

AAUW

INDIANAPOLIS BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

Year's Theme: "Advocating for Change"

**"Advocating for Justice, Women's Issues:
Update from Planned Parenthood of
Indiana and the American Civil Liberties
Union of Indiana"**

Thursday, February 23, 2012, 11:00 am
The Scottish Rite Cathedral
650 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis

Speakers:

Ms. Betty Cockrum, President & CEO,
Planned Parenthood of Indiana

Mr. Ken Falk, Lead Attorney,
American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana

11:00 am, lunch on your own at the Scottish Rite Cafeteria

11:30, program in the Truman Room

**Reservations not necessary, but please notify Barb Wellnitz,
Communication Chair, 431-2148, barb@bwellnitz.com
or let your caller know, so we can be sure of enough seating.**

Questions, call Lora Vann, Program Co-Chair, 926-1314.

This will be an excellent program to bring guests to hear about
these important legal and social issues.

**Board Meeting, Saturday, February 18, 9:30 am, The Indianapolis
Star, 8278 Georgetown Rd., Indianapolis: Budget, Program, Interest
Groups. Snow date: Saturday, February 23, before the program.**

AAUW's Value Promise

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and
economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

<http://www.aauw.org/>

<http://web.indstate.edu/aauw-in/home.html>



February 2012
Issue Number 5

2011-2012 Board

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Lois Gumper, Dorothy Alexander,
Penny Kyker
Member Handbook/Roster
*** Historian
*** Hospitality
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Interest Group Leaders

Jan Pfeil Doyle Daytime Book
Jean Petranoff Lunch Reservations
Michele Chosney Evening Book
Patricia Wood Creative Writing
Jan Swartz Ethnic Dining
Michelle Chosney Walk/Hike

Liaisons

Coy Halpern
Julian Center
Lois Gumper
Girls' Science Conference
*** Indpls Council of Women
*** open opportunities

Greetings from Your Co-President, Judi Deng judideng@comcast.net

*Above the elm and maple trees
An elegance draws near
And landscape bows to royalty
As wintertime is here.
Snow Clouds by Irish Rose*

Unlike most Februaries, this one is most exciting for us here in Indianapolis. Our city will host the Super Bowl for the first time and the festivities that surround it.

On February 23rd our branch will meet at the Scottish Rite Cathedral for a discussion on women's rights with Ken Falk, lead attorney of ACLU-Ind. and Betty Cockrum, President and CEO, Planned Parenthood-Ind. We hope to see you all there.

Report on the December, 2011, Program from Dr. Lora Vann, Program Co-Chair

Darlene Graham is a pediatric therapist working with children at the Julian Center. She, as guest speaker at our annual Christmas luncheon, graced us with an extensive perspective on the efficacy of the Julian Center and its role with children and mothers in crisis. To the more than twenty AAUW members and guests, it engendered a renewal of desire and efforts to offer as much assistance as possible to ameliorate situational sufferings. Our practical gifts, toys, and amenities were given in the hope of making a positive contribution, a positive difference.

Many thanks to our speaker, our guests, and our members, from Lora Vann

Thank you one and all, AAUW members, for your Holiday Gifts for the Julian Center.

My car resembled Santa's sleigh traveling to the Julian Center!

From Coy Halpern, Branch Liaison to the Julian Center

Speaker, Mr. Ken Falk: Since 1996, Mr. Falk has been the legal director of the ACLU of Indiana. A 1977 graduate of Columbia Law School in New York City, Mr. Falk was employed by Legal Services Organization of Indiana (now Indiana Legal Services) from 1977 to 1996. At the time he left Legal Services he was the Litigation Director of the organization. Since 1999, Mr. Falk has also served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the Robert H. McKinney School of Law in Indianapolis.

In his work with the ACLU, Mr. Falk has litigated and argued numerous cases in Indiana and federal appellate courts, and also the United States Supreme Court.

In 1996 Mr. Falk was named a Sagamore of the Wabash and in 2004 he was awarded the David H. Hamacher Public Service Award by the Indiana State Bar Association. In 2006 he was named a "Distinguished Barrister" by the *Indiana Lawyer*,

He has been married for 34 years to Donna Lucas and has two adult children.

Speaker, Ms. Betty Cockrum: In July, 2002, Betty Cockrum became President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Indiana (PPIN), which is the fifth largest affiliate of 79 nationwide, providing quality, affordable health care and education to more than 100,000 Hoosiers each year.

Prior to joining Planned Parenthood of Indiana, Ms. Cockrum served nearly three decades in public service. Her last tour of duty was as State Budget Director.

Positions prior to that include Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Administration, Director of Financial and Administrative Services with the Indiana Department of Commerce, and Bloomington City Controller.

Interest Groups – Calendar

Ethnic Dining

Please call **Jan Swartz**, 291-8122, for the February luncheon details.

Walk/Hike

The last walk of the season was in October at Holliday Park. For details about possible Spring start-up, contact Michele Chosney, 328-5227 or mechosney@comcast.net, or call **Marie Veling**, 334-1367.

Evening Book Group

There will be no PM Book Group meeting in February. We will resume on Monday, March 5. See details in the March newsletter. New members are always welcome. Contact **Michele Chosney**, 328-5227 or mechosney@comcast.net.

Daytime Book Discussion

February 20, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, by Khaled Hosseini, discussion leader, Yvonne Dittmer.

March 19, *The Girl with the Pearl Earring*, by Tracy Chevalier, discussion leader, Carol Beck.

Meetings are on the third Monday at noon, American Village, 2026 E. 54th Street, Lincoln Lodge Private Dining Room.

Lunch is \$7, including tax and tip. **Jean Petranof**, 334-2861, will be contacting members for lunch reservations.

For other information, contact **Jan Pfeil Doyle** at 431-3500 or jan@mw.net. New members always welcome.

Creative Writing

Contact **Pat Wood**, 283-2904, for location and further information. We meet on the 3rd Monday of the month at members' homes, and new members are always welcome.

Help Needed: The Branch needs one more person willing to telephone 5-6 members

monthly with the reminder about the program meeting – please contact Barb Wellnitz, Communication Chair, 431-2148, or barb@bwellnitz.com, if you can help with this important communication responsibility.

Help Also Needed Here! Contact Lois Gumpfer, AAUW Sycamore Girls' Conference Liaison:

Let's have a great turn-out of AAUW volunteers at the Girls' Conference, Sat., March 10!

Sycamore School, Indianapolis, 1750 West 64th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46260, (317) 202-2500

AAUW was a founding member of this conference, and we want to show our continuing support with our presence as well as with the annual scholarships from the Branch. You can choose how much time you can offer, and where you wish to assist, such as helping register attendees, or assisting a presenter.

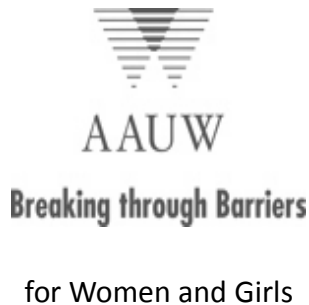
If you have volunteered or indicated an interest in the past you will receive an announcement in February. If you are not already on the mailing list, contact Lois Gumpfer, 251-8929, to receive this year's notice.

Encourage middle school girls to study and to pursue interests and opportunities in STEM careers!
"Curiosity, Confidence, Challenge"

Mitzi Witchger reminds us that IUPUI is celebrating the 15th anniversary of the Office of Women this year. An opening reception was held Jan. 11, 2012, 5:30. See <http://ofw.iupui.edu/leadership.asp>

"Advocating for Change" -- recognize AAUW Indianapolis Branch members who are volunteering in ways that make a difference! For the March Newsletter, please let Penny Kyker, Newsletter Editor, know where you volunteer, so others may be inspired and participate! This may be tutoring, mentoring, assisting a non-for-profit organization, or other assistance.

944 East Main Street
Carmel IN 46033



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

Mark your calendar:

Please submit news for the March Newsletter by February 15, to Penny Kyker, pklyker2002@yahoo.com, 317-587-8649

Next Board Meeting: Saturday, February 18, 9:30 am, Indianapolis Star Building
Snow date, Thursday, February 23, before the program.

Thursday, February 23, 11 am, Lunch and Branch Program, Scottish Rite Cathedral,
“Advocating for Justice,” Ms. Betty Cockrum, Planned Parenthood-IN and Mr. Ken Falk, ACLU-IN.

Thursday, March 1, 3:30 pm, 2012 Torchbearer Awards, Ind. Gov. Center

Saturday, March 10, Volunteer at the Girls' Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)
Conference at the Sycamore School: “Curiosity, Confidence, Challenge!”

Thursday, March 15, 11:00 am, Branch Program, “Promoting Equity for Girls through Educational Empowerment, Global Issues” – Annual Joint Meeting with Church Women United and the League of Women Voters. Please bring a salad or dessert to share, and your own tableware. Drinks will be provided.
North United Methodist Church, 3808 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis.

Saturday, April 28, Indianapolis Branch goes to the Indiana State AAUW Convention, Muncie.
AAUW V-P Patricia Ho will join us.

Saturday, May 5, 9:30 am, Board Meeting: Budget, Programs and Interest Groups for 2012-2013.
10:45 am, Branch Program: “Food, Evolving Options”
Information from 2nd Helpings, Meals on Wheels, farmers' markets, and others.
Highlights of State Convention; Elections and Installation of Officers.
Special feature: Brunch provided by Co-President, Dorothy Alexander.

Welcome new Branch members! We will be delighted to greet these new members at our next meeting!

Janet Carpenter, 366 West 62nd St., Indianapolis, IN 46260, H: 317-254-5985, W: 317-278-6093
janet.carp@comcast.net Janet is a graduate of the University of Kentucky with a PhD in Nursing, 1996.

Jacqueline Rankin, 9405 General Way, Apt. 202, Indianapolis, IN 46216, H: 317-543-9012
jackierankin84@att.net Jacqueline is a graduate of the University of LaVerne, with her EdD in Educational Management, 1981. Her dissertation focus was "Nonverbal Communication and Behavior."
She conducts workshops on body language.

Both Janet and Jackie will receive their Newsletter and monthly meeting reminders by email.
Jan Doyle, Branch Finance Officer, reminds us that other new members for us to welcome are Sally Fox, Sally Kibby-Brown, Jan Ratz, and Amy Shackelford. Jan also reports that our Branch membership is 66.

Please add this information to your Roster.

Reminder: members joining from now to the end of our year, June 30, pay one-half the dues, \$34.

Please update the address for Marian Towne in your Roster:
5548 Liberty Blvd, Indianapolis IN 46220. Telephone is not changed.

AAUW Indianapolis Branch member Carol Weisert sends us all greetings from Texas,
where she and her husband are living for the duration of his job.
She would love to hear from Indy friends! Write to 7850 FM 1960 East, Humble, TX 77338

Don't miss the 2012 Torchbearer Awards: Thursday, March 1, Indiana Government Center Auditorium, 302 W. Washington St. Register online at: <http://www.in.gov/icw/2334.htm>
3:30 pm, registration; 4:00 pm, ceremony, 6:00 pm, reception.

The Torchbearer Awards were created by the Indiana Commission for Women to recognize Hoosier women who have overcome or removed barriers or whose achievements have contributed to making our state a better place in which to live, work and raise a family.

From Mitzi Witchger, once-in-a-lifetime event in Indianapolis!

**Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Leymah Gbowee:
"Women, Peace and Reconciliation in West Africa"
Thursday, February 16, 2:30 – 4:00 pm, Robert H. McKinney School of Law,
Lynne Courtroom, IUPUI.**

Mitzi turned in this announcement much earlier, but our Newsletter was not ready to go out. Unfortunately, all public seats have been taken and no more reservations are being accepted. More opportunities to hear Ms. Gbowee in Indianapolis are being planned, and will be posted by IUPUI, watch this web site:
<http://international.iupui.edu/event-registration/>

2012 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders: NCCWSL! May 31 – June 2. University of Maryland, College Park <http://www.nccwsl.org/> Help send a student leader!
Keynote Speakers:
Lilly Ledbetter, activist & author, Mayda del Valle, youngest winner of the White House Poetry Jam.

ACLU-Indiana

The Homeless: Hide Them or Help Them: ACLU-I First Wednesday Brown Bag Discussion

Wednesday, February 1, Noon to 1:50 pm, Community Room, WFYI, 1630 North Meridian St.
"Smart, Civil and Only 50 Minutes" -- Free and open to the public
Bring your lunch and we will provide drinks and stimulating conversation. <http://aclu-in.org/events.html>

Panelists: Moderator, Russ McQuaid, WXIN Fox 59 investigative reporter

Ken Falk, Legal Director to the ACLU of Indiana

Michael Hurst, Program Director for the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention

Nora Spitznogle, Director of Programs for Second Helpings

Rebecca Townsend, News Editor, NUVO

ACLU Indiana Statement on Constitutionality of "Creationism" Bill

www.aclu-in.org.

Indianapolis -- While guaranteeing students' First Amendment rights to privately practice their faith in educational settings, schools are also constitutionally bound to avoid any **endorsement** of religion. Nevertheless, some Indiana lawmakers are attempting to push a "creationism" bill through this short session despite their admission that the proposed legislation has "constitutional concerns."

U.S Supreme Court precedents going back many years have established the unconstitutionality of teaching "creationism" in public schools.

Barring "creationism" instruction in public schools doesn't mean religion cannot be taught in public schools. Since public school curriculum must always serve a secular educational purpose, religion can be taught if:

- The purpose is to examine religion's role in history, art, literature, society or other secular subjects.
- Such teaching takes place in an objective, unbiased manner.
- Such teaching does not promote or criticize any particular religion or set of beliefs.

ACLU of Indiana Executive Director Gilbert Holmes said, "When we hear time and again about limited resources for education, I think it's fair for Hoosiers to expect better stewardship of taxpayer dollars than lawmakers are demonstrating by undertaking projects that are clearly in violation of federal law and the Constitution."

Planned Parenthood of Indiana -- Action Network, Jan 4

<http://www.ppin.org/>

Welcome to the opening days of the 2012 Session of the Indiana General Assembly - a "short session" during which only emergency measures are supposed to be considered by our legislators. Legislators are to conclude their work by midnight March 14.

This year? Although our legislative leaders have been clear that their number one priority is "right to work" legislation, we know that leaves plenty of room for other proposals that would interfere with women's and families' access to quality, low-cost reproductive health care. It isn't the least bit encouraging that the Daniels administration decided to [limit citizen participation](#) here in Indiana by limiting the number of persons allowed in the State House, for the first time in Indiana's history.

Standing Strong in 2012: We are so much stronger when we stand together. Just look at the way activists mobilized to defeat the personhood initiative in [Mississippi](#) just two months ago. We must do the same here at home by standing together to protect Hoosiers from anti-woman/anti-family planning legislation.

Please stand with us. Here's how: Be informed. Share accurate information with those you know on your social networking pages by becoming a [Social Networking Guru](#) for Planned Parenthood Advocates of Indiana. Volunteer to join our [Writers Circle](#). Volunteer to attend [\(if they will let you in\)](#) and/or testify at a legislative hearing in support of PPIN by emailing Advocates@ppin.org. Talk with [legislators](#) from your part of the state (or any others you happen to know)– in person, by email or by phone.