



# The *INITIATIVE*

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN—ROCKFORD AREA BRANCH

Website: rockfordarea-il.aauw.net

September, 2015

## Branch Events 2015-16

Wednesday, September 9

6 pm, Tavern on Clark

Cynthia Nelson, *Girls' Schools in Tanzania*

Friday, September 18

International Day of Peace Gathering at Keeling-Puri

Plaza, 8:30 - 1

Monday, September 21

7:30 pm, Showplace 16

Film *I am a Girl* with YWCA

Saturday, Oct. 10

Fall Conference at Oakton Community College

Saturday, October 24

9:30 am, Tinker Swiss Cottage

Alix Fox—*The Two Mses. Tinkers*

Tuesday, November 17

6:00 pm Ciao Bella

Dr. Mary Weakes-Baxter *In Search of the Real Atticus: Harper Lee's Novel Go Tell A Watchman*

Saturday, December 5

11:00 am - 2:00 pm, Franchesco's

Holiday Luncheon & Silent Auction benefitting EF/LAF

Music by Johnny Boehlefeld, Baritone

Saturday, January 11

6:00 pm with LWV at YWCA

Film and Discussion: *Selma: Bridge to the Ballot*

Saturday, January 30

Networking Luncheon, Deerfield Embassy Suites,

Saturday, February 20

11:00 am, 2nd Congregational/1st Presbyterian

Church, Potluck luncheon.

Dr. Ramona Cornea *Exploring the Rockford Connection to Transylvania, the Land of Dracula*

Saturday, March 26

10:00 pm, Stockholm Inn

Dr. Stephanie Quinn *Women in Ancient Greece and Rome*

Wednesday, April 30

6:00 pm, Greenfire Wine Room

Marsha Ackerman, moderator *Why Join AAUW?*

Friday & Saturday, April 29 & 30

AAUW-IL Convention at Roosevelt University,  
Schaumburg Campus

Saturday, May 21

11:00 am, Forest Hills CC

Annual Meeting, Presentation of Scholarships

Keynote: Dr. Belinda Wholeben, Interim VP and  
Provost, Rockford University

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back, everyone! As you can see, we have an exciting year of events planned. Of special note are several collaborations with the YWCA, the League of Women Voters and Rockford University.

I would like to thank our program committee led by Regina Potts and Marsha Ackerman for planning a great variety of programs that are interesting and also meet the goals of AAUW. Committee members were Faye Marcus, Jean Herro Christine Haeggquist, and Sharon Boehlefeld.

I am thrilled to introduce you to **eight new members**.

Thank you to the board and VP Christine Haeggquist for their recruiting strategies. Please read a little bit about our new members on page 5. **Welcome!**

Our *Tip the Bartender* event this past Wednesday was lots of fun! Besides being a great social, we have gained \$1500.00 plus for our scholarship fund.

Many thanks to Diane and Ed Kuehl and Marsha and Larry Ackerman for being our hosts at the U-Club, to Katy Paterson for donating back part of the raffle money, and to the whole board and scholarship committee for their leadership.

If you weren't able to come, please help our fundraiser get to \$2000.00 by sending your donation to Treasurer Katy Paterson.

Hope to see you on September 9.

**Barbara Simon, President**

Thanks, everyone, for supporting our Scholarship Fund.



## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

by Sheryl Hall and Jean Herro

The International Affairs Interest Group has several ideas and topics for the 2015-16 year.

September will be especially busy with several events with an IA focus:

**Wed., September 9—6:00 pm at Tavern on Clark**  
Cynthia Nelson will speak about “*Girls’ Schools in Tanzania.*” See page 1 for more information.

**Friday, September 18—International Peace Day at Keeling-Puri Peace Plaza, 9 am to 1 pm**  
Volunteers needed. Contact Faye Marcus.

**Mon., September 21, 7:30 pm at Showplace 16**  
The film *I am a Girl* about the lives of girls around the world will be presented. Please reserve ASAP by using the website [gathr.us/screening/11613](http://gathr.us/screening/11613).

**Tues., September 22, 3:30 – 5 pm CLR**  
***Basics of Human Trafficking In Winnebago Co.***  
This class will be presented by board members of Rockford Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation. You **must** sign up for this through the Center For Learning in Retirement.

**Sunday, September 27, 7 pm in Arlington Heights** A film documentary about human trafficking will be presented and discussed. Faye and Sheryl are planning to go and can include others in their car.

**Wednesday, September 30, 12 noon at Katie’s Cup** Please join the group for lunch and learning about refugees from Congo who are living in Rockford.

**Whew! For the rest of the year.....**the group will plan follow-ups to these topics, investigate a clean water project in Guinea and help plan a Romanian lunch for Saturday, Feb. 20, when member Dr. Ramona Cornea will give a talk *Exploring the Rockkford Connection to Transylvania, the Land of Dracula.*”

**Please contact Sheryl Hall for information about any of these programs. [sa\\_design@comcast.net](mailto:sa_design@comcast.net)**

## AAUW 2015 CONVENTION

by Faye Marcus

Every two years about 1,000 women AAUW leaders from across the country and Puerto Rico gather together to find new ways to empower ourselves and our communities. This year we came together in beautiful San Diego where the weather is always glorious.

AAUW’s National Convention is a unique opportunity to learn new skills, gain insight, and connect with other amazing women.

We joined the wave in San Diego to learn about Leadership and what it takes to make a woman a leader.

How do we solve the equation of women and girls’ underrepresentation in science, technology, engineering and math? (Support our branch STEM scholarship).

What can we do right now to help enforce TITLE IX and other laws that protect our rights?

Speakers and panel members at convention addressed these issues and more. The awardees of fellowships gave key leadership lessons that we can bring back to our branches.

We had very full days-not much playing. We attended workshops, round table discussions at 7 a.m. and were able to consult with AAUW staff about many issues from social media to fundraising. We had fun with pre and post - convention tours and a great social action event at the beautiful library in San Diego. We attended a banquet and reception and a couple of happy hours.

Most of all, there’s something special when 1,000 women connect, renew, and explore together. It’s called an EDUVACATION! Thanks for sending me as your representative.

**SAVE THE DATE: 2017 in Washington D.C. The AAUW Juggernaut will take our nation’s capital by storm June 14-17, 2017. Don’t miss out. It would be great if several Rockford branch members could attend.**



## **TITLE IX and AAUW's New Initiative by Faye Marcus**

In 1972, TITLE IX was passed into law as part of the U.S. Education Amendments. TITLE IX states as follows: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance".

AAUW was one of the main groups that advocated for the passage of TITLE IX; and we are still fighting to keep TITLE IX strong. Forty-three years later, TITLE IX's work is not done. Today, about 28 % of college women are targets of attempted or completed sexual assault; nearly half of students in grades 7-12 report facing sexual harassment; just 36 % of athletic operating dollars are spent on women's teams; and women and girls are still seriously underrepresented in STEM classes at all levels.

To correct these deficiencies, AAUW has instituted a new initiative and our branch is part of this project. TITLE IX requires that every school district has at least one employee who is responsible for coordinating the district's compliance with the law. That person is the TITLE IX Coordinator. The U.S. Department of Education has just released new resources to help these coordinators understand the full scope of their jobs

As Public Policy chair, I want to thank Christine Haeggquist, Wanda Hoover, Claire McIntyre, Becky Laible, and Dale Dunnigan for helping with this project. Each of us will be contacting specific school districts and providing them with these resources. These new resources emphasize something that AAUW members know well: TITLE IX is more than just athletics. TITLE IX coordinators should be monitoring the gender ratio in STEM courses, monitoring to end sexual harassment and violence in schools, and supporting pregnant and parenting students in middle, high schools and colleges.

However, not all school districts know about these resources. And that's where AAUW will help. We

are going to spread the word to schools in Winnebago, Boone, and Ogle counties.

## **BOOKBEAT INTEREST GROUP**

All are invited to join the interest group by calling or emailing the hostess each month. Bookbeat begins at 12:45 on the third Tuesday of each month except December. We enjoy dessert and beverage and then the review.

### **September 15--*The News Sorority* by Sheila Weller**

Hostess: Faye Marcus  
Reviewer: Karen Shifo

### **October 20—*The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion**

Hostess: Enid Michalowski  
Reviewer: Beckie Weber

### **November 17—*Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee**

Hostess: TBA  
Reviewer: TBA

## **LET'S DO FRIDAY LUNCH INTEREST GROUP**

This group meets usually meets at noon on the last Friday of the month at a restaurant chosen by the group. Anyone can come anytime by calling Regina Potts.

On September 25, the group will meet at Noonan's at the Aldeen Golf Course.

## **FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

please contact Christine Haeggquist (815-208-2192) or [chaeggquis@aol.com](mailto:chaeggquis@aol.com).

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

### **Linda Auman**

Linda was born in Minnesota and moved to Indiana. She was graduated from SIU with BS in Communication Fine Arts with a concentration in Journalism/Advertising. Her first job at the Belvidere Daily Republican and later worked in real estate. She then joined Rock Valley College, working for 16 years with high school students taking classes for dual credit. She retired in May 2015.

### **Dale Dunnigan      Welcome, Dale!**

### **Kathe Heyer**

Kathe was born in Atlanta, GA and lived in many different cities growing up. She went to Rochelle HS and to Illinois Wesleyan where she majored in music (voice and violin). Later she switched to English and eventually got a BS in Business Management from Cardinal Stritch U.

Kathe was an Assistant Manager at Kroch's & Brentano's at CherryVale, the first female Contract Administrator at Sundstrand, a corporate trainer for Newell, and a corporate IT Analyst, Desktop Services Manager and Software Asset Management for Woodward. She retired in 2013. Recently, she has participated in the Tech Team and Process Team in the "Transform Rockford" movement.

"I enjoy reading, movies, music, travel and the peace and quiet of my backyard."

### **Becky Laible**

"I grew up in Rockford and never expected to come back after college. For more than 20 years I was the director of a Truancy Prevention/At Risk Program for a 5 county area in central Illinois. After my daughter left for college I realized that I was in danger of becoming the crazy old lady wandering around the very small town I lived in. So I came back to the Rockford area to return to teaching and help my parents. My older sister has been very active in her AAUW chapter in New Jersey and she encouraged me to join AAUW. I look forward to more activities with AAUW."

### **Elizabeth O'Leary**

"I am a graduate of Augustana College and Northwestern University. My career has been teaching vocal music on many levels (Kindergarten through college) and in many places. I have also had a nice career as a mezzo soprano. I still sing actively and hope to do more now that I am retired, finally! I'm an avid reader, especially historical novels (I love history), and am not without a stack of books, now that I actually have time to read.

### **Cathy Riplinger**

"I'm a social worker and Chicago transplant, arriving here in 1988 with my son (age 8) and daughter (age 4). After 5 years at RMH, I spent 18 wonderful years at Janet Wattles. Since 2010, I've maintained a private practice for psychotherapy, and pursued interests in reading the classics, becoming a news junkie, and traveling with my daughter. I'm looking forward to sharing these interests with new friends and contributing to the AAUW as I'm able."

### **Deepshikha Shukla**

Deepshikha was born and brought up in India and came to the US for her Ph.D. in Physics in 2001. After the completion of her Ph.D. she held a couple of postdoctoral positions before focusing on undergraduate teaching. She recently moved to Rockford from Greensboro, NC. She is passionate about outreach, especially in underprivileged sections of the society and cares deeply about women's issues. She lives in Rockford with her husband and four-year old son.

### **Donnette Tinsley**

"I have been with Rockford University for 7.5 years. Currently, I am the Director of the Jane Addams Center for Civic Engagement and Coordinator of New Student Orientation at Rockford University. The Jane Addams Center works collaboratively with Community Partners, in the Rockford Region, to educate our students on the services they provide and the individuals they serve. With our Community Partners we work together on a variety of volunteer opportunities for our students, faculty and staff.

On a personal note: I have lived in Rockford area for over 30 years. My hobbies consist of gardening and crocheting. I attended Judson University for my undergraduate studies and the University of Louisville for my graduate studies."