

AAUW TIMES

Elgin Area Branch

1920-2024

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



HOLIDAY LUNCHEON
Saturday, December 16, 2023, Noon
Elgin Country Club, 2575 Weld Road

Once again we will be gathering at the Elgin Country Club, which offers valet parking, to celebrate the winter holidays. Adding musical ambience to our luncheon will be harpsichordist Taylor Headly, one of our 2023 scholarship recipients. Guests are welcome, and what better way to introduce them to our members than to include them in our social events? Just remember that Jane Watson needs menu selections and payment by Wednesday, December 6th.

The Board has selected Food for Greater Elgin to be the recipient of our holiday donations. If you wish to contribute by check, make it out to that organization, and if unable to attend the luncheon, please send it to our treasurer Sandy Kaptain prior to the 16th.

OTHER DECEMBER 2023 EVENTS

- 6: **Current Movie Discussion Group**, 4:30 p.m.
The Grumpy Goat, Elgin
Priscilla, directed by Sofia Coppola
- 14: **Morning Book Group**, 9:30 a.m.
Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin
Lessons in Chemistry: A Novel, Bonnie Garmus
- 14: **Women and Culture**, 1:00 p.m.
Hostess: Sue Schulz
Holiday Memories
- 20: **Evening Book Group**, 7:00 p.m.
ZOOM
Horse: A Novel, Geraldine Brooks

Great Books will not meet in December.



MEET DR. SUZANNE RIVERA-MILLS
Saturday, January 20, 2024, Noon
St. Hugh of Lincoln Episcopal Church
36W957 Highland Ave., Elgin

Dr. Rivera-Mills—appointed in June of 2023 to be the 14th and first Hispanic president of Aurora University—will speak about her early background and the path which led her to her position of influence today. She will also detail her vision for the university.

The lunch that will precede Rivera-Mills' presentation will be a potluck of appetizers, salads and desserts. Those who prefer not to bring food will be asked to each contribute \$8, which will go into our general operating fund.

OTHER JANUARY 2024 EVENTS

- 3: **Current Movie Discussion Group**, 4:30 p.m.
Place & Movie TBA
- 8: **Great Books**, 7:00 p.m.
Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin
The Master and Margarita, Bulgakov
- 11: **Morning Book Group**, 9:30 a.m.
Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin
The Marsh Queen, Virginia Hartman
- 13: **Martin Luther King breakfast**
- 24: **Evening Book Group**, 7:00 p.m.
Hostess: Rachel Campbell
Lessons from the Edge, Marie Yovanovitch

January Branch Board Meeting is suspended.
Women and Culture's January meeting is cancelled.

SAVE THE DATE:

April 19-20: AAUW-IL State Convention, Elgin IL

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

It is almost Thanksgiving and appropriately a time to show our gratitude for the efforts made by some of our members. At the top of the list is a huge thank you to Marcia Cameron and Nancy Lamia for their years of editing our Branch website. They are finally going to be able to hand the reins over to our new webmaster, Emily Navin. Many thanks to Emily as well for taking on this task of maintaining our website.

We also thank Vivienne Bailey for volunteering to update our Facebook page with the tutorial assistance of Patty Harkin.

And we express our gratitude to our Program VP Jane Watson, who invited her son David to present a program on artificial intelligence at our November meeting. Jane has every right to be a proud Mom, as David's program was one of our best in several years. I hope those of you who couldn't attend will peruse the slide presentation he shared with us.

The one dark cloud on our horizon is the need for several more members on our Nominating Committee to fill the slate of officers for next year. This committee assignment will begin in January and conclude in the March time-frame, so please consider serving AAUW with this important task. Contact Brooke or Linda if you are willing to serve.

We are looking forward to an elegant luncheon on December 16 at the Elgin Country Club where one of our scholarship recipients, Taylor Headley, will provide the music. And 2024 promises a schedule of great programs as well as an opportunity to attend the AAUW Illinois state convention to be held at Elgin Community College April 19-20.

We wish all of our members a Happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful holiday season.

Linda and Brooke



Guest speaker David Watson with his very proud mother

THANK YOU

Thank you, Elgin Branch AAUW members, for your Elgin Image Award nomination. Receiving recognition is humbling, especially from an organization with so many talented and accomplished peers. Although I was not chosen for an award, I am grateful for the support of my AAUW friends. And the plant Julie Ford delivered on your behalf is beautiful and doing quite well in a prominent spot in our home.

Warm Regards, Linda Rock

NOMINATION FOR ELGIN IMAGE AWARD: LINDA ROCK prepared by Rachel Campbell

When Linda Rock moved to Elgin in 1986, our community gained an active, engaging advocate for all things Elgin. Linda taught at the Elgin Academy from 1985 until 1998 and then joined U-46 as a reading instructor from 1999 until 2006.

Linda's passion for history, especially Elgin history, helped her find her way to the Elgin Historical Society and Museum. There she has worked tirelessly as a Board Member (serving as President in 2003) and as a docent for the Museum. Her work doesn't stop there. Some of her other activities for this organization follow:

- Helping to develop children's program and assisting with school groups attending these programs;
- Preparing museum exhibits;
- Helping to organize archives and archival materials;
- For over 20 years researching and writing scripts featuring Elgin women (including Jane Peterson, a well-known artist born in Elgin) and presenting historical reenactments portraying them;
- Researching and presenting programs about Elgin history for adults;
- Co-chairing the Elgin Cemetery walk from 2000-2997.

Linda's other community and outreach activities include the following:

- Researching and recording programs for the WWRMN Program "Elgin 100 Year Ago";
- Serving on the city's Heritage Commission;
- Serving as a Board Member of Friends of Lords Park Zoo.
- Volunteering as a docent for the Elgin Historic House Tour;
- Volunteering at Holy Trinity's summer lunch program, at Elgin's Soup Kettle and at the Ecker Center's Drop-in Program.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE from Ruth Bradburn & Cathy Malm

In October we contacted members who have not attended a branch activity recently to be sure that they are receiving notifications of them. A big thank you to committee members Dale Anderson, Mary Ellen Barbezat and Carol Blohm for helping with this.

We encourage branch members to participate in recruitment by inviting prospective members to attend branch and interest group meetings. Please send contact information for prospective members to Ruth or Cathy.

And please welcome new member **Kim Lien Pham**, who immigrated from Vietnam in 1975 and settled in Wisconsin, where she worked to support her family of four children while completing her GED. She later received her AS in Mechanical Drafting and Laser Electronics and then worked as a machinist and tool engineer for highly regarded companies, including Hughes Aircraft, Wessley Jessen, and Ciba Vision. In 2005, she received a BS in Technical Management from Devry University and subsequently worked as a quality engineer for major medical device companies, including Schleifring and Philips-Medisize. Kim retired in 2021 and enjoys her eight grandchildren, gardening, crocheting, and knitting.

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.

WOMEN IN THE WORLD from Barbara Evans

While perusing the Biography/Memoir section of Gail Borden Public Library's new books, I was struck by the title of a book facing outward: *Seeing: A Memoir of Truth and Courage from China's Most Influential Television Journalist*. Truth? On Chinese television? When? From 2003 for certain when at age 26, Chai Jing became an anchor of *News Probe* on CCTV, and until 2017 when she left China for Spain after the six-part documentary on pollution that she had independently produced was taken off the air in a matter of days.

In her memoir, Chai Jing recounts her investigations into SARS quarantine wards, a grade-school suicide epidemic, two major earthquakes, the human cost of industrial pollution in her home town and organized crime behind land acquisition. Chai was also the first to give a voice to members of the LGBT population, and her reporting on women in prison for life for killing their husbands after years of abuse led to a change in Chinese laws. On a lighter note, officials' reactions to her investigation of the authenticity of a photo purporting that tigers had returned to South China are stupefying.

What makes Chai's memoir especially memorable are her reflections on journalistic integrity in reporting and her mentor's insistence on it. Written in 2012 when she was 36 and published in China the next year, it has sold over 5 million copies. It has just been translated into English.

Shortly after she moved to Barcelona in 1917, terrorists struck on the street where she was living. Horrified, Chai began investigating how young men could have such deep-seated hatred. Her findings are presented in *Stranger: Speaking to Jihadists*, six 30-minute episodes that aired on YouTube in August.

I'd urge you to watch all episodes, but if you just want a glimpse of her in action, I'd recommend Episode 2 in which she interviews the young man who radicalized the jihadists who attacked the Paris offices of Charlie Hebdo magazine. Chai mostly speaks in Chinese, but it is subtitled. The following link takes you to Episode 1; the others follow: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4otYJGByic&list=PL_PjwQXfPuE4SpqtVIY1OB60hVZSavd2n