

# AAUW TIMES



**Elgin Area Branch  
1920-2009**



*Working for 89 years to promote equity for all women and girls,  
Life-long education and positive social change*

June, July, August 2010

American Association of University Women

Vol. 15, No. 5

## **Summer Pot-luck/Picnic Tuesday June 8 – 6 p.m.**

### **Lords Park East Pavilion**

This year we're trying something new: a summer picnic. We have invited members of the 20's and 30's Book Group to be our guests. We would like to encourage each of you to bring a friend or an acquaintance—someone who might be interested in joining our branch. It would be fun to meet new friends and share our organization with them.



Join us on Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Lords Park East Pavilion. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass, no desserts please. The Social Committee will provide the paper supplies, utensils, drinks, and desserts.

The East Pavilion is located across from the zoo. Turn into the park off of Liberty Street (Route 25) at Franklin Boulevard. Go past the Elgin Public Museum, and follow the signs for the zoo.

Think positive thoughts about NO RAIN and help us celebrate the end of the 2009 – 2010 year. Hope to see you all there.

Rachel Campbell and Lynn Harper

## **Summer Calendar June**

- June 1 **Memoir Writing Group** 1 pm  
Mabel Rice, hostess
- June 8 **Pot-luck/Picnic** 6 pm  
Lords Park East Pavilion
- June 10 **Morning Book Group** 10 am  
Sara Ellen Anderson, hostess  
*The Geography of Bliss*, Eric Weiner  
**Note: this is a change**
- June 12 **Garden Walk** 9 – 3
- June 14 **Great Books** 7 pm  
Gail Borden Library  
*Cymbeline*, Shakespeare
- June 17 **Evening Crafters** 7:30 pm  
Linda Rusenovich, hostess  
Yo Yo Project
- June 22 **Reel Women/Real Women** 6 pm  
Gail Borden Library  
*Blind Side*
- June 23 **Evening Book Group** 7 pm  
Sharon Spates, hostess  
*Gernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, Mary Ann Schaffer
- June 22 **Reel Women/Real Women** 6 pm  
Gail Borden Library  
*The Prize-Winner of Defiance, Ohio*

June 28 **20's and 30's Book Club** 7 pm  
Gail Borden Library  
*A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering  
Genius*, Dave Eggers

June 29 **Out and About**  
Klehm Arboretum and the Anderson  
Gardens (Japanese Garden), Rockford,  
Lunch at the Anderson Gardens.

## July

July 5 **Board Meeting** 6:30 pm  
Pot-luck  
Bonnie Hill, hostess

July 8 **Morning Book Group** 10 am  
Nancy Klemm, hostess  
*The Soloist*, Steve Lopez  
**Note: this is a change**

July 12 **Great Books** 7 pm  
Gail Borden Library  
*The Lower Depths*, Maxim Gorky

July 13 **Memoir Writing Group** 1 pm  
Maylo Hranac, hostess

July 21 **Out and About**  
House and Garden Walk  
Geneva Lakes Branch of AAUW

July 22 **Evening Crafters** 7:30 pm  
Lee Engman, hostess  
Yo Yo Project

July 26 **20's and 30's Book Club** 7 pm  
Gail Borden Library  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream*,  
William Shakespeare

July 27 **Reel Women/Real Women** 6 pm  
Gail Borden Library  
*The Prize-Winner of Defiance, Ohio*

July 28 **Evening Book Group** 7 pm  
Lorna Miller, hostess  
*The September of Shiraz*,  
Dalia Sofer

## August

Aug. 9 **Great Books** 7 pm  
Gail Borden Library  
*20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*  
Jules Verne

Aug. 12 **Morning Book Group** 10 am  
Sara Ellen Anderson, hostess  
*The Elegance of the Hedgehog*,  
Muriel Barbery

Aug. 17 **Memoir Writing Group** 1 pm  
Barbara Chase, hostess

Aug. 17 **Out and About**  
A Tastebud Tour, Chicago

Aug. 23 **20's and 30's Book Club** 7 pm  
Gail Borden Library  
*Silas Marner*, George Eliot

Aug. 24 **Reel Women/Real Women** 6 pm  
Gail Borden Library  
*The Young Victoria*

Aug. 25 **Evening Book Group** 7 pm  
Judy Kaulfuss, hostess  
*Oulriers*,  
Malcom Gladwell

Aug. 26 **Women's Equality Day** 7 pm  
Arlington Heights Village Hall

Aug. 26 **Evening Crafters** 7:30 pm  
Jelayne Ewers, hostess  
Pillow or wall-hanging with felt figures

Aug. 27 **Out and About**  
ACE Craft Fair

Aug. 30 **Board Meeting** 7 pm  
Hostess TBA

Put the **September Pot-luck** on your calendar. It  
will be on Thursday, September 16, at 6 pm, at the  
Evangelical Covenant Church.

In October, **Out and About** is planning a trip to the  
Touchstone Theater, Spring Green, Wisconsin.

## Presidents' Message

The first year of our presidency has flown by. We want to thank our Board, all in leadership positions, and each and every member for making our branch activities run so smoothly.

As I'm writing this message, we have memories of some wonderful programs – poetry, native plants, sixty years of Elgin Community College, the Elgin Symphony, delicious meals and wonderful friends. Libby Hoeft, our Co-president, was honored at the YWCA Leader Luncheon by receiving the Marjorie Leonard Award for Volunteer/Community Service.

The Illinois State Convention was held in Lisle, and five of us were fortunate to attend. Congratulations are in order for Liola Carey for taking our pictures to add to our yearbook and earning a Spice award at the State Convention.

We are in the midst of our spring garage sale at Jean Jederman's home, and it seems to be off to a great start. A HUGE thanks to Mary Navin and everyone who has donated, priced and arranged items, brought tables to put our treasures on, dug perennials to share, or maybe even found something to take back home. This is one of our projects that each and every one of us can support, and it's easier and more fun than having our own garage sale.

We are also right in the midst of planning our 4<sup>th</sup> Fox Valley Garden Walk. The members of this committee have been working hard to sell ads and are now selling tickets for the June 12<sup>th</sup> event. This year we have invited 11 local artists to show and sell their work in Lords Park, near where the Dogs a' la Cart will be located.

We hope you will plan to join the 20's & 30's Book Group at a picnic in Lords Park. What a perfect time to invite anyone interested in joining our membership. Let's try to each invite a friend to become a new member. Looking forward to seeing you at an AAUW event this summer!

Our sympathies to Dale Mindell-Adams and family on the recent passing of her husband Bill Adams.

Jan Jones, Co President

## May Branch Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 p.m. by Co-president Jan Jones.

She announced some recognitions we received at the State Convention. Our branch was 9<sup>th</sup> place in total giving to

Educational Programs/AAUW Funds and 9<sup>th</sup> place in per capital giving. We gave \$100 to the Ruth Sweetser Honorary, which has raised over \$25,000 toward its \$50,000 goal in about a year. In addition, our branch received a certificate for a 97.65 membership retention rate. Liola Carey was honored with a Spice Award for taking pictures of members to be a part of our Yearbook. Kathryn Jablonowski gave a presentation of Liola's accomplishments.

Mary Navin presented an Education Funds Named Grant Award for Sharon Spates. The other Named Grant recipient, Linda Youngren, could not be present, and will receive her recognition at the next meeting.

The minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Shirley May Byrnes, Treasurer, presented the treasurer's report. There being no questions, it was filed for audit.

**MEMBERSHIP** – Jo Ann Armenta said we have 85 members. She received dues from 29 members tonight. She said there is a new branch membership brochure in the process of being created. Through the Facebook page that Rachel Bloomberg set up for us, we have recruited a new member.

**PROGRAM** – Rachel Campbell reminded members of the picnic pot-luck to be held in Lords Park on June 8 at the new shelter. She told members not to bring deserts, as something will be provided. Four members of the 20's and 30's Group have already responded to our invitation to them to be our guests. She urged members to bring prospective members. There will be balloons to mark the shelter.

**GARAGE SALE AND GARDEN WALK** – Mary Navin plugged the Garage Sale, and passed around sign-up sheets for it and the Garden Walk. She said there will be 2 artists painting in 2 of the gardens and artists in the Elgin Public Museum. Anne Marablestone said ticket books for the Garden Walk will be available at the Green Expo of the City of Elgin on Saturday. The coupons available in them would more than pay for the booklet costs of \$10 for members.

**PUBLIC POLICY** – Anne said she usually receives information too late to get information to the members. She told of the victory regarding Title IX, which has been an AAUW priority. President Obama rescinded the guidelines President Bush put in place weakening monitoring of Title IX. She said women's participation in college sports has increased 500% since Title IX went into effect in 1972. Anne also reported that the Illinois legislature was planning on wrapping up its session on Saturday. She urged members to contact state senators

and representatives to not go home without a budget. Go to ILGA.GOV to find out how to contact them. She said she had copies of the AAUW Action Congressional Voting Record for members to take home. It holds the voting record for AAUW public policy issues.

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND – Bonnie Hill announced that she had impatiens and geraniums for sale. Proceeds to go to the LAF fund.

NEW BUSINESS -- Janelle Walker said we should use social media to promote social service agencies and their problems. Sarah Evans, an Elgin resident, was featured in the February issue of Vanity Fair as one of the Ten Women to Watch on Twitter and is planning an event June 15 to help non profit groups learn how to use social media to get their messages out. Janelle said the Courier would be carrying an article about the problems of the Community Crisis Center. Barbara Evans said fair trade was the highest vote-getter for programs for the coming year. World Trade Fair Day will be celebrated tomorrow with a trade fair going on at Daley Center in Chicago from 10-4.

Shirley Mae Byrnes reported on her attendance at the State Convention last week-end at the Motherhood Penalty breakout group. She quoted figures about how women's wages are affected by taking time out to raise a family. A mother earns 7% less for each child she has. Fathers earn the most, then come women without children, then men without children, and, finally, mothers.

Anne announced that the Local Scholarship Award recipient is Zeynap Baki. She is in her mid 30's and is from Turkey. She came to the U.S. not speaking English, and had learned enough within a year to be able to take college level classes. She has an Associate Degree. She wants to work for a non-profit group dealing with victims of abuse or minorities. She was awarded \$1,000, and is going to DePaul University. Jan said she was not able to be here tonight but would come to speak to us at a future meeting.

Jan reminded members that Libby Hoefft has been nominated for a YW Leadership Award. Call the YW for reservations for the luncheon on May 13. She praised July Mavros' writing of the nomination submission. Judy said other community members helped with their contributions.

Jan announced that the joint board meeting will be on July 5 at Bonnie Hill's. Carpool, if possible, as parking is limited.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Co-recording Secretary Jeanne Hebeisen

## **Programming for 2010-2011**

**From Barbara Evans**

To the 30 who returned the survey of program possibilities the committee gives a hearty round of applause, especially as those of greatest interest were programs for which we have available, affordable speakers. Thus in addition to the already selected ones from Dr. Peggy Connolly (Chicago's murals), Lynn Rymarz (Susan B. Anthony) and Zeynap Baki (local scholarship recipient), you also will learn about the life/music of black jazz singer Ethel Waters (of interest to 76%), fair trade, of benefit to many women as well as "green" (53%), ways to distinguish the real from "reel" in historical films (53%), and Elgin's fen (43%),

Though Mary Cassatt was also of interest to 43%, because we had already scheduled Lynn Rymarz for one program, we opted to re-offer the Impressionist for consideration next year, along with the programs on the impact of various Supreme Court decisions on the lives of women (40%) and local social service agencies (33%).

Unfortunately, the professor recommended to speak about the effects of economic reforms on Chinese women (37%) is moving to California, so this topic will be re-offered only if we can find another speaker. This is also the case with Iraqi women in times of peace and war, because unknown to or forgotten by 37%, was that Dr. Jassim spoke at our 2005 soup/salad luncheon.

Programs unlikely to be re-offered for consideration are the following, which were of interest to 20% or fewer: 1) Project Harambee designed to help HIV-positive African women support their families; 2) profiles of noteworthy American women; 3) women and civil rights issues as seen through the law and court cases; 4) the significance of women in leadership roles and the challenges they face; 5) challenges faced by minority women; 6) the generational divide in the workplace and how to cross it; 7) the Bandits, a women's pro softball team; 8) Girl Scouts/scouting today; 9) insights into the used book business; and 10) finding good health information on the internet.

Finally, though we were disappointed to learn that only seven were willing to share a favorite holiday recipe, we can promise you a picturesque setting for the holiday brunch, as Sharon Spates volunteered to host it.

## Out and About

### From Rachel Campbell

The Out and About group is back, and we have scheduled several events for the next several months. If you would like to join us, please contact one of the committee: Rachel Campbell, Lorna Miller, Mary Navin and Becky Shorter. We want to be sure that you have the correct information and that no one will be left behind.

**June 29** - For this event, we will journey to the west—to Rockford. There we will visit the **Klehm Arboretum and the Anderson Gardens (Japanese Garden)**. We plan to have lunch at the Anderson Gardens.

**July 21 - The Geneva Lakes Branch of AAUW** will sponsor its **House and Garden Walk**. The cost is \$30. We will carpool to the site for the tour and lunch. Lunch is included in the cost of the tour. This is a good way to support a fellow AAUW Branch.

**August 17 - A Tastebud Tour** We will take a train to Chicago and join the tour, which includes visits to several restaurants (Berghoffs, The Grillroom, Heaven on Seven, Piazano's, Downtown Dog, Gold Coast Dog, The Purple Pig, Now We're Poppin', Sugar Bliss, The Billy Goat, and Sarah's). On our way to each restaurant, we will learn historic facts about Chicago and its unique food. This is a walking tour—the length of time is 3 to 3 ½ hours. The cost is \$44. It begins at 11 a.m.

**August 27 - ACE Craft Fair** Several of us attended this event last year and want to return for another visit. If you would like to be included, contact Rachel for further information. The cost is \$18 for the entrance fee.

**October** - Spring Green, Wisconsin—The Touchstone Theater. The Evening Book Group read *THE SYRINGA TREE* by Pamela Gian. The theater in Spring Green will present the play several times this summer season. We are opting for an October date. This will be an overnight trip. We need to communicate with the book group, but details will be coming very soon, because many of the performances of this play have already been sold out. If you want to be included, let us know ASAP.

## Evening Crafters

### From Lee Engman

The Evening Crafters Group will be meeting during the summer. In June and July we will be making a 19" x 19" pillow (or wall hanging) using fabric yo-yos in the form of a basket with flowers. Supplies include a light solid for the front, pink and green solid colors for the basket and stems, assorted pastel prints for the flowers, 2 yellow buttons for

flower centers, fiber-fill, and a print for the pillow back and ruffle. The June meeting will be at the home of Linda Rusenovich in Elgin on **June 17**. The July meeting will be on **July 22** at the home of Lee Engman in Palatine (car-pooling will be needed).

The **August 26** meeting will be at the home of Jelayne Ewers in Huntley. We will be making another pillow (or wall hanging) with felt figures (tree, squirrel, birds) on a homespun background. Supplies include felt in light green, yellow, pink, brown, and blue; felt in cream, gold, grey, dark brown, olive, and medium green; light brown and black floss; black, cream, and off-white buttons; two 15" squares of homespun fabric; a 14" pillow form.



For more information, call Lee at 847-934-0742 or e-mail [ehfengman@yahoo.com](mailto:ehfengman@yahoo.com)



## COMING ATTRACTIONS

From Barbara Evans

**June 22 - The Blind Side** (reviewed in last month's newsletter)

**July 27 - The Prize-Winner of Defiance, Ohio** (2005)  
Rated PG

Based on the memoir written by her daughter, the story of Evelyn Ryan—a 1950s Midwestern housewife with ten children and an alcoholic husband—almost strains credulity, for it is by entering and winning contest after contest for ad slogans and jingles for consumer products that she is able to keep her family afloat. Both Julianne Moore and Woody Harrelson received unanimous praise from critics for their performances in director Jane Anderson's first feature film.

**Aug. 24 - The Young Victoria** (2009) Rated PG  
This film, wrote critic Bob Bloom, "is a sumptuous character study. . . of a young girl thrust into a position of power who must learn to assert her independence and find her own voice." Lauded by all for her portrayal of Victoria, Emily Blunt "offers a public face of certainty and confidence, but privately is as conflicted and as unsure as any teenage girl." Equally impressive is Rupert Friend, who as Albert becomes Victoria's trusted consort, in spite of the tension that arises between them at times.

As the credits rolled, Barbara and Janelle wished this film had continued on for many more years into Victoria's reign.

## Scholarship Recipient

From Mary Navin, Scholarship Committee

Zeynap Baki is a third year student at DePaul University. Her major is international relations. She meets our scholarship requirements because she is attending a college or university within a 50 mile radius of Elgin. Although she was unable to attend our May banquet, she will attend in October. At that time she will present a program about her home country of Turkey, her experiences of visiting in Afghanistan, and her work with a program involving the women of Kosovo. Zeynap expresses her gratitude for her scholarship recognition and is looking forward to meeting us in October.

## Fox Valley Garden Walk

June 12, 9 - 3

From Mary Navin, Garden Walk Committee

All of us on the garden walk committee are eagerly looking forward to our 4<sup>th</sup> garden walk, highlighting city gardens in the East side of Elgin. Please join us, either as a guest, or as a docent in one of our lovely gardens.

Highlights of the day include an art exhibit and sale on the grounds of the Elgin Public Museum in Lords Park. Please call (847-931-0351) if you want to be more actively involved the day of the walk, or to request additional tickets for your friends. Looking forward to warm, sunny weather and rose-filled gardens.



## Garage Sale

From Mary Navin

We have completed another successful garage sale. First, a big thanks to Jean Jederman for, once again, letting us use her very visible driveway and garage for the sale. Thanks, also, to all who participated in any way to help us net about \$1,800! A special thanks to Bonnie Hill for storing our "better" leftovers for our next sale.

## Travel Group

From Rachel Campbell

It has been suggested that some of our members might want to be involved in a Branch Travel Group. If you would like to be part of such a group, please contact me,

847-695-9024, by July 1. The group would not begin until the fall.

## Nomination of Libby Hoeft

By Judy Mavros

On behalf of the Elgin Area Branch of American Association of University Women, it is our pleasure to nominate Elizabeth B. Hoeft (Libby) for the Marjorie Leonard Award for Volunteer/Community Service. For all of her adult life, Libby has been a community leader, holding board memberships and numerous offices with: the local YMCA and YWCA Boards, the Gail Borden Public Library Foundation, the Elgin Symphony Orchestra Board and the Symphony League, the United Way of Elgin, Day One (formerly Kane-Kendall Service coordinators), Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice, American Association of University Women, Bethlehem Lutheran Church and PADS of Elgin (Public Action to Deliver Shelter).



It is difficult to know where to start in illustrating Libby's ability to give of herself and to inspire others. When her husband, Doug Hoeft, a former Illinois state legislator, passed away suddenly without fulfilling his dream of providing a permanent shelter for the homeless in our community, Libby entered the fray, setting up a blue ribbon committee to pursue funding through state legislators and city councilmen and to find an appropriate location. 4 ½ years later, Doug's dream was realized when Elgin opened the Douglas L. Hoeft Resource Center for PADS in 2007. This is an energetic woman who gets things done, an observation that is aptly put into words by Dennis Hewitt, Executive Director of PADS of Elgin:

"I met Libby shortly after coming here 6 years ago. She was extremely helpful in working through the process of locating a permanent shelter site and helping to obtain release of funds in order to complete the remodeling. She was even supportive to the point of making the drive to Springfield to meet with the office of Central Management and the Governor's Office. However, I believe that what has cemented our friendship is our mutual call to a ministry that is truly changing lives daily.

"Libby is very active in the volunteer program, serving two or three times a month, and also serves on several of our fundraising committees. This past January, she served as the Honorary Chair of our Winter Harvest for the Homeless, one of our most successful events ever. Libby has been a true blessing to the homeless and displaced of this community, and I am clearly persuaded that Rep. Hoeft would be ecstatic at the efforts that she made to complete his dream of a permanent homeless shelter for the residents of the area."

Also in Doug's memory, Libby founded a Scholarship Foundation which, since 2002, has raised thousands of dollars and awarded 46 scholarships to graduating high school students whose promising futures are all the more remarkable as each has had to overcome a personal challenge in attaining good academic records: i.e. learning and physical disabilities, cerebral palsy, etc. The recipients of this year's awards include a young woman who has a hearing deficit, a young man with Asperger's Syndrome, another with a spinal deformity and one with learning challenges. Many of these awardees have kept in touch with the foundation to report on their successes: one grateful student reports that he has completed college and is currently working on a law degree; another, the first in her family to attend and graduate from college, now works with the Illinois Student Assistance Corps, which positions her to assist low-income and first-generation college students (like herself) in overcoming their academic and financial obstacles to a college education. The Doug Hoeft Scholarship Foundation has, in part, made possible what would otherwise be an unattainable dream for these young people. And Libby is behind it all!

Libby's interest in helping students with disabilities has been a lifelong passion. Her profession is Speech and Language Pathologist, a calling she has pursued in some fashion since 1966. She has been a therapist in schools and in private practice; she has motivated others by teaching special education courses at three major universities; she has been a consultant for numerous school districts in oral motor training. A good example of her being recognized for professional achievements was her appointment by Governor Edgar to draft legislation that would mandate services for at-risk children from birth to age three. Her techniques and contributions to her field are so noteworthy that Libby has been interviewed by Phil Donahue, by the Chicago Tribune, and by Women's Day magazine. She has been honored for her contributions by being included in Who's Who Among American Health Care Professionals 1992-95 and Who's Who Among American Women 1995-99. Obviously, this woman has been an inspiration to others.

Another passion of Libby's is the Elgin Symphony Orchestra. When the Elgin Symphony League, an educational and fund-raising arm of the Symphony, was losing volunteers, Libby assumed the presidency of the League and pulled it back to viability. Women enjoy working with Libby, and her spirit of cooperation makes it difficult to deny her whatever she feels is needed to accomplish a task. Following her stint as League President, Libby was asked to continue as a member of the Symphony Board of Directors and has since been appointed to co-chair a committee to raise an endowment of \$2 million to sponsor and encourage music education for pre-school children through adults in the Elgin area.

Included here is a statement in support of Libby from Dale Lonis, CEO of the Elgin Symphony Orchestra:

"I have known Libby for a year and a half and can say with complete honesty that she is one of the most remarkable women I have ever met. In literally every way I can imagine she represents the best qualities that each of us would seek in ourselves. She is intensely passionate about finding ways to enable others to be happy and successful. She is always willing to do whatever is required to ensure that all parties in any situation have the opportunity to have their voice heard. Her joy in helping others is infectious and genuine.

"When attempting to write about such an amazing person it is far too easy to simply fall into providing a litany of superlatives. It would also take little thought at all to just name the impressive number of activities and causes in which she gives her time and energy. What that would do, unfortunately, would be to place her in the same category as so many other giving and caring people. In my estimation that does not nearly say enough about this incredible person. Libby is a strong and gifted leader. Her intelligence, compassion, and dedication to the pursuit of beauty and truth coalesce in such a way as to place her in a class of her own. Her ability to sort through the fears and emotional needs of others while understanding how to assist them in staying true to their values and goals allows her to lead them with a steady, quiet confidence. That confidence inspires all those around her to speak from their hearts with confidence.

"Yet again, those words and descriptions fall short of the intent of this missive. What inspires me is her sense and commitment to what the world should be. I have observed her in numerous settings with people of all ages, with varying and often competing interests, in large groups and in intensely personal situations. In literally every instance she will not compromise when it comes to allowing people to be less than they can be. She will not allow them to accept the possibility that their interests, passions, or wishes and dreams are any less important than those of everyone else in the room or in the world. That empowers them and inspires others to look for the best in all people. She truly lives these words that the world is an incredible place filled each day with opportunity. THAT is what inspires us all to be better people.

"I have had the opportunity to travel the world and observe people in the best and worst situations and conditions. I have worked with board members and musicians from professional orchestras, parents and students, the homeless and more fortunate - both here and internationally. In recent months I have started to ask myself more and more how I might be more effective, nicer, stronger, more compassionate, more giving, more

driven. What I have come to realize is that what I am truly asking is - how can I be more like Libby Hoeft.

”Let's all turn the tables on this amazing woman and shout her praises since she would never allow us to do so any other time.”

It is difficult to add anything to top that testimonial so let me summarize what we know about Libby:

\*Her experience with personal loss led Libby to become a bereavement volunteer and small group leader for Fox Valley Hospice where she felt she could empathize with those needing comfort. Her involvement has continued to the present and it is something about which Libby is passionate.

\*Her belief in the importance of educating women has led her to assume many leadership positions in our local branch of American Association of University Women where she is currently serving as president. Please consider this nomination as our testimonial to Libby's contributions.

\*Her commitment to her church has led her to participate in its council, chair its endowment committee, serve on the worship and music committee, and the Board of Directors for the Child Development Center over the past 35 years.

\*Her interest in the mission of the Y organizations in our community has led her to serve on its Boards in some capacity for half of the last 30 years.

\*Her passion for education/reading has led her to participate in the Gail Borden Public Library Foundation since 2000 where she has served on various committees and is now the immediate past-President. Carole Medal, the Executive Director of the Gail Borden Public Library, claims that Libby has served with distinction. “Civic-minded individuals like Libby make a measurable difference in the lives of our community members.”

Perhaps Jeanne Hebeisen, a fellow community volunteer, says it best:

“Libby is a person who sees a need and jumps right in. Her involvement in the community is varied – from the arts, to community needs, such as PADS, to chairing major undertakings such as the Gail Borden Library Foundation. Her biggest asset is her ability to be so organized that things get done on time and exceptionally well. She does not just flit into a program, hang around for a while and then move on to something else. Her long-term commitment to various endeavors is a hallmark of her involvement. It is a joy to work on anything with

her, as I know she will do more than her share. She doesn't just devote her time and expertise to one thing at a time, but always has several “balls in the air.”

For all of these reasons, AAUW nominated Libby for a Melissa Bean Winning Woman of Illinois Award in the fall of 2009, and we were proud when Libby was selected as one of eight recipients for this award from a field of more than thirty outstanding Illinois women. Likewise, AAUW feels strongly that Libby has demonstrated the qualities most deserving of the Marjorie Leonard Award for Volunteer/Community Service. Just as Libby would be honored to be in such august company as Marjorie, we in AAUW feel that Marjorie would be equally pleased to share her award with Libby as an outstanding contributor to the well-being of our community.

## **Thanks from Libby**

Dear AAUW members,

This comes with a sincere “thank you” for nominating me for the YWCA Marjorie Leonard Award for Volunteer/Community Service. I am so glad that I could make you all proud by winning the award. It is the example of all of you in AAUW, as well as the other amazing women I have known, that makes me want to serve the community in any way that I can. A special “thank you” to Judy Mavros for writing an incredible application. A well-written nomination is the key to winning. It is such a pleasure for me to be associated with all of you over the 40 plus years and into the future.

Libby Hoeft

## **Shirley Simon**

Shirley Simon has moved to Milwaukee to be closer to her family and is doing well up there. She says the food is good and she feels grateful for her good health and the opportunity to see more of her daughter and grandson. Medina is compiling a booklet of our memories of her. Send Medina your recollections as a Word document, and we can pass them along to her and to one another. We are also going to post some pictures. Deadline is June 20.

## **Crisis Center's Reruns Too From Marcia Cameron**

Several of our members have been volunteering on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, from 3-5, at Reruns Too. If you would like to join us, please give me a call. Reruns Too is also looking for clean dish cloths or towels to use in cleaning up. They may even have holes.

## **Legal Advocacy Fund From Bonnie Hill**

Thanks to all who purchased plants at our May meeting. You added \$57 to our LAF fund. Happy planting!

## **Women's Equality Day**

A celebration of Women's Equality Day will be held Thursday, August 26, at 7 PM at the Arlington Heights Village Hall. The program is titled "Changing Why So Few? to Quite A Few," and the keynote speaker is Betty Shanahan, Executive Director, Society of Women Engineers. There will also be a panel of women leaders in

STEM. The Arlington Heights Village Hall is located at 33 South Arlington Heights Road. Parking is available in the parking garage adjacent to the Village Hall. RSVP to [phyllisgreenedd@hotmail.com](mailto:phyllisgreenedd@hotmail.com).

## **Message from Newsletter Editors**

The next deadline for the newsletter will be August 20. Have a great summer!

**Be sure to always submit items as a Word Document to all three editors:**

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**About the Elgin Area Branch and AAUW  
Times**

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in

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 University Women.

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