

# AAUW TIMES

Elgin Area Branch  
1920-2020



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

March 2020

American Association of University Women

Vol. 25, No.6.

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

Website – [elginarea-il.aauw.net](http://elginarea-il.aauw.net)

Email Address – [aauw.membership.elginarea@gmail.com](mailto:aauw.membership.elginarea@gmail.com)

## In Lieu of the General Meeting

### The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Arts Sub-Committee Presents Art Showcase Retrospective

Artspace, 51 South Spring Street, Elgin  
March 8, 1:30 pm

The Arts Sub-Committee invites you to an Exhibition and Reception to celebrate the 49 years our branch presented Art Showcase to Elgin and surrounding communities.

In collaboration with the Elgin Cultural Arts Commission, the Sub-Committee has curated a fine arts exhibit of work displayed and sold during those years. Spend an after enjoying the art work, seeing our commissioned picture of Art Showcase by artist George Shefely presented for permanent display at Artspace and, in general, celebrating those 49 years of Art Showcase. You will also see the **actual** beautiful commissioned picture seen below.

Wear your 100<sup>th</sup> T-shirts!!



## Calendar

- Mar. 2 **Board Meeting**  
Hostess: Linda Knight
- Mar. 4 **Current Movie Discussion Group** 4:30 pm  
Olive Garden  
*Parasite & Olympic Dreams*
- Mar. 8 **In Lieu of General Meeting, Attend the Art Showcase Retrospective** 1:30 pm  
Artspace, 51 South Spring Street, Elgin
- Mar. 9-18 **Art Showcase Retrospective Exhibit** 2:30-4 pm
- Mar. 12 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 am  
Hostess: Rachel Campbell  
*The Overstory - A Novel*, Richard Powers
- Mar. 16 **Knitting/Crocheting Group** 1 pm  
Hostess: Bonnie Hill
- Mar. 16 **Great Books** 7 pm  
Gail Borden Public Library  
"Human Personality", Simone Weil  
**Note change from usual date**
- Mar. 24 **Reel Women for Real Women** 6 pm  
Gail Borden Public Library  
*Judy*
- Mar. 25 **Evening Book Group** 7 pm  
Gail Borden Meadows Community Room C  
*An American Summer: Love and Death in Chicago*  
Alex Kotlowitz

## Non-branch Events

- Apr. 11 **AAUW Fellows Luncheon** 11 am  
Lambs Farm, Libertyville
- May 14 **YWCA Leader Luncheon** 11 am  
The Seville, Streamwood
- June 18-20 **AAUW Regional Convention**  
East Moline, IL  
**This will replace the National and State Conventions.**

## Co-Presidents' Note

From Rosemary Dyson

### Remembering the Past, Building the Future The 2020 AAUW 13-State Regional Convention

This is truly an exciting year for those of us who are members of the Elgin Area Branch AAUW. We are in the midst of celebrating the glorious 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our branch. We are reminded of the rich traditions and heritage of the women who came before us.

We are also celebrating together for the **2020 AAUW 13-state Regional Convention, June 18 – 20, at Hyatt Hotel in East Moline, Ill.** We will be rubbing shoulders with branch members from Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin. Early bird registration (before May 15) is \$175. Regular registration (after May 15) \$225. Includes lunch on Thursday and Friday, and dinner on Thursday. There will be an optional Riverboat Cruise Dinner on Friday evening aboard the Celebration Belle.

I am very excited about the presenters. Michelle Duster, author, speaker, educator and great granddaughter of African American feminist and civil rights trailblazer Ida B. Wells, will be one of the presenters. Dr. Angie Maxwell, director of the Diane Blair Center of Southern Politics and Society, University of Arkansas, will also be one of the presenters. Breakout sessions include: Economic Security Panel, ERA Passage in Illinois, Celebration of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, Branch Program Sharing - just to name a few.

*Please contact Rosemary Dyson, [rosemarydyson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rosemarydyson@sbcglobal.net) and Marlene Daubert, [marlenedaubert@gmail.com](mailto:marlenedaubert@gmail.com) if you intend on going to the convention. If possible, we will carpool. Please indicate whether you need a ride or will be driving. We will match drivers and passengers.*

**For additional convention/hotel information and to register go to [aauw-il.aauw.net/](http://aauw-il.aauw.net/)**

## General Meeting Minutes

February 22

Co-President Marlene Daubert called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. and welcomed all to our branch's annual salad/casserole/auction luncheon, originally scheduled for January but postponed because of the weather.

Legal Advocacy Fund Chair Patty Harkin then gave a brief history of this fund and detailed one of the cases it now supports: Jane Doe vs. the University of Kentucky. She also explained that because LAF is fully funded, probably through most of our lifetimes, the proceeds of the silent auction will now be going to our national organization's Greatest Needs Fund.

Muriel Fenzel of the Branch Centennial Arts Sub-committee noted that invitational postcards to our branch's two-week Art Showcase Retrospective at Elgin ArtSpace Gallery had been sent. Muriel encouraged us to come to the 2 p.m. ceremony on March 8 when the painting our branch commissioned from Elgin artist George Stefely will be presented to the ArtSpace Gallery to commemorate the 49 years our branch sponsored Art Showcase. If you can help with the March 8 event, please contact Muriel.

Centennial Committee Co-Chair Mary Navin subsequently noted that the committee is still soliciting funds to support our centennial activities. Donations should be sent to treasurer Linda Knight.

Barbara Evans briefly explained that the Elgin Area's Women's History Month Celebration, this year a tea, is a non-profit event sponsored by area organizations, not a fund raiser. She also reminded us that February 25th is the last day that reservations for the Saturday, March 7, event can be made. Flyers for the event were distributed as a further reminder.

Jan Jones, chair of this year's Garden Walk to be held on June 20, passed around a sign up sheet for positions that need to be filled. (The gardens featured this year are on Elgin's east side.) While those not present today will still have many opportunities to sign up, eager beavers may call Jan to fill a time slot.

Interspersed with the above business was our luncheon and opportunities to make bids on the many items displayed for sale.

Also interspersed with business items was a presentation by Karen Fox, who explained why voting YES on the upcoming primary referendum for Gail Borden Library Board was a winning proposition and would not result in an increase in taxes. She stunned more than one in the audience when she noted that our "new" library was now 17 years old.

We also heard a 30-minute presentation on the climate crisis from the Rev. Terry Gallager, a former corporate engineer who, concerned with the world his grandchildren would face, went into environmental ministry in midlife.

Before adjourning for the afternoon at 1:20 p.m. to send us to the sales tables to see if our bids had been successful, Co-President Marlene Daubert thanked Dorothy Gunter and Judi

Tepe for organizing the luncheon and Patty Harkin for organizing the auction.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Evans, secretary pro tem

## Membership From Rita Shaw

### Photos Needed for Membership Album.

Our membership committee would like to have the updated membership photo album ready for distribution at our September meeting this year. And we want everyone to be in it.

Thus, if you have not yet had your photograph taken by Judy Fishburn and were not in our membership photo album of 2013, please send a head shot of yourself that could be adjusted to fit our format to Barbara Evans at [evanselgin@yahoo.com](mailto:evanselgin@yahoo.com) by June 1.

## Elgin Area AAUW Slate for 2020-2021 From Barbara Evans

The 2020 Nominating Committee—composed of Barbara Evans, Carol Blohm, Muriel Fenzel, Medina Gross, Judy Fishburn, Patty Harkin and Sue Schulz—is grateful to the following, who have agreed to serve in elected positions for 2020-22.

### 1st Vice Presidents (Program)

Carol Blohm & Patty Golden

### Treasurer

Jean Bridges

Thank you as well to the following, who have agreed to be considered for the 2020-21 **Nominating Committee**.

Shirley May Byrnes

Rachel Campbell

Julie Jindra

Linda Knight

Linda Rock

Sue Schulz (returning)

Carol Wieg (alternate)

Prior to voting on the above slate at the May general membership meeting, nominations will be taken from the floor.

Those continuing in their offices for 2020-21 are as follow:

### Co-Presidents

Marlene Daubert & Rosemary Dyson

### 2nd Vice Presidents (Membership)

Loni Mecum & Rita Shaw

### Recording Secretary

Sharon Spates

### Corresponding Secretary

Julie Jindra

### Membership Treasurer

Bonnie Hill

## Reel Women for Real Women

From Barbara Evans

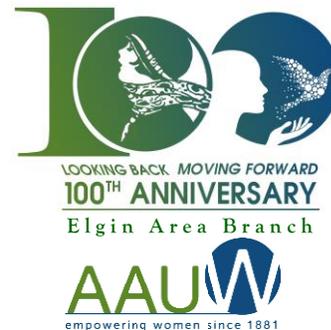


Tues., March 4  
Judy. (2019). PG-13  
Starring Renee Zellweger

That Zellweger won this year's Best Actress Oscar should not have been surprising to any who saw this film, for she "disappears into the character, astonishingly recreating the mannerisms, posture, and vocal cadences" (if not quite the legendary voice) of Judy Garland. Although focusing on the last months of Garland's life as she arrives in London in the winter of 1968 to perform a series of sold-out concerts, the film's flashbacks touch on her loveless marriages and her loving relationship with her two youngest children. Critics gave the film mixed reviews, primarily because they wanted it to delve more deeply into Garland's life. For what it did do, however, I found it satisfying, if, in the end, sad.

Coming in April: *Taking Root: The Vision of Environmentalist Wangari Maathal*, the Kenyan woman who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004

*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*



## Arts Sub-Committee

The 100th Elgin Area Branch AAUW Anniversary celebration continues after our February Historical Event at the Elgin

History Museum. This exhibit focused on the 100 years of our Branch History.

The Arts Sub-Committee has been working with the Elgin Cultural Arts Commission for over a year, as well, planning and curating an Exhibition and Reception to celebrate forty nine years of Art Showcase: 1960-2009. We have collected artwork from these Art Showcase years purchased by the City of Elgin and Private Collectors which will all be displayed in the Artspace Gallery (across the street from Al's Creamery).

There will be a mini-exhibition of now deceased AAUW member, Shirley Simon's Art Showcase paintings within the exhibit. Some of her family will be in attendance for this event.

Our 100th Anniversary Arts Sub-Committee is grateful for the support of our sponsors:

**Elgin Cultural Arts Commission** that has awarded AAUW a grant of \$1000 for this event.

**Berna Moving and Storage** (Joan Berna – AAUW member) of Elgin have volunteered to safely transport the artworks to/from Artspace Gallery.

**Artspace Gallery** is also foregoing any fee for the Gallery exhibition space.

Our Elgin Branch commissioned a \$3000 painting by George Stefely. This painting will be presented by Mayor Dave Kaptain to Artspace Gallery at the Reception on Sunday, March 8, 2:00 PM.

**Please Note:**

Our AAUW membership, Community leaders and Friends have all received an invitation by special email in recent days. We hope that you will join us in this celebration.

If you would like to inform others about the Public Exhibition at Artspace, the daily hours will be 12-4 pm, March 9-18.

## **History Sub-Committee Tidbit**

**From Jan Jones**

In the mid-1960's, young girls and women college graduates joining AAUW were encouraged to become part of a group called Recent Grads. Elgin member Judy Kaulfuss was one of the organizers of this group for our branch, and Sara Ellen Long Anderson and I were also members of the Recent Grads.

Meeting in the homes/apartments of the members, time was spent studying purchasing items from door-to-door salesmen selling pots and pans, silverware, knives and a number of other items. Members suggested items to research.

Membership was small, and this group was disbanded after a few years as members joined the Evening Book Group or other established study groups, becoming friends of the

current-older members. The need for getting younger members established in the Elgin area community met its purpose.

## **AAUW-IL District 5 Educational Opportunities Fund 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Lunch with Fellows**

**11:00 a.m., Saturday, April 18  
Lambs Farm**

Are you curious about how our Fellowship Recipients use the funds they receive from us? Attend the "Lunch with Fellows" and have a great lunch and get acquainted with two of them. Details, with a registration form, are in the **attached flier**.

Members who only get hard copy of the newsletter can call Jeanne Hebeisen for a mailed copy of the flier 847-741-6264.

## **International Relations**

**From Ruth Bradburn**

In the trunk of every car in France is a mandatory safety yellow vest, which is to be worn in case of an emergency. The grassroots political movement for economic justice, which began in October 2018, originated with French motorists from rural areas who had long commutes and little or no public transportation, who were protesting against the high cost of living. Almost a million signed an online petition, which resulted in the demonstrations that began in November 2018. The working and middle classes felt that their lives had reached the level of an emergency and for many reasons put on the yellow vest to protest on a regular basis.

The protests are diverse and mostly relate to improved standard of living, government transparency and accountability, and improved government services for rural areas. Some of the economic demands are to reintroduce the tax on wealth, increase the minimum wage, protect pensions and social welfare programs, end banking monopolies, and increase hiring in public services.

Some of the desired changes in politics are to protect democracy and social justice, such as prohibit lobbying, withdraw video traffic monitoring, increase the budget for the justice system in order to make the system available for all, and break up media monopolies and make media accessible to all citizens. In the areas of health and environment there is a call for France to reduce imports, ban carcinogenic pesticides, weaken the influence of Big Pharma and prohibit the use of plastic bottles.

The Rural areas are particularly affected with these concerns, which are to forbid the state to interfere in decisions concerning education, health and family matters, provide programs to build more affordable housing and implement rent control, and stop privatization of public roads, trains, and airports.

During a trip to France, I learned this information from a yellow vest protester who spoke to our group. She is a college educated divorcee recently unemployed mother of 2. After housing and taxes are paid, she lives on \$275 a month for food, gas, and necessities and is too rich for the food bank.

For more than a year the yellow vest or yellow jacket movement continues with the latest protest against the change in pensions. Their list of grievances covering 25 different topics and having no recognized leader, along with the police strong arm tactics and outside troublemakers, who are highlighted by the media, closing tourist areas, damaging property and causing injuries have led to little progress in resolving the issues.

Let's hope that both sides of these issues can find common ground and progress can be made. This diverse group of mostly unemployed citizens with a widely diverse agenda communicate through social networking and are supported by 60% of the population. Basically, they are protesting for a right to dignity.

## **Public Policy Report**

### **From Shirley May Byrnes**

**Springfield Day:** This year it will be held Thursday, March 19 at 10 am. Mark your calendars and plan to participate in this AAUW lobby day.

**Clean Energy Jobs Act (HB3624):** The CEJA would put Illinois on a path to 100% renewable energy by 2050, cut carbon from the power sector by 2030, reduce the equivalent of 1 million gasoline and diesel powered vehicles from the road and create jobs and economic opportunity.

**Iran War Powers Resolution:** On February 14, Sen. Dick Durban (IL) reported that he and Sen. Tim Kaine (VA) introduced the Iran War Powers Resolution which passed the Senate with bipartisan support. The Iran War Powers Resolution requires that any hostilities with Iran must be explicitly authorized by a declaration of war or specific authorization for use of military force from Congress. It does not prevent the United States from defending itself from an imminent attack.

**ERA:** H.J. Resolution 35 has been introduced to remove the deadline for ratification by the states, ensuring that the amendment will be included in the U.S. Constitution. Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (IL District 8) is a co-sponsor.

**Bipartisan Middle Class Jobs. Caucus:** A 2/13/20 letter from Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi's office states: "While our economy is on the way to recovery, there are still families across the country who struggle to make ends meet. We must invest in infrastructure and workforce training to attract great jobs and grow our economy. To that end, I have founded the Bipartisan Middle Class Jobs Caucus to seek bipartisan policy ideas for expanding the middle class and giving every family the chance to succeed.

"Congress can do more to support our workforce. We must raise the minimum wage so that all workers-even young students like yourself-can earn a fair wage. Taking time off work for an emergency or to care for a new child should never destroy a family's financial security. That is why I am a proud cosponsor of the Family and Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act to provide up to 12 weeks of paid leave each year for qualified workers."

**Paycheck Fairness Act (S. 270):** This Act was first introduced in Congress in 1997. In a 2/3/20 letter. Sen. Dick Durbin's office writes "This legislation was recently reintroduced in the 116th Congress. The Paycheck Fairness Act would prohibit wage discrimination on the basis of gender. It would increase penalties for employers who offer different wages to women and men for equal work and make it more difficult for employers who engage in discriminatory practices to avoid liability. The bill would protect those who make claims against their employers, instituting new safeguards to prevent any retaliation."

**The Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019 (H.R. 4):** The Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019 responds to current conditions in voting today by restoring the full protections of the original, bipartisan Voting Rights Act of 1965, which was last reauthorized by Congress in 2006, but gutted by the Supreme Court in 2013.

- Following the Shelby County decision four years ago, several states passed sweeping voter suppression laws that disproportionately prevent minorities, the elderly, and the youth from voting.
- The bill provides the tools to address these discriminatory practices and seeks to protect all Americans' right to vote.

The Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019 creates a new coverage formula that applies to all states and hinges on a finding of repeated voting rights violations in the preceding 25 years.

The Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019 establishes a targeted process for reviewing voting changes in jurisdictions nationwide, focused on measures that have historically been used to discriminate against voters.

## Summary of Terry Gallagher's Speech at February General Meeting

From Sandy Kaptain

Chair EGG350.org, Elgin Green groups350.org

Thanks to Co-presidents Marlene Daubert and Rosemary Dyson for rescheduling canceled January program so we could hear the climate minister Terry Gallagher.

As he says—he's doing this for his grandkids! From a career as a corporate exec for 35 years! to ministry for the environment was quite a change. Losing his first wife suddenly to health problems, lead to a journey with the peacemakers to 6 foreign countries to get immersed in how third world countries live.

One stop was in Columbia where people living in poverty were mining for gold dust in the dirt, and using mercury to refine the gold dust out of it. But as a result of burning off the mercury to extract the gold, they were poisoning their air, the land where they lived, and even the water in the area. Plus their kids were getting sick. He alerted them by speaking the truth to them.

He states strongly we all have to speak up about climate change problems and their solutions all the time, so we can also help save our earth for future generations—for our kids and grandkids!

He also spoke about how the climate crisis is about science and facts, and not debatable, any more than the facts of gravity are debatable. As he joked that no matter how much he doesn't 'like' gravity, it is still there, and nature does not care whether we 'like' the rules; they are inevitable. So rather than try to debate about gravity and jump off his third floor balcony, he accepts the laws of nature and respects them! But also important are the 3 key things that are needed from us—first don't despair, but choose action, and second talk about this to as many as you can and frequently—spread the word. And try his 48 steps to going green—it all helps!

My belief is to work to save as much as can be saved for as many as we can! It's up to us! Check out his website with the 48 Steps, podcasts, and CD series (Sowing Seeds of Hope) at [sustainingcreation.org](http://sustainingcreation.org). Let's go greenest!

### ElginTownship 708 Mental Health Referendum

On another topic, as Chair of an Elgin Township mental health 708 referendum, I want to alert you to the wording of this referendum on the March 17 ballot that Elgin Township voters will be voting on.

**“Shall Elgin Township levy an annual tax of not to exceed .15% for the purpose of providing community mental health facilities and services including facilities and services for the person with a developmental disability or a substance abuse disorder?”**

This referendum will cause a small increase in our property taxes in Elgin Township, 0.15% of its assessed value (one-third of its market value). With this, we can help fund preventive care for memory loss for seniors, Renz and Ecker mental health and drug abuse health centers, as well as Easter Seals, Centro and the disabled of A.I.D.

Prevention always helps save money over emergency care, and, like Mayor Dave Kaptain says, we have to pay one way or another, since safety issues are usually involved!

But we all have to decide where our tax dollars will go! Let's help those who don't have as much as we have! Any questions please call, and I will find answers (847-741-7375)! Most other areas of Kane County have 708 boards, except Elgin, and East and West Dundee! Councilperson Terry Gavin recommends a 708 Board! He served on the one in Hanover Park and thought it was very helpful, and worked for the social service agencies involved.

## Newsletter Editors

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

**Medina Gross** - [medinag@gmail.com](mailto:medinag@gmail.com)

**Jeanne Hebeisen** - [jeanne@mc.net](mailto:jeanne@mc.net)

**Ina Whitehead** - [jwhitehead55@hotmail.com](mailto:jwhitehead55@hotmail.com)

## Website

Website items may be sent any time to

**Marcia Cameron** - [mec515@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mec515@sbcglobal.net)

**Nancy Lamia** - [nancylamia@gmail.com](mailto:nancylamia@gmail.com)

## Facebook

Currently we do not have anyone handling our Facebook page. If you are Facebook literate, we need you!

*“Nothing is more the child of art than the garden.” Sir Walter Scott*



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C:847.508.4484  
gunterdo@sbcglobal.net

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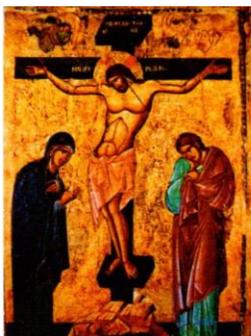
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In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

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 Women.

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