

AAUW-Illinois Spring Convention Break-Out Session
Saturday, April 28, 2007 (11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.)
The Chateau Bloomington; 1601 Jumer Drive; Bloomington, IL

Building a Culture to Call Our Own: Our Power as Women in the Audience

Martha Richards
Executive Director
The Fund for Women Artists
Northampton, MA

Jan Lisa Huttner
Director of International Relations
AAUW-Illinois
Chicago, IL

Are you tired of seeing so many stereotypes of women in books, films, plays and other art forms? In this workshop, two prominent cultural activists explain how you can create change through the power of your pocketbook.

Martha Richards is the Executive Director of The Fund for Women Artists, a non-profit organization that celebrates and supports "art that tells the truth about women's lives." The organization is founded on the belief that women artists have the power to change the way women are perceived in our society, and it provides fundraising, advocacy and networking services to help women artists get the resources they need to do their essential creative work.

Richards will give background information about the status of women in various art forms and describe the current programs of The Fund for Women Artists. She will discuss ways to participate in initiatives that support women's voices and visions.

Jan Lisa Huttner, the creative force behind AAUW-Illinois' WITASWAN initiative (Women in the Audience Supporting Women Artists Now) will explain why films written and directed by women face special obstacles at the box office. She will discuss the synergy between The Fund for Women Artists' efforts and the WITASWAN initiative and propose ways that women can maximize their influence on the film industry as audience members/ticket buyers.

Brief Bio: Martha Richards	Brief Bio: Jan Lisa Huttner
<p>Martha Richards is the Founder and Executive Director of The Fund for Women Artists, a non-profit organization that provides free fundraising, networking and advocacy services to over 300,000 artists a year through its website at www.WomenArts.org.</p> <p>Martha has over thirty years of experience as an arts manager, including nine years at Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College (three as Executive Director), five years as Managing Director at StageWest in Springfield, Massachusetts, and twelve years as the Executive Director of The Fund for Women Artists. She has served as a business advisor to many individual women artists and women-led arts organizations throughout her career, and she lectures frequently on arts issues.</p> <p>Martha has a B.A. in Economics from the University of California Berkeley and a J.D. from the University of California's Hastings College of Law. She is a member of the California bar, and she was one of the founding directors of California Lawyers for the Arts. She has been honored as one of three "founding mothers" of the Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts.</p>	<p>Lifelong movie buff Jan Lisa Huttner is the managing editor of <i>FILMS FOR TWO: The Online Guide for Busy Couples</i> (www.film42.com), a website devoted to promoting films of interest to both male and female audience members.</p> <p>Jan writes regular monthly columns for Chicago's <i>JUF News</i> and <i>The Digital Filmmaker</i> website, and freelances for additional print and internet editors. She is a popular speaker, addressing women's groups and college audiences all across Illinois. Jan is the author of numerous interviews with female filmmakers including directors, screenwriters, and producers. She was also the first person to post an in-depth interview with Professor Martha Lauzen, the woman most responsible for defining and tracking the "Celluloid Ceiling" (which continues to restrict opportunities for women filmmakers in Hollywood and beyond).</p> <p>Jan received her B.A. from St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland (the "Great Books" school), and Masters degrees in Psychology from Harvard University & the University of Chicago. An active member of AAUW since 1982, Jan currently holds the position of Director of International Relations on the AAUW-Illinois Board.</p>

For more information, visit the AAUW-Illinois website: <http://www.aauw-il.org>

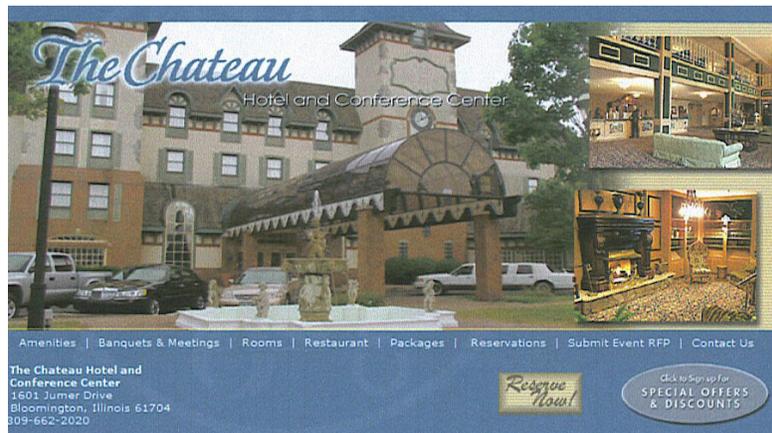
You do NOT have to be a member of AAUW-Illinois
to attend this one session for free!

If you would like to attend, please e-mail Jan

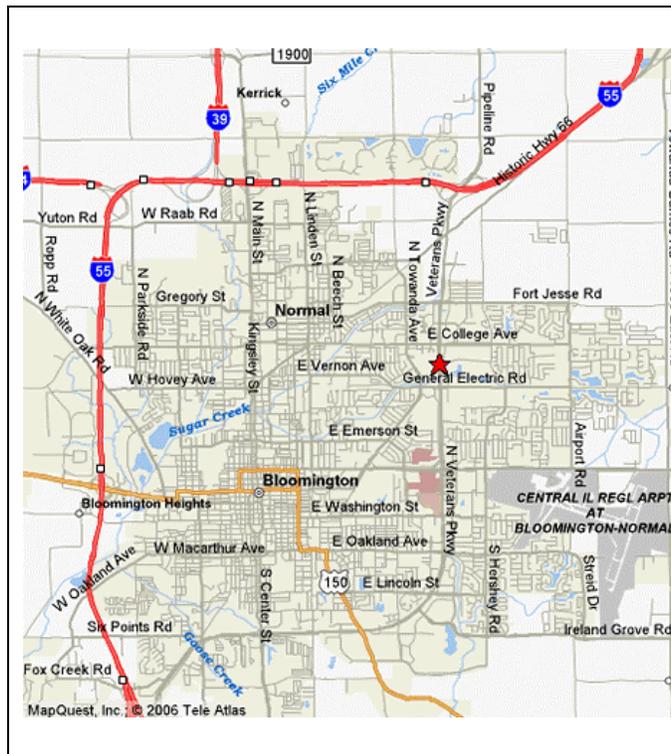
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or

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Bloomington-Normal Airport:

The airport is located on Route 9 West. Stay on Route 9 West to Veteran's Parkway, and turn right. Continue to Jumer Dr, turn right and The Chateau Hotel and Conference Center is on the right hand side.