

AAUW TIMES

**Elgin Area Branch
1920-2015**



*Working for 95 years to promote equity for all women and girls,
Life-long education and positive social change*

February 2016

American Association of University Women

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General Meeting

**Thursday, February 25, 7:00 PM
Second Baptist Church
1280 Summit Street, Elgin**

Race, Culture and Women

Traci D. Ellis, Attorney and Member of the Board for School District U-46, will discuss the collective power of women collaborating to demand equality and justice for ALL women.



What we know is that when women are strengthened, families are strengthened, and when families are strengthened, our nation is strengthened.

She will endeavor to make a case for why the fight for women's rights must necessarily include the rights of women of color, which it has not always done, and how white women can be allies to women of color in the struggle for racial equality in this country.

Calendar

- Feb. 3 **Movie Discussion Group** 4:30 pm
Colonial Café
The Big Short
- Feb. 8 **Great Books** 7:00 pm
Gail Borden Public Library
“A Room of One’s Own”, Virginia Woolf (essay)
- Feb. 10 **Good Tastes** 5:00 pm
Jimmy's Char House, 2290 Point Blvd., Elgin
847/783 0200
- Feb. 11 **Morning Book Group** 9 am.
Hostess: Panera Bread
The News Sorority, Sheila Weller
- Feb. 11 **Crafters** 9:30 am
Hostess: Lee Engman
Painted Plaque
- Feb. 15 **Knitting/Crocheting Group** 1-3 pm
Hostess: Patty Harkin
Bring a current or new project
- Feb. 20 **March Newsletter Deadline**
- Feb. 22 **The Book Club** Time & Place TBA
- Feb. 23 **Reel Women for Real Women** 6:00 pm
Gail Borden Public Library
Selma
- Feb. 24 **Evening Book Group** 7:00 pm
Hostess: Jan Jones
All the Light We Cannot See, Anthony Doerr
- Feb. 25 **Branch Meeting** 7 pm

Non-Branch Calendar

- Mar. 12 **Women's History Month Brunch** 10 – 12:30
- April 9 **Scholars' Brunch**, Lambs Farm
- Apr. 29-30 **State Convention**
Roosevelt University, Schaumburg
- June 3-4 **Midwest Ten State AAUW Biennial Conference**
Great Wolf Lodge, Kansas City, Kansas
Noon Friday to Saturday late afternoon
(See attachment)

Co-Presidents' Message

From Beverly Lovett

Winter has finally set in around these parts, but we have some great ideas percolating that are sure to warm your hearts and illuminate your minds.

As you read this, we will already have had our January General Meeting with former AAUW Association President Ruth Sweetser speaking to us about Pay Equity. AAUW has been in the forefront of fighting the Gender Pay Gap and provides tools to do this, including tactics for salary negotiation for working women.

As we are all aware, our Branch doesn't have as many women still in the work force as some other branches may have, nor do we have very much ethnic or cultural variation in our ranks currently; but we have a Diversity Committee working on just that. Again, the Association has provided a wonderfully detailed Diversity Toolkit to help us with our goals. Sue Schulz, our Diversity Committee Chair, has gotten her committee members really excited about the possibilities.

To start the process, we will be holding two Saturday afternoon salons this spring, to which we hope all of you will come to share your thoughts about our branch. Historically, a salon is "a gathering of people under the roof of an inspiring host, held partly to amuse one another and partly to refine the taste and increase the knowledge of the participants through conversation." Hopefully there will be some laughter during our salons, but I'm sure that there will definitely be an increase in our knowledge. Details of the salons are in Sue's message in this newsletter.

Heidi Koberstine - heidi.koberstine@sbcglobal.net - is collecting photos from Illinois branch events for a montage to be shown at the State Convention. Please email photos to Heidi sooner rather than later.

Stay warm and, remember, that it's only eight weeks until Spring!

Reel Women/Real Women

From Barbara Evans



Coming Attraction
Tuesday, February 23 - 6 pm
Gail Borden Library
Selma (2015) PG-13
Starring David Oyelowo, Carmen Ejogo
Directed by Ava DuVernays

This film chronicles the tumultuous 3-month period in 1965 when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., led a dangerous campaign to secure equal voting rights for blacks in the face of violent opposition. The epic march from Selma to Montgomery culminated in President Lyndon Johnson signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965. As critic Jonathan Kiefer wrote, "Ultimately, what makes DuVernay's movie so good and necessary is that it actually lets us see the arc of the moral universe bending—being bent by human will—toward justice."

March movie is *Far from the Madding Crowd* (2015) PG-13

Joan Hayashida

Donations for Joan, who died last month, can be sent to AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund, 1111 Sixteenth St NW, Washington D.C., 20036. You should enter her name and AAUW Funds in the memo area of your check. If you want to designate a special Fund, go to AAUW.org to see the list of funds. Click on Get Involved. Click on Donate (item 3). Click on Search for Specific Program. You can also send your donation online.

Janet Eberhard From Rachel Campbell

Janet Eberhardt, a member of the Elgin Area Branch, passed away August, 2015. She was a teacher who worked in a district east of Elgin. She was an avid doll collector. As a member of our branch she participated in the Evening Memoir Group. It was her wish to tell her family's story to her son and grandchild.

Diversity Salons From Sue Schulz

In our September newsletter our Membership Committee stated that our branch's priority *goal* ".....is to build our membership. While retaining our current membership, we must also attract and engage younger members. We would like to attract members civil and social activities that benefit us all. We would like to attract the 40-50 year old woman who has an interest in our community of women who will be immediately active. We also want to continue to attract women of all ethnicities, ages, young and older, who are committed to the goals of AAUW."



To make this goal a reality and a true priority for all our members, we would like to invite you to participate in conversations that are meant to build and assess our branch. As a branch, we have few opportunities to gather together and address the issues facing us and how to accomplish this priority goal.

Therefore, we will be having informal get-togethers that we are calling *salons*. A "*salon*" is a gathering of people who come together to discuss and increase knowledge through conversation. We will be discussing our branch culture and strengths, our branch alignment with AAUW missions and what we need to do to improve, attract and gain new membership.

Each of you have contributed to the branch in different ways, some over many years. You hold the historical knowledge and experience that create the culture and mission of the branch. The life of the branch will continue only if we reach out to new members. These salons are intended to help us assess our branch and develop an action plan for reaching out into the community to build membership.

To have a healthy branch that reflects the mission of AAUW and our community, it is important that all of our members' voices are heard. So please join us. By sharing your views you will be an integral part of creating and ensuring our future.

Salon 1

General topic – What are our strengths and culture?
Saturday, March 5th, 2 p.m.
667 Grand Ave., Elgin

Salon 2

General topic – What do we need to work on?
Saturday, April 16th, 2 p.m.
602 Prospect St., Elgin

Public Policy From Linda Knight

Attorney General Loretta Lynch recently announced a new initiative from the Justice Department designed to prevent gender bias in law enforcement's approach to domestic violence and sexual assault cases.

The initiative, created in collaboration with victim advocates, police leaders, and civil rights advocates, aims to examine how gender bias limits the response of police to cases of domestic and sexual violence, and to provide a set of "basic principles" to help eliminate its effect.

"Sexual and domestic violence is a heinous crime, inflicting physical and emotional trauma that can linger for years, with grave consequences for survivors and their loved ones; for neighborhoods and communities and for our country as a whole," Lynch said at a press conference. "And while the brunt of sexual and domestic violence is borne disproportionately by women and LGBT individuals, make no mistake: it is an affront to us all, threatening the integrity of our communities and violating the dignity of our fellow citizens."

The attorney general said the new guidance was created in response to requests for assistance from many of the Department of Justice's law enforcement partners in creating anti-gender bias guidelines to integrate into their training, policies, and practices.

The guidance will affect state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies. It advises law enforcement agencies to incorporate the following into policies, training, and supervision protocols:

1. Recognize and address biases, assumptions, and stereotypes about victims.
2. Treat all victims with respect and employ interviewing tactics that encourage a victim to participate and provide facts about the incident.
3. Investigate sexual assault or domestic violence complaints thoroughly and effectively.
4. Appropriately classify reports of sexual assault or domestic violence.
5. Refer victims to appropriate services.
6. Properly identify the assailant in domestic violence incidents.
7. Hold officers who commit sexual assault or domestic violence accountable.
8. Maintain, review, and act upon data regarding sexual assault and domestic violence.

The guidelines also outline modified "victim-centered and trauma informed" interview techniques, as well as statistics about sexual assault and domestic violence cases. The Attorney General did not specify when the guidelines would go into effect.

The announcement comes in the midst of a federal effort to reform the justice system's attitude and response toward sexual

assault cases, including a \$41 million federal grant to help reduce backlogs of untested sexual assault kits. (Taken in part from an article written by Ema O'Connor, a BuzzFeed reporter.)

International Women's Issues

From Juanita Brook

Simeon Tagel of the Global Post reported today that Colombia, S.A., has finally passed a law to prosecute anyone using any kind of chemical agent to physically harm another person. The penalty for this crime will be 12 years in prison. But if the victim is permanently disfigured, the sentence will be up to 50 years.

Throwing acid, usually a man throwing acid at a woman, is not as prevalent in Colombia as in some other countries, such as Nepal, Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Uganda. (Recently the Taliban have used this method to discourage young women from attending school in Afghanistan and Pakistan.) But in Colombia about 100 women a year are disfigured by angry husbands or boyfriends.

In 2013, a construction worker resented it when industrial inspector, Elizabeth Ruales, 38, told him to use proper safety methods. In response, he threw a bucket of acid at her, burning her face, neck, arms and legs. He was eventually given an 18 month suspended sentence.

With this new law signed by President Juan Manuel Santos on Monday, the sentence will be much more severe. One small step.... Hopefully other countries will follow by using legislation to discourage this barbaric practice.

Knitting/Crocheting Group

From Kathy Turnquist

 Our meeting this month will be held on Monday, February 15 from 1-3 p.m. at the home of Patty Harkin. Everyone is welcome! Bring a current project or a new one. Enjoy conversation and see what everyone is working on



Awards Committee Meeting

The Awards Committee meeting will be on February 4 to select the following award recipients/nominees:

Branch awards are Susan B. Anthony and EO Funds Named Grant

Nominations are YWCA Leader Luncheon Award and AAUW-IL "Agent of Change"

If you have any suggestions, contact Awards Chair Anne Marblestone

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."

Getting to Know Our Advertisers

From Judy Fishburn

My ad shows a happy little man/creature - sporting a red coat and hat - a big smile - and he is holding my business card (top left on ad page).

"What could that little guy have to do with travel?" - you may be asking yourself...

Well - that little guy is what the Norwegians know as a Nisse... Nisse are as tall as - - - oh - about up to your knees. They take care of all the animals on the farm....as long as the farmer and his wife remember to put out rice porridge with butter and milk in the barn on Christmas Eve. If they don't. .. strange things will happen here and there...the milk may go sour - the chickens stop laying eggs - the dogs bark all night long.

Can you read the button he is sporting on his lapel? The button reads..."Uff Da". Uff Da - loosely translated ... is what you say when eating hot soup - with a runny nose. Or - what you say when you can't remember your mother-in-law's first name. Or - when you discover your male cat is really a female cat - and pregnant.

Travel is so enriching! Norway - and the whole world has so much magic to share! The Nisse invites you to keep traveling!

Newsletter

Newsletter deadline for the **March** issue is **February 20**. Please submit all items as a **Word** document to **all 3 editors**.
Medina Gross - medinag@gmail.com
Jeanne Hebeisen - jeanne@mc.net
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Website

Website items may be sent any time to
Marcia Cameron - mec515@sbccglobal.net and
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