

AAUW TIMES

**Elgin Area Branch
1920-2020**



*Working for 100 years to promote equity for women and girls,
life-long education and positive social change*

February 2020

American Association of University Women

Vol. 25 No. 5

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

General Meeting



**Saturday, February 15, 1:00 pm
Elgin History Museum
360 Park Street, Elgin, IL**

The 100th Anniversary History Sub-committee (Marti Jernberg, Jan Jones, Linda Rock, and Jeanne Hebeisen) will kick off several meetings in celebration of the 100 years of existence of the Elgin area branch of AAUW. There will be an exhibition of a smattering of documents, pictures, and other memorabilia and present a fascinating look into our history!

We urge you to treat yourselves to this **once in a lifetime experience (for all of us!)** and travel back through 100 years. There will be some surprise activities during the afternoon. You can also view the exhibit created by the sub-committee for the Elgin History Museum until the end of March.



Linda, Marti, and Jan working on the museum exhibit

Calendar

February

- Feb. 5 **Current Movie Discussion Group** 4:30 pm
Movies: Just Mercy and 1917
Olive Garden, Springhill Mall
- Feb. 10 **Great Books Discussion** 7:00 pm
Gail Borden Public Library, Main Library
"Emma," Jane Austen
- Feb. 13 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 am
"The Matriarch: Barbara Bush and the Making of an American Dynasty," Susan Page
Leader: Nancy Klemm
Hostess: TBA
- Feb. 15 **First 100 Years of Elgin Area Branch
100th Anniversary History Sub-committee**
Elgin History Museum, 360 Park Street
- Feb. 17 **Knitting/Crocheting Group** 1:00 pm
Hostess: Patty Harkin
- Feb. 20 **Women and Culture** 1:00 pm
Erin Rehberg, Side Street Studio Arts
Hostess: Mary Navin
- Feb. 22 **Casserole and Salad Luncheon** 11:30 am
and Silent Auction
(Re-scheduling of January Meeting)
Zion Lutheran Church
330 Griswold Street, Elgin
- Feb. 25 **Reel Women/Real Women** 6:00 pm
Gail Borden Public Library
- Feb. 26 **Evening Book Group** 6:00 pm
"The Women's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote," Elaine Weiss
Gail Borden Library, Main Library
1st Floor, Meadows Community Room, C

March

- Mar. 2 **Board Meeting** 7:00 pm
751 Scott Drive
Elgin, IL 60123
Hostess: Linda Knight
Co-Hostess: Medina Gross
- Mar. 6–18 Elgin Artspace Gallery
AAUW Art Showcase Retrospective
51 South Spring Street
- Mar. 8 **AAUW Art Showcase Retrospective** 1:30 pm
Exhibit and Reception
Elgin Artspace Gallery

Non-branch Events

- Feb. 12 **Long Red Line** 10:00 am
Jobe Lounge – ECC
- Mar. 7 **Women's History Month Tea** 11:00 am - 1:30 pm
ECC Business Center - **DEADLINE 25**
- Apr. 11 **AAUW Fellows Luncheon** 11:00 am
Lambs Farm, Libertyville
- June 18-19 **Regional Convention**
East Moline, IL

Salad - Casserole Luncheon Silent Auction

Zion Lutheran Church
330 Griswold Street, Elgin
Saturday, February 22, 11:30 a.m.



Evening Book Group Sharon Sutton

There is a change of venue for the Evening Book Group. The group will meet on **February 26th** at the Gail Borden Main Library, 1st floor Meadows Community Room C. We will begin at 6:30, but you are welcome to arrive earlier. Those scheduled to cohosts may bring refreshments.

Membership Barbara Evans

We would like to welcome our newest members:

Note: These women's photographs will appear in the album we're assembling for all members. If you have not yet had a photograph taken, please try to attend the general membership meeting in February, where Judy Fishburn will again be playing photographer.

Donna Bolz was born in New York City and now lives in Barrington. She received her B.A. from DePauw University in Indiana and her M.A. from National Louis University. She recently retired from her 30-year career in elementary education.

Mary Isserman was born in Montana and moved to Huntley last year from Texas. Mary received her B.A. in French from the University of Montana and her M.B.A. from San Francisco State University. She has worked as a real estate financial analyst and appraiser for MetLife.

Kathleen Smith was born and raised in Evanston. In 2016, she moved to Elgin. Kathleen received a B.A. in Professional Studies with a concentration in Human Resources Management and is pursuing her master's degree in Organizational Development.

Jennifer Strohl was born on the East Coast and lives in Saint Charles. She earned a bachelor's in accounting from Georgetown University and an M.B.A. from the University of Washington. She has worked in public accounting, internal audit, corporate strategic planning, and supports nonprofits.

Co-President's Report Marlene Daubert

We live in a world that is constantly changing. And change can be difficult because we know what was, but we don't know what lies ahead.

The same holds true for AAUW. The immense progress made over the last 100 years to empower girls and women is something to celebrate. AAUW will continue to work towards this goal, but we also need to be open to changes of what this looks like.

One of the changes that has been on our minds as presidents is to look at how we raise funds. Here are some of the things our fundraising supports...

- Scholarships for local women. We currently give away one \$1000 scholarship. Wouldn't it be great to support more women?
- Local speakers and events to empower women in our local community.
- AAUW and its overall goals working in a multitude of ways toward ensuring a livelihood for women by achieving pay equity by 2030 through teaching salary

negotiation skills, impacting public policy, promoting stem education, developing leaders, and much more!

- Ability to send college women to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders to help them develop leadership skills.

The ways we have been raising funds in the past will not be sustainable as our members age and are not able to do the physical work they once were able to do. That is why we are exploring having one garage sale instead of two and looking at alternatives to support these important goals.

We don't know what this will look like, but we do know we need creativity. We have a small group starting to look at this, but we need more members with energy and ideas. And finally, we are meeting with a consultant. A consultant can only bring out the best in us. The consultant does not live here, work here, or raise money here. He will help us think through how we can use our gifts and talents to advance the work we have, perhaps expanding our branch as we dream of ways to further our mission and generate resources to fund the work we know is so important.

If you have any interest in being on this team, please email Rosemary Dyson at rosemarydyson@sbcglobal.net and/or MarleneDaubert@gmail.com.

Silent Auction Update Patty Harkin

Our annual silent auction will now occur on Saturday, February 22, at 11:00 am at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 330 Griswold Street, Elgin. The auction will be part of our general meeting and potluck luncheon. The proceeds from this auction will go to AAUW National Headquarters for distribution to funds whose need is greatest (Formerly, auction proceeds were given to AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund. However, upon learning that Legal Advocacy is fully funded, our national officers have asked us to allocate our auction funds to areas with the "greatest need.")

Even though we are no longer giving specifically to the Legal Advocacy Fund, our contributions still help AAUW to do its important work of promoting equity for girls and women. I ask members to consider bringing a guest to this meeting, so we can have more bidders (and make more money for this important fund raiser).

If you do bring a guest, PLEASE remember to inform members of our Hospitality Committee so they have an accurate count.

Timeframe:

10:30 am: Donors bring their gifts to the church at 10:30. This timeline will allow us to arrange the donations while the hospitality folks prepare the lunch.

OR (even better!) you can bring them to my house (1005 N Spring St., Elgin, IL 60120) earlier in the week.

If you wish to donate a service (e.g., a ride to the airport or medical appointment, arts or crafts to order, writing or editing service, cooking, decluttering, help with housework, etc.), please send an email to pharkin@gmail.com describing your service and I'll prepare an auction bid sheet. Services like these become increasingly important as we all experience temporary or permanent trouble getting around and performing tasks. Please think about how you might help.

Members and their guests can browse the auction tables before and during the meal. About 10 minutes before the program begins, we'll have "last call" when bidders make their final bids. I'm looking forward to a lively auction and crossing my fingers for good weather.

Pay Equity Day Sandra Gochnour

This year, Pay Equity Day will be March 31, and I will be looking for volunteers to pass out information at ECC and Gail Borden Library. I think that three volunteers per shift would be perfect, with me or Linda serving as the fourth person. The shift at ECC will probably be 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, and the shift at the library would be 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm. By the time the next newsletter comes out, the times will be firmed up. Contact info: Sandra Gochnour, (847) 347-1589; email.sgochnour@yahoo.com.

Legislative Update Anna Moeller, State Representative

Greetings and Happy New Year! Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with a brief update on Springfield and the coming legislative session. I value and seek your input and feedback on the issues facing Illinois and how we deal with them at the state level. My contact information is at the bottom and I welcome your input.

The Spring 2020 Legislative Session starts Monday, January 28th with session in full swing from February through May 31st. Coming off of an historic year, where we raised the minimum wage, passed a \$45 billion capital bill to improve our state's infrastructure and public institutions, protected access to reproductive healthcare, strengthened the Equal Pay Act, enacted criminal justice reforms, legalized adult-use cannabis and public safety pension reform, I expect that this year's session will also include important policy debates and progress in addressing the challenges facing our state. I anticipate that there will be energy and focus on ethics reforms, renewable energy and climate change legislation, pharmaceutical pricing, property tax relief proposals, and a possible Chicago casino bill. We will take up consideration of the state budget starting February 19, 2020, with the Governor's Annual Budget Address. I serve on the House Human Services Appropriations Committee and will be

reviewing funding requests for social service agencies throughout the state. The state's financial situation is more stable than it has been in years, but challenges remain to address the current \$7.5 billion in backlog of bills and fund the programs and services our communities rely on.

I have several pieces of legislation that I am currently drafting and will be working to pass this session. Some of these include: bills that ensure we are protecting our most vulnerable children at the Department of Children and Family Services, expanding access to healthcare and licensed professions through licensing reforms, a bill to protect children who are the victim of gender-based harassment and violence in school, and a bill to support families who care for their elderly parents in their home. As Chairwoman of the House Healthcare License Committee, I also expect to oversee several bills to expand access to healthcare, including a bill to license midwives in Illinois and legislation to allow various medical practices expand their scope of practice.

As you know, 2020 is an election year. Every member of the Illinois House of Representatives and several Senate seats are up for election. In addition, voters will be asked to consider a binding referendum question changing the tax structure in Illinois from a flat tax to a progressive tax on the 2020 ballot. Under the proposed rate structure approved by the General Assembly and Governor this past spring, 95% of income taxpayers would see no increase in their income tax rate (and retirement income will remain exempt from state income taxes). Those making \$250,000 or more would see a modest increase. The change from a flat tax to the new progressive tax structure is expected to bring in an additional \$3 billion to the state to fund education, social services, healthcare, and help pay down the state's debt.

It is such an honor and privilege to represent the 43rd District in Springfield. You can always reach me at staterepmoeller@gmail.com or during office hours at 847-841-7130.

Public Policy Report Shirley May Byrnes

ERA: Virginia became the 38th state to approve the ERA on January 15, 2020, which met the three-quarter mark of the 50 states. Unfortunately, the deadline for that mark was 1982 and Congress has yet to pass legislation to change the deadline. It is a symbolic victory, but the amendment will not be added to the U.S. Constitution until another battle is won.

708 Board: On March 17, 2020, Elgin Township voters will see a referendum question on their ballot: "Shall Elgin Township establish and maintain community mental health facilities and services including facilities and services for the person with a developmental disability or a substance use disorder and levy therefore an annual tax of not to exceed 0.15%?" Should the referendum pass, a 708 Board will be established. This will result in a 7-member volunteer board being appointed by the Township supervisor.

The purpose of this Board is to respond to the local mental health, substance use disorder, and developmental disability needs of their constituents.

Some of the services that are funded by 708 Boards include: mental health services in schools, substance use prevention services for young people, in-home mental health support for seniors, mental health services for domestic violence survivors, co-response crisis services in conjunction with law enforcement, in home therapy for youth with autism, and many others. This information was provided by Karen Lebuhn, Ecker Center for Mental Health.

Constitutional Convention: A December 12, 2019, email from Emily's List brought the idea of a constitutional convention to my attention. According to the email: "Republicans have been strategizing for years to call for a constitutional convention, so much so that they've held mock conventions to prepare for the possibility. And right now, they're only five state legislatures away from their goal. A Republican-led rewrite of the U.S. Constitution would be disastrous for women. Reproductive freedom, equal protection under the law, and even the right to vote could be at stake. Luckily, the key to stopping them is simple: **elect more women at the state and local level.**"

The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act: H.R. 2694, The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, was introduced on May 14, 2019, by Representative Jerrold Nadler and has been referred to the House Education and Workforce Committee. This legislation would require employers to make reasonable accommodations for pregnant women and new mothers, such as providing a stool for expectant mothers to keep them off their feet. The bill would also prohibit adverse action against employees requesting accommodations. Contact your representative to indicate your support of this bill.

Other: 2020 will be a busy year with local, state, and national elections; the census and the need to get everyone in the Elgin area counted; the Fair Tax amendment; and the referendum on the 708 Board in Elgin Township.



100th Arts Sub-committee Muriel Fenzel

The Arts Sub-committee is completing plans for our March 8th afternoon "Art Showcase Retrospective" Reception at the Elgin Art Space Gallery. Forty-nine years of fine art collected from the Art Showcase Exhibitions and Sales, 1960-2008, will be exhibited in the gallery.

A commissioned painting by George Stefely will be presented at the Elgin Artspace Gallery with words from the artist and

mayor, Dave Kaptain, during a short ceremony. Janet Heinicke, founder of AAUW's Art Showcase will present a short history of those expansive and exciting 49 years.

Refreshments will be served as we revisit this part of our past 100 years. AAUW past presidents, Art Showcase past chairpersons, community leaders, as well as our loyal AAUW Elgin branch members, will be in attendance.

Invitations will be mailed and/or emailed to you, our most important people, in late February. The exhibition will remain at the Elgin Artspace Gallery from March 8-16, with more than 50 pieces of juried fine art on display. The public is invited to take advantage of this experience by viewing a piece of Elgin AAUW branch history.

100th History Sub-Committee Tidbit Jeanne Hebeisen

Back in the 70's or 80's (before sending the newsletter to members mostly electronically and before the time we mailed a professionally printed copy to all members), there was the mimeograph we owned. Lucky for me, it was in my home. You will soon see that is sarcasm.

The president would send me her (only women were eligible for membership in those days!) typed copy of the newsletter, and I would create a stencil and print it off on the above-mentioned mimeograph. Sounds simple, yes? The problem was that, as the mimeograph was usually only used once a month, the ink would "clog up," making printing an adventure. Somehow, every issue was delivered, believe it or not! I say, long live computer printers and e-mail!!!

Be sure to wear your 100th anniversary T-shirts at all AAUW events!

Reel Women for Real Women Barbara Evans



Tuesday, February 25: Harriet 2019. (PG-13)
Starring Cynthia Erivo

This is the first major film to explore the life of Harriet Tubman, who escaped to the North yet returned to slaveholding states 19 times to lead at least 70 blacks to freedom without ever losing one.

That Erivo received a Golden Globes nomination and is up for a Best Actress Oscar is not surprising, for as Washington Post critic Ann Hornaday noted, she rescues Tubman from the "noble older woman wearing a headscarf and somewhat inscrutable expression" to show her "as a vital, fearless, spiritually driven hero whose physical bravery is only equaled by her moral courage."

While some critics spoke of the film's failure to take "artistic risks or sophisticated stylistic departures," I found the film riveting and concur with Hornaday's conclusion: "This [film] is an ideal introduction—or reintroduction—not just to Tubman but to the inhumane system that she refused to accept."

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 Attractions: Tuesday, March 24, Judy, starring Renée Zellweger

Elgin Area Women's History Month Tea Barbara Evans Saturday, March 7, 2020 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. /\$25 per person ECC Business Center

A reminder: No reservations will be accepted after Tuesday, February 25.

Register online via ywcaelgin.ywca.org/whb20; by check made payable to the YWCA Elgin at 220 E. Chicago St., Elgin, 60120; or by contacting YWCA Elgin at 847.742.7930.

A flyer for the event is attached to these minutes. If you wish copies to post, and don't want to print it out, please let Barbara Evans know how many you'd like. evangelgin@yahoo.com

Elgin Area Holiday Tea Jane Watson

On December 7, 2019, the Elgin branch celebrated its annual holiday tea. Julie Ford was the hostess, and over 40 ladies were in attendance. Attached are some special moments that Jane Watson captured from the event.

Newsletter Editors

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

Medina Gross - medinag@gmail.com

Jeanne Hebeisen - jeanne@mc.net

Ina Whitehead - iwhitehead55@hotmail.com

Website

Website items may be sent any time to:

Marcia Cameron - mec515@sbcglobal.net

Nancy Lamia - nancylamia@gmail.com

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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.

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 University Women.

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