

AAUW TIMES

**Elgin Area Branch
1920-2021**



*Working for 101 years to promote equity for women and girls,
life-long education and positive social change*

October/November 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

**Tuesday, October 19, 6:30 pm
Gail Borden Public Library
Meadows Room**

Women on the Brink

**"Elgin's Children in Poverty: Awareness to
Advocacy", learning about the culture of women
struggling to survive and flourish**

Panel discussion of women living in poverty and the impact on their families and child care. Giving facts, history, and suggestions for future action, speakers will be from YWCA Elgin Youth "Program.

Participating - Kane Co Office of Education, Elgin City Council, Voices for Illinois Children, the Governor's Illinois Commission on Equitable Early Childhood Education and Care Funding, U-46 Family and Community Engagement, City of Elgin Mayor David Kaptain, Elgin Partnership for Early Learning

See attached flier for other details. Registration needed at the Library.

**Thursday November 4, 1-3 pm
Nancy Kimball Cobblestone House
302 W Chicago Street, Elgin**



We will be visiting the historic home of Nancy Kimball. Built in 1846, by the sons of Nancy Kimball for the widow of Joseph Kimball, one of the founders of Elgin, it is the oldest cobblestone building in Elgin, and one of the last ones left standing.

This building is unique and important to Elgin as one of the last old architectural styles left in Elgin, with 16 inch thick cobblestone walls, a source of neighborhood pride and a project that promotes architectural preservation and adaptive re-use.

Calendar

October

- Oct. 6 **Current Movie Discussion Group** 4:30 pm Zoom
"In My Mother's Garden" - stream it on Netflix
- Oct. 11 **Great Books** 7 pm
Gail Borden Public Library **and** Zoom
Register at Library
"To Room Nineteen", Doris Lessing
- Oct 14 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 am Zoom
Caste: Origins of Our Discontents, Isabel Wilkerson
- Oct 19 **General Meeting** 6:30 pm
Gail Borden Public Library
Women & Culture members
are encouragd to attend this public forum
to discuss "Is Poverty Solvable?", learning about
culture of women struggling to survive and flourish.
- Oct. 27 **Evening Book Group** 7 pm Zoom
Hostess: Rachel Campbell
The Language of Butterflies, Wendy Williams

November

- Nov. 1 **Board Meeting** Zoom
- Nov. 3 **Current Movie Discussion Group** 4:30 pm, Zoom
TBD at October meeting
- Nov. 4 **General Meeting** 1-3 pm
Nancy Kimball Cobblestone House
- Nov. 8 **Great Books** 7 pm
Gail Borden Public Library **and** Zoom
Register at Library
Long Day's Journey into Night, Eugene O'Neill
- Nov. 11 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 am Zoom
This Tender Land, William Kent Krueger
- Nov. 24 **Evening Book Group** 7 pm Zoom
Valentine, Elizabeth Wetmore

Save the Date

- Dec. 4 **Holiday Luncheon** Noon – 4 pm
Villa Olivia **See Attachment**
Join fellow branch members and guests for holiday
celebration and music
- Jan. 12 **Public Policy/ Voting Rights** Zoom
Presentation of state and federal legislation
impacting voting rights

Co-President's Report

From Marlene Daubert

As we move into our 2021–2022-year, Rosemary and I spent some time thinking about what this year might look like. What are some of our goals and how will move in that direction, based on the time, energy and resources we have available? To begin, we took a look at our current strategic plan which was put into place several years ago. We did an assessment and are pleased to report that many of the goals have woven themselves into who we are and are doing well. These include Encouraging Members to become informed voters: Program events that raise awareness of AAUW's values and vision; Improve communications within the branch; and Increase visibility within the community. Granted, these are all areas that are important and we want to continue to make sure we are attending to them, but for this year they will not be our primary areas of new energy.

There are three areas that we want to attend to. These include:

1. Leadership Development. As a branch, we want to continue to build our capacity to develop leaders that can serve within the branch, but also make a difference in the wider community.
2. Develop Membership. This will include attention on retaining membership as well as increasing a diverse base of members.
3. Assess and work toward a Five-Star National Recognition Program. This includes areas of Advancement, Public Policy, Governance and Sustainability and Programs.

How will we work towards these? We are in the process of developing two working groups. Our membership chairs have already assembled a team of people that will be discussing plans for retaining and increasing membership. There will also be a team working on leadership development in our branch, including ways to prepare and make sure leaders have what they need to step into roles. Our keynote speaker at our opening meeting, Dave Daubert (pastor and consultant) shared some tips for Effective Leadership Development as some food for thought to get us started.

Each of these working groups will decide how we meet this goal. This leadership team is still in the process of being developed, so, if you are called on, please agree to help us! And finally, AAUW has updated the 5-Star Program and it has been rolled out this year. Your board is working on assessing where we are and what steps we can take this year to improve towards recognition.

We will continue to live out AAUW's mission of gender equity for women and girls. Together we learn, we teach, we encourage and support, we take action. When we all take a part, we make a difference.

Branch Minutes September 9

Co-President Rosemary Dyson welcomed members at 5:25.

Co-President Marlene Daubert then reviewed our Strategic plan and how we will be relating to it this coming year. She highlighted 3 areas of concentration.

- 1) Voting rights
- 2) Leadership – member development
- 3) 5 Star Program.

Our speaker, Dave Daubert, presented several outstanding tips for Effective Leadership Development and ideas leaders should keep in mind while leading. We then broke out into small groups to share our own experiences with outstanding leaders from our past.

Co-President Marlene Daubert shared several Announcements.

Marty Jernberg – Yearbook - The yearbook has been emailed to all members.

Mary Navin – Programs- Mentioned several upcoming events. All listed in your yearbook.

Ruth Bradburn and Barb Maring – Membership- introduced our newest member, Kathrin Rudland.

Co-President Rosemary Dyson told us to mark our calendars for October 30, AAUW IL Fall Conference via Zoom from 10-1

Shirley May Byrnes-Legislative- reminded us to check our emails for an update from National.

Jean Bridges- Treasurer- Presented this year's budget. Co-President Marlene Daubert said the budget had been approved by the board and called for the vote. The vote was a unanimous Yes.

Respectfully Submitted
Bonnie Hill
Secretary Pro-Tem

Diversity From Jennifer Ford

Rather than offering another October Women and Culture program, all members are encouraged to attend the regularly scheduled monthly member meeting on October 19 dealing with the topic of women living on the brink of poverty. This is an in-person public event to be held at Gail Borden Public Library. Note that registration is required at GBPL. As AAUW tries to enable and empower women, this expert panel will discuss the problem as it pertains to the Elgin area and offer some suggestions of action that can be taken.

NOVEMBER 4 Traditionally, W&C does not meet in November. The November member monthly meeting is a tour of the Nancy Kimball Cobblestone House, which certainly fits our idea of culture. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Jo-An Takamota Sabonjian, Waukegan Branch, has been named chair of the newly formed Illinois AAUW Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee. Because Elgin has

been a leader in providing programs in this area, we will be working with this committee to encourage other Branches to offer similar programs that meet the AAUW challenge. We look forward to also learning what other branches are doing

Susan B. Anthony Award From Carol Weig

Following a week of heavy down pours, June 30th dawned balmy and dry. AAUW members began arriving early evening joyous to be together as a Branch after nearly a year and a half absence. Lawn chairs were quickly set up on the front patio of Zion Lutheran Church where two large trees provided plenty of shade. Ripples of laughter and plenty of hugs were the order of the night as members welcomed one another after the long hiatus.

The highlight of the evening was the announcement of the names of The Susan B. Anthony Awards. This year's recipients are Julie Ford and Marlene Daubert. Sue Shultz gave her personal reflections on Marlene's many accomplishments and community involvement and Mary Navin shared many fond memories of growing up with Julie and her considerable contributions to the local art scene. Both ladies were given a lovely flower arrangement as a remembrance of the evening.

Congratulations to Marlene and Julie!

Local Scholarship Committee From Carol Weig

The Local Scholarship Committee would love to have some "new faces" join our committee. We are the committee which is responsible for distributing our scholarship form to various local colleges, as well as selecting the recipients for the year.

This coming spring we will again be awarding the Betty Medearis AAUW Scholarship, as well as a Legacy Scholarship, which was established last year during our 100th year Celebration.

Our first meeting for this year will be October 5th at Rachel Campbell's at 10 a.m. It is our intent at that meeting to review our scholarship form and possibly tweak it, as well as start devising an evaluation template to use when selecting our awardees. Please join us! If you have any questions, please email or call Vivienne Bailey or Carol Wieg.

Public Policy Report From Shirley May Byrnes

Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA) HR3755: This bill would provide a nationwide safeguard against abortion bans and medically unnecessary restrictions that push abortion care out of reach. It would protect the constitutional rights of all people, no matter where they live.

John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R.4): The bill passed the House on August 24. The Senate has not voted on it.

Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) was signed into law by Gov. Pritzker on Sept. 15. This law *will put Illinois on a path to a 100% clean energy future, protect public health from pollution, provide a just transition for communities historically dependent on dirty fossil fuels, enact tough utility accountability measures, and create jobs and wealth in Illinois' Black and Brown communities.*

New Newsletter Schedule

Below is the new schedule for the 2021 – 22 newsletters.

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

Newsletter Editors

The newsletter deadline for the December-January issue is **November 20**. Please submit all items as a **Word** document to **both** editors. See above that the next newsletter will be the February-March issue.

Jeanne Hebeisen - jeanne@mc.net
Ina Whitehead - jwhitehead55@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

The Elgin Area Branch was organized in 1920 with 40 charter members.