

## AT AAUW EVENTS CALENDAR 2018

**Friday, Mar.23: 12:00pm at JMK Nippon, 2551 N, Perryville Rd. — Let's Do Lunch**

**Thursday, Apr. 5: 5:30pm at GreenFire Restaurant — AAUW Board Meeting**

**Friday, Apr. 6: 10:30am at Katie's Cup — Round Table Discussion Group — Led by Dr. Christina Kamer**

**Saturday, Apr.14: 10:00am — Indian Hill Manor, Tour with Docent Judy Jolly. Followed by lunch at Command Post Restaurant, 1004 Samuelson Rd.**

**Friday, Apr.20: 12:00pm at Prairie Street Brewhouse, 200 Prairie St. — Let's Do Lunch**

**Friday, Apr.27-Saturday, Apr.28 at Hyatt Regency Lisle and Benedictine University: 2018 AAUW-Illinois State Convention**

**Wednesday, May 2: 5:30pm at Tavern on Clark — AAUW Board Meeting**

**Friday, May 4: 10:30am at Katie's Cup — Round Table Discussion Group — Led by Dr. Christina Kamer**

**Friday, May 18: 12:00pm at Mexico Clasico Grill, 6876 Spring Creek Rd. — Let's Do Lunch**

**Saturday, May 19 11:00am at Forest Hills Country Club — Annual Meeting and Luncheon, STEM Scholarship Awards. Keynote Speaker: Mayor Tom McNamara**

**Friday, June 29: 12:00pm at ThriveCafé, 6731 Broadcast Parkway — Let's Do Lunch**

**Tuesday, July 17 at the University Club — Tip the Bartender 2018**

**REMINDER:** Rockford Area AAUW [Branch bylaws](#) are now posted on our website instead in the directory.

It's time to review and revise our **strategic plan**. Please let either Barbara Simone or Karen Hoffman know if you would like to help plan the future of the Rockford Branch.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last year the Women's Movement seemed to gain new momentum beginning with the Women's March and ending with a renewed interest in The Equal Rights Amendment, The Me Too Movement, and a new focus on Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking.

This year has not only shown no loss of interest but instead an increase. January brought us another Women's March and this time the men strongly came out and supported us. The Mayor of Rockford has officially put into place the Office of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking and in March we met with the Chief of the Fire Department to learn about how he is reaching out to encourage more women to consider becoming firefighters. It also seems that this year we now have many more women running for elected offices. Our Program Committee will again be arranging for more interesting programs, some of which are just fun and others educational.

This year under the leadership of Diane Kuehl we will again focus on assisting young girls wishing to enter the STEM fields by providing scholarships.

Under the leadership of Sheryl Hall, we will continue to move ahead on the dream to open a museum celebrating not only all sports in Rockford, but specifically the roles that women played.

Last year we ventured into a new area and began supporting K-Fact, an organization that helps low-income young girls not only to finish high school but also college. This year we hope to continue that support by attending their fundraiser on May 12th at Giovanni's. (Details follow in this newsletter.) This year we are also moving into a different venture. In December, I spoke at an empowering meeting. It was there that I learned that many young black women don't vote, not because of suppression but because they do not know why they *should* vote — or even how to register. As a result, members of AAUW, League of Women Voters and the head of Beautiful Beginnings will be working with Rockford Housing to teach people the reason for voting as well as the procedures. Our purpose is to teach more young women to take control of their own lives and voting is one of those steps.

Much is happening at AAUW and there are many ways to serve. Please consider volunteering in one of our great adventures!

**Karen Hoffman, President**

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

## Our Upcoming Events

Please RSVP to Regina Potts 815-262-6504 or [REDACTED] by end of day on Wednesday, April 11.  
Tour cost is \$5.00 – Cash or check payable to Smeja Family Foundation. Info: [www.indianhillmanor.net](http://www.indianhillmanor.net)



The Indian Hill Manor and Farm Historic District is a historic complex consisting of three parts: a manor house and coach house, a working farm, and a small forest preserve. Rockford architect Charles W. Bradley designed the Colonial Revival manor house and coach house, which were built in 1916-18. The complex was added to National Register of Historic Places in 2001.

### INDIAN HILL MANOR TOUR

6901 KISHWAUKEE ROAD, ROCKFORD, IL

SATURDAY, APRIL 14 – 10AM

guided tour with docent Judy Jolly | [www.indianhillmanor.net](http://www.indianhillmanor.net)

lunch at Command Post Restaurant, 1004 Samuelson Rd.



**Round Table Discussion Group**  
10:30am, Friday, April 6  
at Katie's Cup



Noon on March 23 at  
**JMK Nippon**  
(2551 N. Perryville Rd.)



### SAVE THE DATE ANNUAL MEETING & LUNCHEON STEM SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

**SATURDAY, MAY 19 AT 11:00AM**

FOREST HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

5135 FOREST HILLS RD, ROCKFORD

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MAYOR TOM McNAMARA**



ROCKFORD (IL)  
BRANCH



## ***Treasurer's Report — Katy Paterson***

March 1, 2018

### **Operating Fund**

Beginning Balance \$3,525.80

#### ***Receipts***

Schnucks Scrip 24.98

Ending balance @ March 1, 2018 \$3,550.78

### **Scholarship Fund**

Beginning Balance & Ending Balance \$9,216.12

Checking balance 216.12

CD balance 9,000.00

Ending balance @ Dec. 13, 2017 \$9,216.12

On March 1, 2018, we have 63 paid and 6 life members, for a total of 69 members.

### **BOARD MEETINGS**

Board meetings are shown on our [online calendar](#) and are normally held on the first Thursday of the month. Meetings start at 5:30pm and usually end by 7:30pm.

**Members are always welcome to attend.**

### **Links to articles from AAUW National site**

2018 AAUW National Bylaws Amendment Vote

Universal Declaration of Human Rights Turns 70

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Membership Information for membership and renewal can be found [here](#) on our website.
- If you smiled for a photo at a Branch event, you might be featured on our site. Check the “**PHOTOS**” menu option to see recent pictures.
- Our branch events calendar is available under the “**LOCAL BRANCH**” menu option.

## ***Membership Information***

As voted at last year's convention, national dues are increasing by \$10 this year. While this may seem like a significant increase, especially for money that does not remain right here in our own branch, it is important that we understand and appreciate the work national does and how it helps us to make a difference right here in Rockford. Through research on issues related to gender equity in education and the workplace, national helps us to address concerns such as the pay gap between women and men, sexual harassment in schools and on college campuses, and the under representation of women in science and engineering. National has also developed the Work Smart program, which we will be using locally to lead workshops in which women are trained to negotiate for a new job, raise, or promotion. While we raise money for individual scholarships to support young women pursuing education in the STEM fields, National lobbies on behalf of all girls, writing letters and providing testimony to influence important changes in education. From civil rights to economics, AAUW National actively works to address the issues that impact all of us as women.

As a result of the increase, our total dues will now be \$86. New members who join at an event may still receive half off their national dues, bringing their total to only \$56.50. So please remember to bring friends and other guests to our monthly programs so that we may continue to increase our involvement in the issues so vital to women in our community.

**Barb Chidley, Membership VP**

*Increase your advocacy level!*

## **AAUW ILLINOIS CONVENTION**

Lisle, Illinois

April 27-28, 2018

~ [Registration Information](#) ~





Several AAUW Rockford members are helping IWBC plan for next summer's "Rockford Peaches 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration" in what has now become our city's State Bicentennial offering. Thanks to Karen Hoffman, Christine Haeggquist, Barbara Simon, Diane Kuehl, Faye Marcus, Diana Vlase and Sheryl Hall for offering their time and talents to what will be *"the* Rockford event of 2018."

## PUBLIC POLICY ON THE GO

### Faye Marcus

The big news this month is the primary elections. This is a very important election. There are lots of candidates: Governor, state representative, congressperson, and more. If you live in Rockford you can also vote to reinstate Home Rule. Voting is open now until March 20-election day.

For more information go to the website for the [Rockford Board of Elections](#), or your county board of elections - Winnebago, Boone, or Ogle.



Our Branch coordinated with the League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford to sponsor several candidate forums in our area. The photos above are from the February 25<sup>th</sup> “Meet and Greet” for candidates from the 67, 68<sup>th</sup>, and 69<sup>th</sup> Illinois state representative districts, held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockford.

## REMEMBER THE POWER OF ONE VOTE – YOUR VOTE MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

## TAKE ACTION – SHAPE OUR BRANCH’S FUTURE

### Barbara Simon

The Rockford Area Branch has several opportunities for members to participate in the branch's planning for 2018-19.

**NOMINATIONS** – We need a president or co-president for the 2018-19 year. Please consider giving your talents to leading the board or, perhaps, sharing this job with another person. We have great board members who all do their jobs well and we are leading up to our 90th year. This would be a good time to be branch president.

**WORK SMART** – Our branch board voted to go forward with a plan to have the **WORK SMART** workshop be given here in Rockford, perhaps sometime next fall.

This National AAUW program helps women to negotiate their salaries and is part of AAUW's mission for Equal Pay. If you would like to help in any way, large or small, let President Karen Hoffman know.



**PROGRAM PLANNING FOR 2018-19.** Program planning will begin soon. Please give us your ideas and help the Program VP's in their work. Let Karen know of your interest ASAP.

**STRATEGIC PLAN** – The board is developing an updated Strategic Plan for the Branch this year and leading up to our 90th Anniversary. Everyone's ideas are welcome. (The present Strategic Plan is in your printed directory.)

Whether you are a new member or have been a member a long time, consider your ideas important for the branch's future. **Thank you.**

## SPECIAL MESSAGE

### Karen Hoffman

Well my 2 years as President of AAUW are almost up and I am very grateful for the experience. As a result of the knowledge I have obtained I have been able to assist a young woman activist in the community to start a group that will educate low-income people on the reasons for voting. It was always my belief that low-income people, especially African - Americans, were being denied the right to vote and that is why they turned out in such low numbers.

What I learned by working with Beautiful Beginnings, an advocacy group, is that young African-Americans are so disenfranchised that they don't know why they should vote much less how.

At a meeting at Katie's Cup, with Kat Williams who is trying to start the International Women's Baseball Center, I met Dezire, the head of Beautiful Beginnings. From that meeting we began working together for the empowerment of women who are low income.

Recently we were able to get Rockford Housing Authority to join and sponsor us. As a result, we now have Faye Marcus and Barb Chidley as well as myself representing AAUW in this endeavor. We also have Susan Janson from the League of Women Voters, along with Dezire from Beautiful Beginnings and people from Residential Services at Rockford Housing. We will be going to individual developments including The Grove (New Towne) and discussing why they need to vote and how to register as well as the process for voting. One of our primary topics will be the ERA.

So while it is expected that I will step down from office, I will still be pursuing the mission of AAUW.

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***Now here is the issue.*** No one has yet agreed to take my place, so I am encouraging someone who would like to take the opportunity to consider becoming the President, a position that has so many possibilities for encouraging equity and equality for women. If interested, please contact me or Barbara Simon. My term ends on June 30<sup>th</sup> and we would like to have anyone interested to start attending board meetings in June so you can get acclimated.

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I would like to reach out to all our many newer members and encourage you to join some of groups and hopefully become a Vice Chairman. There is so much that can be done to make our presence known and thereby expand our Branch. I truly hope that some of you who have not served will consider doing so.

I have truly enjoyed my 2-year term and I think with the right leader we can grow stronger and become an organization which can truly better our community.

## BOOK BEAT READING LIST 2018

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

**Mar. 20** Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

Reviewer: Ruth Siegfried

Hostess: Carole Newcomer

**Apr. 17** The Girls of Atomic City by Denise Kiernan

Reviewer:

Hostess: Diane Kuehl

Further suggested reading:

The All-American Girls After the AAGPBL

(brief discussion of book at meeting)



**May 15** Manhattan Beach by Jennifer Egan

Reviewer: Kathy Dierstein

Hostess: Karen Shifo

**June 19** A Long Way Home by Saroo Brierly

Reviewer: Carol Jacobs

Hostess:

**July 17** The Gilded Years by Karin Tanabe

Reviewer: Faye Marcus

Hostess:

## Local Event

SAVE THE DATE

**KFACT**  
KEEPING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER  
KFACT is proud to present the

### 2018 Thrifty Teen Fashion Show

featuring the 2018 KFACT "Lady All Stars"

**MAY**  
**12<sup>th</sup>**  
**2018**

**Giovanni's**  
 610 N. Bell School Road  
 Rockford, Illinois 61107  
 Fashion Show • Entertainment • Raffle  
 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm — VIP Meet & Greet  
 6:30 pm — General Admission  
 6:45 pm — Fashion Show

**\$50**  
TICKET INCLUDES Admission & Show

Individually Designed with Girls in Mind

### Stock the GIRLS Space with Snacks!

Popcorn  
 Easy Mac  
 Pop Tarts  
 Veggie Straws  
 Individual Chips/Snacks  
 Mini Candy Bars  
 Ritz Crackers  
 Salami Rolls  
 Slim Jims  
 Granola Bars  
 Rice Krispie Treats  
 Fruit Snacks  
 Juices  
 Gatorade  
 Pop/Bottled  
 Bottled Water  
 Paper Products

**All Donations Are Appreciated!**

Our friends at K-FACT are sponsoring their annual Thrifty Teen Fashion Show at Giovanni's on May 12. Tickets are \$50, and they also hope attendees will bring food/snack contributions for the girls.



AAUW Rockford branch members again joined our sisters nationwide in Women's March 2018 on January 20.

