

AAUW TIMES

Elgin Area Branch
1920-2016



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

April 2016

American Association of University Women

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General Meeting

Saturday April 9 10:30 am
Tour of Fermilab
Kirk Road and Pine Street, Batavia

Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory specializes in high-energy particle physics, but is also noted for its architecture, herd of bison, natural areas, and educational programs for the public. Our guided tour will educate us about STEM, Fermilab's projects, and its plans for expansion.



We will meet our docents at the reception desk, first floor of Wilson Hall. The driver should have a photo ID ready to show the guard. Jeanne Hebeisen is handling the car pool arrangements.

Car pools to Fermilab should leave about 9:30.

Following the tour, for those who wish to join us, we will be having lunch at The Country House in Geneva, on the northeast corner of Kirk Road and Fabyan Parkway (2095 S. Kirk Rd., a seven-minute drive). Reservations for the lunch are due to Jane Watson 630 306-1225, JLW0420@aol.com by April 6. We will have a separate room. There will be four choices, including a vegetarian item plus soft drink, coffee, or tea. Cost will be \$17, including tax and tip, payable at the restaurant.

Calendar

- April 6 **Current Movie Discussion** 4:30 pm
My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2
Colonial Restaurant, McLean Blvd
- April 9 **Branch Meeting** 10:30 am
Tour of Fermilab, Batavia
- April 11 **Great Books** 7 pm
Gail Borden Public Library
Masque of Reason, Robert Frost
- April 12 **Equal Pay Day** 5-6:30 pm
Gail Borden Library
- April 13 **Good Tastes** 5 pm
St. Charles Place 2550 E Main
St. Charles 630 377-3333
- April 14 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 am
Hostess: Judy Mavros
Leon and Louise, Alex Capus
- April 14 **Crafters Group** 9:30 am
Hostess: Jelayne Ewers
Planning meeting
- April 16 **Salon 2** 2 pm
Hostess: Jeanne Hebeisen
- April 18 **Knitting/Crochet Group**
Hostess: Bonnie Hill
Hats for charity or your own project

April 20 **Newsletter Deadline**

April 26 **Reel Women/Real Women** 6 pm
Gail Borden Public Library
Brooklyn

April 27 **Evening Book Group** 7 pm
Hostess: Katherine Jablonowski
Poetry

Non-Branch Calendar

April 12 **Equal Pay Rally**, Daley Plaza,
Chicago

April 16 **Crystal Lake Branch Fundraiser**
Contact Jeanne Hebeisen

April 29-30 **Illinois State Convention**
Roosevelt University, Schaumburg

June 3-4 **Midwest Ten State AAUW Biennial
Conference**
Great Wolf Lodge, Kansas City, KS

Co-President's Message From Beverly Lovett

Well, Spring has arrived, or so the calendar says, and it's been a very busy time for our Branch! The Garden Walk Committee is gearing up for our June 25 Westside Elgin Garden Walk, gathering advertisers and figuring out the logistics for the day. Our expectations are for another great, well-attended event for our Educational Opportunities Fund.

The Awards Committee has met and the awardees, Carol Cowles for the Named Grant and Gareth Sitz as our nominee for the YWCA Leader Luncheon, were announced at the February Branch meeting. Our nominee for the Elgin Image Award is Patty Harkin, but her nomination will be submitted for next year's award, as Awards Committee met too late to nominate her for this year.

The Nominating Committee did an excellent job of assembling our officers for next year. Note: As there may not be a Business Meeting during our April 9 Fermilab outing, the Membership will elect our slate of officers at our May Dinner meeting.

Our Diversity Salon Committee has finished assessing the results of our first Salon and is looking forward to our second on April 16. Diversity Chair Sue Schulz's article in this newsletter will give you more details. We really hope that many of you will come to this Salon and be a part of the discussion in our efforts to make our Branch a more diverse and an even more cohesive group of socially aware and active women. We need all kinds of members to participate - new and long-time, all ages. Can you spare a couple of hours? Go Branch Go!! We'd also like to thank Sue for graciously agreeing to step in for Fay Kitchin as Co-Membership Chair with Rosemary Dyson. This will tie in nicely with Sue's work as our enthusiastic Diversity Chair. Member Gareth Sitz will appear at the Gail Borden Library Author's Fair on April 17 from 2-4 pm. I hope those of you going to Fermilab have a really great experience. I will just be getting back from a River Cruise through The Netherlands and Belgium where I'm going to experience their famous tulips, some of which will hopefully already be in riotous bloom. Happy Spring!

Illinois State Convention From Co-President Jeanne Hebeisen

On April 29 and 30, AAUW-IL will be holding its Convention in nearby Schaumburg. So close! Convention schedule and the registration form are towards the end of the newsletter.

A couple of highlights are as follows:

Friday Evening Dinner Speaker— a portrayal of Eleanor Roosevelt by Leslie Goddard – drawn from Eleanor's own letters, diaries, newspaper columns and other writings. If you wish, you can come only for dessert – see registration;

Saturday Luncheon Speaker - Legal Advocacy Fund Plaintiff Susan Burhans – Burhans vs. Yale. Listening to one of our LAF plaintiffs is always interesting and deeply moving,

Lots more details in Illinois Link. Let me know if you did not get yours by email. Since it is so close, we can drive over for the Friday dinner and then return for the rest of the Convention on Saturday. If you sign up to go to the Convention, please let me

know, and I will arrange carpooling. I hope you will consider going, as it is always a stimulating, worthwhile couple of days.

Minutes

Elgin Area AAUW Branch Meeting
February 25, 2016

Co-Membership Chair Patty Harkin welcomed everyone and introduced our speaker, Attorney Traci D. Ellis, who spoke on the topic, Race, Culture and Women.

Co-President Jeanne Hebeisen started our Branch Business Meeting at 8:30 in the Fellowship Hall of the Second Baptist Church. She thanked the Social Chairs for the refreshments.

The minutes from our January 23, 2016, meeting were approved as emailed.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as emailed and will be filed for audit.

Co-Program Chairs -Patty Harkin and Gareth Sitz reminded members our next branch meeting will be March 20 at the Library and you must register to attend.

Membership Treasurer- Becky Olson welcomed our many guests: Dale Anderson
Audrey Compere, Peg Lehman, Barbara McHughes, Caroline Onischak, Mary Suzanne Pyrek, Jean Woodhouse and Bonnie Wadleigh.

Co- Membership Chair-Rosemary Dyson also welcomed our guests and encouraged them to consider membership in AAUW.

Co-President's Report-Jeanne Hebeisen reminded us the IL Link, our State newsletter, should be emailed soon.

Committee Reports:

Awards Committee Chair- Anne Marblestone was pleased to announce our Named Grant Award will go to Carol Cowles. Carol is planning to attend our May meeting where the award will be presented. Gareth Sitz was surprised when Anne announced she is our nominee for the YWCA Leader Luncheon. The committee plans on having an entry for the Elgin Image Award next year.

Diversity-Sue Schulz has organized our first salon for March 5 at 2 pm. In cooperation with the membership committee, they are looking to find more avenues for attracting new, younger and diverse people to our Branch.

Local Scholarship-Mary Navin reported her committee is "in process."

Nominating-Libby Hoeft was not present, Anne Marblestone presented the slate of officers for 2016-2017.

Co-Presidents: Muriel Fenzel and Juanita Brook
Vice-Presidents Program: Patty Harkin and Gareth Sitz

Treasurer: Linda Knight

Corresponding Secretary: Karen Patterson

Nominating Committee 2017

Lynn Harper

Kathy Turnquist

Chris Saletta

Jane Lawson

Florence Osdick

Anne Marblestone

Alternates: Barb Wahl and TBD

Social -Julie Ford and Jane Watson. Co-Program Chairs Gareth Sitz and Patty Harkin thanked Julie and Jane for making their lives easier for them these past two years.

New Business

Pay Equity Day, Linda Knight and Linda Rock will be having an event April 12 at the Library where they will be passing out Pay Day candy bars and giving a brief elevator speech.

Women's' History Brunch will be March 12, cost \$15, reservations through the YWCA.

The Scholars' Lunch is the same day as our branch meeting at Fermilab.

Mary Navin reminded us our Garden Walk is scheduled for June 25. This will be our 7th year. Jennifer Ford said there will only be one meeting, March 5, for the League of Women Voters Candidates Forum. She added that Women on the Brink will meet March 8 at the Library at 6:00.

Adjourned at 8:50.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Hill, Secretary

Photographer Vivian Meier as portrayed by JennyRiddle at our March 28 meeting.



Salon 1

From Sue Schulz

Our first Salon was a very enlightening, edifying, educational and FUN afternoon! Thank you to all who came out and shared their opinions and experiences. For me as a new member, still at the stage of listening and learning, it helped me to understand why

I'm so drawn to this branch. I joined AAUW because of the mission of organization but I've become active and enthusiastic about this branch because it's a group of women who are open, have integrity and have created a special community. Not all groups would be open to having a real discussion, answering questions and taking a hard look at themselves. Kudos to us. It's the fertile ground in which a plant grows healthy and strong.

Our discussions were set around a group of questions to help us focus on the positive strengths of our branch. It is important that the entire membership be informed of these discussions to better build our branch. Below I've summarized the conversations into three focus areas to recap what we learned from our first Salon.

STRENGTHS—We need to embrace who we are and be able to verbalize what is AAUW and what we do well to potential new members.

Our branch is a very vibrant group. We provide a variety of quality programs that advocates the AAUW mission, encourages involvement and participation in social justice. Many sub-groups have formed and created activities that represent the interests of our members. These programs and activities are a place to meet other interesting women and develop community connections. Historically, these groups and activities have drawn more women to become

members in our branch. The branch provides opportunities for leadership and is open to new ideas, outreach and program development. Financially, AAUW is a high value-low cost organization that supports women through the mission of AAUW, mentoring and social activities.

CULTURE—"Like attracts Like". All groups create their own culture. What we value as a group will be evident in our choices, priorities and activities. Be mindful of who we are and who we can and want to attract to our branch. Our branch is a very welcoming environment that recognizes the strengths of its members; is open to learn, listen and develop the thirst for knowledge; is a safe, respectful and confidential environment that is open to constructive criticism which enhances the branch and it accepts and appreciates the level of involvement that each member can bring to the branch. Most importantly, it is a culture of respect and professionalism. Our approach to our members, program development and social activities are cloaked in the pride of doing our best for the branch and women.

WE RECOGNIZE...--Look both ways, view as many sides as you can.

Because a high number of our members have been together for a long period of time, we take for granted that most of us know each other well and know how the branch operates. New people need more mentoring and space to learn and develop in the branch. Outsiders might see our branch as elitist, grandmotherly and homogenous. Marginalization leads to withdrawal and we need to be aware of how we are perceived and be open to new ideas, values and interests. We need to be non-judgmental and not impose or assume but elicit these new ideas from new members. The younger generation is immersed in the technology of social media versus the personal contact that we are accustomed to. We need to bridge that gap. Lastly, we recognize that retirement has afforded the time to become involved with the branch, particularly with those members who have been with the branch less than 5 years.

I hope that as you read this you could identify with our findings. I also hope that if you have

had a different experience with our branch that you share that with us. It is important that all voices are heard and we encourage you to join us at our next salon. We need the voices of the members who have been around forever, the voices of those that are not active, somewhat active and the voices of those who are active. The sharing of your experience will help to insure that this branch has a healthy future. We are looking forward to another great session and hearing your voice at Salon 2.

Salon 2—Questions will address our organizational approach in areas of programs and activities. We will look at identifying issues, problems and what we need to work on.
Saturday, April 16
2:00 pm, home of Jeanne Hebeisen

Membership Matters

From Rosemary Dyson
Co-Vice President, Membership

Spring is here and with it comes warm weather, the planting of new seeds in our garden which will bring new flowers. I would like to thank all of the members who have been bringing potential new members to our Elgin Area (IL) Branch programs. Through all of our efforts our membership is continuing to grow. Please keep up the good work! We currently have 110 members. But we can do much better. I know that we can reach the goal of 200 members, if not this year definitely the next. We can certainly continue to plant the seeds of new member growth.

Eight guests came to the February 25, Race, Culture and Women program held at Second Baptist Church and led by the dynamic speaker, Traci Ellis. Traci talked about the collective power of women of all races and ethnicities to demand equality and justice. If you brought a guest with you, please follow up with them. Ask them whether they would like to learn more about the AAUW. Each one of the guests who signed in at the meeting has received an invitation from the membership vice presidents

Please watch for more details in the May newsletter about a Shape the Future event that will take place in June. The Shape the Future membership campaign is a recruitment tool for current members to offer a discounted rate to prospective members. With this campaign, new members and students can take 50 percent off the national rate when they join on the spot during an AAUW public event.

Fay Kitchin has found it necessary to step down from her position as Co-Membership Vice President. I would like to take time to thank Fay for all of her hard work and dedication to the Elgin Area (IL) branch. I would also like to thank Sue Schulz, who was the Diversity Initiative Chair for assuming the position of Co-Membership Vice President.

Garage Sale

From Katherine Jablonowski,
AAUW Funds Co-chair

AAUW Spring Garage Sale May 11-14 at Jean Jederman's home.



Now is the time to do some Spring cleaning and rid your attics, basements, closets and cupboards of items you no longer want. We could use them to raise money at our sale event.

We also need your help for 2 or 3 hours especially on Thursday and Friday afternoons from 12 to 3 or 2 to 5 and on Saturday from 9 to 12 or 12 to 2:30. It's a great time to get to know other members you may not otherwise meet.

We could use your extra folding tables and clothes racks during that time and will promptly return them to you afterwards.

Select some times which work for you and email them to me or call and leave a message.



Reel Women for Real Women

From Barbara Evans

Tues., April 26:

Brooklyn (2015) PG-13

Starring Saoirse Ronan, Eileen O'Higgins, Julie

Walters & Emory Cohen

This film tells the profoundly moving story of Eilis Lacey, a young Irish immigrant who, with the blessings of her mother and sister, leaves her home in Ireland in the early 1950s in hopes of finding more opportunities in Brooklyn. Although a priest and others in the Irish enclave there await to help her navigate this new land, she becomes horribly homesick. But her life becomes brighter when an Italian lad falls in love with her. A traumatic event, however, requires her to return to Ireland, where she is courted by one of the upper-class boys who wouldn't have noticed her when she was just an Irish girl. Thus her dilemma: to remain in Ireland or return to America.

The film is absolutely faithful to Colm Tóibín's novel, but against all odds, as much as I like Tóibín's writing, the novel was flat to me, so much so that I almost skipped seeing the film. That would have been a huge mistake. Not only was I rooting for Ronan to receive the Best Actress Oscar, but I also wondered why none of the supporting cast received nominations. Rare is the film that has so many excellent minor characters— from her sister who paved the way for her to go to America to the sales staff at the department store where she has her first job, and the landlady and fellow boarders at a rooming house. And absolutely captivating is the Italian who becomes her American beau. This is a film that will stay with you for a long time, so we hope to see you on April 26. -Barbara Evans

Open to the public, Reel Women meets at Gail Borden Library at 6 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every month except December. You are welcome to bring food and drink into the movie. Discussion follows the show.

Tues., May 24: *Room* (2015)

Tues., June 28: *Carol* (2015)

Public Policy

From Linda Knight

From a blog by Paige Robnett

As I write this article on March 16, many of us are in the midst of March Madness. And, no, I'm not talking politics! I'm talking sports! When I was growing up, women didn't commonly engage in athletics and sports. I would never have imagined, even 20 years ago, that women's sports would be as popular and marketable as they are today. Still, we have a long way to go in order to achieve gender equity in sports. Girls have 1.3 million fewer opportunities to play high school sports than boys have and are offered only 43 percent of the opportunities to play sports in college. Even with the passage of Title IX, many girls and young women lack access to safe practice conditions, appropriate equipment, reliable transportation to and from games, and the funds needed to participate in organized athletics. These conditions cause girls to drop out of sports at twice the rate that boys do. Let's take a look at a few wins and losses in women's sports:

WINS: In 2015, the U.S. women's national soccer team became national heroes after their stunning performance in the Women's FIFA World Cup broke television ratings records. Team members were featured in advertisements, and Alex Morgan became the first woman on the cover of EA Sports FIFA video game.

LOSSES: Despite the team's accomplishments and the overall increase in popularity of women's soccer, general media coverage of women's sports remains depressing. In 2014, ESPN's *SportsCenter* dedicated just 2 percent of its airtime to women's sports, and, compared to their male counterparts, women soccer players are paid significantly less and exposed to poor practice conditions. Abby Wombach, the team's former captain, was paid far less in her career than her male peers were, despite having scored more goals than any man or woman in professional soccer's history.

WINS: Serena Williams was named *Sports Illustrated's* Sportsperson of the Year in 2015, making her the first woman in more than three decades to win that title and the first solo woman of color to ever hold the honor. As the number one

women's tennis player in the world, Williams earns more than \$13 million in endorsements and is a trailblazer for women athletes all over the world. She continues to empower girls and women every step of the way.

LOSSES: Even with her many achievements, Serena Williams often receives harsh media criticism about her body image and physique. She is also subjected to limitations on her ability to obtain endorsements and is paid less than professional male tennis players. Her endorsements fade in comparison to male tennis stars like Rafael Nadal, who made \$28 million over the last year, and Roger Federer, who was paid \$58 million in endorsements.

WINS: A few women are challenging the traditional notion of what it takes to be a leader and coach in men's professional leagues. Across the country, women are getting hired to coach men's professional sports teams. Last year, Jen Welter became the first female assistant coaching intern in the NFL, and Kathryn Smith was hired as the league's first full-time female coach.

LOSSES: Even with the progress that has been made in hiring women coaches, professional leagues have a long way to go to reach gender equity. Women lack serious leadership roles in professional sports leagues and remain vastly underrepresented on the coaching staffs of both men's and women's professional sports teams.

WINS: Did you know that there is now a professional women's hockey league in the U.S.? That's right! For the first time ever, professional women's hockey players will be paid for their talents on the ice.

LOSSES: Reaching equality in athletics doesn't just stop with the creation of a league. Women hockey players face one of the most dramatic pay disparities in professional sports, with the typical player being paid a meager average annual salary of just \$15,000. Hilary Knight, one of the most talented and experienced players in the National Women's Hockey League, will be paid only \$22,000 this season. This salary is just a quarter of 1 percent of what Patrice Bergeron, the highest paid player on the Boston Bruins, will make this year.

The recent achievements of women in sports show that women athletes are no longer sitting on the sidelines, but there is still work to be done. Let's cheer them on!

Equal Pay Day 2016 **From Linda Rock**

April 12 is this year's date when women's wages "catch up" to the earnings men made in 2015. In spite of the Equal Pay Act, enacted by Congress in 1963, the wage gap persists. Women are typically paid 79 cents on average for every dollar paid to men for work of comparable value requiring comparable skills. Join us outside the Gail Borden Library on April 12 from 5:00-6:30 pm. to recognize Equal Pay Day. We will be handing out Pay Day candy bars with information about the Equity Pay Act.

Knitting/Crocheting Group **From Kathy Turnquist**

Our April meeting will be on Monday, April 18 from 1-3 pm at the home of Bonnie Hill

The group has decided to knit hats for charity and members are asked to bring hat patterns they may like to share with the group. Feel free to also bring a project you are currently working on.

All members are welcomed to attend. Contact Kathy Turnquist with any questions.

Morning Crafters **From Jelayne Ewers**

Are you interested in trying some new craft ideas? If so, join us at our April 14 planning meeting for the year. If there is something you would like to learn or just do with others with the same interests, join us as we plan for next year. We be meeting from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the home of Jelayne Ewers.. This will be a planning meeting for the remainder of this year, as well as next year. We welcome all members to this meeting. This will a good time 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. 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.**