



The Chicago Edition

March 2010

Volume 72, Number 6

CHICAGO BRANCH NEWSLETTER – MARCH EVENT



What: *The Girl Effect*

presented by Donna Sproston, AAUW-IL International Affairs director

When: Saturday, March 13th

Time: 10:00 am

Where: Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State (between Van Buren St. and Congress Parkway) 8th floor, room 8S14&15

Directions in Library: Take the escalator to the 3rd floor of Library. Pass security checkpoint, walk straight to bank of elevators. Take elevator to 8th floor and give the name AAUW to librarian at Reference Desk. <http://www.chipublic.org/branch/details/library/harold-washington/>

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

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

About the Girl Effect: The Girl Effect is a campaign of 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. The concept of the girl effect is not a new one, but in the last two decades research proves that this investment pays dividends. Donna Sproston's presentation reviews the history, the data, best practices, and organizations that are making an impact. The presentation concludes with suggestions for what you can do to make a difference. <http://www.girleffect.org/>

Donna Sproston is currently the Director of International Affairs for AAUW-Illinois. She is a past co-president and treasurer of the Monmouth Branch and served as District 3 director on the state board. Donna received her B.A. from Monmouth College, majoring in biology, and her masters in science education from Western Illinois University. She taught biology, chemistry, and physics for two years in rural Iowa, and after taking a break to raise two daughters to school age, returned to the classroom as a seventh grade general science teacher in Monmouth. Donna and her husband both retired in 2004 and are still married and speaking. The daughters are now grown. Lisa teaches first grade in Wisconsin, and Amy works for Mercy Corps in Portland, OR. Amy served in the Peace Corps in Paraguay from 1999 to 2003, and it was during her visits to Paraguay that Donna became interested in the plight of women in the third world.

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 18	HerWorld event and workshop at Holiday Inn Skokie
March 24	International Swan Day movie event – Harold Washington Library
April 10	Women in China – Dr. Jane Wu – 860 N Lake Shore Dr. Apk 19k
April 28	Pay Equity Day
April 30-May 1	AAUW-IL State Convention, Lisle, IL- Hyatt Hotel Lisle
May 8	Annual Meeting and can food drive - Devon Seafood Grill – noon



President's Message

March is Women's History Month. I hope you are able to participate in some of the upcoming events planned for you. First is the International Women's Day luncheon on March 8th. For our branch event on March 13th, we are fortunate to have Donna Sproston, AAUW-IL International Affairs director, present on the Girl Effect-a campaign to promote awareness of investing in girls in third-world countries. I hope you have been able to attend some of the wonderful meetings, activities, and social events like ethnic dining and the movie club. Check the newsletter for more dates and details of upcoming events. At the end of the month is the International SWAN Day event on March 24th.

Thank you to Laura Malec and Terry Steinbach for planning and organizing the February meeting on the hot topic of Social Networking. I hope members and guests learned some new aspects of social networking and are able to use the information to help you connect personally as well as promoting AAUW to friends and in the community. The branch is going to create a proactive social networking vision and marketing strategy. Let me know if you are interested in being a part of the task force. Also be sure you become a fan of the Chicago Branch of AAUW on Facebook.

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=16337662299&ref=mf>

The branch donated \$75- to the Ruth Sweetser Honorarium fund for the 2010 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). The state has raised over \$20,000 for the conference to fund registration and attendance costs for students to attend the conference at the University of Maryland outside of Washington DC. This event is a powerful way to impact college women as enter the workforce. Do you know a college student leader? Invite her to the conference. Consider making a personal donation. All of the details are in this newsletter or on the AAUW-IL website.

Don't forget \$46- of your AAUW national dues is tax deductible for your 2009 taxes and going forward. Details are in the newsletter. Also remember we have a fundraiser with H & R Block this year. H & R Block will donate \$25- to the branch to any new client. Please help spread the word to your friends, family and co-workers. A flyer is attached.

Breaking thru Barriers

Lori Switzer

Branch President and Newsletter Editor

*******There will be a short board meeting after the March 13th meeting. All members are welcome. Please RSVP to Lori if you are able to attend. ******



Looking ahead to April

We hope you will join us on Sat. April 10th at 10:00am for a presentation on Women in China with speaker Dr. Jane Wu. The Branch will be guests of member Gail Patten in her home at 860 N Lake Shore Dr. Apt. 19k. Dr. Wu will discuss women throughout the history of China, how the Cultural Revolution in the 1960s and 1970s affected family and women, and how the economic reform (market driven economy) over the last 30 years has brought women good fortune as well as a reversal of fortune.



Thank you

On Saturday, February 13th about 25 members and guests met at DePaul University downtown to discuss *Social Networking: A new way to connect*. Those in attendance learned the basics of Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. Thank you to Laura Malec for organizing the presentation, inviting the presenters, and moderating the discussion. Thank you to Terry Steinbach for welcoming the branch at DePaul University's College of Digital Media and bringing the donuts and coffee. Some members' comments from the meeting were:

“The meeting was terrific! Laura Malec did an excellent job moderating the discussion. The range of technical experience and not their age was a challenge but we had fun.”

“Laura did a great job as discussion leader.”

“The meeting was lively for sure! Laura gave a wonderful presentation, but there is a gap in our members in terms of their technology savvy. It seemed like a lot of this stemmed from generational gaps and not having people in their lives to show them the basics.”

Sarah's Circle Toiletry Drive - March 13th

We will be collecting toiletry items for Sarah's Circle at the March 13th branch meeting or February 22nd book club meeting. Sarah's Circle is a non-profit agency with a mission of serving women who are homeless or in need of a safe space. Over the course of its 30 year history, located in Chicago's Uptown community, Sarah's Circle has provided support during the day for thousands of women. Sarah's Circle offers several services which include: comprehensive physical services, permanent supportive housing, educational workshops, health clinics, job readiness skills, potential job placement, shower and laundry services, an overall network of resources, and a community to over 600 women a year who are affected by homelessness. Sarah's Circle encourages women to empower themselves and realize their unique potential as women.

<http://www.sarajs-circle.org/>

Sarah's Circle is currently in need of in need of sanitary napkins, tampons and toiletry items, specifically body wash, hand/body lotion, band aids and toothpaste. These are handed out to women on a daily and supplies are low. Otherwise any other toiletries from multi-purpose vitamins, Tylenol, small sewing kits, hand sanitizers, to under garments (Bras and underwear in all sizes) are also welcome.

Membership Update

Congratulations to all who have helped in recruiting and retaining members! As of February 8, we have **87 members – 25 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

Welcome New Member!

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

Name	Email Address
Jennifer Harris	
Kathleen Terman	



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.

Remember your National Dues are Tax-Deductible!

Effective April 1, 2009:

- AAUW National Individual Membership dues for fiscal year 2010 are \$49: **\$46 is tax deductible** as a charitable contribution, and \$3 is not (because it supports the AAUW Action Fund's Section 501(c)(4) Lobby Corps and get-out-the-vote activities).
- AAUW National Student Affiliate fee is for fiscal year 2010 is \$17: **\$16 is tax deductible** as a charitable contribution, and \$1 is not (because it supports the AAUW Action Fund's Section 501(c)(4) Lobby Corps and get-out-the-vote activities).
- AAUW National Life Membership dues (one-time payment) of **\$980 are fully tax deductible**.

March 18th – DeVry University HerWorld Program

The Chicago, Inc. branch is going to participate in an event with DeVry University on March 18th at the Holiday Inn Skokie 5300 West Touhy Ave Skokie. The conference is for high school girls and is entitled **HerWorld**. <http://www.chi.devry.edu/HighSchoolPrograms.html> The goal is to introduce high school girls to career options as often counselors are overwhelmed with the number of students and/or the information does not reach the people who have the greatest impact on the girls as they are making career choices.

There will be a keynote, a fast-moving presentation, interactive activities, and information tables. The branch will be hosting a table to promote continuing education, careers, and AAUW. We will have handouts and giveaways. I am looking for a leader for this event as well as members to attend and talk about their careers from 8:45am-10:15am. You would also be welcome to stay for the rest of the conference until 12:30pm. Please let me know if you are able to lead or volunteer for this event. chicagoauw@hotmail.com

The Chicago Edition by Lori Switzer

Is there something you want to see in the newsletter? It is your newsletter. Articles for the April/May Chicago Edition newsletter are due March 15th. Thanks -Lori Switzer ChicagoAAUW@hotmail.com



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

Update on Mansourian, et al. v. Regents of the University of California, et al. case

On February 8, the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals [sided with the LAF-supported plaintiffs](#) in [Mansourian, et al. v. Regents of the University of California, et al.](#) on several fronts, overturning a lower court judge's [2008 opinion](#). Mansourian's lawyer Kristen Galles said, "Thanks again to AAUW for its support. We used your money to pay for the very expensive court transcript and exhibits and travel for the oral argument. Attorneys donated their time for free, but it is very difficult for public interest attorneys to pay such huge court costs out of pocket, so AAUW support can mean the difference between a victory and no case at all."

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.

Did you know there is a Student Advisory Council that works to improve equality for women on their college campuses and helps to lead various AAUW programs at the annual [National Conference for College Women Student Leaders](#)? To meet these women, go to http://www.aauw.org/About/campus_connection/studentcouncilmembers.cfm

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 have open appointed offices and committee chairs listed in your directory like Public Policy, Legal Advocacy Fund, and the 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.



WITASWAN Movie Club

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

**March 7 movie will be chosen closer to date of meeting
We will probably see an Oscar nominated film.**

An email will be sent out the Thursday before the event with more information about show times and locations. Please RSVP by March 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.
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

April 26 *Blink: The Power of Thinking without Thinking* by Malcolm Gladwell
 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

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



H&R BLOCK®

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. chicagoauw@hotmail.com



Support Women Artists Now!

Third Annual International SWAN Day- March 24, 2010

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 Wednesday, March 24th from 6:30pm-8:30pm at the Harold Washington Library Center (State and Congress Parkway) in the Cindy Pritzker Auditorium, lower level. WITASWAN will be welcoming New York journalist and filmmaker Eileen Douglas and her producing partner, Ron Steinman for a screening and Q&A session of film *My Grandfather's House*. This screening is free and open to the public. See flyer for details,

<http://www.chicagoyivo.org/pdfs/ChgoSwanDayFlyer2010.pdf>

For more information, 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. Ms. Hallman will present a new Breaking through Barriers campaign, details on a new research report, *Why So Few?*, and a new national AAUW strategic plan. 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-IL members from around the state.

<http://lisle.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/index.jsp>



International Women’s Day – March 8, 2010

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. Chicago is host to dozens of organizations focused on a myriad of women’s issues, both domestically and internationally. The International Fair will feature the vast resources available to women and the international community in the Chicago land area. This year's keynote speaker is Ms. Maryn McKenna. Maryn McKenna is an independent journalist and author who specializes in public health, medicine and health policy. AAUW-IL is a sponsor of this event held at the Union League Club, 65 West Jackson, Chicago.

The International Fair starts at 10:30am and the luncheon starts at 12 noon at the Union League Club. 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. Make checks out to IVCC. Cost is \$60-. Please mail your check to Barbara Thomas, 145 West Schiller St. Chicago, IL 60610 thomcla@aol.com by Feb 28th to sit at the AAUW table.

For more information, online registration, and credit card payments go to: www.chicagowomensday.org or www.ivcc.org.



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 \$20,000 has been raised at this point for the honorarium. If you are interested, the deadline is coming up soon. Deadline is April 1, 2010.

**AAUW - CHICAGO, ILLIOIS BRANCH, INC.
TREASURER’S REPORT
DATE: February 16, 2010**

I. BRANCH CHECKING ACCOUNT

A.	<u>01-09-10</u> Beginning Balance	1492.25
B.	Deposits	518.50
C.	Checks Written/Posted	486.86
D.	Other Withdrawal	105.00
E.	<u>02-05-10</u> Balance	1418.89

II. EDUCATIONAL FUNDS-LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND SAVINGS ACCOUNT

A.	Bank of America Minimum Balance	350.00
B.	<u>01-09-10</u> EF/LAF Beginning Balance	526.29
C.	Deposits and/or Interest Earned	129.04
D.	Withdrawals	75.00
E.	<u>02-05-10</u> EF/LAF Ending Balance	580.33



E-Student Affiliate Opportunity

Use AAUW's [FREE e-student affiliate initiative](#) to recruit undergraduate students who do not already have a bachelor's degree and who currently attend an AAUW college/university partner institution. Branches and states can use the Member Services Database to encourage local e-student affiliates to become branch and state members. State and branch college/university relations officers, membership vice presidents, and presidents now have access to the information they need to offer students the opportunity to join AAUW.

Chapter Leaders Playground — New Leadership Partner

The [Chapter Leaders Playground](#) is an online community for volunteer leaders from across organizations. Your AAUW membership gives you access to more than 40 30-minute leadership webinars a year to help you achieve even greater success as a state or branch leader. AAUW has officially launched a partnership with Cynthia D'Amour, author of *The Lazy Leader's Guide to Outrageous Results*, who specializes in helping associations get members involved. Cynthia and the Chapter Leaders Playground are valuable resources to help you grow your branches and be more successful as leaders. [Join today](#)

2010 AAUW Art Contest Voting Began February 12!

Starting February 12, you can cast your vote for your favorite artwork. The winning entries will be used in the upcoming 2010–11 AAUW calendar. For more information and to see this year's gallery, [visit the AAUW website](#).

March Is Women's History Month

AAUW is celebrating National Women's History Month. Check the [AAUW website](#), [our blog](#), or [AAUW's Facebook page](#) during March to see what activities we have planned. We'll also be tweeting about women's accomplishments throughout history, so be sure to [follow AAUW](#) if you have a Twitter account, and join us for our weekly Twitter event, #wmnhist, on Wednesdays.

International Women's Day

In conjunction with our partners at [CARE](#), AAUW is planning to celebrate International Women's Day on March 4, 2010, with an event based on Nicholas Kristof's acclaimed book *Half the Sky*. Visit the [AAUW International Corner](#) for updates. Would you like a local speaker from CARE for your branch or state event? E-mail groups@care.org, and Helen Robinson will do her best to accommodate you!

AAUW Public Policy Fund Pins — and a Bonus!

For the first time at AAUW, you can show your [support for advocacy for women and girls](#) — and get a tax deduction. Contribute \$100 or more to the [AAUW Public Policy Fund](#) and receive the fund's first annual pin. As a special bonus, we will mail you a copy of the book [Secrets of Powerful Women](#) (a \$14.99 value) personally signed by Lisa Maatz, AAUW's director of public policy and government relations. Lisa is among the women — members of Congress, journalists, actors, CEOs, and activists — who each wrote a chapter of the book, and she will ask one of the other authors to sign your book as well. Please support this crucial work with a [tax-deductible contribution through our secure website](#).

AAUW Prepares for Equal Pay Day

AAUW continues preparations to mark Equal Pay Day on Tuesday, April 20. State public policy chairs from across the country participated in conference calls led by AAUW public policy and government relations staff focused on advancing the [Paycheck Fairness Act](#), planning for Equal Pay Day, and including [pay equity programming](#) in state conventions and branch activities. [Find out how to get involved](#), download our [Pay Equity Resource Kit](#) and [Equal Pay Day Program in a Box](#), and [order AAUW "Women at a Discount" posters and stickers](#) for use at AAUW events, meetings, programs, and protests.

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

Address correction requested

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