

Calendar 2015

Tues., April 14—*Equal Pay Day* at Rockford University

Thurs., Apr. 16, 6:00 pm, Olive Garden Restaurant,
Speaker—RVC Professor Paulette Gilbert, *Maya Angelou: Poet, Author & American Icon*

Sunday, April 19, 5:30 p.m. Dining Explorers at Prairie Street Brewhouse

Tuesday, April 21, 12:45 pm. Bookbeat: Selected works of Maya Angelou, Hostess: Karen Shifo

Fri., April 24, 12 noon, Let's Do Friday Lunch at the Three Sister's Café in the Clock Tower Complex

Wed., April 29, Equal Pay Day Discussion at RU with Panelists Sharon Bartlett and Kaleb Lewis

May 1 & 2, 2014 AAUW-IL Convention, Bloomington, The theme is *It's a Jungle Out There*

Sat., May 16, Forest Hills CC, Annual Meeting
Speaker—RVC President Michael Mastroianni, Introduction of STEM winners

May 19, 12:45 pm Bookbeat: *Bully Pulpit* by Doris Kearns Goodwin, Hostess: Beckie Weber, Reviewer: Kathy Dierstein

June TBA—Membership Tea

June TBA—Golfing on Monday's

June 18 – 21, Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina, San Diego, CA—AAUW National Convention



President's Message

At last, spring flowers are arriving and, if we have some April showers, we will be able to enjoy the loveliness of the spring season.

As you can see to the left, we are finishing up our season with a whirl of activities. What is not mentioned there is the very important work of the scholarship committee. They, too, meet this month to decide the 2015 recipients. **We have received 20 applications for our STEM scholarships.** That is a record number which will make the decisions even tougher. Thank you to our committee!

Please save the date—May 16 at Forest Hills—so that you can meet the winners. You will also meet the very energetic **Michael Mastroianni, President of RVC.** The flyer with the menu choices will follow soon.

On pg. 2, you can read about the **Start Smart Workshop at RU.** Many thanks go to Dr. Stephanie Quinn and Donnette Tinsley at RU for bringing this opportunity to local students.

I also want to thank everyone who has supported our branch activities this year. Each and every one has been interesting, diverse and meaningful and well worth the time.

See you on April 16 and at the Annual Meeting!
Barbara Simon

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The *Start Smart* Workshop by Dr. Stephanie Quinn

On Thursday March 27, Rockford University, as part of its college / university partnership with AAUW, hosted a \$mart \$tart workshop on campus, from 5-8pm for students and others. Four AAUW representatives conducted the workshop, led by Susan Hoover, who directs the Illinois partnerships. A few local AAUW members attended.

The workshop consisted roughly of three parts. First some information on wage disparity was presented followed by the research that supports that finding. In the second part, aspects of interview and negotiation techniques were discussed. The third section paired an adult participant with a student for a mock salary and benefits negotiation.

Although the AAUW members and others in the audience were aware of these issues before the workshop, several of us learned much more about the availability of comparative information on job and career classifications: job seekers and salary negotiators can be informed about salaries and benefits instead of being passive recipients of offers.

The techniques section emphasized a balance between assertiveness and reality; when to start wage negotiations (only after there's an offer!); and how to discuss this delicate topic. The feedback from the mock negotiations was valuable because several students reported how awkward and uncomfortable it was, even in this mock environment, to ask for more and better in wages and benefits than was being offered. A response from the presenters was, yes, it is difficult, and that's why AAUW hosts such workshops.

It was a successful evening for those who attended, perhaps 25 in all, including presenters and adults. It remains to be seen if the University wishes to host another workshop next year, perhaps with greater student participation once the word gets out.

AAUW Public Policy On The Go by Faye Marcus

There's been lots of activity with Public Policy.

During the early part of March we collaborated with League of Women Voters to co-sponsor 3 candidate forums for school board candidates. There are contested races for school board in the Harlem, Belvidere, and Rockton school districts. There were excellent turnouts at each of these forums and we also received some good media coverage.

- Faye Marcus and Claire McIntyre will be visiting the offices of Congressman Adam Kinsinger and State Legislators Joe Sosnowski and John Cabello to discuss issues that are important to AAUW (pay check fairness) and issues important to League of Women Voters. We are hoping to be able to visit with assistant in Congresswoman Cheri Bustos's office. Unfortunately we have not been able to make any contact.
- **APRIL 14-EQUAL PAY DAY:** This year our Equal Pay Day event will be held at **Rockford University**. We will have a display table with information about Equal Pay Day. Why Equal Pay Day, what does it mean and how does it affect women? Some of us will be at the table to engage with the students. Would you like to help?
- **APRIL 29-THE GENDER PAY GAP:** Students and faculty at RU will host a panel discussion on the Gender Pay Gap. More information will be sent out as it becomes available.

You can see how important Public Policy is to AAUW. So let's all become AAUW Public Policy advocates!

(Thank you Faye, for doing this important work for the branch! Faye is also a member of the National Public Policy Committee and will attend the National Convention in San Diego in June).



Please join the Rockford Area Branch on

Thursday, April 16, 2015, 6:00 p.m.

The Olive Garden Restaurant, 6367 East State Street

Maya Angelou: Poet, Author & American Icon

Presented by Paulette Gilbert

Professor of English and Composition at RVC,
followed by a discussion.

Everyone can order individually from the menu.

Please let us know that you are coming by emailing

Regina Potts, rp226@aol.com or calling 815-262-6504