

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*

September 2022

American Association of University Women

Vol. 27 No. 1

AAUW's Mission Statement

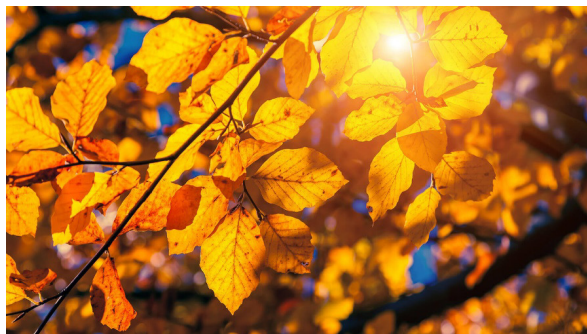
AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

Website – elginarea-il.aauw.net

Email Address – aauw.il.elgin@gmail.com

General Meeting

FALL FOR AAUW



Salad and Dessert Luncheon

Saturday, September 17th
12:00

St. Hugh of Lincoln Episcopal Church
36W957 Highland Ave. Elgin
(Southeast corner of Highland Ave. and Randall Rd.)

AAUW Elgin is excited to kick off our 2022-2023 season. Enjoy a lovely salad lunch, with dessert treats, and learn about the exciting programs planned for the upcoming year. No need to bring place setting, utensils or food. Illinois State Representative Anna Moeller will be our featured speaker. Wear a pin or broach with meaning for you. Please RSVP to Jane Watson, JLW0420@aol.com or Judi Tepe, juditepe@gmail.com.



Calendar

- Sept. 7 **Special Showing of Title IX Movie** 5:30 pm
Zion Lutheran Church, 330 Griswold Street, Elgin
See body of newsletter for details.
- Sept. 8 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 a.m.
Gail Borden Public Library
The Personal Librarian, Marie Benedict
- Sept. 12 **Great Books** 7 p.m.
Gail Borden Public Library and Zoom
Register at the library
“The Devil Baby at Hull House”, Jane Addams
- Sept 17 **General Meeting** Noon
St. Hugh of Lincoln Episcopal Church
- Sept. 22 **Diversity Group** 1 p.m.
Hostess: Patty Golden
Dan Maki will introducing us on how to attend and listen to a symphonic concert
- Sept. 28 **Evening Book Group** 7 p.m.
Hostess: Patty Golden
Cokie: A Life Well Lived, Steve Roberts

AAUW-IL Meeting

- Sept. 24 State Fall Leadership Development Conference
On Zoom
Watch your email for details.

Presidents' Reports

From Co-President Linda Youngren

September is approaching, and with it childhood memories of the anticipation and excitement of starting a new school year. We AAUW members are likewise looking forward with anticipation to a new year of informative programs, pleasurable social events, and work toward our goals of gender equity and empowerment.

We invite you all to join us at our kick-off meeting Saturday, September 17, at noon at St. Hugh Church in Elgin where Board members will provide a salad and dessert luncheon. September also begins the fall election cycle, and we are fortunate to have our own State Representative Anna Moeller speak to us that day regarding important issues facing the electorate in November. We follow that event with participation in the League of Women Voters' National Voter Registration Day at Gail Borden Library on September 20, 5:00 – 7:00 pm.

The rest of the year unfolds with programs on women in leadership, a Title IX update, and information on the recent trend toward book banning. Another luncheon, a banquet, and even a birthday party and program honoring Susan B. Anthony are planned.

We thank our Program, Social, Membership and Budget Committees that have been at work this summer to plan the new year.

Hope to see you at our September meeting!

Our AAUW Elgin Area Branch Earns Four Stars!!

From Co-President Brooke Transue

Linda and I are pleased to welcome you back for a new AAUW year with great programs and interesting activities supporting our mission. We appreciate all your help in planning and implementing the work ahead.

First, exciting news...our branch has been awarded the Four Star Award from AAUW National. Congratulations are in order, along with special thanks to Marlene Daubert and Rosemary Dyson who guided our branch last year to this achievement of four-star status. We are delighted to have this national distinction. Please see the message below received from the AAUW Five Star Program.

“Congratulations! We're pleased to share that your branch IL4026-Elgin Area is now a 4 star branch. IL4026-Elgin Area has earned a star for each of these Focus Areas of the Five Star National Recognition Program: Programs Advancement Communications and External Relations Governance and Sustainability In addition to this notification, your branch will be recognized in Membership Matters and on the AAUW National Website. Thank you for your participation and all you do on behalf of women and girls. We look forward to your

continued Five Star success. Five Star National Recognition Program Advancement & Partnerships AAUW 1310 L Street NW, Washington, DC 20005-4113.”

Second, I recently attended a statewide meeting for branch presidents and co-presidents. We discussed program development and how to find grants and other resources for speakers. In addition, we discussed fund-raising and new procedures for handling of member dues. We will have new information on the state newsletter and web access for our members.

Please mark your calendars for the year's activities and the upcoming branch meeting on Saturday, September 17 - our luncheon - with IL legislator Anna Moeller as our distinguished speaker. See you there,



Special Showing of Title IX Movie

From Peggie Caughlin

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of Title IX by joining us for a screening of the film, *Rise of the Wahine: Champions of Title IX*. Join our AAUW Current Movie Group

Wednesday, September 7, at 5:30 pm
Zion Lutheran Church
330 Griswold Street, Elgin

This is an uplifting documentary experience, the inspiring film of the battle for Title IX and the Hawaiian volleyball team's fight for equality. Their fight changed the landscape of female athletic and educational opportunities in a way that affects the lives of every girl and young woman in our country today.

“I think the film was amazing! I learned about Title IX. I learned how it impacted women greatly and is a substantial moment in history.” a quote from a 7th grader, La Pietra-Hawaii School for Girls.

“Sports, social history, and politics form a winning team in this informative and uplifting documentary....” Richard Kuipers, VARIETY

You are welcome to bring something to eat if you wish.

Hope to see you. Our friends from the League of Women Voters have also been invited. If you have questions contact me.

Membership

From Barbara Maring

As we begin the 2022-23 year we celebrate our new members. We cherish the memories of members who have passed on. Some long-time members moved out of the area to be with family. Those former members will be listed in the yearbook as "Friends of Elgin AAUW." This will give us the opportunity to keep in touch with AAUW contacts. When you know of a member who is ill, lost a family member, etc., please notify Julie Jindra at juliejindra3@gmail.com or 847-308-3664. Julie will send a card.

Based on the assumption that the members of our committee are not the only ones who like to send/receive birthday cards, we would like to know the month (and if you choose, the day) of your birthday so that we can note it in the newsletter. If you wish to be included, please send your information to evanselgin@yahoo.com.

Between newsletters keep up on branch happenings by checking the website. It has a wealth of information. Above all, encourage prospective members you know to visit our website. Prospective members are urged to attend branch and interest group meetings. The website address is: elginarea-il.AAUW.net.

Remember to send contact information for prospective members to us so we can follow up.

Barbara Maring, bmaring@keystone.com or 847-602-0246
Ruth Bradburn, ruthmbradburn@aol.com or 847-744-0997
Membership co-vice presidents

New Members

From Barbara Evans

SALLY (MEYER) MEDEARIS was born in Los Angeles and adopted into the loving teacher and preacher family of Matt and Barbara Meyer. She moved with her family to Elgin, IL in 1969, at the age of 3. She married Matthew, the youngest son of Betty and Charles Medearis, and their family moved out west of Route 47 when their 3 children were young.



Throughout the years of work with the public in the food and beverage industry, music was always a part of her life; through church, bands, karaoke. But her lifelong desire to be a teacher did not become reality until December 2010

due, in large, to the support of the Betty and Charles Medearis scholarship program. Judson University gave her the Bachelor's degree she earned in Music Education K-12 that has allowed her to teach in Belvidere for about ten years (so far). She is currently working towards a Certified Lay Minister degree through the United Methodist Church (Genoa Faith). In her home, she loves God, her husband, their children and

grandchildren, as well as gardening and creating art and music.

CATHY MALM received her BA in Home Economics from Marycrest College in Davenport, IA, but the school closed its doors in June 2002. She worked in the food service industry, managing restaurants for various companies (including the English Room at the State Street Marshall Field store). She worked at the Elgin YMCA as a fitness instructor, secretary and Administrative Assistant to the president and retired in



With her son's groomsmen at wedding

2019 after 37 years. She has been to all 50 states and has enjoyed European river cruises during her retirement. She completed her first year of French at ECC in May 2022 and dabbles in watercolor and learning the piano. She enjoys sewing (especially making Halloween costumes for her five grandchildren), knitting, reading, cooking and baking. And in case you're wondering, she is not related to Elgin's former City Manager Bob Malm.



With granddaughter

Women and Culture

From Jennifer Ford

What did you miss? In June, we learned about women in music, from Renee Fleming to Jennifer Hudson to a spontaneous sing-along of Holly Near's "Singing For Our Lives".



Daily Herald Diversity Editor Madhu Krishnamurthy (seen above with Jennifer Ford) related her family's immigration from India through several countries before she settled on the USA and recently became a citizen. Being a female journalist had its challenges, but she overcame them to now be in a profession she loves. She would like to be kept abreast of the activities of our W&C.

In September, Dan Maki, music professor, will explore with us the best ways to attend and enjoy a concert. This will be enhanced by being held at the home of Patty Golden (and her piano). See you on Thursday, September 22, 1pm.

Diversity Committee

From Jennifer Ford

The Diversity Committee was created in 2014 in response to the obvious need to expand our knowledge about other



cultures, religions, races, ethnicities. In 2019, AAUW declared DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) as a primary mission of the organization. We were ahead of the game.

We have heard stories of MMIW (Missing and

Murdered Indigenous Women), Russian women, Muslim women, women of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Ukraine, Women of Color among our own members, STEM women of science,

and so many more. We have been enriched by the stories of these women.

Every June, we honor Extraordinary Women. Our goal is to continue this tradition.

We usually meet the fourth Thursday of the month, 1pm, at members' homes. We have taken walks downtown to appreciate the public art, eaten at restaurants, or gone wherever our interests or our speakers took us.

We are thrilled to say that many of the ideas that were proposed at our planning meeting this year were so exciting, that the Program Committee adopted them as programs for all of our Branch members: Title IX 50 year anniversary and updates, Elgin Children in Poverty, celebrating the birthday of Susan B. Anthony, International Women's Day, the movement to ban books and subjects in schools and libraries.

We encourage everyone to attend these general meetings, so we have not counter-programmed, not wanting to take away attendance from the larger group.

The programs that we still have planned are: September 22: Dan Maki introducing us to how to attend and listen to a symphonic concert - home of Patty Golden, 1 pm June 22; Extraordinary Women of Science - place TBD, 1 pm.

(If an idea emerges that we are excited about, we will add additional programs.)

From Self-proclaimed "Greeniac"

Sandy Kaptain

With climate "weirding", droughts, fires and flooding, in the news almost every day, the 'green' organizations like Sierra Club, and recent legislation like Illinois ground-breaking legislation: CEJA (Clean Energy Jobs Act), and now Pres. Biden's Inflation Reduction Act aim at multiple subsidies, and incentives for all of us to get on renewable energy. (The biggest renewable energy legislation ever in the U.S.)

The first step, and easiest, is to green our electricity thru wind and solar. We also have to green our heating and transportation.

But to start, the City of Elgin has made it easier, and even adds more 'payback'—up to 20% of your electricity supply (the top half of your electric bill!) is returned to you when you sign up for community solar.

We all can do it to reduce GHG (greenhouse gases like CO2 that come from fossil fuels). No roof, no contract, no extra fees! Check it out and get signed up for your own solar energy! GO SOLAR with Community Solar--just call 311 or go to: Newly launched: community solar program! Learn more at cityofelgin.org/communitysolar.

You will be on the list for the next available community solar contract. No fees, no roof, just your electric bill so they know how much you need!

The Climate Clock is ticking, and every step counts!



National Voter Registration Day Fair September 20 5 - 8 pm GAIL BORDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Event cosponsored by League of Women Voters of the Elgin Area, Elgin Area Branch American Association of University Women, Gail Borden Public Library, Women On The Brink, YWCA

Information tables, social service agencies, demonstration of voting machine, music, videos, Suffragette, Q&A about local voting, drawings, VOTE rock hunts. Open to the public. Everyone come!!!

Bridge From Jeanne Hebeisen

Both members and friends are eligible to participate in the AAUW Bridge program. To find out about existing groups, contact Shirley May Byrnes, fantasy.reader@hotmail.com or Jeanne Hebeisen, jeanne@mc.net.

Newsletter Schedule

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

Newsletter Editors From Jeanne Hebeisen

I guess the heading for this message should be “Newsletter Editor.” That’s right – our branch currently has just one editor – me. Ina Whitehouse moved away and is no longer a member of our branch. It’s really a fun job. You have all that power to shape our newsletter. No boss breathing down on you!

I think we all agree that having a newsletter is important for our branch. The thing is, without editors there is no newsletter. If you would like to be one of our two missing editors, I promise to be there holding your hand from day one – and for as long as you feel you need my help! Each editor is **only** responsible for 3 newsletters each year, with editors setting up the schedule.

Newsletter deadline for the October/November issue is September 20. Please submit all items as a **Word** document to your lonely single editor.

Jeanne Hebeisen - jeanne@mc.net

Website

From Marcia Cameron and Nancy Lamia

Did you know that our Elgin branch has a website? Take a look and keep up to date on what is happening in our branch. The address is: elginarea-il.aauw.net. Or just Google Elgin AAUW and it should pop right up. Anyone can send us information for the website anytime. Please send to: mec515@sbcglobal.net and nancylamia@gmail.com.

After many years of editing the branch website, we are looking for someone new to take over. Interested? Let us know, and we are happy to give you all the details and help with a smooth transition.

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 and AAUW Times

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

AAUW Times is published six times a year by the Elgin Area Branch of the American Association of University Women.

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