

## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN BARRINGTON AREA, ILLINOIS BRANCH

*AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education and positive societal change*

Quarterly Newsletter, Spring 2007



**YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS  
OUR ANNUAL WINTER LUNCHEON !**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 17 11:30 a.m.  
at THE GARLANDS  
1000 Garlands Lane, Barrington**

Martha Atherton, AWIU Chair and Patricia Htar, Chicago Chapter Chair of American Women of International Understanding will present:

**Women Helping Women  
through International Relations**

This program is presented in conjunction with  
Barrington's League of Women Voters

Please RSVP 847-317-8419. Mail your \$25.00 check to Kay Bogolin, 185 Deer Grove Lane, Barrington, IL 60010 by March 10<sup>th</sup>.



## AAUW NEWS AND STATE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The **AAUW Board of Directors** and the **AAUW Educational Foundation Board of Directors** held an historic joint meeting in Washington, DC, October 13-15, 2006. The joint meeting was designed to reflect on member input with regard to the Strategic Process and to determine how to move AAUW forward into the future. The following mission and vision statements were adopted:

**Mission Statement:** *AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.*

**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.*

### AAUW STATE 2007 CALENDAR

- January 1 Contribution Year begins for EF, LAF, and Association
- January 19 – 20 State Board meeting, Bloomington
- February 1 Membership Count Effective
- February 15 Deadline: Loyalty Award Nominations
  - Branch Pride Recognition Applications Due
  - Agent of Change Award Nominations Due
  - Public Policy Award Nominations Due
- March Women's History Month
- March Spring ***Illinois Link*** sent to Membership
- March 31 **WITASWAN** Film Event, Chicago
- April 25 Pay Equity Day in Illinois
- April 27 – 28 IL State Convention, Chateau Hotel, Bloomington, IL



## AAUW NATIONAL NEWS ITEMS

### **U.S. Rates with the Developing World on Family-Oriented Workplace Policies**

On Thursday, Feb. 1, *USA Today* reported that “the United States lags far behind virtually all wealthy countries with regard to family-oriented workplace policies such as maternity leave, paid sick days and support for breast-feeding, a new study by Harvard and McGill University researchers says.” The study grouped the U.S. with Lesotho, Liberia, Swaziland and Papua New Guinea for the distinction of not guaranteeing some form of paid maternity leave. The U.S. Department of Labor has issued a 'Request for Information' on the FMLA, requesting public comments about employer and employee experience with the FMLA. This has raised concern that the U.S. Department of Labor may be considering changes to the regulations that would roll back the FMLA's protections or scale back the FMLA's coverage for workers' health and family needs. If you haven't already done so, use [AAUW's Two-Minute Activist](#) to voice your support for the FMLA so that America's families don't have to choose between keeping a job and caring for themselves or a loved one. The deadline for comments has been extended to Feb. 16.

### **Senate Ends Debate on Minimum Wage Amendments**

On Wednesday, Jan. 31, the Senate voted for cloture (87-10) on their substitute to the House passed bill to increase the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour (H.R. 2). The cloture vote readies the bill for a passage vote this week by ending debate over an amendment that would create \$8.3 billion in tax breaks for small businesses. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) proposed the amendment, which he claims are needed to build enough support to pass the minimum wage increase. The Senate passed the amendment on Thursday (94-3). AAUW had hoped for a minimum wage increase without amendments to create tax breaks or sweeteners for business owners. Now the House and Senate will have to reconcile their different measures, which would be difficult since the House leadership is against anything but a clean increase to the minimum wage.

### **Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues Sets Agenda**

On Tuesday, Jan. 23, members of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues gathered on Capitol Hill to pass the gavel to their new leaders, Co-Chairs Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA) and Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA). Empowered in part with a woman — and a member of the caucus — now serving as Speaker of the House of Representatives, as well as by sheer numbers — a record 74 women were elected to the members are set to advance an agenda that meets women's needs. Items on their agenda include women's health, educational equity, sex trafficking, women in business, women in prison, and international domestic violence.

# AAUW Book Groups

You are welcome to be a part of any or all of these book groups. Here is an update on date, place and title for their book discussions.



## Women's Issues Book Group

The Women's Issues Group will meet on **Thursday, March 22nd** at the home of Ellen Young to discuss their latest book selection One Thousand White Women: The Journals of May Dodd by Jim Fergus. You are welcome to come and join in on the discussion of this fascinating tale about white women taken into American Indian tribes during the early years of our country's history.



## Evening Book Group

The Evening Book Discussion Group is currently reading Beach Road by James Patterson. They will meet at the home of Helen Jantz on **Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>** to share their reactions and surprise to the solving of this murder mystery that takes place in East Hampton, New York. The next book in this group's reading is a wonderful non-fiction story of a dog and his master, full of warmth and good humor, Marley and Me by John Grogan. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE FOR APRIL AND MAY. Book titles are reversed. The April book is The Lighthouse by P.D. James. Host home is Bobbie Svacha's. May title is Portrait of a Lady by Henry James. Host home is Peg Donnelly's.



## Luncheon Book Group

The Luncheon Book Group is reading Abide With Me by Elizabeth Strout for their **Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>** discussion. "In the late 1950s, in the small town of West Annett, Maine, a minister struggles to regain his calling, his family, and his happiness in the wake of profound loss. . . All is considered—life, love, God, and community—within these pages. . ." The writer writes with "compassion and graceful prose." The luncheon group meets at The Garlands in Barrington. Call Chair Loretta Engle 847-381-5012 to reserve your spot.



## Report of Networking Luncheon program with Judge Anne Burke

The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Networking Luncheon was held on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007, at the Hyatt Regency in Deerfield. About 110 women attended, including 17 people from the Barrington Branch. Justice Anne Burke of the Illinois Supreme Court was the honored speaker. Her talk, sprinkled with humor, contained fascinating true-life stories illustrating her theme that nurturing and caring should be evidenced in careers as well as in personal relationships alluding to the important role of women as mentors and role models.

She told the story of Myra Bradwell who was the first woman attorney in Illinois. Bradwell was denied a law license in 1869 with a State Supreme Court ruling that such positions, including public office, could not be held by women. Bradwell was finally licensed in 1890. Burke emphasized the need to be grateful to all the women who went before us and made it possible for women today be able to work and serve in public life.

Justice Burke responded to questions for over half an hour following the formal presentation. At this time Burke, who has been married to Chicago Alderman Ed Burke for 38 years, gave information about her five children, including adopted, biological, and foster children. Her work with the National Review Board of the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops investigating the causes of the clergy abuse scandal was also of interest.

Thanks to our own Mary Lou Hajduk and Bobbie Svacha who were on the committee responsible for this meeting.

→ DON'T  
FORGET!

**HARPER COLLEGE WOMEN'S WEEK**  
SPECIAL PROGRAM ON GLOBAL WARMING PRESENTED  
BY ELIZABETH KOLBERT  
Monday evening, March 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sports and  
Wellness Center, Harper College

Elizabeth Kolbert traveled from Alaska to Greenland and visited with top scientists to get at the heart of the debate over global warming. Her series, "The Climate of Man" appeared in the *New Yorker* in the spring of 2005. She won the American Association of the Advancement of Science magazine award as well as the 2006 National Academy of Sciences Communication Award in the newspaper/magazine category. Growing out of her award winning magazine series she authored her book *Field Notes from a Catastrophe*.



## Letter from our Co-Presidents

*Kathryn Black and Paru Thondavadi*

Dear Members,

Since our last newsletter, the Branch has been busy with several programs and social events. November saw a very successful fundraiser for EF with a wine tasting at Bacchus Nibbles. In December we had our Annual Soup Supper at the beautiful home of member Louise Sullivan. Louise was not only gracious enough to host but had also planned a fun and joyous sing-along for the evening. January was the occasion of the 24<sup>th</sup> Networking Luncheon at the Deerfield Hyatt where the speaker was Justice Anne Burke of the Illinois Supreme Court. (This program is described in detail elsewhere in this newsletter.) Great Decisions has just started its eight week discussion program of current international issues, while book clubs and bridge groups continue to bring members together.

We would also like to tell you about some upcoming events in which you might like to be involved. December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007 is the first “Jane Addams Day” in Illinois - the first official day in the United States commemorating a woman!! The Chicago Branch of AAUW along with the Women’s Gender Studies Program at DePaul held a planning session on February 10<sup>th</sup> at the DePaul Center. On March 31<sup>st</sup> AAUW-IL is co-sponsoring the movie “Somebody’s Child: The Redemption of Rwanda” at the Landmark Century Theater downtown. For more information on these events, please contact Paru Thondavadi (847-842-0456).

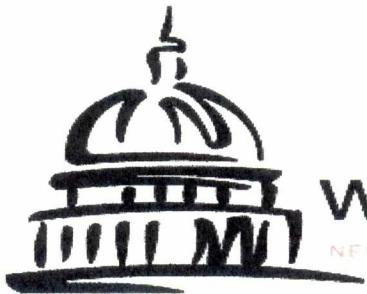
The Barrington Branch board is proud to announce that this year’s branch nominee for the “Loyalty Award” will be Bobbi Svacha. The award is to honor a long-time member who continues to support the mission of AAUW and has made a significant impact on the work of the local branch and/or AAUW-IL. This award will be presented at the state convention which will be held in Bloomington on April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Information about Bobbie’s contribution is published elsewhere in this newsletter. The branch will also be trying to win two other awards at this convention, the Newsletter Award and Branch Recognition Award. If anyone is interested in attending the state convention or the national convention in Phoenix (June 29<sup>th</sup>- July 2nd), please contact Paru or Kathryn.

Please mark your calendars for the Branch’s Annual Winter Luncheon at The Garlands on March 17<sup>th</sup>. You can find more information about this event on the front page of this newsletter. Please note this event is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters, Barrington chapter.

The nominating committee headed by Carol Wardell will shortly be looking to fill board positions for the coming year so if you would like to get more involved, serving on the board is a great way to do it.

Stay Warm and Stay Involved!

Kathryn Black  
Paru Thondavadi  
Co- Presidents



# washington update

NEWS FROM THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 19, 2007

Contact: Rebecca Leaf  
202/785-7738, [leafr@aauw.org](mailto:leafr@aauw.org)

## AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund Plaintiff Awarded \$725,000 in Sex Discrimination Suit Settlement with UC-Davis

Sacramento, CA – The American Association University Women Legal Advocacy Fund-supported plaintiff reached a final settlement agreement with the UC Regents on Jan. 19 after a nearly four-year struggle with the school system.

Michael Burch filed suit in 2003 for Title IX violations. The settlement awards him \$725,000 for damages and attorney fees. Burch will not be reinstated as head wrestling coach at UC-Davis and is not permitted to pursue employment at any school in the University of California system.

The UC Regents formally approved the settlement on Friday after reaching a tentative agreement in November 2006, just days before Burch's Dec. 5 trial date.

"AAUW is very pleased with Mike's settlement," said AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund Interim Director Lisa Maatz. "Mike stood up against discrimination – even when it cost him his job – and today, justice has been served."

Burch claims that UC-Davis barred female participation in the wrestling program and terminated his contract after he showed support for the female wrestlers in 2001. Burch's case is supported by the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, the nation's largest legal fund focused solely on sex discrimination in higher education. AAUW also supports the female wrestlers in a separate Title IX suit against the school.

"Mike should be applauded for his courage in standing firm to the very end of this difficult saga," Maatz said. "It's regrettable that the university didn't do right by him – and the female wrestlers – from the very beginning."

In 2003, Burch sued the Regents of the University of California and four university administrators for retaliation in violation of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the law that prohibits sex discrimination in education, and other federal laws. Since 2001, no women have participated in varsity wrestling at UC-Davis, despite the fact that two former UC-Davis female wrestlers won world championship medals.

During his six-year tenure at UC-Davis, Burch was twice named "Men's Coach of the Year," led his team to more dual meet victories than any other previous wrestling coach at the school, recorded the first winning season at UCD in at least 25 years, and qualified numerous wrestlers to NCAA championships. In addition, he was a popular lecturer in religious studies and sports and society courses, where he touched on gender equity and Title IX. Burch is now the assistant wrestling coach at Brown University and a religious studies lecturer at Rhode Island College and the Rhode Island School of Design.

Over the years, interest in women's wrestling has grown tremendously, debuting as an Olympic Sport in 2004.

Read the full case summary of [\*Burch, et al. v. Regents of the University of California, et al.\*](#) Read the full case summary of the women wrestlers' case, [\*Mansouri urian, et al. v. Regents of the University of California, et al.\*](#) Interviews with AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund Interim Director Lisa Maatz and Michael Burch are available upon request. Please contact Rebecca Leaf at 202/785-7738 or [leafr@aauw.org](mailto:leafr@aauw.org); or Ashley Carr at 202/785-7745 or [carra@aauw.org](mailto:carra@aauw.org).



## Book Reviews from the AAUW Book Clubs

**Red Azalea** by Anchee Min. Anchee Min takes readers to China under Mao's reign and the "cultural revolution." She reveals both the brutal repression and the remarkable resilience of the human spirit. The *Cincinnati Post* said Red Azalea was an "... autobiography that reads like a novel . . . candor and simple beauty - reminiscent of *The Diary of Anne Frank*." The six attendees at the Women's Issues book discussion thought Red Azalea was one of the best books that had been selected for this year's reading. Mary Ellen Henehan brought reviews and questions that helped members to better understand the "cultural revolution".

The AAUW evening book group recently completed John Grisham's **The Broker**. Although Grisham is known for his courtroom dramas and legal thrillers, this one was a political thriller. It contained many of the same elements of his previous works, but had the added element of spies, political intrigue, and international tensions. The main character, "the broker," is serving a long prison term for attempting to sell secrets to foreign governments. In his last evening in office, the President pardons him. The head of the CIA has him whisked off to Italy with a new identity and hides him in Bologna, where the novel is largely set. The CIA is hoping to use him as bait to find out what country was bidding on the secrets. Although it is not one of Grisham's best, our members all enjoyed the book. As the reviewer I especially enjoyed the travelogue on Italy and Italian customs.

*The Broker* was reviewed by Mari Harrer

## SCHOLARSHIP OFFERING!



For almost 2 decades, the Barrington Area Branch of AAUW has been pleased to provide a **\$500 scholarship** to the top-ranked graduating senior woman from Barrington High School.

In order to provide an opportunity for more top graduating senior women to compete for the scholarship, this year for the first time the scholarship will be awarded to a **graduating senior woman in the top 5% of the class who writes the best essay** answering the following question:

*How will my choices in higher education affect my life and society at large in relation to gender equity?*

The announcement about this scholarship, including information about AAUW, was sent to about two dozen senior women. Carolyn Clifford is the chair of the scholarship committee and additional members are Deborah Schoendorf and Kathryn Black. The scholarship recipient will be announced and presented with a check by a member of Barrington Area Branch of AAUW on May 22 at the Barrington High School Honors Convocation.

Information about this scholarship award was shared at the gift-wrapping/fund raiser activity carried out at Barnes and Noble during the holiday season. Four AAUW volunteers wrapped books for a period of 8 hours. Carol Wardell organized the AAUW volunteers who, in addition to Carolyn, included Pat Plautz, Kathryn Black, and Barbara Phillips. \$189 was contributed toward the scholarship through this activity. Further fund raising for this scholarship will occur at the March luncheon as the proceeds from raffles will also go to this scholarship project.



## **Bobbie Svacha**

### **Nominee for Branch Loyalty Award**

**Bobbie Svacha** is a charter member who helped found the Barrington branch in 1972. A chemist who retired with W.R. Grace, Bobbie has served as our past treasurer for 6 years as well as past president for 6 years. She is currently on the board serving as communications liaison to the state and national boards of AAUW. Bobbie also served on the state board for two years as chair for Women's Issues. Bobbie has contributed to our Branch in numerous ways including helping to organize the Annual Networking Lunch for 20 years, organizing Great Decisions for our branch for over 10 years, as well as attending almost every State and National Convention since she became a member. It is hard to put into words everything that she has done for this branch. Suffice it to say, that if there is ever an unresolved question on the board on EF, public policy, bylaws or anything else concerning AAUW, the person we all turn to is Bobbie. The branch cannot think of a better candidate who exemplifies the word "loyalty," as it pertains to one who has continued to support the mission of AAUW and has made a significant impact on the work of AAUW, as Bobbie Svacha.



### **Goodbyes for AAUW Members**

Best wishes to Barbara Joyce Buchbinder, recent member and former recording secretary for our AAUW Branch. Barbara was married to her childhood sweetheart David Monte Strong on November 25th in Edmond, Oklahoma where the couple is now in residence.

## RUNNING CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY

February 13 – 1 p.m. Great Decisions study group meets at the Barrington Area Library using materials prepared by the nonpartisan Foreign Policy Association. Contact Bobbie Svacha for information as to the specific topic 847 – 381 – 3315.

February 14 - 12 noon to 2 p.m. The AAUW Luncheon Book Discussion Group meets at The Garlands of Barrington. Call Loretta Engle for more information 847 – 381 – 5012. Discussion of Cannery Row by John Steinbeck will be led by Dorothy Pratt.

February 20 – 1 p.m. Great Decisions study group meets at the Barrington Area Library using materials prepared by the nonpartisan Foreign Policy Association. Contact Bobbie Svacha for information as to the specific topic 847 – 381 – 3315.

February 27 – 1 p.m. Great Decisions study group meets at the Barrington Area Library using materials prepared by the nonpartisan Foreign Policy Association. Contact Bobbie Svacha for information as to the specific topic 847 – 381 – 3315.

7:30 p.m. The Evening Book Discussion Group will meet at the home of Helen Jantz for the discussion led by Anne Hersemann of Beach Road by James Patterson.

### MARCH - WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

March 6 - 1 p.m. Great Decisions study group meets at the Barrington Area Library using materials prepared by the nonpartisan Foreign Policy Association. Contact Bobbie Svacha for information as to the specific topic 847 – 381 – 3315.

March 13 - 1 p.m. Great Decisions study group meets at the Barrington Area Library using materials prepared by the nonpartisan Foreign Policy Association. Contact Bobbie Svacha for information as to the specific topic 847 – 381 – 3315.

March 14 - 12 noon to 2 p.m. The AAUW Luncheon Book Discussion Group meets at The Garlands of Barrington. Call Loretta Engle for more information at 847 – 381 – 5012. Discussion of Abide with Me by Elizabeth Strout will be led by Mary Lou Hajduk.

March 17 - 11:30 Annual Winter Luncheon at the Garlands. This event is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters. See elsewhere in this newsletter for detailed information.

March 19 - 7:30 p.m. at Harper College, Wellness and Sports Center. Elizabeth Kolbert, author of *Field Notes from a Catastrophe*, an award winning magazine series, will be featured. Kolbert who has been recognized by the American Association for the Advancement of Science will discuss global warming. If you are interested in car pooling, contact Bobbie Svacha for information at 847 – 381 – 3315.

March 20 - 1 p.m. Great Decisions study group meets at the Barrington Area Library using materials prepared by the nonpartisan Foreign Policy Association. Contact Bobbie Svacha for information as to the specific topic 847 – 381 – 3315.

March 22 - 7:30 p.m. - Women's Issues Book Group will discuss Obsessive Genius: The Inner World of Marie Curie by Barbara Goldsmith on March 22 at Ellen Young's home.

March 27 - 7:30 p.m. The Evening Book Discussion Group will meet at the home of Shirley Conibear for the discussion led by Peg Donnelly of Marley and Me by John Grogan.

March 31 - AAUW-IL sponsors the movie "Somebody's Child: The Redemption of Rwanda" at the Landmark Century downtown. Call Paru or Kathryn for more information.

## APRIL

April - Branch program to be announced

April 11 -12 noon to 2 p.m. The AAUW Luncheon Book Discussion Group meets at The Garlands of Barrington. Call Loretta Engle for more information at 847 – 381 – 5012. Discussion of The Good Earth by Pearl Buck will be led by Inra Antens.

April 24 -7:30 p.m. The Evening Book Discussion Group will meet at the home of Bobbi Svacha for the discussion led by Ellen Young of The Lighthouse by P.D. James.. *Please note this is a change from the original schedule.*

April 27 & 28 - AAUW-IL has its state convention in Bloomington. If you are interested in attending the convention, contact Paru Thondavadi at 847 – 842 – 0456.

## MAY

May – Branch program to be announced

May 9 -12 noon to 2 p.m. The AAUW Luncheon Book Discussion Group meets at The Garlands of Barrington. Call Loretta Engle for more information at 847 – 381 – 5012. Discussion of The World is Flat by Thomas Friedman will be led by Mary Ellen Henehan.

May 22 -7:30 p.m. The Evening Book Discussion Group will meet at the home of Peg Donnelly and the discussion led by Arlene Martin of Portrait of a Lady by Henry James.

May - Sometime during the third week at 7:30 p.m. The Women's Issues Book Group will discuss Missing Men by J. Johnson. Contact Pat Plautz at 847 – 550 – 1281 for the specific date.

**JUNE 2** - Save for our annual spring luncheon!

POSTAL CARD ST. 600



American Association of University Women  
Barrington Area, Illinois Branch  
117 South Cook Street #135  
Barrington, Illinois 60010

POSTAGE PAID



Library - Attn R. Faber  
505 N. Northwest Hwy  
Barrington, IL 60035

AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education and positive societal change

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