



American Association of University Women **LOMBARD, IL AREA BRANCH**

Vol. 49 No. 8

April 2008

April 26 Program: A Life-changing Moment in Kenya

Dr. Kathleen Harrison had a life-changing moment in Kenya, Africa. As she boarded a plane to return to the U.S., she had to either forget what she saw or do something. On Saturday, April 26, Dr. Harrison will share with us her life-changing experience in Kenya where she founded "Project Harambee" to help HIV-positive women provide economic support for their families and focus attention on the critical need for medical supplies and services in East Africa. There will also be an opportunity to purchase crafts made by the women who have joined Harambee, which in Swahili means "all pull together." (You can view the web site at www.projectharambee.org/)

This is a joint program with the AAUW Hinsdale/Oakbrook branch. We have a wonderful opportunity in April to share a light breakfast and meet members from another AAUW branch. We have been invited to bring a bottle of aspirin or similar pain relief medication or multi-vitamins to aid medical services provided to women and children in Africa. Purchase of crafts or monetary donations to aid the women of Project Harmabee are appreciated but not required for admission to the program.

Any members who wish to carpool to Union Church in Hinsdale should meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot of Community Presbyterian Church of Lombard, 1111 E. Madison Ave. (just east of St. Pius Church). Please park in the south parking lot. Loretta Caputo will also be driving. She will leave at 9:00 a.m. from her apartment complex at 22nd Street and Grace. Please call Loretta at 932-0224, if you wish to carpool from that location.

The joint program will be held on **Saturday, April 26 at Union Church of Hinsdale, 137 South Garfield, Hinsdale**, and will begin with a light breakfast at 9:30 A.M. followed by the program. For more information on car-pooling, call Betsy at 627-0152.

Kathryn Tecza and Betsy Swinson, Program co-vice presidents

Transitions Conference: April 12

Do you know any women who would answer YES to either of the following questions? If so, **please pass on this information** and a copy of the conference registration form (find at www.aauw-il.org/lombard) to them ASAP.

Do you need training for a new career?

Do you need a college degree for a new job?

If so, plan on attending the conference "Choices, Changes, Chances: A Conference for Women Seeking New Educational and Career Resources." This conference, sponsored by the Lombard Area American Association of University Women Branch, the College of DuPage and National-Louis University, will be held on

Saturday, April 12, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. - Noon
College of DuPage, Building K, Glen Ellyn

Keynote speaker Maureen O'Brien, CEO of her own company and an inspirational speaker will help motivate you. Discussion sessions will be held on several areas of concern to women returning to school.

- Financial Aid
- Health Careers
- Return to Learning Issues
- Non Traditional Careers
- Career Trends
- Steps to Find Your Passion

In addition, several area colleges will have display booths and information about their programs.

The registration fee is \$10 (**deadline April 5**).

Additional information is available from laurdris@worldnet.att.net and at www.aauw-il.org/lombard.

Laurie Driscoll, Transitions Chairperson

Sat, April 12
Transitions Conference
COD

Sat, April 26
Project Harambee
Joint with Hinsdale Branch
9 am: carpool
9:30am: Program

Mission Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

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 associates or higher degree from an accredited institution of higher education.

AAUW's Educational Foundation provides funds to advance education, research & self-development of women and to foster equity & positive societal change.

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

Branch Officers

**** Change the "-AT-" to @ for real e-mail address ****

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Kathy Brenniman... 627-5180
kfbrenn-at-aol.com

Secretary

Pat Porep... 932-0224

Treasurer & Newsletter

Leslie Sulla
relsulla-at-comcast.net

Board Meetings

See branch calendar on last page for date/location

Newsletter deadline: Material must be received by Leslie Sulla by the 3rd Friday of the month.

President's Greeting

Greetings to all. We had a wonderful program at our meeting on March 12th, with 2 ladies from Alchemy Theatre who did selections for us from their repertory and a singer with accompanist who sang for us for about 45 minutes and they were all great. Our program chairs have done a terrific job for us this year and I'm sorry more of you weren't there to enjoy it.



We voted to accept the incoming slate that our nominating committee selected for us. Membership co-chairs for the coming year are Barb Madigan and Lynn Berndt. Secretary will be Kristi Miller.

We voted on the delegates for the upcoming state convention, which is in Naperville this year and we hope many of you will decide to go. I have the necessary forms which are due by April 23rd. Call me and I'll get one to you; or you can download the form & read details at www.aauw-il.org.

Finally, we voted to be a part of ADELANTE, a new, once-a-year conference that several branches will be sponsoring together with the leader, the Elmhurst branch. They are awaiting a \$10,000 grant from AAUW to help with the expenses, but are prepared to move on without it if necessary. We have discussed it before in previous meetings and newsletters, but finally it is a go. We are looking for at least some participation from everyone for this important work, and many of our members are eager to get started. More on this later.

I am still working on getting out a member directory, but have been pricing the cost of binders and paper. Then I need member pictures and biographies. I will try to take pictures at the April and May meetings so I will have the summer to put it together, but I **need your cooperation for the biographies, so please either write one out or e-mail it to me**. I have many bios already, especially of the new members and the board, but those of you that have been with us for awhile need to send it to me. We just want a short paragraph to personalize you! Tell us about your job or former job, your family, husband or lack thereof, your kids (or lack of), your grandkids, etc., what you do besides work, or have done that you're proud of, and what are the things you love to do in your spare time, if any! Tell us why you joined AAUW and what you like about it that makes you stay. We would love to know you better! I would like to get this DONE this summer.

Hope to see you at the April 26 joint program with Hinsdale.

Loretta Caputo, President

JEWEL SHOP & SHARE DAYS

Shop at any Jewel on April 21-23, present one of the enclosed coupons, and a portion of your purchase will come back to our operating fund. You can copy the coupons and hand them out to friends and neighbors! The more the merrier!

Thank you -- Ways and Means Committee

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New Member Biographies

Therese Xie (pronounced Zee) received her nursing equivalency from East China Normal University and Shanghai Municipal Institute of Health Care. She was a hospital nurse in Shanghai for 32 years before coming to America in 1990. She lives in Downers Grove where she worked in Indian Prairie and Downers Grove Public Libraries until 2005. After retirement she wrote a book, *The Victimized*, publicized by Authorhouse in September 2007. She has two sons: one an architect in Chicago, the younger a dentist in California. She loves reading and cross-stitch, and was recruited by Marilyn Gustafson, who brought her to the February luncheon to hear Dr. Jane Wu.

Lisa M. Blacker is a National University of Health Sciences student working on Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences, and student at Columbia College (Missouri - online) working on BA in Psychology. She will graduate from each program in December 2008. Lisa is the BS Program Representative to the Student Council at National as well as Vice President of the environmental club and active member of the Gay-Straight Alliance. She is expecting her first grandchild in June and will begin the Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine program in January.

WELCOME

Betsy Kunberger received her Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from North Central College in Naperville and is currently taking classes on PC Maintenance and Networking at COD. She has worked for AT&T/Lucent/Alcatel-Lucent for 22 years. She is definitely a survivor at the company. Her daughter Laura is finishing her sophomore year at University of Illinois in Urbana and son Mark is finishing his junior year at Glenbard East. Betsy has been married for 26 years and has lived in Lombard for 24 of them. Her hobbies include walking her chocolate lab Rilee, reading, watching movies, bird watching and getting outside to enjoy nature

Brigitte O'Brien received her BA in Elementary Education with a Geography minor from University of Illinois-Chicago. She taught 6th grade for 34 years in Mannheim District 83 until retirement in 2004. During her career she introduced a peer-mentoring program, developed new technology applications and coordinated educational workshops. Prior to retiring she received a degree in the travel industry from COD and now works as an outside sales consultant for Grove Travel, and teaches computer skills to senior citizens in Leyden Township. In 2005 Brigitte was elected Lombard Village Clerk. She and her husband Jack have 5 children and 2 grandchildren and have lived in Lombard over 30 years.

Membership Matters



Great news! We have 5 more new members, bringing our total number to 92 members!

Our new members, all of whom were guests at our February luncheon, are:

- Lisa Blacker – a student at National College of Health Sciences who found us online.
- Heidi Koberstine – a member of First Church of Lombard and recently hired as a technical writer for the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.
- Betsy Kunberger – a computer specialist at Lucent Technologies, bell ringer, violinist, and member of First Church of Lombard.
- Brigitte O'Brien – a resident of Lombard and the Lombard Village Clerk (an elected official).
- Therese Xie (pronounced Zee) - a friend of Marilyn Gustafson and native of China. She has an associate's degree equivalent and was a nurse in China.

Please check out their bios on page 3.

We have recently been informed that our membership increased 36% from February 2007 to February 2008, the largest in the state of Illinois! Thanks to all of you who have helped us so much with the recruiting. We are also very pleased that several of our new members are getting involved in committees, interest groups, and Board positions. Let's continue to make our new members welcome.

Doris Schertz and Kathleen Brenniman
Co-Vice Presidents, Membership
kfbrenn-at-aol.com; 630/627-5180
dcschertz-at-comcast.net, 630/629-2695

Renew Yourself! Renew Your Membership!

Beat the Christmas rush -- renew your AAUW membership today! Send your check to me, payable to Lombard AAUW.

The dues for 2008-2009 are **\$73**, which includes:
\$49 National + \$10 State + \$14 Branch dues

THANK YOU!
Send your dues to:
Leslie Sulla
126 S. Chase, Lombard 60148



"86 and Still in the Mix"

Lombard Area AAUW member **Jane Heckman** has received the 25th Annual "Woman of Distinction Award" presented by College of DuPage on March 13. Congratulations Jane!!

More than 50 people were on hand March 13 to cheer Jane on as she received this well-deserved recognition.

"Connections" must be Jane's middle name, as demonstrated by her acceptance remarks. After Jane prompted us to welcome the persons to our left and right, her remarks centered on introducing various audience members to each other in order to spur yet more meaningful connections!

Jane believes that nothing is impossible that is good; and that all women have the ability to not only survive but to thrive, grow, and to be spectacular! Today she continues documenting the history of women in the western suburbs.

Here are just a few of the many accomplishments that Jane has under her belt:

- ♥ Educated as a Social Worker in Community Organizing, Jane began working for the YWCA to assess the needs of women in the western suburbs.
- ♥ She co-founded the DuPage YWCA in 1966.
- ♥ In 1979, Jane helped a small group create an offshoot of YWCA to assist local survivors of sexual assault. Ahead in her thinking and support of rape victims, her dedicated work led to the organization becoming one the largest rape crisis centers in Illinois.
- ♥ Jane is a founding supporter of DuPage's Take Back the Night March and Rally, and continues to attend each year. TBTN raises awareness about the realities of violence against women and children and encourages victim/survivor empowerment.
- ♥ Developed a peace group in the western suburbs and collaborated on a peace conference at COD for five years.

Fun trivia you may not have known: Jane was born nine months after the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the vote!!



Jane receives the
2008 *Woman of
Distinction Award*

(COD, March 13)

AAUW Illinois State Convention

The AAUW Illinois State Convention will be **May 2 & 3** at the Holiday Inn Select in Naperville.

Join us for an empowering state convention including leadership training, breakout sessions, convention business, and networking! Learn how YOU fit into AAUW's mission. The proximity adds an advantage to going this year -- no need to spend money to stay overnight at the hotel.

Thank you to our Lombard Area members who are helping out in any capacity at the convention! For further information, find details and the registration form at www.aauw-il.org or e-mail Leslie (bigcats45 @ yahoo.com).



Join Historic March on Village Hall April 6

Lombard resident Ellen Martin decided to exercise her vote in 1891. After casting her ballot at the Village Hall, she was arrested.

Help re-enact that event on Sunday, April 6 at 2pm. We will march from the Lombard Historical Society (23 W. Maple) to the First Church of Lombard (the old Village Hall). There we will enjoy tea with Lombard "First Lady" Eileen Mueller.

Martin, a female attorney who lived in Lombard in the late 1800s, shocked the local poll judges on April 6, 1891, when she demanded the right to vote by the power of the Village Charter which specified that one needed only to be a citizen of Lombard, not a male citizen. Martin, along with fourteen other women, voted that day and won a small victory that would not be felt again until 1920.

The Lombard Historical Society and the Maple Street Chapel will also co-host a contest for best Victorian-decorated hat at the historic Maple Street Chapel at Main and Maple in Lombard. Victorians were known for their excessive tastes in fashion and décor. All entries must be home-made creations that exemplify the lavish (and sometimes garish) tastes of Victorian women. The hat contest is \$5 per hat to enter and all hats will be returned to their owners. Hat entries must be turned in to the Historical Society at 23 West Maple by April 5th along with the entry fee.

Let's get a contingent of folks to join this historic march!



Interest Group Calendar

All Lombard Area AAUW members are welcome to attend any of these interest group programs. Have an idea for a new interest group? Bring your idea to the board.



Readers Theatre (1st Sunday)
Chair: Katherine Tecza, 971-0661
This interest group is on hiatus until September 2008. Look for us then!

Dining on a Dime (1st Monday)

Chair: Pat Porep, 629-2933
April 7: Go Roma, 6:30pm
In new shopping area on SW corner of Meyers/Butterfield. No reservations, but please call Pat if you plan to go.



Mystery Buffs (1st Wednesday)
Chair: Barbara Kozi, 620-0352
April 2, 7 pm at Barb's
Book: Anthony Awards 2004
Blood Hollow
by William Kent Krueger

Cinema (2nd Monday)

Chair: Loretta Caputo, 932-0224
April 14, Yorktown Theater
Movie theater outing. Meet at Yorktown. Call Loretta for details.



Women's Issues (3rd Tuesday)
Chairs: Carol Schuh, 629-8817,
and Marilyn Gustafson, 325-1475
April 15, 10 am at Louise Barne's
Program: TBA

Literature (3rd Friday)

Chair: Loretta Caputo, 932-0224
April 18, 1 pm at TBA
A Thousand Splendid Suns
by Kaleid Hosseini



Six in the City (various)
Chair: Doris Schertz, 629-2695
Due to our branch's upcoming activities (WITASWAN, Transitions, Harambee) Six in the City will resume in May.

AAUW-IL, Inc
Lombard Area Branch
126 S. Chase Ave.
Lombard, IL 60148-2904

Mission Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

Need Information?

Lombard Area Web Site:
www.aauw-il.org/lombard/

State Web Site:
www.aauw-il.org

AAUW Member Helpline:
800/821-4364
helpline@aauw.org
www.aauw.org

Congressional Action Line:
202/785-7786

Lombard Area Branch American Association of University Women

Branch Calendar

April

- April 2** - Mystery Buffs, 7pm; Barb's
April 6 - Historic Ellen Martin March to vote (see pg. 5), 2pm
April 7 - Dining on a Dime, 6:30pm; Go Roma
April 12 - **Transitions Conference** at COD. 8:30a - noon
(see front page)
April 14 - Cinema, Yorktown Theater
April 15 - Women's Issues, 10 am; Louise's
April 18 - Literature, 1 pm

- April 21-23** - Jewel Shop & Share Days (coupons inside)
April 21 - AAUW board meeting; 6:45pm; at FOCUS
April 22 - Pay Equity Day in Illinois
April 26 - Joint meeting with Hinsdale Branch, 9:30a; Union Church, Hinsdale (see front page for details) 9 am carpool!

Future

- May 2-3, 2008** - Illinois AAUW State Convention, Holiday Inn Select, Naperville. Find registration form and more details at www.aauw-il.org.
May 19-21 - Jewel Shop and Share Days (find coupons in MAY newsletter)



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