

AAUW TIMES

Elgin Area Branch

1920-2023

September 2024

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

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

At the request of AAUW Elgin Area, Elgin's mayor issued the following proclamation at the City Council meeting on August 14.

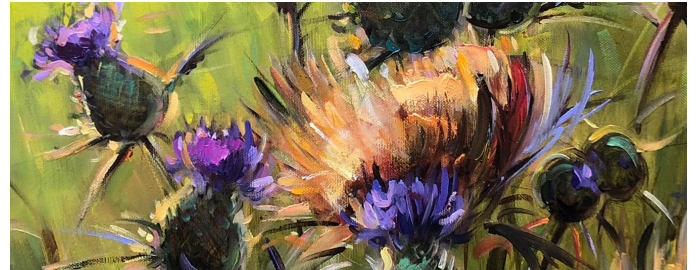
WHEREAS, women in the United States have continuously worked to gain full rights and privileges—public or private, legal or institutional—as citizens of the United States, and

WHEREAS, women in every state and every cultural and religious group worked to secure women's right to vote, and

WHEREAS, Congress has designated August 26, the date the Nineteenth Amendment was certified, as Women's Equality Day, and

WHEREAS, recognizing Women's Equality Day as a day of celebration throughout the country emphasizes the importance of women's work for democracy,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, David Kaptain, Mayor of the City of Elgin, Illinois, proclaim August 26, 2024, as Women's Equality Day in Elgin, and ask all citizens to join in the national day of celebrating the importance of the women's suffrage movement and the work to secure and expand equal rights today.



WELCOME BACK LUNCHEON

Saturday, Sept. 14, 11:30 a.m.

St. Hugh of Lincoln Episcopal Church

36W957 Highland Ave., Elgin

We hope you will be able to attend our first general membership meeting of the 2024-25 calendar year, for it is an opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones as we dine on salads and desserts that will be provided by our board members. And as has become customary, our guest speaker will update us on governmental initiatives and accomplishments—this year, specifically, those of the Kane County Board as presented by its President Corinne Pierog.

OTHER SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 5: **Dignity Index Training**, 6:00 p.m.
Batavia Public Library
- 7: **Current Movie Discussion Group**, 4:30 p.m.
The Grumpy Goat, 875 Sports Way, Elgin
It Ends With Us
- 9: **Great Books**, 7:00 p.m.
Gail Borden Library, Elgin
Candide, Voltaire
- 10: **10 Notable Women Artists**, 7:00 p.m. Zoom
- 12: **Morning Book Group**, 9:30 a.m.
Gail Borden Library, Elgin
Prequel, Rachel Maddow
- 17: **National Voter Registration Day**
- 20: **Needlework Group**, 1 p.m.
Hostess: Patty Harkin
- 25: **Evening Book Group**, 7 p.m.
Hostess: Sharon LeCount
Tom Lake, Ann Patchett

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

We are excited to begin our duties as Co-Presidents. Of course, it goes without saying that Linda and Brooke were outstanding leaders. Brooke will be forever in our hearts. The scholarship named in her honor will be her continued legacy.

Jane Watson and Julia Jindra, our Programing Co-Chairs and their creative committee members have been hard at work this summer and have planned a variety of interesting and thoughtful programs for the coming year. Mark your calendar for our annual fall kick-off salad and dessert luncheon on September 14. Corinne Pierog, Chair of the Kane County Board, will be our keynote speaker.

We are grateful for our members who have elected to stay on in their respective roles and to our newest members who have stepped up to serve as Committee Chairs.

We also want to offer our heartfelt thank you to Marti Jernberg, our yearbook editor, and Barbara Evans, our branch newsletter editor. We are so fortunate to have these two wonderful and multi-talented women as members of our branch.

AAUW Elgin was honored at the August 14 City Council meeting when Mayor Kaptain proclaimed August 26th as Women's Equality Day in Elgin.

Our sister AAUW branches Schaumburg, St. Charles, Batavia and Geneva have expressed a desire to coordinate with us on several programs this year beginning with the Thursday, September 5 **Dignity Index Training program** at the Batavia Library at 6:00. Featured at the recent AAUW-IL Convention at ECC, this program is designed to prevent violence, ease divisions and solve problems. Please let us know if you plan to attend this training session as space is limited. We think this is a wonderful way to build community.

We are also excited to partner with the Schaumburg AAUW branch with the virtual (Zoom) Harper College program "**10 Notable Women Artists**" on Thursday, September 19 from 7:00 - 8:00 pm. We will follow the presentation with a discussion with our members on Zoom. Please let us know if you plan to attend so we can give an accurate count to the college and send you the Zoom link.

We think this year is going to be a great one. Watch your email for announcements on upcoming programs and special events.

Judi and Jennifer

YOU TALK; WE LISTEN.

This was the invitation that our new co-presidents issued to all of our members. And on August 6th, 12 of us joined them at Briana's Pancake House to give them feedback about what we wanted to see for our branch going forward.

We began by talking about why we'd joined AAUW and why we were still members. One noted that with three children under 4, she needed social interaction. And all of us relish the friendships we have made as well as the interest groups that have allowed us to develop them further.

Although one person suggested adding an interest group dealing with grief and caretaking, most of us present questioned whether such a group could be sustained. We did think, however, that a one-time program on these matters should be considered, especially as a local woman is known to be an excellent speaker on them.

As for programs that help us understand our diverse community— We all appreciate them. The Women in Culture's trip to the Hindu Temple in Bartlett was recalled fondly, for example. And mentioned as another possible group trip was the upcoming Mystical Arts of Tibet performance at ECC.

Partnering/networking with other branches and Elgin organizations such as the LWV and Gail Borden also received everyone's stamp of approval.

Several wanted our branch to become more civically active—i.e., visible—in the community. Attending the Aug. 14th Elgin City Council meeting at which the mayor will proclaim Women's Equality Day was cited as one thing we could do. Getting out the vote in November and taking positions on women's issues were others.

Reviving our garden walk was yet another, for it not only made us quite visible in the community but also helped fund our local scholarships. Unfortunately, in spite of the fact that many are willing to help with it, no one has yet volunteered to chair it (nor did any present at this gathering). Partnering with a local garden club to co-sponsor a walk was suggested as a possibility.

As the gathering was winding down, we all expressed our thanks to Jennifer and Judi for offering us a chance to informally talk about our branch. And they, in turn, reiterated that any time anyone has thoughts to share, to let them know. While no organization can be all things to all people, they hope to make ours one that everyone finds value in belonging to.

MEMBERSHIP from Cathy Malm

Our branch now has 96 paid members, including our two students and eight lifetime members. Please encourage your friends to join us and inform them of our special groups. Also consider bringing them as guests to our September 14th luncheon.

And please welcome new member **Dr. Arinola Aguda Oluwo**. Originally from Nigeria, Arin served as the secretary for the University of Lagos Chapter of the Nigerian Association of University Women [NAUW]. After relocating to the U.S. in 2019, she joined the AAUW Crystal Lake Branch. Now living in the Elgin area, she is joining ours.

An advocate for young women's leadership, she encourages girls to make good choices and take control of their lives. Her latest project is the ARN Girls Reading Room, which is a safe space where girls can go to read in the Awoyaya community, Ibeju-Lekki Lagos, Nigeria.

Arin holds a Ph.D. in Sociology of Education from the University of Lagos. In addition to her involvement in NAUW, her accomplishments in that country are impressive. In 2008, she founded a Nigerian non-governmental foundation to help create awareness of the gender-based issues that affect women and girls. In 2016 she instituted the foundation's annual awards presented at three national Nigerian universities to the best graduating female in science and engineering courses in each.

After serving as the president of YWCA Lagos Central Group, she was appointed the Honorary National Recording Secretary of YWCA Nigeria. She also chaired the Widows Trust Fund of the International Women's Society of Nigeria as well as the Working Committee on the Nigerian National Women's Conference, an annual three-day event that grew to 2,500 participants in 2018.

Wherever Arin is, she enjoys dancing, sewing, traveling and telling stories about women's experiences, challenges and victories. She is blessed with daughters, two grandsons and a granddaughter.

COMMUNITY SOLAR from Sandy Kaptain

Community Solar is really going great with rebates from the Inflation Reduction Act [IRA]. Some plans, in fact, are giving 10 to 20% off your ComEd electric bill with no rooftop costs. So please check it out.

CURRENT MOVIE DISCUSSION GROUP from Peggie Caughlin

The movie chosen for our September 4th discussion is *It Ends With Us*, the first Colleen Hoover novel adapted for the big screen. "It tells the story of Lily Bloom, a woman who overcomes a traumatic childhood to embark on a new life in Boston and chase a lifelong dream of opening her own business. A chance meeting with charming neurosurgeon Ryle Kincaid sparks an intense connection, but as the two fall deeply in love, Lily begins to see sides of Ryle that remind her of her parents' relationship. When Lily's first love suddenly reenters her life, her relationship with Ryle is upended, and Lily realizes she must learn to rely on her own strength to make an impossible choice for her future." –*Rotten Tomatoes*

NEEDLEWORK GROUP from Cathy Malm

Formerly The Knitting Group, our new name reflects our desire to be more inclusive. Thus whether you're knitting, crocheting, doing cross-stitch, needlepoint, crewel, sewing or any other type of needlework, please join us on May 20th at 1 p.m. at Patty Harkin's home. And bring whatever project you're working on, be it something personal or something you wish to donate to Women on the Brink.

We meet the 3rd Monday of the month from September through May. If you have questions, contact Cathy Malm, our facilitator.

NEWSLETTER

AAUW-Elgin Area publishes the following issues of *The AAUW Times*, the submission deadlines for which follow.

Aug. 20 for the September issue

Sept. 20 for October-November

Nov. 20 for December-January

Jan. 20 for February-March

Mar. 20 for April-May

May 20 for June-July-August

Please submit items as **Word documents** to Barbara Evans.

WEBSITE

Items may be sent at any time to webmaster Emily Navin.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

If a member should be recognized for an achievement/honor, urged to get well, or consoled, please notify Beth Small 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.
