

AAUW TIMES

Elgin Area Branch
1920-2023

April-May 2023

Website: elginarea-il.aauw.net

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Email: aauw.il.elgin@gmail.com



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



Violins of Hope—a series of concerts and exhibitions showcasing violins, violas and celli that were confiscated from European Jews by the Nazis and have been collected and restored by an Israeli father/son team—is on its way to Elgin through the auspices of the Jewish Community Center of Chicago, Congregation Kneseth Israel, Elgin Symphony Orchestra, Gail Borden Public Library and others.

Though the stringed instruments will be on display at Gail Borden until mid-June, **for the April general membership meeting, our AAUW branch will attend the Grand Opening of their exhibition on Monday, April 24, at 7:00 p.m.** Details will be emailed to you closer to that date, but registration at attend.gailborden.info/events is required, and this you should do now as the opening night may fill up quickly.

(A concert at the Hemmens Cultural Center on Saturday, May 20 at 8:00 p.m. will feature Elgin Symphony Orchestra members playing some of these instruments, a privilege given to only a few symphonies in the U.S. Tickets are available at www.elginsymphony.org)

Other April Meetings/Events

- April 5 **Current Movie Discussion Group**, 4:30 p.m.
West Dundee's Olive Garden
Everything Everywhere All at Once
- April 10 **Great Books**, 7:00 p.m.
Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin
Three essays by George Orwell (*See yearbook.*)
- April 13 **Morning Book Group**, 9:30 a.m.
Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin
Book of Hope, Jane Goodall
- April 26 **Evening Book Group**, 6:00 p.m. potluck
Hostess: Mary Navin
Violeta: A Novel, Isabel Allende



ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Thursday, May 25, 5:00 p.m.

Villa Olivia

1401 W. Lake St., Bartlett

Come and celebrate at our May banquet, a time for renewing friendships and meeting new members. Dinner will be followed by recognition of the members receiving awards and the announcement of our scholarship recipients. Details, including menu choices, will be emailed to you closer to the date.

Other May Meetings/Events

- May 3 **Current Movie Discussion Group**, 4:30 p.m.
West Dundee's Olive Garden
Movie TBA
- May 5-6 **AAUW-IL State Convention**
- May 8 **Branch Board Meeting**, 6:30 p.m.
Hostess: Julie Ford
- May 8. **Great Books**, 7:00 p.m.
Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin
Saint Joan, George Bernard Shaw
- May 11 **YWCA Elgin Leader Luncheon**, 11:00 a.m.
- TBA **Morning Book Group**
Book Selections for 2023-24
- May 21 **Remembrance Open House for Jeanne Hebeisen**
- May 21 **World Day for Cultural Diversity**
- May 24 **Evening Book Group**, 7:00 p.m.
Hostess: Sharon Spates
Book Selections for 2023-24

Note: Birthdays will now be at the end of the newsletter and will be deleted when the newsletter is put on our website.

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE from Linda Youngren

As we look back on February and March, we realize we have had some wonderful events to celebrate. Our Susan B. Anthony birthday party featuring Annette Baldwin was fun and well attended. Thank you to Mary Navin and Jennifer Ford for organizing it and to Judi Tepi and Jane Watson for the beautiful birthday cake and other refreshments. The occasion reminded me of almost 50 years ago in 1975 when our branch created the first Susan B. Anthony award as a way to draw attention to our fight for the ERA. We have presented that award every year since 1975, but in the early days it was always in February to honor Susan B.

The day following the birthday party, 12 of our AAUW branch members attended the Elgin Symphony gala where Jeanne Hebeisen was honored posthumously as volunteer of the year. State Rep. (and branch member) Anna Moeller read a resolution that she introduced and was recently adopted in the Illinois House of Representatives to honor Jeanne's life. Most of us at our table had tears in our eyes by the end of Anna's moving tribute.

In March we were so proud of AAUW and our joint sponsorship of International Women's Day. Congratulations to Rachel Campbell and Jennifer Ford for their work in organizing this successful event. The panel of Elgin women leaders, led by Anna Moeller, reminded us that we are indeed a sisterhood in the ongoing struggle, no matter where we are in our leadership journeys to improve pay equity, childcare support, family work leave and all ways to help women make work/family choices.

Now we look forward to spring, when on April 24 we have a wonderful opportunity to learn about the Violins of Hope at Gail Borden Public Library. Know, too, that the book about them, *Violins of Hope: Violins of the Holocaust—Instruments of Hope and Liberation in Mankind's Darkest Hour*, is available at the library.

Brooke and I plan to attend the AAUW-IL state convention in East Peoria on May 5-6. Let us know if anyone else is attending and is interested in carpooling. And last but by no means least, please plan to attend our annual awards banquet at the end of May.

In the meantime, Happy Passover, Happy Easter, and Happy Spring!

Brooke and Linda



AAUW Co-President Linda Youngren and League of Women Voters President Jennifer Ford with Annette Baldwin at Susan B. Anthony's birthday party.

REMEMBRANCE OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, May 21, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
602 Prospect, Elgin

Jeanne's Hebeisen's family is hosting an open house with light refreshments and music by members of the Elgin Symphony Orchestra to accompany a sharing of memories of Jeanne, which a videographer will be present to record. There will also be a photo slide show on display, so if you have any photos to share, please send them to her daughter Cheryl at cheryl.stocks@gmail.com.

This event will be held in Jeanne's front yard, rain or shine. (If raining, there will be a tent for shelter.) You can park on the streets around Jeanne's house, so please leave her driveway clear for handicapped access.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE from Ruth Bradburn & Barbara Maring

Our branch has another new member! Originally from New York, **Cynthia Maldonado** received her B.S. degree from Cornell University and her M.B.A. from Syracuse University. She moved to the Midwest with her college sweetheart and two daughters and now resides in Sleepy Hollow. The breadth of her career covers advertising, the beauty industry, Pulp & Paper and Telecommunications. She also has oversight of the family-run small business Green Solutions. Cynthia enjoys traveling, reading, friends, food and wine. Look for her at a book group, Women and Culture and theater activities. Contact information for her is at the end of this newsletter and will be deleted when it is put on our website.

Dues are Due! \$23 for Life Members / \$95 for Others
Please make your checks out to AAUW Elgin Area Branch and send them to Membership Treasurer Bonnie Hill, whose address is at the end of this newsletter. Or you may go directly to aauw.org to renew online or wait till you get one of three renewal reminders from AAUW National!

REMEMBERING MARGE FOX from Patty Harkin

Long-time Elgin Area AAUW member, Marge Fox, never lost her sense of wonder. When she left us on December 8, 2022, after suffering a stroke, we lost a dedicated, imaginative teacher. It was her sense of wonder that made Marge such a good teacher, not only for the "official" students in the public schools where she spent her long career, but also for the many who learned from her at Elgin Public Museum, where she was the leading educator from the mid-1990s until just before her death.

Sharry Lynn Blazier, Education Coordinator at the museum, writes that Marge "possessed that rare natural ability to connect with kids and get them to instantly connect back to her. It wasn't unusual in recent years for moms bringing kids to PAWS on the Porch or Story Hour to recognize her and happily marvel that 'Miss Marge' was still with us. They fondly recalled her from their own childhood days of attending museum programs."

Marge urged her students to savor the natural world with a childlike admiration. Although she will be missed, her gift of wonder will endure. As William Wordsworth, another nature lover, wrote,

*We will grieve not, rather find
Strength in what remains behind.
In the primal Sympathy
That having been, must ever be.*

DR. SUSAN LA FLECHE PICOTTE & HER HOSPITAL: IN DETAIL from Barbara Evans

Shortly after our Feb./March newsletter with my column about women in medicine was published, my new issue of *Preservation* arrived and in it was an 8-page spread on the first Native American doctor and the hospital she founded. More specifically, this article noted, she was "solely responsible for raising the more than \$9,000 (about \$270,000 today) required to construct it."

What was astonishing to me was not the detail about her that followed but rather the fact that this doctor who had done so much for her people had been forgotten by most. Upon learning about her, however, a small group of locals bought the Craftsman-styled hospital, which had become a private residence, with the intent of restoring it as a community center and museum. Unfortunately, lack of funding resulted in it deteriorating to the point that in 2018, The National Trust for Historic Preservation designated it as one of the 11 Most Endangered Historic Places in America. To learn about the revival of La Flesche Picotte and the restoration of her hospital, see savingplaces.org/stories/the-revival-of-a-nebraska-hospital-founded-by-a-groundbreaking-native-american-woman

WOMEN IN THE WORLD The Kung Fu Nuns of Nepal from Barbara Evans

Generally, Buddhist nuns across the world have been considered inferior to the monks and have been limited to performing tedious chores such as cooking and cleaning for the monks. Thirty years ago, however, this began to change for the nuns of the 1,000-year-old Drukpa sect of Himalayan Buddhism when its current leader, the 12 Gyalwayng Drupka—a genial-looking man now probably in his 50s—recognized the role the nuns could play in carrying the sect's religious message throughout the Himalayas and promoting gender equality within Buddhism.

To this end, the nuns have been given the highest level of monastic teaching and can now lead prayers. They have also been given basic business skills as well as all other skills needed to operate the sect's nunnery in Kathmandu, Nepal—everything from plumbing to driving to using laptops. And almost every year for the past 20, these nuns have cycled about 1,250 miles high in the Himalayas, to promote environmentally sound practices.

But the most dramatic change in their status came in 2008 when His Holiness brought in nuns from Viet Nam to teach them the martial arts of Kung Fu in order to build their confidence and strength. The result of the two to three hours a day they spend practicing has made them renowned throughout the Himalayas and underscored their message that "girls can do everything." In 2021, in fact, these nuns were awarded the UNESCO Martial Arts Education Prize for their heroic acts of service across the Himalayas as well as for teaching girls to defend themselves.

To see them in action and learn about the things these nuns have done/do, please watch the 3-minute video about them at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ad1fxy1OP8s.

As a recent article in *The New York Times* noted, however, "The changes for the sect have not come without intense backlash. . . . During their trips down the steep slopes from the nunnery to the local market, the nuns have also been verbally abused by monks from other sects. But that doesn't deter them, they say. When they travel, heads shaved, on trips in their open vans, they look like soldiers ready to be deployed on the front line and capable of confronting any bias."

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

May 20 is the deadline for items for the June-July-August 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.

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.
