



THE INITIATIVE

American Association of University Women—Rockford Area Branch
September 2011

CALENDAR 2011

Tues., Sept. 6, 6-8 pm
@

East Side Branch Library
Hannah Warren, Speaker
On her Jhoole Weavers
Project in India

Sat., Sept. 17, 10am-2pm
Jane Addams Birthday
Celebration in
Cedarville, IL

Tues. Oct. 18,
6:30-8:30 pm
@

U of I College of Medicine
Women in Medicine Panel

Sat. Oct. 29
AAUW-IL Fall Conference
@ Stronghold Reserve
Oregon, IL

Sat., Dec. 3, 9:30 am-1 pm
Holiday Brunch and Fund
Raiser for EF/LAF
Rock Valley College
Children's Choir
Leah Baskin, Director
@
Wesley Towne Center

FUTURE DATES 2012

Sat., Feb 11, *Valentine*
Potluck

March (TBA)
Women in History Awards
Ceremony

President Christine Haeggquist

Another summer has come and gone and the time is here for AAUW members to gear up for our exciting 2011-12 year.

Let me introduce you to our new members this year:

Joan Bailey Murry

Anne Dempsey

Barbara Ellingson

Theresa Gilbert

Patricia Gomez

Mary Ellen Nilles

Dr. Stephanie Quinn

Joan Stehulak

We have been busy planning for the upcoming events and programs. I hope to meet you at our first event on Sept. 6. Refreshments will be served while we welcome our new members.

Program VPs—Faye Marcus and Donna Joy

Did you pick up the September/October issue of Rockford Women? Inside is a wonderful article highlighting our first speaker for the year—Rockford native, Hannah Warren. This twenty-seven year old made an impact on the lives of the women living in Maheshwar, India. Come to hear her talk of her experiences on September 6.

On Saturday, September 17, AAUW-IL will be celebrating Jane Addams' birthday. We will be carpooling to Cedarville, IL, her birthplace. When we arrive, we will tour the museum, talk with the local historian who is very knowledgeable about Jane and visit the grounds of her homestead. We will enjoy an informal lunch with a birthday cake. Then we will go to the cemetery where we will lay a wreath at her gravesite. The hours are from 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. If you still have energy left, you can visit local art galleries and wineries,

The Oct. meeting is co-sponsored by AAUW and League of Women Voters. Local women in the field of medicine will present

Membership VPs—Karen Weedman and Jean Herro

We have 63 members. Do you know someone who would like to join? Ask that person to be your guest. We welcome guests at all events.

2011-2012 BOARD

President—Christine Haeggquist

President Elect—

Barbara Simon

Program VPs—Faye

Marcus and Donna Joy

Membership VPs –

Karen Weedman and

Jean Herro

Secretary—Katy

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Publicity—Judy Schultz and Annie Hose-Ryan

Interest Group

Liaison—

Carole Newcomer

International

Relations—

Faye Marcus

Women in My

History--Joan Tunnell

Silent Auction—

Karen Weedman and

Judy Schultz

Check our website:

www.aauw-il.org/

rockford

INTEREST GROUPS**AAUW GOURMET GROUP**

We welcome new members to our Gourmet group. We meet every other month or so in members' homes on a Sunday night for dinner. Spouses are welcome to attend. Both meals and the conversations are always excellent. The hostess and co-hostess plan the menu and give a recipe to each attendee. Despite our name, no advanced degree of cooking experience is required. If you would like to join us contact:

Katy Paterson

815.964.0089 or

patersons@juno.com or

Jean Herro

815.399.7213

arehero@aol.com

BOOKBEAT

Bookbeat meets every third Tuesday of the month at 12:45. Participants take turn being the hostess and leading the discussion of the book review.

The books:

Sept. 20 **Into the Beautiful North** by Luis Alberto Urea

Reviewer: Roberta Ingrassia

Hostess: Faye Marcus

Oct. 18 **Hadji Mura or Death of Ivan Ilyich or Master and Man**
by Leo Tolstoy

Reviewer: Ruth Siegfried

Hostess: Beckie Weber

Nov. 15 **The Nine** by Jeffery Toobin

Reviewer: Karen Shifo

Hostess: Ruth Siegfried

GRAND SLAMMERS BRIDGE GROUP

Meets the third Thursday of the month at 7 PM

Contact Carole Johnson @ 815.397.7275

INTERNATIONAL CURRENT EVENTS

Come to the Sept. 6 meeting.

Many thanks to our AAUW Calling Committee: Ramona Cornea, Carole Johnson, Karen Shifo, and Mary Thompson. Your help is greatly appreciated.

**Community Days
Fundraiser for Rockford Branch of AAUW Scholarships
November 11 & 12, 2011**

- Who?** AAUW Rockford Branch members
- What?** Sell Bergner's coupon booklets for \$5 & keep the entire \$5 for the AAUW scholarship fund
- Where?** In the community & in the Cherryvale Bergner's store
- When?** Now through Saturday, Nov. 12, 2011 and in the Bergner's store on Monday, Oct. 10th from 10am – 8pm
- Why?** To raise important funds for our scholarship program
- How?** Each member commits to selling 5 coupon booklets and ten members serve a two hour shift selling the booklets at Bergner's on Monday, Oct. 10th

Coupon booklet features:

- *Spend \$5 Get \$10
- *Cost \$5, AAUW keeps the entire \$5
- *Customers receive a \$10 coupon to use on an item of \$10 or more with a few exclusions
- *Booklet coupons are valid on regular & sale-priced merchandise
- *(1) 20%/15%/10% shopping pass to use at the local Bergner's
- *(1) 30% off tiered Early Bird Coupon valid from Sat. Nov. 12th from 6am-10am
- *Pre-sell opportunity allows customers to select merchandise as early as Nov. 6th with the Community Days price & pick it up from Nov. 11th to Nov. 14th. *Door Busters & 30% off early bird coupons not part of pre-sell.

Please contact Judy Schultz, 398-8940, or email judylys@comcast.net to receive your five coupon booklets. They will also be available at the Sept. 6th Hannah Warren event & the Oct. 18th "Women in Medicine" Forum. Shop for your holiday gifts using these coupon booklets.

AAUW CONVENTION IN OUR NATION'S CAPITOL by Faye Marcus

It was really a privilege for me to attend the AAUW Convention in Washington, D.C. this past June. Over 700 women from all over the country gathered together to continue our work to “Break through Barriers for Women and Girls”. There were so many impressive and powerful women that presented at convention.

There were pre-convention tours to the Women’s Suffrage Museum, National Portrait Gallery, and the AAUW offices. Some of us (myself included) took part in a volunteer opportunity at the Washington D.C. Community Kitchen which prepares and delivers meals to over 500 agencies in the D.C. area.

Everyday included workshops, special interest groups and briefings on various important subjects such as membership, fund raising, AAUW funds, public policy, international relations, etc . There were panels on numerous important subjects: Why are so few women and girls entering the STEM fields? (AAUW ground breaking research); Bullying in Schools (AAUW’s newest research this fall); gender stereotypes; and the infamous Wal Mart v. Dukes workplace discrimination lawsuit.

The Convention opened on Thursday night, June 16 with a panel of powerful women in the Obama Administration. Friday was our day to storm the hill. Before we boarded the buses to head up to the hill, we were briefed by Lisa Maatz, AAUW Director of Public Policy and Government Relations, Congresswomen Jan Schakowsky from Illinois and Rosa DeLaura from Connecticut. They are powerful women and gave us some great information.

And the Big Teal Machine did “storm the hill”. 700 women arrived in buses and treaded up to the Senate to meet with our Senators or their legislative aides from the different states. We talked about Paycheck Fairness, Education, and Health Care-all issues important to women, girls, and families. We then met in small groups with our Congress people or their aids about these issues.

Then it was time to board buses again to head back to our hotel and get ready to attend a reception at the Brazilian embassy. What a beautiful building, good food, and music!

Saturday night’s convention banquet brought members together to celebrate AAUW’s 130 years of advocacy, philanthropy, and passion that enables AAUW to give women and girls worldwide the support they need to help them succeed in school, work, and life. The keynote speaker was Sarah Brokaw, daughter of journalist Tom Brokaw.

We were busy all the time, but it was so exhilarating! This was my 3rd national Convention and each time I feel so connected to AAUW members from across the country. For more information about convention, go to AAUW.org

SAVE THE DATE: June 9-12, 2013 - AAUW CONVENTION in NEW ORLEANS.

News from the State Board

The AAUW-IL State Board met July 15th and 16th in Bloomington for the Summer Board Meeting. Twenty-five women from throughout Illinois serve on the Board. We meet in July, January, and during the State Convention. During the Summer Board Meeting we make plans for the Fall AAUW State Meeting and also make preliminary plans for the State Convention.

The Fall Meeting will be held at Stronghold Castle on October 29. There is an option of spending Friday night at the castle. Since the meeting is so close to Rockford we hope that a lot of Rockford members will plan to attend. Branch officers will have a chance to talk to their State Board counterparts. There will be a keynote speaker, and you will have a chance to meet women from other branches around the state.

Another event being planned is a Field Trip to visit Jane Addams' hometown of Cedarville, Illinois on Sept. 17. We will be able to visit the museum in the village and see the home she lived in. (We will not get to see the inside however.) We will go to the cemetery and place a wreath on her grave.

Information on these two events will be forthcoming in the Fall Link. Be watching for your Link to arrive in early fall.

A concern of the State Board is that membership in AAUW-IL has been steadily falling and the number of branches has decreased. Many factors enter into this problem. Personal contact and invitation is the best way to increase membership as well as having interesting and informative programs. Collaboration with other women's organizations on projects makes AAUW more visible and marketable.

Illinois was recognized at the Association Convention for being generous contributors to the AAUW Funds in several categories.

Our state is hoping to receive an Impact Grant from AAUW to promote voter registration and education. The grant would train AAUW members to register voters at local colleges and encourage AAUW members to get them to the polls to vote. The state theme is Every Vote Counts-Make Sure Your Vote Is Counted.

Two Rockford Area Branch members serve on the State Board. Faye Marcus is Co-Director of International Affairs and Judy Jolly is Administrative Assistant.