

AAUW TIMES

Elgin Area Branch
1920-2024

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



THE FUTURE OF FOX RIVER DAMS

Saturday, February 10, 1:00 p.m.
Elgin Township Building
729 S. McLean Blvd., Elgin

In September of 2023, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recommended the removal of nine dams on the Fox River. Art Malm, a retired civil and environmental engineer, will detail the reasons Friends of the Fox applauded this. But because Elgin gets its drinking water from the Fox, removal of its dam will present a major challenge to be overcome. This Elgin's Mayor Dave Kaptain, retired Chief Chemist and Process Control Manager of the Fox River Reclamation District, will explain.

Note: As one who attended a public meeting in which these two men detailed the above, I can assure you this is a program you won't want to miss. —B. Evans

OTHER FEBRUARY EVENTS

- 7: **Current Movie Discussion Group**, 4:30 p.m.
The Grumpy Goat, Elgin
Ferrari
- 8: **Morning Book Group**, 9:30 a.m.
Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin
Horse: A Novel, Geraldine Brooks
- 12: **Great Books**, 7:00 p.m.
Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin
Miss Julie, A. Strindberg
- 22: **Women and Culture**, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin
Local Latinas in Politics
- 28: **Evening Book Group**, 7:00 p.m.
Hostess: Barbara Evans
Addio, Love Monster, Christina Marrocco



MEET HARRIET BEECHER STOWE

Saturday, March 9, 1:00 p.m.
Elgin History Museum
360 Park Street

Upon meeting her, President Lincoln said, "So this is the little lady that started this big war." Portraying the "gentle powerhouse" who wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabin* will be actress Paddy Lynn, who will flesh out the life and times of one of America's most influential authors.

To celebrate both the National Women's History Month and International Women's Day, joining our branch as the co-sponsor of this program is the St. Charles/Geneva/Batavia one. Because of the size of the venue, reservations will be required, something all will be informed of in detail closer to the date.

OTHER MARCH EVENTS

- 6: **Current Movie Discussion Group**, 4:30 p.m.
- 8: **International Women's Day**
- 11: **Branch Board Meeting**, 6:00 p.m. ZOOM
- 11: **Great Books**, 7:00 p.m.
Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin
The Merchant of Venice, Shakespeare
- 12: **Equal Pay Day, U.S.A.**
- 14: **Morning Book Group**, 9:30 a.m.
Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin
Mad Honey: A Novel, Jodi Picoult
- 21: **Women and Culture**, 1:00 p.m.
Zion Lutheran Church, Elgin
Sue Schulz: *There Are Many Ways of Travel*
- 27: **Evening Book Group**, 7:00 p.m.
Hostess: Sharon LeCount
All the Beauty in the World, Patrick Bringley

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have a brand new year to look forward to and already have several AAUW branch committees ready to get to work. Our Nominating Committee, chaired by Mary Navin and assisted by Rosemary Dyson, Barbara Evans, Linda Knight, and Rita Shaw, are ready to go. When they call you, please say "yes", as your willingness to serve is critical to a healthy branch.

Secondly, Scholarship Chairs Carol Wieg and Vivienne Bailey have our new scholarship form on our website, the new post office rental box lined up, and are ready to start soliciting applications. And finally, Julie Ford and her Awards Committee are getting started on nominations to honor members of our branch for the annual awards.

We are eagerly anticipating the AAUW-IL State Convention on April 19-20 to be held at ECC, when we are honored to be the host branch. I hope you all read about the convention in the recent AAUW of Illinois Connection newsletter that described the convention plans. We thank Cathy Malm who has volunteered to represent us as coordinator of the branch display tables. We will need a few more volunteers to assist with registration on those two days.

Special thanks to our Social Chairs, Judi Tepe and Jane Watson, for organizing our wonderful holiday luncheon and our January dessert meeting, though weather forced the last-minute cancellation of the latter. We are grateful also to our generous AAUW members who donated \$738 for Food for Greater Elgin at the holiday luncheon!

Stay well and stay warm!
Linda

Postscript: The just-announced passing of my dear friend and Co-President Brooke Transue adds a somber note to my otherwise positive message. When funeral arrangements are complete, you will be notified by email. And of course a tribute to Brooke will be in the April/May newsletter.

THANK YOU

We remain enormously appreciative of the holiday contributions of sAAUW in the life of **Food for Greater Elgin**. At the most basic level, our work is about food, combating hunger and ultimately giving people hope. Thank you for making this possible.

Sincerely,
Andres Diaz, CEO

CONGRATULATIONS

Our branch's **Jennifer Ford** was one of the four recipients of Well Child Center's 2023 Champions Awards, and deservedly so, for as Well Child explains, *"A community champion is anyone. . . who works hard and well to start and/or support an initiative or intervention, to bring a program or idea to reality or to otherwise improve the quality of life of a particular group or of the community as a whole. A community champion might be. . . an inspired visionary, or s/he might be the volunteer who's always there and willing to do whatever has to be done to keep things going. . . . [Community Champions] rarely think of what they do as being unusual or praiseworthy. It's just part of their definition of being a good citizen."*

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE from Carol Wieg and Vivienne Bailey

Now that the holidays are over and spring should be coming soon, it is time to publicize our 2024-2025 AAUW Scholarship. Our branch will be offering two scholarships of \$1000 each this year. One of the scholarships will be given to a young woman of color.

If you know of a young female who will be at least 19 years of age by April 1, 2024, and who is actively seeking her undergraduate degree with at least 12 semester hours completed with a minimum of 2.5 gpa, please encourage her to apply for one of our scholarships. She must also live within a 50-mile radius of Elgin.

Applications may be found at elginarea-IL.aauw.net under the subhead of Scholarships. They are also available at Gail Borden Library or can be accessed through the financial aid offices of ECC, Judson University, Harper University, Aurora University or NIU.

All applications must be postmarked by April 1, 2024 or emailed to the Scholarship Committee by April 3, 2024. Official transcripts must be received no later than April 15 of this year.

In addition, our scholarship committee would love to have some additional members volunteer to become part of this committee. Joining us only entails the following: 1. Encouraging young women in the area to apply for this scholarship, 2. Reading the applications, 3. Meeting as a committee to pick the winner(s) and 4. Contacting all the applicants of the results of their application. Please consider this opportunity! Contact either Vivienne or Carol, whose contact information is in our yearbook.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE from Ruth Bradburn & Cathy Malm

Every member is a part of the membership team. Help our Elgin Area AAUW Branch grow by inviting friends and relatives to a general meeting or interest group. Prospective members may attend several events to help them make the decision to join our branch. Also introduce them to our website, which includes a membership application that can be completed there. (Our website is on the heading of every newsletter.)

New members who join now during Shape the Future receive 50% off the National dues, which makes them \$36. To this add the IL State dues of \$10 and our branch dues of \$13m and a total of \$59 will satisfy membership requirements through June of 2024. (Checks should be made out to Elgin Area AAUW Branch.)

Please send names and contact information for prospective members to Ruth and/or Cathy, who thank you for assisting their committee.

WOMEN and CULTURE from Jennifer Ford

We were unable to secure the speaker for the January meeting, but look what is coming next!

FEBRUARY 22: A panel of local Latinas involved in politics will share their stories of challenge and triumph, what civic duty and public service mean, and how all can participate. Co-sponsored by League of Women Voters of the Elgin Area and Gail Borden Public Library, it will be held at the main library. Please register through its site.

MARCH 21: Hay Muchas Maneras de Viajar. (There are many ways of travel.) How, where and why we travel is an ongoing process that reflects our values as well as our bucket lists. Come to Elgin's Zion Lutheran Church to hear Sue Schulz relate her adventures while traveling in Ecuador, Colombia and Mexico to learn Spanish.

WHO KNEW?

In 1930 the Elgin Branch of AAUW produced the map "Elgin Past and Present." Highlighting historical sights and landmarks, it has now been restored by KNOWOL, which is offering reproductions of it for sale. To view it, visit <https://www.knowol.com/information/illinois/elgin-illinois-1930-map>

WOMEN IN THE WORLD from Barbara Evans

I'm breaking with my practice of excluding American women from this column in order to call attention to a fascinating book published in 2022: *The Only Woman* by Immy Humes.

While working on a film about Shirley Clarke, Humes stumbled across an arresting 1962 photograph of Clarke surrounded by seven of her fellow documentary filmmakers, all of them men (which all documentary filmmakers except Clarke were at the time). And down the rabbit hole Humes went: over a five-year period, she collected innumerable photographs in which a single woman was shown with a group of men. Her book is her "idiosyncratic" collection of 100 of them taken between 1860 to 2020.

The lone women include both unknown and well-known ones from a variety of backgrounds. (Of the 20 whose names I recognized, only 11 were women I knew more than just a little about.)

Not surprisingly, most of the women are from North America, Great Britain and Europe, for it is in these sections of the world that women have made the greatest strides in "making their way into a man's world."

My favorite photograph, for example, is of the President of the Central European Bank, Christine Lagarde. Dressed in a light blue silk suit and wearing chic heels, she is shown with her back to the camera as she addresses a group of black-suited men who are clearly appreciative of her.

But it was not the photographs that compelled me to buy three copies of the book. Humes has described herself as "a research maniac" who "love[s] archives," and *The Only Woman* is proof of this. It is the information she provides about the women and their circumstances that made this a must-own, must-gift book for me.

For instance, in addition to detailing Lagarde's background in the underrepresented field of finance, Humes also notes that Meryl Streep said that she "channeled the unassailable elegance and authority" of this French woman when preparing for her role in *The Devil Wears Prada*.

To give you a better idea of just how interesting Humes' collection is, I had prepared a listing of 35 other women, including the lone female juror in the Julius/Ethel Rosenberg trial and the wife (briefly) of the founder of the Turkish Republic. However, I have opted to simply note that Gail Borden Public Library has a copy of *The Only Woman*. I urge you to check it out.

U.S. MINT HONORS AMERICAN WOMEN from Barbara Evans

The quarters to be released in 2024—the third year of the American Women Quarters Program—feature the following women:

- Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray – poet, writer, activist, lawyer, and Episcopal priest
- Patsy Takemoto Mink – first woman of color to serve in Congress
- Dr. Mary Edwards Walker – Civil War era surgeon, women’s rights and dress reform advocate
- Celia Cruz – Cuban-American singer, cultural icon
- Zitkala-Ša – writer, composer, educator, and political activist

The U.S. Mint is now also accepting preorders for its commemorative coin program honoring abolitionist Harriet Tubman, a program which "comes amid stalled efforts to replace former President Jackson's face on the \$20 bill with Tubman's." Included is the \$5 gold coin shown above as well as silver dollar and half-dollar. Be aware, however, that the price for one is not the face value of the coin. The \$5 one, for example, is listed for \$718.

HARRIET BEECHER STOWE SPEAKS

"Witness, eternal God! Oh, witness that, from this hour, I will do what one man can to drive out this curse of slavery from my land."

"It's a matter of taking the side of the weak against the strong, something the best people have always done."

"Any mind that is capable of real sorrow is capable of good."

"So much has been said and sung of beautiful young girls. Why don't [sic] somebody wake up to the beauty of old women?"

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.
