

AAUW TIMES

Elgin Area Branch

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

MEET DR. SUSANA RIVERA-MILLS

Saturday, October 12, 1:00 p.m.

St. Hugh Church 36W957 Highland Ave., Elgin

Appointed in June of 2023 to be the 14th president of Aurora University and the first Latina one since its founding in 1893, Dr. Rivera-Mills 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 as an institution where all students can "reach their full potential." (*Bad weather in January forced the postponement of this program.*)

OTHER OCTOBER EVENTS

- 2: Current Movie Discussion Group**, 4:30 p.m.
The Grump Goat, Elgin
Beetlejuice Beetlejuice
- 3: Women and Culture**, 1:30 p.m.
Zion Lutheran Church, Elgin
Project 2025's Potential Impact on Women
- 5: AAUW-IL Fall Conference**, 9 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Zoom
- 10: Morning Book Group**, 9:30 a.m.
Gail Borden Library, Elgin
Doppelganger, Naomi Klein
- 14: Great Books**, 7:00 p.m.
Gail Borden Library + Zoom
The Women in White, Wilkie Collins
- 17: A Woman's Vote**, 6:30 p.m.
Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin Room
- 21: Needlework Group**, 1:00 p.m.
Hostess: Patty Harkin
- 23: Evening Book Group**, 7:00 p.m.
Hostess: Patty Golden
My Boy Will Die of Sorrow, Effren Olivares

TRASH TALK & SILENT AUCTION

Saturday, November 16, 1:00 p.m.

Elgin Township Building 729 S. McLean Blvd.

Recycling Guru Robin Migalla will present her "Trash Talk," which addresses the concept of "waste privilege" and reminds us that even if we do not have the means to live a zero-waste life style, we must do what we can to reduce waste.

One way we can do our part is by going through our homes in search of items to donate to the silent auction to be held at this meeting and by planning to start our holiday shopping here. (*See the newsletter article for details.*)

OTHER NOVEMBER EVENTS

- 6: Current Movie Discussion Group**, 4:30 p.m.
Place & Movie TBA
- 7: Women and Culture**, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Hostess: Sue Schulz
Post-election Open House
- 11: Branch Board Meeting**, 6:30 p.m.
Hostess: Cathy Malm
- 11: Great Books**, 7:00 p.m.
Gail Borden Library, Elgin + Zoom
3 short stories by John Cheever
- 14: Morning Book Group**, 9:30 a.m.
Gail Borden Library, Elgin
The Women: A Novel, Kristen Hannah
- 18: Needlework Group**, 1:00 p.m.
Hostess: Patty Harkin
- 20: Evening Book Group**, 7:00 p.m.
Hostess: Rachel Campbell
The Women: A Novel, Kristen Hannah
- 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

from Jennifer Ford

Kudos to Marti Jernberg for creating our 2024-2025 Yearbook. Marti has been doing this for 7 years. This is your organization at a glance. Be sure to learn about all of the opportunities AAUW offers you and mark your calendars for dates to save.

Our year started out with a bang. The September meeting was attended by 32 people. We ate. We talked. We laughed. We passed a budget. We heard Corrine Pierog, Kane County Board Chair, share her inspiring bio and learned about how the Board deals with women's issues.

Judi and I are finding our way as co-presidents. I have never been a co-president before, but we have complementary skills and a solid commitment to AAUW and its mission. We repeat our request to all members to let us know what you want from this organization. So far, your suggestions have been amazing and inspirational.

Networking is a really high priority of ours. So far, we have attended a joint meeting with branches from Aurora, Naperville and Geneva/St. Charles/Batavia to learn how to adopt the Dignity Index. The Schaumburg branch has invited us to an amazing program about notable women artists via zoom on Sept. 19th. Our upcoming educational program on Project 2025 has been joined by LWVEA and WOTB. Renee Skrabacz, our new STEM chair, has introduced us to American Association of Women Community College, and we will be holding a luncheon meeting with them in March. We are stronger as a community.

Speaking of new chairs, Carol Blohm hit the road running with Diversity and its Women and Culture programs. Two of them are described in the adjacent column. In the next newsletter will be the really exciting programs to come in 2025.

Have you noticed that we have more than one program in some months? What a problem to have! Lots of choices to meet the interests of our members.

ECC AWARD TO RITA SHAW

At the September 14th ECC Gala Awards Ceremony, our branch member Rita Shaw received the award for Exceptional Friend of the Elgin Community College Foundation. Congratulations, Rita.

A WOMAN'S VOTE Special October Program

The keynote speaker for Women on the Brink's public forum to be held at Gail Borden Library at 6:30 p.m. on **October 17th** is Becky Simon, President of the League of Women Voters of Illinois. What is the impact of one woman's vote? Many women's? Find out how your vote makes a difference and how you can inspire others to vote.

WOMEN AND CULTURE from Carol Blohm

October 3rd's Women and Culture's program at Zion Lutheran Church in Elgin at 1 p.m. is an opportunity to learn about the impact on women if some of the propositions in Project 2025 are implemented. And thanks to our new branch member Brenda Rogers, enlightening us will be two outstanding guest speakers. One, Edwin Yohnka, has worked for the ACLU since 1999 and is a primary spokesperson about civil rights issues. The other, Ed Spire, is the co-leader of the northwest suburban project Restore our Democracy and has worked with such groups as Common Cause, Indivisible Illinois, the League of Women Voters and Moms Demand Action.

All in our branch are encouraged to attend—and bring guests—as Project 2025 will dramatically affect women's healthcare, education and civil liberties, to name a few.

November 7th's Post-Election Open House—to be held at Sue Schulz's between 4 and 6 p.m.—is an informal gathering intended to afford us the opportunity to talk about this year's elections. If you are willing to bring wine or non-alcoholic beverages, cheese or other things for attendees to nibble on, please inform Sue Schulz so that we don't end up with an excess of food/drink.

GREAT BOOKS from Barbara Njus

Attention John Cheever fans: The short stories for discussion at our **November 11th** meeting are "The Swimmer," "The Enormous Radio" and "Goodbye My Brother."

You can attend any Great Books' meeting via Zoom by going to the Events Page of Gail Borden Library to sign up for Virtual Attendance. The Zoom link will then be sent to you. Call the Help Desk at the library if you need help signing up ahead of time or help with the Zoom link. Of course if you plan to attend in person, you may just show up. We are usually in the 2nd floor conference room.

NOVEMBER'S SILENT AUCTION DETAILS from Carol Wieg

At our **November 16th** general membership meeting, the Scholarship Committee will be conducting a silent auction both before and after we hear from our guest speaker. The proceeds will help fund the scholarships our branch gives to deserving young women each year.

Those who recall the basket of homemade rolls that Barb Wahl brought to one silent auction, the basket of bath goods donated by another and the beautifully illustrated \$65 book about the first Chinese emperor's terracotta army that sold for \$25 know the possibilities for auction are many. But if you choose to recycle, **remember that this is not a garage sale:** items no longer or rarely in use should be in great condition. And don't overlook things that you have purchased for gifts but have yet to find the right recipient for.

Ineligible for auction, however, is furniture, unless *you* are willing to bring it in early on the day of our meeting. We are also discouraging clothing, unless it is a specialty item such as a Christmas sweater or an accessory such a scarf or purse.

But perhaps the best guide for donations is the stipulation that if something you donate is not bid on by our members and their guests, it will return home with you!

You may choose to set the opening bid for an item as long as you inform us of it in writing. Bids will be accepted in increments of \$2.00.

If there is something special about an item that might increase its value—i.e., if it is handmade or vintage—please fill out an index card with information about it.

If you are donating a service—such as a ride to O'Hare or a manicure—please provide a description of the service on a full-sized sheet of paper with lines drawn below for the bids.

We have already begun collecting donations and will do so at our October general membership meeting as well as at our November board meeting. Vivienne and I will also be at Briana's Pancake House at 1568 Larkin Ave. in Elgin on Thursday, Nov. 14 between 10:00 to noon for those who want to drop off their goodies then (and perhaps join us for brunch). Only as a last resort should you wait until the day of the auction to bring your donations, and then you should plan to come early to help prepare them for display.

As the holiday season is just around the corner, please bring your generous holiday shopping spirit to our meeting, along with cash or checks for payment. We hope that this benefit auction for our local scholarship fund will be so successful that it becomes an annual pre-December holiday tradition.

CURRENT MOVIE DISCUSSION GROUP from Peggie Caughlin

Our movie for **October 2nd** is *Beetlejuice Beetlejuice*, which is now playing in many local theaters. In this sequel, which has many of the original cast, three generations of the Deetz family return home to Winter River after an unexpected family tragedy. Still haunted by Beetlejuice, Lydia's life soon gets turned upside down when her rebellious teenage daughter discovers a mysterious portrait to the afterlife. When someone says Beetlejuice's name three times, the mischievous demon gleefully returns to unleash his very own brand of mayhem.

According to a Rotten Tomatoes reviewer, this is "a fun, chaotic romp filled to the brim with everything you'd hope for from a Beetlejuice film" but "even better with an emotional core and more rounded story the first film largely lacked."

NEWSLETTER

AAUW-Elgin Area publishes the following issues of *The AAUW Times*: September; October/November; December/January; February/March; April/May; and June/July/August.

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.
