

# AAUW TIMES

**Elgin Area Branch  
1920-2021**



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

February – March 2021

American Association of University Women

Vol. 26 No. 3

## 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)

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## General Meetings

**Thursday, February 18, 5:30 p.m. Zoom**  
**Black History Month**  
**Stories and Being an Ally**  
From Carol Blohm and Sue Schulz

Black women come from a long line of storytellers, and these stories shed light on who they are in this country. Come to listen, to learn, and to become an ally. Black women of our AAUW branch will tell their stories. The format is a panel discussion.

**Saturday, March 13, 11:30 a.m. Zoom**  
**Women's History Month**  
From Judi Tepe, Patty Golden, Jennifer Ford,  
and Rosemary Dyson

Please join us in celebrating Women's History Month as we present Leslie Goddard's portrayal of Rachel Carson. This event is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Elgin Area, YWCA Elgin, Altrusa-Elgin, and Elgin branch of AAUW. A Zoom link will be sent out shortly before the event.

**Thursday, February 4, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**  
**YWCA Valentine's Day Virtual Auction**  
From Nancy Burnidge

The YWCA is holding an online Valentine's auction called "All You Need Is Love." Register and get information on the YWCA Elgin website: [www.ywcaelgin.org](http://www.ywcaelgin.org)

**Thursday, February 18, 5:30 p.m. Zoom**  
**Book Club**  
From Sharon Sutton

There has been a change in the book chosen for the Evening Book Group for the month of February. In conjunction with

Gail Borden Library's Community Read for January and discussions in February, we will be reading *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard* by Douglas Tallamy.

The Community Read is part of a larger initiative, Start in Your Yard, begun by the Northern Kane Wild Ones organization and supported by the city of Elgin. The book shows how we can turn portions of our yards into wildlife corridors to create habitats for wildlife. In addition to copies of the book available through the library, books are available for purchase for \$16 at Arabica and Al's Café.

**RACHEL CARSON**

*SILENT SPRING*  
AND THE BIRTH  
OF THE MODERN  
ECOLOGY  
MOVEMENT

Biologist and author Rachel Carson warned the world of the potentially dire environmental impact of chemical pesticides in her best-selling 1962 book, *Silent Spring*.

**Rachel Carson Notable Dates**  
March – Women's History Month  
Around April 22 – Earth Day  
May 27 – Carson born in 1907  
June – *Silent Spring* published, 1962  
September – Wilderness Month  
October – Breast Cancer Awareness Month

In this living-history program, set in 1963, actress and historian Leslie Goddard portrays Carson as she discusses her childhood love for the living world, her passion for writing, and her work to awaken the world to the beauty and fragility of nature.

Leslie Goddard

[www.lesliegoddard.info](http://www.lesliegoddard.info)  
L-Goddard@att.net

NOW BOOKING! Popular dates fill quickly, so email today.

# Calendar

## February

- Feb. 11 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 a.m. Zoom  
*The Yellow House: A Memoir*, Sarah M. Broom  
Leader: Anne Marblestone
- Feb. 24 **Evening Book Group** 7:00 p.m. Zoom  
*Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard*, Douglas Tallamy  
Leader: Sharon Sutton
- ] ]
- Feb. 25 **Women & Culture** 1:00 p.m. Zoom  
How to Become an Anti-Racist

## March

- Mar. 11 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 a.m. Zoom  
*Women Rowing North: Navigating Life's Currents and Flourishing As We Age*, Mary Pipher  
Leader: Sharon LeCount
- Mar. 24 **Evening Book Group** 7:00 p.m. Zoom  
*Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World*, Linda Hirshman  
Leader: Pat Golden
- Mar. 25 **Women & Culture** TBA Zoom  
*Working with the Prison Population*

## Co-President's Report From Rosemary Dyson

The COVID-19 pandemic has altered the lives of us all. I would like to thank and commend the members of the Elgin Area Branch for being flexible and moving forward in our lives and in the work of AAUW. By necessity, the world had become virtual. Zoom teleconferencing has become the vehicle for holding branch board meetings, Women in Culture meetings, and all of our special interest groups and branch programs. Our AAUW national office has also not been standing still. I want to share AAUW's accomplishments this past year.

- AAUW Two-Minute Activists sent 62,400 letters to elected officials calling for action on AAUW priorities, such as comprehensive COVID-19 relief, the Voting Rights Advancement Act, the Paycheck Fairness Act, removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, paid family leave, support for Title IX, and more.

- AAUW launched the Latina Policy Initiative to gain a better understanding of the economic and health impact of COVID-19 on Latinas, particularly those who are essential workers and in low wage occupations. A forthcoming fact sheet on the status of Latinas in the U.S. will be used to advocate for policies to address inequities that disproportionately impact this vulnerable population.
- The Legal Advocacy Fund was revamped, supporting five active cases and distributing over \$70,000 in 2020.
- AAUW and coalition partners successfully advocated for the House passage of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act.
- The AAUW Action Fund provided 65 head-to-head voter guides on candidate positions in key federal races for 2020 elections. Members also educated and mobilized voters using the AAUW Action Fund Voter Issue Guide, Congressional Voting Record, and tips on how to GOTV using social media.
- More than 250 recipients received nearly \$3.9 million in AAUW fellowships and grants for the 2020–21 academic year. The funding aims to advance educational and professional opportunities for women in the United States and around the globe.
- AAUW is one of the world's leading supporters of graduate women's education. Since 1888, it has awarded more than \$115 million in fellowships, grants, and awards to 13,000 recipients from 145 countries. Candidates are selected on the basis of scholarly excellence, quality and originality of project design, and active commitment to helping women and girls through service in their communities, professions, or fields of research.
- AAUW fellows and grantees have a long and distinguished history of contributing to their schools, their communities, and to society at large. Even in today's challenging times, we know that this year's recipients will continue in that esteemed tradition. AAUW is proud to provide the support they need to excel in their academic work — and to ultimately make the world a better place.
- The Simple Truth About the Gender Wage Gap, 2020 Update focused on how women of color face a wider pay gap — and one that will take far longer to close than the pay gap for White women. A special 2021 supplement to the report will include an analysis of the historical factors behind the wider pay gap for women of color. This research was supported by the Mooneen Lecce Giving Circle.
- Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans in the Time of COVID explored how the pandemic exacerbated the student debt crisis and made it more

difficult for many women to pay off student loans. Among the recommended remedies are loan forgiveness programs and expansion of federal and state tuition aid. In the months ahead, this report will be a cornerstone of our advocacy work on helping ease the burden of student loans on women.

- **Factory Flaw: The Attrition and Retention of Women in Manufacturing** will be released in early 2021. The research, made possible with a grant from The Arconic Foundation, explores the dearth of women in well-paying jobs in this sector and outlines ways employers and policymakers can recruit, retain, and advance women in this field.
- **Highest Compensated in Higher Education**, a research collaboration of AAUW and the Eos Foundation, is planned for release in February 2021. It will examine women's leadership among the country's 130 research universities and reveal how many women are among the top highest paid professionals at each school. A second report, scheduled for later in the year, will look at the same data through a racial lens.

Thank you for being a partner in the mission and vision of AAUW as we continue to move forward to achieve equity for women and girls.

### **Public Policy Report Shirley May Byrnes January 2021**

**IL General Assembly:** The Lame Duck session of the 101st General Assembly started Friday January 8th. One of the most important actions that occurred was the changing of the Speaker of the House. Rep. Emanuel "Chris" Welch for the 7th District (Westchester, IL) has become the first Black Speaker of the Illinois House. Speaker Welch has stated that he supports term limits for leaders and supports a fair legislative redistricting map. Sen. Harmon continues to be President of the Senate. The other major change was the passing of the Black Legislative Caucus Pillars for change in Illinois. The Pillars of Education, Economics and Criminal Justice were passed in both Houses. The Health Pillar passed through each House in a different shape but did not pass through both Houses. The legislators were sworn in on Wednesday, January 13th 2021-- from 1/16/21 email by Paula Purdue, Public Policy Co-Chair, AAUW IL

**HB5868 Remote and Open Legislative Sessions:** The bill allows temporary remote participation and voting for governmental units and requires that members of the public be permitted to view any remote meetings or sessions. This bill

was referred to the Rules Committee on 1/8/2021 by the 101st General Assembly.

**SB1485, The Racial Impact Note Act:** The bill requires, upon the request of any member, that the General Assembly be read a reliable estimate of the potential impact of any legislation on racial or ethnic minorities. The 1/13/2021 status is Senate Sine Die (with reference to proceedings that have been adjourned) with no appointed date for resumption.

**Federal Events:** The 117th Congress has been sworn in, and a new president and vice president have been inaugurated. On his first day in office, President Biden signed ten executive orders to combat the Covid-19 pandemic. He has also submitted his covid relief plan to Congress. Other executive orders required masks to be worn on federal property, halted funding for the construction of Trump's border wall, reversed the travel ban targeting largely Muslim countries, and embraced progressive policies on the environment and diversity. Biden also reversed several of Trump's attempts to withdraw from international agreements, beginning the process of rejoining the Paris climate accord and halting the United States' departure from the World Health Organization.

According to CNN Politics, 1/20/2021 at 8:48 pm ET, article by Eric Bradner, Betsy Klein, and Christopher Hickey, CNN, He plans to follow Inauguration Day by centering each day of January on a specific theme, according to a draft of a calendar document sent to administration allies and viewed by CNN: Thursday, Biden's first full day in office, will be focused on the coronavirus pandemic, and Friday will highlight Biden's push for economic relief -- including executive orders restoring federal employees' collective bargaining rights and directing agency action on safety net programs, including Medicaid and unemployment insurance.

The themes next week will be "Buy American," with a Monday executive order beefing up requirements for government purchases of goods and services from US companies; equity on Tuesday, coupled with a push to eliminate private prisons; climate on Wednesday with an executive order kicking off regulatory actions reestablishing the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology and combating climate change; health care on Thursday, a day on which Biden will rescind the so-called Mexico City Policy blocking federal funding for non-governmental organizations that provide abortion services; and immigration on Friday, when Biden plans to sign executive orders focused on border processing and refugee policies and establish a family reunification task force. February will focus on what's identified in the calendar document as "restoring America's place in the world."

**Susan Daniels Humbracht**  
**From Mary Navin**

Susan Daniels Humbracht passed away peacefully on Wednesday, October 28 in her Elgin home with her family by her side. She was born in Hinsdale, Illinois on May 9, 1941. She is survived by her husband Lyndon, and children Meredith, Win, Christopher, and Eric. Preceding her in death were her parents, Judge Henry C. Daniels and Kathryn Daniels of Elgin. Susan was a long-time resident of Elgin, growing up on the east side of Elgin and attending Elgin public schools. She graduated from Lake Forest College in Evanston, IL. Employment and marriage took her to California and Alaska. Upon her return to Elgin, she was employed in the English department of Larsen Junior High, the school she has previously attended. She joined some of the same teachers who had taught her.

Susan was regularly active in the Kiwanis Club of Elgin. In her 23 years of membership, she headed various fundraising and entertainment committees. She was especially honored to receive the George F. Hixson Fellowship Award, a life-time achievement award given for long time service. This is an international award and marks exceptional service. Susan worked for over 25 years as a travel agent with Carson Pirie Scott and then independently from home.

A proud member of Elgin High School Class of 1959, Susan actively participated in planning and organizing class reunions every five years. This represents a time period of reunions since graduation 61 years ago. Susan loved her Elgin community, supporting it through committee engagement and expertise, and love of her heritage. She served our local Travel Class as past president and participated in zoom meetings with this group and the Kiwanis Club even as she remained home with hospice care.

Susan's membership in AAUW was relatively recent. She supported its mission and saw the potential for future involvement. She loved reading and participated in our book groups, making astute comments and observations. Many of us in AAUW enjoyed playing bridge and mahjong with her.

Susan loved people and was always ready to engage in conversation. Her personality was infectious. She has been described as loyal, generous, big-hearted and resilient. She will be missed.

Memorials may be made in her name to the First Congregational Church of Elgin or to the Elgin Kiwanis Club.

Our condolences to Florence Ostidick  
on the death of her husband Bruce

**Climate Change**  
**Sandy Kaptain**

We have less time to stop using fossil fuels per scientists-- about 10 years now!

Check out the SIYY, <https://startinyouryard.com/>, project (Start In Your Yard) of the Northern Kane County Wild Ones! By planting native trees, bushes, and flowers in your yard, avoiding pesticides, fertilizers, and tilling and shoveling as much as possible, and leaving leaf litter under trees so caterpillars can pupate there, and multiply,.....we can help Nature do her thing and foster the drawdown of greenhouse gasses, because plants use the main GHG, CO2, to grow, and carbon is put back into the soil.

The natural cycle of life involves plants using CO2 to grow and multiply and feed us. So if we don't interfere for our convenience, we can store the carbon in the ground and trees, and roots, rather than releasing it into the atmosphere where it will continue to warm our air and wreak havoc with our lives with severe storms, droughts, warming of the poles, and melting of interglacial ice.

By living in harmony with Nature and her critters rather than trying to control things, we can all live sustainably. Live simply! Then we are part of the solution to climate change directly, not waiting for the City, State or Feds to try to fix everything. It's up to us too! Let's GO GREENER!

**Legislative Updates**  
**From Patricia Golden**

There are two changes in Illinois State Legislators (listed in the Yearbook on p. 20):

Illinois Senate District 49: Meg Loughran Cappel (D)

Illinois House of Representatives District 66: Suzanne Ness (D)

## **Appreciation**

### **From Rachel Campbell**

Thanks to all my Elgin Branch AAUW friends who sent cards, get well wishes, and kind thoughts after my recent health problem. You certainly lifted my spirits when I was not feeling well. I appreciate every kindness you have shown me. During this pandemic time, I pray that each of you will be well and safe.

## **New Addresses**

**Marti Jernberg's** new address is 506 Ryan Lane, Dundee, IL 60118.

**Ina Whitehead's** new address is 2300 Canterfield Parkway East, Apt. 119, West Dundee, IL 60118.

## **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 **April - May** issue is **March 20**. Please submit all items as a **Word** document to both editors.

**Jeanne Hebeisen** - [jeanne@mc.net](mailto:jeanne@mc.net)  
**Ina Whitehead** - [iwhitehead55@hotmail.com](mailto:iwhitehead55@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)

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.

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