

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*

April 2020

American Association of University Women

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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

Fellow AAUW Elgin Area Branch Members,

Since we did not create an April 2020 newsletter, your newsletter editors thought we would use the report of our March 8 Art Showcase Retrospective by one of its Sub-committee members, Mary Navin, as a replacement for the April newsletter - so someone in the future doesn't spend fruitless time looking for that issue!

We are also including some pictures taken at the event.



AAUW ART SHOWCASE RETROSPECTIVE RECEPTION

From Mary Navin

Our AAUW celebration on March 8th at the downtown Elgin Artspace was outstanding. Fellow members, honored guests and out of town visitors were treated to the display of art work depicting the forty-nine years of Art Showcase. Resurrecting these art treasures from hidden corners in City Hall, the Hemmens Building, and from the walls of AAUW members, the exhibition of sixty plus art works was amazing.

Welcomed by Co-presidents Marlene Daubert and Rosemary Dyson, the afternoon continued with the introduction of Janet Heinicke by our member and long-time historian Jeanne Hebeisen. Janet Heinicke was the founder, and first Co-chair, of the Art Showcase event in 1960. Highlighting her career in the art field and her leadership of the AAUW Art Showcase, Janet described the early impact of art in the Elgin area and its subsequent growth, with local juried art shows in various Elgin area venues.

Julie Ford introduced local artist George Stefely. His painting, commissioned by the Elgin Area Branch, depicting many historical aspects of Art Showcase, will be permanently displayed in Elgin Artspace Gallery. The painting was welcomed and received by Kathy Apmann, manager of the gallery.

Elgin Mayor Dave Kaptain presented the group a proclamation for Elgin Area Branch AAUW's 100th Year Anniversary and the 49 years of Art Showcase.

Mary Navin recognized and thanked the many individuals who made this event possible. Anniversary Chairs Julie Ford, Mary Navin, and Sue Schulz were acknowledged. Muriel Fenzel, Chair of the Arts Sub-committee, and its dedicated members planned and executed many aspects of today's event. Amanda Harris, Manager of the Elgin Cultural Arts Commission, was instrumental in locating and cataloging the many art works presented today. Tom Berna, of Berna Movers, generously donated his moving company for the transportation of the art pieces. Sandy Kaptain was the acknowledged writer of the local Art Grant Application, which resulted in a \$1,000 grant for this undertaking. Jean Pechtel, local artist and AAUW member, along with her committee, planned and executed the artistic hanging of these many art pieces. Anne Weiss and dedicated committee organized and served the many treats presented. Mike Murschel, local activist, designed and promoted our 100th anniversary logo (above) - "Looking Back, Moving Forward."

The 100th year anniversary celebration continues to be an ongoing challenge, with several other activities coming later in the year. With the successful launching of the Elgin History Museum exhibit and the Elgin Artspace presentation of historic art pieces, we acknowledge that our members are both dedicated and committed to the celebration of our 100th Anniversary. We welcome continued member support and participation.



Shirley Simon's family with Mary Navin.
Cousin and branch member Barbara Njus, Mary Navin, Shirley's granddaughter Abbey (came from California) and daughter Eleanor (came from Maryland, and is long-time member of her local AAUW branch)
Shirley's art work is behind Eleanor



Mary Navin - commissioned picture behind



George Stefely



Anne Weiss, Nancy Klemm, Jan Jones, Marti Jernberg, Anne Marblestone, Sandy Kaptain and a bit of Barb Wahl behind the refreshments table



**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN ELGIN, ILLINOIS BRANCH
ART SHOWCASE RETROSPECTIVE RECEPTION
ELGIN ARTSPACE LOFTS MARCH 8, 2020
JAMES HARVEY PHOTOGRAPHY**