



# American Association of University Women **LOMBARD, IL AREA BRANCH**

Vol. 49 No. 7

March 2008

## March Program:

### Celebrate Women with Careers in the Arts



*In honor of Women's History Month*

Join us for performances by these outstanding artists:  
Kristin Collins & Judy Laughlin, Alchemy Theatre  
Barbara Staley, Classical singer

What an inspiring evening! In creating a life in the arts, our program will consider the work of being an artist, the practicalities of making a living, and reflect on the future that women can shape through the arts. As our guests, we are delighted to have two gifted artists who will share their talent and experience with us.

**Weds, March 12**

**Women with Careers  
in the Arts**

**7 pm**

**First Church of Lombard  
Upstairs**

**Kristin Collins** is Managing Director of Alchemy Theatre Company, which hopes to soon find a permanent home in Lombard. Kristin most recently was seen in the Jeff Recommended production of Neil LaBute's *Some Girl(s)* at Profiles Theatre in Chicago. Other favorite roles include Catherine in *Proof*, Joanne Galloway in *A Few Good Men* and Mindy in *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*. Kristin will perform several monologues for us.

**Judy Laughlin** is a company member at Alchemy Theatre Company. She currently can be seen in Lincoln Square Theatre's production of *The Martian Chronicles*. Past shows include *Nickle and Dimed*, *Ordinary People* and *The Women*.

**Barbara Staley** has sung internationally in opera and recital. She has performed at the Teatro di Verdi in Busseto, Italy, Graz Austria Symphony Orchestra, Kassel Opera House. She has also performed with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Grant Park Music Festival, Opera North (Philadelphia), Washington Opera, as well as Oakland Opera. She is a voice teacher at a number of Chicago area high schools including Glenbard East, and she maintains a private voice studio. She is also on the faculty of DePaul University's Community Music Division. Barbara will perform works by Richard Strauss, Verdi, Berlioz, and Mascagni. Special thanks to April Arnold and Beth Gelman on our Program Planning Committee

Kathryn Tecza and Betsy Swinson, Program co-vice presidents

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## Transitions Conference: April 12

Do you know any women who would answer YES to either of the following questions? If so, please pass on this information and a copy of the conference registration form (included in this newsletter) to them ASAP.

*Do you need training for a new career?*

*Do you need a college degree for a new job?*

If so, plan on attending the conference "Choices, Changes, Chances: A Conference for Women Seeking New Educational and Career Resources." This conference, sponsored by the Lombard Area American Association of University Women Branch, the College of DuPage and National-Louis University, will be held on

Saturday, April 12, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. - Noon  
College of DuPage, Building K, Glen Ellyn

Keynote speaker Maureen O'Brien, CEO of her own company and an inspirational speaker will help motivate you. Discussion sessions will be held on several areas of concern to women returning to school.

- Financial Aid
- Health Careers
- Return to Learning Issues
- Non Traditional Careers
- Career Trends
- Steps to Find Your Passion

In addition, several area colleges will have display booths and information about their programs.

The registration fee is \$10 (deadline April 5).

Additional information is available from [laurdris@worldnet.att.net](mailto:laurdris@worldnet.att.net) and at [www.aauw-il.org/lombard](http://www.aauw-il.org/lombard).

Laurie Driscoll, Transitions Chairperson

## 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  
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#### Co-Vice-Presidents/Program

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#### Co -Vice-Presidents/Membership

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Kathy Brenniman... 627-5180  
[kfbrenn-at-aol.com](mailto:kfbrenn-at-aol.com)

#### Secretary

Pat Porep... 932-0224

#### Treasurer & Newsletter

Leslie Sullla  
[relsulla-at-comcast.net](mailto:relsulla-at-comcast.net)

### Board Meetings

See branch calendar on last page for date/location

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

## President's Greeting

Do we all believe in global warming or is a new ice age upon us? Sometimes it feels that way as we slog on thru this winter, but we have not been idle. At our board meeting we discussed our proposed partnership with Elmhurst AAUW as they pursue the Adelante program. It will be a once-a-year conference for Latina girls and their mothers, designed to encourage Latina girls to stay in school, get an education, and go on to college instead of doing the cultural thing which is to drop out of school, marry young and have a family, thus limiting their future and lifetime earnings. Kathy Brenniman, who worked with Elmhurst on their grant application, has written in more detail on page 4 since it would involve our branch getting as many as possible of our members working on this commitment. We will be voting on this proposal as well as our slate of officers at the general meeting so March 12, so please read it carefully with your involvement in mind.



As for the slate of officers, the nominating committee has presented these candidates:

*Secretary:* Kristi Miller

*Co-Membership VPs:* Barb Madigan and Lynn Berndt

Other positions now filled are:

Book Sale Chairs: Kathryn Tecza and Deb Dynako

Program Chairs: Betsy Swinson and Patricia Jarog

Please be prepared to come to the March meeting and vote for these candidates.

There are a few things going on state wide that may interest you. The Illinois State Convention will be held in Naperville this year on May 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Anyone interested may attend and since it is so close to us, I hope many of you will plan to go. It is at the Holiday Inn Select, 1801 N. Naper Blvd. in Naperville. As an addition to the conference, there will be a Leadership Development Conference from 11:00 to 3:30 on May 2 with a box lunch included in your \$15 fee. All members are encouraged to attend this Leadership Development Conference!

Convention registration forms will be available in the Spring Link newsletter from AAUW-IL or online at [www.aauw-il.org](http://www.aauw-il.org) (in later March). So far Pat Porep, Leslie Sullla, Kathy Brenniman, and Doris Schertz have expressed interest in being delegates – other members are welcome to step forward as possible delegates at the March 12 general meeting. We are allowed 4 delegates to this convention and we will vote on these March 12.

*As you can see, our March meeting will be a very important one. Please plan to be there to discuss and vote on:*

- *Possible partnership with Elmhurst AAUW on Adelante Aspirante*
- *Branch board candidates for next year*
- *State convention delegates*

Loretta Caputo, President

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Save the Date!

April Program with Hinsdale/Oakbrook AAUW

**Project Harambee** (Swahili meaning "all pull together")

**Saturday, April 26**

Union Church of Hinsdale

137 South Garfield. 9:30 a.m.

(More info coming next month on car-pooling from Lombard)

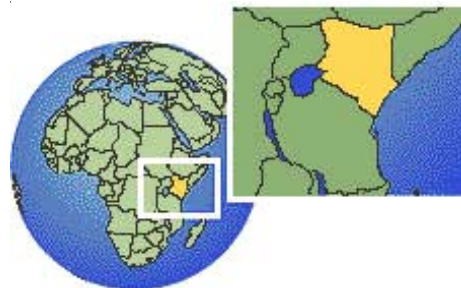
Dr. Kathleen Harrison, founder of Harambee, writes in her latest blog entry from Kenya, Africa: *"The goodness and great courage and faith of the majority of Kenyans brings me to my knees. After all, I get to come home in a few days. God only knows what awaits them here in the coming months."*

Dr. Harrison is a geneticist at Loyola University Chicago's Stritch School of Medicine. She is the founder of Harambee, a non-profit organization aimed at providing hope and economical support to families with HIV-positive women as the "head of household." Harambee provides safe workshops in Africa for women to make crafted items to market in the United States.

Kenya is barely twice the size of Nevada with more than 1.2 million people living with HIV or AIDS. As we know from the news headlines, recent tensions in Kenya over election results have caused violence and lawlessness in the country. The "troubles" are causing medical students to cancel plans to come to Kenya and keeping visitors from seeing first-hand the needs of women and orphans afflicted with HIV.

As AAUW branch co-sponsors of Dr. Harrison's presentation about Project Harambee, this will be our opportunity to hear about her life-changing experience in Kenya and also purchase crafts made by women in Eastern Africa. Although not required for admission to the program in April, a "free-will offering for Project Harambee" will be collected at the March 12th Lombard AAUW meeting and given to Dr. Harrison at the April program. For those attending the program at Union Church of Hinsdale, we have been invited to bring a bottle of aspirin to aid medical services provided to women and children in Africa.

Kathryn Tecza and Betsy Swinson  
Program co-vice presidents



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## Membership Matters



With 87 members, our branch gets 4 voting delegates to the State Convention on May 2-3 in Naperville, but any member can attend. Save the date and join us! One breakout session is "Membership Matters," featuring Kathy and Doris sharing the branch growth YOU have made possible.

Not every branch can grow from 59 members to 87 in 14 months. YOU are special.

Dr. Jane Wu's talk on changes for women and girls in China brought out 51 attendees to our February lunch, including 7 guests: Dr. Wu; Nanette Anderson, guest of Kathy; Betsy Kunberger and Heidi Koberstine, guests of Doris; Joyce Driskill, guest of Kristi Miller; Therese Xie, guest of Marilyn Gustafson; and Lisa Blacker, National College of Health Sciences student who found AAUW on the Internet. All have expressed interest in joining and Lisa Blacker joined on the spot as a Student Affiliate.

March is Women's History Month. Support Women Artists Now (SWAN) and bring friends. If they join after March 15, it's 15 months for the price of 12 – until June 2009!

Doris Schertz and Kathleen Brenniman  
Co-Vice Presidents, Membership  
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[dcschertz-at-comcast.net](mailto:dcschertz-at-comcast.net), 630/629-2695

## AAUW Mission Opportunity!

Our Branch President, Loretta Caputo, has asked me to inform you of an opportunity for our Branch to be involved in a community project that would further our AAUW mission. The Elmhurst Branch of AAUW is planning a conference for middle school Latina girls, entitled **Adelante! Aspirante** that would be held at Elmhurst College in April of 2009. They have applied for a Community Action Grant from AAUW in the amount of \$10,000, which will be awarded in April of this year. Whether or not they receive the grant, they are planning to have the Conference and are very involved in the planning stages already. They have approached several other local AAUW Branches and asked them to be part of the Advisory Committee, which will have the primary responsibility for planning and executing the Conference. They are planning to hold the conference initially for two years. Their hope is it will be successful enough to continue for several years after that. As a former member of the AAUW Panel that selects the grantees for this grant, I was asked by the Elmhurst AAUW women to assist them with the preparation of the 12-page grant proposal which was submitted in January, 2008.

On February 18, after a thorough review and discussion of Elmhurst's grant proposal, the Lombard Area AAUW Board voted unanimously to present the proposal to the branch membership for approval at our branch meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Copies of the

proposal will be e-mailed to members prior to the meeting, and this article will summarize the main points of the proposal. I will be at the meeting to lead the discussion prior to the vote.

Our responsibility will be to have someone serve on the Advisory Committee that will meet the third Wednesday of each month at 7 PM beginning on March 19<sup>th</sup> of this year. One of our branch members has volunteered to serve in this capacity and would be looking for a co-chair once the membership approves our involvement.

The following is a summary of the Elmhurst AAUW grant proposal:

### *¡Adelante Aspirante! Conference for Latina Girls*

*The Elmhurst Branch requests grant funding for "Adelante! Aspirante," an annual one-day conference for Latina girls in the sixth through eighth grades and their mothers, focusing on the personal, professional and economic value of a college education.*

*Anticipated outcomes of the conference are:*

- To encourage the vision of a college education and professional career*
- To support resistance to cultural pressures which often result in dropping out of high school, early marriage and pregnancy*

*Speakers and workshops will address the following topics:*

- The value and advantages of a college education*
- Career opportunities, particularly those that require bilingual speakers*
- High school preparation required for college*
- Financial aid availability with application assistance and support*
- Goal-setting skills and strategies*

*Adelante! is relevant to the Education Foundation mission to achieve equity for women and girls through advocacy and education by helping participants break away from cultural norms that block them from college educations. Several Elmhurst AAUW Branch members are junior high and high school teachers and counselors. They have seen the impact of the cultural expectation of young marriages resulting in young Latina women dropping out of school, then being funneled into "pink collar" jobs due to their lack of educational opportunities.*

*The reception of Latina community organizations to our proposal has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic. Upon hearing of our project, each organization has indicated how the project will positively impact their work. For example, the Chicago Bilingual Nurse Consortium wants to be involved in our project because more bi-lingual nurses are needed.*

Through my involvement in the review of the grant proposal, I have learned all the details of the project. In my opinion, it is an outstanding project that clearly advances the mission of AAUW.

Kathy Brenniman [kfbrenn@aol.com](mailto:kfbrenn@aol.com); 630/627-5180

## Nominating Committee Report

The committee, consisting of Heidi Fraser, Barb Madigan, and Betty Meyer, has presented the slate of candidates for our next AAUW year: 2008 - 2009.

**The committee has nominated:**

**Membership Co-VPs:** Lynn Berndt and Barb Madigan

**Secretary:** Kristi Miller

We will vote on these positions at the general meeting on March 12.

(Thank you Nominating Committee!)



### Six in the City and Cinema

**Empathy, by Adi Refaeli**  
**Saturday March 29, 2008**  
**9:45 am to 4:00 pm**

9:45 am - Meet at Doris' (321 W Edward, Lombard) to carpool to the Landmark Century Centre Mall at Clark @ Broadway & Diversey. Travel time: 10-11 am.

11:00 am – Discount parking at Century Centre Mall. Shop and have lunch until 12:15 pm.

12:15 pm – Chicago premiere of *Empathy*, first film of Adi Refaeli, who began her career in Israeli community television. Now screening internationally, *Empathy* won the Judges Award for Best Short from the Red Rock Film Festival in Utah. On 3/29/08 Adi will provide a personal introduction, and then take questions from the WITASWAN audience after the film screening. *Empathy* has been called an Israeli version of *Crash* (which won the Best Picture Oscar in 2006).

3:00 pm – Program concludes and we'll drive home.

Premier Screening is \$15 per person or \$10 for seniors and students (or \$25 at the door). Fill out the form found at [www.aauw-il.org/WITASWAN/SaturdayEmpathyResForm.pdf](http://www.aauw-il.org/WITASWAN/SaturdayEmpathyResForm.pdf)

Checks **MUST** be received by **Monday, March 24**. Doris is in California 3/2-3/15. **E-mail Doris to let her know if you want a ride or can drive.** Mail the filled out reservation form plus \$15 or \$10 check and mail to the IWA address on the reservation form by March 24.

Doris Schertz  
630/629-2695

## 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.



Readers Theatre (1st Sunday)

Chair: Katherine Tecza, 971-0661

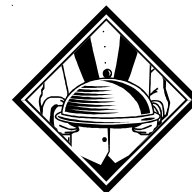
**March 2**, 7-8:45 pm at FOCUS (Cove Plaza, 22nd & Finley, Lombard)

Dining on a Dime (1st Monday)

Chair: Pat Porep, 629-2933

**March 3: Sweet Tomatoes**, 6:30pm

Reservations are made a week or so beforehand. Please call Pat Porep first to see if there's an opening.



Mystery Buffs (1st Wednesday)

Chair: Barbara Kozi, 620-0352

**Mar. 5**, 7 pm at Heidi's  
Book: *Daggers Awards 2004*

Silence of the Grave  
by Arnaldur Indridason



Cinema (2nd Monday)

Chair: Loretta Caputo, 932-0224

**March 10**, 7:15pm at TBA

Movie: The Jane Austen Book Club



Women's Issues (3rd Tuesday)

Chairs: Carol Schuh, 629-8817,  
and Marilyn Gustafson, 325-1475

**March 18**, 10 am at Lois Hockman's  
Program: "Family Shelter Service—Battered Women" presented by Shannon Sudberry

Literature (3rd Friday)

Chair: Loretta Caputo, 932-0224

**March 21**, 1 pm at Louise Barne's

The Lemon Tree

by Sandy Tolan



Six in the City (various)

Chair: Doris Schertz, 629-2695

**March 29:** WITASWAN event:  
*Empathy*, Landmark's Century  
Center Theatre, Chicago

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/](http://www.aauw-il.org/lombard/)

State Web Site:  
[www.aauw-il.org](http://www.aauw-il.org)

AAUW Member Helpline:  
800/821-4364  
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[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

Congressional Action Line:  
202/785-7786

## Lombard Area Branch American Association of University Women

### Branch Calendar

#### **March**

**March 2** - Readers Theatre, 7pm; FOCUS

**March 3** - Dining on a Dime, 6:30pm; Sweet Tomatoes

**March 5** - Mystery Buffs, 7pm; Heidi's

**March 10** - Cinema, 7:15pm; Location TBA

**March 12** - [Branch program](#), 7pm; First Church upstairs

**March 17** - AAUW [board meeting](#); 6:45pm; at FOCUS

**March 18** - Women's Issues, 10 am; Lois's

**March 21** - Literature, 1 pm; Louise's

**March 29** - International Swan Day (see pg. 5)

#### **Future**

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

**April 22** - Pay Equity Day in Illinois

**April 26** - Joint meeting with Hinsdale Branch, 9:30a; Union Church, Hinsdale (see pg. 3 for details)

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



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