

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*

February 2015

American Association of University Women

Vol. 20, No. 5

Website – elginarea-il.aauw.net

Email Address – aauw.membership.elginarea@gmail.com

Branch Meeting

Thursday, February 5, 7:00 PM
Evangelical Covenant Church
1565 Larkin Avenue, Elgin

The topic of this program will be Human Trafficking. The presenter will be Eric Nelson, Executive Director of Elgin's **Administer Justice** and **ATLAST**.



Eric will be speaking about human trafficking and the services of Administer Justice - including project ATLAST (Attorneys Targeting Labor and Sex Trafficking). Administer Justice is a non-profit, Christ-centered legal aid organization providing free civil legal services to low-income individuals. ATLAST assists victims of sex and labor trafficking as well as victims of domestic violence and violent crimes.

Erci will provide an overview of human trafficking with a focus on its presence in the Chicagoland area, Illinois laws passed to fight human trafficking, and area resources addressing this issue. This important story comes to AAUW - Elgin as a result of his years of experience of dealing with many kinds of Human Trafficking.

Eric Nelson joined Administer Justice as Executive Director in 2013. Before that, he spent 21 years as a Directing Attorney with Pine Tree Legal Assistance in Maine. While there he supervised the Farmworker and Native American Units, a low income taxpayer clinic, an employment law project, and co-counseled a labor trafficking case in federal court. He worked for 6 years as a staff attorney for the Maine State Employees Association, Local 1989, SEIU.

Eric grew up in the Boston area, graduated from North Park College in Chicago and worked as a community organizer in the Albany Park area of Chicago, and he obtained his law degree from Northeastern University School of Law in Boston.

Calendar

February

- Feb 5 **Branch Meeting** 7:00 pm
Evangelical Covenant Church
- Feb 9 **Great Books** 7:00 pm
Gail Borden Library
The Bear Came Over the Mountain
A short story by Alice Munro
- Feb 11 **Good Tastes** 5:00 pm
Prime Burgerhouse at The Grand Victoria
- Feb 12 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 am
Panera Bread, South Baarrington
The Invention of Wings, Sue Monk Kidd
- Feb 12 **Crafters** 9:00 am
Vintage Button Bracelet
Hostess: Linda Rusenovich

- Feb 20 **Newsletter Deadline**
For March Submissions
- Feb 24 **Reel Women/Real Women** 6:00 pm
Gail Borden Library
12 Years a Slave
- Feb 25 **Evening Book Group** 7 pm
Hostess: Barbara Evans
The Girls of Atomic City, Denise Kiernan

Presidents' Message

Shirley May Byrnes, Co-President

2015 is off to a good start following an informative program on *STEM* (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) - *Why So Few?* Gloria Liu as an advisor on STEM at Oakton Community College and is an AAUW member. She shared some of the research from the AAUW research study of the same name published in 2010 as well as personal experiences. The program was preceded by delicious soups, salads, breads, and desserts made by board members.

At the January 17 meeting, the membership approved the AAUW Elgin Area Branch Strategic Plan for 2015. It was sent to the membership via email prior to the meeting and copies were available on the tables. Patty Harkin chaired the committee to revise the plan; she was assisted by Rachel Campbell and Shirley May Byrnes. The board also approved the revised branch handbook at their January 5 meeting; it will be available to members after a final edit.

The Awards Committee is meeting Tuesday, January 20 to select members to nominate for various state and local awards. With our active branch, there are many deserving members from which to select. The Nominating Committee is also working on a slate of officers to be brought to the membership for a March vote.

February is going to be a full month of programs. Thursday, February 5 the Elgin branch will address the current topic of *Human Trafficking*. A staff member at Administer Justice will share with us about what is happening in the local area.

Saturday, February 7 will be the 32nd Annual Networking Luncheon at Deerfield's Embassy Suites. The speaker will be Dr. Lise Eliot from the Dept. of Neuroscience at the Chicago Medical School. If you would like to carpool to the luncheon, contact Wilma Booth or Jan Jones.

Women of Elgin's Past will be presented Wednesday February 11 at 7 pm at the Gail Borden Public Library District. Elgin historian Jerry Turnquist will talk about the accomplishments of these women and their legacy. This is a topic of interest to AAUW members, and I hope you can attend. Please register at gailborden.info/register or by calling 847-429-4597.

The annual Women's History Brunch will be Saturday, March 14. Our branch is one of the proud sponsors. More information on this program is elsewhere in the newsletter.

Minutes AAUW Elgin Branch

January 17, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Co President Shirley May Byrnes at 1:05 after a very informative presentation on STEM and delightful lunch.

New members were introduced Susan Humbracht and Ramona Burns. Minutes from the November 20, 2014 meeting were approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report by Linda Youngren was approved as printed. She stated we were in a balanced position.

Program co chairperson, Judy Fishburn, reminded members our next meeting will be on Feb 5 at 7:00, topic will be *Human Trafficking: a local perspective*.

President Byrnes reported for Becky Olson, Membership chair, that we now have 122 members. Next Membership meeting will be Feb 19.

Committee Reports, Under Old Business, the nominating committee will hold their second meeting and they encourage any member receiving a call to be available if at all possible. Our Policy Handbook has been redone and has been approved by the board.

New Business, Our new member, Ramona Burns, is working with the League of Women Voters and the YWCA and has also gotten our support to develop a program on the topic *Women Living on the Brink*. Pat Harkin spearheaded our new Strategic Plan that was just sent to our members via email. It has been approved by the board, there was no discussion and it passed with a unanimous vote.

Announcements, President Byrnes informed the group Jerry Turnquist will be speaking at the Library Feb 11 at 7:00 (must register) on the topic of *Early Elgin Women*. The Awards committee will meet at President Byrnes house next Tuesday, Jan 20. March 15 will be the Women's History Luncheon. Rachel Campbell announced our Auction did very well and thanked all that participated. Rachel also mentioned she will be stepping down as District 5's representative on the committee that plans the annual networking luncheon and we need another member from our branch to take her place. The meeting was adjourned at 1:20.

Respectfully submitted by Bonnie Hill, Secretary pro tem.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH BRUNCH

Saturday, March 14

At the end of this newsletter is the save-the-date announcement with all the particulars about our 23rd gathering of Elgin-area women to celebrate Women's History Month. Do note that the **deadline for reservations is March 6**. Those who come without having made reservations will be allowed to join us for the program for a partial fee but cannot be included in the brunch.

In addition to Jeanmarie Dwyer-Wrigley's program on a

variety of mothers, Barbara Zeitz will be selling *A Thesaurus of Women*, an anthology of some of her columns that appear online at AAUW-IL's web site. As those who purchased it when Barbara spoke to us in November know, it is filled with fascinating information about too-often little-known women. Although regularly \$18, those who purchase it at the brunch will be charged \$15 for one copy, \$25 for two copies and \$50 for five copies.

Flyers for the brunch will be available at our Feb. 5th meeting.
—B. Evans

Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) Report From Margaret Keen

Rosemary Dyson and I were delighted to bring an excellent STEM program to you for our January Program. Gloria Liu presented excellent research and facilitated a vibrant discussion. Gloria shared with me after the program that with all of the valuable insights and questions from the audience, she only made it about half way through her presentation – so I would love to work with the Program Committee on having Gloria back for Women in STEM – Part II.

One of Gloria's goals is not just to inform, but also to inspire. To that end, I'd like to share with you some opportunities for AAUW members to show support for community STEM initiatives. Our wonderful partner – U-46's K-12 Science Instruction Coach Heather Rocen – has happily returned my request to share available volunteer opportunities (and she really needs our help!)

- February 21, 2015: **Science Olympiad Regional Competition**. Location - Abbott Middle School. This Science Olympiad event needs volunteers between the hours of 8am to 4pm. The times vary on assignment, but no shift exceeds 2-3 hours. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the enrollment form that contains more information about the assignments. If you are unable to access the link, please contact me at mkeen38@comcast.net and let me know you'd like to hear more about the Science Olympiad volunteer opportunities. As a side note, I'd like to share that my friend and I volunteered last year and we worked the registration table with Heather's lovely grandparents (who agreed to help her out because she was struggling to find volunteers). ZERO science experience is required for helping out on this day – you just need to bring some calm support to some kids who are really wired up about their competition!
- February 28, 2015: **STEM EXPO**. Yes, it's time for the STEM Expo already – this time it's in February, not April! As always, the EXPO needs volunteers and judges. This event is held at South Elgin High School from about 7am to 2pm. If you are interested in serving as a judge (I know that so many of you

have already done this and I hope you help me spread the word), please [CLICK HERE](#) to fill out U-46's volunteer form.

- April 11, 2015: **Robotics Club at Abbott Middle School**. Stay tuned for more information about this opportunity. I will be working with Club Coordinator Anne Hermann and with Heather Rocen to bring you more details.

I look forward to volunteering with you at these events and to working with Gloria Liu and Heather Rocen to bring you more volunteer opportunities in the future.

OUT AND ABOUT Rachel Campbell

We haven't had an OUT AND ABOUT ACTIVITY for a while. Karen Patterson, a local branch member, suggests a **Pedway Tour**. The following is information taken from the website about these tours:

“Deep beneath the surface of the city, a tangle ribbon of corridors runs through 40 blocks of downtown Chicago. What is it? It's the Chicago Pedway, an intricate non-system of pedestrian tunnels built to separate the citizens of the city from the dangers and local weather encountered on the street.” The tour encompasses about 2 miles and costs between \$20/\$25. A good time for the tour would be April. The tour lasts about 90 minutes.

If you are interested, please email me at snowylark@gmail.com or call 847-695-9024. Leave your name and dates that would be good for you and I will do further investigation.

Other possibilities are the wonderful tours offered by the Chicago Architecture Society. A new one that fascinates me is GRACELAND; WOMEN OF INFLUENCE. There are many others to choose from. This summer could be a good time to enjoy one of them. If you are interested, please contact me with your suggestions.

If you have other suggestions for activities, please let me know. OUT AND ABOUT activities are great fun and a good way to get to know other Elgin Branch members.

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUNDRAISER

Many thanks to all of the Elgin Branch members who contributed to our fundraiser on Jan. 17. The items were lovely and the purchasers were generous. We raised \$204 for LAF. This fund works to challenge sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. AAUW resources range from community outreach programs to the backing of major court cases. Thank you to our Elgin Area members who help to fund these efforts. –Rachel Campbell

REEL WOMEN for REAL WOMEN



Tues., Feb. 24: *12 Years a Slave* (2013)

Directed by Steve McQueen

Starring Lupita Nyong'o, Chiwetel Ejiofor & Michael Fassbender

Widely acclaimed, among this film's many honors in 2013 were the Golden Globe for Best Motion Picture–Drama and Oscars for Best Picture, Best Supporting Actress (Nyong'o) and Best Adapted Screenplay. The British Academy of Film Awards also recognized it as Best Picture and Ejiofor as Best Actor.

Based on the 1853 memoir of born-free black American Solomon Northup, the film follows the tribulations of this educated carpenter, musician and family man from New York state who, in 1841, was kidnapped and sold into slavery. The key to his existence for his next 12 years on plantations in Louisiana was the suppression of his anger and controlled subservience. While the film focuses on Northup, it also shines the spotlight on the lives of enslaved women, which is the reason we chose to show it for Black History Month.

Emily West, a professor who specializes in the history of slavery in the U.S., said she had "never seen a film represent slavery so accurately." Wrote *NY Times'* critic Manohla Dargis, "Part of the significance of Northup's memoir is its description of everyday life. Mr. McQueen recreates, with texture and sweep, scenes of slavery's extreme privations and cruelties, but also its work rhythms and routines, sunup to sundown, along with the unsettling intimacies it produced among the owners and the owned." Included, too, is the ideology behind slavery. Masters such as William Ford and Edwin Epps, although very different characters, both believed the Bible sanctioned slavery and that it was their Christian duty to preach the scriptures to their slaves.

Mark Kermode of *The Guardian* concluded his review with the following statement: "This is not an easy watch and nor should it be. [But] this is an important story, told with passion, conviction and grace. See it now."

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.

Tues., March 24: *Belle* (2014)

Tues., April 28: *Wild* (2014)

International Women's Issues

Juanita Brook

The Boko Haram news this month is about Human Rights infractions with the subheading still being the lack of respect and violence that affects women in Nigeria. Boko Haram has continued to kill, kidnap, raid villages and push people off their land. And the President, Goodwill Jonathon, does nothing. I feel sympathy with the people of Paris who lost 12 people due to terrorism, but why does the developed world not even mention the hundreds of people that have been killed by this terrorist group in Nigeria?

Two young women who had been held captive with hundreds of other women told the story of the group being divided and the young and beautiful women taken to another location. The captors then told those left that they had the choice to stay with them or leave and join the 'infidels.' They told the women that they should stay with them because they had killed their husbands and now there was no place for them to go.

Chad and Cameroon have joined forces to help repel the Boko Haram attacks in the far north region of Cameroon as the terrorists seek to expand their territory.

In the US, Women's Rights Issues haven't changed that much since the early 1900s. Both in the US and abroad, gender related violence is a major issue. The resistance of the Military to prevent and prosecute sexual assault is of great concern. AAUW has established a legal arm to put pressure on the military and help victims to seek justice for rape and gender discrimination. Other areas of need for programs and criminal prosecution are rape on college campuses, and domestic violence, most of which is focused on women.

Human trafficking, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking, predominately affect women. Much labor trafficking involves women who work as family servants or in agricultural situations.

Education that doesn't encourage women to excel in the STEM fields leaves them out of the loop for high paying careers that would contribute to economic equality. Even the minimum wage is a women's issue because 64 % of minimum wage earners are women.

So It seems there is still plenty of work for us to do, not only here in the US, but in holding the other countries of the world accountable for their crimes against their women.

Membership Matters

Becky Olson

We have 122 paid members. Several members will be joining our branch based on their replies to our recruitment letters. Some of our current members were originally MAL (Members At Large) with only the national AAUW and no branch affiliation. At a recent committee meeting, the listing of MAL members in our area was reviewed and we selected members to contact and invite to our branch events ... beginning with the Soup & Salad Luncheon. E-applications and referral follow up letters were made. Thank you to our members who continue to submit names for potential membership! Corrections to the branch national roster have been submitted to Shermaine Jones & Kimberly Kornegay. Hopefully, the BDR (Branch Dues Roster) for FY16 will have everything correctly listed. New members will have their dues paid using the ADR (Additional Dues Record) ... By June 30th each year, monies are sent appropriately to national, state and local branch based on these forms.

So many acronyms are used; here are some that you might like to know:

- MOB: Member of Branch (pays nat'l, state, local dues)
- MBL: Life Member of Branch (pays only state & local dues; nat'l free)
- MBHL: Honorary Life Member of Branch (pays no dues whatsoever)
- ESAF: Student affiliate attending participating AAUW partnership college (Free Nat'l, pays state & local)
- SAF: Paid student affiliate (\$17/yr Nat'l dues, pays state and local)
- GS: Graduate student affiliate (\$18.81/yr Nat'l, pays state and local)

There are other designations for different recruitment campaigns:

- MGM: Member Get a Member
- STF: Shape the Future

Dues Information:

- Of the MOB \$49.00/yr National Dues: \$46.00 is tax deductible.
- Of the SAF National Dues: \$16.00 is deductible
- Current Lifetime membership is \$980.00 and is fully tax deductible.

On February 19th, the committee meeting will focus on recruitment and retention programs. We continue to explore the possibilities of an AAUW affiliate program at ECC. There is so much information available to members on the national website. Read about **NCCWSL** (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders), **YWTF** (Young Women's Task Force), scholarships, the coming national convention in San Diego, June 2015. Become a two-minute activist & contact legislators on women's issues. Make your voice heard to affect change!

Visit AAUW online at **AAUW.org**



Patricia Zonsius

Patricia earned a BS in Education from University of Illinois (Chicago Circle) in 1971 and continued her education for a Masters in Education (1975) at National Lewis University. Prior to retirement, Patricia was a Library Media Teacher for School District 54, Schaumburg. She has volunteered for the AAUW garage sales and other branch events. Please welcome her at our various activities.

Patricia A Zonsius

Email from Mabel Rice

“Becky! What a wonderful thing you did for me! I picked up the phone and called the first name (Jane Wilson) on it. She was delightful, cordial, welcoming, etc ... and is coming to pick me up for their next meeting which is February 11th. She lives very close to my residence, strangely enough. We chatted for a while, and I am sitting her smiling about having made the Connection. It is a very small branch, but that's okay. Could you wait to transfer my membership until after I go to the February meeting? Their program topic is: Women and the Economy. Thanks SO MUCH for your assistance ... it was frustrating that I couldn't learn enough online to make the connection and you just solved the problem! Hope you are having a good week and that the meeting on Saturday will be well-attended as well as raise some \$\$\$\$. Tell everyone hello from me! Love, Mabel”

Mabel Rice

Getting to Know Our Advertisers

Shared Harvest is democracy at its finest. We are opening a cooperatively-owned, full-service grocery store in downtown Elgin. We want to sell as much local and sustainably grown food as possible. An investment in the Coop is an investment in Elgin itself. We want to encourage care for the local economy, care for the environment, and care for the community with every dollar we spend/invest.

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produce, and other products from people in the area as well, who will also spend the money they make around town. we will be good stewards of the environment; recycling and purchasing/selling merchandise that is easy on the environment. It is a win-win all around!

This is an endeavor that is powered largely by women. Of our 430+ members, over 300 are women. On the board of directors for the coop, eight of the 10 are women. The president, vice president, treasurer and secretary are all women.

Anyone can shop at the Coop but only Coop members will be in on the great sales, and have a say in what we sell, how the store is run, etc. and Coop members will get a dividend once the store starts making money, dependent on how much each member spends there. You don't even have to be a member for this to work, but becoming a member helps the store become a reality faster. A share is on \$100.

So invest in your health, in your neighbors and the environment! Invest in the Coop!

Go to WWW.SHAREDHARVEST.COOP for information on how to use Pay Pal to buy a share, or you can send a share agreement and a check for \$100 to P.O. Box 884, Elgin, IL 60121. If you have questions, call Carol at 847-873-9995 or email Jennifer at sharedharvestelgin@icloud.com for more information.

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 go to Marcia Cameron mec515@sbcglobal.net. They may be sent at any time.

SAVE THE DATE



23RD ANNUAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH BRUNCH

Saturday, March 14, 2015 • 10:00am to 12:30pm

Elgin Community College's Business Center Dining Room

Reservations must be made by March 6, 2015

Cost: \$15.00

We invite you to join us for a program that features a variety of mothers: mothers of invention (Margaret Knight, Frances GABe, Heddy Lamarr, Ruth G. Wakefield); of the silent screen (Billie Burke, Lillian Gish, Mary Pickford); of nature (Rachel Carson, Jane Goodall); of agitation (Mother Jones, Carrie Nation); and of royalty (Queen Victoria). Assuming an unusual persona to introduce them will be Jeanmarie Dwyer-Wrigley from Womens Wisdom History Theatre.

For reservations, visit www.ywcaelgin.org/WHB15, or send a check payable to YWCA Elgin at 220 E. Chicago St., Elgin, IL 60120. If purchasing multiple tickets, please provide the names of your guests. Contact the YWCA Elgin at 847.742.7930 with any questions.

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I help women discover tools to create the life they really want and deserve, specializing in mid-life issues.

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in

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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