



**Thanks to AAUW-IL  
Jane Addams Day Commemorative Holiday – December 10  
First Illinois State Holiday in Honor of a Woman**

In 2006, when the Illinois Governor signed HB 5243 naming December 10<sup>th</sup> “Jane Addams Day” in Illinois, he brought to fruition two years of dedicated work by Dongola, IL school teacher and AAUW member Cindy Vines and a team of 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The project received a boost when Carbondale, IL AAUW president Leila Marvin and AAUW branch members contacted their district representative. The bill was then introduced and passed in both the House and Senate and signed by the governor.

Jane Addams was an inspired Illinois woman and founding member of the Chicago AAUW branch. She is best known as the founder of Hull-House, offering women the opportunity to become agents for social, political, education, and economic change in their own lives and in the lives of others as well. Jane Addams was the first American woman to receive the Nobel Prize for Peace on December 10, 1931 for her decades of peace crusades.

AAUW-IL, Inc. has since been committed to spreading the word about this special holiday throughout the state by co-sponsoring celebration activities, educating people and children about Jane Addams, and encouraging AAUW-IL members and branches to plan and participate in events in their communities. This project also has provided a good networking platform with other Jane Addams legacy organizations including Women’s International League of Peace and Freedom (WILPF).

Activities to spread the word about Jane Addams Day included:

- Publicity on AAUW-IL.org and national AAUW.org websites as well as articles in newspapers, magazines, blogs, and e-newsletters.
- A booklet written by AAUW-IL member Barbara Zeitz titled *A Hull of a House of Women and Peace: a Tribute to Jane Addams* (articles can be found on [www.aauw-il.org](http://www.aauw-il.org) under CountHerHistory.)
- A luncheon (2007) and brunch (2008) at Hull-House in Chicago that included presentations and remarks by IL government officials including now Governor Pat Quinn and House Majority Leader Barbara Flynn Currie and authors Louise Knight and Jean Bethke Elshtain.
- Distribution of 20,000 Jane Addams bookmarks to AAUW-IL branch members for distribution to area libraries, book stores, and area schools to promote the holiday.
- The raffle of a Jane Addams Star Quilt at the 2009 IL State Convention. This quilt, made by AAUW-IL members, raised funds to support future Jane Addams Day programs.
- The involvement of most branches throughout Illinois in producing programs and community activities to generate interest and educated adults and children about Jane Addams and the state holiday.

Does your state have a holiday in honor of a woman? We hope this continuing project will inspire other women to honor a woman in their state and bring attention to AAUW by promoting AAUW’s stated mission of education in the form of women’s history.

For more information go to, <http://www.aauw-il.org/jane.html>

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