

AAUW TIMES

Elgin Area Branch

1920-2023

February - March 2023

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



WOMEN
STEP↑PING

SUSAN B. ANTHONY BIRTHDAY PARTY

Saturday, February 18, 1-3:00 p.m.

Elgin History Museum, 360 Park Street

In her program **By Necessity, By Choice**, Annette Baldwin will present a visual journey of the early story of women in the workplace with Susan B. Anthony as an advocate. Plan to come early for a good seat as this event has also been promoted to members of the Elgin Area League of Women Voters as well as to those in the Elgin Area Historical Society.

Other February Meetings

- Feb. 1 **Current Movie Discussion Group** 4:30 p.m.
West Dundee's Olive Garden
A Man Called Otto
- Feb. 9 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 a.m.
Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin
Gifts of the Crow J. Marzluff & T. Angell
- Feb. 13 **Great Books** 7:00 p.m.
Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin
Lady Windermere's Fan Oscar Wilde
- Feb. 22 **Evening Book Group** 7:00 p.m.
Hostess: Sharon LeCount
The Lincoln Highway: A Novel Amor Towles

Sunday, March 5, 1-3:30 p.m.

Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin

For our International Women's Day program, a panel of young Elgin leaders—Amanda Garcia, Ket Herena, Jennifer Fukala, Shirley Bassett, Dianha Ortega-Ehruth and Jamila Okoe—will answer questions from State Representative Anna Moeller about their leadership experiences. Musical entertainment will be provided by the a cappella group Nothing But Treble. Refreshments will be served. Please register for this event at attend.gailborden.info/events.

Other March Meetings

- Mar. 1 **Current Movie Discussion Group** 4:30 p.m.
West Dundee's Olive Garden
Movie TBA
- Mar. 9 **Morning Book Group** 9:30 a.m.
Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin
The Narrowboat Summer Anne Youngson
- Mar. 13 **Branch Board Meeting** 6:30 p.m. Zoom
- Mar. 13 **Great Books** 7:00 p.m.
Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin
"The Daughters of the Late Colonel" K. Mansfield
- Mar. 22 **Evening Book Group** 7:00 p.m.
Hostess: Rachel Campbell
All That She Carried Tyra Miles

Save the Date

May 5-6 is AAUW-IL's 98th State Convention. As was last year's, it will be held in East Peoria. Detailed information about it will be in the next newsletter.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

from Rachel Campbell

The seeds for an IWD began in New Zealand with the universal suffrage movement. The "earliest version" seems to have been organized by the Socialist Party of America in NYC on Feb, 28, 1909. The next year German delegates proposed a special day to be organized annually; the following year demonstrations and commemorations were held throughout Europe.

In Russia, however, it wasn't until after women gained suffrage at the beginning of the revolution that they chose a day in February for the recognition of women. Though that was in 1917, it was decided that in the future, March 8 would be designated a national holiday to honor women. The socialist movement and other communist countries then chose to do the same.

In 1977 the U.N. adopted IWD as a mainstream global holiday; March 8 was designated as the celebration date.

The purpose of International Women's Day is to

- Celebrate women's achievements,
- Raise awareness against bias, and
- Take action for equity.

Its mission is to

- Build workplaces where women thrive,
- Elevate visibility of creative women,
- Improve equity for women in technology,
- Forge women's empowerment world wide,
- Celebrate the women forging change, and
- Empower women's choices of health care.

NOTE: In January of 2017, women from all seven continents marched in solidarity with their American sisters who, in the largest single-day protest in U.S. history, "gathered across the nation to protest newly inaugurated President Trump's policy positions and rhetoric, which they called misogynistic or otherwise threatening to the rights of women." Worldwide participation was estimated at over 7 million.



from Barbara Evans

"In 1981 Congress established National Women's History Week to be commemorated annually the second week of March. . . **In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month and every year since has passed a resolution designating March as Women's History Month.**"

The theme of this year's observance—Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope—is both "a tribute to the ceaseless work of caregivers and frontline workers during the ongoing pandemic and also a recognition of the many ways that women have provided healing and hope throughout history."

After perusing online lists, I decided to focus on noteworthy women in the medical and health-related fields. Listed below are 13 who merit our attention.

•After surmounting the numerous obstacles that the male medical profession put in her way, in 1849 **Elizabeth Blackwell** (1821-1910) became the first American woman to be awarded a medical degree. Subsequently, in 1857 she co-founded the New York Infirmary for Indigent Women and Children; in 1867 she founded a women's medical college in New York City.

•In 1864 **Rebecca Lee Crumpler** (1831-1895) became the first Black woman to earn a medical degree in the U.S. After the Civil War, she cared for freed slaves and was one of the first Black physicians to publish a medical text.

•**Mary Edwards Walker** (1832-1919), an Army surgeon in the Civil War who was captured and imprisoned, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for her service and to this day is the only woman who has received one. But she also advocated for dress reform, declaring that "corsets are coffins which encumber healthful movement." Practicing what she preached, she first wore a shortened dress with pants. When she substituted a blouse for the dress, she was arrested.

•**Mary Putnam Jacobi**, MD (1842-1906) was a passionate advocate for co-education for medical students. Important, too, was her rebuttal of a Harvard professor's contention that exertion (even studying) during menstruation was dangerous. "Brimming with detailed facts, charts and numbers," Jacobi's paper "proved the stability of women's strength throughout their cycle."

continued

•Considered the founder of the profession of home economics, **Ellen Swallow Richards** (1842-1911) worked for better nutrition and set up balanced meals at the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago.

•Graduating at the top of her class from the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1889, **Susan LeFlesche Picotte** (1865-1915) was the first Native American to earn a medical degree, after which she returned to her Omaha reservation to serve as resident physician for its more than 1,300 people. Fighting to control outbreaks of smallpox, diphtheria and influenza, however, took its toll, and three years later she resigned to regain her health. Though she subsequently went into private practice, in 1913 she achieved her lifelong dream of opening a hospital on the Omaha reservation.

•**Mary Engle Pennington** (1872-1952), a renowned bacteriologist, was hired in 1908 to implement the 1906 Pure Food and Drug Act. She spent more than 40 years educating the government and general public in the techniques and importance of the proper handling of perishable food.

•A medical researcher and physicist, **Edith Quimby** (1891-1982) was one of the founders of nuclear medicine. Her work involved developing diagnostic and therapeutic applications of X-rays as well as establishing techniques for treating tumors with radiation. At a time when female scientists were few, "she had the wide-spread admiration of her colleagues."

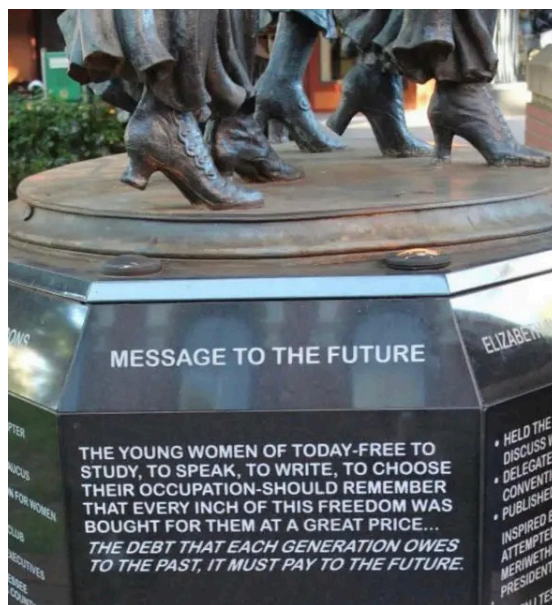
•In 1937 **Florence Seibert** (1897-1991) isolated the protein molecule which led to the development of the first reliable tuberculosis test. She also pioneered safe intravenous therapy.

•Born to Mohegan parents, **Gladys Tantaquidgeon** (1899-2005, yes, 2005) trained with Mohegan knowledge keepers and "published significant works on the use of local natural resources to create traditional herbal medicines." To learn of her many other accomplishments, see www.mohegan.nsn.us/about/our-tribal-history/in-memoriam/gladys-tantaquidgeon

•Anesthesiologist **Virginia Apgar** (1909-1974) studied the effects of anesthesia, labor and delivery on a newborn's health. In 1953 she developed the Apgar Score, a science-based checklist that is still used to quickly assess a newborn's health and identify babies in need of special life-saving treatment.

•In her first book *On Death and Dying*, published in 1969, Swiss-born American psychiatrist **Elizabeth Kübler-Ross** (1926-2004) "pioneered the concept of providing psychological counseling to the dying." Her book became a standard text for those working with the terminally ill.

•In 1973, **Florence Wald** (1916-2008), a former dean of the Yale School of Nursing, spearheaded the efforts to establish hospice care.



AMERICAN WOMAN QUARTERS SERIES from The National Women's History Museum



The first coin in the United States Mint's American Woman Quarters 2023 series soared into circulation January 3rd. In 1921 Bessie Coleman soared across the sky as the first African American and the first Native American woman pilot. Known for performing flying tricks, her goal was to encourage women and African Americans to reach for their dreams. Learn her story, and look for the new Bessie Coleman quarter in your change. www.womenshistory.org/.../biographies/bessie-coleman

NOTE: From 2022 through 2025, each year the U.S. Mint is honoring five American women. Also to be on 2023 quarters are Jovita Idár, Edith Kanaka'ole, Eleanor Roosevelt and Maria Tallchief. Those so honored in 2022 were Maya Angelou, Sally Ride, Wilma Mankiller, Anna May Wong and Adelina Otero-Warren.

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

from Linda Youngren

We ended 2022 with a beautiful luncheon at Elgin Country Club highlighted by Patty Harkin's moving tribute to Jeanne Hebeisen only to learn a few days later of the loss of Marge Fox, another long-time powerhouse AAUW member.

We are happy to report, however, that approximately \$2,000 has been contributed to a memorial scholarship for Jeanne, enabling us to give four \$1,000 scholarships this year: two in Jeanne's name, one in honor of Betty Medearis and one Legacy scholarship. You may choose to honor Marge Fox's memory as her family requested: with a donation to the Elgin Public Museum at 225 Grand Blvd., Elgin, 60120.

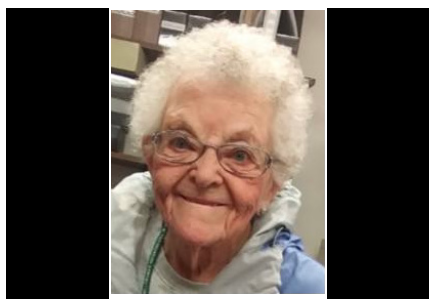
Now turning to 2023, we have wonderful programs lined up. First, thank you to Patty Harkin for hosting the January 21 panel on Title IX, now in its 51st year. In February we look forward to our Susan B. Anthony birthday party featuring Annette Baldwin, and on March 5 we celebrate International Women's Day via Women Stepping Up.

Our April program on banned books has been postponed. In its place, we'll be treated to "Violins of Hope" on April 24th at 7:00 p.m. Details will be in the April-May newsletter. But the opportunity to see violins saved from the Holocaust and learn about their stories from a man who collected/restored them will undoubtedly be popular. Thus we'd encourage you to register for this program sooner rather than later at attend.gailborden.info/events.

Agent of Change nominations for AAUW-IL will soon open, so be thinking of branch members who have made commitments to bring about a positive societal change.

We remain thankful for the many AAUW members who work to make the Elgin branch a wonderful organization. The Nominating Committee is beginning its work to fill positions for next year, so please accept when called upon.

—Brooke and Linda



Marge Fox
1932 - 2022



from Jennifer Ford

Because of our branch members' generous contributions, WOTB was able to give each of the 20 residents of the Gretchen Vapnar Community Crisis Center gift cards valued at \$100! As I said at our holiday luncheon, while this helps them financially, more importantly it conveys the message that other women see their plight and support them. So on behalf of these women and WOTB, **THANK YOU.**

AAUW SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

from Carol Wieg

Now that the holidays are over and spring should be coming soon, it is time to publicize our branch's 2023-2024 AAUW Scholarships. Applicants must be 19 years old by April 1, identify as female, live within a 50-mile radius of Elgin, be actively pursuing an undergraduate degree and have completed at least 12 semester hours with a minimum of 2.5 gpa. If you know of anyone who meets this criteria, please encourage her to apply. Applications can be found at <http://elginarea-il.aauw.net>, GBPL, ECC, Judson University or from Vivienne Bailey or Carol Wieg and must be submitted by April 3.

In addition, our Scholarship Committee would love to have some additional members. All that our committee entails follows: 1. Encouraging young women in the area to apply for a scholarship, 2. Reading the applications, 3. Meeting as a committee to pick the recipients and 4. Informing all applicants of the results. Since this committee's decisions affect a significant portion of our branch's budget, it is important that we have a diverse group of members who are willing to serve on it. Please consider this opportunity and volunteer.

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

from Barbara Evans

Yes, our branch now has two as Patty Harkin has agreed to join me. Thus all submissions should be emailed to her as well as to me.

It has been our website editors' policy to omit members' personal email addresses when posting our newsletters. To eliminate this task from their job, **from now on you will need to go to our yearbook for email addresses.** Also omitted on website editions are members' birthdays.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE from Ruth Bradburn & Barbara Maring

This is the perfect time to invite guests to our upcoming AAUW annual meetings, especially as our February one not only features professional lecturer/actress Annette Baldwin but also gives you the chance to wear a period hat or costume.

Whenever you plan to bring a guest to a meeting, please inform Barbara Maring; if you have a change of address, phone number or email, inform Ruth Bradburn. Also make note of the following contact information, which will be deleted when this newsletter is put on websites.

Change of address:
Cathy Malm

New Member:
Jackie Kruse

CURRENT MOVIE DISCUSSION GROUP from Peggie Caughlin

A Man Called Otto (2023), the movie chosen for February, tells the story of Otto Anderson (Tom Hanks), a grumpy widower whose only joy comes from criticizing and judging his exasperated neighbors. When a lively young family moves in next door, he meets his match in quick-witted and very pregnant Marisol, leading to an unexpected friendship that will turn his world upside-down.

Based on the popular novel *A Man Called Ove* by Swedish writer Fredrik Backman, the first film adaptation had the same title and was directed by Sweden's Hannes Holm. Released in the U.S. in 2016, it was a nominee for Best Foreign Language Film at the 89th Academy Awards. The just-released adaptation that stars Tom Hanks, however, will not require reading subtitles. Please join us on February 1 for what promises to be a great discussion.

NOTE: Women Talking—the highly praised movie based on the novel of the same name which both our Morning and Evening Book Groups discussed—is now in theaters.

JEANNE HEBEISEN'S LIFE OF SERVICE from Patty Harkin

Jeanne Hebeisen (1927-2022) once wrote on a volunteer form, "have done most everything, but would serve practically anywhere." In nominating Jeanne for one of her many awards, Medina Gross wrote that "Wherever Jeanne saw a need," she immediately said, "I am here to help." We might also add that wherever Jeanne saw a service, she immediately sought to find a more efficient (and often, cheaper) way of delivering it.

As we remember Jeanne's life of service, a pattern of apparent grunt work to inspired leadership immediately emerges. For example, at first, she drove her children's schoolmates to their music lessons but soon became President of Music Parents, an organization that raises money to send aspiring musicians to summer music camps and supports school bands.

Over the years Jeanne lent this sharp, managerial intelligence not only to AAUW, but also to dozens of other service organizations including YWCA, the Girl Scouts, The Cub Scouts, the McKinley School PTA and the Elgin Symphony Orchestra, to name just a few.

I've never served on an AAUW committee or activity in which Jeanne did not participate at some level. Usually, she was in charge. For our branch, Jeanne's most important contributions were to the several arts festivals which helped to make our city the cultural center we recognize today. At various times, these events not only featured artists' work, but also offered a children's area, food sales, musical entertainment and even a used book sale. Characteristically, Jeanne began by simply collecting and arranging books for the book sale. Soon though, as either Chair or Co-chair of the entire festival, Jeanne expanded its scope while simultaneously making it more efficient. One of her innovations was to construct an elaborate database to replace the voluminous paper records of artists' names, booth numbers, contact information, etc. Before long she worked with the City of Elgin, Elgin Symphony and other cultural groups to form the elaborate series of events and institutions that brought thousands of visitors to our city, including the Art Lofts on Spring Street and Art and Soul on the Fox. For about 20 years Jeanne was also responsible for securing artworks from Elgin area students and coordinating their exhibition in the Gail Borden Library.

More recently Jeanne served on our branch's 100th Anniversary Committee, where her memories and ideas were particularly valuable. For example, she suggested beginning each monthly meeting with a blast from the past, remembering long ago white-gloved teas at which

everyone wore hats. She was also a guiding force behind our elaborate 100th anniversary exhibit and tea at the Elgin History Museum.

A lifetime member of AAUW, Jeanne also served as our branch President twice, as our Secretary-Treasurer, then for many years as Treasurer. And for many years, up until her death, she chaired our Great Books Discussion group and was an editor of our newsletter. She was also the recipient of a Named Grant and a Susan B. Anthony Award from our branch and a State Loyalty Award from AAUW-IL. At the state level, she served on an Educational Fellowships Committee.

In 2018, Jeanne and I visited Val Kill, Eleanor Roosevelt's retreat in upstate New York. First Lady when Jeanne was growing into young womanhood, Mrs. Roosevelt was a particular heroine of hers. I suspect that she found in the First Lady a model of personal endurance, of keeping on no matter what. Jeanne's daughter Cheryl Stocks told me that her mother's life was often hard, but hardly ever sad. It could not have been easy to be a divorced mother of six children as well as a prodigious volunteer, but Jeanne just did what needed to be done, and did it well.

In addition to her work for AAUW, Jeanne worked tirelessly for the Elgin Symphony Orchestra. In 1971, she was one of the founders of the Elgin Symphony League, a support group that Margaret Hillis set as a condition of her accepting the baton of the newly formed professional orchestra. As its last surviving founder, Jeanne was its institutional memory and its conscience, often reminding the members that its mission is to serve the symphony rather than ask it to serve them. She served twice as the chair of this group and either worked with or directed every single service the ESL provides, from ushering at Kidz Konzerts to chairing elaborate auctions and dinners that raised many thousands of dollars to creating and maintaining a computerized membership list.

Former Elgin Symphony Maestro Robert Hanson remembers her as "part of that great original inner circle that started moving the ESO to where it is today." In 2008 our AAUW branch successfully nominated Jeanne for the YWCA's Margaret Hillis Award for the Arts. She also received an Elgin Image Award in 2003.

Libby Hoeft, a member of our branch and the Elgin Symphony League, noted that "for both the Art Showcase and the ESL, [Jeanne] worked in the early years when the organizations were founded and their goals formulated." As I, who also worked with Jeanne in both organizations, would conclude, she also helped them grow and prosper; no project was too great and no task too servile. We shall not look upon her like again.

NEWSLETTER

The Elgin Area Branch of the American Association of University Women publishes the following issues of *The*

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

March 20 is the deadline for items for the April-May 2023 issue. Of course early submissions are always welcome. Please submit items as **Word documents** to both Barbara Evans and Patty Harkin. Using Times New Roman font in size 11 would be appreciated.

WEBSITE

Items may be sent at any time to both Marcia Cameron and Nancy Lamia.

FACEBOOK

Send material to Lydia Gillus.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

If a member should be recognized for an achievement/honor, urged to get well or consoled, please notify Julie Jindra so that she can send a card.

The Elgin Area branch of AAUW was organized in 1920 with 40 charter members.

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 baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university. An undergraduate student enrolled in a regionally accredited educational institution shall be eligible for student affiliation.
