



The Chicago Edition

February 2010

Volume 72, Number 5

CHICAGO BRANCH NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY MEETING



What: *Social Media: The new way to connect*

When: Saturday, February 13th

Time: 11:00 am

Where: DePaul University, College of Computing and Digital Media
243 S. Wabash Ave (NE corner of Jackson and Wabash)
Room 924 www.depaul.edu

Parking: Street parking, meters, pay parking lots,
Or public transportation

Cost: \$5- per person - light refreshments will be served

RSVP: To Barbara Spiegel at or
spiegelba@gmail.com by **Thursday, Feb. 11th**

Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, LinkedIn... Social Media is one of today's hottest topics that transcend the varied demographics of today. Come and learn more about this trend that seems to be here to stay.

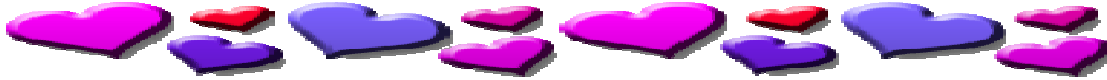
The discussion will cover:

- The definition of social media, why it's popular, how people are using it, how it has changed the way in which we interact
- An overview of different sites, how are they different from each other, how are they the same, how are they used, what demographic they target/are they popular with
- Ideas on how to get started and how to use the sites effectively
- Q&A

Please contact Terry Steinbach (tsteinbach@cdm.depaul.edu) or Laura Malec (lauramalec@gmail.com) with questions.

Meeting/Activities Dates and Topics

March 8	International Women's Day Luncheon – Union League Club - noon
March 13	The Girl Effect with Donna Sproston – Harold Washington Library
March 25	International Swan Day movie event
April 10	Women in China – Dr. Jane Wu – 860 N Lake Shore Dr. party room
April 28	Pay Equity Day
April 30-May 1	AAUW-IL State Convention, Lisle, IL
May 8	Annual Meeting and can food drive - Devon Seafood Grill – noon



President's Message

Keeping warm? I know we have had some very cold temperatures this month and I want to thank all of our dedicated branch members and guests who braved the cold temperatures to attend our annual January Educational Funds Fellows meeting. We heard from four fellows: one recipient of the American Fellowship and three who are recipients of the International Fellowship. Thank you to Leah, Yoko, Adeola, and Priscilla for attending the meeting and talking about your studies.

Looking ahead to February, we have an informative presentation planned on the hot topic of Social Networking (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.). We hope this program gives you some insight on the new trends of Social Networking, how it can help you as well as help to promote AAUW. Thank you to Laura Malec for organizing the meeting and to Terry Steinbach for inviting the branch back to DePaul University.

*I wanted to share a new program AAUW members have been invited to join, **The Chapter Leaders Playground**. This is a new website available free to members to join and participate in webinars (online seminars) and online discussions to learn about a variety of topics of interest to non-profits organizations like AAUW. Some of the upcoming topics include "The Second Time's a Charm – Bringing Back Formerly Active Members," "Boost Attendance with Meeting Themes," "How to Make Recruiting Cool to Do," and "Share the Wealth – Chop Those Projects Up!" I have participated in two sessions and think the information is worth wild and can be applied to your professional and personal lives, as well as the Chicago branch. I invite all members to join regardless of what your position is with the branch. I know you will learn something new. <http://www.chapterleadersplayground.org>*

*Lastly, I want to thank Amanda Robertson for all of her hard work recruiting new members for the Chicago, Inc. Branch. We have a record number of new members this year with **24**. Also our branch is at an all time high with **85** paid members. Thank you to Amanda as well as all members who have brought friends and guests to our recent meetings. Welcome new members to AAUW and the Chicago Inc. Branch.*

Breaking thru Barriers

Lori Switzer

Branch President and Newsletter Editor



Thank you

Thank you to Arlene Alpert opening her home to the branch for the January meeting. We had a great turnout of almost 30 members and guests. The branch also raised \$129- for future Educational Funds fellowships. We were able to hear from four fellows studying in different fields. Also thank you to Karen Antine and Barbara Spiegel for organizing the lunches and for handling the reservations. Thank you to Mary Ellen Smyth, our Educational Funds director for inviting the fellows to attend. Those in attendance were able to see first hand the importance of the Educational Funds fellowships on the women and with their studies.



Looking ahead to March

The topic of our March 13th meeting will be *The Girl Effect*. *The Girl Effect* is a campaign of the Nike Foundation to raise awareness that investing in girls in the developing world has an exponential effect-- improving the quality of life, addressing treatment of women, and ultimately bringing nations into the developed world. Our presenter will be the Director of International Affairs for AAUW-IL, Donna Sproston, and member of the Monmouth Branch. We will be meeting at Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State (between Van Buren St & Congress Pky). More details in the next newsletter. Hope you can attend with a friend.



Membership Update

Congratulations to all who have helped in recruiting and retaining members! As of January 9, we have **85 members – 24 of which are new to the branch!** Thank you to everyone who has sent in their application and check. For those who haven't sent in your application form and check, it isn't too late to renew or join. Please send it to Membership VP Amanda Robertson, 6410 N. Hoyne 4W Chicago, IL 60645.



Welcome New Member!

Please welcome our newest branch members! We are so excited to have them as members and look forward to seeing them at our upcoming events!

Name	Email Address
Jasmine Heiss	
Lisa Jackson	
Mary Ann Johnson	
Nilsa Sweetser	

2009-2010 Branch Directory Corrections/Additions

Jan Lisa Huttner



Half Year Membership Offer - January 1 thru March 15

During the period of January 1, 2010 thru March 15, 2010, any new members only pay half the current national dues rate of \$24.50 for regular memberships and \$8.50 for student affiliates. This covers membership through June 2010, after which the new member would be up for renewal for fiscal year 2010-2011. A new member is someone new to AAUW or whose membership has lapsed for two years or more. A current member-at-large or a renewing/returning member of less than two years would not be eligible for this offer. This offer can not be used in conjunction with any other offer. The total including branch and state membership is **\$45.50**.

Please mail to Amanda Robertson 6410 North Hoyne 4W, Chicago, IL 60645.

The Chicago Edition by Lori Switzer

Is there something you want to see in the newsletter? It is your newsletter. Articles for the March Chicago Edition newsletter are due February 15th. Thanks -Lori Switzer

ChicagoAAUW@hotmail.com



GEMS Workshop

There will be a planning meeting in January for the GEMS Conference. Anyone interested in volunteering or willing to work on the planning please contact Pat Newton-Curran at pnewtoncurran@sbcglobal.net. If you are willing to present about your career, but cannot attend the planning meeting please let Pat Newton-Curran know.



Mission: The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund provides funding and a support system for individuals seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

Support Title IX Legislation!

In January, Congress is likely to vote on the [High School Sports Information Collection Act](#) (S. 471) and the [High School Athletics Accountability Act](#) (H.R. 2882). These bills would require high schools to report basic data on the number of female and male students participating in their athletics programs and the expenditures made for their sports teams. Schools already collect the data; the bills merely require schools to make the information publicly available. If your branch supports this legislation, [please give us your branch contact information](#). The branch names will be added to AAUW letters asking representatives to co-sponsor the legislation. AAUW staff will hand deliver the letters.

Please send your contributions for LAF. Make checks out to AAUW-LAF and mail to Lori Switzer, 2746 W. Morse Ave, Chicago, 60645. Donations are tax-deductible. Deadline is Dec. 15, 2010.



AAUW Educational Funds

The American Association of University Women Educational Funds has a long and distinguished history of advancing educational and professional opportunities for women in the United States and around the globe.

Know a woman who needs funding for graduate school? Is there a girl-serving project in your area looking for resources? It's application time for AAUW's fellowships and grants. Applications for all programs are available. [Deadlines and eligibility requirements](#) for all programs are posted on our website. www.aauw.org

Please send your contributions for AAUW Educational Funds to Mary Ellen Smyth by December 15, 2010. Make checks out to AAUW-EF and mail to Mary Ellen Smyth 3200 N. Lake Shore Dr. #502, Chicago, IL 60657. Donations are tax-deductible.



Board Positions for 2010-2012 term

We have positions up for election this April including president, treasurer, membership vp, and two directors-at-large. We also need volunteers for our nominating committee. We also have open appointed offices and committee chairs listed in your directory. The positions don't take a lot of time and we will teach you all you need to know to succeed. No prior experience necessary. If you are interested in becoming more involved in our branch, please contact chicagoaauw@hotmail.com or fill out the attached nomination form.

COOK COUNTY BOARD PRESIDENT CANDIDATE FORUM
FOCUSING ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Thursday, Jan. 21st at 6 p.m. (Doors open at 5:30)
Loyola University of Chicago, Water Tower Campus, 111 E. Pearson St. Chicago
Beane Hall, 13th floor of Lewis Towers
No RSVP necessary. Free and open to the public.

Sponsored by Chicago Foundation for Women <http://www.cfw.org/>
Why focus on violence against women and girls?

The Cook County Board President oversees the country's largest public health care system as well as the Sheriff's Office and the county jail and detention centers. These systems intersect daily with survivors and perpetrators of violence against women and girls. All candidates have been confirmed: Dorothy Brown (D), John Garrido (R), Roger Keats (R), Terrence O'Brien (D), Toni Preckwinkle (D), Todd Stroger (D) and Tom Tresser (Green). The Candidate Forum is a nonpartisan event.

The Spice Award

The branch is looking for nominations for the Spice Award. This Award is to recognize a member who adds spice to your branch in what they do. This focus may recognize different people than were considered for the previous Loyalty Award or Emerging Star Awards. This award will be awarded at the AAUW-IL state convention in Lisle through the convention book. The deadline for submitting this award is February 15, 2010. Please let Lori Switzer know if you have a nomination and why you think they deserve the Spice Award. chicagoauw@hotmail.com



WITASWAN Movie Club

The WITASWAN Movie Club will meet the 1st Sunday of the month, October through May.

February 7 *movie will be chosen closer to date of meeting*
March 7 *TBD*

An email will be sent out the Thursday before the event with more information about show times and locations. Please RSVP by Feb. 5th to Megan Moser if you are able to attend.
meganmoser@hotmail.com



Book Club Please feel free to join the Book Club at anytime.
January 25 *Sin in the Second City: Madams, Ministers, Playboys and the Battle for America's Soul* by Karen Abbott

February 22 *If Beale Street Could Talk* by James Baldwin
March 22 *Finding Iris Chang: Friendship, Ambition, and the Loss of an Extraordinary Mind* by Paula Kamen

The Book Club of Chicago, Illinois Branch Inc. of the American Association of University Women is free and open to the public and meets on the fourth Monday of the month (except December and May) from 7:00-9:00 pm at the Conrad Sulzer Library, 4455 N. Lincoln Ave.



Ethnic Dining

March 7th Phoenix Classical Chinese Cuisine– Chinatown
2131 S. Archer Avenue. Chicago 60616

10:00am
Tel: 312-328-0848

<http://www.chinatownphoenix.com/>

Please contact Nina Whitsel with suggestions and times for meeting. Chair - Nina Whitsel at or ninawhitsel@rcn.com.



Fundraising Opportunity for Chicago Branch

It is almost tax time. If you have your income taxes done by H&R Block this year, *the Chicago Branch will receive \$25- per new client.* To find the nearest H&R Block location, go to www.hrblock.com. Just give the attached/enclosed referral form to your tax professional. Any questions, ask Lori Switzer chicagoaauw@hotmail.com



Support Women Artists Now!

Third Annual International SWAN Day- March 25, 2010

SAVE THE DATE!! International SWAN Day is cosponsored by WITASWAN (Women in the Audience Supporting Women Artists Now) and the Fund for Women Artists. A local celebration of the Third International SWAN Day will coincide with the sixth annual WITASWAN program in Chicago on March 25th. For more information about WITASWAN go to <http://www.aauw-il.org/chicago> or contact Jan Lisa Huttner at jan_huttner@msn.com or <http://www.films42.com/witaswan.asp>

AAUW-IL State Convention – April 30 – May 1, 2010

Please mark your calendar and join us for the AAUW-IL State Convention on April 30 – May 1, 2010. The AAUW-IL state convention will be held in Lisle, IL, at the Hyatt Lisle. AAUW Executive Director, Linda Hallman, will be the convention keynote speaker. Details will be coming in the Spring Link newsletter. We will be setting up carpools for the event. Hope you can join us and network with other AAUW members from around the state. <http://lisle.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/index.jsp>



AAUW-IL Ruth Sweetser Honorarium Fund

The AAUW-IL State Board has established an honorarium in Ruth Sweetser's name entitled **AAUW Illinois Ruth Sweetser Honorarium Fund** as a tribute to Ruth's impressive service to AAUW. All donations will go toward the 2010 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) in Washington DC. To donate to Ruth's honorarium, please mail your check to Kathleen Brenniman 428 W Ethel, Lombard IL 60148 Checks should be written to **LTI** and **Fund #4340** must be written in the memo line on the check. Over \$10,000 has been raised at this point for the honorarium. If you are interested, the deadline is coming up soon. Deadline is April 1, 2010.



Celebrate Action Network Successes in 2009!

Thank you for playing an integral role in AAUW's success in moving our shared mission forward this year. Your vocal advocacy and financial support, along with the tens of thousands of others in our nationwide network of e-activists, has helped AAUW influence public policy throughout 2009. In the current economic climate, when so many organizations are cutting back, AAUW remains uniquely positioned to be a strong voice for you in the halls of power. As educated women and men, we continue to be advocates and catalysts for sustainable change, and our efforts will continue to break through barriers for women and girls tomorrow.

The growing power and reach of AAUW's Action Network can claim some impressive achievements. Just consider that over the past year, together, we have:

- Regained ground in the fight for pay equity by successfully advocating for the enactment of the [Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act](#), signed into law by President Obama on January 29, 2009. AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman and AAUW Director of Public Policy and Government Relations Lisa Maatz were in the front row at the bill signing in the White House.
- Celebrated at the White House after more than a decade of work to expand protections for victims of hate crimes with the successful enactment of the [Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act](#).
- Successfully supported [Justice Sonia Sotomayor's](#) confirmation to the U.S. Supreme Court, and celebrated this historic achievement for all women.
- Convinced the House to take the first critical step towards strengthening and updating the Equal Pay Act with the successful passage of the [Paycheck Fairness Act](#), and increased the number of cosponsors in the Senate to more than ever before.
- Tackled the issue of college affordability with our support for the House-passed [Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act](#), one of the single largest investments in higher education ever.
- Ensured successful inclusion of AAUW's top priorities in the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#), including investments in higher education, school construction and modernization, and direct appropriations to states and localities to support critical services.
- Advocated for coverage of maternity care and preventive care, an end to gender rating, and other protections in the largest [health care overhaul](#) in 40 years. Advocates also fought and rallied against the [anti-choice amendments](#) on Capitol Hill and across the country.
- Ensured that a longtime champion for working women and their families has a seat at President Obama's cabinet table with the [Senate confirmation of Hilda Solis](#) as Secretary of Labor.
- Convinced the House to support work-life balance policies with the passage of the [Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act](#). Advocates also supported extending coverage of the Family and Medical Leave Act to flight attendants, who had been previously excluded from the law's protections, and we celebrate the extension's enactment this week.
- Advocated to keep our nation healthy by expanding support for paid sick days for American workers via the [Healthy Families Act](#) and the [Pandemic Protection for Workers, Families, and Businesses Act](#)
- Increased support for [legislation](#) that would prevent the taxation of forgiven student loan debt, making the ideals behind loan forgiveness a reality.
- Increased the visibility of and respect for AAUW's work through an in-depth meeting between AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman and First Lady Michele Obama.

- Supported the Obama administration's actions to repeal the Global Gag rule and rescind harmful Bush administration regulations that would severely limit women's access to [reproductive health and family planning services](#).
- Increased congressional support for expanded access to [contraception and preventive health care services](#) and [comprehensive, age-appropriate, and medically accurate sexual education](#) in schools.
- Celebrated the enactment of a no-cost technical fix that will again ensure university students and low-income women once again have access to affordable birth control.
- Moved us closer to writing women back into history with the House passage and Senate introduction of the [National Women's History Museum Act](#).
- Provided ideas for action through AAUW's policy recommendations on the supports working women and their families need to thrive in a changing workforce, in reaction to the release of [The Shriver Report-A Woman's Nation Changes Everything](#).
- Increased congressional support for outreach, education, training, support, and job placement assistance to [help women train for and thrive in jobs](#) that will boost the economic security of women and our nation.
- Opposed continued funding for private and religious [school vouchers](#) in our nation's capital that fly in the face of our nation's commitment to civil rights and public education, and made progress towards an appropriate end to the voucher program.
- Celebrated the anniversary of [Title IX](#) by encouraging members of Congress to enforce this landmark legislation in our high schools across the country, and taking part in a White House celebration with Education Secretary Arne Duncan.
- Successfully fought on behalf of [American families facing financial hardship](#) and those experiencing extended unemployment.
- Increased awareness of the pay gap between men and women through programming based on [AAUW's Pay Equity Resource Kit](#), Equal Pay Day events, telling members of Congress to "Keep the Change until Women Have Real Change," and showing members of Congress the everyday faces of pay equity.
- Supported Rep. Edward J. Markey's (D-MA) [investigation](#) to protect AAUW's good name and grassroots strength against astroturfing activities.
- Kept issues like [pay equity](#), [work-life balance](#), [workforce investment](#), and [education](#) in the spotlight by submitting comments and recommendations to President Obama, the Obama administration, the White House Task Force for Middle Class Working Families, and the White House Council on Women and Girls.
- Strengthened our voice on Capitol Hill through tens of thousands of advocacy messages sent from [Action Network](#) members to their members of Congress. Another 21,000 letters were sent to the Hill on behalf of AAUW members from the Public Policy and Government Relations Department.
- Put a face to our voice with approximately 1,800 visits to members of Congress by the AAUW Action Fund [Capitol Hill Lobby Corps](#).
- Sponsored five congressional briefings on Capitol Hill, focusing on topics such as [pay equity](#), [Title IX](#), women's participation in [science, technology, engineering, and math](#) fields, and [paid parental leave](#).
- Held members of Congress accountable for their votes using the AAUW Action Fund [Congressional Voting Record](#). Action Network members thanked their elected officials who voted with AAUW on priority issues and expressed their disappointment to those officials who did not support our mission.
- Joined in the conversation and shared your opinion on [AAUW Dialog](#) and via AAUW's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts.

In the past year, together, AAUW has made great progress on fair pay, education, and a host of other issues. We have made our voices heard, but our work is far from over.





You are invited to the International Women's Day Luncheon – Monday, March 8, 2010

Chicago Celebrates International Women's Day presented by The
International Trade Club of Chicago, International Visitors Center of
Chicago, Union League Club of Chicago

International Women's Day began as a remembrance and celebration of the struggle faced by women around the world in the name of equality, justice, peace, and development. Though the role of women around the world has continues to evolve in the nine decades since the inception of International Women's Day, women in the 21st century still face many obstacles in the advancement of their status worldwide. Regardless of ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic and political differences, the desire and need for progressive change is universal.

Chicago is host to dozens of organizations focused on women's issues, both domestic and international. You are invited to attend the Women's Day Fair and Luncheon on March 8, 2010, to explore the vast resources available to women in the Chicago land area. From relief organizations to the arts, healthcare to technology, there will be something at the fair for everyone. For more info, go to www.chicagowomensday.org. or www.ivcc.org

The International Fair starts at 10:30am and the luncheon starts at 12 noon at the Union League Club 65 West Jackson, Chicago. Cost is \$60- per ticket. We will have an AAUW table at the fair and at the luncheon. Please join us at our AAUW table for lunch. Please invite a friend or co-worker.

The keynote speaker is Ms. Maryn McKenna. Maryn McKenna is an independent journalist and author who specializes in public health, medicine and health policy. She writes features for national magazines and news stories for an infectious-disease website. In addition to her new book, Superbug: The Fatal Menace of MRSA, about the rise of drug-resistant staph around the world, she is working on projects on polio eradication and on emergency room overcrowding. Ms. McKenna has won numerous journalism awards and is the author of Beating Back the Devil: On the Front Lines with the Disease Detectives of the Epidemic Intelligence Service, which was named one of the Top Science Books of 2004 by Amazon.com and an "Outstanding Academic Title" by the American Library Association.

Mail your check made out to IVCC for \$60- and mail to:
Barbara Thomas, 145 West Schiller St. Chicago, IL 60610
thomcla@aol.com or chicagoauw@hotmail.com

Deadline is Feb 28th. Or register online at www.chicagowomensday.org
American Association of University Women – Illinois
is one of the hosting partners for this event.

NOMINATIONS

Chicago, IL Inc. Branch 2010-2012

Deadline: February 15th 2010

Please print. All of the offices are for a two year term. More than one person can hold an office (co-leaders). Thank you.

President:

Membership Vice President:

Treasurer:

Director at Large:

Director at Large:

Nominated by:

Send to Committee Chair: Karen Antine

Or email antine44@comcast.net

Thank you!!

Mission Statement of AAUW: *AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.*

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

Vision Statement: *AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.*

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

AAUW membership is open to any graduate who holds an associate or equivalent degree from a qualified educational institution or a baccalaureate of higher degree from an accredited institution of higher education.

The AAUW Educational Foundation provides funds to advance education, research, and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change.

AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund provides funding and support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

Important Dates

April 30 – May 1, 2010 AAUW-IL State Convention, Lisle, IL Hyatt Lisle
June 16-19, 2011 AAUW National Convention, Washington D.C., Renaissance Hotel
AAUW National website: www.aauw.org
AAUW-IL website: www.aauw-il.org
Chicago branch website: www.aauw-il.org/chicago
For more information, contact us: chicagoaauw@hotmail.com
Join the Chicago branch on Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=16337662299&ref=mf>



Lori Switzer, editor
AAUW Newsletter
2746 W. Morse Ave.
Chicago, IL 60645

Address correction requested

Chicago, IL branch was founded in 1889. This is our 120th year.

