



# The *INITIATIVE*

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN—ROCKFORD AREA BRANCH

Website: rockfordarea-il.aauw.net

January 2014

## Calendar 2014

Wed., Jan. 15, 7 – 8:30 am, Radison Inn  
*Womanspace Breakfast*

Sat., Jan. 18, 11:30 am – 3:00 pm  
Networking Luncheon, Deerfield Embassy Suites,  
Deerfield, IL Speaker Laura Caldwell, Director of  
Life After Innocence

Tues., Jan. 21, 12:45 pm-- *Bookbeat Book Group*  
*Fludd* by Hilary Mantel, Hostess: Marlene Mizen

Fri., Jan. 31, 12 Noon, *Let's Do Friday Lunch* at Ali Baba  
International Affairs and Gourmet Interest Groups  
invite everyone to attend

Wed., Feb. 5, 6 – 8 pm, Fisher Chapel, RU  
*The Right to Vote: The Rockford Connection*  
presented by League of Women Voters

Sat., Feb. 15, 11:00 am, 2nd Congregational-1st  
Presbyterian Church, Potluck luncheon.  
Speaker--Robin Carlson-Goethe, Dir. of Mother House

Mon., Mar. 17, 7:00 pm, Mendelssohn PAC Emerson  
House "Women In History" collaborative program  
with Sigma Alpha Iota Alumnae Chapter.  
Martha Dahlberg and area musicians will present a  
program about composer and pianist Amy Beach.

Tues., April 8—*Equal Pay Day*

Wed., Apr. 23, 7:00 pm, TBA  
Speaker--Marsha Ackerman—"*Think Like a Crook: How  
to Stay Safe Online*"

May 2 & 3, 2014 AAUW-IL Convention at Pheasant Run  
Resort

Sat., May 17, Forest Hills CC, Annual Meeting  
Speaker—Dr. Ehren Jarrett, Supt. of District 205  
Intro of STEM Scholarship winners

**Bring a potential new member and a favorite  
dish to the Feb. 15 Potluck Luncheon.  
Also please bring a donation for the Mother  
House Crisis Nursery.  
The response form is on page 2.**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Happy New Year**, everyone, and I hope that it will be a healthy one for you and your families.

**Our Branch's Vision** states: To develop a diverse and involved membership committed to AAUW's Mission and Purpose through programs, committee work, community engagement, collaborations and education.

Our 2014 programs and activities reflect these goals as we educate ourselves, collaborate with LWV, RU and SAI, support the Crisis Nursery and enjoy new foods and friendship. I hope that you will be able to attend this great line-up of events.

**Our 2013-14 Strategic Plan** mentioned a goal of 3 – 5% increase in fundraising. I'm thrilled to report that our 2013 auction realized \$1176.00. The board then voted to give donations to EF/LAF totaling \$1000.00. (Last year we gave \$610.00). That's an amazing increase!

This was due to the many donations that were made and collected for the Silent Auction on Dec. 15. Many thanks go to Karen Weedman and Carole Johnson for their help in collecting donations and organizing the auction and to all of you who brought donations and/or purchased all those lovely items.

Thanks also to our Program VP's, Donna and Marsha, for arranging the luncheon and program.

Two of our members, Amy Nyman and Dr. Catherine Forslund, will be part of the LWV presentation on Feb. 5. Amy will portray Julia Lathrop and Dr. Forslund will review historical events leading to the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965.

I'm excited about our March event—the lecture and recital about Amy Cheney Beach at Emerson House. Please see page four of the *Initiative* to learn **why** she will be our "Woman In History" topic.

**Barbara Simon, President**

*“A VALENTINE TO MOTHERHOUSE”*



**Potluck**

Feb. 15, 2014

11:00 a.m.

**Luncheon**

2<sup>nd</sup> Congregational/

1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church

**Robin Carlson-Goethe**

**Director of Mother House**

**Crisis Nursery**

**For the potluck, please bring a dish to pass.**

**Table ware and drinks will be provided.**

**Guests are welcome. Please contact**

**Donna Joy to indicate what you will bring-**

**[joysd248@att.net](mailto:joysd248@att.net) or 815-877-4762.**

**Crisis Nursery Wish List:**

Diapers, wipes, baby lotion, shampoo and ointment,

crib sheets, single bed sheets, pajamas size 0 – 5 yrs.

onesies, socks, bath and dish soap, paper towels,

Mr. Clean sponges, cleaning supplies, baby food,

Peanut butter crackers, cookies, mac and cheese

The **Bookbeat** book group meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 12:45 p.m. Please contact the hostess if you wish to attend. New members are welcome. Here are the books for 2014:

**Jan. 2 *Fludd* by Hilary Mantel**

Reviewer: Enid Michalowski  
Hostess: Marlene Mizen

**Feb. 18 *The End of Your Life Book Club* by Will Schwalbe** Reviewer: Group Discussion  
Hostess: Barbara Simon

**Mar. 18 *The School of Essential Ingredients* by Erica Bauermeister** Reviewer: Ruth Siegfried  
Hostess: Karen Shifo

**April 15 *The Burgess Boys* by Elizabeth Strout**  
Reviewer: Diane Kuehl  
Hostess: Faye Marcus

**May 20 *The Lowland* by Jhumpa Lahiri**  
Reviewer: Carle Newcomer  
Hostess: Enid Michalowski

**June 17 *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt**  
Reviewer: Kathy Dierstein  
Hostess: Carole Newcomer

## ***Transform Rockford***

**Be a part of the *Transform Rockford* initiative.**

Faye Marcus and Karen Hoffman have attended the first two community wide meetings. This is an important project that will make a positive impact on the entire Rockford area. AAUW public policy agenda fits right into this initiative.

**Please join the conversation at the Community Visioning Sessions. For more information, click on this website: [www.transformrockford.org](http://www.transformrockford.org).**

**The dates for the sessions are: Jan. 13, 16, 18, 21, 22, 27, and 30. Just go to the website listed above to find out the locations.**

**Wed., Feb. 5, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Fisher Chapel, Rockford University**

## ***The Right to Vote and the Rockford Connection***

The right to vote is one of the most important benefits of being a citizen of the U.S. Who can vote? Who could vote when the country was founded? Why was the Women's Suffrage Movement necessary? Why was the Voting Rights Act of 1965 enacted? What does the future hold for voter's rights in the U.S.?

This program is being presented by the **League of Women Voters** for the benefit of RU students. AAUW members are invited as well.

**Julia Lathrop (as portrayed by AAUW member Amy Nyman)** will inform us about the role of students at Rockford Female Seminary (now RU) in working for voting rights.

**Catherine Forslund, PhD, Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, Chair of the History Department, RU and AAUW member** will review historical events leading to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

**Marissa Liebling, LLD, Staff Attorney at the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and who leads the Voting rights Project** will discuss the current and future impact of the Supreme Court decision of June 2013 that overturned several sections of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

A reception will be held at 6:00 p.m. followed by the program at 6:30. There will be an opportunity to register to vote at this event.

*Learn Act Connect*

**Best Wishes** to Jane McAfee who has moved to Ft. Collins, CO. **Thanks** for your many years of membership here.



SIGMA

ALPHA

IOTA

## ***WOMEN IN HISTORY – AMY CHENEY BEACH***

**Monday, March 17, 7:00 p.m.**

**Mendelssohn PAC Emerson House**

**422 North Main Street**

**(enter parking lot on Church St. and park just north of Emerson House on Main Street)**

AAUW and the Rockford Alumnae Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota are collaborating on a program about pianist and composer Amy Cheney Beach.

Born in New Hampshire in 1867, she was a child prodigy who began composing music at age four and performing at age seven. She made her professional debut in Boston in 1883 and became a soloist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. In 1896, the BSO commissioned and performed her Gaelic Symphony in E Minor, Opus 32, which was recognized as the first symphonic work by an American woman.

In 1885, she married Dr. Henry Harris Aubrey Beach, a prominent Boston physician who was 25 years her senior. Thereafter she shifted her career to composition, writing an opera, many choral works and more than 150 chamber and orchestral works.

After his death in 1910, she resumed her career as a performer in Europe and the U.S. Her works are in a late Romantic style and contain intense lyricism.

Please come and enjoy a lecture by Martha Dahlberg about Amy Beach's life and music. Some of her works will be performed by members of Sigma Alpha Iota.