

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*

December 2021/January 2022

American Association of University Women
AAUW's Mission Statement

Vol. 26 No. 3

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

Website – elginarea-il.aauw.net

Email Address – aauwelginilbranch@gmail.com

General Meetings

Holiday Celebration

December 4 12 pm – 4 pm

Villa Olivia - 1401 W. Lake St., Bartlett

Guests are welcome. Join in the celebration of December holidays with fellow members and guests.



Public Policy, Voting Rights. Challenges and Opportunities

January 12 7 pm Zoom

Speakers will address current federal and state legislation and what it means for voters rights.

Calendar

December

- Dec. 1 **Current Movie Discussion Group** 4:30 pm Zoom
"Crip Camp" and "Passing"- stream on Netflix
- Dec. 4 **Holiday Celebration –Villa Olivia** 12 - 4 pm
- Dec. 9 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 am Zoom
The Daughters of Yalta: The Churchills, Roosevelts, and Harrimans, A Story of Love and War, Catherine Grace Katz.
- Dec. 13 **Great Books** 7 pm
Gail Borden Public Library **and** Zoom
Register at Library
Poetry by A. E. Stallings
- Dec. 15 **Evening Book Group** 7 pm Zoom
Anxious People, Fredrik Bachman
Note change in usual date for the meeting.
- Dec. 20 **Knitting/Crocheting Group not meeting in December**

January

- Jan. 3 **Board Meeting** 5 pm Zoom
- Jan. 5 **Current Movie Discussion Group** 4:30 pm Zoom
- Jan.10 **Great Books** 7 pm
Gail Borden Public Library **and** Zoom
Register at Library
"Bright and Morning Star", Richard Wright
- Jan. 12 **General Meeting** 7 pm Zoom

- Jan. 13 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 am Zoom
The Sympathizer, Viet Thanh Nguyen
- Jan. 17 **Knitting/Crocheting Group** 1 pm Zoom
- Jan. 26 **Evening Book Group** 7 pm Zoom
 Ernest Hemingway fiction of your choice
- Jan. 27 **Women & Culture** 1 pm Zoom
 “Buried Alive! The Plight of the Invisible People of Afghanistan!”

Co-President’s Report From Rosemary Dyson

The Elgin Area Branch is concentrating on building a Strategic Plan that promotes leadership development during 2021-2022 (See *October/November Elgin Area Branch newsletter Co-President’s Report*). We are making leadership development inside our branch a priority. Building leaders starts at home.

Elgin Area Branch is promoting leadership locally while AAUW National is looking at the barriers that hold back women from assuming leadership roles in the workplace. AAUW found that recent federal, state, and local elections brought a surge of women leaders into public office. But while that progress is getting widespread attention, the reality is that women still lag far behind men when it comes to leadership roles. They remain significantly under-represented at the highest rungs of almost every field: corporate, government, nonprofit, education, law, medicine, finance and banking, and the military. In 2020, there were only 36 women leading America’s biggest companies — that’s only about 7% of all Fortune 500 CEO’s.

The problem is not a lack of qualified potential leaders to fill the roles. Women make up more than half of the U.S. workforce and they receive the majority of university degrees at virtually every level. So, while qualified women are certainly in the pipeline, there are barriers and biases that keep them from attaining the highest – and most highly-compensated – leadership roles.

Blatant sex discrimination remains an obstacle, as data from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission show. But subtler problems — such as negative stereotypes about women in leadership and hostile and unwelcoming environment in the Boardroom or the C-suite — also keep women out of top spots. Unconscious or implicit bias can affect decisions about who moves into leadership roles.

Another factor: Balancing work and family responsibilities also presents challenges for women seeking leadership positions. Although gender roles are starting to shift, women are more likely than men to work irregularly, part-time or spend time out of the workforce because of caregiving responsibilities. What’s more, because women tend to earn

less than men, they are more likely to be the one to cut back on work to stay home with children.

Having more women in leadership is essential from the standpoint of basic fairness but also because doing so is [good for business](#): Diversity in leadership benefits a company’s [bottom line](#).

Recruiting women into leadership roles will take a conscious effort on the part of employers to train and mentor promising employees and to set measurable goals to ensure their advancement. Diversity training can help reduce unconscious biases and family-friendly policies can make it easier for employees, regardless of gender, to blend their work and home responsibilities. Federal laws such as the Paycheck Fairness Act and the Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act will also help women advance.

“Women are leaders everywhere you look from CEO to the housewife that holds together a home. Our Country was built by women who stand alone,” said Sheryl Sandberg, American Business Executive and Philanthropist. Let’s move to a future where women leaders no longer have to stand alone.

Membership Co -Vice-Presidents From Barbara Maring and Ruth Bradburn

Communicating with you, our Elgin area AAUW branch members is key to the viability and growth of our local organization. Some of our members are having difficulty receiving emails from our branch. The membership team: Barbara Evans, Mary Ellen Barbezat, Sharon LeCount, Jane Watson, Rita Shaw, Loni Mecum have contacted those members and sent, via email or via snail mail, the yearbook, newsletters, and Holiday invitation as needed. We hope that we have covered this issue. In the meantime a new system is being implemented. We will keep you posted. Please let us know via email, text or phone if there is someone we missed.

Soon branch emails will be sent from AAUWElginILBranch@gmail.com.

The Gail Borden Public Library has Device Advice available:
 Main Library: 2nd Thursday of every month from 9:30-11:30
 Rakow Branch: 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month 9:30-11:30
 South Elgin Branch: 4th Thursday each month 10:00-12:00
 Also you can call Philip Schneider at 847-608-5226.

Following are some General Tips

- Enter Elgin Area AAUW into your contacts. Include the new email address:

AAUWElginILBranch@gmail.com

Try not to let the battery on your device go lower than 20%

Once charged, unplug to save electricity and battery
 Check JUNK or SPAM regularly

When you are ready to scream, SHUT THE DEVICE DOWN! Take a deep breath and turn it back on

Our Elgin Area Branch has an informative and frequently updated website. Check it often. Invite friends and relatives to check it so they can join us for an interest group or branch meeting. We have a lot to offer young girls and women. Remember to include your daughters and granddaughters in AAUW activities and ultimately to become members.

Evening Book Group From Barbara Evans

Both our December and January meetings will be at 7 p.m. on Zoom, so if you're not one of the regulars and would like to join us, please let me know so that you'll get the Zoom link several days before we meet.

Our December 15th meeting is being held a week early. The book to be discussed is Fredrik Bachman's *Anxious People*, a character-driven story about the strangers who are at an open-apartment viewing when a failed bank robber bursts in and takes them hostage. "Wry, wise and often laugh-aloud funny, it's a wholly original story that delivers pure pleasure," wrote the *People* reviewer. Though Gail Borden has 20 copies of the book, it is also available in paperback.

Our January 26th meeting is being held on our usual 4th Wednesday of the month. But rather than discussing one book, we're discussing Ernest Hemingway's fiction. To that end, I, who will lead the discussion, prepared a list of choices. In addition to the novels, I provided links to 15 of his best short stories and am recommending that those who really want to get a feel for him as a writer should read eight of them. If you're not one of our group's regulars and would like to join us, email me (evanselgin@yahoo.com) to get a copy of the list.

It should be an interesting evening.

Diversity Committee (Women and Culture) From Jennifer Ford

There will be no **December** Women and Culture meeting. The date we had planned was so close to the Holiday Celebration, the schedule seemed too crowded. We look forward to joining everyone on the 4th.

The public art walk was so much fun. Amanda Harris, Cultural Arts Commissioner for the city of Elgin, led some of us on a tour of the murals, sculpture, and utility box covers throughout the downtown area. Entertaining and enlightening. More artwork throughout downtown is planned. We followed with a discussion, over food at Al's, of course.



A Save the Date event: We have been attending, via Zoom or livestreaming on LWVEA You Tube, the League of Women Voters 2nd Wednesday of the month programs when they coincide with AAUW's mission and values. The programs are scheduled for 7:00. In January, Human Trafficking Month, the program will focus on human trafficking along the I-90 corridor. A second program, in February, will discuss Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. Both of these programs are co-sponsored by the Long Red Line.

The Women On The Brink forum on Elgin's Children in Poverty: Awareness and Advocacy, gave us an urgent and staggering picture of the local child care needs. Most of the feedback after the forum included the need for another program, this time focusing on the effects of poverty on education. Another program will probably follow in late Spring.

We had a last minute change in Women and Culture programming, so we are still developing a **January 27** Zoom meeting, 1:00: "Buried alive! The Plight of the Invisible People of Afghanistan!" Featuring Ms. Fika Taillon. Details to follow.

The Spotlight on Jennifer Ford From Judi Tepe



If you know AAUW's Jennifer Ford, you may think of her as a rather soft spoken, gentle woman. To be sure, you would be correct, she is that, and so much more. Jennifer hit it out of the

park, so to speak, moderating the presentation, Children in Poverty: Awareness and Advocacy, held October 19 at the Gail Borden Library. The event was co-sponsored by Elgin's AAUW and Women on the Brink.

The evening was a learning experience made even better under the tutelage of Jennifer Ford. The panel of advocates she recruited from various Elgin Social Services agencies was inspiring and offered much to be proud of for Elgin citizens. Mayor Dave Kaptain gave an informative recap of the available services provided by the City of Elgin. The challenge, he reported, is getting this information out to those who need these services. The well-attended audience was saddened to learn that 18.21% of Elgin's children under the age of 5 live in poverty.

Kane County's Deb Dempsey provided valuable insight into the new Illinois Education for Homeless Children and the McKinney-Vento Acts. This legislation provides educational assistance to any student who does not have a fixed, adequate place to sleep at night. Families who have lost their housing, are staying in a shelter or sadly, on the street, qualify for this educational assistance.

Jennifer speared headed the formation of Women on the Brink, a social service volunteer organization. Where there is an immediate need, Women on the Brink steps in to offer assistance with child care when a mother needs to go to the doctor or to a job interview. Children often go to school with unclean clothes or coats. This is crushing for children and often results in bullying or teasing. Women on the Brink saw the need and stepped in to provide laundry vouchers for the moms. When it became known that women in crisis needed personal care items, Women on the Brink answered the call.

"We can't do everything, but we can do something" was Jennifer's heartfelt message to the attendees. AAUW is proud of Jennifer and congratulate her on the success of this informative program. When possible, please support the Women on the Brink mission.

Anne Marblestone From Marlene Daubert



On October 5, Anne Marblestone died at the age of 84. Anne was a 50-year member of AAUW Elgin Area branch, a past branch president and she continued to be an active and engaged member of AAUW until the end of her life. She was known and loved by many in our branch and this was reciprocal. Anne also had a love for a good story through literature or the movies and cared about women having an opportunity to gain

higher education. We are saddened by her death and will miss her deeply.

Her family indicated that they would like memorial gifts sent to organizations that both Anne, and anyone wanting to make

a gift, cared about. We know AAUW was one of the many organizations that she cared about. If you would like to make a memorial gift in Anne's honor, either to the branch, or to our legacy scholarship, simply send a check to:

c/o Jean Bridges
AAUW
5853 Haverford Way
Hoffman Estates, IL 60192

Simply put your designation on the memo line. In this way, Anne's memory continues on as she touches the lives of more women and girls.

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 February-March issue is **January 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.