

# 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*

June/July/August 2022

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.

Website – [elginarea-il.aauw.net](http://elginarea-il.aauw.net)

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

## Calendar

### June

- June 9 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 a.m.  
Gail Borden Library, The Grove Room  
*Florence Adler Swims Forever*, Rachel Beanland  
Leader: Sharon LeCount
- June 13 **Great Books** 7:00 p.m.  
Gail Borden Public Library and Zoom  
Register at Library  
“The Devil Baby at Hull House,” Jane Addams
- June 20 **Knitting Group** 1:00 p.m.  
Hostess: Anne Marblestone  
\*Note: No meetings in July and August
- June 22 **Evening Book Group** 7:00 p.m. Zoom  
*Hamnet*, Maggie O’Farrell  
Leader: Sharon Sutton
- June 23 **Women & Culture** 1:00 p.m.  
Location: Jeanne Hebeisen’s home  
Theme: “*Extraordinary Women in Music*”  
Facilitator: Jennifer Ford

### July

- July 12 **Great Books** 7:00 p.m.  
Gail Borden Public Library and Zoom  
Register at Library  
“Much Ado About Nothing,” William Shakespeare
- July 14 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 a.m. TBA  
*The Third Daughter*, Talia Carner  
Leader: Joy Bang
- July 25 **Women & Culture** 1:00 p.m. TBA  
Madhu Krishnamurthy, Assistant City Editor and  
Diversity Editor, *Daily Herald*  
Facilitator: Jennifer Ford  
\*Note: Meeting is Monday instead of Thursday

- July 27 **Evening Book Group** 7:00 p.m. TBA  
*The Doctors Blackwell*, Janice Nimura  
Leader: Carol Blohm

### August

- Aug. 8 **Great Books** 7:00 p.m.  
Gail Borden Public Library and Zoom  
Register at Library  
“Notes of a Native Son,” James Baldwin
- Aug. 11 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 a.m. TBA  
*The Sympathizer*, Viet Thanh Nguyen  
Leader: Volunteer needed
- Aug. 24 **Evening Book Group** 7:00 p.m. TBA  
*Lady Bird Johnson: Hiding in Plain Sight*,  
Julia Sweig  
Leader: Mary Navin
- Aug. 25 **Women & Culture** 11:30 a.m. TBA  
Walk through Elgin/lunch at a local restaurant  
Guest: Jennifer Fukala, Executive Director,  
Downtown Neighborhood Association of Elgin  
Facilitator: Jennifer Ford

## Diversity Committee: Women and Culture From Jennifer Ford

June is traditionally our “Extraordinary Women” meeting.

This year we are focusing on “Extraordinary Women in Music,” Thursday, June 23, 1:00 at the home of Jeanne Hebeisen. Please submit the name of the woman you would like to honor to ensure that we do not duplicate, although the two names submitted so far, Holly Near and Leontyne Price, would indicate that there will be a wide variety. These are just brief 3-5 minute vignettes.

## President's Report From Marlene Daubert



Our time is nearing the end as your co-presidents. It is an opportune time to look back over the past year at our local branch. We used a hybrid approach to our meetings, some outside, some inside, and others online as we are learning to live with our new ongoing reality with Covid. Our program committee led some interesting programs, and, on a few occasions, we partnered with other organizations, like Women on the Brink, League of Women Voters, Gail Borden library and more! We were able to raise enough money to give away two scholarships to women pursuing educational goals – The Betty Medaris Scholarship and a Legacy Scholarship (Yay!). Our Garden Walk is back in full swing and will take place on June 25! We have much to celebrate.

Now our challenges. Our branch, as do many other branches, struggle filling leadership positions and maintaining and better yet, growing our membership. In response we had two teams that worked diligently on addressing these issues. Thanks to Barbara Manning, Ruth Bradburn, and their team who set out to make sure we were connecting with all our members in our new world of online communication as well as work on goals and take action to get the word out about AAUW and invite others who are also passionate about the work of creating an environment of equity for all, with a special focus on women and girls. Jennifer Ford led a team who looked at leadership and asked the question of how do we cultivate leadership in our branch? This team has some great strategies to help women feel confident stepping into new roles of leadership, including mentoring, offering coaching, and conversations about leadership. This work of membership and leadership brings updates to our strategic plan, which you will see later in the newsletter.

This month I was able to attend the AAUW IL Convention along with four others from our branch. I am always energized at these gatherings when I hear about the ongoing work of our national organization as well as hear from women leaders in their fields who have something to teach us. I learned that the French embassy held an event with only four special guests invited to a celebration with Gloria Blackwell, our CEO being one of the four. In 1920, scientist Marie Curie was doing research and needed a gram of radium, at a cost of over \$100,000. AAUW's predecessor—Association of Collegiate Alumnae—worked to raise this money, and in 1921, it was presented to the French scientist by President Harding. The French have not forgotten this gift and hence the invitation. How cool is that!

We can also celebrate that AAUW awarded over \$6,000,000 in grants and fellowships to women in 2021, a record! We heard from Julie Strauss, PhD, on "Social Media: How is it Transforming our Democracy?" This was really interesting and explains much of the polarization we see in the country as social media keeps feeding us what we want to hear because of their algorithms, and we find ourselves in an echo chamber rather than listening to each side of an issue. We heard from four women who work in areas of DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion), which are core principles of AAUW, the work they

I had the honor of representing our Branch at the AAUW-IL Convention, speaking about our Diversity: Women and Culture programs, what we do, why, what we have learned, and our future plans. It was an opportunity to share how enriching, enlightening, and how much fun we have had learning about other cultures. When asked about these programs increasing our membership, the answer is that by networking with so many organizations in town, we are able to support the mission and vision of AAUW to a broader audience. What we do together gives us strength as well as visibility in the community. Based on the audience response, I am sure other Branches will follow our lead.

AAUW will share a table with League of Women Voters of the Elgin Area and Women On the Brink at the Juneteenth city-wide event held at Festival Park on June 18 and 19. Watch for details about this brand new venture.

The July 25 Women and Culture will feature Madhu Krishnamurthy, Diversity Editor of the Herald News. She may share her own story or talk about diversity. Either way, it will be informative. Note the change in date. She was only available on Monday. Place TBA.

On August 25, 11:30, weather permitting, Jennifer Fukala, Director of Downtown Neighborhood Association, will lead us on a walking tour of downtown Elgin. What is new? What are some of these buildings? This will be followed by lunch at one of the newer restaurants. Let's experience first-hand what is happening in our center city. Details about the starting place will be announced.

A tease for September: Dan Maki talking about classical music and the culture of attending concerts.

do and how they approach this. And finally, our own Jennifer Ford presented on Women and Culture from our branch. (She did a wonderful job!)

As I (and Rosemary) pass on the torch (or gavel) from our presidency, I am encouraged by the work of our women and continue to be energized by the work of our national organization. I also know many of the rights of women that AAUW has fought for the past decades are being challenged. Title IX is being threatened. The ERA has not been ratified and continues to run into challenges. The rights of women to make health choices for their bodies is being threatened and much more. So, there is much more work still to be done, locally and on a broader level. I encourage each of you to find a way to be involved in the work of AAUW, making the world more equitable for women and girls.

## **2022 Strategic Plan**

**From Marlene Daubert and Rosemary Dyson**

Following is our updated **2022 Strategic Plan**. This past year, through the work of teams, we updated goals one and two with a few tweaks to the others. Changes are in italics. The membership team will have the primary responsibility for overseeing “Increasing and Retaining Membership,” with members highly encouraged to invite others into AAUW. New members, especially younger and diverse membership, provide us with fresh perspectives and opportunities to lead our branch into the future.

Cultivate leadership will come under the responsibility of your board members. The leadership team felt that many members do not like meetings, and it is recommended a team be created to explore ways to make the board leaner and more efficient. In addition, it implemented goals to help leaders have what they need through mentoring and coaching options.

Mentoring is done by current leaders. Coaches are trained members who come alongside a new leader to help them succeed at the work they have taken on. We will be offering a training for coaches. If anyone is interested in being a coach, see Marlene Daubert.

1. *Increase and retain membership*
  - a. *Look for opportunities to be visible in the community and host a welcome/information table*
  - b. *Recruit younger and diverse membership*
  - c. *Promote “Shape the Future Event”*
  - d. *Encourage branch members to participate in recruitment*
  - e. *Provide a befriender to each new member to help them engage in activities.*
2. *Cultivate leadership*
  - a. *Explore restructuring the board to make it leaner and more efficient (Develop team to explore)*
  - b. *Prepare leaders for the positions they are stepping into by...*
    - i. *Mentoring forward. (Identifying someone to raise as a leader that could work alongside a current leader to become more familiar with the*

- organization and take on some added or future responsibilities as a result.)*
- ii. *Mentoring backward. (As a new leader moves in, the leader moving on mentors the person that is stepping into the position.)*
- iii. *Coaching. (Train willing members to be coaches. Coaches meet with key leaders to coach in monthly or bimonthly 30-minute sessions.)*
- c. *Provide leadership training to our members through:*
  - i. *Leadership moments at board meetings (5–8 minute video clip/discussion), led on a rotating basis.*
  - ii. *Include one-two sessions of leadership training in next year’s programming.*

3. Increase visibility in the community
  - a. Publicize special programs and projects within the wider geographic area
  - b. Continue to sponsor STEM projects
  - c. Continue to sponsor Garden Walk
4. Enhance communications within the branch
  - a. Continue publishing newsletter with the following issues: *Feb/Mar, Apr/May, Jun - Aug, Sept/Oct, Nov - Jan*
  - b. Encourage members to access branch, state, and association sites on social media
5. Program events that raise awareness of AAUW’s values and vision
  - a. Promote educational and gender equity
  - b. Increase awareness of AAUW’s public policy program
  - c. *Continue funding contributions to our national organization*
  - d. *Communicate with local schools and other organizations to assess possible collaborations*
  - e. Use accessible meeting spaces
6. Encourage members to become informed voters
  - a. Encourage members to subscribe to email version of *Action Alert*
  - b. Inform members of national issues pertaining to women
  - c. Cooperate with the League of Women Voters and other organizations to present candidates and issues to the membership and public at large

## **Public Policy Report**

**Shirley May Byrnes**

**May 2022**

**Early Voting:** Early voting has started in IL. For the gubernatorial candidate forums, LWVIL has partnered with ABC7 to hold the forums. The Republican Forum will be recorded on June 2 and televised at a time to be determined. Forum coordinators are awaiting responses from Democrat gubernatorial candidates. LWVIL, May 2022, *News You Can Use*

### Local candidate forums:

May 31, Republican Illinois Representative District 66, 7:00, Dundee Township Park District's Rakow Adult Activities Center

June 2, Democratic Congressional Representative 8th District, 6:30, Gail Borden Public Library

June 7, Democratic Kane County Board District 17, 6:30, GBPL

Additional forums are being co-hosted with other Leagues around Kane County. Check our website for details. Any offices for which you do not see a forum scheduled usually means the candidates chose not to participate.

**Women's Health Protection Act (S1975):** The Senate voted on this bill again in May, and it failed to pass. The following is paraphrased from The Durbin Report, 5/16/22. As a result, women are forced to carry unwanted or unexpected or even dangerous pregnancies to term, but Senators are not willing to help women raise their children once they're born. If legislators really cared about babies, they would ensure that all women and families have quality, affordable maternal health care; ensure no child went hungry; ensure parents had paid leave to care for their newborns and other family members; ensure that every child received good, affordable child care; and extend the child tax credit that cut child poverty by 30 percent last year.

**Title 42 Policy:** U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) entry restriction policies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which include the Title 42 policy authorizing the rapid expulsion of undocumented adult migrants encountered at, or between, ports of entry. President Biden attempted to overturn this provision but a court ruled against that decision.

**Student Loan Debt:** "To provide immediate relief to borrowers, the Biden administration has extended the pause on federal student loan payments until August 31, 2022. However, we must also seek more long-term solutions to the student debt crisis. A college degree is an indispensable prerequisite for many careers, and no career path should require that American students and their families take on such crippling debt that it risks their long-term financial security. I will continue to push for legislation that addresses this crisis and supports Americans who pursue higher education." 5/11/22 letter from Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi

**Mental Health Authorities Validation (SB3215):** This IL bill amends the Community Care for Persons with Developmental Disabilities Act, the Counties Code, the Property Tax Code, and the Community Mental Health Act to validate existing levies for certain community mental health boards and brings the Acts in compliance with Property Tax Extension Law Limit (PTELL). Residents of Elgin Township passed authorization of a 708 Mental Health Board. It didn't include the PTELL so the Kane County Board didn't fund it. This bill would allow the funding without a PTELL. Signed by the Governor and effective 5/13/22/

## Membership From Ruth Bradburn and Barbara Maring Membership VP Co-Chairs

Please join us in welcoming the following new members.

Catherine (Cathy) Malm  
806 Oakley Ave., Elgin 60123  
224-558-7024  
[Busy806mom@hotmail.com](mailto:Busy806mom@hotmail.com)

Sally Medearis  
380 Washington Ave., Hampshire, IL 60140  
224-622-8933  
[smedearis@district100.com](mailto:smedearis@district100.com)

Many of you are supplying us with the names of prospects and keeping tabs on their interest in AAUW. Thank you for making our branch one large prospecting and welcoming committee.

For reminders of all we do, remember to check our branch website: [elginarea-il.aauw.net](http://elginarea-il.aauw.net). The National website ([aauw.org](http://aauw.org)) is a goldmine of information on the many AAUW initiatives, scholarships. AAUW is training millions of women to negotiate for higher salaries and benefits, supporting state and local fair-pay legislation, developing more women leaders, and funding research that is informing national conversations on the gender pay gap. Gender issues are particularly important at a time when many women hesitate to return to work outside the home. AAUW makes a positive difference in members' lives.

Did you know that AAUW members get great discounts and special services on insurance, hotels, travel, office supplies, email services and more? Visit [aauw.org](http://aauw.org).

The Elgin Area Branch of AAUW will continue to grow as we all make sure our friends, neighbors, daughters, and grand-daughters know about our vibrant organization.

## 2022 – 2023 Dues Renewal From Bonnie Hill

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, AAUW National will be sending a mass email reminder to pay dues. For the members who wish to pay **Online**, there will be instructions for their new Web update. For those members who wish to pay by check, please send your checks to me at the following address:

**11N962 Orchard Lane  
Elgin, IL 60124**

Dues – Members: \$90.00, Lifetime Members: \$23.00, 50-Year Members: free. Checks should be made out to AAUW Elgin Area Branch.

## Newsletter Schedule

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

## Newsletter Editors

Newsletter deadline for the September issue is **August 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 nine times a year by the Elgin Area Branch of the American Association of University Women.

Elgin Area Branch AAUW  
c/o Julie Jindra  
313 Gale Street  
Elgin, IL 60123