

AAUW TIMES

Elgin Area Branch
1920-2017



*Working for 97 years to promote equity for all women and girls,
Life-long education and positive social change*

November 2017

American Association of University Women

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General Meeting

**Sunday November 12 2 pm
Meadows Community Room
Gail Borden Public Library**

Vanishing Woman

Theatrical Enactment: In 1848, the daughter of a black slave and her white master disappeared. Ellen Craft disguised



herself as a white man in order to escape to freedom with her husband, William, who posed as her slave. Actress Jennifer Goran recreates the Crafts' daring journey through Ellen's eyes. Goran wrote the monologue, basing it on *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom; or, the Escape of William and Ellen Craft from Slavery*, a narrative by William Craft, published in 1860 in London.

Please register at GailBorden.info/events or 847 742-4025.

Calendar

- Nov 1 Current Movie Discussion Group
Colonial Cafe, Elgin 4:30 pm
Marshall
- Nov 5 Morning Book Group 9:30 am
Hostess: Rachel Campbell
Necessary Lies
Diane Chamberlin
- Nov 6 Branch board meeting 7 pm
Hostess: Jeanne Hebeisen
- Nov 8 Good Tastes 5 pm
Art & Almas
125 Main St, Burlington
- Nov 12 General Meeting 2 pm
Gail Borden Public Library
Please register at the library
- Nov 13 Great Books 7 pm
Gail Borden Library
The Loudest Voice
Grace Paley
- Nov 15 Evening Book Group
Hostess: Rachel Campbell
The Hidden Life of Trees
Peter Wohlleben
- Nov 20 The Book Club 7 pm
The House on Mango Street
Sandra Cisneros
- Nov 20 Knitting/Crochet Group 1 pm
Hostess: Juanita Brook
Call Juanita--847 695-5409
- Nov 20 Deadline for December/January
newsletter

Reel Women/Real Women, Women
& Culture. No November meeting

Co-President's Report Rachel Campbell

Once again our Elgin Branch members have worked hard to make the Fall Garage Sale a success. Thank you to Beverly Lovett and Jan Jones and all of the branch members who donated items and helped with organizing, selling, packing and loading in the middle of a rainstorm. Raising funds for scholarships for women and girls is an important part of our mission.

Another thank you to Muriel Fenzel for organizing the field trip to BAPS Hindu Temple and Center on Oct 20. We were so fortunate to be there on the last day of Diwali, the Festival of Lights. We sampled Indian food, toured the building and enjoyed the warm welcome extended to us by the many worshipers. A wonderful experience.

Shirley May Byrnes, Jeanne Hebeisen and I attended the Districts 4 and 5 Conference on Saturday, Oct.21. The speakers were terrific and their remarks concerned issues of great importance to women. Topics such as mentoring and teaching leadership skills for young women were addressed by Nadiah Mohajir and Jamilla Trimuel. The comments by State Representative Stephanie Kifowit and State Senator Linda Homes were of interest as well.

Two upcoming events to take notice of:

Nov 8 Tish Calhamer (co-vp for programming) will lead a book discussion on *Hillbilly Elegy* by J. D. Vance at the library.

Nov 12 Our next general meeting --The Vanishing Woman. We are cosponsoring this program with the library. Check for further information in the newsletter or in the yearbook. To all of our members and their families have a joyful Thanksgiving Holiday.

Membership Matters Rosemary Dyson, Co-Membership Vice President

We can be proud of the AAUW members who came before us. Members of AAUW walk in the steps of truly exceptional women. Indeed, membership does matter. From Hollywood to Congress, lack of female representation is a huge deal. In some areas, women are slowly but surely making progress towards fair representation. For example, in just a few years our nation will have the first woman pictured on a U.S. monetary bill in a century.

Our postage stamps have featured women since 1893, when Queen Isabella of Spain was given her own U.S. postage stamp. Since then, women from Pocahontas to Marilyn Monroe have had their likenesses appear on stamps. The U.S. Post Office released its new commemorative stamp of civil rights champion Dorothy Height just last month.

Height is one of more than a dozen women involved with AAUW who have appeared on postage stamps through the years. Here's a peek at a few more:

1. Jane Addams (1940)

Addams was the first woman to be awarded a Nobel Peace Prize, which she received for her work in social services and humanitarianism. She founded the Hull House in Chicago and served as the first president of the Women's International League for Peace and **Freedom**.

2. Eleanor Roosevelt (1963, 1984, 1998)

Roosevelt, who was awarded an AAUW honorary membership in 1929, was so accomplished we named an award after her. Notably, she implemented New Deal programs, worked with the United Nations, and was also a lifelong advocate for women's equality.

3. Frances Perkins (1980)

A longtime AAUW member, Frances Perkins served as secretary of labor under President Franklin D. Roosevelt and was an early champion of women's issues in the workforce, advocating for shorter hours and higher wages.

4. Rachel Carson (1981)

Biologist and author of *Silent Spring*, **Rachel Carson** was a 1956 AAUW Achievement Awardee. Her work sparked the modern environmental movement and paved the way for activists and scientists alike to pick up the torch.

Educational Opportunities Co-chair Beverly Lovett

Jan Jones and I want to thank everyone who helped make our garage sale a success last week. Thanks to everyone who donated their treasures and their tables, and to all our hard workers who signed up to get everything set up and organized and ready to sell. And we especially want to thank our new friends including Kiran, Sheba and their friend and sons. They donated things as well as helping with sorting on both days and even helped with the packing up on Friday. And special thanks to Nancy and Dan Gardner for letting us use their garage! And even though we lost our Saturday selling opportunity due to the rain and the early Savers/Epilepsy Foundation pick-up, we still made \$1,700.65 from all your hard work. Thanks again!



The announcement has created the probability of higher rates for less coverage so that many people may not be able to afford it. In addition, they are shutting down the website where you register "for maintenance" 12 hours every Sunday during the enrollment period.

Birth Control: The Trump administration announced that it would weaken the requirement for employer insurance plans to cover birth control. Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), certain preventive health care services are covered without co-pay or cost sharing. Contraception was included in this coverage, with exemptions for certain groups, including houses of worship. This announcement widens these exemption rules, allowing nearly any employer to opt out for religious or moral objections. Employees of companies who choose to opt out will have to pay for birth control out of pocket. AAUW strongly supported this coverage requirement and opposes the announced changes.

Jean Jederman

On October 6, we celebrated Jean's 90th birthday with a tea at the home of Jeanne Hebeisen. For those of you who could not be there, here is a tribute to Jean.

Public Policy Report

Shirley May Byrnes

ERA: The Illinois House has been sent SJRCA004, Senate Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment on the Equal Rights Amendment. When this proposed ERA went to the states for ratification to the U.S. Constitution, 35 out of the required 38 states ratified the ERA. Illinois has not ratified it. In March 2017, Nevada became the 36th state to ratify the ERA. If Illinois ratifies the ERA, that will be the 37th state with the need for just one more ratifying state to reach the required 38 states. In order for the Illinois General Assembly to ratify the ERA, there is a required 3/5 majority of the Illinois House plus a 3/5 majority of the Illinois Senate. The Illinois General Assembly's veto session started on October 24, when the ERA may come to the House floor for a vote.

The Illinois Constitution has an equal rights clause: "The equal protection of the laws shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex by the State or its units of local government and school districts." (Article I, Section 18) That clause does not apply to the U.S. government or to other states as the ERA would if it were part of the U.S. Constitution.

ACA: The 2018 ACA (Affordable Care Act) enrollment period has been shortened to November 1-December 15, 2017. Although Pres. Trump announced that government subsidies for the program have been substantially cut, ACA still exists.



We're here to celebrate the 90th birthday of a remarkable woman. Our branch honored Jean Jederman with a named grant in 1993, as a 50 year member in 2004, and with a Susan B. Anthony award in 2008,

Jean was born in Winona, Minnesota and has a BA in elementary education from Winona State University, which at that time was a teachers college. After graduation, she took a teaching job in Elgin and went to school summers at the University of Minnesota to earn her MA in curriculum instruction and educational psychology. When she first came to Elgin she was not eligible to join AAUW because she was a graduate of a teacher's college, but the rules were later relaxed and she has been a member ever since.

In her 30-year career in U-46, Jean taught third through sixth grades at Grant, Highland, and Clinton schools. One of her fellow teachers at Highland, Nancy Burnidge, describes her as a remarkable teacher whom we all admired and envied for her erudition and teaching skills. She was also famous for her disciplinary skills. After her retirement, she took care of a friend with cancer for two years.

Jean took a sabbatical leave to study at Northern Illinois University and finished her dissertation while she was teaching. She has an EdD degree in educational curriculum and library media. She embraced technology early on, and was using a word processor before many of her younger peers.

Jean sees the glass as half full and enjoys life. We are fortunate to have had her as a devoted member for more than 60 years!

Medina Gross

For AAUW Jean has served as EF chair twice, in both the 70s and 90s, she has served as corresponding secretary several times, Recording Secretary, Calling committee chair, nominating committee, newsletter coordinator and Historian. Most of us know her as the gracious hostess for the garage sale every spring. Because of her ideal location, we always do very well.

Jean has been a member of St. Joseph hospital auxiliary for more than 30 years, served on their board, and still volunteers there. She also volunteers for the Gail Borden Library and donated a fish tank for the children's area--one of the first donations for the Rakow branch.

She has served on the State Board of the Illinois Audubon Society and participated in their January bird count. She was a volunteer at Anderson Animal Shelter for three years and was of member of a City of Elgin Solid Waste Task Force (before the days of Waste Management).

Jean is a strong supporter of the Elgin Symphony and serves on the Board of Trustees, She is currently treasurer of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association and also served as long-time treasurer of the Elgin Area Retired Teachers Association.

Jean has traveled quite a bit and has been to all the continents. Some of her memorable trips were to the WWI battlefields in France and Belgium, which she found very moving, Most recently she went to Cuba and before that, she crossed the Panama Canal.

She likes going to Chicago and has season tickets to the Lyric Opera and Goodman Theatre. She finds the new things going on, and the new buildings electrifying, but she misses the old ones like the Chicago and Aurora railroad. She says change is inevitable.

She likes to read history and mystery and enjoys the evening book group. She says AAUW members are a fine group of women--intelligent, educated, and they like to talk about issues. She is proud of our mission of helping women in education and promoting women and the betterment of their lives. She has always been encouraging to new members.

She just bought an SUV for her dog Pollyanna, and she is an advocate for rescue dogs.

She has a rather dry sense of humor. I once asked her why Minnesotans have the lowest rate of Medicare use in the country and she said it was because they drink so much beer.