



Initiative

AAUW– Rockford Area Branch

Fall, 2010

From the President's Pen:

Learn...Act...Connect...

Join...Give

Breaking Through Barriers for Women and Girls



This Fall our AAUW Board and Membership Committee have been very busy working on programs for the year.

Our September membership meeting was a success! The panel discussion of Women as Leaders in Education, consisting of six women superintendents and executive directors, shared their stories at our first membership program on September 30 at Rockford College. We had over 55 people attend our event.

Some of the ideas that these women shared were: encouraging women to take those risks that are involved in their own education and that make a difference; having a strong female role model; and the importance of the teachers who made a difference in their lives.

Our November Fall Luncheon was fun and informative. Thank you to all of you that attended and made our Silent Auction a success! Our keynote speaker, Karla Clark spoke about all three of her books: Between Courses: A Culinary Love Story, Knotted Pearls, and her new book, Annie's Heaven. Having read her first two books, I can't wait to read her latest. Once again, women as leaders in our community!

Thank you again to the program committee for all of their hard work

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The holidays are just round the corner and let the celebrating begin! Let us celebrate 81 years of AAUW in the Rockford area with a Post-Holiday Tea for new members. The event will take place Thursday, January 13, 2011 from 6:30 to 8:00'clock at Karen Weedman's home. Invitations will be forthcoming. You still have time to recruit just one person and bring them to this event.

As you are recruiting new members? Please keep in mind the following:

AAUW – Rockford Branch Membership:

1929 – 159 Members
1938 – 234 Members
1948 – 272 Members
1958 – 222 Members

1967 – 165 Members
1977 – 230 Members
1989 – 162 Members
1999 – 111 Members

Today our membership is 64. We need to double this number if possible. Let us all put on our thinking caps and try to recruit at least one person each. Let's grow our membership to bring back scholarships so the young women in our community have a chance to break through barriers!

Christine Haeggquist
President

Because Equity is Still an Issue



washington **update**

NEWS FROM AAUW

November 3–10, 2010

AAUW and CAP Join Forces on “Batgirl versus Unfair Pay” Video

Batgirl, that enduring pop icon, lends her voice to a serious issue affecting women across the nation as the star of a [new online video campaign from AAUW and the Center for American Progress](#). The “Batgirl versus Unfair Pay” video aims to build greater support for the Paycheck Fairness Act, which is scheduled for a vote in the U.S. Senate on November 17. Batgirl's fight to be paid the same as Robin mirrors what is happening in workplaces across

Washington Update – continued - America. AAUW is urging the Senate to stand up for women and families and pass the Paycheck Fairness Act with no amendments, so that the bill can go straight to president’s desk. Please share the [AAUW-CAP video link](#) widely and often via Facebook, Twitter, e-mail, and other channels.

AAUW Director-at-Large Urges Passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act

[Boston Globe](#) (Wednesday, November 3)

AAUW Director-at-Large Patricia Ho advocated for the Paycheck Fairness Act in a letter to the editor of the *Boston Globe*. Responding to an article titled “[Are We There Yet? By Almost Every Measure, Women Earn Significantly Less than Men in Similar Demographic](#),” Ho explained that AAUW’s data shows that the wage gap begins just one year out of college, putting most women at a “marked disadvantage.”

Michigan Institution Posts Story about AAUW Branch President’s Role at Vision 2020

[Oakland University](#) (Monday, November 8)

Oakland University posted a story about Kathryn Lauer Hoover, an alum of the university and president of the AAUW Flint (MI) branch. She was in Philadelphia last month as a delegate at Vision 2020, a national project focused on advancing gender equality. After the gathering, [Hoover wrote](#), “Women’s issues are not just ‘women’s issues’...The economy has taken a horrible blow especially in Michigan. My own father, an automotive engineer, had been laid off from Ford. My mother, a school teacher, has now been the main bread winner. I’m sure my father would appreciate there being no wage gap for her when her wages are supporting them!”

AAUW Generosity Highlighted in Post about Marie Curie’s Efforts to Obtain Radium

[Under the Microscope](#) (Thursday, November 4)

Under the Microscope, a site dedicated to stories about women in science, recently published a post about Marie Curie’s efforts to obtain the radium she needed to continue her research. Her quest brought her to the United States, where she was promised financial help from the women of America. Sam Lemonick writes that the Marie Curie Radium Fund Committee raised \$156,413 (about \$1.66 million in today’s dollars) and describes AAUW’s contributions along with Curie’s thank-you note to AAUW members. The post, titled “[A Little Radium Goes a Long Way](#),” also mentions AAUW’s long history of giving, which dates back to 1888.

AAUW Research Referenced in Article about New Effort to Retain Women in STEM

[Inside Higher Ed](#) (Monday, November 8)

A news story about Arizona State University’s efforts to increase the retention of women in the STEM fields referenced the 2010 AAUW research report *Why So Few?* Specifically, the article said that “more women are studying and working in science and engineering, but men continue to outnumber them; in some fields, women make up a mere 20 percent of bachelor’s degree earners, according to an American Association of University Women [report](#) published in March.” Interest in the report remains high. Thanks to efforts from AAUW of New Jersey, AAUW senior researcher and *Why So Few?* co-author Christianne Corbett was invited to testify at a November 8 hearing on the barriers that prevent women from entering into science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) fields. Corbett presented the report’s findings to the New Jersey Assembly’s Higher Education Committee before a standing-room-only audience at the state house.

AAUW of Massachusetts Co-Hosts Empowerment Conference at Babson College

A November 6 conference jointly hosted by the Babson College Center for Women’s Leadership and AAUW of Massachusetts featured a number of impressive speakers, including [Gloria Blackwell](#), AAUW director of fellowships, grants, and international programs. The center also recently posted a [YouTube video](#) about its efforts to prepare women students to lead and make a difference in the world, through a variety of means such as accessing organizations like AAUW.

University of Wyoming Issues Press Release about AAUW-Running Start Collaboration

[University of Wyoming](#) (Wednesday, November 3)

The University of Wyoming announced in a press release that Elect Her–Campus Women Win, a collaboration between AAUW and Running Start, will be offered there. The university plans to institutionalize the program, which will address the disparity between the high percentage of women university students and the generally low percentage of women in student government.

Washington Update – continued

Local TV News Reporter Interviews AAUW Member about Play

[WAAY-TV, Huntsville, Alabama](#) (Wednesday, November 3)

A TV news reporter interviewed AAUW member Rose Norman for a story about *The Yellow Dress*, a dramatic one-woman play based on the stories of young women who were victims of dating violence. Norman explained that the play was produced for students at the University of Alabama, Huntsville, thanks to an AAUW grant. Check out the long list of [opportunities and programs](#) available to student affiliates and AAUW members.

INTEREST GROUPS

Book Beat

12:45 3rd Tuesday each month at members' homes

December No Meeting
Contact Carole Newcomer 815-877-3399

Grand Slammers

3rd Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at members' homes

Please note: Grand Slammers need two more bridge players. Please contact Carole L. Johnson if you're interested.

Contact: Carole L. Johnson 815-397-7275

International Relations

Contact: Faye Marcus 815-877-4285 (see article elsewhere in *The Initiative*)

Gourmet

Contact Katy Paterson or Jean Herro for information. (See article elsewhere in *The Initiative*.)



Upcoming Programs

Jan 13 – New Member Tea

Feb. 26 – Soup and Salad Luncheon with Polly Perkins speaking about quilts in women's History

March 26 – Women in My History Awards Reception, sponsored by Custom Copy and Printing

November 21- Annual Meeting – Place and time to be announcec



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS on the GO!

On Monday, Oct. 11, our active International Relations interest group met at Stockholm Inn for yummy Swedish pancakes and other food. Our guest speakers for the evening were Lindsay Kent and Sarah Stringer. from Rockford College. Lindsay is the Director of the Jane Addams Center for Civic Engagement at RC and Sarah is a graduate student at RC.

Lindsay and Sarah gave us information about the activities on the campus surrounding the exciting project of having Sheryl WuDunn, co-author of “Half the Sky”, speak at RC. Ms. WuDunn will be at the college on March 15, 2011. The students and faculty are engaged in several projects to bring attention to the issues of human trafficking in the Rockford area and women and poverty in African countries. They have formed a Half the Sky focus group that we are participating in.

How can our AAUW study group help with this exciting project? We came up with a some interesting ideas:

1. Movie night on Feb. 22 at RC along with a clothing collection to be sent to an African nation-possibly Cameroon. RC has a list of movies having to do with issues surrounding countries in Africa and the book Half the Sky. Sarah will email the list to Faye and the group will decide which movie to show. We would co-sponsor this with Rockford College.
2. Bead for Life party sponsored by our International Relations group.
Bead for Life is a non-profit organization providing impoverished women in Uganda an opportunity to lift their families out of poverty by making beaded jewelry out of recycled paper. This jewelry is very beautiful and is being sold all over the world. The profits are given back to the women to reinvest in the organization and to feed and cloth their families.
3. We are still looking at a Yoga session to raise money for Women to Women International and AAUW’s International Fellowships through EF.

Our group meets monthly. Interested? Call Faye Marcus (815-877-4285/ fe.marcus@att.net) or Karen Gutierrez (815-621-9528/kgutier509@aol.com). We welcome new faces.

GOURMET

Does anyone out there like to eat? We think you do.

Does anyone like to chat and socialize with friends while enjoying a delicious home-cooked meal? Again, we think you do.

We'd like to welcome anyone to become a new member of the Gourmet Group, either as a couple or as a single.

We meet on Sundays at 5:30 in the evenings at members' homes every six weeks or so. The hostess and co-hostess pick the recipes according to the theme, and the members who can attend that month make just one item.

Although the name of the group is "Gourmet", that doesn't mean super fancy and involved. It does mean a great meal shared with AAUW friends.

Why not give it a try? It's really lot of fun. You are under no obligation to attend every time. Call Katy Paterson at 815-964-0089 or Jean Herro 815-399-7213 to learn more. Our next dinner will be in December. Bon Appetit

LINKS YOU CAN USE!

Annie Hose-Ryan graciously posted pictures from the Fall Luncheon on the following link.

Right click to view the photos.

<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1252899901&ref=mf#!/album.php?aid=23440&id=131130010267665&fbid=143341242379>

AAUW Rockford Area Branch's web page www.aauw-il.org/rockford

Rockford Register Star – September 2, 2010 – Article about AAUW member Dr. Catherine Forslund and colleagues. www.rrstar.com



**Welcome New Members – these are the names received as of press time.
(Introductions and information to follow)**

Dr. Stephanie Quinn
Dana Bull Beckley

Corrections

e-mails	Donna Joy	joysd@att.net
	Lee Ladensburger	el207 @ comcast.net
	Carole L. Johnson	realclj@comcast.new

New Address

Sue Ellen Zagrabelny – 244 Northway Park Rd, #10, Machesney Park, IL 61115
Lee Ladensburger – 207 Secretariat's Way, Belvidere, IL 61008-2939

Newsletter Survey

Are you willing to receive your newsletter electronically?

Do you have e-mail, but just prefer to get a hard copy?

Don't have e-mail and need a hard copy?

We need to hear from you if you need to hear from YOU if you want to receive a hard copy of the Initiative by snail mail. Please contact Sue Ellen at 815-378-9715 by December 15 if you wish to receive the hard copy; otherwise beginning in January all members except those who do not have e-mail will receive The Initiative electronically.

Sunshine Committee

Liz Walgren has graciously agreed to be our Sunshine person, sending out cards at the death of members or in the case of serious illness.

AAUW's Mission:

The American Association of University Women advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research

AAUW's Diversity Policy Statement

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-Rockford's Purpose

To initiate positive change in the community reflecting AAUW's goal of equity for all women and girls and lifelong education; and to contribute to AAUW's Branch, State, and Association goals.

AAUW-Rockford's Vision

To develop a diverse and involved membership committed to AAUW's Mission and Purpose through programs, committee work, community engagement, working with coalitions, and the education of our membership.

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