

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*

November – January 2021

American Association of University Women

Vol. 26 No. 2

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 Meetings

From Carol Blohm

Monday, November 9, 5:30 p.m. Zoom

The Benefit of Being Uncomfortable

Join in to examine, question, and build the skills necessary to face and to counter White privilege and systemic racism.
Discussion leader: Danielle Henson

**Saturday, December 12
12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m. Zoom**

A Virtual Holiday Tea

We will join together at "tables" to discuss topics of mutual interest. Bring your own holiday treat and beverage.

**Saturday, January 23, 11:30 a.m.
Zoom or in person (TBD)**

Education In/After COVID-19

Patty Harkin will chair a panel discussion to look at Education In/After COVID 19. Does remote learning meet the needs of students? What are the effects of closures? What does the future hold?

Calendar

November

Nov. 4 **Current Movie Discussion Group** 4:30 p.m.
Zoom
Enola Holmes (2020)

Nov. 12 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 a.m. Zoom
The Women of the Copper Country: A Novel
Mary Doria Russell
Leader: Joy Bang

Nov. 18 **Evening Book Group** 7:00 p.m. Zoom
The Yellow House: A Memoir, Sarah M. Broom
Leader: Rita Shaw

Women & Culture

No meeting due to Thanksgiving.

December

Dec. 2 **Current Movie Discussion Group** 4:30 p.m.
Zoom
Indian Horse (2017)

Dec. 10 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 a.m. Zoom
A Long Petal of the Sea, Isabel Allende
Leader: Mary Navin

Dec. 16 **Evening Book Group** 7:00 p.m. Zoom
A Long Petal of the Sea, Isabel Allende
Leader: Mary Navin

Dec. 17 **Women & Culture** 1:00 p.m. Zoom
Eleanor Roosevelt Day
Organizer: Jennifer Ford

January

Jan. 14 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 a.m. Zoom
The More Beautiful World Our Hearts Know is Possible, Charles Eisenstein
Leader: Nancy Lamia

Jan. 27 **Evening Book Group** 7:00 p.m. Zoom
Fashionopolis: The Price of Fast Fashion and the Future of Clothes, Dana Thomas
Leader: Barbara Evans

Current Movie Discussion Group From Marlene Daubert

The movie group chooses a movie each month to discuss.

When theaters are open, we are in the theaters. During Covid-19, we are choosing movies that we can watch at home. We meet the first Wednesday of each month at 4:30 on Zoom. If you'd like to join us, contact Marlene Daubert for the Zoom link. Here are our upcoming movies:

Nov 4 – *Enola Holmes* (2020). While searching for her missing mother, intrepid teen Enola Holmes uses her sleuthing skills to outsmart big brother Sherlock and help a runaway lord.

Dec 2 – *Indian Horse* (2017). Follows the life of Native Canadian Saul Indian Horse as he survives residential school and life amongst the racism of the 1970s. A talented hockey player, Saul must find his own path as he battles stereotypes and alcoholism.

Membership From Barbara Evans

We would like to welcome our newest member:



Lisa Davlin, who lives in Streamwood, received her B.S. from Illinois State University in Bloomington-Normal and an M.B.A. from DeVry University's Keller Graduate School of Management. She began her working life in journalism but has spent the past twenty years

working as a paralegal and office manager in Chicago law firms. A lifelong resident of the Chicago area, she enjoys traveling as a way of experiencing various arts and cultures outside of the United States. For fun, she is an avid reader (member of three book clubs) and enjoys watching documentaries, and foreign or art house films.

She is passionate about today's important topics, including human rights, social justice, and the impact of Big Data on individuals' privacy and decision making. Lisa is always looking for opportunities to bring more meaning into her life, create positive change, and experience connectedness with others while working on a common cause.

Co-Presidents' Report From Marlene Daubert

Dear AAUW members:

I want to start off this article with a huge thank you! In September, you were invited to join in an opportunity to contribute to a new legacy scholarship. Many of you heeded this call and gave to fund this scholarship. In fact, we were able to raise \$3050, enough to give away three scholarships in

addition to the Betty Medearis Memorial Scholarship. That is awesome and worth celebrating!

This legacy scholarship idea grew out of listening to voices around our country that shared frustration with the many inequities built into the fabric of our nation, especially for people of color. As women, we have a shared history of not having equal opportunities as men. We have and continue to work hard to level this playing field. In addition to hard work, we have needed the help of others to make this happen.

These scholarships are set up to make sure at least half will go to women of color. That means for 2021, we will be able to give away up to four scholarships, with at least two going to women of color. Scholarships are a wonderful way to celebrate not only 100 years as a branch, but also the hard work each of you put in to earn your degree. We, in turn, stretch out a hand to the next generation of women to help pay for the rising costs of education and then be able to have employment that can support families. As we do, we extend hospitality and invitation to have younger women join in our work as an organization as well.

I also want to encourage you to take advantage of the offerings and conversations of our branch and in our community to learn more about inequities in our system, both hidden and overt, especially with regard to race and what we can do to engage this challenge. Be willing to be stretched and to be uncomfortable at times. This is how we grow and learn for we are strong women, never too old to grow and learn!

On a different note, as we move indoors and numbers raise for cases of Covid-19, it looks like it will be a long winter. I encourage you to stay connected (online is safest) with AAUW and other groups that you have relationships with, which will help you to feel less isolated. Be sure to get up and move your body every day and try to eat healthy foods. Step outside and get a breath of fresh air. Pick up the phone and check in with one another. No one said this would be easy, but we can stay diligent and get through this as we take care of ourselves and one another.

Public Policy Report From Shirley May Byrnes October

Washington Update published by the AAUW Action Fund to bring members up to date with issues that AAUW follows. The October 15, 2020, edition provides information on the Supreme Court hearings and the Covid crisis relief. It includes action of the most pressing policies, digging deeper into the issues that matter, and engaging in the important work that AAUW is doing. I urge you to read the *Washington Update* when it's emailed to keep up on the issues.

EACH Woman Act: This bill would ensure equitable abortion coverage so that everyone can make their own decisions about whether to continue a pregnancy – regardless of income or insurance. Whether you live in Kentucky or New York, each and every one of us should have access to full

coverage for pregnancy-related care. That includes getting an abortion. Information from ACLU message, 9/30/20.

IL Veto Session: The IL General Assembly reconvenes every fall for a two-week "veto session." In 2020, sessions have been scheduled for November 17, 18, 19 and December 1, 2, 3. Technically, at the veto session, Illinois legislators are supposed to consider bills the Governor has vetoed, but it is not unusual for other initiatives to surface for a vote and be voted upon. With the abbreviated General Assembly this year, the Governor did not veto any bills. Since a 3/5 majority is required to pass bills during the Veto Session, it is possible that instead of a Veto Session there will be a "Lame Duck" session in January 2021, when a simple majority is required.

Two bills which may be brought up are the Clean Energy Jobs Act and IL Ethics Reform. In August, sixteen Democratic lawmakers unveiled nine ethics proposals as part of legislation that could receive bi-partisan support in the upcoming veto session. With multiple corruption investigations in both Chicago and Springfield, Illinois lawmakers have been under pressure to enact ethics reform.

Information from *LWV of Illinois Member Bulletin*, October 2020.

2021 AAUW Scholarships **From Carol Wieg**

AAUW members: Please remember that our branch will be giving out FOUR scholarships in the spring of 2021 to deserving women who are pursuing their college education—one Betty Medearis Memorial Scholarship and three Legacy Scholarships.

The application form for both of these scholarships will be on our local AAUW Internet site as well as at Gail Borden Library by November 1. Please think of a worthy woman who is pursuing her college degree and who could use such a scholarship and urge her to apply. Remember that the applicant must be at least 19 years of age by April 1, 2021, and that she has already completed 12 hours of higher education. If you have any questions, please contact me at wieglet@aol.com or call 847-414-7123. Thank you!!!!

AAUW General Meeting **September 9, 2020** **From Sharon Spates**

Co-president Rosemary Dyson called the meeting to order via Zoom at 6:00. After welcoming members to a new year of AAUW activities, she thanked Marti Jernberg for her hard work in putting together the yearbook for 2020-21 and pointed out that a digital copy would be sent to all members unless they had requested a hard copy. She directed any groups who wished to use our new Zoom account to get in contact with Marlene Daubert for assistance.

Co-president Marlene Daubert reminded us that 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of women obtaining the right to vote and

that women of color had to wait another 45 years for the same rights. The problem of racism and inequality of opportunity will be the main emphasis of most of our programs and activities for the coming year. She introduced Donna Jean of District 4/5 and Lisa Cherry, President of AAUW Illinois, who sat in as guests at our meeting.

Diversity Chairs Sue Schulz and Jennifer Ford conducted a review of our branch's efforts in the area of educating our members about racism and our efforts to overcome its effects. They also previewed the programs for the coming year for the general membership and for Women & Culture.

Lisa Cherry praised our branch for rising to the challenge issued by the national organization to learn about and condemn racism wherever we find it. She indicated that there will be no face-to-face state convention this year because of Covid-19, but that there may be a virtual convention via Zoom at the end of April 2021. She also said that the state organization may have financial help for branches for mission-based programs.

Jennifer Ford announced the establishment of a second local scholarship which is to be designated for a woman of color. Members are challenged to donate \$100 or whatever amount they wish. Donations can be made via check to Jean Bridges at [GoFundMe.com/Daubert Birthday](https://www.gofundme.com/daubert-birthday) or to the AAUW Gender Equity Fund c/o Carolyn Schjelderup. Marlene Daubert announced that we have already received donations of \$2400. Treasurer Jean Bridges presented the budget for 2021 and after discussion it was accepted unanimously.

Announcements:

Carol Blohm reminded us of the October 1st meeting with guests Kane County Clerk John Cunningham and Representative Moeller and Senator Castro discussing Safe Voting.

Sue Schulz will send information to all members on sponsoring the gala for Centro de Información on October 20th. She also announced that Mary Navin is now a member of the board for Centro de Información.

The Coalition of Elgin Religious Leaders is co-sponsoring with Gail Borden Library a community book read featuring the book *Waking Up White* on October 25th.

Shirley May Byrnes will forward to all members information published by the League of Women Voters about the Fair Tax Amendment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Spates
Recording Secretary

AAUW General Meeting

October 1, 2020

From Sharon Spates

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 via Zoom by Co-president Rosemary Dyson. She, in turn, turned the meeting over to Co-program Chair Patricia Golden to introduce our speakers. Patricia played an interview she had conducted with Kane County Clerk John A. Cunningham. He reviewed the various methods by which Illinois voters may vote during the upcoming general election. He encouraged all to vote and directed them to his website {kanecountyclerk.org} for further information on registering, requesting mail-in ballots, and early voting. He also informed us about the automated equipment he has recently installed to assist with the processing of the expected increase in mail-in ballots.

Patricia Golden then introduced Representative Anna Moeller and Senator Christina Castro who explained the Fair Tax Amendment that will be on the ballot this fall. This amendment has been endorsed by AAUW, the League of Women Voters, and numerous trade unions. Further information on this subject can be obtained from the Center for Tax & Budget Accountability. They also recommended the candidate forums on the League of Women Voters website. They then fielded many questions from the attending members.

Co-president Marlene Daubert announced that we have so far raised \$2950 in donations for the Legacy Scholarship. This amount will allow us to award a total of four local scholarships this year. She thanked the members for their generosity and adjourned the meeting at 7:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Spates
Recording Secretary

New Newsletter Schedule

Following is the new schedule for the 2020 – 21 newsletters.

September-October
November-December-January
February-March
April-May
June-July-August

Newsletter Editors

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

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

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.