

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***

June/July/August 2021

American Association of University Women

Vol. 26 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

**Thursday, June 10, 5:00 p.m., Zoom
Brainstorming Session
From Mary Navin and Donna Bolz**

There will be a brainstorming session to discuss ideas for upcoming programs for the new year. A Zoom link will be sent out to members as the meeting date approaches. Please contact Mary Navin or Donna Bolz for additional information.

**Wednesday, June 30, 6:30 p.m.
AAUW Outdoor Gathering
Lawn at Zion Lutheran Church
330 Griswold St.**

From Marlene Daubert and Rosemary Dyson

It's been a long time since we have met in person. All indicators are that outdoors is a safe space for vaccinated and unvaccinated people. This will be a time to...

- ...Connect and share in conversation
- ...Elect officers
- ...Give awards
- ...Other updates

Bring your lawn chair and a beverage to drink. We will not be sharing any food items. If it rains, we'll meet on Zoom.



**Thursday, August 5, 6:00 p.m.
AAUW Cooks
From Marlene Daubert**



Your Resource Development team offered a cooking class in March. We invited Tana Fryer, creator of www.RVFoodie to lead the class inspired from her travels in her RV and cooking in her travel kitchen. Having recently been to Mexico, she delighted us with Mexican cuisine, which we prepared and then enjoyed eating together. Survey results were high, and we have invited Tana back to lead us in another meal.

Although the specifics are still being developed, we have a date – **Thursday, August 5 starting at 6:00.** We'll gather, cook together, and for those interested, we'll share our meal together. Save the Date. More information will be coming for this fun evening that supports our branch!

**Wednesday, June 2, 4:30 p.m., Zoom
Current Movie Discussion Group
From Peggie Caughlin**

AAUW Movie Group will be meeting Wednesday, June 2nd. We will be watching two films this month and will discuss them on Zoom at the June meeting. Anyone interested in joining our group should contact Marlene Daubert. You will then receive a notification with the Zoom link a couple of days before our meeting.

“The Rider” is a movie based on a book by Tim Winton. It's about a young cowboy who is brain injured from a fall during a riding accident. He is no longer able to compete on the rodeo circuit, so he has to find a new identity. The second film is “My Octopus Teacher.” It's an original documentary film about the filmmaker Craig Foster and his relationship with a wild octopus in a South African kelp forest. The amazing ability of humans to connect to nature is so remarkable and evident in this documentary. Both movies can be found on Netflix. We hope you can join us.

Calendar

June

- Jun. 10 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 a.m. Zoom
Hell and Other Destinations: A 21st Century Memoir
Madeleine Albright
Leader: Ruth Bradburn
- Jun. 14 **Great Books** 7 p.m.
Gail Borden Public Library (See article below)
“Human Personality” – Simone Weil
- Jun. 23 **Evening Book Group** 7:00 p.m. Zoom
The Last Days of Night, Graham Moore
Leader: Sharon Spates
- Jun. 24 **Women & Culture** 1 p.m. Zoom
Extraordinary Women of Color

July

- Jul. 08 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 a.m. Zoom
A Spark of Light, Jodi Picoult
Leader: Jan Jones
- Jul. 12 **Great Books** 7 p.m.
Gail Borden Public Library (See article below)
Hedda Gabler, Henric Ibsen
- Jul. 28 **Evening Book Group** 7:00 p.m. Zoom
The Nightwatchman, Louise Erdrich
Leader: Rachel Campbell

August

- Aug. 9 **Great Books** 7 p.m.
Gail Borden Public Library (See article below)
Notes from Underground, Fyodor Dostoevsky
- Aug. 12 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 a.m. Zoom
The Only Woman in the Room, Marie Benedict
Leader: Judy Drommerhausen
- Aug. 25 **Evening Book Group** 7:00 p.m. Zoom
Rules of Civility: A Novel, Amor Towles
Leader: Carol Blohm

Co-President's Report

From Marlene Daubert and Rosemary Dyson

As we write this, our two years as your co-presidents are coming to a close. Even though we will continue for one more year, we have decided for this newsletter to each write a few reflections.

Marlene Daubert speaks her mind.

This has certainly been a time like no other. Zoom, almost unknown by most of our members 14 months ago, has been a way to stay in community—to have a picnic together, hear

speakers, share in meaningful conversations about privilege and diversity, board meetings, discuss books and movies, and so much more! You have been a resilient group and open to new things. We don't quite know how we will move forward yet, but this shows that we are able to change and be open to new ways of doing things as we move into our next chapter.

I (Marlene) recently watched a Ted Talk by Amanda Gorman, the amazing young woman who wrote and delivered the poem, “This Hill We Climb” at President’s Biden inauguration. She says she always asks her students two questions. The first, “On whose shoulders do you stand?” What a great question to consider as we think of those who have gone before and from where we have come. This became very evident at our 100th Anniversary celebration. (By the way, if you haven’t seen it, you will find a link on our website). From voting rights, to leaders in all aspects of society, to educational opportunities and so much more! We stand on the shoulders of the multitudes of women and allies that have come before us. On whose shoulders do you stand?

Her second question is this, “For what do you stand?” What is important in your life for which you are willing to take a stand? What an important question that helps to guide the way we spend our time, our resources, to speak out, to stretch ourselves, to take leadership responsibilities. What is on your list? I wonder if helping to pave the way for equity for women, educational opportunities for girls and women, STEM, other aspects of AAUW is on your list? Based on your answer, there will be others who follow us that may point to us as shoulders for which they stand on.

Having said that, as we move forward, we need to continue to be relevant. We need members willing to step into leadership roles that will continue to move us forward. We will continue to empower women and girls. We will continue to give voice to the things that matter specifically to the challenges of women. We will support and encourage one another. Please consider, for what do you stand? And then take a stand.

Rosemary Dyson has a few things to say.

First and foremost, I need to answer the following question. Why is Rosemary Dyson an active participant in the American Association of University Women? I found that answer on AAUW website page. It says, “We are tenacious and trailblazing advocating for women and girls since 1881 and into the future.” I have found a group of like-minded women who believe in the absolute equality of all women regardless of age, race, ethnicity, or culture.

We’ve come a long way, but we also have a long way to go in order to achieve full equality.

There are abundant examples of the move toward full equality for women and girls. AAUW has published hundreds of research reports, from an 1885 paper disproving a prevailing myth that college impairs a woman’s fertility to, most recently, a study documenting the economic impact of workplace sexual harassment. We have supported the academic achievements of many thousands of scholars, from

scientist Marie Curie, the first woman to win a Nobel Peace Prize, to astronaut Judith Resnik, the second woman to travel in space.

Our advocacy efforts have propelled countless new laws, including the Equal Pay Act, first proposed in 1945 and finally passed in 1963; the Title IX amendment in 1972; the Family and Medical Leave Act in 1993; the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act in 2009; and the Paycheck Fairness Act, which was passed by the U.S. Representatives in 2019 but is awaiting action in the Senate.

We still have work to do.

Women make up almost half of the U.S. labor force. They outnumber men in earning bachelor's and master's degrees and are nearly on par in getting medical and legal degrees. Yet from the corporate boardroom to Congress, from healthcare companies to the courts, from non-profit organizations to universities, men are far more likely than women to rise to the highest paying and most prestigious leadership roles.

AAUW continues to strongly believe that our commitment to Education and Training, Economic Security and Leadership will further girls and women in all of society. To remain a cutting-edge and forward-thinking organization for today and tomorrow, AAUW must commit to best practices in Governance and Sustainability.

The Elgin Area Branch AAUW membership needs to continue to support empowerment of women and girls locally. Our capability to award scholarships to local college students needs to continue. Marlene Daubert and I are completing our terms as co-presidents. We have accepted a one-year extension to our term. We want to encourage our members to assume leadership positions in our AAUW Elgin Area Branch. There is plenty more work to be done.

**Climate Change Solutions
From Sandra Kaptain**

The Gail Borden Library will be hosting Elgin Green Groups350's showing of Project Drawdown's Climate Solutions 101 series starting in September! Watch the newsletter for details.

This series of professionally done videos from Project Drawdown, as they say, "is the world's first major educational effort focused solely on solutions. Rather than rehashing well-known climate challenges, Project Drawdown centers on game-changing climate action based on scientific research and analysis. This course, presented in video units (from 9-23 minutes each, and there are 6) and in-depth conversations, combines Project Drawdown's trusted resources with the expertise of several inspiring voices from around the world." And, to add a note from my favorite Earth Day/Month heroine, Greta Thunberg, the Swedish 18-year-old with

Asperger's syndrome, who bravely travels around the world to try to get us adults to "act like the adults in the room" also says: "No one is too small to make a difference."

Don't do what I did for about a year, listen to another extremist green group that says no individual actions will help, only governmental action. But the bottom line now is we need all actions from everyone. As Greta said, "No one is too small to make a difference," and Project Drawdown points out: energy efficiency in our homes and lives is a crucial part of the solutions!

Watch the Gail Borden Public Library newsletter for more details on the videos in September, or go to Project Drawdown yourself and view them now at: drawdown.org/climate-solutions-101. Have a GREEN summer!

**Message from Membership VPs
From Loni Mecum and Rita Shaw**

We do thank all who have renewed their memberships for the 2021–2022 year. Also, we ask those who have not renewed to please do so at this time by writing a check for \$85.00 to Elgin Area Branch AAUW and mailing it to:

Bonnie Hill
11N962 Orchard Lane
Elgin, IL 60124

You may pay electronically by following the directions you received in an email AAUW national sent each of us on April 15. This is the last reminder we can send in a newsletter before the 2021–2022 Yearbook is organized with the current member list. We don't want to see anyone left out of the listing. We are looking forward to a great 2021–2022 year.

If you have any questions, please contact Loni Mecum or Rita Shaw, your Membership Co-VPs.

**Yearbook Information
From Marti Jernberg**

Anyone who will be submitting information to be included or changed in the 2021–2022 Branch Yearbook needs to submit it to Marti Jernberg (mjscouter@aol.com) by August 1. Please send your interest group information in Word or Excel format. If you do not have either of those, you can also use Google Docs or Sheets and share it with me.

All members should check their personal entries and inform me of any missing or incorrect information. If you chair an interest group that just has a descriptive entry (no individual meeting info), Marti would appreciate knowing that you have checked it and it is still correct. If you have questions, you may call Marti at 847-337-0903.

Nominating Committee From Rachel Campbell

Co-President	Marlene Daubert & Rosemary Dyson (1 year)
Vice President Program	Mary Navin & Donna Bolz
Vice President Membership	Barbara Maring & Ruth Bradburn
Recording Secretary	Nancy Gardner
Membership Treasurer	Bonnie Hill
Corresponding Secretary	Julie Jindra
Nominating Committee	Shirley May Burns Jane Watson Gareth Sitz Mary Ellen Barbezat Sandy Kaptain Karen Patterson Linda Knight (Alternate)

Public Policy Report Shirley May Byrnes

Many of the issues and bills mentioned in my May report are still active. Please review that list in addition to the following information.

AAUW Washington Update: These updates provide current information on bills that AAUW is tracking. The 5/13/21 issue covers The American Jobs Plan, the American Families Plan, and Pregnancy Workers Fairness Act.

American Rescue Plan Act: On May 10, the U.S. Treasury Department announced its **guidelines and allocation amounts** for ARPA's **Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund**. Per the **Allocation for States table**, Illinois will receive over \$8 billion. Of this:

- \$2.46 billion will be allocated to **Illinois counties**
- \$2.73 billion will be allocated to **Illinois cities**
- \$742 million will be allocated to "**non-entitlement**" units of government (typically local governments with populations <50,000), which will need to apply via the state.
- Source: *ILA Alert - News from the Illinois Library Association, 5/13/21*

Also on May 10, **the FCC adopted rules** to implement the **Emergency Connectivity Fund Program**. This \$7.17 billion program, funded by ARPA, will enable schools and libraries to purchase laptop and tablet computers, Wi-Fi hotspots, and broadband connectivity for students, school staff, and library patrons in need during the COVID-19

pandemic. *ILA Alert - News from the Illinois Library Association, 5/13/21*

Illinois Legislation

Build Illinois Home Credit (SB2445): This omnibus bill aims to address the shortage of affordable housing stock in Illinois by offering incentives to landlords who maintain qualified affordable housing properties and tax exemptions for the purchase of building materials to be used for the construction of new affordable housing units, among other things.

Illinois Way Forward (SB667): This bill would protect our communities from ICE by holding law enforcement accountable to follow state laws that limit police collaboration with immigration agencies and ensure access to legal protections promised under federal law for immigrant survivors of violence.

HB 234 Media Literacy: Would require media literacy to be included in IL high school curricula. Passed the House 4/20/21; has been assigned to Senate Education Committee and is scheduled to be heard 5/18/2021. *ILA Alert - News from the Illinois Library Association, 5/13/21*

SB 101 Bd Higher Ed/Course Materials: Would create the College Course Materials Affordability and Equitable Access Task Force and require public higher education institutions to study issues with textbook costs, including Open Educational Resources (OERs). Passed the Senate 4/21/2021 and has been assigned to the House Executive Committee. *ILA Alert - News from the Illinois Library Association, 5/13/21*

Keeping Youth Safe and Healthy Act (SB 818): This bill would create personal health and safety education standards in all Illinois public schools. It passed out of committee last week and is currently on the Senate floor. SB 818 creates personal health and safety standards for grades K-5 and updates and expands comprehensive sexual health education standards in grades 6-12 to give young people the information and tools they need to be safe and support responsible and informed decision making about their health and well-being throughout their lives. ACLU email 5/14/21.

HB3223 Ensuring Success in School: Survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, and gender-based harassment often endure lasting mental, physical, economic, and social consequences—and, as a result, experience a decline in academic performance. This bill provides success in school with appropriate, trauma-informed responses to the needs of every student.

Parental Notice of Abortion (PNA) (SB 2190/HB 1797): AAUW-IL is continuing to urge members to contact their state legislators about repealing the PNA. AAUW supports the right of every woman to access safe, affordable, and comprehensive reproductive healthcare, and this includes youth.

SB 967, Senate Amendment 1, sponsored by State Senator Cristine Castro, to address the maternal mortality crisis in

Illinois. It is hopeful that these new rules and policies will help people who give birth better outcomes. It passed unanimously in the Senate and has been sent to the House.

To learn more about an IL bill and/or its status, go to ilga.gov and type in the bill number in box on the left side.

Bills League of Women Voters IL is currently tracking include:

- **HB 25 - Immigration-Right to Counsel**, crossed over to Senate.
- **HB 119/SB516 - Healthcare-Prescription Drug Repository**, HB crossed over to Senate.
- **HB449/SB1707 - Housing is Recovery Pilot Program**, HB crossed over to Senate.
- **HB804/SB1718 - Clean Energy Jobs Act**, SB 3rd reading deadline is May 7.
- **HB 2775 - Homelessness Prevention**, crossed over to Senate.
- **HB2784/SB2117 - Mental Health, Community Emergency Services and Support Act**, HB crossed over to Senate.
- **HB3232/SB1840 - Hospitals-Financial Assistance**, SB crossed over to House.
- **HB3447 - Criminal Justice-Reducing Barriers to Recovery**, crossed over to Senate.
- **HB1736/SB647 - School Code: Sex Abuse-Sex Education**, recreated as a shell bill, SB818.

Equal Pay Day Resolution (HR220): Rep. Anna Moeller introduced this resolution on behalf of AAUW-IL. The resolution states that nationally women make 82 cents on the dollars for men. In Illinois, women make 81 cents on the dollar. Black women average 63 cents, Native American average 60 cents, and Latina women average 55 cents on the dollar. In Illinois, women are making 2 cents more than we made in 2020. In the 1970s, the average woman was making 59 cents to the dollar for men. We are making progress, but as we all know, it is much too slow. Please call your representatives to cosponsor and vote for House Resolution 220.

Federal Legislation

American Jobs Act: This bill will invest heavily in education, housing, and public health to address the country's most pressing needs.

Partnership for American Jobs Act: This bill would create a grant through the U.S. Department of Education for public media organizations to promote local educational and workforce opportunities to their communities. Introduced by Rep. Raja Krisnamoorthi (D-IL) and Rep. Dan Meuser (R-PA).

Investing in American Workers Act: This bill would establish a 20% tax credit for small and mid-sized businesses that increase spending on their workforce training programs, including apprenticeships, career services, literacy initiatives,

courses through career and technical education schools or labor organizations, or employer-sponsored programs such as an industry trade association. I'm working to ensure that we are upskilling employees and reviving the heartbeat of both our small businesses and the middle class.

John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act (HR4): This bill will directly tackle issues of racial discrimination at the ballot box by restoring and strengthening the protections of the Voting Rights Act (VRA).

DEJOY Act: This bill would ensure that the Postal Service cannot slow its mail delivery standards. Introduced by Rep. Raja Krisnamoorthi. Passed out of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Great Books From Jeanne Hebeisen

The Great Books Group is picking up where it left off when everything shut down last March. Our schedule for the rest of the 2020-21 year is in the Calendar. We will be meeting in the Gail Borden Library. We will also be simultaneously Zooming for those not ready to meet in person. Join us in person, or, if interested in Zooming with us, contact me for the link to join us – jeanne@mc.net. Masks needed in the Library.

Women & Culture From Sue Schulz

Come prepared to **do a 2-3 minute highlight of an extraordinary woman of Color who has been an influential woman.** Please email (sue.schulz@att.net) your RSVP and who you will highlight so that we do not duplicate women.

Here is the list of women already claimed by our members:

Patsy Mink, Carla Hayden, Gwedolyn Brooks,

Leontyne Price, Toni Morrison

Newsletter Schedule

Following is the schedule for the 2021 – 22 newsletters.

September-October

November-December-January

February-March

April-May

June-July-August

Newsletter Editors

Newsletter deadline for the September – October issue is **August 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.

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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