



The *INITIATIVE*

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN—ROCKFORD AREA
BRANCH Website: www.aauw-il.org/rockford November 2014

Calendar 2014-15

Fri., Nov. 7 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
AAUW Wine Tasting at Artale's
Raise a Stem for STEM

Sat., Nov. 15, 9:30 am,
Breakfast at Stockholm Inn,
Kari McDonald & Amy
Michalek: *The Rockford Etsy
Partnership*. Bring art
supplies for Lathrop School

Sat., Dec. 6, 11:00 am – 2:00
pm, Franchesco's. Holiday
Luncheon and Silent Auction
benefitting EF/LAF. Speaker:
Kelly Epperson

Fri., Jan. 16, 12 noon Let's Do
Friday Lunch at Ali Baba

Sat., Feb. 21, 11:00 am,
Second/First Church Potluck
Lunch Dr. Andrea Azar—*Art,
Culture and Islam in the Middle
East: A Woman's Perspective*

Thurs., Mar. 12, 6 – 8:30 pm,
Girl Scout Headquarters
The Rev. Amy Nyman—*Juliette
Gordon Low*

Thurs., Apr. 16 TBA
Dr. Paulette Gilbert—*Maya
Angelou*

May 1 & 2—Hilton Doubletree,
Bloomington, IL AAUW-IL
Convention

Sat., May 16, 11:00 am, Forest
Hills CC, Annual Meeting
Michael Mastroianni,
President of RVC

AAUW THINGS TO DO

- Don't forget to vote on Nov. 4.
- Come to the wine tasting on Friday evening, Nov. 7, 5:30 to 8:30 at Artales's. Bring a friend.
- Begin looking in drawers and bins for fabric, buttons, paper, yarn, wood scraps or other "crafty" items that you could bring to the breakfast on Nov. 15. Your donations will benefit the art room at Lathrop School.
- Make a reservation for the breakfast at Stockholm Inn on Nov. 15 by emailing Regina Potts rp226@aol.com We will all enjoy the breakfast and the program about the Rockford Etsy Partnership.
- Take your donation agreement for auction items (pg. 6) with you when you shop or visit restaurants this month. The auction proceeds will benefit EF/LAF. If you have a donation from a restaurant or shop, please report it to me. I will keep a list and let people know so that the same places are not asked again.
- Check out the reservation form for the Dec. 6 Holiday Luncheon and Silent Auction at Franchesco's (pg 3). Our speaker, Kelly Epperson, will give an inspirational talk about "The Joy of Everything."
- Invite a friend or potential new member and make a reservation by mailing in your check to Regina Potts.
- Last but not least—enjoy a beautiful Thanksgiving!

Membership Information:

Contact Christine Haeggquist @ 815-624-0579 or chaeggquis@aol.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In this season of giving thanks, I'm thankful for the excellent board and committee members that we have this year. I can always count on each group to charge ahead with their responsibilities, keeping each of the initiatives of AAUW Rockford Area Branch going.

Our scholarship committee under Diane Kuehl is ready for the Artale Wine Tasting on Nov. 7 and is busy revising documents for the 2015 Scholarship. They are also presenting the AAUW scholarship at the Community Foundation scholarship event.

Our Public Policy chair, Faye Marcus, has prepared several documents in this issue about the election and current events.

Our Silent Auction chair, Karen Weedman and committee are getting ready for Dec. 6. The proceeds of the auction benefit our national Educational and Legal Aid Funds. **Everyone** please find or bring one donation for the auction.

Our program VP's Marsha Ackerman and Regina Potts are busy with the planning for each of the remaining programs.

Our Membership VP Christine Haeggquist, Secretary Tammy Schulz and Treasurer Joan Stehulak keep their responsibilities up to date.

The Publicity Committee, Ramona Cornea and Sharon Boehlefeld, are trying new ideas to get AAUW's name in the public view. Be watching for a feature in RRS's *Slice* (online) and our scholarship to be listed in the RRS under scholarship opportunities. Sharon is also going to help with our web site.

Please read page 3 for the Bookbeat (Carole Newcomer), Dining Explorer (Ruth Siegfried) and International Affairs (Jean Herro and Sheryl Hall) listings coming up.

Please support our Branch by attending as many events as you can. It's an opportunity to renew old friendships, meet our newer members and support the goals of AAUW.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Barbara Simon, President

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Legacy Circle

What is the Legacy Circle? This is the way that you can affirm your commitment to women and girls.

Legacy Circle is AAUW's planned giving program. If you are passionate about AAUW's Mission and Public Policy as I am, you may want to consider becoming a member of the Legacy Circle.

There are many ways to make a planned gift to AAUW. You can establish a charitable gift annuity or name AAUW as a beneficiary in your will, trust, insurance policy, or IRA, among other options.

I am a Proud Legacy Circle member. I hope more of you will join me. Please visit www.aauwlegacy.org for more information or call AAUW at 877-357-5587.

Faye Marcus

(Faye was honored this past weekend by the Jewish Federation of Rockford for her devotion to social action and her service to the community).

PUBLIC POLICY

The AAUW ACTION FUND Congressional Voting Record is now available on line. I also have some copies that I will bring to our next meeting. This publication provides us with information about how our Federal legislators-Senate and House-have voted in the 113th Congress (Jan. 2013-Aug. 2014) on some specific issues that are important to AAUW's mission and public policy program. It really is interesting to see how our elected officials vote.

Congressional

Record: <http://www.aauwaction.org/congressionalrecord>

You can upload the congressional record.

Do you know how our Public Policy Program is developed? Every two years, the National Public Policy committee and the great AAUW Public Policy staff in Washington work together to revise this program. Right now we are asking you-AAUW members-to comment on our suggested revisions. You can place your comments on line until Dec. 1, 2014. In April, you can vote on line for the public policy program, national board members, and by-laws. Find out more about it and comment if you want by going to this site: This program is member generated and you are members.

<http://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election>.

Faye Marcus,

Rockford Area Branch Public Policy Chair
Member National Public Policy Committee



AAUW LUNCHEON & SILENT AUCTION

(benefitting EF/LAF & Branch Programming)

Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014

Franchesco's—7128 Perry Creek Parkway

10:30—Bring Auction Items

11:00—Auction Begins

11:45—Luncheon

12:30—Program—*The Joy of Everything*” by Kelly Epperson

Luncheon cost is \$25.00. Reservation deadline is Nov.28.

Menu choices are:

Chicken Piccata: Boneless breast of chicken sautéed with lemon and capers in butter sauce accompanied with house salad, green beans and twice baked potato.

Parmesan Crusted Tilapia: topped with roasted shallot artichoke cream sauce and accompanied with house salad, green beans and twice baked potato.

Gnocchi Basilico VG: accompanied with house salad, green beans and garlic bread.
All lunches will include coffee or tea.

Name _____ Entree _____

Guest _____ Entree _____

Guest _____ Entree _____

Please send check made out to AAUW Rockford (\$25.00 per person) to Regina Potts, 4907 Streamside Dr., Rockford, IL 61111. Phone 815-262-6504 or email rp226@aol.com . **Deadline is Nov. 28.**

DINING EXPLORERS

Come one; come all! The old Gourmet group would like new members! AAUW members and their significant others or individually are invited to join.

Dec. 7 Christmas Tea

Feb. TBA Ojeda's Steak House, 11 St.

Apr. TBA La Petite Creperie, Woodstock, IL

Jun. Prairie Street Brewhouse, Rockford

Aug. La Vigna, Oregon, IL

If you wish to be added to the email list for Dining Explorers, please contact Ruth Siegfried, Jean Herro, or Katy Paterson.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The International Affairs Interest Group had a great time on Oct. 17 eating lunch at Banana Cherry Bakery and talking with the two Therasas about life in Nigeria.

The next events will be a **Let's Do Friday Lunch at Ali Baba Middle Eastern restaurant on Jan. 16**, 12 noon and the **Middle Eastern Potluck** at Second/First Church on **Feb. 21**. Dr. Andrea Azar will speak about the lives of women in the Middle East.

Jane Addams Day in Chicago

Saturday, Dec. 13, 2014

Join AAUW Chicago for a celebration of Jane Addams Day at Hull House Museum, 3:00 to 4:30 pm. Cost is \$10.00

RSVP to chicagoaauw@hotmail.com by Dec. 10

BOOKBEAT INTEREST GROUP

Bookbeat meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 12:45. Please call the hostess if you would like to attend.

Nov. 18—*The Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Klein

Hostess: Faye Marcus

Reviewer: Marlene Mizen

Jan. 20—*Enemy Women* by Paulette Jiles

Hostess: Barbara Simon

Reviewer: Ruth Siegfried

Feb. 17—*Nora Webster* by Colm Tobin

Hostess: Ruth Siegfried

Reviewer: Barbara Simon

Mar. 17—*Still Alice* by Lisa Genova

Hostess: Marlene Mizen

Reviewer: Faye Marcus

Apr. 21 TBA

May 19—*Bully Pulpit* by Doris Kearns Goodwin

Hostess: Beckie Weber

Reviewer: Kathy Dierstein

32nd ANNUAL NETWORKING LUNCHEON

Feb. 7, 2015, 11:30 am Deerfield Embassy Suites

The speaker will be Dr. Lise Elliot, author of *Pink Brain, Blue Brain: How Small Differences Grow into Troublesome Gaps and What We Can Do About It*.



Supreme Court Preview Call
AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund
Wednesday, October 22 2014

I. How the Supreme Court works

II. Fallout from Burwell v. Hobby Lobby

In last summer's disappointing Burwell v. Hobby Lobby decision, the Supreme Court ruled that closely-held corporations may prevent their employee health plans from covering forms of contraception to which the corporation's owners are religiously opposed. Despite Justice Alito's assurance that the Hobby Lobby ruling would have limited reach, fallout from the decision continues to threaten employees' access to preventative healthcare. The implications of the decision for all for-profit corporations may be significant. Religious non-profits are testing the limits of the Hobby Lobby decision by challenging other aspects of contraceptive coverage.

III. Restricting Choice: TRAP Laws

A number of states across the country have passed so-called TRAP laws in an attempt to restrict and even eliminate women's access to legal abortion. "TRAP" stands for "Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers." Many anti-choice laws impose restrictions on patients, but TRAP laws are designed to prevent doctors from performing abortions altogether. TRAP laws are passed under the guise of protecting women's health, even though medical providers say the provisions generally do nothing to increase the standard of care and instead make it more difficult for women to find good reproductive healthcare.

Women and advocates across the country have challenged these laws. Most recently, the Supreme Court prevented a TRAP law in Texas from going into effect while the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit decides whether the Texas law is constitutional. The Court may consider another TRAP law challenge this year.

IV. Pregnancy Discrimination: Young v. UPS

Peggy Young, a UPS driver, requested temporary light duty work because of medical complications during her pregnancy. UPS refused to provide light duty work, even though it allowed several other categories of workers to be assigned

light duty work when they were temporarily disabled. After Young sued under the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, both the federal district court and the Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit sided with UPS.

The Pregnancy Discrimination Act was passed in 1978 in order to prevent employees from discriminating against women simply because they were pregnant. The PDA requires employers to treat pregnant employees the same as other employees who are similar in their ability or inability to work. If the Court rules against Young, it could leave pregnant workers vulnerable to discrimination on the job.

V. Voting Rights At Risk

In November, voters in nearly half the country are expected to face new voting restrictions at the polls that weren't there during the last midterm election four years ago. The exact number of voters who will be impacted depends on the outcomes of pending court challenges, but one thing is clear: These voting restrictions will hurt women, minorities, young voters, and the elderly the most. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was supposed to stop states from passing these kinds of voting restrictions. But the Court's 2013 decision in Shelby County v. Holder weakened the law, gutting the spirit but leaving the name.

The Supreme Court recently allowed significant voting restrictions in Texas to stay in place for November's election and may rule on additional voting restrictions this year. The Court has already agreed to hear a case from Alabama challenging racial gerrymandering in the state.

VI. Marriage Equality Surging

In the best news of the new term, marriage equality is increasing across the country as one same-sex marriage ban after another is struck down. All but one federal judge to consider the question has ruled that same-sex marriage bans are unconstitutional. Several states whose bans had been rejected by lower courts asked the Supreme Court to review their cases. So far, the Court has declined to hear any of the cases, making marriage equality a reality in many states. In a year with so many high-stake cases, it's exciting to tally the marriage equality victories we've won so far. But much is left to be decided, and the Court's term is far from over.

Faye Marcus, Public Policy Chair
(Faye is on the National Public Policy
committee)

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

ROCKFORD AREA BRANCH

AAUW DONATION AGREEMENT

The American Association of University women advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, research and philanthropy. The organization was founded in 1881 and the Rockford Area Branch in 1929. Our vision is to continue to develop a diverse, involved membership committed to this mission statement.

If you would like to donate a silent auction item for our Dec.6, 2014 event, we will acknowledge your business in our program.

Funds raised will be used for AAUW philanthropies and activities.

BUSINESS NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM _____

Signature of Donor _____

Signature of AAUW Member _____

Thank you for your donation!