



# Lombard Area Branch (IL)

50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Vol. 50 No. 7

March 2009

## Wednesday, March 11: Travel Writing by Women

This is Womens' History Month and Beatriz Badikian-Gartler will speak on: "Sisters of the Road: Travel Writing by Women Throughout History". This fascinating program is sponsored by the **Illinois Humanities Council Road Scholars Speakers Bureau**. Bring friends!

Beatriz Badikian-Gartler, born in Buenos Aires, earned her doctorate in creative writing from the University of Illinois at Chicago and has been the recipient of numerous awards and grants in the language arts. Recently, Badikian-Gartler has been a faculty member at Roosevelt University, the University of Illinois at Chicago and the Newberry Library. She teaches at Northwestern University, and was recently named one of 100 Women Who Make a Difference by Today's Chicago Woman magazine.

She is the author of the novel *Old Gloves: A 20th Century Saga* and several collections of poetry as well as a co-editor of an anthology of Chicago women writers.

The program contains a dramatic reading of excerpts from the travel writings of women throughout history, focusing on American and British women of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. The readings are interspersed with brief explanations on the nature of this genre, the distinctive qualities of women travel writings vis-a-vis men travel writers, and the differences observed as a result of historical and societal changes.

We'd like to encourage members to pick up other members or friends and come together - saves gas, is helpful to those who don't want to drive at night and is more fun!!

Betsy Swinson and Pat Porep, Program co-vice presidents

**Wed, Mar. 11**

**7pm: Social**  
**7:30pm: Program**

**First Church of Lombard**  
**~ Upstairs ~**



## Dine Out and Raise Money for the Branch!



Dining on a Dime and Ways and Means have combined forces for March and invite everyone to **Chicks 'N Salsa** in GlenEllyn on March 2nd. The Dining on a Dime group will meet at 6:30pm, but you can come anytime that evening and bring your friends, kids, and the rest of your family. We will make 15% of the total sales from our group members that night, so please come out and enjoy the freshest Mexican food in the county!

**March 2: Chicks 'N Salsa** -- 854 Roosevelt Rd, Glen Ellyn (Baker Hill Shopping Center). The restaurant is by the Saret's Treasure House where our December fundraiser was held.

# 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 (EF)** is the world's largest source of funding exclusively for graduate women. EF also funds the **Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF)** which works to combat sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace.

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## Branch Officers

### President

*Loretta Caputo*

### Co-Vice-Presidents/Program

*Pat Porep*

*Betsy Swinson*

### Co -Vice-Presidents/Membership

*Barb Madigan*

*Diane Dassow*

### Secretary

*Kristi Miller*

### Treasurer, Newsletter, Web site

*Leslie Sulla*

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

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Find more information about AAUW

[www.aauw-il.org/lombard/](http://www.aauw-il.org/lombard/)

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[helpline@aauw.org](mailto:helpline@aauw.org)

# President's Greeting



Greetings to all! There is so much to talk about I hardly know where to begin. First of all, **there will be a book sale this year, chaired by a committee of four**. We discussed this at length at our board meeting and decided that it was too much for one or even two people, decided how to split the job up into smaller duties, and hopefully it won't be so hard to manage. The committee is made up of Kathy Brenniman, Loretta Caputo, Doris Schertz, and Barb Madigan. I will be handling the communication between the book sale people and

the church and have put down the first installation of the usage fee. We will, of course, **need the help of all of you**, and I know that won't be a problem as you have always come through in the past and I thank you for that. So a big hurdle is behind us and if it works out as I think it will, this new approach may make it easier for us in the future.

**At our luncheon** last week, we voted on 3 issues; Our new slate of candidates for our branch board, the state convention delegates, and the national convention delegates and all were overwhelmingly approved.

Welcome to the new board members!

- President: Mary Ann Dion
- Program Co-Chairs: Heidi Fraser, Gale Wiedman
- Treasurer: Cathy Bussa

State Convention Delegates (April):

- Mary Ann Dion
- Loretta Caputo
- Pat Porep
- Doris Schertz

National Convention Delegates (June):

- Mary Ann Dion
- Loretta Caputo
- Doris Schertz
- Laurie Driscoll (alternate)

I have submitted our Transitions Program led by Laurie Driscoll to our state's Branch Pride Recognition Program which should be written up by that committee and presented at the State Convention. It was really a job well done and Laurie did a great job as the leader.

Loretta Caputo, President (630/932-0224)

Book Sale Positions (probably) Still Available (as of this writing):

- ◆ Barrel Collections Chair
- ◆ Publicity/Marketing Chair
- ◆ Move-Out/Leftovers Chair
- ◆ Sale Chair (?)

Call Loretta to volunteer for these positions.

Thank you everyone who signed up at the lunch for various jobs.

## Latina Conference Update

**Atrevete a Sonar Educate! (Dare to Dream: Get Educated)** is only six weeks away – **April 4, 2009**, at Elmhurst College. As many of you know, the Conference for Latina middle school girls and their mothers will focus on the personal, professional and economic value of a college education.



The Steering Committee and the Advisory Committee (includes several Latina women) are now focusing on the details. The Conference will run from 8-4 and will have opening and closing sessions for the Latina girls and their mothers together along with separate tracks for the girls and their mothers in between. The girls will have an opportunity to attend two 45-minute career track panel discussions where 15-17 Latina women will share their incredible stories of how they overcame significant obstacles and “made it.” The girls will also be attending Campus Life Panels (made up of Latinas from high school and college, and teachers or counselors), and participating in a strategy for life game. The keynote speaker will be Lourdes Duarte, Channel 9 investigative reporter.

The District 44 Board of Education donated \$250 for the Conference. I am assisting the ELL (English Language Learners) teacher and the principal from Westlake Middle

School with the registration of girls who have been selected to attend the Conference. So far, from all the districts, we have 60 girls and 38 moms registered. We have capacity for 200 girls and 75 moms.

Doris and I will be contacting those of you who have volunteered with your assignments and times you need to be there. If anyone else wishes to volunteer, especially on the day of the Conference, please call or email Doris or me ASAP. Thanks to all of you for your support of this very important project.

Kathy Brenniman, 630/627-5180, [kfbrenn@aol.com](mailto:kfbrenn@aol.com);  
Doris Schertz, 630/629-2695, [dcshertz@comcast.net](mailto:dcshertz@comcast.net)  
Latina Conference Co-chairs

Visit [www.latinconference.org](http://www.latinconference.org) to learn more.

A huge **thank you** to members of our branch who have given generously to the Latina conference:  
Betty Meyer, Janet Miller, Pat Porep, Judy Siddiqui, Darwin Walton, and Gale Wiedman.

They have contributed a combined total of \$250. Thank you!

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# AAUW in the 21st Century

Will 2009 be the year of AAUW's transformation? If so, each of us needs to be reminded that policies and procedures by themselves don't change an organization. Rather, it is YOU, the members, who have the opportunity to move AAUW from a 20th- to a 21st-century organization. Since transformation depends on the human factor, how does this happen?

**First**, we have to work together and think together as an entire community to ensure that we keep our AAUW Value Promise at all times. When planning branch activities or even personal activities, ask "How does this project or program or activity help keep AAUW's Value Promise?" In other words, how am I helping to break through educational and economic barriers for women and girls? Diligence in keeping AAUW's promise will make an enormous difference both in getting results for our mission and in branding our organization.

Whenever you read with your granddaughter, play in a bridge tournament that benefits the AAUW Educational Foundation, host a guest speaker on pay equity at a branch meeting, or write your member of Congress through our Two-Minute Activist portal, you're taking a step to break through barriers. Just asking yourself that question brings a new awareness to and appreciation of our work that is vital to making it succeed—and will help you focus as your branch plans its mission-based programming. When you take that planning up a notch—asking how can my branch join with as many other branches and members as possible to apply our collective influence to a breakthrough—barriers, watch out! With nationwide engagement by members, our results, if documentable, will prove to be powerful and persuasive.

**Second**, plan to attend the 2009 AAUW National Convention: Breaking through Barriers, June 26–28, in St. Louis. There you'll have the chance to experience the new AAUW firsthand, to see with your own eyes what the future holds for our organization. You'll make AAUW history by participating in the bylaws votes, and, of course, you'll reconnect with old friends and make valuable and enjoyable new connections. But, please, come to convention well versed in the proposed bylaws and rationales; the briefings provide extensive information on these new approaches.

**Third**, adopt innovative tools and future-oriented thinking about what will make AAUW viable, attractive, and competitive. Yes, organizations compete for the attention and participation of current and potential members. If we are unable or unwilling to see the big picture of AAUW and its needs in 2009 and beyond, we risk the future of the entire organization. So to finalize the corporate restructuring from three separate entities to one tax-exempt umbrella organization (501(c)(3) with a very small 501(c)(4) subsidiary, the Action Fund), we will need to adopt bylaws that support the respective legalities and functions. We also need new ways of operating that recognize updated ways to lead, technology that facilitates administrative work so

volunteers can devote themselves to breaking through barriers, 21st-century ways of engaging with each other, and other practices.

A number of these innovative tools have been introduced through the series of briefings that AAUW has provided since early fall 2008. These tools include the Programs in a Box, which provide how-to's for mission-based programming; the Membership Pilot Program, which will allow leaders to manage their membership records online; and the Branch and State Local Scholarship Clearinghouse Pilot Program, which will help branches market their scholarships and select their recipients from a pool of prescreened applicants. Our new method of submitting a leadership position application will allow members to express general and specific areas for service, along with an inventory of skill sets they can bring to these positions. The type of work expected of the regional director is so valuable that we are revamping and strengthening that role to ensure grassroots engagement for the new AAUW.

At the AAUW state spring meetings, board members and other leaders—champions—will present and facilitate discussion on all these transitions. Be sure to take advantage of this personalized learning opportunity, especially in preparation for the convention in St. Louis.

Each of these changes marks a departure from our business as usual, yet they are all designed to address our organizational shortcomings. It is up to us to take hold of what organizational development teaches us, leave behind AAUW practices and thinking that don't work, and build on AAUW's unmatched legacy to reshape its potential for the future. We need to be smart, as well as educated!

The critical question is, **How will you help AAUW move into the 21st century?** As noted, the forward-looking framework and policies/procedures are being developed for your consideration and decision. How you think about AAUW, its future and its promise, will determine both how you receive proposed changes and, more important, what you do with the new AAUW once it is in place. You—both individually and collectively as the AAUW community—are the agent on which AAUW's success rests!

The new AAUW is going to be a force to be reckoned with. With a community of nearly 100,000 determined women and men, focused on a single objective—to break through barriers for women and girls—we will be unstoppable.

by Ruth Z. Sweetser, President, AAUW  
and Barbara L. O'Connor, President, Educational Foundation

## Six in the City: March 28: *True Love*

Celebrate SWAN Day Saturday, March 28, at Chicago's Kerasotes City North 14 Theatre (just off the Kennedy @ Western). Support Women Artists Now! Meet award-winning filmmakers Nancy Savoca and husband Rich Guay, and view their film *True Love*.

Reservations for Film Screening & Private Reception: \$25 per person, or \$15 per person for 65+ seniors and students with IDs. For further information and reservation form, go to: [www.films42.com/witaswan/march-09.asp](http://www.films42.com/witaswan/march-09.asp) Reservation forms will also be at the March 11 AAUW meeting at First Church.

We'll carpool, leaving at 10:30 am. Please let Doris Schertz know if you can drive.

Doris Schertz, 630/629-2695  
[dcshertz@comcast.net](mailto:dcshertz@comcast.net)



## Amendments to Association Bylaws

As many of you know, extensive changes to AAUW's Bylaws will be voted on at the Association Convention in St. Louis June 26-28. It is important that we all understand what these proposed changes are. Any member can read the Bylaws online at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) in the Member Section. I hope you will all have an opportunity to review the Bylaws prior to our April meeting where our guest speaker, Jennifer Wilken, current Development Vice President for the Educational Foundation and a candidate for AAUW Vice President at the convention, will discuss the proposed changes, listen to your comments and answer your questions. If you have any comments, concerns, or questions you would like to rise prior to Jennifer's talk, please email or phone me.

Kathy Brenniman, Branch Bylaws Chair  
630/627-5180, [kfbrenn@aol.com](mailto:kfbrenn@aol.com);

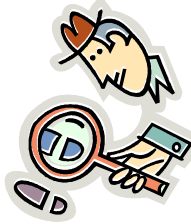
## 50th Anniversary Help Needed

Last call for people to help plan the 50th Anniversary Celebration for our branch which will take place on May 13. Contact Betsy Swinson, [swinsonjb@juno.com](mailto:swinsonjb@juno.com) or 630/627-0152. Come add your thoughts and ideas for this special occasion. We've got lots to celebrate!!



## Interest Group Calendar

All Lombard Area AAUW members are welcome to attend any of these interest group programs.



### Mystery Buffs (1st Wednesday)

Chair: Barbara Kozi

Theme: Chicago-area mystery writers

**March 4** : 7pm

Bebe's

Meet author Robert Goldsborough!

### Dining on a Dime (1st Monday)

Chair: Pat Porep

**March 2**: 6:30pm

*Chicks 'N Salsa, Roosevelt Rd, Glen Ellyn* (see page 1) RSVP to Pat Porep



### Lit Wits (2nd Monday)

Chairs: Lisa Clark, Leslie Sulla, & Heidi Koberstine

**March 9**: 7 pm

*Panera, Roosevelt Rd in Glen Ellyn*

*The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield -AND-  
*Friday Night Knitting Club* by Kate Jacobs

### Literature (3rd Friday)

Chair: Loretta Caputo

**March 20**: 1 pm

*Evelyn Montgomery's House of Mirth*

by Edith Wharton



### Six in the City (various)

Chair: Doris Schertz

**Sat, Mar 28: SWAN day**

10:30 am: Carpool to Kerasotes 18  
(See article to left)

### Women's Issues (3rd Tuesday)

Chairs: Marilyn Gustafson & Carol Schuh

**March 17**: *Nancy Hanson's Lexington Square*, 11 am

Program: Israel & Palestine  
(continuation of February program)





**Mission Statement**

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American Association of University Women  
LOMBARD AREA BRANCH  
BRANCH CALENDAR - MARCH 2009

**March**

- March 2** - Dining on a Dime, 6:30pm; *Chicks 'N Salsa, Glen Ellyn* (see pg. 1) **Branch Fundraiser!**
- March 4** - Mystery Buffs, 7pm; *Bebe's*
- March 9** - Lits Wits, 7pm; *Panera*, Roosevelt Rd, Glen Ellyn
- March 11** - General Program: Meet & Greet: 7pm; program 7:30pm First Church of Lombard, UPSTAIRS
- March 16** - AAUW board meeting; 6:45pm; at FOCUS
- March 17** - Women's Issues; 10 am; Nancy H's
- March 20** - Literature, 1 pm; Evelyn M's
- March 28** - Six in the City: Swan Day! Movie "True Love." (see page 5)

**Future**

- April 4** - Atrevete! Latina conference; COD. 8am - 4pm
- April 24-25** - AAUW Illinois State Convention; Decatur
- June 26-28** - AAUW National Convention; St. Louis!



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