



American Association of University Women
LOMBARD, IL AREA BRANCH

Vol. 49 No. 6

February 2008

February Luncheon Program

Winter's "Cabin Fever" keeping you at home?

There's still time to get your reservation in for our Annual Luncheon at the Weber Grill on Saturday, February 9 at Noon (open bar at 11:30am). An afternoon of conversation and an informative presentation on Women in China by award-winning college professor Dr. Jane Wu is just the ticket to bring you out of the winter doldrums. Reserve your place at the table right now by filling out the reservation form for lunch and returning it with your \$20 check to Janet Miller, 172 E. LeMoyné, Lombard. Meant to reserve and just forgot? Call Janet at 495-3012 to let her know that you'll be there. And don't forget that friend of yours that needs to get out of the house as well. Invite her to lunch with your AAUW friends on February 9. You'll be happy you did!

Meal choices will be chosen from a private menu on the day of the luncheon. Weber Grill is located at 2331 Fountain Square Drive, Lombard.

Kathryn Tecza and Betsy Swinson
Program co-vice presidents

<p>Saturday, Feb 9</p> <p>Annual Luncheon 11:30 am ~ Weber Grill ~</p> <p>2331 Fountain Square Drive NW corner of Westmore & Butterfield Lombard</p> <p>RSVP by Feb 2 with \$20 to Janet Miller 630/495-3012</p>

Choices, Changes, Chances

A Conference for Women Seeking
New Educational and Career Opportunities
April 12, 2008
8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon
College of DuPage
Building K Commons Area

Thanks to the members who volunteered to work on the Lombard Area Branch AAUW Transitions Conference. The conference, co-sponsored with College of Du Page and National-Louis University, will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2008 from 8:30 am - noon at COD, building K.

The next meeting for our branch committee is Thursday, Jan. 31 at 7:30 p.m. at Anna Weselak's home. Any member interested in helping with the conference is welcome to attend. Please let me know if you are able to attend, or if you have any questions about the conference.

Laurie Driscoll, Transitions Conference Chair
laurdis@worldnet.att.net
630-213-0797

Mission Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

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, disability, or class.

AAUW membership is open to any graduate who holds an associates or higher degree from an accredited institution of higher education.

AAUW's Educational Foundation provides funds to advance education, research & self-development of women and to foster equity & positive societal change.

AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund provides funding and a support system for women seeking legal redress for sex discrimination.

Branch Officers

**** Change the "-AT-" to @ for real e-mail address ****

President

Loretta Caputo...932-0224
grannylori1-at-sbcglobal.net

Co-Vice-Presidents/Program

Katherine Tecza...971-0661
kathynlisle-at-comcast.net
Betsy Swinson...627-0152
swinsonjb-at-juno.com

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Doris Schertz... 629-2695
dcshertz-at-comcast.net
Kathy Brenniman... 627-5180
kfbrenn-at-aol.com

Secretary

Pat Porep... 932-0224

Treasurer & Newsletter

Leslie Sulla
relsulla-at-comcast.net

Board Meetings

See branch calendar on last page for date/location

Newsletter deadline: Material must be received by Leslie Sulla by the 3rd Friday of the month.

President's Greeting

Here we are, almost halfway through winter, with lots of things to look forward to.

We have a wonderful luncheon coming up on Feb. 9th, Saturday, at 11:30 am. Please get your reservations and \$20 in as soon as possible to Janet Miller.

- The interest groups are in full swing and the events are in this newsletter, which I would urge you to print out so you can look at it in a minute, when you don't remember something.
- Kathryn Tecza is introducing a new interest group – Readers Theatre – which will have their first meeting on Sun. Feb. 3rd. (see below)
- Our branch will be co-hosting the Transitions Conference on April 12 at COD and all are welcome to come. (See Laurie's article elsewhere in this newsletter.)



At our board meeting, we discussed the desirability of having a Member book that includes everyone's name, address, phone #, e-mail address, photo, and a biography. We on the board feel that we are getting to be a fairly large group and don't know very much about each other. It would also be nice to have a face to go with the name! This information will be private for members only and will not be used for any commercial purposes. I will mention this at the business portion of the meeting and hope to have a sample available. For any members who haven't written a biography yet, please get your information to me as soon as you can. I will also be taking pictures at the Feb. luncheon, when we will all be looking our beautiful best! See you then!

Loretta Caputo, President



Do You Like to Tell a Story?

A new interest group, Readers Theatre, is taking shape and you're invited to take part in it. Readers Theatre is a book-in-hand-style of performance. No acting experience is required for this interest group. It's minimal theatre in support of literature and reading. You may have read that readers theatre is becoming increasingly popular with teachers to encourage interest and skill in reading among young students. For adults, readers theatre is "theatre of the mind." It's a team effort of readers and audience that involves imaging the sets, costumes and props. On the first Sunday of each month from 7pm to 8:45pm, anyone with an interest in enjoying a couple of hours of relatively simple dramatic presentation is welcome.

We will discuss and organize the Readers Theatre interest group on Sunday, February 3, at 7pm, at FOCUS storefront event space (graciously provided by owner Stella Lorens), located in The Cove Plaza, 430 W. 22nd Street, Lombard - next to Brooster's Chicken.

For more information, call Kathryn Tecza at 971-0661.

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Membership Matters



Association offers choices for NEW members who join AAUW before or after March 15. (The \$10 State dues and \$14 Branch dues remain the same.)

- **Join ON or BEFORE March 15:** National dues are reduced to half price - \$23.50 instead of \$47 for 6 months instead of 12. The total with state and branch dues (January 1, 2008 through June 30, 2008) is **\$47.50**.

- **Join ON or AFTER March 15:** National dues for next year increase \$2 - \$49 instead of \$47, but you get 15 months, not 12. The total with state and branch dues (March 15, 2008 through June 30, 2009) is **\$73.00**.

- **Join ON or AFTER March 15 at a membership event** like our EF Luncheon or Women's History Month Meeting and "Shape the Future's 2 for 1 Offer" applies. Two people who join together split next year's \$49 national membership. The total with state and branch dues for 15 months (March 15, 2008 through June 30, 2009) is **\$48.50** per person.

- Do you have any college graduates on your gift list this summer? Remember AAUW members can "Give a Grad a Gift" of AAUW Membership for anyone graduating with an Associates, Bachelors or Higher Degree this year. Give your children, grandchildren, neighbor or best friend a gift they can take with them wherever they settle after graduation - AAUW. For more information on AAUW membership or if you're hopelessly confused!! Call Kathy or Doris. Doris Schertz and Kathleen Brenniman Co-Vice Presidents, Membership kfbrenn-at-aol.com; 630/627-5180 dcschertz-at-comcast.net, 630/629-2695

AAUW Board Member Biographies

Mary Ann Dion (EF Chair): Raised on the far west side of Chicago, she was married at eighteen and has been divorced for twenty years. When her older daughter enrolled in college she decided to attend college as well and graduated from North Central College in four years with a B.A. in Accounting. A few years later she went back to school for an M.B.A. with a concentration in finance. She has three grown children—two daughters and a son—and six grandchildren, the eldest 21 years and the youngest was born in December! Her interests are family, reading, movies, friends, dining out and travel—recently to Ireland, Spain, Portugal, and Italy.

Wilma Bain (Ways and Means): I am retired from my career as an early childhood teacher and administrator. I also spent many of these same years with the development of the DuPage Children's Museum from its beginning and helped establish the Community Tutoring Center at First Church of Lombard. Now I am finding my time evolving around family, friends, church and am actively renewing my interest in digital photography and graphic design projects. I enjoy reading, gardening, traveling and the beach in South Carolina.

Self Esteem & “Hooking Up”

I wanted to include this article as part of our “Self Esteem for Women and Girls” initiative. After reading it I felt a strong need to in some way educate young women about the loss of self esteem that is part of making sex a casual act performed by people who are really too young to make intelligent choices on this subject.

I can think of nothing more demeaning to the self esteem of a middle school girl than feeling it necessary to perform oral sex for a boy simply because she likes him or because she feels peer pressure to do this.

I am by no means a prude; but this offended even me. How do we remove young girls from this demeaning cycle? I was hoping that this might be something AAUW would like to tackle.

I realize there are moral imperatives here and this might be a delicate issue which parents would like to handle in their own way; but societal change doesn't occur until someone makes us aware that a problem is widespread and a change needs to happen.

This speaks to me as a health issue as well.

What can we do to help in this situation?

Any suggestions as to what AAUW might do—perhaps, safe sex and pro-choice?

Pat Porep, AAUW-IL Public Policy Committee

Dying To Date

Kathleen Parker

WASHINGTON — If you're younger than 30 or maybe even 35, you may not recognize the word “date” as a verb. But once upon a time, dating was something men and women did as a prelude to marriage, which — hold on to your britches — was a prelude to sex.

By now everyone's heard of the hook-up culture prevalent on college campuses and, increasingly, in high schools and even middle schools. Kids don't date; they just do it (or something close to “it,” an activity that a recent president asserted was not actual sex), and then figure out what comes next. If anything. As one young woman explained “hooking up” to Washington Post writer Laura Sessions Stepp (author of the book “Unhooked”): “First you give a guy oral sex and then you decide if you like him.”

This conversation took place in the family room of the girl's home. Immediately after that definition was served, the mother offered Stepp a homemade cookie. And we thought cluelessness was for teenagers.

Too often what follows the hook-up is emotional pain and physical disease, the combination of which has created a mental health crisis on American campuses. That diagnosis comes from Miriam Grossman, author and psychiatrist at UCLA and one of five women, including Stepp, who spoke recently at the Washington-based Ethics and Public Policy Center about sex on campus.

Grossman is most concerned that politically correct ideology has contaminated the health field at great cost to young lives. As Grossman sees it, when the scientific facts contradict what

is being promoted as truth, then ideology has trumped reality.

Speaking to a packed room of mostly women, Grossman noted that while some in the audience had attended college during the free-love days, the world is far more dangerous now. Today there are more than two-dozen sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) — 15 million new cases each year — some of which are incurable.

The consequences are worse for young women, says Grossman. In her psychiatric practice, she has come to believe that women suffer more from sexual hook-ups than men do and wonders whether the hormone oxytocin is a factor. Oxytocin is released during childbirth and nursing to stimulate milk production and promote maternal attachment. It is also released during sexual activity for both men and women, hence the nickname “love potion.”

Feminists don't much like the oxytocin factor, given the explicit suggestion that men and women might be physically and emotionally different. But wouldn't a more truly feminist position seek to recognize those hormonal differences and promote protection for women from the kind of ignorance that causes them harm?

Physically, young women are getting clobbered by STDs with potentially deadly results. If a young woman begins having sex as a freshman in college, there's a 50 percent chance she'll have the human papillomavirus (HPV) by her senior year. While most cases of HPV are harmless, the virus causes nearly every case of cervical cancer, says Grossman.

Stacey, one of the college students featured in Grossman's book “Unprotected,” contracted HPV even though a condom was used. But HPV, like herpes, lives on skin that may not be covered by a condom. An HPV expert tells college women, “You'd be wise to simply assume your partner has HPV infection.”

Your partner. What happened to your dearly beloved? He — and she — disappeared with coed dorms and the triumph of reproductive health ideology. While coed dorms replaced obstacle with opportunity, ideologically driven sex-education programs promoted permissiveness and experimentation.

Because sex ed is based on the assumption that young people are sexually active with multiple partners, kids have been led to believe by mainstream health professionals that casual sex is OK. That's a delusion, says Grossman, because scientific data clearly indicate otherwise. Casual sex is, in fact, a serious health risk.

Rather than spread that word, sex educators have tweaked their message from urging “safe sex” to a more realistic “safer sex,” any elaboration of which would defy standards of decency. Interested parents can find out for themselves by visiting one of several university-sponsored sex advice Web sites, such as Columbia's GoAskAlice.com.

To all good and bad, there is an inevitable backlash, and casual sex has lost its allure for many students. Having learned painful lessons from their elders' misguided altruism, they are seeking other expressions of intimacy. *(continued on page 5)*

Dying to Date (cont.)

At Duke University recently, Stepp asked how many in her audience of about 250 would like to bring back dating. Four out of every five raised their hands.

It would seem that young people are not hook-up machines, but are human beings who desire real intimacy and emotional connection. Toward that end, parents might buy Grossman's book for their children — and themselves.

Serve with cookies.

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*Kathleen Parker's e-mail address is kparker@kparker.com
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AAUW LAF Plaintiff Settles with UC-Boulder for \$2.5 Million

AAUW LAF announced a settlement agreement between Lisa Simpson and the University of Colorado at Boulder (CU). The settlement agreement provides \$2.5 million to Simpson, requires that CU create a new position in the Office of Victim Assistance, and hire an independent adviser to monitor CU's compliance with federal sex discrimination laws. Simpson requested a lower settlement amount in exchange for the new personnel.

Lisa Simpson alleged that in December 2001, she and another female student were sexually assaulted by numerous football recruits and players. Simpson and her roommate reported the events to CU's vice chancellor for student affairs and the director of the university's Office of Victim Assistance the following day. Although the university charged the students involved with code of conduct violations, it declined to pursue sexual assault charges against them. In addition, none of the football players lost his eligibility to play in any subsequent football games. Simpson sued the university under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 for failing to remedy the sexually hostile environment on campus that led to her sexual assault and harassment by university football recruits and players.

Throughout the suit, Simpson advocated nationwide reforms to college and university policies to improve the treatment and safety of women on campuses. CU itself overhauled its football recruiting program, and several top officials, including the chancellor and the football coach, resigned in the aftermath.

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund adopted the case in February 2005 and provided over \$35,000 in financial support.

"Lisa appreciates so much the support of the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund and the many AAUW members she has met. The wide-ranging and continuous support of the AAUW has been very important to Lisa and her legal team throughout what was a long and difficult battle," said Simpson's attorney Kimberly Hult.

Interest Group Calendar

All Lombard Area AAUW members are welcome to attend any of these interest group programs. Have an idea for a new interest group? Bring your idea to the board.

NEW: Readers Theatre (1st Sunday)
Chair: Katherine Tecza, 971-0661
Feb. 3, 7 pm at FOCUS (Cove Plaza)
See article on page 2 for details!



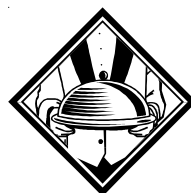
Mystery Buffs (1st Wednesday)
Chair: Barbara Kozi, 620-0352
Feb. 6, 7 pm at Mary Ann Schlacks'
Book: Dilys Awards 2004
Darkly Dreaming Dexter
by Jeff Lindsay

Cinema (2nd Monday)
Chair: Loretta Caputo, 932-0224
Feb. 11, 7:15pm at TBA
Movie: Waitress



Women's Issues (3rd Tuesday)
Chairs: Carol Schuh, 629-8817,
and Marilyn Gustafson, 325-1475
Feb. 19, 10 am at Olive's
Program: TBA

Literature (3rd Friday)
Chair: Loretta Caputo, 932-0224
Feb. 15, 1 pm at Evelyn Montgomery's
Digging to America
by Anne Tyler



Dining on a Dime (1st Monday)
Chair: Pat Porep, 629-2933
No meeting in February.
March 4: Sweet Tomatoes?

Six in the City (various)
Chair: Doris Schertz, 629-2695
*Six in the City is on hiatus until
March 29 for the SWAN event
(see January's newsletter).*



AAUW-IL, Inc
Lombard Area Branch
126 S. Chase Ave.
Lombard, IL 60148-2904

Mission Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

Need Information?

Lombard Area Web Site:
www.aauw-il.org/lombard/

State Web Site:
www.aauw-il.org

AAUW Member Helpline:
800/821-4364
helpline@aauw.org
www.aauw.org

Congressional Action Line:
202/785-7786

Lombard Area Branch American Association of University Women

Branch Calendar

February

- Feb. 3** - Readers Theatre, 7pm; FOCUS (see page 2)
Feb. 5 - Primary Election and Lombard pool referendum
Feb. 6 - Mystery Buffs, 7pm; Mary Ann Schlack's

Feb. 9 - Branch luncheon and program; 11:30 am at Weber Grill. RSVP to Janet Miller by February 2.

Feb. 11 - Cinema, 7:15pm; Location TBA
Feb. 15 - Literature, 1 pm; Evelyn's
Feb. 18 - AAUW board meeting; 6:45pm; at FOCUS
Feb. 19 - Women's Issues, 10 am; Olive's

*(no February "Dining on a Dime" or
"Six in the City")*

Future

- March 12** - Branch program, 7pm; First Church upstairs
March 29 - International Swan Day; See January newsletter

April 12 - **Transitions Conference** at COD. 8:30a - noon
(see front page)

May 2-3, 2008 - Illinois AAUW State Convention, Holiday Inn Select, Naperville



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