

AAUW TIMES



**Elgin Area Branch
1920-2011**



*Working for 90 years to promote equity for all women and girls,
Life-long education and positive social change*

December 2011/January 2012
Vol. 16, No 9

American Association of University Women

Website - AAUWElginArea.org

Email Address - AAUW@AAUWElginArea.org

December Branch Meeting

**Saturday, December 10th
10:00 am - Noon
Home of Judy Mavros
40W490 Stonecrest Dr, Elgin**

Holiday Brunch



Wish your AAUW friends a happy holiday at our annual brunch, this year in the home of Judy Mavros. Anne Marblestone and her committee are planning a delicious brunch for us to enjoy, and, in the spirit of the season, we will be making monetary donations to the Interfaith Food Pantry.

Directions to Judy's home:
Take Rte. 20 west to Plank Road; turn left and go 1/8 mile to Russell Rd. Turn left. Go 1.6 miles on Russell; turn right onto Stonecrest Drive. Judy's home is the 2nd house on the right: 40W490 Stonecrest Dr.

Join us for good food and fellowship at our annual holiday celebration.

Calendar

December

- Dec 2 **Out and About- Merchandise Mart**
A one-of -a-kind craft show of fashions, jewelry, art, etc.
- Dec 6 **Memoir Writing Group-11 am**
Potluck at the home of Gareth Sith.
- Dec 7 **Current Movie Discussion 4:30 pm**
Movie- *J. Edgar*
- Dec 8 **Morning Book Group 10 am**
Sara Anderson, hostess
The Forgotten Garden, Kate Morton
- Dec 10 **December Branch Meeting**
Holiday Brunch 10am-noon
- Dec 12 **Great Book 7 pm**
Gail Borden Library
Selected Poems by Wislawa Szymborska
- Dec 21 **Evening Book Group 6 pm**
At Colonial Cafe
Major Pettigrew's Last Stand, Helen Simonsen

January

- Jan 4 **Current Movie Discussion-movie TBD**
- Jan 9 **Great Books 7 pm**

Gail Borden Library
“Interpretation of Maladies” –Jhumpa Lahiri

- Jan 9 **Board Meeting**-if necessary
- Jan 10 **Memoir Writing Group** 1 pm
Home of Pattie Harkin
- Jan 12 **Morning Book Group** 10 am
Hostess-Barbara Chase
The Dressmaker of Khair Khana
By Gayle Tzemach Lemmon
- Jan 14 **January Branch Meeting**
Soup and Salad Luncheon 11 am
Evangelical Covenant Church
- Jan 16 **Evening Crafters** 7 pm
Home of Lee Engman
- Jan 23 **20’s & 30’s Book Clu** 7 pm
Gail Borden Library
Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austin
- Jan 24 **Reel Women/Real Women** 6 pm
Gail Borden Library
The Help
- Jan 25 **Evening Book Group** 7 pm
Hostess-Barbara Maring
Clara and Mr. Tiffany by Susan Vreeland

Presidents’ Message

I hope many of you are “Ho-Ho-Ho-ing and Hee-Hee-Hee-ing” as a result of our November general meeting. What a fun time with a great message for all of us! Thanks to Marge Fox for a wonderful program suggestion.

Exciting things are happening in Elgin’s AAUW. Our membership keeps increasing. We have 100 in sight. Just a little more push from each of us and we could reach that magic number. All of our study groups are bursting at the seams and we have added a new dining group GOOD TASTES which will “brunch” together in December. There is, quite literally, an interest group for all tastes.

AAUW has been impressively in the news lately for its 10-year study on bullying and sexual harassment in grades 7-12. This is an area that might be explored in the future to see what contribution our branch could make to augment efforts in our local schools, much as we are doing with the STEM involvement in

collaboration with Judson University. At least 12 of our members will be a presence on December 3rd when Judson will host 60 Latinas and their mothers for exposure to career opportunities in Science-Technology-Engineering-and Math. I encourage all of us to dream of ways our branch could be of service to enlighten and improve the lives of young people in our districts.

One additional way we can help to support our young people is by underwriting the cost of an Advanced Placement test – a test that, if passed, can result in the student’s receiving college credit for work completed in high school. The fee is \$87 per test and you can subsidize it on an individual basis or in tandem with a fellow AAUW member. Moreover, you can designate the subject matter for which you would like to sponsor the test. Your check must be submitted by January 15th.

(Editor’s Note: For those of you who are receiving this newsletter in hardcopy form via U.S. mail, the AP Exam Scholarship Form is attached. If you receive this via email, the Form is attached to the email as a separate pdf file.)

On a lighter note, I hope all of you will visit with your AAUW friends in my home on Saturday, December 10th, between 10:00 and noon. It is a festive time to enjoy good food, good friends, and a respite from the hustle-bustle of the season.

And since this newsletter covers through January, do not forget to attend the soup and salad luncheon on Saturday, January 14th, as we “think spring” and raise funds for EO with a silent auction. Look for more details in the description of our January program.

As you approach the holiday season, take time to reflect on the busy-ness of your life. I feel confident that most of us will find that our busy-ness has a purpose, but don’t forget the hee-hee-hee-ing and ho-ho-ho-ing, especially the ho-ho-ho-ing.

Happy Holidays,
Judy Mavros
Co-President

Diversity Chair Report

Collaborative STEM Initiative: On Saturday December 3rd, AAUW – Elgin Area Branch will participate with Judson University, School District U-46, Elgin Community College, and the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) in the first of an exciting four-part initiative called “Adelante/Moving Forward with STEM”. The December 3rd program offers a mother-daughter STEM conference which includes panel discussions, computer activities about science careers, a hands-on science project, and a session about The

House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros. Also joining in this collaboration are volunteers from AAUW – Batavia/Geneva/St. Charles Area. If you are interested in volunteering or in learning more about this 4-part community-based STEM initiative, please email me at mkeen38@comcast.net.

Exam Fee Sponsorship/Support: U-46 students are taking Advance Placement classes, but are not taking the Advanced Placement Exams because they cannot afford the exam fee (I have confirmed that the fee is \$87.00). Qualifying scores on the Advanced Placement Exams translate to college credits. Taking advanced classes is terrific, but students *must* take and pass the test in order to get college credit. I now have the official "Advanced Placement Exam Fee Support Form" from U-46. Please note that you do *not* have to cover the entire fee in order to participate in this program. Any amount is appreciated. The deadline for assistance this school year is January 15, 2012. Please email me at mkeen38@comcast.net if you are interested in participating. I have the form and more details.

--- Margaret Keen

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

In December of 1999, the United Nations General Assembly designated **November 25**—the day of the political assassination of three of the four Mirabal sisters in the Dominican Republic—as the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**. If you have not read *In the Time of the Butterflies*, Julia Alvarez's account of the sisters' lives, and/or seen the film with the same title, I strongly recommend that you do so.

I would also recommend that you visit the web site of the **International Labor Rights Forum (ILRF)** at <http://laborrights.org/about-ilrf> An "advocacy organization dedicated to achieving just and humane treatment for workers worldwide," the ILRF, not surprisingly, devotes much of its energy to addressing the plight of working women.

As it explains at <http://laborrights.org/rights-for-working-women> "Globalization has led to the rise of export processing zones (EPZs) in poor countries throughout the world. Throughout Asia, Latin America and Sub Saharan Africa, the industries in these zones are heavily dependent on cheap unskilled female labor. Women, in fact, often comprise between 70 to 90 percent of their total labor force.

"While increased access to employment has provided new economic and social opportunities for poor women, the jobs they occupy remain unregulated and unstable. Women workers are systematically denied

their rights to regular pay and regular working hours, equal pay for equal work, permanent contracts, safe and non-hazardous work environments, and freedom of association. Sexual harassment in the workplace, and workplace-related sexual violence, is a particularly egregious and widespread form of discrimination against women. . . ."

"Over the past several years, the ILRF's Rights for Working Women (RWW) Campaign has sought to bring together allies throughout the developing world to promote viable remedies for the problem of sexual harassment and violence in the workplace.

"Today, the ILRF is extending the scope of its RWW Campaign to identify the linkages between sexual violence in the workplace and broader labor rights violations, and to promote strategies that will advance the economic and social rights of working women.

"The ILRF is also committed to challenging the gendered nature of international trade and Big Box industry retail, to advocate for women's rights globally."

—Barbara Evans

Branch Meeting Minutes – November 16

Co-president Judy Mavros called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. at St. Hugh Episcopal Church. She thanked members handling social duties – Rachel Campbell, Medina Gross, Judy Mavros and Linda Youngren.

RECORDING SECRETARY – Minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.

TREASURER – Shirley May said there will be \$149.81 in the Committed Fund for EO after we send in our \$2500 contribution. We will be sending \$350 to the LAF Fund. Report was filed for audit.

MEMBERSHIP – Becky Olson said we have 95 members. The committee is almost at its goal of 25 new members. It will be meeting again soon. The new members are attending study groups. There were 22 members at the morning book group, including the new members.

PROGRAM – Linda Youngren said the January meeting will be in interactive one, with 2 local gardeners. They want to raise the consciousness of people about best gardening methods. Barbara Evans brought up having an auction at the January meeting. It was decided that we would have one, but not of white elephant items. It

should be a service auction. Linda said there is a wonderful menu planned for the Holiday Brunch. Anne Marblestone is in charge. Mary Navin is donating the paper goods, as she will be out of town for the Brunch. It was decided that our charity for donations at the Brunch will be the All Peoples Interfaith Pantry. Checks will be accepted, not food items, as they can purchase more economically than we can.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY – Karen Patterson reminded members to notify her if she needs to send a card to anyone.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Rachel Campbell said Carol Cowles, Medina Gross, Jeanne Hebeisen and she attended the AAUW-IL fall conference at Stronghold. A wonderful film by a young Palestinian woman was shown on Friday night. On Saturday there was an overview of social media, a report by our lobbyist Paula Purdue and a presentation about women running for office.

EULOGY FOR MARGARETE SCHMOLDT – Judy Kaulfus presented reminiscences of Margarete. Judy was a student teacher under her. Margarete, 50- year Life Member of our branch, taught 1st grade for many years, and was honored as the Kane County Teacher of the Year. An envelope was passed for members to donate in her name to EO. We will send it to an area of continuing education.

PUBLIC POLICY – Anne Marblestone recommended members sign up on the AAUW.org site to get updates on public policy. The notification she gets about taking action on public policy items comes too late for her to get it in the newsletter. She listed some issues that recently needed quick action. She said a safe schools bill (S509) needed members’ backing.

OLD BUSINESS – In Margaret Keen’s absence July reported on the STEM project our branch is supporting. The December 3 event needs a few more volunteers in the afternoon. Some Batavia-Geneva-St. Charles branch members may also come to help. Sixty girls are signed up to participate. The books have all been purchased. There is still an opportunity for members to donate on their own or by forming groups to pay the \$87 needed for a girl to take an AP test. A form to do that will be in the newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS – Marcia Cameron said she will be taking to the Crisis Center all food brought to the meeting by members. She also put in a plug for volunteers at the Crisis Center’s Reruns2. Libby Hoeft

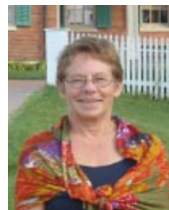
told of a cruise to France next July, sponsored by the Elgin Symphony League. She also mentioned that Girl Scouts are celebrating their 100th anniversary. They are highlighting the harm being done to girls by reality TV. Kathy Jablonoski said former member Barbara Williams was in the hospital. Libby said Gareth Sitz has a health issue and welcomes our prayers. Mary Navin said applications have gone out for the Local Scholarship.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Recording Secretary Jeanne Hebeisen

Membership Matters

Our membership continues to grow. It is a pleasure to see our new members participating in our book groups, movie groups, and our general meetings. Kudos to Gareth Sitz who has encouraged so many of her friends to become Women of Teal. We currently have 97 members. Each member could help boost the goal to GROW OUR BRANCH. Join the team!



Nikki Skogfeldt was born in Chicago and grew up in the north suburbs, went to college at New Mexico State University and worked in California. During and after high school she worked as an administrative aide until 1976 at a bicentennial company. She lived and worked in Chicago during this period and felt the impact of short cold winter days. Attending college in a warmer climate helped her to decide on a future that has been rewarding ever since. Working for the U. S. Forest Service after graduating allowed her to realize the dream of working outside. Nikki is a Professional Horticulturist, with a long history of nursery sales and management. She retired in 2008 as the Landscape Supervisor at the Grand Victoria Casino in Elgin. Her hobbies include gardening, walking, reading, traveling and swimming. She enjoys theatre, meeting new people and helping others. Nikki in her own words: “What a thrill it has been for me to find an organization like AAUW. Over the last month, I have met wonderful people that have made a positive impact on my life.”

Member contact info:
Nikki Skogfeldt
600 Arlington Lane, South Elgin, IL 60177
847.697.4681

nskogfeldt@sbcglobal.net

We have another new member, actually a returning member. Her pix and bio will appear in our next newsletter. In the meantime, the following contact info is for members to use:

Donna Vetter
2811 Edgewood Drive, Elgin, IL 60124
847.888.2382 D.Vetter@sbcglobal.net

The holidays are fast approaching. Have you considered a gift membership to someone? A student attending a community college, university or tech school is eligible for student affiliate membership or maybe you know someone eligible as a graduate. Check out our national website aauw.org to learn more about the kinds of memberships available and the costs.

Reel Women/Real Women



Coming Attractions

December: No film

Tuesday, January 24: *The Help* (2011)

Starring Emma Stone, Viola Davis and Octavia Spenser

Tues., Feb. 28: *Down in the Delta* (1998)

Directed by Maya Angelou
Starring Alfre Woodard, Al Freeman Jr.
With Mary Alice, Esther Rolle, Wesley Snipes

Though many of us have not only read *The Help*, seen the film and discussed both, when advised that many in the community have not and might welcome the opportunity to do so, our committee opted to include the film in our 2012 schedule. There are also undoubtedly some who would like to see it again, if only to marvel at the performance of Viola Davis, who is regarded by many critics as the almost-inevitable winner of the 2012 Best Actress Oscar.

As for those who are wondering why our committee did not opt to show this film during Black History Month, steeped as it is in the climate/events that took place in Mississippi in the early 1960s— For that month we have chosen a stellar film that

overcomes one of the main criticisms of *The Help*, namely that it focused only on the negative aspects of the lives of blacks.

For those who have seen *The Help* and will not be joining us in January, I would strongly recommend reading "How *The Help* Failed Us," a review by writer and TV news producer Dyane Jean Françoise, for it certainly gave me a different perspective on the film.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dyane-jeanfran/thehelpfilmreview_b_926798.html

This is the film group that our branch co-sponsors with Gail Borden Library, which is where the films are shown. Open to the public at no charge, show time is 6 pm; discussion follows. Food/drink may be brought into whichever room we're assigned for the evening. —**Barbara Evans**

Current Movie Discussion Group

The movie we've chosen for December 7th is *J. Edgar*. We meet at 4:30pm on the first Wednesday of the month for dinner and discussion at the Colonial on McLean. Meg Still will be our discussion leader. It's fun to talk and share our ideas. Come and join us! Call, or e-mail Jan Jones so the Colonial will be ready for us.

The movie for the January 4, 2012 discussion will be chosen by those attending on December 7th. Join us then to help choose another good movie. We will send out an e-mail after December 7th to let you know the choice for January. Again, please call or e-mail Jan Jones so the Colonial will set the correct number of places for us.
—Jan Jones

Out and About

December 3, 2011 (Saturday) ONE-OF-A-KIND CRAFT SHOW AT THE MERCHANDISE MART
We plan to take the train to Chicago. The show opens at 10 a.m. The show includes a stunning array of fashion, jewelry, art, created by 600 artists. The admittance fee is \$12 regular and \$9 seniors. This is a four day show running from Dec. 1 through Dec. 4. The admittance fee permits attendees to return on all four days. Please let us know if you plan to join us---(847-695-9024).

February 1, 2012 (Wednesday) PINSTRIPES AT THE ARBORETUM (South Barrington at the corner of routes 59 and 72) Join us for bowling bocce ball and other activities. The facility opens at 11:30a.m. There is a bistro at the facility, but there are many restaurants in

the shopping center. Bowling is \$5.00 per game plus the cost of shoes; bocce is \$8.00 per game. If you would like to join us, please call so that arrangement may be made with Pinstripes. --Rachel Campbell

Evening Crafters

Evening Crafters will not meet in December. Our January meeting will be on Monday the 16, at 7 p.m., at the home of Lee Engman in Palatine, 330 S. Benton. Anyone planning to come should call Linda Rusenovich about car-pooling. Our February meeting will be on Monday the 20th, at 7 p.m., at the home of Linda Rusenovich, 160 Kathleen in Elgin. We are doing a 2 month project (in case we have to cancel one if there is bad weather): a crocheted pillow decorated with crocheted flowers and leaves as featured in the March/April, 2011, issue of Crochet! Magazine--"Fresh-Picked Pillows". Supplies needed are: c. 8 oz. worsted weight yarn for the pillow itself in a light or neutral color (i.e., off white), a green for the leaves and stems, and a bright color for the flowers--they used an aqua. Also needed are size H and size J crochet hooks, a 16" pillow form (or stuffing), needle and thread, scissors, and a yarn needle. Call Linda at 847-741-7636 or Lee at 847-934-0742 for more information.

Good Tastes

We have set two outings for the new year and hope you will join us. We will be meeting the 2nd Wednesday of the month. If you have ideas for future outings please bring them with you. We want your input.

Both meetings will begin at 5:00 PM to assure seating. You will need to notify Judy- 847-695-7265 or Lorna 847-741-4925 at least one week ahead if you plan to attend.

Jan 11th 2012 - Dominicks in E. Dundee - let us know by Jan 4th.

Feb.8th 2012 - Toom Toom in Elgin - let us know by Feb 1st.



January Branch Meeting

Saturday, January 14, 11:00 am
January Branch Meeting
Saturday, January 14, 11:00 am
Soup and Salad Luncheon

Evangelical Covenant Church,
1565 Larkin Ave, Elgin

Bringing Nature Home

Winter will have to take a break while we enjoy our annual soup and salad luncheon along with a gardening program to help us anticipate spring. Local gardeners and conservationists June Kiebler and Jean Muntz will lead an interactive session based on Doug Tallamy's book, *Bringing Nature Home*, to demonstrate how we can sustain biodiversity of native plants and wildlife in our own back yards.

AAUW Board members will provide soups and salads. If you are not bringing food, we are requesting a \$7.50 donation for the Educational Opportunity Fund.

Though traditionally a silent auction is part of our January luncheon, the goodies available for it have dwindled down to a precious few in the last five years. We're hoping to change this and ask you to make an extra effort to contribute something. Remember that while items do not have to be new, this is not a white-elephant sale but rather one that should inspire spirited bidding wars. Consider offering such tempting things as a ride to O'Hare, a coupon for a hand-knitted scarf in yarn of the bidder's choosing, baked goodies or a coupon for a tasty dish to be prepared at an agreed-upon time, a special book such as a like-new first edition of a book B. Evans reviewed on Amazon and is bringing: *The Eternal Army: The Terracotta Soldiers of the First Emperor* (now listed for \$100), or a basket of candies/nuts/bridge tallies for those who host monthly gatherings or soaps/bubblebath/sponge/candle for those who like to soak. Whatever you bring, list what you'd like as a starting bid for it, and bring your checkbooks, for the monies raised will go toward our \$25-a-member annual contribution to the Educational Opportunity Fund.

SAVE THE DATE

The 2012 Women's History Month Brunch will be held from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm on **Saturday, March 10**, at the Randall Oaks Country Club on Binnie Road in Dundee and will feature Lynn Rymarz as American artist Mary Cassatt. Details about registering for this event will be on a flyer, which will be distributed at our January meeting as well as appear in our February newsletter. Because the price per ticket will be \$15, the same as last year, we hope to have a turnout that is at least equal to last year's. Thus as soon as you get your 2012 calendars, please save the date. —*Barbara Evans and Rachel Campbell, Elgin Area AAUW representatives on the Women's History Month Committee*

Notices/Changes

New email addresses

Brooke Transue: fbtransue7@att.net

Kathy Turnquist: kathyturnquist1@aol.com

Memorial

A tribute to Margarete Schmoltdt's life will be in our February newsletter.

From Karen Patterson

Dear AAUW Members,

Thank you all for your cards and kind words of sympathy these last few months. Your concern helped me through dark times. What a wonderful branch of women you are!

Sincerely,
Karen Patterson

From Katherine Jablonowski

Barbara Williams, a retired U-46 teacher, has been a member of our Elgin branch. She is currently hospitalized but will be going home next week. You can contact her at 201 W. Helen Rd., Palatine, IL 60067 or 847-358-5133.

From Jan Escola

Hi, Everyone:

There might be a few of you who don't know that recently my husband and I moved to Kansas. We were lucky enough to sell our house which closed on Oct. 14.

Since then we have packed and unpacked so often we don't know where anything is. Thanks to two of the bridge players, Sue and Fay who helped with the packing. Wish I had brought you to Kansas to help on this end.

We are meeting with the builder tomorrow. Lucky for us, my mother had not been able to sell her condo, so we are temporarily residing in her one bedroom condo. Our address is:

3001 Maupin Ln Apt. 206
Topeka, KS 66614

For the time being, I am keeping my cell phone 847-867-2593. I am hoping to find some bridge games and AAUW in the next few weeks.

I will miss all of you. I am hoping it works out that I can come back for the end of the year bridge game. Also, at this time, we are planning on being back during the AAUW tea so I may see some of you there.

Thanks to all of you who have participated in the AAUW bridge over the years!

Jan Escola


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I help people use life and career changes as springboards for new opportunity.

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 equivalent degree from a qualified educational institution.

AAUW's Mission Statement

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

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.

About the Elgin Area Branch and AAUW Times

The Elgin Area Branch was organized in 1920 with 40 charter members.

AAUW Times is published nine times a year by the Elgin Area Branch of the American Association of Women.

Elgin Area Branch AAUW
c/o Karen Patterson
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