

# 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**

November 2014

American Association of University Women

Vol. 20, No. 3

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

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## General Meeting

**Thursday, November 20 - 7 PM**  
**Evangelical Covenant Church**  
**1565 Larkin Ave., Elgin**

### “A Thesaurus of Women: from Cherry Blossoms to Cell Phones”

Barbara Zeitz holds a master’s degree in women’s studies and



1565 Larkin Ave., Elgin has convened with women throughout the U.S., Sweden, Spain, Africa, Japan, Belize and Mexico. Ms. Zeitz has been researching women’s history since 2007, and has been writing about her findings on “CountHerHistory”, a monthly AAUW-IL online

column.

Barbara’s first book, “A Thesaurus of Women: from Cherry Blossoms to Cell Phones”, was published in 2012. From this anthology of her online columns, Ms. Zeitz celebrates women, most unknown, and their well known accomplishments. From politics to athletics, from Wall Street to Hollywood, women have been vital, if unrecognized, pioneers and innovative throughout history.

Ms. Zeitz will share some of these stories from her book. These stories of women’s achievements are integral to the fabric of our history. Creativity throughout the centuries is a tremendous source of strength. Knowing women’s stories provides essential role models for everyone – role models needed to face the extraordinary changes and unrelenting challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Her stories promise to surprise, amaze, inform, educate, delight and never disappoint.

Barbara Zeitz will have her books available for sale following the program.

## Calendar

- Nov. 5 **Movie Discussion Group** 4:30 pm  
Colonial Café  
*Gone Girl*
- Nov. 10 **Great Books** 7 pm  
Gail Borden Library  
“Notes of a Native Son” (title essay)  
James Baldwin
- Nov. 12 **Good Tastes** 5 pm  
Pinstripes, 100 W Higgins Rd.  
South Barrington 847/844-9300
- Nov. 13 **Morning Book Group** 9 am  
Panera Bread, Rtes. 59/72, Hoffman Estates  
*Autobiography of Mother Jones*  
Mary Harris-Jones
- Nov. 13 **Morning Crafters** 9 am  
Hostess: Lee Engman  
330 South Benton, Palatine  
Wall Hanging Picturing a Candle
- Nov. 19 **Evening Book Group** 7 pm  
Hostess: Kathy Turnquist  
*Panther in the Sky*, James Thom
- Nov. 20 **General Meeting** 7 pm
- Nov. 20 **Newsletter Deadline**  
December/January Issue
- Nov. 24 **The Book Club** 7 pm  
Host/Hostess: TBD  
*The Sinking of the Eastland*, Jay Bonansinga
- Nov. 25 **Reel Women/Real Women** 6 pm  
Gail Borden Library  
*To Have and Have Not*
- Feb. 7 AAUW-IL District 5 Networking Luncheon  
Deerfield Embassy Suites

## **Presidents' Message**

### **From Shirley May Byrnes, Co-President**

Congratulations to Education Opportunity co-chairs Jan Jones and Katherine Jablonowski and all those who donated and worked at the AAUW fall garage sale for surpassing all past garage sales - it brought in \$3,185! These sales are a lot of work, but this one was definitely worth it thanks to so many helping hands.

Betsey Means presented *I Dwell in Possibility: An Intimate Evening with Emily Dickinson* on October 16 at the Gail Borden Public Library District. Ms. Means researched and developed the script based on Ms. Dickinson's poems and letters. Her white dress and writing desk were replicas of those found in Emily's house. After her 60 minutes monologue, "Emily" answered questions from the rapt audience about herself. It was an excellent program, and well attended by both AAUW members and the public.

October 25 is AAUW-IL fall conference at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines. Wilma Booth, Rachel Campbell, Jeanne Hebeison and I will be attending. We'll be sharing what we learned at future meetings.

The November program will be presented by Barbara Zeitz, author of *A Thesaurus of Women: From Cherry Blossoms to Cell Phones*. Ms. Zeitz was at the AAUW-IL convention this spring. Becky Olson purchased her book and brought back an enthusiastic recommendation of her for a program. Join us on November 20 at Evangelical Covenant Church and learn what women have been instrumental in developing in the U.S.

The AAUW Board will be meeting November 3. The focus of the meeting will be the proposed revisions to the local handbook, which guides the board and committee chairs in performing their duties. The board will also select the charity which will receive donations made at the December 6 holiday party at Sandy Kaptain's house. AAUW members are welcome to attend the board meeting to learn more about the workings of your organization.

Saturday, February 7, 2015 is the date for AAUW-IL District 5's 32nd Annual Networking Luncheon at the Deerfield Embassy Suites. The speaker is Dr. Lise Eliot with the Department of Neuroscience at Chicago Medical School. Please put the date on your calendar and watch for additional information.

## **Branch meeting Minutes for September 18**

Elgin Area Branch gathered for potluck dinner and program September 18, at Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren. The Social Committee arranged an attractive setting for the over 40 women who shared the meal.

Kathryn Jablonowski invited participation in Mah Jongg classes starting in October, and Muriel encouraged our reservations for the Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> event at the pizzeria.

Amy Levin was introduced to present the evening's program. She was an outstanding scholar who told of her experience in Myanmar as a teacher, under the title "Teaching Hamlet in Myanmar". It was a very interesting presentation!

Wilma Booth, Co-President, presided. Mabel Rice moved that the minutes as printed be accepted and filed. Motion passed.

Linda Youngren presented budget for Branch approval, explaining how this year's budget makes use of only one-half of the proceeds from Garden Walk. The other half is being reserved for fiscal 2015. After Linda noted other aspects, the budget was adopted as printed and presented. It is based on a membership of 110.

New members and guests were introduced.

Wilma thanked the Social Committee and Mel Chinn (from the Church) who assisted in the kitchen. She also thanked other leaders whose accomplishments were beneficial to the Branch, including, Rachel Campbell, Marti Jernberg, those who supported the Garden Walk, and others. We were encouraged to support the "Get out the vote" effort. Wilma called attention to Fall Conference at Oakton, and next year's National Conference in San Diego.

Mary Navin explained that our scholarship recipient Sierra Turner is in class tonight, so not able to be with us. She carries 18 credit hours and appreciates our scholarship resource very much.

We were reminded that early voting will occur 22 days ahead of the election in Kane County.

Muriel Fenzel reminded us of the Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> program on Emily Dickinson at Gail Borden Library.

Medina Gross—on behalf of the Library Board referendum on the November ballot—used a computer graphics to explain the need to expand the area served by Gail Borden. She explained that an affirmative vote by both current residents of the Library District, AND residents of the proposed addition to the Library District will be needed to pass the issue.

There was no new business.

The deadline for Newsletter materials is September 20<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mabel Rice, Recording Secretary

## Membership Matters

From Becky Olson

All organizations change over time. In the past year, national adopted a new logo. Change also happen in our branch of AAUW. Some members are new, some renew, some drop, and some pass on ... total membership count then differs from year to year. New members aren't familiar with the history of the branch. We try to bring current members up to date with our yearbook and newsletters. Preservation of the history of our branch is important. In an effort to keep an accurate record of our membership, Sandra Schmulbach and I have been learning how to use FileMaker Pro to design and develop an e-data base. We will enter current membership records first. Then we will add the previous two years, then the previous five years until we complete a historical member data base. We will be using old roster sheets, newsletters, yearbooks and card files. Nothing will be destroyed. This project will NOT be completed in one year, but we have agreed to stay with it until its completion.

Several members are involved in establishing a program to have a student affiliate group at ECC. Progress here, too, will be in stages and is not expected to be underway without considerable time and effort. Such work is appreciated, as our future as a branch may come from young women familiar with the mission of AAUW, while still attending college locally. At one time, membership was not open to those without a four year degree -- times have changed! We will be recruiting, using new guidelines. Hopefully, success in this endeavor will come.

The membership committee will be meeting Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 pm at Gail Borden Library. We will be discussing recruiting programs and, also, how to best use the leadership skills of our NCCWSL members. NCCWSL is an acronym for National Conference of College Women Student Leaders. Go to our national website to learn more: [aauw.org/?s=nccwsl](http://aauw.org/?s=nccwsl) or [nccwsl.org](http://nccwsl.org).

Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome for consideration. Remember any organization is only as strong as its weakest link. Our goal is active membership participation!

### Yearbook corrections:

Phyllis Folarin: 847.697.2988

Mae Hicks Jones: 224.629.7423

Margaret Keen: 773.592.2963

### New Members

Sharon LeCount

Elgin

[slec192@yahoo.com](mailto:slec192@yahoo.com)

Monica Morganstein

W Dundee

[monica9092@gmail.com](mailto:monica9092@gmail.com)

## Bio of New Member Sharon LeCount

From Becky Olson



Sharon Russell LeCount was born and raised in Kansas and is a 1971 graduate of Fort Hays State University in Hays, KS. Sonja, and her husband Chris and grandchildren Noah, age 4, and Emma, age 2, live in

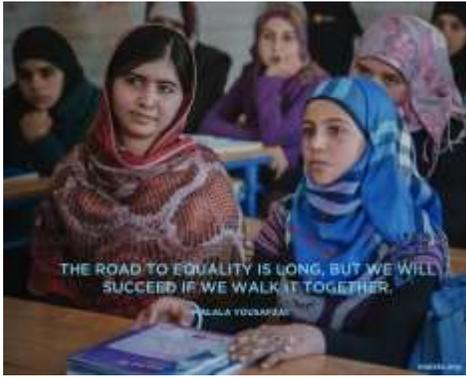
Wheeling, IL. She has had the joy of living in Kansas, Illinois and California. Marriage and a job brought her to the Chicago area in the early seventies, where she taught physical education in the Addison School District for three years.

A twenty-year career of activity/recreation therapy led to four years working at Prairie View Mental Health Center in Newton, KS, then Kern View Community Mental Health Center in Bakersfield, CA., AND four years working at Elgin Mental Health Center in Elgin, IL. A promotion led to an Educator position at EMHC teaching HORTICULTURE for twelve years, and GED the last three years before retirement. Along the way, a piano teaching business was started to help put her daughter, Sonja, through college. This small business continued on into a delightful retirement joy.

Active throughout her life, Sharon's interests, commitments and hobbies now include a church family at Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren, family/friend gatherings, gardening, yoga, swimming laps at the YMCA, biking, camping, Literacy Connection Tutor, and traveling to visit both elderly parents who are still living independently in their home in KS. And of course, AAUW!



Words from Malala Yousafzai who shared the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize



## 2013-2014 Scholarship Recipient Update (an edited excerpt from post to Mary Navin)

I am currently student teaching, and it is definitely very busy. Right now I am student teaching German. It is really a great experience, but it is more difficult than I anticipated it to be. The previous school year went well. I came back from Germany in the middle of December and definitely had some reverse culture shock. I have to say, it was extremely weird to be driving again and riding in a car, since I mostly took the bus and the S-Bahn throughout Germany. While I was in Germany, I visited Salzburg, Austria, Basel, Switzerland, Hamburg, Cologne, Nuremberg, and many other cities in Germany. I was even able to go to Strasburg, France for a day. All of my travels proved to me how beautiful the countries there are and one day I hope to go back.

In the Spring term, I received a 4.0 GPA, and I was also inducted into the German National Honor Society. This induction had been my goal for a while now, so I was very happy to achieve it. It was also very odd transitioning from European style classes (which meet only once a week) to American classes again (which meet two or three times a week).

I hope that brings you a little insight into my past year! I just want to thank you again for awarding me the scholarship--I truly appreciate it and it was great to become aware of such an outstanding group and outstanding women!

Best,  
Hannah

Hannah Kramer  
North Central College '15  
German/ Secondary Education

## EO Funds News – Garage Sale

From Jan Jones



September 24th - 29th came through with wonderful weather for a garage sale. Nancy

Gardner came through with the loan of her garage and wide drive. AAUW members came through with tables, tarps, LOTS of donated stuff and the time to sort, sell, price, and maybe even buy a few treasures. All of these things went together to provide a profit of \$2990 at the sale.

Today I received a call from Cathy at Savers to let us know that we will be getting a check for \$195 for all the pounds of our “leftovers” that they came and took away in their truck. That increases our total to almost \$3200.

Two of our members - Mabel Rice and Becky Shorter - were very generous with donations, due to moving, and the rest of us found a lot that we no longer needed. THANKS to EVERYONE for whatever part you played in this great undertaking for EO.

## Reel Women for Real Women

From Barbara Evans



Tues., Nov. 25: *To Have and Have Not* (1944)

Staring Lauren Bacall & Humphrey Bogart

We are showing this film, loosely based on Hemingway's novel, in memory of Lauren Bacall, who died in August at the age of 89. Her first film and, according to many, her most memorable one, *To Have and Have Not* not only launched her into stardom at age 19 but resulted in her marriage to her co-star Bogart.

Set on the island of Martinique during WWII, Morgan, an ex-pat American charter boat captain hard up for money, is hired by the French resistance to transport a fugitive on the run from the Nazis. Through all runs the stormy relationship between Morgan and Slim (Bacall), a resistance sympathizer and club singer. That there are many similarities with *Casablanca* (1942) is not surprising, as Warner Bros. Studio intended it to be a sequel to that wildly successful film.

To read *The New York Times'* obituary of Bacall, a woman to be admired for more than just her film roles, see [nytimes.com/2014/08/13/movies/lauren-bacall-sultry-movie-star-dies-at-89.html](http://nytimes.com/2014/08/13/movies/lauren-bacall-sultry-movie-star-dies-at-89.html).

*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.*

## International Women's Issues

From Juanita Brook

It's been six months since Boko Haran kidnapped over 200 girls from the village of Chibok, Nigeria. They were forced to convert to Islam and wear the burka. A third were married to

the Boko Haran soldiers. The others were divided into two groups and moved to remote border areas of Chad and Cameroun, complicating negotiations for their release.

Now it is rumored that the Nigerian Government last week has signed with Islamists in neighboring Chad to release the girls held there. Most foreign representatives are skeptical that release will happen. Look for news on BBC and CNN for further updates.

\*\*\*\*\*

A twenty-year-old organization called Women for Women International ([womenforwomen.org](http://womenforwomen.org)) works with women in war torn countries. Starting in Bosnia and Herzegovina during and after the war there, they have expanded their work to Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and South Sudan. They also work with women in Iraq and Afghanistan. Check out their website for their full program. Featured on BBC, CNN, MSNBC, The New York Times, 60 Minutes, and the Oprah Winfrey Show, Women for Women received the 2006 Conrad Hilton Humanitarian Prize.

### **Morning Crafters** (formerly Evening Crafters) From Lee Engman

We will be meeting next on Thursday, November 13, at 9 am, at the home of Lee Engman, 330 South Benton in Palatine. This month we are starting a sewing/quilting project--"Winter Skinny" from Quiltmaker, September/October, 2013, a 14" x 28" wall hanging picturing a yuletide candle. Supplies needed include scraps of red and green seasonal fabrics, a couple of gold scraps, a 10 1/2" x 24 1/2" piece of white, or white tone-on-tone, fabric, compatible thread, needles, scissors, etc. The pattern and other materials will be available that morning. Felt could also be used. Anyone planning to attend should contact Linda Rusenovich at [lrusenovich7@clear.net](mailto:lrusenovich7@clear.net) to car pool.

### **From Maggie Rosiles** NCCWSL Recipient



I graduated from Elgin Community College in May 2009 and graduated from Bradley University in May 2012. I also commissioned into the United States Army in May 2012. The Army, just like any other profession, has its highs and lows. Over the past year, I lead a Platoon of 24 soldiers, while stationed at Fort Riley. Dealing with the higher ranks has been the least exciting and most challenging part of my job, but working with my soldiers and my Platoon has been the best part of the business. My soldiers have taught me more in one year about my profession, life, and myself than any institutional training that I have ever had. Soldiers are

responsive to good leadership and lackadaisical under toxic leadership.

When I took over, the Platoon had a negative image that I was determined to immediately change. The soldiers had never been the problem, although the blame was set on them. The soldiers needed direction, trust, and care. With the change in leadership, the Platoon led from the front and worked towards mission success as a team. I am proud to say that the Platoon became a family and the go-to Platoon. I love my soldiers, and the greatest reward is that they love me and respect me in return.

I am currently working for a battalion as an assistant in the intelligence shop. In this new battalion, I am working under stronger leaders that approach their jobs with competence and integrity, a change that has directly benefited me as I move forward in my career. My new Battalion Commander supported my ambition to compete for a position in Africa, knowing, that if I were selected, I would be leaving the battalion within two months. I am deploying to Burkina Faso, Africa, at the end of November to support African Command as the Intelligence liaison officer.

Although I am overwhelmed with all the paperwork, training, and preparations for this one year deployment, I know that this assignment is only going to further my career and my personal development. I am very thankful that I have had great mentors throughout every phase of my life, and that although I have been away from Elgin for five years, I am still remembered by the AAUW Elgin Branch.

### **Getting to Know Our Advertisers** From Sonia Solomonson

I created Way2Grow Life Coaching ([way2growcoaching.com](http://way2growcoaching.com)) because I noticed a need for women, particularly those in mid-life and beyond, to discover their answers to those big life questions. These questions often arise either when we've experienced one of life's traumatic events or when we're looking at the growing number of years behind us and the shrinking number ahead. Women need a place to talk through those inner yearnings and questions – a place where they'll really be heard. These days it's tough to cut through the outer (and inner) noise and it's also difficult to find someone who listens deeply.

As a trained and certified life coach, I am totally focused on you and your questions and yearnings. Whatever it is for which you most yearn—balance, a better self-image, a fulfilling next career or retirement, healthy relationships or a way to let go of old baggage—I can help you. I help women find clarity on life questions and issues, see possibilities and create solutions, be heard, gain support to reach goals and fulfill dreams, and have an accountability partner. I help women move beyond burnout into a place of passion and joy again. I also help women discover and create the tools they

need to develop the life they want to lead—a life that’s authentic to them. **I offer a complimentary strategy session to discuss an issue and see whether coaching is a fit for you.**

## Message from Newsletter Editors

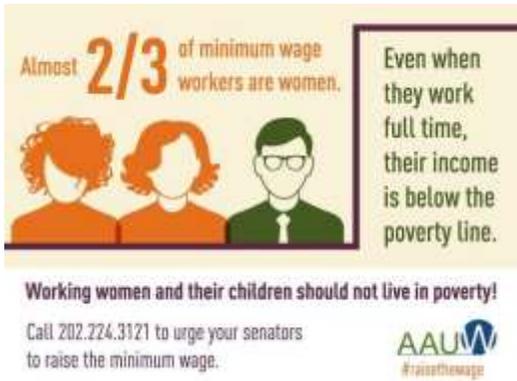
Newsletter deadline for the **December/January** issue is **November 20**. Please submit all items as a Word document to **all three** editors.

**Medina Gross** - [medinag@gmail.com](mailto:medinag@gmail.com)  
**Jeanne Hebeisen** - [jeanne@mc.net](mailto:jeanne@mc.net)  
**Beverly Lovett** - [lovett1988@comcast.net](mailto:lovett1988@comcast.net)

## Website

Website items go to Marcia Cameron [mec515@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mec515@sbcglobal.net). They may be sent at any time.

**Take note of our new advertiser - Shared Harvest.**



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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 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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