

# AAUW TIMES



**Elgin Area Branch**  
**1920-2013**



*Working for 93 years to promote equity for all women and girls,  
Life-long education and positive social change*

May 2014

American Association of University Women

Vol. 19, No. 4

Website – [elginarea-il.aauw.net](http://elginarea-il.aauw.net)

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## **May Annual Dinner Meeting** **Tuesday May 7 at 6 PM**

**Elgin Country Club**  
**2575 Weld Road, Elgin**



Once again, we are fortunate to have our May dinner meeting at the Elgin Country Club. We will celebrate the accomplishments of our branch this past year and recognize our Educational Opportunity Named Grant recipients and our scholarship winner. Social hour will be at 6 PM (cash bar); dinner begins at 6:30. Co-President Wilma Booth has graciously agreed to provide music before dinner. Our menu will include salad, chicken Florentine, bread, dessert, coffee and tea. A vegetarian option is available. The price remains \$30, which includes the gratuity.

Please send your check to Brooke Transue, 176 Oakmont Ave., Elgin, IL 60123 **by April 29**. Don't forget to indicate your meal choice.

### **Calendar**

April 29 Reservation deadline for annual dinner

May 2-3 **AAUW-IL State Convention**  
Pheasant Run, St. Charles

May 5 **Branch board meeting**

Hostess: Wilma Booth

May 6 **Annual dinner** 6 PM  
Elgin Country Club

May 7 **Movie Discussion Group** 4:30 PM  
Colonial Café  
*The Grand Budapest Hotel*

May 8 **YWCA Leader Luncheon** 11 AM  
The Seville, Streamwood

May 10 **Tech Savvy AAUW Conference**  
IIT Rice Campus, Wheaton

May 12 **Great Books** 7 PM  
Gail Borden Library  
*Gilgamesh*  
Stephen Mitchel, translator

May 14 **Good Tastes Dining Group** 5:30 PM  
Mago Grill and Cantina  
Arboretum, South Barrington  
847 844-4400

May 14-17 Garage Sale  
Hostess: Jean Jederman

May 15 **Morning Book Group** 10 AM  
Book selection and potluck  
Hostess: Libby Hoeft

May 19 **Evening Crafters** 7 PM  
Hostess: Lee Engman  
Metal Zippers

May 20 **Newsletter Deadline**

May 22 **Reel Women/Real Women** 6 PM  
Gail Borden Public Library  
*Philomena*

May 28 **Evening Book Group** 7 PM  
Select Books  
Hostess: Sharon Spates

## Presidents' Message



I hope you had a blessed Easter and Passover. Early May is a busy time for our branch starting with the annual convention of AAUW-IL on May 2 and 3 at Pheasant Run in St. Charles. I hope many of you are planning to attend since it is so close. Monday, May 5, is our board meeting, and Tuesday, May 6, our annual meeting at the Elgin Country Club. This is always an elegant affair, and we'll be announcing several awards.

The April program was well attended and very interesting. Almost 30 people enjoyed the delicious buffet supper at Toom Toom Thai Restaurant and over 80 attended Laura Mueller's informative lecture on artist Van Eich held at the Gale Borden Public Library District afterwards. It is always a pleasure to co-sponsor programs with the library, and it lets the public get to know our branch.

Please note that at the last meeting, the board decided we will no longer be sending announcements of non-AAUW events to the membership.

AAUW-IL is sponsoring a workshop in Wheaton for sixth to ninth grade girls interested in STEM careers on May 10. Cost is only \$5. <http://www.slideshare.net/kateskegg/tech-savvy-flyer-chicago-il-2014>

It's been a productive year with great programs and several new members. Be sure to bring your checkbook to the annual meeting, as dues will be collected for the coming year. We'll also be looking for volunteers to chair and serve on committees for next year including the social committee and round robin bridge. Please let Wilma or me know how you would like to be involved.--**Co-President Shirley May Byrnes**

## **Branch Meeting Minutes**

**April 1, 2014**

Co-President Shirley May Byrnes called the Elgin Area Branch to order at the Toom Toom Thai restaurant at 5:50 PM, April 1, 2014. Minutes from March 4 were sent out by email; they were accepted as corrected. Guests were welcomed. Muriel Fenzel and Judy Fishburn were thanked for making the dinner arrangements for this meeting.

Financial reports were sent by Treasurer Linda Youngren. Tonight's program at Gail Borden Library at 7 PM will feature Laura Mueller from the Art Institute; her topic is "Holland and Belgium: A Journey in Art and History." There are 65 registrations.

For the Annual Meeting on May 6, Brooke Transue needs our reservations by April 29, including checks for \$30 and an indication of menu preference.

RE: MEMBERSHIP Becky Olson reported that presently we have 122 members, but she's currently expecting dues from an additional 3 women. When the membership record database is completed we will have access to it, but a limited few will have access to make changes. Becky will have a chart at the May meeting so each of us will know the amount of our own dues.

Shirley May and three others from AAUW were present for the ceremony when Anna Moeller was recently sworn in as State Representative.

Wilma Booth gave a trivia item reporting a "Susan B. Anthony" answer to a recent Jeopardy program question.

Jeanne Hebeisen presented a lovely tribute to our former president and 50-year member, Grace Towner, who died in January. Grace held many offices in our Branch, was a named grant recipient in the 1980's, and made outstanding contributions to this community.

Linda's verbal Treasurer's report brought us information about where our Branch finances stand, reminding us that our two major fundraisers remain to be held.

RE: GARAGE SALE AND GARDEN WALK Jan Jones reminded us of the Garage Sale details and the need for loaning our tables. Those volunteering are asked to phone Kathryn Jablonowski, Rachel Campbell, or Jan. Volunteers are also needed for the Garden Walk this summer. Hostesses for the gardens are especially needed. Davey Tree Company will fund the printing of our Garden Walk booklet, which is a very helpful gesture.

OLD BUSINESS: Muriel is searching for program ideas prior to the committee's planning meeting. STEM Expo occurs this weekend; Carol Cowles reported the need for volunteers to help with that event. So far Rachel and Carol are the only ones registered to attend.

There was no New Business. Shirley May reviewed the announcements printed on the agenda, highlighting upcoming events and activities. Rachel added her encouragement for all of us to attend the State Convention in St. Charles.

The Board meets next at Wilma's home on May 5, with Nicki Skogfeldt as co-hostess. We adjourned at 6:20 PM to go to the library for the evening's program. Respectfully submitted, **Mabel Rice, Secretary**

## 2014-2015 Programs

The Program Committee will be meeting mid-May. We need your ideas to make next year our best. Please notify Judy Fishburn or Muriel Fenzel by phone, e-mail, snail mail, or in person at our AAUW Spring Dinner, May 6.

## Membership Matters

AAUW has accepted the five applications submitted for MBHL (50-year life memberships) and certificates have been received. *Recognition and Presentation of Certificates* will be made to Sara Ellen Anderson, Joan Berna, Jan Jones, Anne Marblestone, and Mary Navin at our Annual Dinner Meeting May 6.

Additionally, Miriam Lytle will be awarded a free National Membership in recognition of her untiring efforts coordinating The Big Read.

When we have increased our membership each year, we are eligible for free memberships. Therefore, an additional free National Membership will be given based on a drawing at the Annual Meeting. To be eligible for this drawing, your dues must be paid on or before the date of the meeting. We hope this encourages all to renew so that we can submit our dues payments on time. Dues are payable to Elgin Area Branch AAUW and should go to Joan Hayashida, Membership Treasurer.

May is also the month for many graduations. Please consider that any member may *Give a Grad a Gift*. It's easy and it's FREE. Honor someone you care about with this significant AAUW membership. For more information, go to the national website: <http://www.aauw.org/>

As always, the mission of AAUW depends on YOU! Thank you for all of your efforts to grow our Elgin Area Branch.  
~ **Becky Olson, Membership VP**

### Welcome New Member

Maureen Reilly

Email: [docmreilly@gmail.com](mailto:docmreilly@gmail.com)

## Educational Opportunities

### Garage Sale May 14-17



It's almost time to donate, arrange and sell the many clean treasures and clothing that we no longer need. This is our Elgin Branch's way of raising funds to contribute to the national EO fund. This is also the time that we usually make money by donating our hosta and other perennials. Mine are a little slow peeking their heads up, but should be fine by "sale time." Please label your plants if you have some we may not recognize. You are encouraged to price any of your own donations, so we get a fair price on it. You could help us by sorting your book donations into fiction and nonfiction boxes or bags. Also, if you have a pricier treasure, please call/e-mail Jan Jones, [847-742-3205](tel:847-742-3205) or [janbilljones@aol.com](mailto:janbilljones@aol.com) so we can include it in our advertising.

We could always use more tables, especially sturdy ones--or sawhorses and boards. Please drop them off at Jean Jederman's home, corner of Wing and Worth, 865 Wing Street, on Elgin's west side on Wednesday, May 14, between 3 and 6 PM. We will need someone with a van/truck who could help transport items that are currently stored in Bonnie Hill's garage. That would also be the best time to drop off your donations, but they will also be accepted on Thursday, May 15, between 9 AM and 4 PM.

There are still many slots open for volunteers to donate, sort, arrange, sell, collect money, and make new friends with other workers. Remember that this is a project for our ENTIRE BRANCH and we hope that EVERYONE will find a way to contribute. We will still be sorting, arranging and selling on Friday from 9 - 5 and on Saturday from 9 -1. Getting our treasures out of the garage in the morning and put away at the end of the day, are especially busy times. Please think about coming by during that first/last hour or two to help - or **come whenever your schedule allows**. We can just sleep a little easier if we know ahead that you are on the Volunteer List. Thanking you in advance!! **Katherine Jablonowski and Jan Jones, co-chairs**

### 125 Years of Fellowships and Grants

This year four branch members attended the eighth Annual Brunch of AAUW-IL District 5 on April 12: Jeanne Hebeisen, Janet Jones, Mary Navin and myself. The event was held at the Highland Park Country Club.

Three Fellowship recipients gave presentations on their graduate work. Katherine Good is a PhD candidate in communications studies at Northwestern University. Cindy Nguyen is graduating this May from the University of Chicago School of Business in strategy and operations. Alene Schaffner is an Educational Opportunities alumna who completed her graduate studies in the field of computers at National Louis University. All expressed their gratitude for our sponsorship without which they could not have pursued their dreams.

It makes such a difference to meet and greet these remarkable women in person. Make it a priority to attend next year. The meals are always delicious and the event is always inspirational. You will be filled with pride when you see the positive results of our donations and fundraising efforts. –**Katherine Jablonowski, EO co-chair**

### Discovery 2014 STEM Expo



I had the privilege of participating as a volunteer judge in the Discovery 2014 STEM Expo sponsored by school district U-46 held April 5, 2014, at South Elgin High School. The other judges (including Joyce Causey and Medina Gross) and I observed projects that were well planned and expertly carried out. Participating students ranged from kindergarten through high school. It was delightful to observe an elementary school student delve

into the mysteries of cookie dough. I actually enjoyed the fruits of her labors---a delicious baked sugar cookie. I learned many things on that Saturday morning that I didn't know. Students are taking their curiosity about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) to the next level. I can see the future through their eyes.

I am hoping that more Elgin Area Branch AAUW members can volunteer next year. It is very much worth your time. One student whose project I had judged thanked me as he was leaving. The gratitude of that young future scientist made my day. Volunteer judges are not required to have a science background or experience. No teaching background or experience is needed. There is no grading system. All these students need is for someone to listen as they explain their projects. (first photo by Herb Gross, second by Carol Cowles, who worked at registration) –**Rosemary Dyson**



### Reel Women: Coming Attractions

Tuesday, May 27: *Philomena* (2013) PG-13

Starring Judy Dench and Steve Coogan

In 2010, Reel Women showed *The Magdalene Sisters*, a documentary about Irish convents where girls thought to be sexually deviant were warehoused and forced to work in the laundries. One of these girls, Philomena Lee, eventually started a family and mostly moved on with her life. Yet still haunted by not knowing what had happened to her out-of-wedlock son that the nuns abruptly took from her at age three, Philomena, in her seventies, finally tells the story of her past to former BBC

reporter Martin Sixsmith, who subsequently helps her in her search to learn about her son.

The son was the focus of Sixsmith's resulting book, *The Lost Son of Philomena Lee*; it is Philomena's search for him that is the focus of the docudrama. With Oscar nominations for Best Picture and Best Actress this year, *Philomena* is a film that can best be described as poignant.

Note: This is the film group that our branch co-sponsors with Gail Borden Library, which is where the films are shown. Open to the public at no charge, show time is 6 pm; discussion follows. Food/drink may be brought into whichever room we're assigned for the evening—**Barbara Evans**

June 24: *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore*

July 22: *Saving Mr. Banks*

Aug. 26: *August: Osage County*

## Evening Crafters

This month the Evening Crafters group will be doing a project with metal zippers. We will meet at the home of Lee Engman in Palatine on May 19 at 7 PM. Anyone planning to attend should call Linda Rusenovich at 847-741-7636 to carpool.

## Out and About

June 5, one of our favorite presenters returns to the Art Institute. Laura Mueller will offer a power point presentation entitled "Vehicle for a Vision: Mystical Painting with European and Asian art, including come connections to Native American painting." Laura will also join us for lunch if we wish.

Send \$28 in a check made out to Peg Caughlin, 259 N. Worth, Elgin, IL 60123. Checks should reach her by May 15. –  
**Mary Navin**

## Memorial for Grace Towner

I can't remember when I first got to know Grace Towner, but it was a longtime friendship. By consulting the Yearbook list of Past Presidents, I learned she was President just before I joined in 1959. Her mother-in-law was also one of our Presidents. Grace, a 50-year life member of our branch, died on January 16 at the age of 87 at her daughter Sarah's home in New Jersey. In addition to Sarah, she had a son, Paul. They were her pride and joy, as were her four grandchildren.

Grace was born in Elgin and was a longtime resident of Elgin before moving in with her daughter Sarah a few years ago. She graduated from Elgin High in 1944 and from the University of Illinois with a degree in Chemistry in 1948. Her first job was at DuPont Chemical Company in Michigan. She returned to Elgin, accepting a position as a chemist at the Elgin National Watch Company, where she worked for many years. She later worked for the Elgin dental practice of her husband, F. William, whom she married in 1957.

Grace loved to travel with her husband and children. She traveled to all 50 states and many exotic countries. She also loved spending time with all of her grandchildren. She was a lover of music and was a supporter of the Elgin Symphony Orchestra and enjoyed knitting.

In addition to being President of our branch, Grace also served as Vice-President, Treasurer, Legislation Chair and as chair of several committees. I once served on the Audit Committee with her. I remember being at her home struggling to decide just how detailed we had to be in "auditing." Since she had been Treasurer, I'm sure she had a much better understanding of the books than I did. We agreed on how to complete our task - just make sure everything balances. She was honored as a Susan B. Anthony recipient in 1986 and as a Named Grant recipient in 1988. Rachel Campbell remembers the year when Grace and Vony Fahrenwald were both receiving Named Grants, and they introduced each other.

In addition to her involvement in AAUW, Grace was an active member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, the PTA, PEO, Mathean, Travel Class, Junior Service Board and Searchers. Grace was obviously involved in her community.

Besides our love of AAUW, Grace and I also had something else in common. Her daughter, Sarah, and mine, Julie, played cellos in Larsen Junior High's orchestra. Julie remembers going to a sleep-over at Sarah's and that they went bowling, but I have no memory of that. Interesting the things we do and don't remember.

Grace was such a quiet, gentle person. Although, Medina Gross remembers her as being outspoken when she thought a meeting was running too long. She loved her family and often spoke to me about her children. We would exchange information about our children's lives.

Grace was an asset to our branch, regularly attending meetings until she moved away. We were fortunate to have had her as a member, and I was also fortunate to have had her as a longtime dear friend.—**Jeanne Hebeisen**

## **Anna Moeller Appointed to State Legislature**



Member Anna Moeller was appointed to the state legislature as representative for the 43<sup>rd</sup> District. She was sworn in on March 30. She serves on the Economic Development, Public Safety, State Government Administration, and Transportation committees.

## **International Affairs**

**Ukraine** "Everything is changing so quickly here," wrote Natalia Karbowska, board chair of the Ukrainian Women's Fund, in an article published on March 4. And so it is, so much so, that her article, which makes no mention of Crimea and the Russians, is already dated. Nevertheless, it is of interest because it focuses on the role women played in toppling the corrupt regime of deposed President Viktor Yanukovich.

Early on, for example, it was women's organizations in western and southern regions of Ukraine that helped export the revolution from Kiev to the regions. In the protests in Kiev, however, women were at first relegated to subservient roles. Men carried signs reading, "Women, if you see garbage clean it up. Revolutionaries will be pleased." When police started arresting people in Maiden Nezalezhnosti [Independence Square], there was a desperate need for lawyers, but when female ones offered their help, they were told, "You should go to the kitchen; we need help there."

Ignoring such directives, some women's groups began teaching self-defense classes to female protesters. As snipers opened fire on civilians and more and more people were injured at the hands of police, other groups of women helped organize shifts at hospitals, documenting the names and telephone numbers of the injured protesters in case they went missing while women lawyers offered them legal aid.

In the conclusion of her article, Karbowska wrote, "Just because the opposition ousted the president does not mean the work is over. Rather, it has just begun. It's not about changing one public figure for another. It's about changing the system and fighting against terrible corruption. . . . I'm convinced that one of the reasons for such incredible corruption was that there were no women in power. The future of Ukraine depends on the other 54 percent of the county: the loud and proud women." Sadly, today Ukraine's future depends on much more than that.

**Rwanda** Women have played a major role in helping the country rebuild and people come together after the genocide of 20 years ago. In September of 2013, they broke their own world record and won 64% of the seats in Parliament, increasing their number by 8%.

Rwanda has three times the average number of women in lower houses worldwide and double the worldwide average in the upper house (our Senate).

**Cameroon** Ending the widespread practice of mothers ironing their daughters' breasts to prevent them from early marriage, early pregnancy and rape has been the focus of Chi Yvonne Leina, who founded Gender Danger. Now a song by a Cameroonian artist is helping to spread the message that this is a practice that should be resisted.

**Democratic Republic of the Congo** Called "the rape capitol of the world by a United Nation's representative, the DRC has been in the news because 37 soldiers have been accused of rape and brought to trial in a high-level military court. The decision should be handed down soon. What is especially noteworthy in a country in which the stigma and shame of rape is severe is the lengths to which women went to testify. For details about them, see [america.aljazeera.com/multimedia/2014/3/they-will-be-heard-therapesurvivorsofminova.html](http://america.aljazeera.com/multimedia/2014/3/they-will-be-heard-therapesurvivorsofminova.html)

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In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

AAUW is open to all graduates who hold an Associate or equivalent degree from a qualified educational institution.

### **AAUW's Mission Statement**

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

### **AAUW's Value Promise**

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

### **AAUW's Educational Foundation**

AAUW provides funds to advance education, research and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive social change.

### **AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund**

AAUW invests in activities that prevent and combat sex discrimination and promote gender equity through support of litigation and educational programs.

## **About the Elgin Area Branch and AAUW Times**

The Elgin Area Branch was organized in 1920 with 40 charter members.

AAUW Times is published nine times a year by the Elgin Area Branch of the American Association of Women.

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