

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***

April 2015

American Association of University Women

Vol. 20, No. 7

Website – elginarea-il.aauw.net

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

General Meeting

**Wednesday, April 15 - 7 PM
St. Hugh Episcopal Church
36W957 Highland Ave., Elgin
(SE corner of Randall Rd. and Highland Ave.)**

“Educational Experiences in China: Memories of Chongqing Business and Technical University – Elgin Community College Educational Exchange 2010 and Personal China Tour 2011”



AAUW member Dr. Carol Cowles participated in a cultural study experience at CTBU (Chongqing Technical and Business University) in May 2010. Her assignment from Elgin Community College was to participate in a cultural and educational program along with two ECC students. The program was under consideration for a formal exchange, and she carried an Articulation Agreement signed by Dr. David Sam, ECC’s President, to be signed by Professor Wang, Congiu, CTBU’s President.

Notice:

Due to an inflexible airline ticket change, our original presenter, Dr. Carol Cowles will be returning from her trek in Nepal and Mt. Everest the evening of our program. She has arranged for Jim Sullivan, Senior Engineer at Navistar, a non-traditional student who was studying Chinese at ECC, and fellow participant in the CTBU exchange, to present. Carol’s husband, Jim Fletcher, who accompanied her on her personal tour to China the following year, will co-present. The presenters will share their experiences and observations about students, educational systems, cultures and history of this fascinating country.

(See Page 2 for additional information on this meeting.)

Calendar

- April 1 **Movie Discussion Group** 4:30 pm
Colonial Café
Chappie
- April 8 **Good Tastes** 5:00 pm
Montarra Grill,
1491 South Randall Road, Algonquin
847/458-0505
- April 9 **Morning Book Group** 9 am
Panera Bread, Rtes. 59/72, Hoffman Estates
The Interestings, Meg Wolitzer
- April 9 **Morning Crafters** 9 am
Hostess: Jelayne Ewers
Planning
- April 13 **Great Books** 7 pm
Gail Borden Library
Poetry Session – Seamus Heaney
- April 15 **General Meeting** 7 pm
- April 20 **Newsletter Deadline**

- April 22 **Evening Book Group** 6 pm
Pot Luck
Hostess: Katherine Jablonowski
The House Girl, Tara Conklin
- April 23 **Encore! Song-tivists** 7 – 8:30 pm
Gail Borden Library
Registration with Library needed
- April 27 **The Book Club** 7 pm
Host/Hostess: TBD
- April 28 **Reel Women/Real Women** 6 pm
Gail Borden Library
Wild

Non-branch events

- April 11 **EO Fellows Brunch**
Deerfield Embassy Suites
Lambs Farm, Libertyville
- May 1-2 **State Convention**
Bloomington
Early bird deadline for Convention rates - April 13
Deadline for Hotel Reservations - April 10
See *Illinois Link* for details.

**Additional Information for March Program
From Muriel Fenzel**

For three weeks, Carol lived in a Visiting Student Dormitory and ate most meals in the Student Canteen. Her coursework included Introduction to the History of China, Introduction to written and spoken Mandarin, and Chinese Arts and Crafts. She was assigned a 20-year old student guide from CTBU who wished to improve her English and, in exchange, provided a “running commentary” on Chinese undergraduate student life, as well as assistance navigating around the University and the City of 31 million inhabitants. Carol will share her experiences as a student, English teacher, and counselor on this exchange. Carol will be sharing memories, observations and pictures of these two experiences.

Carol Cowles Biographical Sketch

Dr. Carol Cowles has been an AAUW member since 1998. She joined the Elgin Branch in 2006 when she relocated to Elgin to become Dean of Student Services and Development at Elgin Community College. Carol holds a Bachelor of Arts in English with a Minor in German from Miami University (Ohio), a Master of Public Administration with a concentration in Finance from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis from the University of Missouri – Columbia. Retired since July 2013, Carol and her husband Jim Fletcher have a bit more time to enjoy their six adult children and eleven grandchildren located on both coasts and in between. While contemplating a move to Kansas City, Carol continues to be active in Elgin’s arts and activities, including yoga, zumba, and walking.

Carol returned to China in 2011 to tour with her husband and to extend her knowledge and appreciation of the history and diverse cultures of this country. On this trip, arranged by fellow ECC Dean, Dr. Rick Mao, she “romped” through business, industry, religious, historic, and nature sites with a merry band of travelers which included fellow AAUW member Flo Ostidick and her family.

**Presidents' Message
From Wilma Booth, Co-President**

Greetings and welcome to spring!

Our March Branch meeting was a delightful and informative event. Jeff Scanlan offered suggestions for improving our problem solving skills, and his magical feats were fascinating.

On March 14, many AAUW members attended the Women's History Brunch at ECC. AAUW was a proud sponsor, along with other Elgin organizations.

Mark your calendar for our next Branch meeting April 15, 7 P.M., St. Hugh Episcopal Church, Highland Ave. and Randall Rd. Travelers to China will be presenting the program.

April 23, 7 P.M., at Gail Borden Public Library, we are co-sponsoring Rise Jones and Margaret Brady's musical presentation honoring women who were activists during past decades. Registration is needed for this event.

We want to encourage attendance at the Illinois AAUW state convention to be held at Doubletree, Bloomington, IL, on May 1 & 2. The theme is “It's A Jungle Out There”. For registration information go to AAUW-IL.org and click on “Spring Link.” Please notify Shirley May Byrnes if you can participate.

All members are invited to the YWCA Leader Luncheon to be held May 7, 11 A.M. to 2 P.M., Seville, Streamwood. Celebrate the accomplishments of Elgin area women, and support our branch’s nominee for the Arts, Sandy Kaptain. Reservations should be made through the YWCA.

Remember to vote April 7!!!

Branch Meeting Minutes

Co-President Shirley May Byrnes called the meeting to order at 8:32pm.

Rachel Campbell introduced her guest, who is a candidate for the Gail Borden Library Board. We were encouraged to be informed about the candidates for several positions in the next election.

The February 5th meeting minutes were approved and filed.

The Treasurer’s Report from Linda Youngren was approved and filed for audit.

Judy Fishburn, program Vice President, announced the April 15 meeting program subject, "China on My Mind and In My Heart," to be held at St. Hugh Episcopal Church. She also encouraged attendance at the April 23rd program at Gail Borden Library, called Song-tivists, presented by Risé Dawn Jones, accompanied by Margaret Brady. Registration required, 847/429-4597.

There was no report from membership.

Shirley May announced the AAUW State Convention, to be held May 1st and 2nd in Bloomington. Information is in the Spring 2015 *Illinois Link*.

She gave a brief overview of the March 12 meeting of several Elgin organizations including the League of Women Voters, the Library, AAUW, Community Crisis Center, and YWCA concerning the topic "Women in Poverty in Elgin." They are brainstorming ideas for a project on this topic.

Shirley May also announced the April 11, District 5, Educational Opportunities Fund event at Lamb's Farm featuring speakers Fiona Chin, PhD, Northwestern University, and Vanessa Dion Fletcher, MFA, School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

The Nominating Committee announced candidates for 2015-2016 positions as follows:

Co-presidents: Jeanne Hebeisen and Beverly Lovett
Co-1st VP Program: Patricia Harkin and Gareth Sitz
Co-2nd VP Membership: Rosemary Dyson and Fay Kitchin
Treasurer: Linda Youngren
Membership Treasurer: Becky Olson
Recording Secretary: Bonnie Hill
Nominating Committee for 2015-16:
Kathy Turnquist, Jane Lawson, Becky Olson, Libby Hoefl
Jan Jones and Rachel Campbell
Alternates: Chris Saletta and Mary Navin

Julie Ford asked the membership to please sign up to bring desserts for the April meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by Co President Shirley May Byrnes at 8:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Juanita Brook, Secretary pro tem

Song-tivists

Thursday, April 23, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Gail Borden Public Library

Registration Required

Visit gailborden.info/register or call 847.429.4597



We invite you join us for a performance of a program created for the 2014 Women's History Brunch. Featuring the music of women who helped ignite and propel social movements by touching hearts and making the political personal, the program will

highlight songs from the civil rights, environmental, suffrage and more recent women's movements.

Singing the music of "song-tivists" such as Joan Baez, Joni Mitchell, Odetta, Billie Holiday and Miriam Makeba will be the classically trained soprano Risé Dawn Jones. Accompanying her will be pianist Margaret Brady.

Sponsors
Gail Borden Public Library
Elgin Area AAUW
YWCA Elgin

The flier for this event is attached separately, in case you wish to print it off to post somewhere in the Elgin area community.

May Annual Meeting

From Julie Ford

Wednesday, May 20, 6 p.m.
Elgin Country Club, 2575 Weld Rd.
Cost \$33.00

Entree: Chicken Florentine or Vegetarian option (Portabella Mushroom Florentine). Iced Tea, Lemonade, Coffee, Tea, included. Please indicate entree choice when you pay. Cash Bar Available. Complementary Valet Parking.

Please pay dues to Membership Treasurer Joan Hayashida, at April meeting or send check, payable to Elgin Area Branch AAUW, to: Joan at 175 Pauline Dr., Elgin 60123, **by May 13** to be eligible for free national membership drawing.

Reel Women/Real Women

From Barbara Evans



Tues., April 28: *Wild* (2014) Rated R
Starring Reese Witherspoon & Laura Dern

That Witherspoon received a Best Actress Oscar nomination and Laura Dern one for Best Supporting Actress this year will not surprise any who see this film. Based on the memoir, *Wild: From Lost To Found On The Pacific Crest Trail*, it faithfully follows Cheryl Strayed's self-prescribed therapy to try to regain her self-respect after the many bad choices she made following the devastating death of her mother. The past comes in via flashbacks as Cheryl trudges along the 1,000-mile journey she undertakes alone. For a preview of them and her journey, see the trailer at oscar.go.com/nominees/actress-in-a-supporting-role/laura-dern.

What is missing from the film is the key to Cheryl's transformation by the end of her journey that is explained in Chapter 10 of the memoir. But not to worry, for this will be brought out in the post-film discussion.

May 26: *Still Alice*

June 23: *Big Eyes*

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.

Membership Matters **By Becky Olson**

RECRUITING AND RETAINING MEMBERS is an ongoing process. When attending a community function, visit not only with other AAUW members but actively choose to sit with people you do not know. For instance, at the recent Women's History Brunch at ECC, I shared AAUW info and as a result our branch will grow again by people who picked up our national brochure, with a branch brochure and other pamphlets of AAUW interest tucked inside. Five e-applications with our recruiting letter have been sent that give links to our national, state, and local websites. These posts also have a current newsletter attached, and if some activities are not listed, updates are included within the letter and an invitation to participate. These women will be attending our activities! Regarding POTENTIAL MEMBERS: A file with names and email addresses is used to keep them in the loop about our activities. Names are deleted if there is no sustained interest. This listing will be updated FY16. The recruiter for a potential member is included by cc in the initial contact, but not thereafter.

VERY IMPORTANT! Any PAST MEMBER who might be interested in rejoining: If they have been out two years, they can rejoin at a discounted rate. Keep us informed, or better yet bring them to a meeting

DUES NOTICE: Members who have FY16 Dues paid before the May annual meeting, or at the May meeting, will again have the opportunity to have their name drawn for a free national membership. Our 50-Year members pay NO national, state, or local dues; our Life Members pay NO national dues, only \$23.00, which includes state and branch dues. Dues for most of us to renew for FY16 are \$72, payable to Elgin Area Branch AAUW. There will be a chart at that meeting so you can clarify any questions on the distribution of the \$72. Send checks to Joan Hayashida, 195 Pauline Drive, Elgin, IL 60123. As always, your participation and suggestions are vital to Elgin Area Branch AAUW. Let me know if you are interested in serving on the membership committee FY16. Thank YOU!

Nominating Committee **From Judy Kaulfuss**

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Chair Judy Kaulfuss, Fay Kitchin, Jane Lawson, Beverly Lovett, Judy Mavros, Mary Navin, Chris Saletta and Gareth Sitz, submits the following slate for election:

Co-Presidents (1-year term)

Beverly Lovett started college after her 2 sons were in grade school in 1973. She graduated in 1978 with a BS in Marketing from West Chester University in Pennsylvania. She worked for 3 years as Data Processing Supervisor for Burns International

Security in Philadelphia. She joined AAUW in PA and then the Elgin Branch when her family moved to West Dundee in 1982.

She worked for Hewlett Packard Company for 22 years, retiring in 2004. In AAUW she has held various positions including Treasurer, Auditor, Newsletter Editor, EO Chair, Nominating Committee, Garden Walk Committee and Art Showcase Committee. She has been a tutor for The Literacy Connection for 6 years and was asked to join its Board in 2014. She has been on the committee for its annual Trivia Bee fundraiser for 3 years. She also was a Trustee on the West Dundee Police Pension Board and currently keeps the minutes at its quarterly meetings. She enjoys volunteering for West Dundee's Heritage Fest every year, going to the Fitness Center, reading, playing mahjong and traveling.

Jeanne Hebeisen joined our branch in 1959 and is a 50-year Member. She has served in many positions, including President, Recording Secretary and EO Chair, and is currently one of the Co-newsletter Editors. She is also on the YWCA Finance Committee and is Treasurer of the Elgin Symphony League.

She received a B.S. degree in Mathematics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison – only using it to teach a couple of classes at ECC many years ago for a woman on maternity leave – Barbara Juister. She was a stay-at-home mom, homemaker and volunteer until her 15-year career as a computer programmer for Safety-Kleen Corp. Since retiring in 1993, she has devoted many hours volunteering for her favorite organizations.

She enjoys her new dog Starr, attending Goodman Theatre, local theater and Elgin Symphony Orchestra concerts (is a founding member of the Elgin Symphony League). She recently attended the New England Festival (a regional competition of community theater groups) where one of her daughters performed. She also enjoys Great Books and Reel Women discussions and playing bridge. Jeanne says AAUW played a major part in her life through all those 50+ years, and she is not done yet.

Co-1st Vice Presidents - Program (1-year term)

Gareth Sitz received an AB in History/Humanities from University of Chicago, an MA in Theatre Arts/Performance from Northern Illinois University. She has certification in Spanish, French, English, Theatre, Social Studies and Gifted Ed; extensive training in Creative Arts Therapy; and certification in Transpersonal Drama Therapy.

She has been employed as an educator at the junior-senior high and university levels, making use of her multiple teaching certificates.

Avocationally, she has been a playwright, poet, songwriter, actress, director, workshop provider through Independent Players and Femmeprov.

AAUW involvement included: communications chair, program committee, facilitator of Memoir Writing Group, workshop provider through Femmeprov. Gareth says AAUW has

provided her the opportunity to interact with a fine group of intelligent, active women, who share the vision of serving women and girls.

Patricia Harkin received a Ph.D. from Miami University (OH); MA from University of Virginia and BA from University of Kentucky – all in English. She taught English at the university level for her entire career; served as Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at UIC.

She has been a very active member of AAUW for 3 years, serving as Community Liaison, as well as assisting with membership and participating in the Memoir Writing group. Patty says AAUW has given her “the friendship of intelligent, creative, generous and active women.” She has found in our branch “good friends who selflessly share their time and expertise to advance AAUW’s goals.”

Co-2nd Vice-Presidents - Membership (2-year term)

Rosemary Dyson graduated from Syracuse University with dual BS in Journalism and Human Development. She worked as News Editor for *The Lutheran Magazine* before becoming Associate Executive Director for the Multicultural Ministries program for the Lutheran church. She currently provides freelance and contract editorial services, as well as being part of a conflict mediation team for Lombard Mennonite Peace Center.

She has been a member of AAUW since 2012 and has served on the membership committee, the STEM task force and as Diversity Chair.

Rosemary feels that AAUW has allowed her to be part of a diverse group of women who are unified in the mission to empower women and girls through education and advocacy.

Fay Kitchin is a retired insurance executive. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin in Oshkosh. She is married to Jeff, and lives with him and their dog Daisy in Elgin. She has been a member of AAUW for 4 years. She has served on the Membership Committee. As a future officer on this committee, she hopes to expand the diversity of women in AAUW. She is active in her church, and also plays bridge. She served as the chair of the Round Robin AAUW Bridge for one year, a fundraiser.

Recording Secretary (2-year term)

Bonnie Hill has been an AAUW Elgin branch member since 1979. She has served in various offices throughout the years and was President in 1989. She was an Art Showcase Chair in 1981, and was a Named Grant Recipient in 1992 and received the Susan B. Anthony Award in 1988. Bonnie is a Real Estate Broker with Century 21 New Heritage. She is a past President of the local board of Realtors and a Past President of the Illinois State Women's Council of Realtors. She graduated from Drake University and has two children and one grandson.

Treasurer (2-year term)

Linda Youngren has been a member of AAUW off and on since 1972. She has consented to continue her role as Treasurer of AAUW, having filled in for a year and a few months. She lives in Huntley with her husband, and they are enjoying retirement by doing some traveling. She graduated from Knox College. Before retiring, she worked in a field of information technology dealing with software development.

Membership Treasurer (2-year term)

Becky Olson says: Reading has been an enduring interest for me. Early on, I read about Susan B. Anthony and still vividly remember that first encounter at my hometown library. That experience led me to my aunt’s interest in collecting owls OWL = Old Women Liberal. I have a few of her owls. My g-grandmother was a speaker at Women’s Temperance meetings. My grandmother knew those speeches by heart. Thereafter, Genealogy and Women’s History became major interests. Eleanor Roosevelt also was a role model for me. I will never forget her speaking at WIU.

These two women had already influenced me when I first joined AAUW. As with other women, my membership was join, rejoin, join, and rejoin. When I last rejoined, it was to be a member of a book discussion group, because I liked sharing ideas and learning other views. I first served in the area of International Relations, then accepted the office of Membership VP.

It has been a pleasure to see the growth of the Elgin Area Branch AAUW. Hopefully, the success will continue with New Membership VP Leadership as I move on. If you have been a Facebook friend, you will recognize me as the fledgling owl on a stack of books. I remain an advocate for women’s issues and support those with kindred minds. I am an AAUW two-minute activist.

Nominating Committee for 2015-2016

Kathy Turnquist Libby Hoeft Jan Jones
Jane Lawson Rachel Campbell Becky Olson
Alternates: Chris Saletta and Mary Navin

**Morning Crafters
From Jelayne Ewers**

The crafters will be meeting April 9 from 9:00-11:30 a.m. at the home of Jelayne Ewers, 13426 Dakota Fields Dr., Huntley. This will be a planning meeting for the next year. We welcome all members to this meeting. It will a good time to make **to** make suggestions to the group of things you would be interested in making. Bring ideas and/or pictures of ideas for us to consider. If you would like to carpool, call Linda Rusenovich 847-741-7636. If you would just like to see what kind of projects we are considering, feel free to come just for conversation and dessert. If you have questions or need directions, call Jelayne 847-515-1145.

Garage Sale
From Katherine Jablonowski
May 20- 23 At Jean Jederman's



Spring Garage Sale is coming, and it's time to start collecting all those treasures that no longer need a spot at your house. Think how nice it will feel to get rid of some things you no longer use – from your closets, drawers, kitchen or garage. This is also the time that we make money for EO from the sale of our perennial plants – that are easiest divided in the spring. Ace usually has a sale on potting soil to aid in the transplanting. We will be getting spring weather, I promise. Get your things cleaned – and priced – if you have idea of the value. **Since our May branch meeting is also on the 20th, set-up will be earlier than usual – 1:30 to 4:30.**

We will let you know when we need volunteers and hope that you will be ready to help with this major project. Email or call Katherine Jablonowski, kjablonow@aol.com 847/428-0777, or Jan Jones, janbilljones@aol.com 847/742-3205, if you have questions or to volunteer.

YWCA Leadership Luncheon

The YWCA Leader Luncheon will be held at The Seville in Streamwood on May 7, from 11 – 2, with luncheon at noon. Elgin Area Branch AAUW has nominated Sandy Kaptain in the Arts category. The registration mailing from the YW is to be sent this week. If you are not on the YWCA mailing list,

you may register online. Go to YWCAElgin.com and click on the Leader Luncheon link. Or call the YW at 847/742-7930. Be sure to indicate that you want to sit at the AAUW table(s), so we can give Sandy our wholehearted support.

Sandy has been heavily involved with three arts organizations:

- AAUW Art Showcase – involved for 25 years, including 7 shows as Chair or Co-chair
- Art for All - instrumental in its founding and was its Chair for 16 years
- Art and Soul on the Fox (an art show presented in downtown Elgin in August) – its Chair or Co-chair for its first 5 years

Update on Mary Vickers

Mary is back in Grand Victorian. Her address is 1440 Somonauk St., Room 110, Sycamore 60178. Her phone number is 815/895-8337.

Message from Newsletter Editors

Newsletter deadline for the **May** issue is **April 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.

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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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