

## BRANCH EVENTS CALENDAR 2017

**Friday, January 27: 12pm, Baci's Kitchen,  
2900 N. Perryville Rd. – Let's Do Lunch**

**Saturday, January 28: Deerfield**  
Networking Luncheon

**Saturday, February 11: 11am, Second/First  
Church** – Potluck and Living History Portrayal  
of Sarah Grimke - Unlikely Abolitionist by Amy  
Nyman

**Thursday, February 16: 5:15pm, Tavern on  
Clark** – Board Meeting

**Wednesday, March 15: 5:30pm, Burpee  
Center-Regents Hall, Rockford University** –  
Mayoral Candidate Forum (sponsored by  
AAUW / League of Women Voters)

**Saturday, March 18: 10am, Stockholm Inn** –  
Barriers and Bias: Presentation of AAUW  
Research by Dr. Stephanie Quinn

**Wednesday, April 26: 6pm, Tavern on Clark**  
– Bessica Raiche: First Woman Aviator of  
America, Midway Village Presentation

**Saturday, May 5 & 6: Champaign IL**  
AAUW IL State Convention

**Saturday, June 3: 11am, Forest Hills  
Country Club** Annual Meeting and Luncheon,  
Keynote Speaker: Litesa Wallace

**June 14 – 17: Washington DC** AAUW  
National Convention

**Tuesday, July 18: 5:00pm-7:00pm.**  
**Rockford University Club** – Tip the Bartender  
Local AAUW STEM Scholarship Fundraiser

*Guests are welcome at all events. Let's invite interesting  
and active women to our events.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

An unprecedented event occurred on January 21, 2017. Over five million people from seven different continents came together for what is now known as THE WOMEN'S MARCH. The participants were people of all genders, origins, ages, religions as well as religious beliefs.

The purpose was to bring attention to the opposition of the current federal administration's agenda concerning women, their rights and freedoms.

At least eight from the Rockford Branch of AAUW marched locally. Others traveled to other cities. It is estimated that over five million worldwide attended. In Rockford, it was estimated that there were between 800 to 1000 in attendance. Two of our speakers were female clergy who spoke out on behalf of all women.

In contrast to protests on the previous day, the Women's March was noted for its civility, congeniality and respect for police officers everywhere. In Rockford, we thanked them as we walked along peacefully trying to remain as compliant as possible.

The march was followed on January 22, 2017 with a Unity in Diversity meeting at the Rockford Muslim Community Center, where people of all religions in attendance including Jews, Christians, Muslims, and others as well all ethnic groups vowed to work together for a more peaceful country with freedom and equality for all. Members of AAUW were in attendance.

More such activities are scheduled.

**Karen Hoffman, President**

## AAUW INDIVIDUALS RECOGNIZED FOR YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

Nancy Donohue - 50 plus years  
Jean Berenak - 40 years  
Karen Shifo - 30 years  
Judy Schultz - 30 years  
Claire Lindem - 30 years

Mary Thompson - 20 years  
Lelia Ladenburger - 20 years  
Claire McIntyre - 10 years  
Joan Stehulak - 5 years  
Ann Dempsey - 5 years

**Congratulations, ladies!**

## Our Upcoming Events

### AAUW Rockford Branch February Meeting



## Sarah Grimké – Unlikely Abolitionist

*A Living History Portrayal by Amy Nyman*

### Presentation & Potluck Luncheon

Saturday, Feb. 11, 11:00am at Second Congregational/First Presbyterian Church

Contact Barbara Simon with potluck questions.

RSVP to Regina Potts (email to [rp226@aol.com](mailto:rp226@aol.com) or call 815-262-6504) by Wednesday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>.

*Please note what you plan to bring.*



*Abolition  
of Slavery*

Learn about Sarah Grimké, early female abolitionist. Sue Monk Kidd's novel [The Invention of Wings](#) told part of her story.



## Save this March date – Stockholm Inn

Save the date

Saturday, March 18 at 10:00am

**Barriers and Bias**  
THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP  
AAUW  
empowering women since 1881

AAUW research, presented by Dr. Stephanie Quinn

## PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES by Faye Marcus

Well, the presidential election is over, and President Donald Trump was sworn into office on January 20, 2017.

No matter how you voted, it is very important for each of us to be aware of issues that we, as AAUW members, view as important. You will be receiving Action Alerts about these issues. I hope that you will take them seriously and contact your congress people and state legislators with your views. It is our responsibility as citizens to become educated and become activists. Don't sit back and expect someone else to do it. It is up to YOU!

Be aware of local elections: February 28 is a primary for candidates for mayor, county board, and city alderpersons in Rockford, Loves Park, Belvidere, and other local municipalities. April 4 is the local general election for the above offices, including school board. Although state and federal elections are very important, local government is what guides our lives daily.

You can become an educated voter by listening to news reports, reading the paper, and attending candidate forums.

Meanwhile, keep informed.

Faye Marcus

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**SAVE THE DATE:** Wednesday, March 15 at 5:30pm at Burpee Center  
– Regents Hall, Rockford University

Mayoral Candidate Forum sponsored by AAUW Rockford Area Branch  
and Greater Rockford League of Women Voters

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## PUBLIC POLICY REMINDER

From time to time, I send information regarding webinars that national AAUW provides on various topics. These are really interesting so please sign up to take advantage of them if you can.

You can let our members of Congress know how we feel on various bills that are important to AAUW. I send out ACTION ALERTS – please read them and become a “2-minute advocate.”

### Donna Joy Memorial STEM SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

The STEM Scholarship Committee is busy connecting with regional high schools seeking qualified applicants for our 2017 scholarship. It is with “Joy” that we will be offering THREE awards in 2017. Members will be invited to the June 3rd Annual Meeting Luncheon to meet this year's winners!

Our 2017 Tip the Bartender fundraiser will be on Tuesday, July 18th from 5:00-7:00pm at Rockford University.



## Book Beat Reading List 2017

**Book Beat meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 12:45. Please call the hostess if you would like to attend.**

**Jan. 17:** *America's First Daughter* by Stephanie

Dray and Laura Kimoie

Reviewer: Faye Marcus

Hostess: Barbara Simon

Co-hostess (dessert): Pat Gomez

**Feb. 21:** *Sisi: The Empress on her Own*

by Allison Pataki

Reviewer: Thelma Bowles

Hostess: Ruth Siegfried

**March 21:** *The Witches* by Stacy Schiff

Reviewer: Karen Shifo

Hostess: Enid Michalowski

**April 19:** *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Reviewer: Enid Michalowski

Hostess: Faye Marcus

**May 16:** *The Japanese Lover* by Isabel Allende

Reviewer: Pat Gomez

Hostess: Kathy Dierstein

**June 20:** *White Collar Girl* by Renee Rosen

Reviewer: Diane Kuehl

Hostess: Karen Shifo

**July 18:** *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance

Reviewer: Kathy Dierstein

Hostess:

### Board Meetings

**Board Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 5:15pm.**

**Members are always welcome to attend.**

## AAUW Treasurer's Report

**Katy Paterson**

January 18, 2017

### Operating Fund

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	\$ 2,977.90
<i>Receipts</i>	
Schnucks Scrip	\$ 54.43
Dues	\$ 227.50
Holiday Lunch	\$ 1,006.00
Auction/Donations	\$ 1,608.00
<i>Disbursements</i>	
Barbara: Holiday Lunch Mailing	\$ 63.37
Dues	\$ 152.50
Franchesco's	\$ 988.57
Charting the Course	\$ 1,200.00
<b>Ending balance on January 18, 2017</b>	<b>\$ 3,469.39</b>

### AAUW Scholarship Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 6,196.97
Donations	\$ 15.65
<b>Ending balance on January 18, 2017</b>	<b>\$ 6,212.62</b>

As of January 18, 2017, we have 72 members.

## Welcome to New Members

Welcome to new and returning members!

Mary Lou Fitzpatrick  
 Avis Hallock  
 Sandra Locke (returning)  
 Zoe Norwood  
 Jacqueline Parochka

You will receive their information via email  
 Please greet them at upcoming events.

## Membership Report – Pat Gomez

Membership is pleased to report that we currently have 73 members. A warm welcome to our newest members: Avis Hallock, Zoe Norwood and Jacqueline Parochka. We are also happy to note that Sandra Locke renewed her membership.

Barbara Simon is sending everyone an update with new member contact information to insert in your 2016-2017 Directory.

The membership committee needs 2 or 3 volunteers to help with community outreach, member recruitment and retention, and the calling committee. If you would like to help, please contact Pat Gomez at 815-262-2277 or [patmugomez@gmail.com](mailto:patmugomez@gmail.com).

## AAUW Funds – by Barbara Simon

Our Branch contributed \$1200.00 to the *Charting the Course* Campaign. Nationally, the campaign totaled \$1,200,000 which will serve as seed money for AAUW programs such as *Elect Her*, STEM programs and *Start Smart* and *Work Smart*.

*Thank you to all who contributed at the Silent Auction in December or sent checks.*

### ***Best of Luck to our President, Karen Hoffman.***

She is a candidate for alderman in the 8th Ward in Rockford. The primary will be Feb. 26 and, as there is no opponent in the general election, the winner will be the alderman – or should we say alderwoman?

## Women's March Rockford – January 21, 2017 by Sheryl Almquist Hall

AAUW Rockford took to the streets in support of the local Women's March on Saturday, January 21, 2017. The route began across from City Hall on the east side of town to Emanuel Episcopal Church on the west side across from Rockford Women's Club. AAUW was proudly represented with signs which read "AAUW: Empowering Women Since 1881" and citing key initiatives like pay equity, lifelong education, S.T.E.M. scholarships, Title IX and promoting positive change in the community.

The following AAUW members joined the 1,000 plus crowd of women and men participating in the March: Christine Haeggquist and prospective member and friend, Dana; Faye Marcus, Sheryl Hall, Pat Gomez, Kathe Heyer, and President Karen Hoffman.

A few photos follow in this issue and are available on our website at: <http://rockfordarea-il.aauw.net>

Have a smart phone? ✓ Like to shop? ✓ Want to help increase branch finances? ✓

See your Oct.21 email from Karen Hoffman to learn how to help by using eScrip.



Help get \$100 for Rockford Area  
Branch AAUW

How can 10 = 100?

## Paper or paperless?

*Look for a survey soon in your email.*

Branch communicators would like to know if they can save both trees and postage by eliminating the mailed invitations to our annual holiday and spring luncheons. Instead, you would receive only email invitations with dates, times, locations, menu choices and prices.

You would still need to mail a check and a note with your preferences to the luncheon organizers, as you do now.

The email subject line for the survey will include "Rockford Branch AAUW" and will come via Survey Monkey.

If you don't use email, please mail a note with your vote, along with your name and mailing address to Sharon Boehlefeld at 1884 Sextant Dr., Davis, IL 61019, no later than February 10.

## ANNOUNCING – a New Rockford Area Branch Interest Group



### ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION GROUP led by Dr. Christina Kamer

**Who:** Available to active members of Rockford Area Branch. The communications, using our current email list, will come from Barbara Simon who will act as contact person for the group.

**What and Why:** The purpose of the Interest Group Roundtable Discussion is to support the National AAUW agenda by discussing key topics and recommending action by the AAUW Rockford Board or by individual members.

**How:** Participants research a topic of interest from the National AAUW website or current events, bring the topic to the discussion and explain what they've learned about the topic. Each month the group could reach consensus on topics and make recommendations to the board and membership for support and advocacy. Topics can be suggested in advance to Dr. Christina Kamer at [ckamer@hrcmc.com](mailto:ckamer@hrcmc.com)

**When:** *TENTATIVELY* – Meet on Friday, 1st week of the month from 11 – 12:30. Participants can order a drink or food if they wish. The first meeting will be on March 3, 2017.

**Where:** Katie's Cup, pending availability. Other locations may be suggested.

### Topics can include:

- Topics from national – YES! This is exactly where we think we can get more local advocacy, a voice for our branch and members and let them know we have a strong linkage to National.
- Current events – YES! National is definitely following current events. The webpage is full of opportunities for us to participate in a strong voice along with others.
- How to respond to the moment, with new tools in your tool kit – YES! There are tool kits on the website that describe how members can participate, what to do and how to do it.

*We welcome your input and suggestions. You don't have to attend every session; simply reply to Barbara's email when you are coming. Please let us hear your ideas for getting this group going!*





Several AAUW Rockford Branch members marched in Rockford on Saturday, Jan.21 to participate in the national marches to assert that "Women's rights are human rights." In coordination with the national event that took place in Washington DC, grassroots organizers created "sister" marches worldwide.



**Women's March Rockford – January 21, 2017**

Do you like to write? Or perhaps you have an idea for an article for *The Initiative*?

If you'd like to help with this newsletter, please contact Kathe Heyer or Barbara Simon to volunteer.  
Remember, it's only as good as we make it!