

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*

December 2017-January 2018

American Association of University Women

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Holiday Brunch **Saturday December 9 11-1 pm** **Holiday Brunch**



Our annual holiday brunch of casseroles and treats of the season is an opportunity to socialize. This yearly tradition is always a lovely event, so feel free to ask a prospective member to join us.

Calendar

- Dec 9 Branch Holiday Brunch 11 am
Hostess: Patty Harkin
- Dec 11 Great Books 7 pm
Hostess: Jeanne Hebeisen
John Keats
- Dec 14 Women and Culture 1:00 pm
Cultural Holidays
Hostess: Sue Schulz

Dec 8 Morning Book Group 9:30 am
Crossing to Safety, Wallace Stegner
Hostess: Mary Navin

Dec 20 Evening Book Group 7 pm
The Book of Joy, Dalai Lama and
Desmond Tutu
Hostess: Mary Navin

No December Meeting for Reel Women, Knitting Group

Jan 8 Great Books 7 pm
Gail Borden Public Library
The Dead, James Joyce

Jan 11 Morning Book Group 9:30 am
My Own Words, Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Hostess: TBD

Jan 15 Knitting/Crocheting Group 1 pm
Hostess: Jan Jones

Jan 20 Deadline for February newsletter

Jan 23 Reel Women/Real Women 6 pm
Gail Borden Public Library
The Glass Castle (2017)

Jan 24 Evening Book Group 7 pm
A Piece of the World,
Christina Baker Klein
Hostess: Pat Golden

Jan 27 Salad & Casserole Potluck 11 am
and Silent Auction
St. Hugh of Lincoln Episcopal Church
36W957 Highland Ave., Elgin

Non-Branch Events

Jan 27 District 5 Networking Luncheon 11:30 am

Diversity

From Sue Schulz

The holidays have begun. Did you know that from November 1st through January 15th there are approximately 29 holidays observed by 7 of the world's major religions? Moreover, there are all those New Year's celebrations, occurring in February, that are carried on around the world. To celebrate the holidays, **Women & Culture** members will present a 3-5 minute talk that will highlight the main concepts of their choice of holiday or celebration. Our goal is to recognize and discuss the similarities and share what we all have in common. Please join us on **December 14th, 1p.m.** and participate in this educational and fun event.

This festive time begins with us being encouraged to reflect and be thankful. So I'd like to share some thanks I have about AAUW and our branch.

- I'm thankful that AAUW does make a difference in the equity and quality of women's' lives.
- I'm thankful that our AAUW branch is a strong community of advocacy and friendship.
- I'm thankful that we have many members who are active and willing to give of their time, gifts and resources to build relationships in the Elgin community and promote the visibility of the AAUW mission and our branch.
- I'm thankful that we have opportunity to grow and develop into a healthy branch that will move forward into the 21st century.

Our next opportunity to celebrate with our community and build our AAUW visibility is through the **Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration** being held on **January 13th and 15th**. This is a city sponsored event that brings all of the communities in the City of Elgin together. The MLK celebration promotes Dr. King's legacy by building an active interest and meaningful involvement in the areas of human rights, civil rights, social justice and/or world peace. Our AAUW mission of advocacy, research, education and philanthropy compliment the goals of this

celebration. Please save the dates for this special event. Our members can contribute to the success of this event by participating on the 13th at the breakfast, volunteering your time on the 15th at the Youth Conference, or personally contributing to the MLK scholarship. Please watch for email notices detailing the events of this celebration.

Celebrations include time with family and friends, special foods, gifts and most importantly, passing on traditional values that we feel are important to us. Wishing all the best during this holiday season and hoping that your reflections of what are good and what you are thankful for includes AAUW.

Save the Date- June 23, 2018

AAUW Garden Walk

From Mary Navin

Lovely gardens of Dundee and Sleepy Hollow are being featured in next year's garden walk. Member Muriel Fenzel's garden is being highlighted as a special feature for our members. Please join us as we begin planning. Help is always needed in many areas especially computer help, publicity, solicitation of ads, garden descriptions for our booklet. We on the committee welcome new members with fresh ideas and a willingness to join in the "just plain fun" of this endeavor. We will meet again in January for further planning.

Reel Women/Real Women

From Barbara Evans



Tues., Jan. 23: *The Glass Castle*
(2017) PG-13

Starring Ella Anderson, Brie Larson, Naomi Watts & Woody

Harrelson

That the Wells' four children not only survived their hardscrabble life with their alcoholic father and irresponsible artistic mother but became relatively successful, responsible adults had to have been amazing to all who read Jeanette Wells' best-selling

memoir. It was even more amazing to me, however, after seeing her story faithfully adapted on the screen, for as vivid as her book was, seeing how she and her brother and sisters lived and cared for each other made it even more dramatic. And as it was on the page, on the screen *The Glass Castle* is "a powerful, poignant tale of resilience, strength, compassion and forgiveness."

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

Tues., Feb. 27: *Battle of the Sexes* (2017)

January 27th Potluck and Silent Auction

Our speaker ECC sociology instructor Joyce Fountain offers a provocative look at how racism has shaped American society. With wit and wisdom, Fountain will have us examining our own histories and prejudices in order to bring about awareness and reconciliation.

Traditionally, the Elgin Area Branch has contributed the proceeds from a silent auction to the Legal Advocacy Fund. The plan is simple but effective: members contribute new or gently used objects—or provide services—for the auction that takes place at our January bunch meeting. Other members bid on them. Money goes to LAF.

As Legal Advocacy Chair of our branch, I ask you to help by starting *now* to think of objects you would be willing to donate to our January auction. Holiday presents that missed the mark? A scarf you bought on a whim but never wore? A souvenir from a trip that just doesn't fit your decor? A handbag bought to match a coat that no longer fits?

Could you provide a service? Gardening-challenged members (like me) would love to bid on a flower arrangement from a member's beautiful garden, to be delivered next spring or summer. Could you drive a member to the airport? Could you whip up a batch of sweets for someone (alas, again, me) who

always burns her cookies? Could you edit someone else's writing? Help a member with a speech? Play the piano (or cello or piccolo) at a party? Knit a hat or scarf or shawl to order?

Please think about your skills (and dust-gathering nick knacks) and bring your checkbook to our January meeting so the Elgin Area Branch can make its most generous donation ever to this important cause.

International Relations

By Ruth Bradburn

According to an article in the Huffington Post in September 2017 Norway is mentioned as a country where men and women share a **formal equality**: they both have the same laws protecting them. They have equal opportunities to education, health, social services, and workplace opportunities. However, there continues to be challenges between genders obtaining **real equality**, such as life choices and opportunities. Today women continue to earn less, work part-time more than men, have fewer power positions and responsibilities, and are under-represented in municipal politics. The Norwegian government has attempted to implement affirmative action systems to prevent discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, and religion.

- In 2006 a 40% quota for both women and men on public boards was enacted.
- Most political parties have a gender quota.
- Work hours are upheld and respected allowing employees to leave at 4 o'clock in order to pick up children.

Even though the welfare system guarantees childcare and parental leave the balance between family and work life continues to be the biggest challenge. Women may choose to stay home longer which affects their careers. Legislation has been passed to strengthen the family, which in turn benefits the Norwegian society. Since WWII, there has been a rise in divorce rate. The welfare system supports mothers and children, even if there is a civil union or no union at all. Consequently, women are able to maintain a level of independence outside of marriage.

- Parents are allowed up to 43 weeks of paid leave between them to raise a newborn child. Parents of school-aged children are each allowed up to 10 days of personal leave to care for a sick child at home.
- The government offers a cash-for-care benefit to parents who decline public day care until the child is 2 years old, which means a mother, can be out of the workforce for 2 years.
For over two generations, Norway has had a two-tier income taxation system. Currently, the effect on employment is to provide an incentive for one person in a marriage, usually the wife, to not seek employment. All but one political party would prefer to do away with the two-tier system, but it has not happened yet. Besides balancing work and family and single parenthood and work, there are other social and political issues facing women:
- Unequal pay (women make 86% of a man's wage)
- Involuntary underemployment, pregnancy discrimination, gender segregated labor market
- Challenges of a more multicultural society
With a population of over five million people, the citizens of Norway enjoy one of the highest standards of living of any other country in the world. However, the culture of Norway, like other countries, has its own set of struggles that is at the forefront of social issues.

Women's History Month Tea
Saturday, March 3, 2018
12:30 - 2:30 p.m.



Featured will be Kathy Matthews, an American Needlepoint Guild Master Judge, who will speak on a subject she has studied for years: Mary Queen of Scots—Her Embroidery and Its Symbolism. Details about the tea, which will be held at ECC's Business Center, will be in our next newsletter.