

AAUW TIMES

Elgin Area Branch

Established in 1920

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AAUW advances gender equity 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 13th:

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, 2025, 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.



Our Co-President Jennifer Ford, accompanied by Barbara Evans, Rita Shaw and Carol Wieg, responds to the mayor's proclamation.

AAUW FALL LUNCHEON

**12 Noon, Saturday, September 20th
St. Hugh of Lincoln Episcopal Church
36E957 Highland Ave., Elgin**

We will gather for our annual fall salad and dessert luncheon provided by our Board members. Suggested is a \$15 donation to go toward our operating fund.

Though there will be time to socialize, bring your calendars as there will be a short recap of some of the programs scheduled for the coming year. We will also hear about how AAUW can help to lighten the burden of our homeless population from our guest speakers: City of Elgin Homeless Coordinator Jen Hensen and PADS Director Rev. Katie Shaw Thompson.

Other September Events

- 3: Current Movie Discussion Group, 4:30 p.m.**
The Grumpy Goat, Elgin
My Mother's Wedding & The Thursday Murder Club
- 8: Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.**
Hostess: Judi Tepe
- 8: Great Books, 7:00 p.m., Zoom**
Gail Borden Library, Elgin
The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood
- 11: Morning Book Group, 9:30 a.m.**
Gail Borden Library, Elgin
Memorial Days: A Memoir, G. Brooks
- 14: Women and Culture, 4 p.m.**
Burham Academy (former Elgin Academy)
350 Park St., Elgin
- 15: Needlework Group, 1:00 p.m.**
Hostess: Cathy Malm
- 24: Evening Book Group, 7 p.m.**
Hostess: Sharon LeCount
That Librarian, Amanda Jones

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From Judi Tepe

FUND RAISING

from Carol Wieg

This summer is going by quickly and Jennifer and I are gearing up for our second year as Co-Presidents.

I think it's safe to say that we have learned a great deal this past year. To tell the truth, however, we do occasionally seek help from past president Linda Youngren, who continues to be a wealth of AAUW knowledge!

We know that we could never do this job alone and we are so grateful for our committee members who bring wonderful and creative ideas to share at every meeting. Our Women and Culture chairs have kept us busy this summer with fascinating interactive programs. The Famous Women on postage stamps event was so much fun.

This year Jennifer and I both have attended several especially interesting AAUW National Zoom programs. Jennifer turned in the last form to place our branch in the running for the 5 Star Award. As we both have often said Elgin Branch AAUW is always a 5 Star branch in our book!

Our Program Committee was very busy in July brainstorming interesting and informative ideas for the upcoming year.

We continue to reach out to sister AAUW branches, The Gail Borden Library, and The League of Women Voters to partner on future events. We both feel it is important to include as many partners as possible and we both enjoy networking with other women's organizations. It's been a challenging year nationally, to say the least, and we are fortunate to have an active Public Engagement Committee with Sue and Gail. They keep us well informed with news that is both national and local.

We have a wonderful program planned for our September meeting, and we look forward to seeing everyone and meeting our newest members.

We will be conducting our second annual silent auction at our November 15th general membership meeting as a **FUND**raiser for our branch and scholarship funds. So begin setting aside things rarely or no longer used or purchased as gifts but never given. *All should, of course, be in great condition.*

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 they are specialty items, such as Christmas sweaters.

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!

We will begin collecting items at our September general membership meeting on the 20th and will continue until the morning of the auction. Additional information will appear in the October/November newsletter, and announcements will be made at meetings.

August Reminder

26: Immigration & Due Process Panel Discussion, 7 p.m.
Gail Borden Library, Elgin

IMMIGRATION & DUE PROCESS PANEL

from Sue Schulz

Please register in advance at Gail Borden for this program that will feature legal and policy experts on U.S. immigration law and enforcement practices and their impact on Illinois' communities. The panelists are as follow:

Sara Dady, Immigration Attorney and Principal of Dady Law Group, LLD;

Fred Tsao, Senior Policy Counsel, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR);

Jamie Mosser, Kane County State's Attorney.

THE FUTURE WE CHOOSE

from Sandy Kaptain

My heading for this article is the title of a book written by Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac, two of the principal creators of and lead negotiators for the historic 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change. Though I highly recommend reading their book in its entirety, I'm summarizing the "10 Necessary Actions for the Making of a Regenerative Future" that they focus on.

1. Let go of the old world. Honor the past, then let it go. Focus on where we are going. Burst out of your bubble.
2. Face your grief but hold a vision of the future. Keep your eyes on what's to come.
3. Defend the truth. Lies spread six times faster than truth. We have to agree on something as basic as verified facts.
4. See yourself as a citizen, not as a consumer. The most important things in life are not things.
5. Don't subsidize fossil fuels. Progress to renewable energy.
6. Reforest the earth; plant trees as there is room for reforesting an area about the size of the U.S. without affecting food or agriculture.
7. Invest in a clean economy; divest from fossil fuels (This seems to echo #6)
8. Use technology responsibly. AI can help decarbonize but it can also take jobs away.
9. Build gender equity. Females can help with climate change solutions. Females who are educated do not remain tied to having many children.
10. Engage in politics. Vote. Become active. Civil disobedience that is non-violent can succeed with only 3.5% participating.

AAUW POST OFFICE BOX CORRECTION

Barbara Evans

In a number of this past year's newsletters, I bungled our post office box's zip code, which should be **60121-6721**. The first five numbers will get our mail to Elgin's main post office, from which it will be sent to the location that has our 6721 box.

CURRENT MOVIE DISCUSSION GROUP

from Peggie Caughlin

The first movie for discussion on Sept. 3rd will be *My Mother's Wedding*, a heartfelt story about three sisters returning home for the third wedding of their twice-divorced mother. The sisters not only now lead very different lives; they also have different memories of their father and stepfather, all of which have affected their adult relationships. The film focuses on the emotions, confrontations and realizations that their mother's remarriage triggers in them. The film is Kristin Scott Thomas' directorial debut.

We will also discuss *The Thursday Murder Club*, a mystery/ comedy in which the casual sleuthing of four retirees leads to uncovering a murder with a real whodunit. Pierce Brosnan, Helen Mirren and Ben Kingsley star in this film, which is based on Richard Osman's best-selling novel.

WOMEN and CULTURE

from Carol Blohm

The Islamic faith has significantly contributed to education, particularly through its emphasis on universal access to learning, the establishment of early institutions of higher education and the integration of religious and secular knowledge. Muslim scholars advanced various fields of knowledge—including mathematics, astronomy, medicine, and optics—while also emphasizing the importance of character development and ethical conduct within the educational framework.

Come join us on September 14th at 4:00 to welcome Burhan Academy (formerly Elgin Academy) at 350 Park Street into our community. We will take a tour to better understand and support this new school. You can park behind the gym on Academy Place or behind the mosque (which used to be the Sears Art Gallery) on Park St. *The tour will meet at the Rider Center* (newest building), which is now called the Abu Hanifa Center.

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

The deadline for submissions to it is **Sept. 20th**, though early submissions are always welcome. Please send them as Word documents to Barbara at evansselgin.com AND Linda at lindayoungren@sbcglobal.net.

**JOIN OTHER BRANCH MEMBERS
FOR AN ECC DINNER/THEATER EVENT
from Rachel Campbell**

On Friday, Oct 24, the ECC Arts Center is hosting the Lord Chamberlain's Men, an all-male theater company from the U.K. that brings Shakespeare's plays to life as they were originally presented to Elizabethan theatergoers. This evening's performance is Shakespeare's *The Twelfth Night*, one of his greatest comedies and full of mistaken identities, love triangles and witty word-play.

The play will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the VPAC building's Blizzard Theater. But as an extra treat, the Culinary Arts Department is offering dinner before it, also in the VPAC building. The cost of the play is \$35, and the cost of the dinner is \$35 for a total of \$70.

Several in our branch have already signed up for this dinner/theater event. Because tickets are selling quickly, if you would like to join us, **please notify Rachel Campbell (847-308-0274) by August 26** so that she can make reservations for our group.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

from Cathy Malm

Change of address:

Loni Mecum
2304A County Road Apt 107
Gifford, IL 61847

New Members:

Karen McGuire
1 Slade Ave
Elgin, IL 60120
karenmcguire28@gmail.com
cell:202/445-1490

Elizabeth Zuniga
207 S. Jane Dr.
Elgin, IL 60123
eazuni12@gmail.com
Cell: 847/337-2253

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.
