

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*

September 2021

American Association of University Women

Vol. 26 No. 6

AAUW's Mission Statement
AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

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**Wednesday, September 1, 4:30 p.m., Zoom
Current Movie Discussion Group
From Peggie Caughlin and Gareth Sitz**

Our AAUW movie group will meet on Zoom, Wednesday, September 1st at 4:30. Our choice for this month is the new release, "Respect," a story about Aretha Franklin and her journey finding her own voice and regaining control of her life.

Two other suggestions can be streamed on Netflix, "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind," an engaging true story about a young teenager who constructed a windmill to create electricity for his struggling village in Africa, and "I Am Woman," a true story about singer Helen Reddy.

I will be sending the Zoom link a few days before we meet on September 1st. Hope to see you then.



**YWCA
Elgin
From Nancy Burnidge**

The YWCA Elgin is in need of ESL teachers.

There are various time slots. Some classes are in person, and some are virtual. If you are interested, or if you know of someone who would be interested, call the YWCA at 847-742-7930.

**SAVE THE DATE
Thursday, September 9, 5:00 p.m.
Lords Park
From Jeanne Hebeisen**



Come join fellow branch members and GUESTS at Lords Park at 5:00 p.m. Bring your own food, beverage, and chair if you wish (tables are at the Pavilion to the Far East of the park). Here is our opportunity to socialize and plan for the new year...bring new ideas and new faces!

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.

**Saturday, September 25, 1:00 p.m.
Women & Culture
Walking Tour
From Jennifer Ford**

Join us for a narrated walking tour of the 18 pieces of public art in downtown Elgin, ending in an optional meal at Al's Café. Details to follow.

Climate Change Solutions From Sandra Kaptain



EGG350 presents the Climate Solutions 101 series to encourage urgent action to lessen the impacts of climate change. This series is about the SOLUTIONS, not the problems! We can't stop climate change now, but we CAN prevent the worst consequences!

Elgin Green Groups350 (EGG350 for short!) proudly presents Project Drawdown's Climate Solutions 101 in a four-part "can't miss" series co-hosted by the Gail Borden Public Library, LWVEA (League of Women Voters Elgin Area), and Sierra Club Valley of the Fox.

There are six short videos presented in four consecutive weeks from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays with co-hosts Sandy Kaptain, greeniac and chair of EGG350.org, and Robin Migalla, fellow greeniac specializing in zero waste, with professional videos produced by Project Drawdown.

On Sept. 16, there will be videos #1: Setting the Stage and #2: Stopping Climate Change with Sierra Club VOF Chair Mavis Bates and Kane County Forest Preserve Chair Chris Kious doing the Q & A for these two videos. On Sept 23, we will cover #3: Reducing the Sources and have Q & A with Carl Missele, retired engineer/chemist. On Sept. 30, we will have #4: Supporting the Sinks with Wild Ones Nancy Lamia and Jeanne Muntz who are working on regenerative gardening with Kane County Wild Ones, one of the climate change solutions. Lastly, on Oct. 7 we will have videos #5: Putting It All Together and #6: Making it Happen again with Mavis Bates, sustainability expert, and Chris Kious from the Kane County board.

Register at Gail Borden Public Library at <https://attend.gailborden.info/events> (P.S.: you can register for all four at this site! Also, you can see these six videos at Project Drawdown: Climate Solutions 101!). Don't miss the SOLUTIONS to Climate Change. The choice is up to us! We can prevent the worst possibilities of climate change! And as my heroine, Greta Thunberg, says: "No one is too small to make a difference!" It's up to us!

Calendar

September

- Sept. 1 **Current Movie Discussion Group** 4:30 p.m. Zoom
Respect, starring Jennifer Hudson
Leader: Peg Caughlin
- Sept. 9 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 a.m. Zoom
Nomadland, Jessica Bruder
Leader: Judy Dromerhausen
- Sept 22 **Evening Book Group** 7:00 p.m. Zoom
Caste, Isabel Wilkerson
Leader: Patty Golden

Co-President's Report From Rosemary Dyson

The Future of Work

Jobs of the future are changing rapidly—creating new opportunities and obstacles. We need to change policies and practices so women can thrive in the next generation workforce. I'm often asked about why I care so deeply about AAUW issues of equity for women and girls. "It's the right thing to do," is my answer. We need to start working today to ensure that our daughters, nieces, and even those we don't know have a chance to excel in the future. The work of people like Lydia Gillus, the chair of our Elgin Area Branch STEM committee, is crucial as we move forward.

Not Your Mother's Workforce

The nature of work—what we do and how and where we do it—is constantly evolving. The pace of change will only accelerate in the years ahead, presenting new opportunities and challenges for the workforce as a whole, but especially for women.

Technological advances—particularly automation and artificial intelligence—will diminish demand for certain jobs: Though women make up less than half of the overall labor force, research suggests women are 58 percent of workers at highest risk of losing their jobs to technology. On the other hand, these changes will also increase the need for other roles, most significantly in the STEM fields, where women are vastly underrepresented.

New workplace models, such as telecommuting and the gig economy, could allow for greater flexibility to enable workers to find a better job-life blend. A gig economy is a labor market characterized by the prevalence of short-term contracts or freelance work as opposed to permanent jobs. But the downsides include greater competition for certain roles and, for gig workers, the lack of stable wages and benefits that full-time employment provides.

Finally, tomorrow's workforce will be increasingly diverse, the byproduct of demographic shifts and a global economy. According to population analysis, by 2044 the full U.S. population will become "majority minority"—where the number of individuals who are multiracial and racial and ethnic minorities exceeds those of whites. ***Women constitute 58 percent of the workers at highest risk of losing their jobs to technology.***

Did you know?

According to population analysis, by 2044 the full U.S. population will become "majority minority"—where the number of individuals who are multiracial and racial and ethnic minorities exceeds the number of white people.

Moving Forward

For women to achieve economic parity in the years ahead, business leaders and policymakers must consider how the changing nature of work will affect men and women differently—and to make sure that risks and rewards are equitably distributed. Women cannot afford to be left behind.

Let's roll up our sleeves; we have some work to do. The future is going to be here before you know it!

Public Policy Report Shirley May Byrnes September 2021

American Families Plan: This proposal to expand access to education and childcare and deliver targeted investments to working families nationwide. The plan is a comprehensive, multifaceted approach focused on policies that would bolster our education system and deliver high-quality childcare, paid family leave, nutritional assistance programs, and tax cuts to American workers and families. This includes providing free universal preschool to children three and four years old and two years of free community college to students and workers seeking additional skills. Tied to these proposals are initiatives to address teacher shortages and preparation and retention to ensure that we have well-prepared teachers to support students and their specialized needs. Notably, this plan also boosts investments into Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and other minority-serving institutions. Building on these education initiatives are policies to address the lack of affordable, high-quality childcare available to working families. From Sen. Tammy Duckworth's letter, 8/19/21.

Patsy Mink Gender Equity in Education Act (S. 1421).

This bill would provide resources, training, and technical assistance to fully implement Title IX and reduce sex discrimination in all areas of education. This legislation would establish an Office of Gender Equity in the U.S. Department of Education, support Title IX coordinators with yearly training programs, and provide competitive grants to K-12 schools and institutions of higher education to evaluate and assess how applicants improve on indicators of gender equity.

The bill has been referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, where it awaits further actions. From Sen. Dick Durbin's letter of 8/17/21.

For the People Act: The FTPA would reverse or protect against many of the 30 voter suppression laws that were put in place this year in 18 states: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Wyoming. At least 400 voter suppression laws were introduced in 49 states this year, a substantial increase over past years. Here in Illinois, six such laws were introduced this spring, although none made it out of committee. Having passed in the House of Representatives, the FTPA did not garner the votes needed to be brought to debate in the Senate, with the vote falling 50/50 along party lines, A pared down compromise bill will be introduced when the Senate returns in September. From LWV of IL newsletter, 8/13/21.

Paid Leave and Child Care: Many women cannot return to the workforce without access to paid leave and childcare.

The 117th Congress must take steps to provide greater support to American workers trying to meet the demands of work and life. Unlike the majority of developed countries worldwide, the United States does not guarantee paid annual leave, paid time off for illness or family care, or paid parental leave. For many Americans, this unpaid time off work is untenable and it threatens their economic security. Congress needs to ensure that paid leave and other childcare supports are included in the budget reconciliation process. The U.S. Senate voted on August 10, 2021, to advance a budget resolution that includes these critical measures in the framework proposed. Now, we must continue to advocate with our members of Congress to ensure they remain a priority: Paid leave and childcare cannot be left out of the final budget. From AAUW Action Network, 8/11/21.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: This package will build the infrastructure of the future while meeting the needs of today through repairing our roads and providing the largest investment in our bridges since the construction of the interstate highway system under President Eisenhower. In addition to strengthening our traditional infrastructure, this bill will provide funding to improve our public transit systems, expand our nation's broadband access, modernize our airports, and rebuild our electrical grid. The U.S. Senate passed the bill and sent it to the House. From Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi 8/11/21 email.

Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (S. 1486). It was recently reintroduced in the Senate and was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. From Sen. Dick Durbin 8/10/21 letter.

The Illinois Way Forward Act (SB 667) strengthens protections by ending immigration detention and limiting local cooperation with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). According to the [Illinois Coalition for Immigration and Refugee Rights \(ICIRR\)](#), the bill "will draw a bright line between law enforcement and civil immigration enforcement."

The Illinois Way Forward Act will:

- Make clear what action law enforcement can and cannot take with warrants.
- Prohibit state and local governments from signing into contracts with ICE.
- Prohibit officials from inquiring about the immigration status of an individual in custody unless that individual is presented with a federal criminal warrant.

On August 2, Governor Pritzker signed this immigration law that makes Illinois one of the most welcoming states in the country. From LWV of IL newsletter, 8/13/21.

New E-mail Address

There is a new e-mail address for Gareth Sitz. She can be contacted at garethmann75@gmail.com.

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 October-November issue is **September 20**. Please submit all items as a **Word** document to both editors.

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.

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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.