



American Association of University Women

LOMBARD, IL AREA BRANCH

Vol. 48 No. 5

February 2007

February Annual Luncheon

Join us for our annual luncheon and program on Saturday, February 17 at Lombard's Praga Restaurant.

After lunch we'll hear Rima Lunin Schultz speak about Women Building Chicago, 1790-1990: A Biographical Dictionary, a compilation of 423 biographies of Chicago women. Rima co-edited this book and wrote the Introduction, an extended essay that is a survey of the history of women in Chicago.

Women Building Chicago is the result of ten years of research and writing. The majority of the biographies represent new research and are published for the first time. This presentation by Rima Lunin Schultz will expand our understanding of the diverse ways in which women had a role in community life, the professions, and the arts from the earliest period of settlement for which we have records of women in the Chicago area.

A business meeting will follow Rima's presentation. We will elect a new slate of officers for 2007-2009.

If you haven't completed your luncheon reservation form, please send it to Janet Miller by Friday, February 9. The form was included in the January newsletter.

**Sat, February 17
11:30am**

Praga Restaurant
229 W. St. Charles Rd.
Lombard

Annual Luncheon

Proposed Association Bylaws Amendments!

In June, at the Association Convention in Phoenix, many proposed Bylaws amendments and Strategic Process proposals will be presented to the delegates for a vote. Some of the major proposed amendments involve the organizational restructuring of AAUW. For example, our two remaining corporations (AAUW – the Association, and the Educational Foundation) will be merged into one corporation. As you will recall, the Legal Advocacy Fund Corporation was merged with EF two years ago.

Under the proposed amendments, AAUW will transfer most of its assets and activities to the current 501(c) (3) entity, the AAUW Educational Foundation, to be titled AAUW. AAUW (Association) 501(c) (4) corporate structure will be retained for the purpose of limited public policy program projects, such as the Congressional Voting Record. In addition, a proposed Bylaws change continues the AAUW and EF Boards as separate boards for the first year of the 2007-2009 biennium and then creates a transitional board, with the AAUW and EF board members sitting jointly for a one-year period from 7/1/08 – 6/30/09. Thereafter, one board (the AAUW Board) will handle all AAUW and EF matters. These changes will help transform AAUW into an entity better suited to today's association, membership and foundation environment and will reduce administrative and governance costs.

Because of the major impact of these and many other proposed amendments to be voted on at the Association Convention, several steps are being taken by AAUW President Ruth Sweetser and her Board to ensure complete understanding of the amendments and proposals:

- The web site page for the strategic process is redesigned in a simpler format with easy access from the AAUW homepage at www.aauw.org. Look for an orange box on the middle right of the home page that reads "Strategic Process."
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) will be prepared and posted on AAUW's web site in the strategic process pages. The first will be posted by January 26th, with updates to follow.
- The complete Bylaws Committee Report, including current and proposed language and rationale will be posted to the web site no later than January 31, 2007, and included in the Spring/Summer 07 *Outlook*.

Once I have had a chance to review the proposed changes, I will be happy to address any questions you have at meetings or by e-mail. It is important that we all understand the purpose of and rationale for these very important proposed Bylaws changes.

Kathy Brenniman, Bylaws Chair
630/627-5180, kfbrenn@aol.com

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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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.

Lombard Area, February 2007, Page 2

President's Greeting

Dear Members,

As I was getting ready to write this article this morning, I saw that Nancy Daugherty, the AAUW-Illinois, Inc. President had sent out a new president's report. I'm sure many of us have been celebrating the truly historic moment when Nancy Pelosi, who spoke at the last AAUW national convention in Washington, DC, was elected as the first woman Speaker of the House. And just yesterday, Hillary Rodham Clinton announced her intention to be a candidate for President of the United States. Regardless of your political beliefs or affiliation, I think all AAUW members should be energized that this year we are slowly taking these steps toward equality.



Laurie Driscoll
President

Shattering the Marble Ceiling

"This is an historic moment—for the Congress, and for the women of this country. It is a moment for which we have waited more than 200 years. Never losing faith, we waited through the many years of struggle to achieve our rights. But women weren't just waiting; women were working. Never losing faith, we worked to redeem the promise of America, that all men and women are created equal. For our daughters and granddaughters, today we have broken the marble ceiling. For our daughters and our granddaughters, today the sky is the limit—anything is possible."

—Speaker Nancy Pelosi

With those words Nancy Pelosi accepted her election as the first woman to serve as speaker of the House. AAUW's Director of Public Policy and Government Relations, Lisa Maatz, attended several swearing-in activities for the new speaker and other new members of the 110th Congress, including a "women's tea," held to honor Pelosi and remember the late Gov. Ann Richards. The event was noted on NPR as the "hottest ticket in town." AAUW EdEqChange

The AAUW EdEqChange newsletter is available on line at http://www.aauw.org/member_center/leader_corner/EdEqChange/EdEqChange.cfm

Laurie Driscoll, President
laurdris-at-worldnet.att.net



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LAF Update

2007 is a big year for AAUW. Not only is AAUW celebrating its 125th Anniversary, the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) is celebrating its 25th year of supporting higher education employment discrimination cases. The Fall and Winter editions of LAF Update (<http://www.aauw.org/laf/updates/index.cfm>) feature articles about the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund and its beginnings.

In December, LAF adopted a new case, *Potera-Haskins v. Gamble, Montana State University, et al.* Robin Potera-Haskins, the former head women's basketball coach at Montana State University, was wrongfully terminated after complaining about unequal pay and unfair treatment of the women's basketball team. Read more about her story at www.aauw.org/laf/cases/poterahaskins.cfm.

Our branch has sent our contribution to the LAF. Individuals may send contributions to:
Legal Advocacy Fund, AAUW, 111 16th Street, Washington, DC, 20036

Kathy Brenniman
Legal Advocacy Fund Chair
630/627-5180
kfbrenn@aol.com



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Civil Rights Women Feb. 2007

Seventy-three years predating Rosa Parks, a refined teacher sat in the first-class ladies' car on a train in Tennessee. When told to move to the smoker for "niggers" she politely refused. She had a first-class ticket, was a lady, and planned to stay. Dragged to the dirty smoker as white passengers cheered, she got off at the next stop. Ida B. Wells was well within her rights. The Civil Rights Act of 1875 banned discrimination on public transportation. Wells filed a law suit and won. She sued in a repeat situation, won, and inspired others. Her disclosures about lynching began the nation's anti-lynching campaign.

The NAACP began as an interracial organization in 1908 when Mary Ovington, a white woman, hosted a dinner in New York organized and funded by whites. Ovington saw that over a third in positions were women, one was Ida B. Wells. The NAACP ceased being interracial in the 1930's, excluding Ovington from her civil rights work.

Pauli Murray attempted to break the color line in education at the University of North Carolina Law School in 1938, but was denied admission. As a Howard University Law School student in Washington, D. C., she organized a cafeteria sit-in. After four hours of orderly protest, the demonstrators were served. Civil rights were gained. But in 1944 people did not talk about this. The press ignored the story. Those courageous young blacks sitting-in at lunch counters in the 1960's were ahead of their time. Murray was two decades ahead of them.

In 1949, Jo Ann Robinson, who recently moved to Montgomery to accept a teaching position at Alabama State University, sat on a nearly empty bus. Ignoring the driver's order to move, she fled in terror as he came at her. The horror of that experience never left her and caused her to advocate for bus desegregation. Robinson wrote of a bus boycott to Montgomery's mayor in 1954 if abuse towards black passengers continued. The night of Parks' arrest in 1955, Robinson printed 52,500 flyers calling for a boycott urging blacks to stay off the busses. Whites joined blacks and shut down the public transit system. Thirteen months later racial segregation on public transportation throughout all of the South was declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court. Parks and Robinson's initial actions ignited the organized Civil Rights Movement.

Daisy Bates and her husband started a black newspaper in the 1940's addressing issues as slums, police brutality, legal injustices, hiring discrimination, and school desegregation. In 1957, as president of the Arkansas NAACP, Bates accompanied nine teenagers to the entrance of Central High School to desegregate Little Rock's school system. They were blocked by the National Guard called out by Governor Orval Faubus. Faubus was cited for contempt and federal troops were ordered to escort the students into school. A white woman representing "Southern Christian women" warned Bates to withdraw from the students or be destroyed. Bates stayed. Her paper's advertisers, threatened with attack, canceled their ads

and forced Bates to shut down her paper but not her activism.

Fannie Lou Hamer began her civil rights work in 1962 when, at age 45, she attended her first political rally and learned she had the right to vote. Transformed into a leader, she was bused with other blacks to try to register. Afterwards, she was fired from her job of eighteen years, her boss angry she tried to register. Her husband and daughter lost their jobs and were arrested, she was shot at, police entered her house without a warrant, but she didn't stop her activism. Because blacks were barred from the Democratic Party she helped form the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. They established a Washington office and were endorsed by several states. Hamer co-chaired a MFDP delegation to the 1964 Democratic National Convention and spoke before the Credentials Committee on national TV challenging the all-white Mississippi delegation. They had covert support from Lyndon Johnson, but, to preserve his presidential nomination, overtly worked against their convention participation. She met with Hubert Humphrey who supported them in his heart, but could not jeopardize a chance to be on the ticket with Johnson. She questioned his position versus the lives of 400,000 black citizens. Unsuccessful at being seated, she succeeded when the party pledged not to seat delegations at the 1968 convention that excluded black Americans.

In the 1963 March on Washington, not one activist woman marched down Constitution Avenue with the men. Not one woman spoke. Not one woman went to the White House with the men to meet President Kennedy. Black civil rights activist women faced double discrimination, fighting for racial rights with whites and for gender justice with men in the civil rights movement. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered ardent speeches as he spoke the voice given to the Civil Rights Movement by Ida B. Wells, Mary Ovington, Pauli Murray, Rosa Parks, Jo Ann Robinson, Daisy Bates, Fannie Lou Hamer, and countless unheralded women of the Civil Rights Movement.

Sources: *The Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Women Who Started It*, Jo Ann Gibson Robinson; *Freedom's Daughters: The Unsung Heroines of the Civil Rights Movement from 1830 to 1970*, Lynne Olson; *Women in the Civil Rights Movement: Trailblazers & Torchbearers 1941-1965*, Eds. Vicki L. Crawford, Jacqueline Anne Rouse, and Barbara Woods; and *Pauli Murray: The Autobiography of a Black Activist, Feminist, Lawyer, Priest, and Poet*, Pauli Murray.

Barbara Joan Zeitz is an AAUW-Illinois member. She writes insightful monthly columns on women's herstory. Read them at: <http://www.aauw-il.org/information/index.html>.

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New Member Corner



Vera Knapp, guest of Wilma Bain at our December meeting, is now our newest member.

Vera moved to Lombard from New Jersey to be closer to her married daughter who moved here. Vera met Wilma Bain through the

Lombard Tutoring Center, where she signed up to help tutor and mentor a 6th grader. Wilma recruited her for AAUW too. Vera's busy tutoring, learning about AAUW, having her daughter and family nearby and settling into her new home in Lombard. Vera is a retired teacher, having received a B.S. in Education from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio in 1964 and a M.S. in Education from Southern Illinois University in 1969. Be sure to welcome Vera if you see her at the February luncheon.

Vera Knapp
28 S. Highland Lombard, IL 60148
630-317-7079
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Doris Schertz and Kathleen Brenniman
Co-Vice Presidents, Membership

Dues News

Members joining between Jan. 1 and March 15 pay only \$22.50 for their Association dues. Total membership fee would be \$46.50 including association, state, and Lombard Area dues.

Beginning March 15, new members will pay \$71 total for AAUW membership through June 2008.

because
equity
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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.



Mystery Buffs (1st Wednesday)
Chair: Barbara Kozi, 620-0352
Feb 7, 7 pm at Barb Kozi's
Book: Dagers Awards
(multiple books)

Cinema (2nd Monday)

Theme: "Two Thumbs Up Cinema"
Chair: Loretta Caputo, 932-0224
Feb 12, 7:15pm at Mary Ann Grady's
Little Miss Sunshine



Women's Issues (3rd Tuesday)

Chairs: Carol Schuh, 629-8817,
and Marilyn Gustafson, 325-1475
Feb 20, 10am at Louise Barnes
Bess Samari recently returned from
Iran and is married to an Iranian. Her topic will be on
current conditions and women's life style in Iran.



Literature (3rd Friday)

Chair: Loretta Caputo, 932-0224
Feb 16, 1 pm at Lois Hockman's
Book: The Defining Moment: FDR's
100 Days
by Jonathan Alter



History in Washington, DC

"And tonight I have the high privilege and distinct honor of my own as the first president to begin the State of the Union message with these words: Madam Speaker."

Thus began President Bush's January 23, 2007, State of the Union speech! Congratulations to Nancy Pelosi, Congresswoman from San Francisco, California, and the new Speaker of the House.

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

Mission Statement

AAUW promotes equity for women and girls, life-long education, and positive societal change.

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

February

- Feb 7** - Mystery Buffs, 7 pm; Barb Kozi's
- Feb 12** - Cinema, 7:15pm; Mary Ann Grady's
- Feb 16** - Literature, 1 pm; Lois Hockman's
- Feb 17** - Luncheon & Annual Meeting, 11:30am, Praga Restaurant
- Feb 19** - Board meeting, 6:45 pm, Panera Bread in Glen Ellyn
- Feb 20**- Women's Issues: Louise Barnes, 10am

Future

- April 27 - 28** - AAUW Illinois State Convention, Bloomington
- June 29 - July 2, 2007** - AAUW National Convention, Phoenix



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