

AAUW TIMES

**Elgin Area Branch
1920-2014**



*working for 94 years to promote equity for all women and girls,
Life-long education and positive social change*



December 2015/January 2016

American Association of University Women

Vol. 21 No. 4

Website – elginarea-il.aauw.net

Email Address aauw.membership.elginarea@gmail.com

Annual Holiday Brunch December 12, 2015, 10 am Home of Julie Ford



Join us for good food and fellowship at our annual holiday celebration. Donations to the Ecker Center for Mental Health are most welcome. Please bring your donation in the

form of a check made out directly to the Ecker Center.

Calendar

December

- Dec 2 **Movie Discussion Group** 4:30 pm
Colonial Cafe
The Bridge of Spies
- Dec 9 **Good Tastes** TBD
Lorna Miller, chair

- Dec 10 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 am
Mary Navin, hostess
The Boys in the Boat
Daniel James Brown
- Dec 12 **Holiday Brunch** 10 am
Julie Ford, hostess
- Dec 14 **Great Books** 7 pm
Gail Borden Library
Poetry Session
- Dec 16 **Evening Book Group** 7 pm
Mary Navin, hostess
The Paris Architect
Charles Belfoures

January

- Jan 6 **Movie Discussion Group** 4:30 pm
Colonial Cafe
TBD
- Jan 11 **Great Books** 7 pm
Gail Borden Library
Revelation
Flannery O'Connor
- Jan 13 **Good Tastes** TBD
- Jan 14 **Morning Book Group** 9 am
Panera Bread, South Barrington
Lila
Marilynne Robinson

- Jan 14 **Morning Crafters** 9:30 am
Crochet Project
Linda Rusenovich, Hostess
- Jan 19 **Knitting/Crochet Group** 1-3 pm
Elgin Knit Works, 8 Douglas Ave
- Jan 23 **Soup and Salad Luncheon** 11 am
St Hugh of Lincoln Church
- Jan 27 **Evening Book Group** 7 pm
Hostess TBD
Ashley's War
Gayle T. Lemmon
- Jan 29 **Reel Women/Real Women** 6 pm
Gail Borden Library
Beasts of the Southern Wild
- Jan 30 **District 5 Networking Lunch** 11 am
Deerfield Embassy Suites

Future Dates

- March 12 **Women's History Month Brunch** 11 am
- April 9 **Scholars' Brunch**, Lambs Farm
- June 3-4 **AAUW Midwest Regional Conference**
Kansas City, Kansas

January General Meeting

Soup and Salad Luncheon
January 23, 11 am
St. Hugh Episcopal Church
36W957 Highland Ave, Elgin

Pay Equity

Ruth Sweetser, Former national AAUW President, has asked that branch members read/reread

AAUW's work to date on this issue before the meeting. [aauw.org/files/2013/03/The Simple Truth-Fall-2013.pdf](http://aauw.org/files/2013/03/The_Simple_Truth_Fall-2013.pdf)

Her presentation will then focus on what AAUW can do/is doing about equal pay for women.



Board members are responsible for bringing the food. Those who don't bring food are asked for a donation of \$7.50, to benefit Educational Opportunities and the branch. **Please bring a soup bowl, plate, and silverware.** The meeting will include a silent auction to benefit the Legal Advocacy Fund.

Silent Auction

Benefits the Legal Advocacy Fund
From Rachel Campbell and Joyce Causey

It has been a tradition at our January *Soup 'N Salad luncheon* to hold a *Silent Auction* to benefit AAUW's **LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND**. It is been so successful in the past, we're going to hold one yet again! We're asking each of you to bring an item you'd like to donate or a service you'd be willing to provide to someone. Consider offering such tempting things as a ride to O'Hare, a coupon for a hand-knitted scarf in yarn of the bidder's choosing, baked goodies or a coupon for a tasty dish to be prepared at an agreed upon time. We have creative branch members who can come up with many unusual and enticing items. Remember, the items may be gently used, but please, no white elephants! We will have bidding slips and other supplies you

might need. Each donor should be prepared to suggest an opening bid for your donated item(s).

Bring your items and your checkbook! The LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND will benefit from your generosity.

Co-Presidents' Message

From Jeanne Hebeisen

As we head into the holiday season, we have had three great AAUW meetings for which to be thankful. The program committee, headed by Gareth Sitz and Patty Harkin, should be congratulated for their efforts in putting them together.

As the nag who has been known in the past to complain about frivolous programs, I commend the program committee for programs worthy of an AAUW branch. And those to come in 2016 appear to be equally so. I, personally, am looking forward to the visit to Fermilab. Our family once visited there when my children were young. We were all spellbound. In my old age, I expect to be just as spellbound on this trip. Thanks to Rosemary Dyson for arranging it.

It's fitting that we rest our brains and exercise our social skills at our Holiday Brunch. I hope you will find time to drop in and enjoy the company of your fellow AAUW members and all the delicious food they will provide. Julie Ford and Jane Watson are working hard to make it a joyous affair. Julie is once again opening her home for the brunch. This has to be at least her third time as hostess.

I'd like to put in a plug for the District 5 Networking Luncheon in Deerfield on January 30. These luncheons not only provide interaction with AAUW members outside of our branch and good food, but, through 32 years, have had interesting, accomplished women speakers. This year's speaker, Colonel Jill Morgenthaler (ret.), sounds like more of the same - a fascinating woman, successful in a man's world. Read about her background in the attachment to the newsletter.

Happy holidays to one and all from Beverly and me!

Minutes

AAUW Elgin Area Branch Meeting
November 12, 2015, at St Hugh Church, Elgin, IL

A fabulous buffet of Nepalese food started the evening. The program, A Trip to Nepal was given by former member Carol Cowles. Co-President Beverly Lovett started our Business Meeting at 7:15 pm.

The minutes from our October 20, 2015, meeting were approved as printed.

Treasurer Linda Youngren told the members the board had approved giving \$2500 to the EO Fund and \$500 to the LAF Fund. The Treasurer's Report was approved as emailed and will be filed for audit.

Co-Program Vice-President Patty Harkin said she would be getting information out about our January meeting, Pay Equity. December would be our Holiday Brunch.

Co-Membership Vice-President Fay Kitchin introduced Rachel Campbell who spoke about our deceased member, Janet Eberhardt.

Co-President's Report--Beverly said the board has suggested we give our donations at the holiday brunch to the Ecker Center.

Committee Reports

Co-Social Chair Julie Ford thanked the following members for their contributions toward our dinner. Anne Weiss, Meg Still, Linda Rock, Bonnie Hill, Bev Lovett, Pat and Mary Navin and Jane Watson. She reminded everyone the Holiday Brunch will be at her home, Dec 12 at 10:00.

Announcements: Shirley May Byrnes invited everyone to see her perform in The Radio Version of The Christmas Carol.

Motion to adjourn at 7:30 was made by Rosemary Dyson and seconded by Barbara Mulliken.

Respectfully submitted
Bonnie Hill, Secretary

The Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF)

What is It?

From Rachel Campbell and Joyce Causey

The Legal Advocacy Fund works to challenge sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. Our resources range from community outreach programs to backing of major cases. Sex discrimination today takes a variety of forms, unfair pay, pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and violations of Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972 can affect both women and men. LAF addresses these barriers by informing people of their rights and using the legal system to seek justice and change.

PAY EQUITY, an issue that will be addressed in the January meeting, is a matter of simple fairness.

AAUW is currently supporting *such* a case through the LAF. *Rizo v. Fresno County Office of Education*, highlights a significant factor that can contribute to the wage gap: employers' reliance on an employee's prior salary history to determine a new salary. (Please go to the AAUW website and access the LAF EXPRESS to read details of this case.)

We appreciate your support of the important work of LAF through our SILENT AUCTION in January.

Public Policy

From Linda Knight

I have only one issue to talk about this month, and that issue is pay inequality. This article is directly from the AAUW Action Network.

The U.S. Senate is considering the Workplace Advancement Act (s.2200), a well-meaning but wholly inadequate equal pay bill that would do more harm than good. While Congress must work to address the longstanding discriminatory practices that contribute to the gender wage gap, the Workplace Advancement Act is a do-nothing bill that fails to close any of the loopholes in our existing equal pay laws.

The Workplace Advancement Act puts forth only one solution to address the gender pay gap: a very weak, very narrow non-retaliation provision that would require workers to use legally "magic" words when initiating discussions about pay. The bill fails to close the many loopholes used to justify discriminatory wages, while recommitting to the outdated legal principles of the Equal Pay Act of 1963.

The Workplace Advancement Act doesn't do what its name purports. Sadly, the solutions offered in this bill are naïve at best and disingenuous at worst.

PLEASE contact your senators and urge them to oppose the Workplace Advancement Act (s. 2200) and vote "NO" on cloture when the bill comes to a vote.

Richard J. Durbin

711 Hart Senate Building, Washington, D.C.

(202) 224-2152

Fax: (202) 228-0400

230 S. Dearborn St., Suite 3892, Chicago, IL 60604

(312) 353-4952

Fax: (312) 353-0150

dick@durbin.senate.gov

Mark Kirk

524 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

(202) 224-2854

Fax: (202) 228-3333

230 S. Dearborn St., Suite 3900, Chicago, IL 60604

(312) 886-3506

Fax: (312) 886-2117

www.kirk.senate.gov



REEL WOMEN for REAL WOMEN

From Barbara Evans

December: No Film

Tues., Jan. 26, 2016: *Beasts of the Southern Wild*
(2012) PG-13

Starring Quvenzhané Wallis and Dwight Henry

This film examines the sense of community and perseverance among a group of locals in a fictional region located outside the protection of New Orleans' levee system,. After a storm (most likely Hurricane Katrina, though it is never named) floods their area, survivors of this impoverished community band together to survive. Among them is Hushpuppy, the six-year-old girl through whose eyes this story is told. With her father disappearing for long periods of time, Hushpuppy must use her wits to survive and does so quite creatively.

That the film received 2013 Academy Award nominations for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Adapted Screenplay will surprise no one who sees it. Most astonishing, however, and well-deserving of her Best Actress nomination is Quenzhané, who was five when she was cast as Hushpuppy and seven when the film was completed.

Open to the public, Reel Women meets at Gail Borden Library at 6 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every month except December. You are welcome to bring food and drink into the movie. Discussion follows the show.

Tues., February 23: *Selma*

Tues., March 22: *Far from the Madding Crowd*

Knitting/Crochet Group

From Kathy Turnquist

We will not meet during December, but our next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 19, 2016, from 1-3 pm. at Elgin Knit Works, 8 Douglas Ave. in downtown Elgin. Bring your current project to work on while we discuss our knitting ideas for charity. People who want to learn how to knit can come and learn about the lessons Elgin Knit Works offers and see the wonderful store.

Morning Crafters

From Jelayne Ewers

Morning Crafters will meet on Thursday, January 14 at 9:30 am at the home of Linda Rusenovich. We plan to crochet and enjoy conversation and refreshments. Bring a crochet project or any project of choice.

Women's History Month Brunch

From Barbara Evans

The 2016 **Women's History Month Brunch** will be held from 10 to 12:30 on **Saturday, March 12**, at the Business Center dining room at Elgin Community College. Featured will be museum curator Elizabeth Carlson's talk, *The Rise and Fall of Women's Underwear*. The ticket price is \$15. Details about reserving one will be in the February newsletter as well as on flyers that will be available at our Christmas gathering

NCCWSL

From Medina Gross



What is the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders?

NCCWSL is where college women make their future what they want.

As America's premier conference for college women, NCCWSL provides a transformative

experience for attendees and prepares them to be the next generation of leaders. Each attendee becomes a part of the conference's 30-year legacy.

In June 2016 AAUW will host nearly 1,000 college women from every state and from around the world.

At this two and a half day conference, students

- Choose from more than 50 workshops that prepare them for life after college
- Meet inspiring role models including Women of Distinction awardees and speakers
- Make connections for life
- Discover their future from 100 graduate schools and employers
- Gain the confidence and skills to return to their campuses and communities ready to take action

Since 2009, the Elgin area branch has sent six young women to this leadership conference in the Washington, DC, area. We are still in touch with most of them as they continue their distinguished careers. Nanci Alanis was part of the staff the year after she attended the conference and now serves on our board. She has presented her research findings at three conferences. Follow some of these womens' achievements on our Facebook page.and in the occasional articles they write for our newsletter. Next year's conference will be May 28-30 at the

University of Maryland, College Park. Applicants's qualifications must include completing 12 semester hours of college, currently attending college in the Elgin area, and having made significant contributions to their school or community. We will be accepting applications for the 2016 conference after the first of the year.

Message from Newsletter Editors

Newsletter deadline for the **February** issue is January **20**. Please submit all items as a Word document to **all three** editors.

Medina Gross - medinag@gmail.com

Jeanne Hebeisen - jeanne@mc.net

Beverly Lovett - lovett1988@comcast.net

Website

Website items may be sent at any time to Marcia Cameron - mec515@sbcglobal.net
Nancy Lamia - nancylamia@gmail.com