

checked the entry. Electronic submissions are preferred.

Every member should check her own entry on the roster pages. This year we will begin including more than one institution. If you have multiple degrees from different schools and would like to have all of them included on the list, please email Marti with that information. You can also send an email if your information is incorrect.

Information can be submitted at any time – you don't have to wait until August 1!

LAF

From Bonnie Hill

Thank you to all who so generously donated to the AAUW Funds/LAF by purchasing tickets and flowers at our annual dinner meeting. We raised \$84! Special thanks to Jan Jones who contributed one of the hanging baskets. Happy Spring.

PS. If you're 65, don't forget to apply for your senior tax exemption. www.co.kane.il.us/soa or www.cookcountyassessor.com.



Reel Women

From Barbara Evans

Tuesday June 28 *House of Sand and Fog* (2003)

Starring Jennifer Connelly, Shohreh Aghadashloo, Ben Kingsley

Faithful to Andre Dubus III's novel, critic A.O. Scott summarizes this as a story "of two rights adding up to a monstrous wrong moving slowly toward an unbearable, final catastrophe." A tragedy in which the American Dream of home ownership goes terribly awry for a recovering alcoholic American woman and an Iranian immigrant who was once a member of the Shah's elite inner circle, this haunting film will not appeal to everyone. Yet to understand why it is one you should consider seeing, please read the review of critic Andrew O'Hehir at

http://www.salon.com/entertainment/movies/review/2003/12/25/sand_fog

Tuesday July 26 *Fair Game* (2010)

Starring Naomi Watts, Sean Penn

This film is based on the memoirs of former Ambassador Joseph Wilson—who publicly disputed the Bush administration's evidence for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq—and his wife Valerie Plame, who was outed as a CIA agent in retaliation. Wrote critic J.R. Jones, "You'd have to go back to *All the President's Men* for a better example of fresh American political scandal being turned into a star-powered drama." Like the relationship between Woodward and Bernstein, that between Plame and Wilson "is so compelling that it generates an emotional force quite apart from the political skulduggery." Especially interesting are their different reactions to the nightmare they find themselves in.

Tuesday August 23 *Whales of August* (1987)

Starring Bette Davis (age 79) & Lillian Gish (age 95)
With Ann Sothern (age 79) & Vincent Price (age 78)

Aptly described as "a fascinating last picture show for a legendary acting troupe," this film has "a sense of Bergman about it" in that "small gestures and details speak volumes." At center stage are two elderly widowed sisters who are polar opposites. Dropping in on them during the course of a relatively ordinary day toward the end of what well may be their last summer at the family cottage in Maine are equally interesting characters: a chatty neighbor/girlhood friend, a smooth-talking Russian emigré and the island handyman. See Roger Ebert at

<http://rogerebert.suntimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/19871113/REVIEWS/711130301/102> to learn more about what makes this quietly poignant film so captivating.

Out and About

From Rachel Campbell

Join us on June 27 for the first event of OUT AND ABOUT this summer. We are driving to the Morton Arboretum to enjoy the beautiful gardens and an art exhibit, "Nature Unframed," which was the subject of a recent article in the *Chicago Tribune*.

Meet at Rachel Campbell's home at 9 am. From there we will carpool to the arboretum. After we enjoy the exhibit and the arboretum grounds, we will have lunch and wander through the gift shop. If you have questions or need further information, please call Rachel at 847-695-9024.

Evening Crafters

From Lee Engman

We will meet monthly this summer. All are welcome to join us for crafting, conversation, and dessert. You may work with the group project or bring your own.

Monday, June 20 at 7 pm we will meet at Lee Engman's home in Palatine. We plan to use basic



embroidery stitches and yo-yo flowers to complete a rustic design celebrating the arrival of spring. Call Lee at 847-934-0742 (lengman@egvpl.org) for more

information on the "Welcome, Spring" embroidered picture.

July 18 at 7 pm, we will meet at the home of Jelayne Ewers in Huntley. Our project will be a Wind Sock. Contact Jelayne at ajewers@att.net or 847 515-1145.

August 22 we will meet at 7 pm at the home of Linda Rusenovich. Our project will be to "Tie Dye" an article of your own choosing. You will need to bring the article of your choice, which could be a T-shirt or scarf, etc. All other materials will be supplied. For more information or directions, call Linda at 847 741-7636 (lrusenovich7@clear.net).

NCCWSL Recipient

From Carol Cowles



Nanci Alanis is the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders Scholarship recipient for 2011. I have watched Ms. Alanis

grow as a scholar and student leader during the two years she has attended Elgin Community College. Her experience at ECC has contributed to her career

goal of working with students at a community college to encourage others to achieve their potential as she has been encouraged. Her major is Educational/Organizational Leadership and she anticipates completing her Associate in Science Degree and transferring to a university to complete her bachelors and masters.

Ms. Alanis was elected as Student Government President in spring 2010 and has utilized her office to create opportunities to engage other students in academic and co-curricular pursuits. In the past two weeks, she has worked with the Faculty and Board Negotiating teams to create forums where ECC students could learn more about the issues involved in the ECCFA-Board of Trustees Contract. Through her efforts, students were also able to express their concerns and suggestions to members of each bargaining team.

Additionally, Ms. Alanis and her Executive Team worked with our ECC Athletic Department and my office to sponsor a lunch time "Conversation on Civility" which involved about 50 students, faculty, staff, and administrators in table based discussions using case studies from ECC. The conversations were facilitated by student government and athlete student leaders which Nanci Alanis helped to train for this task. Her other leadership roles have included

- Informational Chair for Phi Theta Kappa
- Nominated as Most Distinguished Member for the Rho Kappa Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa
- Member of United Students of All Cultures (USAC)
- Member of Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS)
- Committee member for Relay for Life
- Membership in ECC's Honors Program
- Dean's list-GPA 3.844
- Elected Phi Theta Kappa President for 2012

She is a leader in every sense of the word. As her resume indicates, she has taken full advantage of opportunities and has gained maturity as she pursues her dream. She received an Associate of Science Degree at the May 20 commencement but will continue taking courses at ECC that will advance her toward the baccalaureate.

Relay for Life – Nanci is the captain of a Relay for Life team, a group raising money for the American Cancer Society. Click on the link below if you would like to make a donation:
main.acsevents.org/site/TR?pg=team&fr_id=30450&team_id=876765

Spice Award

Rachel Bloomberg joined the Elgin Area Branch in 2006. She had been in a book group for young women and was searching for a group that was more serious and committed, so she decided to start her own. Early in 2007, on behalf of the branch, she partnered with Gail Borden Public Library to form the 20s and 30s book group, a coed group which she still co-leads. This close-knit group reads both serious and fun literature, parties occasionally and joins us sometimes at branch events. Her co-leader John Martin says, “Through tireless devotion to a consistent vision, Rachel has created a fun and intellectually engaging group.” The group welcomes new members and the library’s publicity has helped them grow. The connections made in this group have already resulted in one engagement!

Rachel had also been attending our Great Books group and when the leader died in 2009, she signed up for the training, and took over the leadership of that group also. “Her insightful questions keep discussion lively,” says Jeanne Hebeisen. By personally inviting new members, she has revitalized the group.

Rachel has helped move our branch forward into the social media era by setting up our Facebook page, which has already attracted a couple of new members and helps us publicize our programs.

Named Grants

Shirley May Byrnes From Gareth Sitz

Since joining our AAUW branch in 2001, Shirley May has been an active member. Her greatest contribution has been in her role as treasurer since 2009. Her attention to detail and accuracy, as well as her patience and energy, have been most

appreciated. Our branch has had the good fortune to have Shirley May’s competence and experience in this job.

Shirley May served as the chapter treasurer for Phi Beta, an association for the visual and performing arts., for six years. Since 2009, she has been the national treasurer for that organization.

Shirley May spent her professional life as a librarian. She has been a member of the Illinois Library Association and the American Library Association from 1971 to the present, having held office and served on many committees. She currently serves as a volunteer at the greeter desk at Gail Borden Public Library as well as at programs several times a year.

Ever since I have known Shirley May, I have been impressed by her cheerful personality and her delight in getting involved in the Elgin community. She has been a regular volunteer at RERUNS TOO, the resale shop of the Community Crisis Center and has willingly devoted her time and talents to the First Congregational Church since joining in 2001.

I admire Shirley May for her positive attitude and generosity of spirit. We share an interest in theatre, and I have been fortunate to work with her on productions with both Elgin Theatre Company and Independent Players, as well as improvising with Femmeprov. Her theatrical career began when she was nine years old, and she continued to enjoy participation in several community theatre groups in both Illinois and Wisconsin throughout the years. She has a strong voice on stage and natural talent as an actress. I also can attest to her enjoyment of the community feeling involved in theatre activities. Her friendliness and outgoing nature makes her a welcome addition to any group.

Since coming to Elgin in 2000, Shirley May Byrnes has reached out and become a vibrant contributor to the Elgin Community, making new friends as she has become involved in her many activities. As members of the Elgin Area Branch of AAUW, we are grateful to have her grace us with her presence and choose to serve us so well as our treasurer. Shirley May is most deserving of a 2011 Named Grant, and I’m grateful that I could present her with this honor.

Shirley May Byrnes: Thank you for the Named Grant from the Elgin Area AAUW. I am honored and humbled by this recognition. I particularly thank Gareth Sitz for her warm words in presenting this award. I'm also grateful to Jennifer Ford for taking me to the Women's History lunch in March 2001 shortly after I moved to Elgin and introducing me to the marvelous women of AAUW. It is a pleasure to serve as the branch treasurer and to assist with the garage sales. I treasure the friendships made through AAUW, its programs, projects, and bridge groups. Thank you for this honor.

Beverly Lovett From Mary Navin

This year we were pleased to honor Beverly Lovett with a named-grant award. Bev has been a member of AAUW since 1976 when she attended a NOW convention in her home state of Pennsylvania. Bev graduated from West Chester University in West Chester, Pa. At the time she was married with two small sons. She drove a school bus to help with college expenses.

After a move to the Dundee area, Bev worked for over 20 years for Hewlett-Packard Company. In our local AAUW branch, Bev has been Treasurer, Art Showcase Committee member and, more recently, the new chairperson for Educational Opportunities.

Congratulations to Bev. We are lucky to have her as a member of our branch.

Beverly Lovett: I would like to thank the members of our Branch for making me a recipient of this year's Educational Opportunities Named Grant. It was an honor and a pleasure to receive it. I also want to thank Mary Navin for giving me such a nice introduction for it at our May dinner. I have enjoyed being part of AAUW for over 30 years. I am thankful for the friendships I have with my fellow branch members and the opportunities it has given us all to serve our communities and help further the goals of AAUW. Thanks again.

Bluff Spring Fen



Nine members and guests participated in the work day at Bluff Spring Fen on May 21: Marcia and Bill Cameron, Rachel Campbell and her niece Campbell, Carol Cowles and her husband Jim Fletcher, Barbara Evans, Medina Gross, and Mary Ellen Barbezat. We pulled the invasive plant garlic mustard and then saw lady slipper orchids, golden Alexander, and many other spring wildflowers on a tour led by a retired science teacher from Larkin High School, Roger.

Information about other workdays and tours can be found at bluffspringfen.org.

Message from Newsletter Editors

The deadline for the September newsletter will be August 20. **Be sure to always submit items as a Word Document to all three editors:**

Medina Gross – medinag@gmail.com

Jeanne Hebeisen – jeanne@mc.net

Linda Youngren – lindayoungren@sbcglobal.net

Have a great summer!

Website **aauwelginarea.org**

Information for the 2011-12 year should go to Marcia Cameron mec515@sbcglobal.net by August 1.

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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 Opportunities

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.

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