



The Chicago Edition

November/December 2009

Volume 72, Number 3

CHICAGO BRANCH NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER MEETING



What: Dr. Jan Fitzsimmons, Director of ACI's Task Force for Equality in Math and Science Education

When: Saturday, November 14th

Time: 10:30am

**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**

RSVP: To Barbara Spiegel at

spiegelba@gmail.com by **Wednesday, Nov. 11th**

Our co-sponsors at DePaul University, the Digital Divas, HerCDM, the Interdisciplinary Science & Technology (IST) Center, will provide refreshments for the meeting.

Jan Fitzsimmons currently serves both as Director of Associated Colleges of Illinois (ACI) Center for Success in High-Need Schools and as Instructor and Program Administrator for North Central College's Junior/Senior Scholars Program and will act as Co-Director of ACI's SMLC. In the former capacity Dr. Fitzsimmons oversees all of the Center's programming seeking to close the achievement gap between low-income students and their more affluent peers by providing the key ingredient for success: highly qualified teachers.

In her many roles outside of ACI, Dr. Fitzsimmons has developed an urban education internship at North Central College; served on a task force and co-chaired a symposium on P-16+ service learning in addition to published and disseminated research addressing myriad issues in teacher preparation. A double graduate of Northern Illinois University Dr. Fitzsimmons holds a bachelors of arts in Special Education and Elementary Education as well as a masters of arts in Teaching Children with Severe Learning Disabilities. In 1998 Dr. Fitzsimmons received a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Chicago. Widely published in educational topics ranging from teen literacy to service learning Dr. Fitzsimmons widely respect as a leader in the field of education and to this day has made improving education for all students her sole priority and in particular she has focused her passion for education on increasing the resources of students often lost in the system. www.acifund.org

DECEMBER BRANCH MEETING AND HOLIDAY POTLUCK



**What: Holiday potluck and speaker Penelope Bingham
“Whatever Happened to Tuna Noodle Casserole?”**

When: Saturday, December 12th

Time: 11:30am

Where: 3200 North Lake Shore Dr. Party room 2nd floor

We are guests of Mary Ellen Smyth

Lunch: To celebrate, we are having a Holiday Potluck luncheon. Share your favorite holiday dish. (Holiday themed, ethnic, family favorite, etc.) Barbara will coordinate the meal so we have a mixture of appetizers, salads/sides, entrees, desserts (oven and microwave are available). When you RSVP, let her know what dish you will bring. If you want to join in the fun without bringing a dish, please contribute \$10.00 toward the lunch.

Parking: Street parking, meters, or public transportation

**RSVP: To Barbara Spiegel at
spiegelba@gmail.com by **Wednesday, Dec. 9th with your dish to share****

The mere mention of "Tuna Noodle Casserole"—the one made with canned tuna, packaged noodles, and canned soup—to an American of a certain age can call up powerful memories. Love it or hate it, Tuna Noodle Casserole has been an icon of American home cooking since the 1950s. The program invites the audience to think about the ways in which the family dinner table and American culture have changed since the days of Leave it to Beaver and to consider the role of the food industry in American food culture.

Penelope Bingham holds degrees from Wellesley College and the University of Chicago and has been an avid collector and appraiser of cookbooks for many years. Her personal collection of cookbooks now exceeds well over 2,000 volumes, and she has given numerous programs on American culture and cookbooks to libraries and professional organizations around Illinois.

*******Remember your can goods for our can food drive at this meeting*******

This program is made possible in part by an award from the Illinois Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Illinois General Assembly.

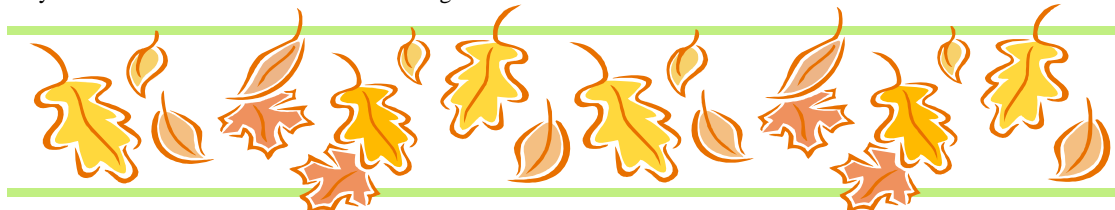
Illinois Humanities Council

SUITE 1400
17 NORTH STATE ST.
CHICAGO, IL 60602.3296
312.422.5580
www.prairie.org

This program is free and open to the public.

Meeting/Activities Dates and Topics

December 5	Holiday Tea – Russian Tea Time
December 6	Jane Addams Day event in Waukegan
December 12	Holiday potluck and speaker Penelope Bingham 11:30am
January 9, 2010	Educational Foundation Fellows meeting and box lunch noon
February 13	Branch meeting – location TBD
March 13	The Girl Effect with Donna Sproston – Harold Washington Library
April 10	Women in China – Dr. Jane Wu – 860 N Lake Shore Dr. party room
May 8	Annual Meeting and can food drive - Devon Seafood Grill – noon



President's Message

Happy fall! As the leaves change and the weather turns colder, AAUW has still been busy in Chicago and nationally continuing to focus on our mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research. See the end of the newsletter for more details.

I hope many members were able to attend the October 17th fall district 4 & 5 conference at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines. I was sorry to miss the conference due to a wedding. The recaps I have received share some great ideas on leadership and event planning.

Thank you to Pat Newton-Curran for organizing the AAUW table at the Smart Women Smart Money conference on Oct. 15th. Many Chicago AAUW members attended and enjoyed getting some new financial information and tips from local area economic experts.

*We have two great events coming up. First is our meeting on **November 14th** at DePaul University. We are delighted to be sponsored by three different women's organizations. Thank you to the Digital Divas, HerCDM, and the Interdisciplinary Science & Technology (IST) Center for joining us during this program and for providing refreshments. These three groups all share AAUW's mission in promoting the STEM fields to female students at all levels of education. Thank you to Chicago branch members, Terry Steinbach and Maggie Oppenheimer, for connecting AAUW to these DePaul organizations. Our speaker, Dr. Fitzsimmons, will discuss the partnership between AAUW-IL and the Associated Colleges of Illinois Task Force for Equality in Math and Science Education.*

*On **December 12th**, we will be having a potluck to celebrate the upcoming holidays. We are also lucky to have food historian, Penelope Bingham, presenting to the branch due in part to an award from the Illinois Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Illinois General Assembly. Ms. Bingham is a Road Scholar thru the Illinois Humanities Council and our branch was awarded an IHC Road Scholar Speakers Bureau grant for this program. Please spread the word about this program and invite friends and family. It will be a fun afternoon talking about food as well as enjoying a meal together.*

Lastly, we have two community donation drives planned. At the Nov. 14th meeting, we will be collecting new and like new bras and underwear for Sarah's Circle. At the Dec. 12th meeting, we will be having a can food drive for Common Pantry. I hope you are able to help these two outstanding local community organizations.

Breaking thru Barriers

Lori Switzer

Branch President and Newsletter Editor

*****Board members – We will have a brief meeting after the Nov. 14th branch meeting. Thank you. – Lori *****

Sarah's Circle Undergarment Drive - November 14th

We will be collecting undergarments for Sarah's Circle at the November 14th branch meeting or October 26th 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.sarahs-circle.org/>

Sarah's Circle is currently in need of new or like new undergarments. (Bras and underwear in all sizes) These are handed out to women on a daily and supplies are low.



AAUW Chicago Winter Community Can Food Drive- Dec. 12th

We are having a can food drive to support the Common Pantry. Please bring your donations to the **November 23rd book club meeting or the December 12th branch meeting.** We will then donate the food items on behalf of the Chicago branch of AAUW. Please see the list below for ideas on what is needed at Common Pantry. Common Pantry provides emergency food and personal items to over 1,200 individuals each month. www.commonpantry.org

I am looking for someone to deliver the donated food in December. Any volunteers? Please let me know. -Lori Switzer chicagoauw@hotmail.com

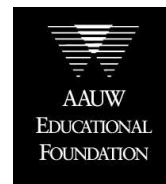
Below are the items currently most needed at Common Pantry.

Food : Cereal, Pasta, Rice, Coffee, Hamburger/Tuna Helper, Canned Goods (vegetables, soup, fruit), Boxed Dinners, Side Dishes (rice/pasta/mashed potatoes), Pancake Mix, Vegetable Oil, Ramen Noodles, Vegetable/Chicken Broths, Peanut Butter, Jelly.

Personal Items: Paper Towels, Toothpaste/Toothbrushes, Shampoo, Soap, Deodorant, Toilet Paper, Diapers - Size 4 or 5, Baby Food/Formula, Basic school supplies (paper, pens/pencils, etc.)

New 2009-2010 Branch Directory

The new 2009-2010 Chicago Branch directory is in the mail. Thank you to Amanda Robertson and Lori Switzer for updating and getting the directory printed. Thank you to Megan Moser and Raegan Lindeke for helping with the address labels and stuffing the envelopes. Look for the section of branch members listed by zip code. This will help you see what other members live near you and who you can ask to carpool or share a taxi to an upcoming activity or meeting. The directory also includes our recently updated branch bylaws with the mandatory changes required after the 2009 St. Louis Association convention.



Looking ahead to January

The AAUW Education Foundation nationwide has helped more than 8,000 women achieve their personal and professional goals through a variety of fellowships and grants. Come join us on Saturday, January 9, 2010 at noon, to meet some of this year's recipients. We will be meeting in the home of EF chair Arlene Alpert, 3470 N Lake Shore Dr. at noon. More details in the next newsletter. Mark your calendars now to attend this great meeting and think about inviting a friend too. This is one of our most popular meetings of the year.

Open Branch position – Branch Treasurer

At this time, the Chicago Branch is looking for a person to take over the remainder of the term for Branch Treasurer. This position would continue until June 2010. Please let Lori Switzer know if you are interested chicagoauw@hotmail.com . Training for the position will be given. Computer access and basic budgeting skills are necessary. The branch would like to thank Gwendolyn Jackson for her service over the past 15 months as branch treasurer. Her time and dedication are greatly appreciated.

Membership Update

Congratulations to all who have helped in recruiting and retaining members! As of October 14, we have **77 members – 17 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, and IL 60645.

WELCOME

Welcome New Members!

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

Name	Email Address
Jenna McDermit	jenna.mcdermit@gmail.com

Member Update

Longtime Chicago Branch member, Carolyn Ryffel, was recently transferred to Danbury, CT. Carolyn said "I've really enjoyed the group and hope that I find one as interesting in my new neighborhood." Here is her new mailing address 163 South Street, Unit 78, Danbury, CT 06810 carolynryffel@earthlink.net

The Chicago Edition by Lori Switzer

Is there something you want to see in the newsletter? It is your newsletter. Articles for the Jan. Chicago Edition newsletter are due December 15th. Thanks -Lori Switze
ChicagoAAUW@hotmail.com



GEMS Workshop

Chicago branch is planning a *GEMS-Great Experiences in Math and Science* workshop for February or March 2010 and are looking for volunteers to help plan the event as well as work the day of the event. **GEMS** is a career conference for all middle school students in grades 6-8 and their parents/guardians. Students will participate in the morning-long program designed to encourage young girls to take an interest in math, science and engineering. Professionals will be presenting their careers emphasizing mathematics, science & technology. Although women make up about 50 percent of the general work force in the U.S., they only represent 9 percent of workers in the science and engineering community said the conference was started to inspire girls to continue studies in the fields of math, science and technology. Contact Pat Newton-Curran if you are interested in being on the planning committee. Newton@iit.edu



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

Legal Advocacy Fund Update

LAF works to combat sex discrimination through community and campus outreach programs, a resource library and online advocacy tools, and various research reports. In collaboration with the Public Policy and Government Relations department, LAF seeks amicus curiae opportunities in cases of discrimination that disadvantage women in the workplace. LAF is also transitioning toward supporting landmark sex discrimination cases that have the potential to make a difference for all women.

Case Update: Claire Schuster Continues Fight for Pay Equity at Berea College

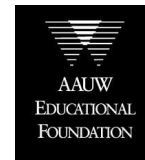
A plaintiff supported by the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund has won her latest legal battle over allegations of sex-based pay discrimination at Berea College in Kentucky. Claire Schuster, a tenured associate professor of nursing, sued the institution for sex discrimination in pay in violation of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act.

The Kentucky Supreme Court issued an Aug. 19th ruling in favor of Schuster, denying Berea College's motion for Discretionary Review of the decision of the Court of Appeals in Professor Schuster's favor, remanding for a new trial.

Enthusiastically embraced by the AAUW community, Schuster has traveled to various AAUW events to update members on her case, which AAUW has supported since 2003. Schuster said she was relieved to find that she "was not the only one who felt like this was worth fighting for" and that "a national organization recognizes that what happened was very wrong."

Schuster alleged, in part, that Berea's all-female nursing department had hired its first male faculty member at a salary that exceeded the salaries paid to female nursing faculty members, and that he had been hired directly into the associate professor rank despite his lack of required experience.

Please send your contributions for LAF. Make checks out to AAUW-LAF and mail to Barbara Spiegel 7438 N. Artesian Ave. 1st Floor, Chicago, 60645. Donations are tax-deductible. Deadline is Dec. 15, 2009.



AAUW Educational Foundation

The American Association of University Women Educational Foundation 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 mark your calendar for the January 9, 2010 Educational Foundation fellows luncheon and meeting. The Chicago branch invites area EF fellowship recipients to share their stories and how the fellowship will help them reach their educational goals.

Please send your contributions for the Foundation to Mary Ellen Smyth by **December 10th**, so that they can be included in the 2009 branch total. 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.



WITASWAN Movie Club

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

- November 1** *Amelia*
- December 6** **TBA (taking suggestions)**
- January 3** *It's Complicated*

An email will be set out the Thursday before the event with more information about show times and locations. Please RSVP by Oct. 30th to Megan Moser if you are able to attend. meganmoser@hotmail.com



- Book Club** Please feel free to join the Book Club at anytime.
- October 26** *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows
 - November 23** *Red Leather Diary: Reclaiming a Life Through the Pages of a Lost Journal* by Lily Koppel
 - January 25** *Sin in the Second City: Madams, Ministers, Playboys and the Battle for America's Soul* by Karen Abbott

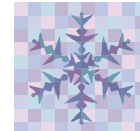
The Book Club of Chicago, Illinois Branch Inc. of the American Association of University Women is free and open to the public and meets on the fourth Monday of the month (except December and May) from 7:00-9:00 pm at the Conrad Sulzer Library, 4455 N. Lincoln Ave.



Ethnic Dining

- Tuesday, November 29 Brasserie Jo (French) 6:30pm <http://www.brasseriejo.com/>
59 West Hubbard St. (Between Clark and Dearborn) 312-595-0800
Small plates \$22.95 to larger meals Valet parking available
- Thursday, December 17 Twin Anchors (Rib House) 6:30pm
<http://www.twinanchorsribs.com/> 312-266-1616
1655 Sedgwick (Sedgwick and Eugenie) Valet parking available

The group will order off of the menu. (Tax and tip not included) RSVP two days prior to Nina Whitsel at ninawhitsel@rcn.com



Annual Holiday Tea

- When: **Saturday, December 5, 2009**
- Where: Russian Tea Time Restaurant, 77 East Adams St, Chicago 60603
- Time: 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. <http://www.russianteatime.com/>
- Cost: \$30 for Full Tea Service (includes taxes and gratuities)
- Parking: Area parking lots or public transportation.
- RSVP: by **November 1, 2009**
- Please send your check made out to "AAUW" and name, address, email, and phone to:
Pat Graunke, 880 N. Lake Shore Drive, 3C, Chicago, IL 60611
- Any questions, contact Pat Graunke patriciagraunke@gmail.com



Jane Addams Day Celebration December 6, 2009

The Jane Addams Commemorative Holiday will be celebrated on **December 6, 2009** at Bowen Park, 1917 N. Sheridan Road, Waukegan, IL. This is the site of the summer camp that Jane Addams ran for children from the city of Chicago. Lilac Cottage where Jane Addams lived during the summer and the Historical Farm House will be open for tours from 9 AM to 3 PM. A Buffet Lunch is scheduled at the Jane Addams Center at 11:30 AM. The program will be presented by Ellen Frew of the Waukegan Historical Society and Ty Rohrer, Director of the Waukegan History Museum. Come and help AAUW-IL celebrate Jane Addams at a unique and lively location. Join us at camp for a festive holiday celebration of the life and work of Jane Addams. A registration form is on the state website, www.aauw-il.org



Community Service Projects needed

The Chicago Branch would like to do monthly community outreach projects but we need some suggestions. We are looking for branch members to suggest different community service projects or organizations that are in alignment with our mission. The organization could need our time, money, or donations. The branch will mix up where the giving is done around the Chicago community. The branch will also continue with a food pantry donation. Please contact Carrie Bauer if you have suggestions. carrie.marie.bauer@gmail.com

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. Deadline is April 1, 2010.

Meeting locations needed

Do you know of a great location to hold a branch meeting? The program planning committee is looking for locations to hold our branch meetings for the coming year. We are looking for private party rooms, classrooms or conference rooms at local area colleges, universities, churches, or libraries that would be available for a low cost or no cost. Please contact Barbara Spiegel or Lori Switzer at chicagoauw@hotmail.com. Thank you in advance for your suggestions.



Branch Banner Project

A Branch Banner was created for the State Convention several years ago. A Milwaukee artist designed the needlepoint panels for the banner and Branch members did the needlework. However, the white background on each panel was never completed. If you can needlepoint and are interested in helping us complete this project, contact Barbara Spiegel at spiegelba@gmail.com. The banner will be displayed at upcoming Branch meetings.

AAUW News from Washington D.C.

AAUW Membership Card

Register to use the Member Services Database (MSD) and download your new AAUW membership card. Visit the [Member Center](#) to access the Member Services Database.

AAUW Marks Anniversary of Violence Against Women Act

AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman attended an event at Vice President Joe Biden's home on September 29 to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the landmark Violence Against Women Act. Biden wrote the legislation, which provides funding for victim services and stronger enforcement efforts, and AAUW and our [Capitol Hill Lobby Corps](#) played a key role in its passage. Although much progress has been made, [AAUW](#) and our coalition partners are working to support the new International Violence Against Women Act, as well as the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act in 2011.

Members Support Investigation into Forged Letters

As you may have [seen in the news](#) or [read on our website](#), a blatant act of [fraud](#) was recently committed against AAUW. Corporate interests with deep pockets forged one or more letters from AAUW to members of Congress, urging them to oppose a bill on which AAUW had no position. A great number of AAUW members were quick to [take action](#) to urge their representatives to support Rep. Edward J. Markey's (D-MA) [investigation](#) into this matter to prevent future acts of deceit and to ensure that AAUW's good name and grassroots strength remain intact.

AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund

Title IX Compliance: Know the Score

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund is collaborating with the nonprofit [Legal Aid Society – Employment Law Center](#) and the [Women's Sports Foundation](#) to provide you with the tools you need to find out if your local high schools are Title IX compliant — and what you can do if they are not. The tools, including a "[Know the Score](#)" [Program in a Box](#), will launch in early October. A webinar on the program will take place on October 29 at 6 p.m. EDT. If you or your branch would like to implement this project or participate in the webinar, please e-mail laf@aauw.org.

Public Policy News

Members Speak Out for Health Care Reform

AAUW Action Network members have been [urging their members of Congress](#) to increase access to high-quality, affordable health care for all Americans. Many members also attended town hall meetings in August and used AAUW's newly released [position paper on health care reform](#) for statistics and talking points. In addition, AAUW staff recently attended a briefing, at the invitation of the White House and hosted by Obama administration officials, to discuss women and health reform.

AAUW Plays Major Role in Securing STEM Grants in Student Aid Bill

AAUW Action Network members helped ensure the successful passage in the House of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (H.R. 3221) on September 17. As one of the single largest investments in higher education ever, the bill would make college more affordable for millions of students and their families. The legislation would establish a grant program for community college investment; AAUW played a leading role in ensuring that women and girls are a part of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs at these schools.



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!

