2008
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Hoogland Center for the Arts
420 S. Sixth St.
Springfield, IL

Cost: \$20 includes registration and lunch.

Send registration form and check by Oct. 15 to:

Penny Parish
Rocky Hill Road, Box 526
Hardin, IL 62047
(618)576-9202 ddsbob@frontiernet.net

District 4 & 5

Saturday, November 8, 2008
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
College of DuPage
425 Fawell Blvd.
Glen Ellyn, IL

Cost: \$20 includes registration and breakfast. Send registration form and check by Oct. 27 to:

Rachel Campbell
1198 Blackhawk Dr.
Elgin, IL 60120
(847)695-9024
snowylark@hotmail.com

REGISTRATION FORM

Cut off this Registration Form and send with \$20 check payable to AAUW-IL, Inc. to the appropriate district director listed above.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Check: Branch Member _____ Member-at-Large _____ Non-Member _____

Branch _____ District # _____ Branch _____

Position _____

Does your branch need space to display EF or LAF fundraising project/sales?

Yes ___ No ___

Special physical or dietary requirements: _____

Dist. 1, 2 & 3 only: Please select lunch choice.

_____gourmet chicken salad with walnuts and grapes on butter croissant

_____shaved deli ham and Swiss on hearty wheat

_____New York style vegetarian bagel

Illinois Link
AAUW-IL, Inc.
C/o Linda Henning Cohen
211 N. Vine St.
Hinsdale, IL 60521



Save the dates!

- **October 25 – Fall Conference, Dist. 1, 2, 3**
- **November 8 – Fall Conference, Dist. 4, 5**
- **April 24-25 – AAUW-IL Convention, Decatur**
- **June 26-28 – AAUW Association Convention, St. Louis**