

AAUW TIMES

**Elgin Area Branch
1920-2016**



*Working for 96 years to promote equity for all women and girls,
Life-long education and positive social change*

March 2018

American Association of University Women

Vol. 23, No. 6

AAUW's Mission Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Website – elginarea-il.aauw.net

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

General Meeting

Sunday March 18 2 pm

Gail Borden Public Library – Elgin Room

Calendar

- March 5 Branch Board Meeting 7 pm
Hostess: Jeanne Hebeisen
NOTE: Change in meeting place
- March 7 Current Movie Discussion Group
Colonial Cafe 4:30 pm
Winchester and *All the Queen's Horses* (2 movies)
- March 8 Morning Book Group 9:30 am
Hostess: Flo Ostdick
Small Great Things
Jodi Picoult
- March 12 Great Books 7 pm
Gail Borden Public Library
“The Criterion of a Good Form Of Government”
John Stuart Mill
- March 18 General Meeting 2 pm
Gail Borden Public Library
- March 19 Knitting/Crochet group 1 pm
Hostess: Bonnie Hill
- March 20 Deadline for April newsletter
- March 22 Women and Culture 1 pm
Hostess: Barbara Evans
The Language of Inclusiveness
- March 27 Reel Women/Real Women 6 pm
Gail Borden Public Library
Victoria and Abdul
- March 28 Evening Book Group 7 pm
Hostess: TBD
Missoula, Jon Krakauer

Hidden Memory--An American Story



World War II was a very different experience for Japanese Americans. Join storyteller Anne Shimojima as she shares the story of her family's journey from Japan and through the difficult war years. This story was inspired by an interview Anne did with her 91-year-old aunt, who experienced the Portland, Oregon assembly center and a California incarceration camp, and whose only crime was looking like the enemy. Photographs from the National Archives accompany Shimojima's tale of courage and survival. AnneShimojima.com

Please register at GailBorden.info/register or 847 429-4597

Future Events

April 14 AAUW Scholar's Brunch
Lamb's Farm

April 27-29 AAUW Illinois State Convention

June 23 AAUW Garden Walk

Non-Branch Event

March 15 Elgin Image Awards 6 pm
Centre of Elgin

Co-President's Report Rachel Campbell

At last! We seem to be headed toward SPRING!! As far as I am concerned, it can't be soon enough.

Our Branch has had a busy year to this point and it continues. Thanks to all of those members who have worked so hard to keep us busy. There are a couple of events I'd like to call to your attention.

March 15, 2018 **The Elgin Image Awards** will held at the Centre. Refreshments at 6 pm; the program will begin at 7 pm. The public is invited, but please call 847 931-5598 to respond. This event honors those individuals and groups who have contributed to the city's positive image and continue to do. Patty Harkin is our nominee for an Image Award. Think about attending to show our support for her.

April 14, 2018 **The Scholars Brunch** The Deerfield Branch invites scholars who have received AAUW fellowships to speak about their study and work, explaining how the grants have helped them to continue their studies. This event is held at the Lamb's Farm in Libertyville. We will soon have a flyer with more specific details. This is a terrific way to find out how our contributions to EO are used.

April 27-28, 2018 **The AAUW Illinois State Convention** to be held at the Lisle Hyatt Regency & and at Benedictine University. More information will be coming in in the spring edition of *The Link*.

If you would like more information about any of these events, please call Rachel@847-695-9024.

Sue Schulz and Rosemary Dyson and their committees have recruited an amazing number of new members this year. Their names are listed in this newsletter. Please add them to your yearbook and make an effort to get to know them.

Thanks to Vivienne Bailey, Jeanne Hebeisen, Marti Jernberg, and Linda Rock for serving as judges, and to Medina Gross for helping with registration, at the U-46 STEM event on

February 25. It was a great opportunity to hear the diverse group of eager students explain their work.

Although we have many activities and groups within our Branch, we welcome new ideas and suggestions. At one time we had an "Out and About" group that visited various spots in the area. There could be someone in our Branch who would like to revive that group.

Another suggestion could be a "Current Affairs" study group. There are many possibilities and we welcome any and all ideas.

From an AAUW National email - 2018 is the first year where more than a quarter of the country's state legislators are women. The number is just a slight increase from 2016, but represents a symbolic milestone for women's representation in government.

Membership Matters By Rosemary Dyson

Your membership in the Elgin Area Branch makes AAUW's powerful voice even stronger on critical issues affecting women and girls. Locally, our branch strives to connect with the women in our diverse community building bonds and providing a message of strong support on women's issues, we offer a variety of special interest groups that stimulate intellectual development and social interaction, and we have supported the academic advancement of young women through our scholarship program.

Your membership is important to us. Through your dollars, voice and activities we continue the mission of AAUW both locally and nationally. Our branch has worked hard to make sure that our members have every opportunity to participate in all ways possible to achieve AAUW's very important mission.

Please note the AAUW Board of Directors voted in June 2017 to enact the first dues change in almost a decade. Effective March 16, 2018, national dues will increase from \$49 to \$59. National dues \$59 + State dues \$10 + Branch dues \$13 = \$82. Annual dues currently account for 13 percent of AAUW's annual budget. They help to sustain and grow AAUW's programs and work that advances equity for women and girls. A combination of dues, donations, and corporate and foundation funding is critical to supporting AAUW's salary negotiation workshops, groundbreaking research, advocacy efforts, campus leadership programs, and so much more. groundbreaking research, advocacy efforts, campus leadership programs, and so much more.

Following is just some of the ways that AAUW national, state and local transforms the lives of women and girls. From

passing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act to pushing for family-friendly policies like paid sick days, we make real and lasting change through the policy process.

We're in the courtroom, too. Take Betty Dukes' now-famous lawsuit against Walmart: We stood with Dukes as she challenged the company for paying her unfairly based on her gender, and we championed legislation to reverse the U.S. Supreme Court decision. We also support the brave U.S. military service members who spoke out about being sexually assaulted while on duty. The workings of the court system may seem weighty and out of reach, but you truly can make a difference. Read more about our advocacy online and find out how you can educate your local community about AAUW-supported cases.

Yes, AAUW is making positive and lasting change in the world.

Membership Treasurer

From Bonnie Hill

2018-2019 Dues Update

\$82.00 Members

\$23.00 Life Members

Please send your check to:

Bonnie Hill

11N962 Orchard Lane

Elgin, IL 60124

HEY HEY we will be having a drawing for several FREE memberships at our annual branch meeting in May. Your check must be received by then to qualify.

Meet and Greet

From Muriel Fenzel



Jean Bridges

Jean attended an AAUW-sponsored program at Gail Borden Library and decided the time was right to join our organization. She has been a Gail Borden volunteer and is passionate about lifelong learning.

Jean received her B.S. in Business Management at Cardinal Stritch University and is a Management Consultant with Daugherty Business Solutions. Cooking and reading are her hobbies of choice in her free time.



Murriel Riedesel

Murriel received her B.S. and M.S. degrees in education from Northern Illinois University. After teaching for 35 years and raising two children, Murriel became adjunct professor at McHenry Community College. Since retiring, Murriel has volunteered on the County Advisory Board for her church and has continued her volunteer work in several organizations. One of her most rewarding volunteer experiences was as an AARP lobbyist for senior issues. She spent one week a month in Springfield in this capacity. She continued this commute to Springfield for over six years. Muriel and her husband now live in the Del Web community and travel extensively. Welcome to AAUW, Murriel.



Shirley Welch

Shirley joined AAUW because she wanted to help young women achieve their goals. She is part of a branch subcommittee working on recruiting younger members. Her professional experiences was as a Learning Handicapped Specialist, University Special Ed. Supervisor, Mental Health Special Needs Coordinator for the Head Start Program, a teacher consultant, and an ordained clergy in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ),

Shirley is building a school, the J/J International Christian School in Takoradi, Ghana, West Africa. Her Facebook page and website are: reachingouttoyounministries.com.

Diversity Sue Schulz

I feel I've had a privileged past. Most of my professional life was in Chicago. Being an educator there, I was surrounded by diversity. It was my norm. I never thought about it. I experienced the healthy environment of literally being immersed in the lives of people from all over the world. This environment was rich in culture, ideas and world views. Part of my choice in moving to Elgin was that it has diverse communities. By being Diversity Chair for our branch, I've been able to tap into, and connect with, many of these communities in Elgin on a personal level. BUT, more importantly, we as a branch have built true relationships by working together with community groups and individuals.

Our branch has become more visible, the mission of AAUW has been brought to light and that has drawn people to our branch and has increased our membership.

My connection and identity within AAUW is due to its mission and the priority and challenge of building diverse branches. We have all become members of this branch because we have identified with it in one way or another. Nationally, AAUW has established a goal to grow by 50% within the next program year. Demographics are changing so recruiting diverse members is a must. Age diversity is one of the greatest diversity challenges. The increased news reporting the egregious treatment of women in the U.S. has piqued the interest of the young. Young people are looking for activities and projects that effect change. **They are interested in activism rather than socializing.** AAUW's main goal is to bring women out of the margins of society. The mission and activism of AAUW can draw these young people. If we can identify and feel comfortable within an organization, we will be drawn to it. If we are looking for somewhere to put our energy into dealing with the issues that are facing women today, AAUW has much to offer. Embracing conflict is a necessary part of movement or progress. Our organization offers the structure, training and support to empower us to lean into this discomfort and address the issues that face us as women.

AAUW offers many webinars to help us accomplish the mission of AAUW. All members are encouraged to

participate in these, free of charge (go to aauw.org). I always sign up for the diversity webinars. This last one challenged us to examine ourselves on how inclusive we are as a branch. I can say that our branch has moved on the continuum to a stage where we are willing to change the culture of our group and we are open to new ideas. We are striving to be inclusive. Our branch is challenged to find young women who identify with the mission of AAUW and are willing to lead us into the future of our branch. The goal of the diversity, membership and program committees is to brainstorm, research and connect wherever we can to make this vision a reality. We need to find, learn about, understand, reach out and connect with Generation Z. If you are interested in this endeavor, please contact me I encourage you to join us. It is exciting, challenging and purposeful to see something you believe in grow and develop. It's not without its foibles, but the goal is to always move toward a healthy, productive future for our branch of AAUW.

Reel Women/Real Women

From Barbara Evans



Tues., March 27: *Victoria and Abdul* (2017).
PG-13
Starring Judi Dench and Ali Fazal

The friendship that developed between Queen Victoria and her personal attendant after her husband's death was explored in *Mrs. Brown*, which Reel Women showed in 2011. *Victoria and Abdul* focuses on the relationship between the Queen and an Indian Muslim clerk that began several years after John Brown's death. The facts of Abdul's appearance at the English court and the intrigue, power struggles and jealousy that resulted from her attachment to him over the remaining 15 years of her life are well-documented in their private journals, which were suppressed for over 100 years. This film develops the emotions behind the facts and is a warm story about an aging, lonely queen finding the emotional support she needs from a man from a very different culture.

Open to the public, Reel Women meets at Gail Borden Library at 6 pm 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., April 24: *Lady Bird* (2017)

Legal Advocacy Fund

From Patty Harkin

Thanks to all who contributed to and shopped at our silent auction for the Legal Advocacy Fund. We took in more than \$300 to help the fund in its important work to challenge sex discrimination in higher education and in the workplace. To

learn more about the LAF, check out aauw.org/what-we-do/legal-resources.

The Long Red Line: Rise. Resist. Revolt From Sue Schulz



The Long Red Line is Elgin's effort to support One Billion Rising, the global upsurge of women and their allies in resistance to rape and all forms of interpersonal domination and oppression. Our AAUW branch has been a sponsor of this event for the last two years. This event is a central and a core part of the mission of AAUW. It was exciting and encouraging to hear the speakers address their personal experiences through stories and what they have done to advocate for women regarding these issues. Speakers included Vicki Rae Harder-Thorne, Denise Tracy, Elisa Lara, Toya Randall, Shla George, Maureen Manning and Jeff Swoboda

This was also an opportunity to connect our branch to the community as well as make the mission of AAUW more visible. We were able to make some ECC contacts that will enable us to reach out and work together on the issues that face young women today. Thank you to those of you who came out on this day to support this issue and AAUW. Thank you to Judy Fishburn, who sits on this organizing committee as an AAUW representative.

This is an annual event hosted by Elgin Community College every February 14. If you weren't able to join us this year, mark your calendar for next year. If you are interested in helping Judy organize this event, please contact her.

Garden Walk From Jan Jones and Mary Navin

The Eighth biannual AAUW Garden Walk will be on Saturday, June 23, 2018. in the Dundee/Sleepy Hollow area.

Please put this date on your calendar as it will be here before we know it. We hope many of you will volunteer to be docents.

International Relations From Ruth Bradburn

International Women's Day, March 8, is not specific to a single country, group or organization. The day is a time to celebrate social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women worldwide. International Women's Day (IWD) was started by the Suffragettes in 1911 more than a century ago.

In the early 20th century, Britain's women's suffrage movement fighting for the right to vote wore purple which represented "the royal blood that flows in the veins of every suffragette. The color this year is purple, which highlights feminism and international efforts to achieve wide-scale gender equality. Purple is historically associated with efforts to achieve gender equality.

In 2018, the color is a fitting follow-up to a year in which knitted pink "pussy" hats dominated demonstrations around the world protesting against discrimination. More recently, gender-based workplace harassment took center stage as men and women spoke out about workplace injustices. The #MeToo social media hashtag was used extensively worldwide to draw attention to these issues online. Certainly, lawsuits filed to bring workplace harassers to justice and end discriminatory practices will continue to improve gender equality for years to come.

On March 8, International Women's Day, wear purple to represent hope, vision, and achievements gained. Buy a purple tie for the guys! internationalwomensday.com.

Vigil In Memory of Florida Marjorie

Stoneman Douglas High School Students



Branch members Patty Harkin, Rachel Campbell, Mary Ellen Barbezat, Bonnie Hill, Jeanne Hebeisen, Sue Schulz, Barbara Njus, and Marti Jernberg joined others (about 70 in total) on a cold, windy Sunday February 25th, on the corner of McLean Boulevard and College Green Drive, to demonstrate against assault weapons. That corner was picked because of its proximity to the Fox Valley Shooting Range set to open this year.

Women and Culture
From Sue Schultz

Hostess: Barbara Evans
 March 22 – 1 p.m.

The Language of Inclusiveness
Respectful Communications Guidelines

Becoming competent leaders in a diverse changing world is an ongoing process for all of us. During this session the group will begin the process of self-examination, to look at ways that understanding yourself can be the road to better understanding people who are economically, culturally and racially different, Rosemary Dyson will lead the discussion.

This picture was taken at the February Women and Culture Group meeting where Tahmyna Qazi, spoke on arranged marriage.



Ann Schneck Tribute
From Jennifer Ford



Ann Schneck died the week before Christmas. This picture was taken at a holiday tea about 2008.

Ann was a Renaissance woman. She was a wife, a mother of 6, an AAUW member and former President, an LWVEA member and Co-President, the business librarian at Gail Borden Public Library, a member of the Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce Women’s Council, an Elgin Symphony League Corresponding Secretary, an ECC event usher, an Elgin Park and Recreation Commission member, an Isaak Walton League member, a hiker, a biker, a Kane County Bike Path volunteer, a mental health advocate, an active member of First

Congregational United Church of Christ, a hostess who loved to entertain in her home, a gardener, a friend.

Ann graduated from Lawrence University with a B.A. in psychology and later took classes in Library Science. When Ann and her husband John moved to Elgin, she worked as a substitute teacher in District U-46. Later, they were among the families who settled in Sunset Park, where, of course, she joined Sunset Park Area Neighbors.

Ann was a music lover, an ESO season ticket holder first with John, and then with me, a collector of albums (remember those?), a volunteer at the ESO boutique, and an usher. She spoke about her mother taking her to the Chicago Symphony, which she loved, but also about how lucky we are living in Elgin with such a wonderful orchestra so conveniently located. During intermission, she so loved to stroll along the river or at least on the outside walkway. She appreciated nature wherever she was.

Let's talk about her AAUW life. She served as 1969-1971 President. Much of her identity revolved around being an AAUW member. When she completed a membership profile, she considered serving on Program, Art Showcase, Membership, Legislation, and Status of Women. Her interest groups were Current Literature (where she served as chair for two terms), Theater Outings, Dinner Outings, Great Decisions, bridge, and the Cultural Study Group. Her issues were Women's Work/Women's Worth and Promoting Individual Liberties. She served as legislative chair in the '60's, and worked on the Education Equity Initiative in the late '90s.

Friends. Where do I begin? Her best friend Gen Dolan and Ann raised their children together. More amazing, even into their 60's, they biked for miles and miles, enjoying the exercise, the friendship, and nature. She and Barb Mulliken joined the League of Women Voters at the same time, and both became officers. More important, they both became leaders. She continued to socialize with her library cohorts for lunch after she retired.

Ann was a voracious reader. The library was a natural career for her. She worked there from 1969 to 1999. For all of her colleagues at Gail Borden Public Library, she served as a mentor. She listened, and she taught. Sara Sabo, the current Deputy Director of the library, admires Ann for the mentor she was to all the new librarians, including herself, when she earned her library degree. More importantly, Sara is grateful to Ann for coming out of retirement in the year 2000 to cover Sara's maternity leave. A side note: it was Ann's job as business librarian that I replaced in 2002

At the age of 87, Ann brought a homemade Jell-O mold to our last potluck at St. Hugh's, instead of stopping at Jewel to pick up something. Until the end, she was still inviting friends to Lan come to her house. "I can always throw on a pot of coffee.", and "I have that room in the back where we can all meet".

The week before she died, Ann asked me if there was an AAUW or a League meeting coming up, because she wanted to attend events and see her friends.

And did you ever see Ann when she was not perfectly put together? Everything matched. She maintained her slim figure and always looked good, nary a hair out of place.

The characteristic Ann shared with all of her friends and in all of her organizations was her infectious laugh. As I gathered stories for this memorial, almost everyone mentioned that they could hear her laugh. It was recognizable from a distance. It welcomed everyone around her. Her friend Gloria Barbezat stated that it was "a rising, beautiful sound like the aria of a beloved opera. She would throw back her head and allow it to touch us, and we all reached out for that joy." So, as we laugh among ourselves today, let us think of Ann.

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 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.