# **AAUW TIMES**



## Elgin Area Branch 1920-2019



Working for 99 years to promote equity for women and girls, life-long education and positive social change

December 2019/January 2020

American Association of University Women

Vol. 25 No. 4

AAUW's Mission Statement AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

Website - elginarea-il.aauw.net

Email Address - aauw.il.elgin@gmail.com

### **Holiday Tea**

Julie Ford's Home – 1225 Forest Drive, Elgin December 7, 12-2 pm

Celebrating 100th: Come in period dress



Celebrate the season at our annual Holiday Tea. Spend time socializing and enjoying the afternoon. Prospective members welcome!

## Salad - Casserole Luncheon Silent Auction

Zion Lutheran Church 330 Griswold Street, Elgin Saturday, January 11, 11:30 a.m.



# Celebrating 100<sup>th</sup> A brief presentation highlighting more of our branch history

#### **Climate Crisis and Solutions**

The Rev. Terry Gallager will present basic information on the climate crisis and what we can do about it. We all need to be part of the solutions to climate change - do it for your children and grandchildren. Terry is a former corporate engineer who went into environmental ministry in midlife for his grandkids! Join us for the moving story of our times.

(See article from Sandy Kaptain on this topic)

#### Calendar

#### **December**

Dec, 4 **Current Movie Discussion Group** 4:30 pm Olive Garden *Harriet* 

Dec. 7 **Holiday Tea** 12-2 pm Hostess: Julie Ford

Dec. 9 Great Books 7 pm
Hostess: Gail Cohen
1160 Cedar Ave, Elgin
Poetry - Contact Jeanne Hebeisen for list of poems

Dec. 12 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 am Hostess: Mary Navin *The Code Girls*, Liza Mundy

Dec. 18 **Evening Book Group** 7 pm Hostess: Mary Navin *Becoming*, Michelle Obama Dec. 19 Women & Culture 1 pm
Zion Lutheran Church
Stepping Into the Buddhist World &
Women's History Tour, Patty Harkin
(See attached picture)

#### No December meeting for Reel Women & Knitting Groups

#### January

- Jan. 8 **Current Movie Discussion Group** 4:30 pm Location and Movie(s) to be determined
- Jan. 9 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 am Hostess: TBA *There, There,* Tommy Orange
- Jan. 11 Casserole and Salad Luncheon and Silent Auction 11:30 am
- Jan. 13 Great Books 7 pm Gail Borden Public Library "Beast in the Jungle", Henry James
- Jan. 20 **Knitting/Crocheting Group** 1 pm Hostess: Dorothy Gunter
- Jan. 22 **Evening Book Group** 7 pm Hostess: TBA Forty Rooms, Olga Grushin
- Jan 23 **Women & Culture** 1 pm Hostess: Patty Harkin Each One, Reach One film
- Jan. 28 **Reel Women/Real Women** 6 pm Gail Borden Public Library *The Farewell*

#### **Non-branch Events**

- Jan. 25 37<sup>TH</sup> District 5 Networking Luncheon Chevy Chase Country Club, Wheeling
- Feb. 12 **Long Red Line** 10 am Jobe Lounge ECC
- Mar. 7 **Elgin Area Women's History Month Tea** ECC Business Center 11 - 1:30
- Apr. 11 AAUW Fellows Luncheon 11 am Lambs Farm, Libertyville
- June 18-19 Regional Convention
  East Moline, IL
  This will replace the National and State
  Conventions.

### **Membership**

Welcome to our newest member.

Kathleen Smith 2032 Lucca Court, Elgin 60123 224-238-7707 kathleen.smith1301@att.net

## **Co-presidents' Report**

From Rosemary Dyson

Members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) have reason to celebrate this year's accomplishments. But AAUW also faces budget shortfalls that need to be addressed, so that we can continue to carry out the bold strategic vision for the future.

#### We can celebrate the following:

- 11 states passed fair pay laws
- US Paycheck Fairness Act passed in the House
- AAUW partnered with NYC to train 10,000 women in Work Smart
- NCCWSL (The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders), the nation's premier conference for college women was the 4<sup>th</sup> largest in its 34-year history
- Reached **14 million people** in more than 1,200 media articles
- New AAUW national website in progress

Kendra Davis, AAUW senior vice president of Advancement and Partnerships, who was the keynote speaker at the Northern Fall Conference on the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) Rice Campus in Wheaton, IL on Oct. 19 spoke about the past year's accomplishments. The half-million-dollar challenge grant from Coca Cola to reach more than 100,000 people through the online salary negotiation workshop, Work Smart, was successful. The New York City Economic Development Corporation is partnering with AAUW to train 10,000 women in salary negotiation, and Starbuck's has linked Work Smart to their webpage. The next step is to develop variations of Work Smart tailored to specific occupations, including for jobs that don't require a college education.

#### The challenges that we face

The national AAUW took action during the year to reduce expenses and address revenue shortfalls, including zero based budgeting, reductions in staff, and reductions in expenses.

- Member dues only accounted for approximately 15 percent of the organization's revenue.
- Both Kim Churches, chief executive officer, and Shannon Wolfe, managing director and chief of staff, have taken salary cuts as part of the expense reduction effort.
- The National convention to be held in 2019, but rescheduled for 2020 to coincide with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women getting the right to vote has been replaced with regional conventions in 2020.

## Elgin Area Branch Supporting the Continuing Work of AAUW

The AAUW national office is encouraging branches and individuals to support the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund. This fund allows AAUW the flexibility to respond rapidly to new and emerging challenges facing women and girls and to utilize your gift where it's needed most.

Kim Churches, in the Aug. 21 board minutes pointed out that AAUW's level of endowed, restricted assets (which includes

Fellowships and the Legal Advocacy Fund) is funded at levels to support these funds well into the future. By vote of our branch board the proceeds from our Elgin Area Branch silent auction on Saturday, Jan. 11, will go to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund.

Together we can continue to empower women and girls.

### **Legal Advocacy Fund & January Auction** From Patty Harken

As Rosemary has indicated in her president's column, the Board has voted to direct the funds raised at our January auction to "greatest need" rather than to the Legal Advocacy Fund, which is sufficient at the moment.

We will still have our auction! And again, I ask you to donate items for that event. As usual, we will also auction off items left over from the Spring and Fall garage sales. One of them is the sterling silver trumpet vase donated by our former member Barbara Chase. It dates, I think, from the 1930's. Comparable vases on E-bay are listed at upwards of \$80. We have many decorative items as well. So, please bring your "no-longeruseful" treasures—and your checkbooks—to the January event.

Meanwhile, in this newsletter, I'll keep you updated on cases that are making their way through the courts. AAUW provides financial assistance to plaintiffs in cases of sexual harassment, sexual assault, unequal pay, etc. The Association helps plaintiffs find (and pay for) counsel and travel to hearings - and even, at times, procures child care while they are pursuing their court cases.

One such case is Jane Doe vs. University of Kentucky. The following account, written by Ebonee Avery-Washington, is taken from the AAUW website.

"On October 2, 2014, Jane Doe, a freshman enrolled in a dual enrollment partnership between Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC) and the University of Kentucky, was sexually assaulted by another UK student in her dorm room on the UK campus. Jane Doe notified the university about the assault on the day it occurred.

"On October 8, 2014, a university hearing panel found the accused student responsible and in violation of the university administrative regulation policy concerning sexual assault, stalking and relationship violence. At the hearing and after, Doe informed university officials that she was struggling academically in the aftermath of the assault; that she was experiencing flashbacks and nightmares; and was considering quitting college. She was not referred to anyone who could arrange for academic support or accommodations. A few days after the hearing, due to her continued academic struggles and ongoing harassment on campus and on social media, Jane Doe withdrew from her dual enrollment at BCTC and the University of Kentucky. She withdrew twice during her college career. Her trauma was compounded financially by losing tuition and room and board expense. "Over the next several years, three additional hearings

followed, led by the University Appeals Board (UAB). At the

first three hearings, the university found that accused student violated the applicable administrative regulation. However, he was permitted to appeal each determination, identifying deficits in procedural fairness. On January 10, 2017, the student was deemed "not responsible" after the fourth hearing. Jane Doe appealed the decision to the University Appeals Board, but her appeal was denied.

"Jane Doe took her case to federal court in 2015. This case was filed in the United States District Court Eastern District of Kentucky, and survived a motion to dismiss. Jane Doe specifically cited that the University of Kentucky was deliberately indifferent under Title IX. She said that it had failed to implement its own policies in a manner that allowed for prompt resolution of her report of assault, because certain university officials deliberately tried to manipulate the process for a favorable outcome for her assailant. She also claimed the university had failed to offer appropriate academic support that would have allowed her to continue her education at the school.

"After obtaining new counsel, Doe amended her complaint and the university again moved to dismiss, raising for the first time the argument that Doe could not bring Title IX claims against the University of Kentucky because she was a student of BCTC and not a student of the University. The court ruled in the University's favor, and Doe appealed. Her case is currently on appeal in the Sixth Circuit."

I'll follow this case and keep you informed, but I urge you to visit the AAUW website to learn about the work we do aauw.org/what-we-do/legal-resources/strategic-casesupport/laf-cases/.

## **Climate Change** From Sandy Kaptain

The Elgin Township unanimously voted to add a referendum item to the primary vote next March for the formation of a 708 Mental Health Board. First, since everyone asks how much will this cost, it is about \$1.60 a week, or \$83.24 a year for an Elgin median priced home with an assessed value of \$55,494 (usually this is one third of the market value!).

This money will be distributed by an independent board appointed by the township to allot the money to several local agencies that treat mental health, substance abuse, and developmentally disabled people. As you know, to use prevention and ongoing treatment saves a lot of the money that would go to emergency treatment cost!

All the townships in Kane County already have 708 boards, except Elgin and Dundee; Dundee Township is also considering adding a 708 Board referendum to its ballot. The numbers show that 1 in 5 adults will have a mental illness in a given year, while 1 in 6 children have a developmental disability. One in 5 teens will have a severe mental disorder at some point. One in 10 youths of 12 or older have used an illegal drug in the past MONTH!

On a personal note, our neighbors' son committed suicide after 25 years of drug use; another neighbor's daughter talked about

suicide in her junior year; and even my sister has been out of touch with the family for over 25 years due to a schizophrenic disorder. We are all affected by some of these problems, whether it is substance abuse, mental issues, or knowing a disabled child or adult with autism, mental limits, or personality disorders.

For more information, check out the website ElginTownship708.org or Facebook at facebook.com/ElginForMentalHealthReferendum.

Our Mayor Dave Kaptain is an advocate for this, as is Councilperson Terry Gavin, who served on the Hanover Township 708 board. As Dave says: "we will pay for it one way or the other"; but this way it will be preventive treatment, not the most expensive acute care way. Please vote "YES" in the March Primary for the formation of a 708 Mental Health Board! Also, see attachment.

### Public Policy Report Shirley May Byrnes

**IL Veto Session Results:** I asked Rich Jacobs, Chief of Staff for Senator Cristina Castro, IL Senate -22nd District.what bills passed during the veto session. He emailed back that the main things accomplished were the pension reform bill, ethics reforms, and insulin prices.

## House Joint Resolution 93 created the Joint Commission on Ethics and Lobbying.

The bill (SB1300) is an omnibus package for Fiscal Year 2020 that will enact many changes to pension statute, chief among them the ability to consolidate. Under the bill, the roughly 650 separate pension funds for downstate police officers and firefighters will be consolidated into two individual and separate funds. The consolidation will happen over a 30-month transition period beginning upon the legislation becoming law and is estimated to save \$160 million annually while not affecting individual pension amounts.

Senate Bill 667 caps the out-of-pocket cost for a 30-day supply of insulin at \$100 per patient. It also directs the Office of the Attorney General to investigate the causes of the rising price of insulin and publish a report on its findings.

**ERA:** HJ Resolution 79 was introduced in the U.S House on Nov. 8. It would remove the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment. It was referred to the House Judiciary Committee. You may wish to contact your Congressman to support this resolution. Committee Consideration and Markup Session was held Nov. 13.

## Garden Walk - June 20, 2020 From Co-chairs Katherine Jablonowski and Jan Jones

Please save this date, as this is the date of our 9th Garden Walk sponsored by Elgin Area AAUW. The gardens are on the east side of Elgin, and we will be needing hostesses on that day. It will be here before we know it. THANKS!!



## Celebrating 100 years of Accomplishments and Awards of the Elgin Area Branch of AAUW

From: Marcia Cameron

Our Elgin AAUW Branch began in 1920 and was originally known as The Elgin College Club. From those beginning years, our branch has always been actively involved in all areas of our mission statement – advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education & advocacy. As we look to celebrate our 100th anniversary as a branch, here are a few highlights of our accomplishments and awards.

In 1923, the Elgin Branch was asked to take the initiative toward the organization of the state level of AAUW. Many Elgin members were early state officers. Mrs. Louise Malvern was the first state secretary. In 1935, Hazel Linkfield became the state membership chair and in 1937 was elected state president.

In the 1940's the Elgin Branch worked towards the establishment of The Pied Piper Nursery School for children of mothers working in defense plants.

Art Showcase was established in 1960 to encourage the understanding and appreciation of the visual arts and to afford local artists an opportunity to show and sell their work. Sponsored by our branch for 49 years, this community event was recognized with an Elgin Image Award in 2011, which was presented to individuals and organizations having a positive impact in Elgin.

During 1963-65, a study group topic from the Association, "The American Family in a Changing World," grew into a project with the YWCA and other organizations, instituting a pre-school program for disadvantaged children, eventually becoming the Elgin Head Start Program.

Three of our branch members, JoAnn Armenta (2007), Margaret Keen (2013), and Anna Moeller (2015), have been recipients of the AAUW-IL Agent of Change Award, which is given to someone who has served as a catalyst in bringing positive societal change.

Many AAUW members have been recipients of the YWCA leadership awards in categories such as the arts, social services, and volunteer/community service.

And the list goes on! These are just a very few of the highlights of the first 100 years of the Elgin Area Branch AAUW. Please take some time to check out our branch website: elginarea-il.aauw.net. Go to our "100th Anniversary

Tidbits" page to read about many other branch accomplishments and awards. New tidbits will be added each month in our anniversary year of 2020.

As we look to the future, new ideas and projects will be undertaken, yet there will always be a link to our past, as we work for the advancement of equity for women and girls.

# 100<sup>th</sup>Art Sub-committee From Ruth Bradburn

A big thank you to Sandy Kaptain for the Elgin Arts Commission Grant Application. We were awarded the full grant of \$1000 to be used for the Artspace Event: "ART SHOWCASE RETROSPECTIVE" during the weeks of March 6-18

A request for additional artwork: We are looking for original art work that was purchased during the years 1960-2008 at an Art Showcase - that meets the committee's criteria, and you would like displayed. (This includes paintings, sculptures and jewelry.)

Please include:
a photo of artwork
artist name
date of purchase
media
framed measurements
date of purchase
owner's name and contact information

Send to Julie Ford <a href="mailto:iniford@sbcglobal.net">iniford@sbcglobal.net</a> or mail to 1225 Forest Drive, Elgin 60123. January 14 is the deadline for submitting the information. Artwork from these submissions will be chosen by members of the committee. All members submitting artwork will be contacted in late January as to which artwork is to be displayed.

Volunteers are needed for the reception at Artspace: "AAUW Art Showcase Retrospective", Sunday, March 8

Set-Up: 11:30-1:30

Refreshments and Greeters: 1:30-3:30 and 3:30-5:30pm

Clean-Up: 5:30-7:00pm.

Contact: Muriel Fenzel muriel5@sbcglobal.net

## 100<sup>th</sup> AAUW Elgin Branch Contact List From Muriel Fenzel

The 100th AAUW Anniversary Committee is asking our membership for help. We would like to include all former branch presidents and Art Showcase Chairs in our celebration. We are seeking contact information for the following. We need addresses and phone numbers, as well as emails (if available). Email me at muriel5@sbcglobal.net.

Past President: 1972 - Jackie Pierce

Art Showcase Chairs:

1961 – Mrs. Charles Matteson

1961 - Mrs. Gaylord Thompson

1962 - Nancy Richards

1966 – Marilyn Wehner

1968 – Barbara Anderson

1970 - Mary Waterson

1970 – Linda Seyller

1972 - Jane Morning

1985 – Jeanne Forrest

1993 - Jan Cox

Thanks for helping us share our 100th celebrations and events with these very special people. In addition, if there is someone you feel should be added to the Contact List for the Art Show Retrospective, please send contact information to me at <a href="mailto:muriel5@sbcglobal.net">muriel5@sbcglobal.net</a>, so they will receive a personal invitation

## 100<sup>th</sup> History Sub-Committee Newsletter Tidbit - Giving Back From Jan Jones

As AAUW members, we are fortunate to have college degrees. Now, we know the need to give back to others working for the same goals that we had.

Our branch has had a number of fund-raising projects through the years to support, among other efforts, both national fellowships and local scholarships. In 1933, we sold copies of an "Old Elgin" map - that will be displayed at the Elgin History Museum, starting in December. These maps were sold again in 1968. For 49 years, we sponsored the AAUW Art Showcase.

Do you have a tote bag that we sold, featuring 5 stars that had to be earned? or maybe a box of Hemmens' note cards? or an aqua t-shirt celebrating 100 years as an organization? I can remember turning in certificates from Jewel on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, with our branch getting a percentage based on our purchases. This income helped us present Art Showcase to the Elgin area.

Several members let us use their garages and driveways for garage sales, before we "landed on" the great locations of Jean Jederman's and Nancy Gardner's, where we have had successful spring and fall garage sales. We have had bridge, Mah Jongg and canasta lesson fund-raisers, participated in by both our members and our friends.

These are some of the ways through years that we raised funds for, among other things, the national Educational Foundation Funds.

#### From Jeanne Hebeisen

Once more, we are requesting branch members to look around in their homes for anything of historical relevance we could display at our February general meeting. Specifically, we are looking for photographs of branch activities (parades, folk fairs, fair pay, ERA); a scrapbook given to a member by the husband of Margarete Schmoldt upon her passing; the book(s) with the first minutes of the branch; certificates and plaques of awards given to the branch; Centro and Martin Luther King events. We promise to take care of them and return everything to you.

Contact me if you have any of things listed – <u>jeanne@mc.net</u>.

## Garden Walk - June 20, 2020 From Co-chairs Katherine Jablonowski and Jan Jones

Please save this date - the date of the 9th Garden Walk sponsored by Elgin Area AAUW. The gardens are on the east side of Elgin, and we will be needing hostesses on that day. It will be here before we know it. THANKS!!

### Community Liaison From Sue Schulz

AAUW supports the civil rights of all individuals and opposes all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

We have a wonderful opportunity to advocate for a fledgling new organization here in Elgin. It is YOUTH OUTLOOK, Illinois' first social service agency solely dedicated to LGBTQ+ youth. It is a safe space that meets after school at our YWCA. They are in need of items that will help their program develop peer-to-peer mentoring, conflict resolution and confidence building. We will have a drop off box option at our Holiday Tea that will be held on December 7th. Here is a list of possible donations for this new social service...

Nonperishable snacks Art supplies; drawing pads, drawing pencils, paint pens, canvas Amazon gift cards Board games - Heads Up, Apples to Apples

THANK YOU for your support in advocating for our AAUW mission and for a new community organization in our Elgin community.

### **AAUW-IL District #5**

## 37th Annual Networking Luncheon.

Chevy Chase Country Club, Wheeling.

January 25

From Judy Fishburn, Luncheon Committee Member

We hope many members of our Elgin Area Branch will plan to attend the 37<sup>th</sup> Networking Luncheon. We have worked hard to have this be a very successful gathering. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know members from other branches in District 5, enjoy a great speaker – and have a lovely lunch! **Note that the location for the luncheon has changed – closer to Elgin!** Details and reservation form are attached.

## Elgin Area Women's History Month Tea

Saturday, March 7
11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., ECC's Business Center
Member Linda Rock Presents Artist Jane Peterson
From Barbara Evans

Born and raised in Elgin, Jane Peterson (1878-1965) was once considered one of America's most original and influential artists. Critically and popularly acclaimed, her paintings hang

in museums across the country, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The National Museum of Women in the Arts and the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum. Linda Rock's presentation will showcase not only Peterson's paintings but also the life of a most remarkable woman.

Attendees will enjoy a variety of finger sandwiches, scones and finger-tip desserts as well as teas and other beverages. **No reservations accepted after Tuesday, February 25.** For samples of Peterson's paintings and further details, see attachment.

### **Reel Women for Real Women**



**Jan. 28, 2020**: *The Farewell* (2019) PG Starring Awkwafina, Diana Lin, Lu Hong & Shuzhen Zhou

Billi–a 30-yr.-old Chinese-born, New York-raised artist and writer–is conflicted about her

family's decision to not tell her beloved grandmother that she has but weeks left to live. But she acquiesces and joins her relatives in China to celebrate the quickly arranged wedding of a cousin—the vehicle by which everyone will be able to be with the grandmother one last time, albeit they must suppress their grief.

Largely based on a similar situation with the director's own grandmother, this is the rare film that has received 100% thumbs up from the many *Rotten Tomato* critics, and for good reason: the material is rich and nuanced, and writer-director Wang is "constantly juggling clashes—of cultures, of tragedy, of joy. As another critic wrote, "for a film that opens proclaiming it's based on an actual lie," there is an awful lot of truth in it." Already the recipient of film prizes, critics generally agree that this film and its actors will win Golden Globes and Oscars.

For an excellent review of it that will convince you that this film is a must-see but that will not spoil it for you, see Jeff York's review at <u>creativescreenwriting.com/the-farewell-is-the-feel-good-film-of-the-summer/.</u>

Reel Women films are shown the 4th Tuesday of each month from Jan. through Oct. at 6 p.m. at the Gail Borden Public Library. Attendees may bring food/drink. Discussion follows the film

Coming Attraction Feb. 25: Harriet. 2019

#### **Newsletter Editors**

Newsletter deadline for the **February** issue is **January 20**. Please submit all items as a **Word** document to **both** editors.

Medina Gross - <a href="medinag@gmail.com">medinag@gmail.com</a>
Jeanne Hebeisen - <a href="medinag@gmail.com">jeanne@mc.net</a>

#### Website

Website items may be sent any time to

Marcia Cameron - mec515@sbcglobal.net

Nancy Lamia - nancylamia@gmail.com

Nothing is more the child of art than the garden." Sir Walter Scott



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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.

Elgin Area Branch AAUW c/o Julie Jindra 313 Gale Street Elgin, IL 60123

# 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.