



Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP

Twigs

wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net

November 2015

A Leaf from the Presidents

Fall seems to have started early on the calendar.... We had barely put away our sandals when the Eleanor Roosevelt Walk was upon us. That day the weather was beautiful, the skies were a crystalline blue, and 12 walkers had such a marvelous time puffing along that they walked both ways- from Glen Ellyn to Wheaton and back. Thanks to Rosemary Hahn who seamlessly organized the event, fed us her own homemade banana bread and pumpkin bread at our "rest stop," and who wrote a wonderful explanatory article about the Walk in last month's *Twigs*.

As Rosemary explained, this year's ER award recipient was Juanita Johnson Bailey, who gave an inspiring speech at AAUW's San Diego Convention based on her gender equity work and studies for disadvantaged women and girls. As Director of the Institute for Women's Studies at the University of Georgia, she also teaches in the Department of Lifelong Education, and is author of the publication *Sistahs in College: Making a Way Out of No Way*, which she described in her speech. Ms. Bailey made us appreciate how lucky we are and how it IS possible to help bring about life changes, however unlikely. Read more about this dynamic woman at wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net. During her presentation, Juanita quoted an old African proverb: "If you want to go fast, then travel alone. If you want to go far, then go together." So, if you've never done our Eleanor Roosevelt Walk before, do plan on it for next year. It's invigorating, loads of fun, and a meaningful way to remember what Eleanor Roosevelt herself stood for.

Kitty and Laura

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Words on the Wind: Native American Literatures



Please join us as our formidable Branch member **A. LaVonne Brown Ruoff, PhD, Professor Emerita of English, University of Illinois, Chicago**, offers a fascinating overview of Native American oral and written literatures in the United States.

Learn more about Ms. Ruoff and her work in this issue of *Twigs*.

Wednesday, November 4
7:00 pm Social 7:15 pm Program
8:15 Business Meeting

Glen Ellyn Civic Center Betty Clayton Room
535 Duane Street

Winter Banquet is December 2
Details inside

Co-Program P. Connolly connolly.peggy@gmail.com
Vice Presidents: S. Gullickson GULLICKSONSUSAN@comcast.net

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Time	Information
November 4	Branch Meeting	7:00 pm	<i>Words on the Wind: Native American Literatures</i> presented by member A. LaVonne Ruoff, PhD at the Glen Ellyn Civic Center
November 6	AM Lit	9:30 am	Carolyn Oesterle's
November 10	Cultural Arts Event	7:30 pm	Erik Larsen discusses <i>Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania</i> at College of DuPage
November 11	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Susie Gullickson's
November 12	Spice Routes	7:00 pm	Peggy Connolly's
November 13	Film Group	8:00 pm	Eleanor Saliamonas'
November 16	Book Sorting	10:30 am	Public Storage, 280 South Main Place, Carol Stream
November 16	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Laura Desmarais'
November 17	Non-Fiction Lit	7:00 pm	Peggy Connolly's
November 18	Memoir Circle	7:00 pm	Location is TBD
December 2	Winter Banquet	6:00 om	Village Links of Glen Ellyn, 485 Winchell Way, Glen Ellyn
January 31	Cultural Arts Event	3:00 pm	<i>Jessica Fellowes, The World of Downton Abbey</i> at College of DuPage
February 6	Cultural Arts Event	2:00 pm	<i>Beautiful</i> , Carol King musical at the Oriental Theatre, Chicago



Membership

Lisa Cherry

lisacherryhome@aol.com

Thanks to the continued efforts of so many Branch members, our membership total has now reached 140! Joan Wojtko has rejoined us and nine terrific women have joined for the first time. So let's begin to get to know them in this and future newsletter issues.

Karen Schulz is originally from Minneapolis but has lived in the Chicago area for 22 years and has taught at Glenbard East High School for 19 years. Karen and her husband, Russ, have a son and two daughters who are, respectively, 34, 30 and 28. Karen's daughters are in the Chicago area but it's more difficult to see her son's family, including two grandchildren, in Des Moines, Iowa. Karen began teaching at the elementary level and went on to earn her first MA in Special Education at the University of Northern Colorado. She took a 12-year break to raise her children and then pursued her second MA in School Leadership/Administration at Concordia University in River Forest. Along with high school teaching, Karen has run the high school summer school program at COD and serves on the Board of Directors of the DuPage County charity SARET. Karen loves all water sports and downhill skiing. We have already seen her at our book discussion groups. With her busy life, we are fortunate that Karen has joined us and wants to be active in our Branch!

Originally from New Orleans, **Jane Moore** and her husband, Clint, have lived in the Chicago area for 28 years. This is where they raised their two children, a boy and a girl, and have three of their five grandchildren (ages 2 - 11) in the area. Their son and his family are in Houston. Jane earned a BA in English from St. Mary's Dominican College, followed that degree with an MA in Early Childhood Education and went on to teach in elementary schools for 27 years. Jane's PhD (Curriculum and Instruction) is from National Lewis University where has spent 16 years teaching other teachers. Jane now has not one, but two remote, flex jobs. She teaches a class in Thanatology (death, dying, bereavement) for the University of Western Ontario and works for a California State University involving teaching resources. While it is difficult to imagine that Jane has any free time, she sews, embroiders, quilts and is an avid reader. Ready to pitch in and help, Jane has signed up for book pick-ups and is looking forward to attending book discussions and Cultural Arts events. Welcome, Jane!

Glen Ellyn residents since 1994, **Sandra Alexander** and her husband relocated from Michigan with their young daughter and son who are now, respectively, 29 and 23. Sandy's children live in the Chicago area so she can easily visit her ten month old granddaughter. Her educational background began at Wayne State University where she co-majored in Psychology and Women's Studies. Her education continued at University of Michigan where she received a Certificate in Aging and an MA in Social Work with a major in Community Organization. The first eight years of Sandy's career were spent in a hospital program for Adult Rehabilitation/Comprehensive Daycare. Over the next 30 years, she worked both

as a consultant and as an employee of various social service agencies for older adults. While she does continue her consulting work, Sandy is now retired from the Illinois Department on Aging. We have already seen her at AM Lit and Spice Routes. In addition to reading and cooking, Sandy is an avid gardener. Demonstrating a lifelong love of learning, she has taken numerous and diverse university-level online courses and recommends coursera.org. Sandy has been a program presenter to our Branch and we are so pleased that she has chosen to join us!



Member Records and Directory

Jane Palmer

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How Many Degrees in the Branch?

While double-checking the degrees in my database, I noticed that all of our 2015 new members have at least two degrees. Then I started counting...

- 144 Bachelor's degrees
- 94 Master's degrees
- 26 Doctorates (including 3 MDs and 9 JDs)
- 3 other certifications

Since all members have at least one degree, this adds up to 267 degrees for our 141 members. Quite a well-educated group!

Apologies are due to new member Karen Schulz. Last month's directory update misspelled her last name, both in her listing entry and in her email address. Also, one of her degrees was omitted. Apologies also to new members Sandra Alexander, Barbara Lukas and Jane Moore for omitting one of their degrees. (My template from the prior month was set up for two degrees and I forgot to expand it for our newest members.). Updated entries are included in the updates for this month.

Editor's Note: Due to length, this month's updates to the Branch Directory are located at the end of this issue.



Book Sale

Rose Fitzpatrick

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At the 2016 Book Sale committee meeting discussion was lively about how to generate more publicity and encourage more buyers to attend. Carolyn Oesterle suggested a special children's time, giving away a free book and perhaps have a clown to come to make balloon animals and maybe a few games. This could be a great way to get schools and PTA's more engaged. Carolyn will coordinate this idea and will provide more details in the next *Twigs*. She would appreciate anyone with additional thoughts on this to contact her.

This month's sorting is Monday, November 16, 10:30 am. As a reminder, pick-up volunteers: please be sure to alert Jean T. [(630) 337-7280 or vsq531@aol.com] or Stef [(630) 790-1843 or szvirin@gmail.com] if there are a large number of books you've dropped off in case an additional sorting needs to be scheduled.

Information regarding the Book Sale, locker and Realtor drop off locations is on page six in the Membership Directory and on our website.



Film Group

Anne Hanley

ahanley@mindspring.com

Join us in November for what will certainly be an excellent movie now that Oscar season is in full swing. We will meet on Friday, November 13, 8:00 pm, at the home of Eleanor Saliamonas. The movie selection will be announced the Saturday before our meeting, so you will have plenty of opportunities to see it before the 13th. Happy viewing!



The Memoir Circle will meet on November 18 at 7:00 pm. I will email everyone on the Memoir list with information on the meeting place. Just a reminder, you are welcome to come and listen if you are not ready to share your writing with the group.



History and Cuisine of the Spice Routes

Peggy Connolly and Pat Kaczor

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On November 12, our next culinary adventure takes us to the West Indies, where the global spice trade started when Columbus landed here in 1492. The subsequent expansion of sea routes broke the hold of the Ottoman monopoly over the spice trade. Soon, ships began to circumnavigate the globe in pursuit of exotic spices.



Please let Peggy know by November 5 what delicious dish you will bring to the West Indies feast.

In the future, we will delve into the Spice Trade and Japan (January 21), and the Spice Trade and the Levant (March 24).



AM Lit

Kathy McCullough

kathymccull@gmail.com

On Friday, November 6 at 9:30 am, at the home of Carolyn Oesterle, we meet to discuss *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* by Erik Larson. Our discussion leader is Karen Bondy and our co-hostesses are Judy Sims and Allene Harding. Due to its popularity, the book is not available for book group reserve at the Glen Ellyn Public Library.

From Amazon: "Gripping and important, *Dead Wake* captures the sheer drama and emotional power of a disaster whose intimate details and true meaning have long been obscured by history."

Looking ahead to December 4, at the home of Laura Desmarais, we will discuss *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown. Jane Palmer will lead the discussion and Jan Ciccarelli and Suzanne Elger will serve as our co-hostesses.

The Glen Ellyn Library obtains a small supply of the selected books a month before the discussion. Those who hold a card from another local library are also eligible to check out the books.

If you wish to be added to the email distribution list for updates, please contact me.



Non-Fiction Lit Group

Sue Balk and Pam Starr

suzannebalk@yahoo.com pstarr1965@gmail.com



What is your favorite fairy tale? Join the Non-Fiction Lit group as they discuss the November selection, *Once Upon a Time: A Short History of Fairy Tales* by Marina Warner. For centuries, these stories have travelled across borders and passed from one generation to the next. Fairy tales can stretch across both distances and time. Share your favorite fairy tale and how the tale sparked your imagination.

Due to the holiday, the meeting date has been changed from the fourth Wednesday of the month. We will meet on Tuesday, November 17 at the home of Peggy Connolly. The meeting begins at 7:00 pm. Kathy McCullough is the co-hostess and Sue Balk will lead the discussion. The book has been reserved at the Glen Ellyn Public Library.

Contact Peggy at connolly.peggy@gmail.com if you are able to join our lively discussion.



Cultural Arts

Kathleen McCullough and Ellen McGowan

kathymccull@gmail.com emcgowan123@sbcglobal.net

Our first Cultural Arts event is at the McAninch Arts Center at College of DuPage at 7:30 pm Tuesday, November 10. Erik Larson, author of four *New York Times* bestsellers, including *The Devil and the White City*, will be discussing his latest book, *Dead Wake: the Last Crossing of the Lusitania*. We have sold out our block of seats for this event, but we may be able to obtain a few more tickets based on availability.

Jessica Fellowes, The World of Downton Abbey is another upcoming event at the MAC, coinciding with the series premier of the final season of the popular BBS series, on Sunday afternoon, January 31, 2016. British journalist, bestselling author and niece of *Downton Abbey* creator Julian Fellowes, Jessica Fellowes, will take you behind the scenes and discuss all things "Abbey." English treats will be served in the lobby after the show. We have obtained a block of seats for this event and, at this writing, there are a few tickets remaining at the price of \$31.50.

We have sold out our block of seats for *Beautiful*, the Carol King musical at the Oriental Theatre in Chicago for February 6, 2016.

If you wish to be on the Cultural Arts email distribution list for updated information, please contact Kathy. Any ideas for future events are welcome!



PM Lit

Bonnie Wheaton

bonwheaton@aol.com

The book for November is *Cry, the Beloved Country*, Alan Paton's classic novel of racial hatred, despair and reconciliation in South Africa. First published in 1948, it was hailed by the *New Republic* as "one of the best novels of our time." The discussion will take place on Monday, November 16 at 7:00 pm at the home of Laura Desmarais.



A Good Book
Mona Hopton Bell



In a recent conference call with Branches across the country, AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund senior manager Mollie Lam reviewed Supreme Court activities in which the AAUW is involved. She discussed the following cases:

- I. Affirmative Action: Fisher v. University of Texas. Abigail Fisher alleged that she was not accepted to a Texas university because of race. The court used the Gruder v. University of Michigan law school as a precedent, and ruled against Fisher.
- II. Access to Contraception: Hobby Lobby fallout. Hobby Lobby was morally and religiously opposed to contraception for its employees, and it won its case. This ruling applies to for-profit companies. AAUW was disappointed in the decision. The Supreme Court plans to hear one of three non-profit cases in the future.
- III. Reproductive Rights at Stake: Whole Women's Health v. Cole and Currier v. Jackson Women's Health Organization. This involves laws that were designed to protect women, but experts conclude that they do not. The laws effectively limit access to clinics and therefore will shut them down. These are called Trap Laws.

How the court works: Cases are heard in a lower court and if the plaintiff loses the case, s/he can request by Certification Petition that the Supreme Court consider the case. Four of the nine justices must agree to hear the case, and then five of the justices (a majority) must agree in order to have a ruling.



Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF)

Susan Levy-Creed and Marilyn Weidemann

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Where does our money go?

We've been celebrating our excellent Book Sale effort. Now it's time to send the money to do good. We vote on specific use this November for allocation by December 31.

There are many choices. Traditionally, we allocate some of our proceeds for local incentive awards to four high school graduates going to College of DuPage.

Traditionally we have also allocated the rest to scholars pursuing PhDs or changing careers, entering professions in which women are underrepresented, or doing meaningful community projects.

Your EOF chairs are again recommending this allocation for our 2015 funds. As a branch, we have a chance to help in a statewide effort to complete an American Fellowship first started by the Lake Forest AAUW branch. Because that branch dissolved, the state has encouraged all Illinois branches to help complete this important fellowship rather than start new endowments. We think that is a great idea. It will be an all-Illinois American Fellowship, supporting scholarship at the highest level (PhD) and named after a fine AAUW member, Lois List, of the Lake Forest branch.

Down the line, AAUW National hopes we will also consider unallocated funding. Great programs like \$tart \$mart, and Working \$mart need money to keep going. In the future, you may hear more about supporting those and similar excellent AAUW initiatives with our Educational Opportunities Funds. Great choices for our hard-earned funds! Thank YOU.



A cold, blustery wind greeted twelve branch members as they began the annual Eleanor Roosevelt Walk on Saturday, October 3. Nonetheless, spirits were high on the 2.2 mile walk to Shane's Deli in Wheaton, where walkers enjoyed coffee, conversation and, of course, a "sweet treat."

Thanks to all the walkers and those who were not able to join us but contributed to the Fund. They were: Sharon Garney, Jean Tufano, Carolyn Oesterle, Marjorie Robinson, Sandy Lopata, Elaine Nissan, Suzanne Balk, Diane Serb, Maryann Oblak, Maureen Sheehan, Patricia Spence, Claudia Finley, Jane Moore, Pam Starr, Karen Schulz, Jean Lindsey, Kitty Johansson, Stephanie Zvirin, Lisa Cherry, Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann, Kathy McCullough, Margaret McGrath, Donna Staples and granddaughter Bella, Susie Gullickson, Laura Desmarais, Rosemary Hahn, and Phyllis Fogel.

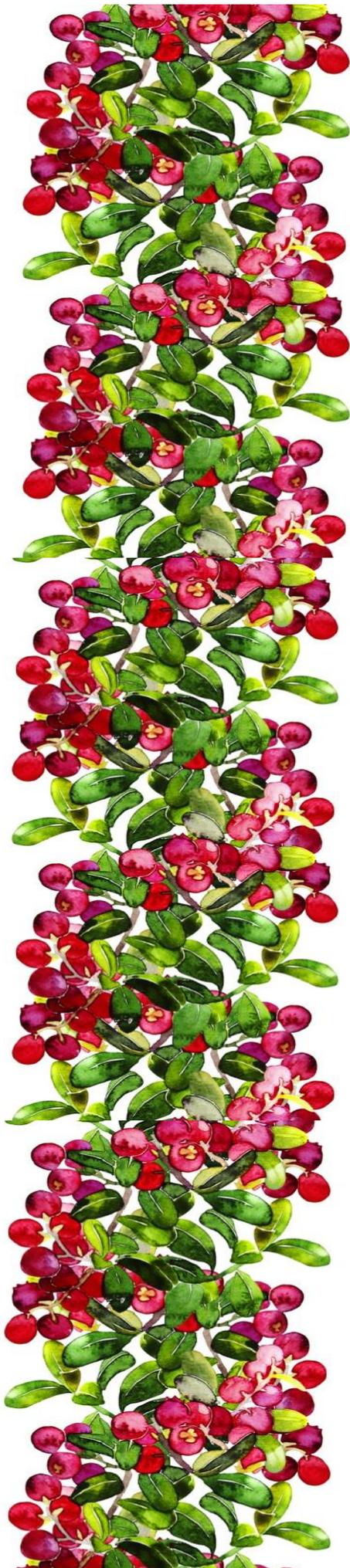
Our Branch raised \$1,105 this year.

Please consider joining us next fall for this enjoyable and worthwhile event.

District 4/5 Regional Conference

Lisa Cherry, Gail Davis and Laura Desmarais attended the IL AAUW Regional Conference in October. It is always fun to meet other members and see what is going on in their branches. Lisa, who is our State Secretary, discussed new changes in \$tart \$mart during small group discussions. She is a talented facilitator and cheerleader for this program. Gail attended information sessions on LAF (Legal Advocacy Fund) and Title IX. National is encouraging branches to contact local high schools and identify their Title IX representative. This is a small way to ensure that schools are aware of their Title IX responsibilities and are stepping up to the plate. The Branch is excited to support Gail and work with her to achieve this goal.

Laura attended a public policy session. The State's Public Policy Chair is also an assistant for a state representative. We discussed just what they did with call-in, emails, etc. and whether or not it really made a difference. There really is a tally sheet with 'yeas' and 'nays' identified! The best way to make your voice heard is to CALL and leave a message. Your message should reflect your personal sentiment toward the policy you are addressing. This is more effective than reading a prepared statement. Emails also work. Again, make it personal. Form letters and cards are tallied, but they don't receive as much redibility as a personal statement. Your voice *is* heard. We all need to take the time to act.



Annual Winter Banquet

Wednesday, December 2

Enjoy the holiday season with your fellow Branch members. This evening is always an AAUW highlight!

Village Links of Glen Ellyn
485 Winchell Way

6:00 pm Conversation and Cocktails
(cash bar)
6:45 pm Dinner

Dinner Entrees
(salad and dessert included)

Pasta Primavera \$29.00

Chicken Piccata
with Lemon Butter Caper Sauce \$33.00

Sesame Ginger Salmon \$39.30

Reservation and payment due November 20

Look for the reservation and entree selection form
later in this issue of *Twigs*

More about Our November Presentation:

Words on the Wind: Native American Literatures



Although LaVonne Ruoff began her university studies in British Romantic Literature, she became intrigued by Native American Literature. There were problems. Native American Literature wasn't a recognized field of study, and it was difficult to find any resources: neither a significant body of work nor of scholarly analyses and criticism existed. Undeterred, she hunted down primary sources, spending long hours at The Newberry Library. Ruoff received her bachelors, masters, and PhD. From Northwestern University. While writing her dissertation on Walter Savage Landor, an English Romantic writer, she was an instructor and assistant professor at Roosevelt University. After receiving her PhD, she began teaching at the University of Illinois, Chicago, where she was a highly-regarded member of the faculty until her retirement as professor emerita in 1994.

"Teaching" barely describes what LaVonne did. She compiled her years of scholarly research into the seminal work in the study of Native American Literature: *American Indian Literatures: An Introduction, Bibliographic Review, and Selected Bibliography*. As one reviewer noted, "This is what makes "AIL" absolutely invaluable: this may be the very first time these oral histories were compiled not for historical or sociological interpretation, but for the purpose of examining them critically as literature." She designed and developed the curriculum for the Native American Studies Program at UIC. For twenty-seven years, Ruoff served on the Advisory Board of the UIC Native American Support Program, primarily as president but also as member. The Indian Council Fire, headquartered in Chicago, awarded her a certificate of appreciation for her work with that group and with the Chicago community. She also persuaded the Modern Language Association (MLA) to establish a division for Native American Literature, now the Forum on Indigenous Literatures of the United States and Canada. LaVonne authored several books and countless scholarly articles. Dr. Ruoff also served as the Interim Director of the Center for American History at The Newberry Library.

Her lists of honors and awards include the MLA Lifetime Scholarly Achievement Award, Lifetime Achievement Award from American Book Awards, Writer of the Year from the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers, *MELUS* Award for Distinguished Contributions to Ethnic Studies.

Perhaps her greatest achievement is not her meticulous scholarship, nor her contribution to foundations of the study of Native American Literature, but rather the accomplishments of the many young scholars she mentors. She not only instilled in them a passion for Native American Literature, but also nurtured them into becoming leaders in academia and professional organizations. In a tribute to LaVonne, Wisconsin Poet Laureate Kimberly M. Blaeser (Anishinaabe) wrote, "She has published, compiled, edited, sponsored, organized, coerced, presented, defended, and she has mentored tirelessly over the years. But all this might not have had the fruitful outcome it has if she did not also tease, story, indulge, host, shop, travel, advise, argue, comfort, and connect so humanly and humorously with us, her grateful friends and colleagues. As a mentor, this woman is what the French might call *formidable*."



Winter Banquet Reservation

RSVP by Friday, November 20

Name _____

Choose one:

Chicken \$33.00 _____ **Pasta \$ 29.00** _____ **Salmon \$39.30** _____

**Please return this form and a check payable to Wheaton Glen Ellyn AAUW to:
Judy Sims ('04), Address in Branch Directory**

BRANCH DIRECTORY UPDATES

This section is not included in the online version of the newsletter for member privacy.



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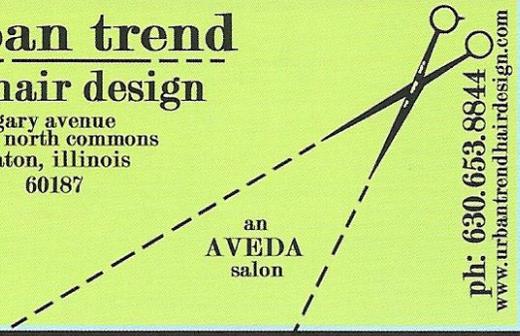
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What is AAUW?

Mission:	AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.
Membership:	In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, class or disability. Membership is not by invitation.
Legal Advocacy Fund:	AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.
Vision Statement	AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.