

# AAUW TIMES

**Elgin Area Branch  
1920-2022**



*Working for 102 years to promote equity for women and girls,  
life-long education and positive social change*

February 2022/March 2022

American Association of University Women

Vol. 26 No. 4

## AAUW's Mission Statement

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

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Email Address – [aauw.il.elgin@gmail.com](mailto:aauw.il.elgin@gmail.com)

## General Meetings

**“Pakistan Schools/Education and  
Opportunity for Women”  
Tuesday, February 15, 6:00 p.m., Zoom  
From Donna Bolz**

The program will be presented by guest Karen Noorani, founder of a non-profit school organization in Pakistan, which was created to provide a safe, reliable, and transparent means to serve women in education. The link will be sent by Judi Tepe to the branch.

**Gail Borden Public Library  
Meadows Community Room  
“Remember Where We Came From: A History  
of Contemporary Women 1960 – Present”  
Tuesday, March 8, 6:30 p.m.  
From Donna Bolz**

(Restrictions May Prevent Meeting in Person)

Celebrate Women's Day by honoring the accomplishments and progress women have made since 1960. Through the eyes of our Elgin communities, we will reflect on women's experiences, history, and culture, locally and abroad.

Through shared stories and presentations, we will honor where we came from and inspire the continued progress and success of women and girls.

## Calendar February

- Feb. 10 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 a.m. Zoom  
*Hamnet*, Maggie O'Farrell  
Leader: Rachel Campbell
- Feb. 14 **Great Books** 7:00 p.m.  
Gail Borden Public Library and Zoom  
Register at Library  
Short stories by John Updike
- Feb. 21 **Knitting Group** 1:00 p.m. Zoom
- Feb. 23 **Evening Book Group** 7:00 p.m. Zoom  
*Dirt: Adventures in Lyon as a Chef in Training,  
Father, and Sleuth Looking for the Secret of French  
Cooking*, Bill Buford  
Leader: Sharon Spates
- Feb. 24 **Women and Culture** 5:00 p.m. Zoom  
Lydia Gillis and her STEM savvy students

## March

- Mar. 7 **Board Meeting** 5:00 p.m. Zoom
- Mar. 10 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 a.m. Zoom  
*The Vanishing Half*, Brit Bennett  
Leader: Carol Blohm
- Mar. 14 **Great Books** 7:00 p.m.  
Gail Borden Public Library and Zoom  
Register at Library  
“Cherry Orchard” (Play) by Anton Chekhov

Mar. 21 **Knitting Group** 1:00 p.m.  
Hostess: Bonnie Hill

Mar. 23 **Evening Book Group** 7:00 p.m. TBA  
*Hidden Valley Road: Inside the Mind of an American Family*, Robert Kolker  
Leader: Jennifer Ford

## **Presidents' Report** From Marlene Daubert

Many of you know I love to watch movies. The movie group was one of the reasons I joined AAUW, 4 ½ years ago. I recently did a search on great movies on leadership and management via IMDb. A list of 43 movies came up. Only one, #41 (Miss Sloane), was the only one with a woman as leader. Why is that? Have we not had strong women leaders? Or perhaps the movie industry has not chosen to make movies of women leaders? Or perhaps those making the list had bias. I'm sure there is some truth in all of these reasons. Women have made a lot of progress, but we still have a long way to go!

One of the goals we have prioritized this year in our branch is Cultivating Leadership. We have a team working on this to help us continue to grow in this area. We have some wonderful and talented leaders in our branch who help us be the best branch we can be, providing inspiring programs, learning and growing in a multitude of ways, including awareness of our biases, keeping us informed of policy issues, and giving us the opportunity to be advocates as well as assume many other roles. It's important that our members continue to step up and take on these leadership roles.

We also celebrate that we have leaders who are active and making a difference in the Greater Elgin Area as well. For example, this past weekend was the Elgin MLK breakfast online. I was proud of our AAUW members who had a part: Linda Knight who spoke from her role as board chair of the YWCA; Sue Schulz and Rosemary Dyson who announced the MLK scholarship winners. We also have Gareth Mann, who is our Elgin Poet Laureate. The list goes on, but I hope you see the wide influence our members have in the larger community in these two examples.

In addition, leaders also help to pay it forward by providing support and encouragement to newer leaders. This can happen in a number of ways. One way is called mentoring forward, which is inviting newer leaders to walk alongside you, so they can learn and grow as you help to prepare them for a leadership role. This may mean inviting someone as co-chair or structuring our leadership a little differently to have a seasoned leader lead and a new leader join them, staggering years.

Another way we pay it forward is to provide scholarships to women working towards a degree. In February, you will be invited to donate towards our Legacy Scholarship. This is a very concrete way that we at AAUW can help support and encourage women through their education as they live into

their careers and become future contributors to our communities. Please consider making a generous donation.

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

I hope you are managing to keep warm and staying healthy.

Our film for the February meeting will be "Unforgivable," starring Sandra Bullock. It is a 2021 release and can be viewed on Netflix. This is a story about Ruth Slater (Bullock), who is released from prison after committing a violent crime. She attempts to re-enter the community, but society refuses to forgive her past.

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, February 2nd at 4:30 for the next Zoom get together. Instead of one person leading the discussion, we are asking each member to bring a question or item you would like the group to discuss. Please join us on February 2nd. I will send a reminder a few days before our meeting and will include the link. Hope to see everyone.

## **Women and Culture** Thursday, February 24, 5:00 p.m., Zoom Facilitator: Jennifer Ford

So much of what Women and Culture is about focuses on the inspirational stories of women. On Thursday, February 24 at 5:00, we will feature Lydia Gillis and her STEM savvy students, who will highlight some well and lesser known STEM-focused women of color and their contributions to society. They are inventors, scientists, engineers, but most importantly, women. These hidden heroines inspire us all. A Zoom link will be sent at a later date.

There are no definite plans, at this time, for a separate March program.

## **Climate Change Solutions** From Sandra Kaptain

Since the Elgin passage of the Resolution of the Climate Emergency status, along with the IPCC declaring it is Code Red for the climate, some of the members of Elgin Green Groups, Sierra Club VOF, and the new group, EA CAN or Elgin Area Climate Action NOW, have been busy. We have heard programs on community solar, green aggregation (municipal renewable electrical aggregation—hopefully, in May-June of this year) and nearby places to get sustainability products like Terra Vitae of Woodstock.

The City of Elgin, based on recommendations from the Sustainability Commission, now has a Sustainability Coordinator, Mikala Larsen. They are working on an Elgin

adaptation of the Metropolitan Mayors' Caucus Climate Action Plan adopted for the metro area.

## Public Policy Report From Shirley May Byrnes

But, as Greta Thunberg, Swedish teen activist says, “No one is too small to make a difference.” We need governmental action, but that is usually driven by grass roots activism, so we can't just wait for others to do what we all can do!

With the passage of CEJA, the Illinois Clean Energy Jobs Act, this September, we can all benefit from going greener—get a phev car (hybrid electric) and a solar PV roof or sign onto Community Solar and let the companies invest for you! Less meat, more greens and beans! We can all do our part. Wild Ones is promoting Start in Your Yard—the program that promotes planting more natives in your yard—which sustains the birds, bees, and insects that are all a part of the cycle of life.

Unfortunately, all the hybrids and “resistant” plants don't help the cycle of life. They might make us happier for a summer, but if the bugs, birds, and bees can't live, we can't either! Check out [StartInYourYard.org](http://StartInYourYard.org) and be part of the solution to climate change!

Use your voice as Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, a climate scientist and speaker, says and tell others! We can all do this! Let's Go Greener!

Sandy Kaptain, Sierra Club VOF, Elgin Green Groups350.org



Greta Thunberg says, “No one is too small to make a difference.”



Dr. Katharine Hayhoe: Climate scientist

### Illinois General Assembly Spring Session: Bills Introduced

The Spring 2022 Illinois General Assembly is underway, albeit in a shortened format with numerous days cancelled due to COVID concerns, although committees continue to meet remotely and bills are being introduced. Those we oppose include the ones that seek to limit property taxes; those we support include those advocating for more accessible high-speed broadband, which dovetails with one of our legislative priorities: broadband for Illinois public libraries. Just yesterday, two bills were introduced in the Illinois House and Senate to advance our other legislative priority: equitable, “reasonable” access to electronic literature for libraries. **SB 3167** and **HB 4470**, both titled the “Equitable Access to Electronic Literature Act,” have been introduced for this purpose. Illinois Library Association (ILA) e-newsletter, 1/13/22

**LWV Wheaton Programs:** Although the two programs mentioned have already happened, there will be additional programs in the coming months. The January 13th LWV Wheaton Zoom program on “Critical Race Theory: What it is and What it Isn't” with local historian and Eastern Illinois University professor Bonnie Laughlin-Schultz is part of the **Civic Awareness Series** cosponsored with Robert McCormick House at Cantigny Park. LWV Wheaton is beginning a regular **Local Civil Engagement Series** on the third Thursday of the month. The first program will be “**Know the Difference Between Critical Race Theory and Culturally Responsive Teaching**” on **January 20th**.

The first program on “Know the Difference Between Critical Race Theory and Culturally Responsive Teaching” will begin at 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 20th, on Zoom. It's a follow-up to the January 13th Civic Awareness program. In this program, a panel of local educators will discuss why culturally responsive teaching is important, how it applies to the classroom, and the confusion regarding Culturally Responsive Teaching and Critical Race Theory. Learn more and register for these programs at [my.lwv.org/illinois/wheaton](http://my.lwv.org/illinois/wheaton). Submitted by LWV, shared by Carol Grom, LWVEA.

**Youth Health and Safety Act:** On 12/17/21, Governor Pritzker signed into law the Youth Health and Safety Act, which repeals the harmful Parental Notice of Abortion law and provides needed resources for pregnant and parenting youth.

### AAUW Scholarships 2022-2023 From Carol Wieg

AAUW Members: Please remember that our branch will be giving out at least TWO scholarships in the spring of 2022 to deserving women who are pursuing their college education—one Betty Medearis Memorial Scholarship and one or more Legacy Scholarships. The application form for both of these scholarships is on our local AAUW Internet site as well as at

Gail Borden Library and local colleges. Please think of a worthy woman who is pursuing her college degree and who could use such a scholarship and urge her to apply.

Remember that the applicant must be at least 19 years of age by April 1, 2022, and she needs to have already completed 12 hours of higher education with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5. If you have questions, please contact either Carol Wieg at [wieglet@aol.com](mailto:wieglet@aol.com)/847-414-7123 or Vivienne Bailey at 224-402-5193/[pioneer2627@outlook.com](mailto:pioneer2627@outlook.com).

Thank you!!!!

## Membership

From Ruth Bradburn and Barbara Maring

The calendar year began with a variety of virtual programming for both the branch and the many interest groups. Please keep these events (Zoom or others) in mind as you review your list of friends, relatives, neighbors, and acquaintances. Send links to people you think might be interested in a program you will attend or even in one you decide to skip.

Please send names and contact information of member prospects to Barbara Maring and/or to Ruth Bradburn. This way, we can welcome prospects at meetings and follow up. Branch member prospects may attend several events to help them make the decision to join AAUW.

Shape the Future is the perfect time to invite participants to join to receive 50% off the national dues of \$62. Through Shape the Future, national dues are \$31, of which \$31 is tax deductible. The state dues are \$10 and our branch dues are \$13, which is a total of \$54 (\$31 +10 +13 = \$54).

A major life change is a time people make joining decisions. Some such changes are retirement, an employment change, a residential move, loss of a spouse or significant other, divorce, marriage, or becoming an empty nester. Thank you for helping grow our branch.

## Member Contact Updates

### New Email

Mary Heggen  
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### Phone Number

Florence Ostdick  
471-8386 (Cell)  
(Use cell phone only; landline no longer in use)

## New Newsletter Schedule

Following is the new schedule for the 2022– 23 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 five times a year by the Elgin Area Branch of the American Association of University Women.

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