



# The Chicago Edition

October 2011

Volume 74, Number 2

## CHICAGO BRANCH NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER MEETING



**What:** RVA - Rape Victims Advocates program

<http://rapevictimadvocates.org/>

**When:** Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>

Note the date change due to the Yom Kippur holiday

**Time:** 10:00am- 12:00 noon

**Where:** DePaul University, College of Computing and Digital Media  
243 S. Wabash Ave (NE corner of Jackson and Wabash)

Room 924 [www.depaul.edu](http://www.depaul.edu)

**Cost:** \$5- light refreshments.

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

**RSVP:** To Barbara Spiegel by Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>  
[spiegelba@gmail.com](mailto:spiegelba@gmail.com) or 773-973-3024

RVA is an Illinois not-for-profit organization made up of many individuals with two primary goals: to assure that survivors of sexual assault are treated with dignity and compassion; and to affect changes in the way the legal system, medical institutions and society as a whole respond to survivors.

Rape Victim Advocates was formed in 1974 by obstetrician/gynecologist Natalie Stephens, M.D., and a group of Northwestern University medical and nursing students concerned about survivors of sexual assault. They recognized that standard hospital resources were not sufficient for the special needs of the survivor.

In July of 1975, RVA began working with the emergency room staff of a single hospital. The advocates volunteered to be on call in 12 to 24 hour shifts, assuring that, at any given time, a volunteer would be available to serve the survivors of sexual assault. In 2011, RVA is now serving eleven hospitals in the Chicago area.

Our advocates are available to provide service to survivors of sexual assault 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. RVA encourages anyone concerned with the well-being of survivors of sexual assault to join us in serving them, their families, and Chicago's Austin Community.

### *Meeting/Activities Dates and Topics*

October 29, 2011	AAUW-IL Fall State Conference – Stronghold Castle, Stronghold, IL
November 12, 2011	Educational Opportunites Fellows meeting – Partheon Restaurant 11:30am
December 3, 2011	Holiday Tea – Russian Tea Time
January 14, 2012	Three Illinois Women during the Civil War
February 11, 2012	Women in Trades Panel – DePaul University
March 31, 2012	International SWAN Day



### *President's Message*

*The Meet and Greet was a successful way to open the AAUW year. Those who attended got to know each other and AAUW better and we even got two new members that day. Our Branch is a wonderful mixture of professions and ages and it's always great to exchange experiences and ideas. My thanks go to MISSY MEEGAN for helping to put the event together and for her ongoing great work as Membership VP. Thanks also to LORI SWITZER for bringing her laptop so we could view DVDs from National AAUW.*

*October is a busy AAUW month. The Branch meeting will be held on the 15th -- the THIRD SATURDAY. Then AAUW-Illinois will hold its State-wide Fall Conference on October 28-29th. Details on both events are in the newsletter. I hope to see many of you at both events.*

*Committees are being formed to help plan future programs. The March 2012 Branch program will be a joint sponsorship with the Working Women's History Project of a presentation of a play on the New York Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire which occurred in New York 100 years ago. On April 17, 2012, the Branch will join with a dozen organizations to sponsor the city-wide Pay Equity Day rally. We need members to represent the Branch on both committees. Please contact me at [spiegelba@gmail.com](mailto:spiegelba@gmail.com) if you are interested.*

*See you on the 15<sup>th</sup> and at the upcoming interest group meetings like book club, WITASWAN movie group and ethnic dining.*

*Barbara  
Branch President*



### **Thank You**

A big **thank you** to Bettye Ruth Grand Pre for making reminder membership phone calls to members. It was nice to hear from Bettye with her gentle reminder to renew our membership dues.



### **Congratulations!**

It's a girl! Laura Malec and her husband Jeff, welcomed Leighton May Malec on July 29, 2011. Leighton was 7 lbs and 5 ounces and 21 inches long. Laura, Jeff and big brother Connor are all adjusting well!

### **The Chicago Edition by Lori Switzer**

Is there something you want to see in the newsletter? It is your newsletter. Articles for the Nov. Chicago Edition newsletter are due Oct. 15th. Thanks -Lori Switzer or [ChicagoAAUW@hotmail.com](mailto:ChicagoAAUW@hotmail.com)

*Women's Equality Day Celebration and Rally in Daley Plaza – Aug. 26, 2011*



*Jan Lisa Huttner & Helen Ramirez-Odell Ruth Sweetser, Eleida Gomez, Gerry Oberman, Lori Switzer*



*Team Switzer (Lori & her kids, Scott and Suzy) A shot of the stage and crowd*

Members from the Chicago, Inc. branch attended the Women's Equality Day 91<sup>st</sup> anniversary celebration in Daley Plaza. Thank you to Jan Lisa Huttner for organizing members and coordinating the passing out of the beautiful "Bugler Girl" stickers. Everyone in the crowd was wearing a sticker and taking part in the celebration. Speakers included Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County Board President and Joy V. Cunningham, Illinois Appellate Judge. The Chicago Inc. Branch was a sponsor of the event along with the Mayor's Office and a dozen area organizations.

***Looking Ahead to November***

The Chicago branch will meet on November 12<sup>th</sup> for our branch meeting. We invite you to come and "Meet the New Fellows." We will be meeting at the Parthenon restaurant at 11:30am for lunch. 314 South Halsted St., Chicago. Our speakers will be area recipients of AAUW fellowships and grants. Free valet parking at the restaurant.



***Ethnic Dining***

AAUW will be going Lebanese! We will be meeting on Wed., Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at **Fattoush restaurant** located at 2652 N. Halsted in Chicago. Delicious Lebanese food, good atmosphere, street parking, lot parking, public transportation available. RSVP by Oct. 17 to Maureen Levy at [Maurlevy@gmail.com](mailto:Maurlevy@gmail.com) or call 773-213-5514- leave your name & e mail or phone number.



### **WITASWAN Movie Club**

Come join the WITASWAN Movie Club on Sunday, **October 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Movie will be chosen the week before and details emailed out. The movie group will meet at an area movie theatre.

November 6<sup>th</sup>

December – no meeting due to holidays

Please contact Megan Moser at [meganmoser@hotmail.com](mailto:meganmoser@hotmail.com) for more information or to give a movie suggestion. Please RSVP by Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. Please bring a friend!



**Book Club** Please feel free to join the Book Club at anytime.

Sept. 26 - *Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers

Oct. 24 - *The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain

Join members of the group at Jury's restaurant at 6:00 p.m. for dinner. Jury's is at 4337 N Lincoln Ave., one block south of the library. [www.jurysrestaurant.com](http://www.jurysrestaurant.com)

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.



### **Community Service – Wed. Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>**

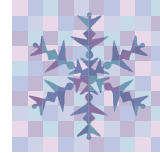
Marah's House Breast Cancer Awareness Event. Please join us as we host a dessert social for the residents of Marah's House, part of Deborah's Place, located at 1456 W. Oakdale at 6:30pm. Please bring friends, spouses, older children to help with the dessert social. We also need members to volunteer to bring fruit and treats. Please RSVP to Pamela Sanner by Monday, Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> at [kandip@aol.com](mailto:kandip@aol.com) or 773-660-1902.

At Marah's House, they provide a permanent home to 30 women with disabilities. Women enjoy the comfort of private bedrooms, while participating in communal meals and upkeep of the program. Women set individual goals, work with case management, and use the on-site learning center as they prepare to meet their employment and educational goals.

Deborah's Place is Chicago's largest provider of supportive housing exclusively for women and is recognized as an innovative leader among homeless service providers locally and nationally. Since its founding in 1985, they have worked collaboratively with participants, offered a range of high quality services and tried new approaches – putting Deborah's Place at the forefront of agencies making a difference to those in need in Chicago. For more information on Deborah's Place, go to <http://www.deborahsplace.org/home/>.

### **AAUW-IL Fall Conference – Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>**

"Fall into AAUW" The Fall AAUW-IL conference will be held at on **Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>**, at the Stronghold Castle, Oregon, IL. [www.strongholdcenter.org](http://www.strongholdcenter.org) All members are invited. Oregon, IL is about 80 miles west of Chicago. Members will be carpooling. If you would like to drive out on Friday, Friday evening will feature a "night at the movies" with discussion led by Jan Lisa Huttner. Saturday includes sessions on getting women to run for office, using social media to promote your branch, as well as state district meetings. More details from the state and registration forms will be available at [www.aauw-il.org](http://www.aauw-il.org). Be on the look out for your fall issue of the Illinois Link for all the details. Registration deadline is Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>.



### ***Save the Date - Holiday Tea***

When: **Saturday, December 3, 2011**

Where: Russian Tea Time Restaurant, 77 E. Adams St, Chicago

Time: 2:00pm

For more information or to RSVP, contact Megan Moser [meganmoser@hotmail.com](mailto:meganmoser@hotmail.com)

### ***Membership Update***

Congratulations on a great summer membership drive! As of Sept. 1st, we have **65** members – **6** 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 and be in this year's Membership Directory. All application forms and checks received by **September 25<sup>th</sup>** will appear in the Directory. Please send it to Membership VP Melissa Meegan, 8824 Clearview Dr., Orland Park, IL 60462 or [melmeega@yahoo.com](mailto:melmeega@yahoo.com).

# WELCOME

### ***Welcome New Members!***

Please welcome our newest branch members! These women joined the branch during the summer membership drive. We are so excited to have each of them as members and look forward to meeting everyone at our first meeting in September!

Name	Email Address
Donna Williams-Murray	<a href="mailto:donna_williamsmurray@yahoo.com">donna_williamsmurray@yahoo.com</a>
Jacqueline Kirley	<a href="mailto:jkirley@sbcglobal.net">jkirley@sbcglobal.net</a>

### ***Membership News***

#### ***Missy Meegan - Membership Vice President***

##### **Membership interview with Lori Switzer, branch treasurer**

**What made you join AAUW?** I was given a life membership by my mother after I graduated from college. My mom joined AAUW when I was 2 years old and has been an active member ever since. She has always enjoyed meeting AAUW members in the various cities where we lived when I was younger. After I graduated, she wanted AAUW to be something that we could be a part of together. We have been able to attend three AAUW national conventions together and we were also both part of an intergenerational panel at the 2007 Phoenix convention. Despite living in different cities, AAUW is something we share. Also my mom is a dual member with the Boulder, CO branch where she lives and the Chicago, Inc. branch. When she is in Chicago, she has enjoyed attending our events. Also my aunt, my mom's sister, is a member in Roanoke, VA and my sister in law, Raegan Lindeke is a member of the Chicago, Inc. branch.

**How many years have you been a member?** I joined the Chicago Inc. branch in 2000 and I am a life member.

**What was your most memorable experience with AAUW?** Lobbying on Capitol Hill during the 2011 National Convention. I had never been to Capital Hill before and it was a thrill to be a part of 800 women going to talk to their senators and representatives at the same time. Everyone was focused on three issues and we were given time to share the opinions of AAUW with our congressmen and congresswomen. AAUW is known on Capital Hill and they value our research and mission to promote equity for women and girls.

**If you could tell a potential new member ONE thing that keeps you coming back, what would it be?** I enjoy the programs as a way to continue life-long learning. Our programs are always interesting and I leave learning something new or with a new perspective on an issue. I also enjoy volunteering with AAUW and working with a large group of women here in Chicago, throughout Illinois and across the country.

### ***AAUW's 130th Anniversary Grad Student Rate***

AAUW is offering a special 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary introductory rate for graduate students (masters or PhD candidates). Students in graduate school can join our branch for only \$50-! (This promotion is only available to new members and runs until November 30, 2011. We are also working on starting a Chicago Area Graduate Student AAUW branch. Please contact Debra Trude-Suter [debra.trudesuter@nl.edu](mailto:debra.trudesuter@nl.edu) if you are interested in helping with this group or joining if you are a graduate student.

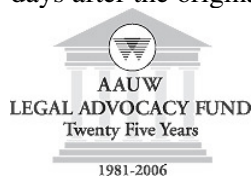
### ***Chapter Leaders Playground***

Cynthia D'Amour's presentation at convention was educational and fun. Cynthia is offering all AAUW members a 50 percent discount on her books through the end of September. To get the discount, enter code AAUW11.

AAUW encourages all leaders to join the Cynthia's [Chapter Leaders Playground](#), a terrific online community designed to help locally based nonprofit leaders enhance their membership recruitment and retention skills. AAUW members can join for free, and many AAUW leaders are already there. The playground offers 30-minute webinars during the week at noon p.m. central. Gather for lunch and use the webinar as a starting point for your discussion. Upcoming topics include the following:

- September 20: Exploring Innovative Ways for Developing Chapter Leaders
- September 22: Volunteer Work Made Easier: How to Get the Help You Need

If you miss a session, please visit the [Webinar Playdate Archive](#). Sessions can be viewed for 45 days after the original session. <http://www.chapterleadersplayground.org/>



*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.

#### ***AAUW Signs Two New Amicus Briefs***

In March 2009, Quinnipiac University announced plans to cut three sports teams and to compensate for the lost opportunities by counting competitive cheerleading as a varsity sport. Members of the volleyball team and their coach filed a lawsuit, [Biediger v. Quinnipiac University](#), and in 2010, [the district court ruled](#) that competitive cheerleading is not a sport under Title IX and that the university failed to provide equal athletic opportunities to its female students under the law. Quinnipiac appealed the decision, and the case is before the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. AAUW signed a brief written by the [National Women's Law Center](#) to support the athletes in the case.

AAUW also filed an amicus brief in support of two female middle school students who were banned from wearing bracelets promoting breast cancer awareness in school. The plaintiffs in [B.H. and K.M. v. Easton Area School District](#), represented by the ACLU Foundation of Pennsylvania, filed a lawsuit in November 2010, claiming violation of their First Amendment rights. In April 2011, the district court judge entered a preliminary court order prohibiting the school district from enforcing a ban on the bracelets. The school district appealed to the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. In August, AAUW signed onto a brief written by the Women's Law Center.

If you want to make a donation, please send a check made out to AAUW-LAF to Barbara Spiegel 7438 N. Artesian Ave. 1st Floor, Chicago, 60645. Donations are tax-deductible.

## **AAUW NEWS AND EVENTS**

### **AAUW Marks Women's Equality Day with HERvotes Coalition**

AAUW joined forces with other women's organizations on Women's Equality Day, August 26, to show Congress that we will [make our collective voices heard](#) during the 2012 elections. The [HERvotes](#) coalition announced plans to preserve

women's [health and economic rights \(HER\)](#) and mobilize women voters. AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman's remarks about the initiative were quoted in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Houston Chronicle*, the *Philadelphia Business Journal*, the *Sacramento Bee*, and on Examiner.com.

### Legal Advocacy Fund Informational Call

On Thursday, September 29, at 7 p.m. EDT, you can hear case updates and program information during a conference call with LAF staff that is open to all AAUW members. Please RSVP to [laf@aauw.org](mailto:laf@aauw.org) by Tuesday, September 27, to receive the call-in information. A transcript of the call will be available on request starting September 30.

### October 15 Summit on Workplace Sexual Harassment

AAUW is a [co-sponsor](#) of "[Anita Hill 20 Years Later: Sex, Power, and Speaking Truth](#)," a daylong [summit](#) and evening performance about workplace sexual harassment that will take place on October 15 at Hunter College in New York City. [Register online](#); attendance costs \$20 and is free for students! For those in the area, please share this information with your networks — it promises to be a terrific event with fantastic speakers. You won't want to miss it! Questions? E-mail [info@anitahill20.org](mailto:info@anitahill20.org).

## AAUW ON CAMPUS

### Applications Due: Student Leadership Opportunities

The 2011–12 [AAUW Student Advisory Council](#), [AAUW Campus Action Project](#), and [Elect Her—Campus Women Win](#) applications are available online now and are due this fall. Learn more about all of these opportunities to support college women leaders and build relationships with local campuses in an [online presentation](#).

### 2012 NCCWSL — Start Planning Now!

The [2012 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders](#) will be held May 31–June 2 at the University of Maryland, College Park. Each year, this amazing conference inspires our next generation of young women student leaders. Help support them! [Pay the registration and travel costs for a local student or give to the NCCWSL Funds](#). More than 500 young women attend this conference each year — make sure students in your area are among them!

## MEMBER NEWS AND RESOURCES

### Talk to AAUW in October

During October, AAUW staff and leaders will be calling every branch and state membership vice president in the country. AAUW wants to hear about what's important to your community and to share some [recruitment and retention strategies](#). We look forward to speaking with you during the coming weeks!

### Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Activities

Looking for some fun science activities as you plan your state or branch STEM event for girls? The latest issue of the [howtosmile.org](#) newsletter is out! Find out what's new at the informal STEM educators' portal.

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

### Get the Latest on AAUW Fellowships and Grants

Applications for all programs are currently available. [Deadlines and eligibility requirements](#) are posted on our website. Need 2012–13 recruitment brochures and bookmarks? [Visit ShopAAUW](#) and order yours today.

### Selection Panelists Needed

AAUW's review and selection panelists are seasoned experts in academia and the professions who analyze the thousands of applications for AAUW's fellowships and grants. We are always seeking new talent and expertise. Visit the [Fellowship and Grant Selection Panels](#) web page, and please pass the information on to your networks!

### What's New with Former Fellows and Grantees?

You can find out by catching up on the archive of the AAUW blog series on [fellowship and grant alumnae](#) and reading more about the accomplishments of former awardees. They have remarkable stories to share about AAUW's impact on their lives.

### Connecting with Other Alumnae — and AAUW

If you are a former fellowship or grant recipient and would like to reconnect with AAUW and other grant recipients, join our fellowship and grant alumnae network! [Submit your updates](#) and share your personal and professional accomplishments. Find out how you can become involved in contributing to AAUW's mission.

**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**

October 29, 2011                    AAUW-IL Fall State-Wide Conference, Stronghold Castle, Oregon, IL  
April 27-28, 2012                AAUW-IL State Convention Holiday Inn, Itasca IL (near Woodfield Mall)  
June 9-12, 2013                 AAUW National Convention Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, New Orleans, LA

AAUW National website: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

AAUW-IL website: [www.aauw-il.org](http://www.aauw-il.org)

Chicago branch website: [www.aauw-il.org/chicago](http://www.aauw-il.org/chicago)

For more information, contact us: [chicagoaauw@hotmail.com](mailto:chicagoaauw@hotmail.com)

**Join the Chicago branch on Facebook:**

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



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*Address correction requested*

*Chicago, IL branch was founded in 1889. This is our 122<sup>nd</sup> year!*