



Lombard Area Branch (IL)

50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Vol. 50 No. 1

September 2008

September 10 Program: Women in the Law

It's time for school and time for AAUW to start up as well! We're looking forward to seeing everyone at our first fall meeting on Wednesday, September 10 at First Church of Lombard. We will begin with a Culinary Potpourri (potluck) at 6:30 p.m. downstairs. We're asking people to bring their favorite dish: if your last name begins with A-D, bring a dessert; E-Z please bring a salad or hot dish.

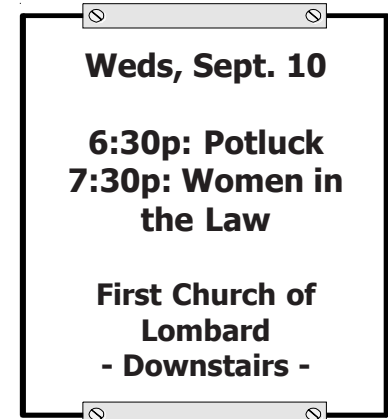
We have an outstanding program planned. Our special speaker will be the Honorable Bonnie M. Wheaton, Circuit Court Judge of Illinois in the 18th Judicial Circuit. Her topic is: "Women in the Law - Looking Back, Looking Forward". Judge Wheaton is one of 10 women out of 42 judges in the DuPage County Court System. This versatile and active woman has served on boards and is active in numerous professional and community organizations. She has played cello in the DuPage Symphony for 37 years and is a member of the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch of AAUW.

Judge Wheaton is the recipient of the Glass Ceiling Buster Award from the DuPage Association of Women Lawyers, the Mary Heftel Hooton Award from the Women's Bar Association of Illinois and Outstanding Woman Leader Award from the DuPage County YWCA. Most recently, Wheaton received the 2008 Outstanding Alumni Award from the Northern Illinois University College of Law for her professional achievements and civic involvement.

We hope you will join us on September 10!

Betsy Swinson and Pat Porep, Program co-vice presidents

Can you help? We need a few willing hands to help us set up tables and chairs for the potluck on September 10. If you're able to come at 6:00 p.m. to help with setup, please give Nancie Stewart a call at 630-620-0333. Thank you!



2008 Book Sale - Going for the Gold!

As receipts from our Used Book Sale continue to come in, we are edging toward a \$13,000 gross to benefit our scholarship fund this year! The finish line is in sight and your faithful co-chairs will schedule a pizza wrap-up party in early October for team leaders and volunteers to review the book sale process and come up with suggestions for an even better used book sale in 2009.

Our thanks to the over 65 members of our Lombard Area branch who participated in so many ways to make the used book sale a success. We received over 25,000 donated books from the community for the sale, and when it was all over our branch donated 175 cartons of unsold books to the Great American Garage Sale held August 15-17 to benefit various DuPage County charities. Community support for our 2008 Used Book Sale came from First Church of Lombard, Mr. Z's, Jewel Food Stores in Lombard and Villa Park, Famous Liquors on Roosevelt Road, Safeguard Self-Storage on St. Charles Road, Boy Scout Troop 202, Waste Management Corporation, The Lombardian, National Health Sciences University, The Coffee News, The Spectator, and monetary and in-kind contributions from several of our members. Thank you so much for the incredible number of volunteer hours given by members, family and friends to work at the collection, sorting and sale of books. We all worked very hard and the result of that hard work is evidenced by the amount of money raised. Dealers and community shoppers alike came back to the sale more than once to get in on book bargains.

The introduction of our "Eleanor" shopping bags was a great incentive for the Saturday \$7 Bag O'Books sale. Our scholarship fund receives \$1 in profit from every \$3 bag sold. These are terrific grocery shopping bags – large, strong, and the bags are imprinted with the AAUW Lombard Area branch name, not to mention our "Eleanor." The bags are a very trendy black with a teal imprint. Eleanor recycle bags are still available for sale and they provide a great way to advertise our branch in the community. Buy your "Eleanor" bag at the September meeting!

Kathryn Tecza & Deb Dynako, 2008 Used Book Sale Co-chairs



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** which works to combat sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace.

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Loretta Caputo (630/932-0224)

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Betsy Swinson (630/627-0152)

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Lynn Berndt (630/629-1068)

Secretary

Kristi Miller

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Leslie Sullá (630/916-7783)

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

Find more information about AAUW

www.aauw-il.org/lombard/

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www.aauw.org

AAUW Member Helpline:

800/821-4364

helpline@aauw.org

President's Greeting



It's finally here – the beginning of our new year and what a year it will be! We will kick off on Sept. 10th with a pot luck at First Church and Judge Bonnie Wheaton, who will give us some insight into women in law. Bebe Mosillo will have our yearbook ready for you and all the programs will be listed there.

I am still working on a photo/bio directory and have had responses from about 1/3 of you, so I will be taking pictures of those of you that I don't have already, and I would appreciate brief biographies from those who have not yet sent them. Please take 5 minutes to do this for me.

The book sale was a huge success as it usually is, but final figures are not yet available. Also, please take care of your IOUs if you have not yet done so. We had some excellent publicity in the local papers and even in the Daily Herald.

Cathy Bussa is our new Public Policy chairperson and she reported on some new plans that are taking place to deny federal funding for reproductive healthcare. There will be a Reproductive Justice Training Seminar that will be held in Chicago on Wednesday, Sept. 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. I am going; if you would like to join me, let me know so I can sign us up. Also there are other things to watch regarding equal pay for women, as the powers that be struggle to appease those who don't want it. Cathy will try to keep you posted.

Biggest thing on the agenda is our involvement with the Elmhurst branch in the Latina conference "Atrevete a Sonar Educate!" (Dare to Dream: Get Educated), formerly Adelante. They have received a grant from Association plus extra funding from AAUW-Illinois that Kathy Brenniman worked very hard to get for our partnership. There is a tremendous amount of work to do, so if you would like to volunteer for this cause, let me or Kathy or Doris know and we will include you. The Conference will take place in April 2009.

Please read your newsletter carefully for details on all the things I've mentioned and many of the things I haven't! It is suggested by Association that all branches have a Diversity Committee Chair. If you are interested in volunteering for this position, please let me know and we will fill you in on this important position.

This is going to be a great year! See you at the meeting!

Loretta Caputo, President

New Literature Interest Group?

Several people have expressed interest in an evening literature group.

This is an excellent idea, but we need someone to organize it. If you would like to be a part of this group and/or an organizer or co-organizer, please call Betsy Swinson (627-0152) or Pat Porep (629-2933).



2008-2009 Scholarship Winners

This is the reason we continue holding our book sales. No matter how much our backs ache, our shoulders hunch, or our lungs protest the dust -- we carry on the book sale tradition because women need the opportunity to learn and grow. We help them achieve their goals!

High School Awardees

Kathryn Argentine, Bloomingdale - Glenbard East. She worked on the school paper all four years and was editor-in-chief of the ECHO. Monmouth College; majoring in Education.

Ritu Ashwin Shah, Lombard - Willowbrook. She was active in National Honor Society, Key Club, Basketball, Civitas, Peer Mentor, New Beginnings, Freshman tutor, Varsity Athletic Club and Ambassadors, and has received numerous honors and participated in much community service. University of Illinois at Chicago; majoring in Engineering.

Return to Learning

We are proud to announce the winner of the Undergraduate Return to Learning -- our own member Lynn Berndt! Read Lynn's entertaining letter on page 5.

This year the EF committee sent a \$1000 donation to The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). This is a 2.5 day conference to help students hone leadership skills for their work on campus and in their communities. More than 500 women attended in 2008.

Six in the City: Sat, 9/20

Sat, Sept. 20: IIT Mies van der Rohe Society Tour

We join the Mies van der Rohe Society for an architectural tour of IIT and its south side neighborhood. Thanks to Barb Kozi for giving us the tip on IIT campus tours. Sept. 20 is special as the Mies van der Rohe Society celebrates the 5th anniversary of the Ren Koolhaas-designed McCormick Tribune Campus Center and Helmut Jahn-designed State Street Village. The special architectural tour includes the Glessner and Clarke houses, walk or trolley to Frank Lloyd Wright houses, the Prairie Giles Calumet Historic District, Campus buildings and hot dog lunch. (For more info, visit the website www.mies.iit.edu/tours/southsidetour.php)

Sign up on the Six in the City clipboard at the September 10th AAUW meeting or contact Doris (629-2695, dcschertz@comcast.net). Indicate if you can drive.

It's free, but reservations are needed before September 13 to be included in the lunch and trolley tours.

9:45 am – Carpool from Doris'. (leave by 10 am)

11:00 am – Tour Glessner House and Clark House next door (30 minutes for both)

11:45 am – Trolley down Michigan Ave to IIT campus (30 minute narrated tour)

12:15 pm – Enjoy 30 minutes for a hot dog lunch

1:00 pm - Take Architectural Tour of IIT Campus (90 minute tour with a separate guide)

2:30 pm - Leave IIT; should be home around 3pm

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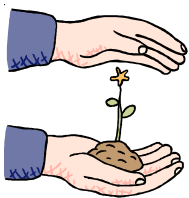
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Membership Matters

Welcome to our third year of the AAUW Member-Get-A-Member-Campaign and a big warm welcome to our new Give-A-Grad-A-Gift member Ellen Dassow! Ellen has already helped out at the book sale sort and decided to join. Maybe it was all those books, or the camaraderie among book sale good doers, or the Give-A-Grad-A-Gift from her mother Diane Dassow, but she is now part of our team. Very exciting news... Ellen plays the guitar. I see a sequel to the book sale skit. Now with guitar solo, or a musical interlude with singing accompaniment. Just Kidding Ellen, see you at the first meeting! (*read her bio on page 5*)



Calling all Sociology Majors: Ellen Dassow would like to hear your thoughts about your career path in the sociology field and speak to you. Remember, if we only speak to the people we already know then knowledge gets lost. It's the new members that need to hear about your journey and experience in your field. With strong women to help the next generation take AAUW as far as it has come. The torch must be passed on from the courage and strength of those who have come before, leading the way with stories of difficulties and triumph in the fields they have pushed their way through to get to where they are now.

In addition, we have some new impressive women who attended our Used Book Sale and will participate in our free membership drawing at our Potluck Dinner on September 10 at 6:30 pm at First Church of Lombard. These women are very interested in our organization and what we do... So, don't let me catch you talking to people you see all the time or I will give you a time out or I may make you drop and give me 50 push ups even if you are wearing white. HA! Just kidding... No, seriously I will.

Bring up some of the equal pay issues to neighbors and friends in passing and conversation. It is possible that they may not know about these issues or they may want to do something about them but not know where to start. Plant the seed of AAUW and the support we give to women and girls in their efforts to be equal in this world. It is a big world and word only gets around if we speak about it.

If your friend, neighbor or interested party comes to a membership event or monthly meeting where membership recruitment forms are present, the new member can sign up for half price of the National dues, paying only full price on the state and local dues, an excellent deal!

Lynn Berndt and Barb Madigan
Co-Vice Presidents, Membership

"Thank you" from Lynn Berndt

(*Lynn received our Return to Learning Undergrad scholarship this past May. She is our new membership co-chair as well.*)

I am currently going to UIC for an undergraduate in English. I love creative writing and am currently learning what my style is. I mostly write humor but am trying my hand at many other genres too. I may teach someday, I don't know. It seems each day brings such promise of so much I don't see limiting the possibilities at the moment. I was a beautician for 14 years and I am ready to reach more than a few people at a time. I wonder if a classroom is too small an audience for me?

I have been married for three years in November to my husband Mark. He is building a three-story addition BY HIMSELF and that has been going on for 2 years. I have permanently attached earplugs to my ears and they have become my very best friends. I have learned not to walk around the house partially nude - you never know when Mark's dad will drop by to help.

You may have seen me in the book sale drama musical "I can sort any book better than you." I was the one in front with a voice like a *song bird*, who knew all her lines by heart... What? You didn't see such a person? Well, maybe you were at a different book sale drama musical then because that's exactly what my perception of it was.

I am a co-membership chair and God help me I don't know how I am going to keep up with that and full time classes in the fall. I am taking a class solely studying Shakespeare, a core English 241, and Spanish. I have 8 bulged disks in my back and neck so it is difficult to read unless I am lying down, and sitting in the desks for long periods of time is brutal.

So as co-membership chair I would like to greet new people at the door and find out who they are and what they like so I can have them meet other women of like interests and possibly integrate them into the group, feel comfortable and STAY with us a while. But I know I can't do all of that and chase nametags down too. So I am asking ahead, no pleading, for some of you to do little things to help me help the group. When I figure out the little things I need - pretty please- I will harass you until you help me... Please and Thank you... have a good week.

Lynn Berndt

P.S. I could not be happier that I am back in school. I was meant to be a writer. I was starved for this. I thank all of you for your hard work, for the scholarship money and for every girl you help go back to school. This is the best thing since I found out about candy.

Thank You

Latina Conference Update (4/4/09)

Plans for **Atrevete a Sonar Educate! (Dare to Dream: Get Educated)** are moving along with the Conference to take place at Elmhurst College on April 4, 2009. **Atrevete a Sonar Educate!** is a Conference for Latina middle school girls and their mothers that will focus on the personal, professional and economic value of a college education. AAUW branches involved besides Lombard include Elmhurst, Downers Grove, Wheaton/Glen Ellyn, and Naperville. In addition to the AAUW Community Action Grant of \$4655 received from the Educational Foundation, we have also received \$4000 from AAUW-IL, Inc.

The AAUW-IL State Board voted unanimously to provide money to Illinois branches that have received EF grants for projects benefiting women and girls, but were not fully funded. This conference is the first recipient! In addition, the participating branches have been asked to each donate \$500 for the Conference. Lombard was the first to send its check, which came from money left in the Transitions Conference Fund, donated by former member Virginia Haldeman. We also have the support of Oprah's Production Company Harpo. In July, four of us on the Advisory Board met with Oprah's Human Resources Director and her assistant, and they are now serving on the Advisory Board and attending monthly planning meetings.

Anticipated outcomes of the conference are:

- To encourage the vision of a college education and professional career
- To support resistance to cultural pressures which often result in dropping out of high school, early marriage and pregnancy

Speakers and workshops will address the following topics:

- The value and advantages of a college education
- Career opportunities, particularly those that require bilingual speakers
- High school preparation required for college
- Financial aid availability with application assistance and support
- Goal-setting skills and strategies.

Committees are being formed, fund raising is underway, topics for mothers and daughters are being developed, and speakers are being identified. We also continue to secure support from the local school districts for free school buses for the event, help with recruiting girls for the event, and any other assistance they can offer.

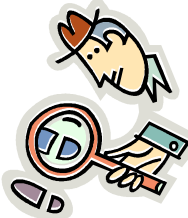
Our branch's October 8th meeting will be a joint meeting at First Church of Lombard with the other branches planning the Conference. Our speaker will be Dr. Lourdes Ferrer, minority consultant to Dr. Darlene Ruscitti, DuPage Regional Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Ferrer will be one of the keynoters at the Conference.

Continued next column

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 for approval.

~ No Sept meetings for Cinema, Dining on a Dime and Women's Issues. ~



Mystery Buffs (1st Wednesday)

Chair: Barbara Kozi, 620-0352

Theme: Chicago mystery writers

Sept 3: Bebe's, 7 pm

No specific title for this first meeting.

Literature (3rd Friday)

Chair: Loretta Caputo, 932-0224

Sept 19: Loretta's, 1 pm

The Innocent Man

by John Grisham



Six in the City (various)

Chair: Doris Schertz, 629-2695

Sat, Sept 20: Architectural tour of Mies van der Rohe at Illinois Institute of Technology. **Full details on page 3.**

Welcome New Member:

Ellen Dassow

Ellen is a recent graduate from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She graduated with honors. She studied Sociology and was an initial inductee into the International Sociology Honors Society, Alpha Kappa Delta. During her senior semester at Aquinas, Ellen studied abroad in the village of Tullycross in Co. Galway, Ireland. She hopes to continue her studies at The University of Chicago only after a year or two of exciting entry-level work.

Latina Conference, cont.

Doris Schertz and I represent our branch on the Advisory Board which meets once a month. In addition, we meet weekly with members of the involved AAUW branches to spearhead the Conference planning. Doris and I are forming a branch committee to help with the Conference and are looking for volunteers. Please call or email if you are interested. Thanks for your help.

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

Doris Schertz, 630/629-2695, dcschertz@comcast.net

Latina Conference Co-chairs



Mission Statement

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

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American Association of University Women

LOMBARD AREA BRANCH

BRANCH CALENDAR - SEPTEMBER 2008

September

- Sept 3** - Mystery Buffs, 6:30pm; Bebe's
- Sept 10** - General Program: Potluck 6:30pm, Program: 7:30pm, First Church of Lombard, DOWNSTAIRS
- Sept 15 - 17** - Jewel Shop & Share Days! Download more coupons at www.aauw-il.org/lombard/. Support our branch when you shop at any Jewel grocery store using the enclosed coupons!
- Sept 15** - AAUW board meeting; 6:45pm; at FOCUS
- Sept 19** - Literature, 1 pm; Loretta's
- Sept 20** - Six in the City, 10 am; IIT Tour (see pg. 3)

Future

- Oct 6** - Dining on a Dime, 6:30pm; *Nagano*, Lombard
- Oct 8** - General Program: 7:00pm, First Church of Lombard, UPSTAIRS
- Oct 20** - AAUW board meeting; 6:45pm; at FOCUS
- Nov 8** - District 4 & 5 Fall Conference; College of DuPage

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