



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*

September, 2009

American Association of University Women

Vol. 14, No. 6

September Branch Meeting

**Tuesday, September 15, 6:00 PM
Potluck Dinner**

**Evangelical Covenant Church
1565 Larkin Avenue, Elgin**

“Beginning Our Academic Journey”

Three ECC women students share their stories as they made the decision to attend college, what that decision means to them and where they believe education will take them.

Join us at our first meeting of the year, a potluck supper to benefit the AAUW Elgin Branch. The cost will be \$7.50; guests will eat free; food is provided by board members.

Calendar

- Aug. 31 **Board Meeting 7 PM**
Lynn Harper, Hostess
Wilma Booth, Co-hostess

- Sept. 10 **Morning Book Group 10 AM**
Rachel Campbell, Hostess
Still Alice, Lisa Genova

- Sept. 12 **AAUW Theatre 5:30 PM**
Rachel Campbell, Hostess
Over the River & Through the Woods, Joe DiPietro

- Sept. 15 **Branch Meeting**

- Sept. 22 **Reel Women 6 PM**
Gail Borden Library
A Class Apart

- Sept. 23 **Current Literature 7 PM**
Ann Marblestone, Hostess
The Cellist of Sarajevo, Galloway

- Sept. 24 **Evening Crafters 7 PM**
Shabby Chic Owls
Hostess, Jelayne Ewers

- Sept. 25-26 **Fall Garage Sale**
Home of Nancy Gardner
969 South Street, Elgin

President's Message

As I'm writing this note, the temperatures are finally feeling like summer, but it's looking like fall as the ads are full of 'back to school' bargains. We want to thank Barbara Evans and Katherine Jablonowski for their fine leadership of our branch.

In June Rachel Campbell, Medina Gross, Jeanne Hebeisen, Katherine Jablonowski, and I were fortunate to attend the National AAUW Convention in St. Louis. We learned a lot at the seminars, met and received an autograph from Lilly Ledbetter, and were truly inspired by many very strong women. Janet Heinicke, the founder of our Art Showcase fifty years ago, was there representing her Iowa branch. We will be sharing more at our general meetings.

Much time and effort have gone into planning the programs for this coming year. They are sounding exciting and hope you will make the time to attend many of the meetings. Find someone in your neighborhood to drive with and we'll save gas and get to know our neighbors better. Libby and I are looking forward to seeing you at the September potluck and possibly several study groups.

Jan Jones

Fall Garage Sale Friday & Saturday, Sept. 25 & 26

Isn't it exciting? We get to part with more treasures. Please bring your gently used items, books and seasonal clothing (fall and winter) to Nancy Gardner's, 969 South Street, starting Wednesday from 3-7. Also, drop off will continue on Thursday from 9-5. We would appreciate tables and saw horses at this time too. If there are exceptional items for sale, such as antiques or furniture, please let Mary Navin or Jan Jones know ahead of time to allow for publication. Also, please no TVs or computer monitors. They are past their prime. This is a wonderful occasion to socialize and make new friends, so please take advantage of this opportunity and support our very unique AAUW branch. We would also welcome coordinators who would be willing to volunteer for one of the days or part of the day and oversee the organizing and sale for that period. Thank you in advance.

Mary Navin, Mary Aydt, EF Chairpersons

2009 AAUW National Convention

Rachel Campbell, Medina Gross, Jan Jones, Jeanne Hebeisen and I attended the AAUW National Convention in St. Louis in late June. Our branch was well represented. Ruth Sweetser, our AAUW President, led us through a long, sometimes contentious, meeting. Our Illinois delegation was seated front and center.

The main issue raising debate focused on future membership. With 1,400 votes cast, the proposal to open membership to individuals neither having a degree, nor working toward one, failed. Other major changes included the elimination of regions and regional directors and the elimination of delegates to future meetings. The "one member, one vote" proposal passed. Therefore, all AAUW business will be decided by individual member votes.

Our Elgin Area delegation was quite diligent in attending all the business and plenary sessions, workshops, briefings and forums. It was an exciting convention with no lack of inspiring presentations. A documentary film about the political career of Patsy Mink, former Congresswoman from Hawaii, was shown. House Representatives Jackie Speier and Rosa DeLauro, a physician and other very accomplished businesswomen told about their experiences in the workplace. There were booths set up showcasing projects of various branches. The highlight of the convention was Lilly Ledbetter. It was thrilling that the act named for her was the first signed by Barack Obama in his capacity as President.

The evening before the vote for our new AAUW President, the two candidates each held a reception in her respective suite. It was a good chance to meet them in person. Each appeared capable, knowledgeable and committed to the organization. They gave excellent speeches the following day. It was difficult to make a choice. Carolyn Garfein prevailed. There were very good speeches given by all the candidates running for Vice President and AAUW Director-At-Large, as well. Gail Nordmoe was selected as our new Vice President.

I'd like to thank you for giving me the privilege of representing you as Branch Delegation Chair at the 2009 AAUW National Convention.

Katherine Jablonowski

Reel Women/Real Women

Because AAUW's monthly movie night at Gail Borden Library was the best vehicle for showing two important documentaries released earlier this year, the September and October selections depart from our usual focus. In November we return to using fictional means to highlight women's issues. All films will begin at 6 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of the month in the Community Rooms of the library. You are welcome to bring in food/non-alcoholic beverages.

Tuesday, Sept. 22: *A Class Apart*. Shown as a PBS American Experience special, this documentary focuses on the 1954 landmark civil rights' case that addressed the serious discrimination suffered by Mexican-Americans in the Southwest.

Tuesday, Oct. 22: *A Powerful Noise*. This is the highly acclaimed CARE documentary that was aired for one night in March of this year in selected theaters throughout the country, the same night we had the mayor speaking at our monthly meeting. Katherine Jablonowski, however, did see it and gave it rave reviews, which is why we feel fortunate that we are able to have another chance to witness how three remarkable women overcame "seemingly insurmountable odds to bring lasting solutions to their communities." For more detailed information about the girls' education crusader from Mali, the HIV-positive widow from Vietnam and a peace-making survivor of the war in Bosnia who are featured, see www.apowerfulnoise.org.

Tuesday, Nov. 24: *Revolutionary Road*. Faithfully adapted from Richard Yates' book with the same title, this film, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet as Frank and April Wheeler, is a portrait of an American marriage. Though they seem to be a perfect couple, the Wheelers struggle behind closed doors with their personal demons.

Barbara Evans

More Info on *A Class Apart*

With an emphasis on how discrimination has historically impacted Latinas, AAUW and its several partners are proud to present the award-winning PBS documentary, *A Class Apart* that tells the little-known story of the Mexican American lawyers who

in 1954 took *Hernandez v. Texas* to the U.S. Supreme Court, challenging Jim Crow-style discrimination. The results of that case have improved the lives of some Americans whose rights heretofore had not been respected.

This presentation is co-sponsored by Judson University, Elgin Community College, School District U-46, LULAC Council #5236, the Elgin Hispanic Network, Centro, the Elgin Public Museum, the City of Elgin and the Gail Borden Public Library.

Former Elgin Mayor and local historian Mike Alft will provide some insights into the conditions of Mexican-Americans here in Elgin in the late 1920s. A group discussion will take place immediately after the film led by Judson University Professor Christine Starzynski.

Jo Ann Armenta

Calling Committee Swings into Action

We are the busiest people in town, without a doubt! If you don't get your "snail mail" in time or get your email opened, you'll again this year be contacted to keep you aware of AAUW goings-on. Our "Welcome Callers" include: Rachel Campbell, Mary Navin, Mabel Rice, Linda Youngren and myself.

In our own ways of getting our "stuff" done and being at the right place at the right time, we devise various schemes and systems. The teacher in me color codes everything via planners, calendars and lists to include gas tank fill-up time, cat doctor appointments, etc. (Dusting and cleaning are never on the list.) My monthly AAUW meetings are circled in RED ink. Let's have many RED LETTER DAYS for AAUW this year for a time to get together and a time for new learning.

Pick up a friend, old or new, and "come on along!"
See you soon!

Marge Fox

AAUW Theatre

Our first event will be on September 12, to see the show *Over the River and Through the Woods* by Joe Di Pietro, which played very successfully Off-Broadway.

This warm, witty comedy tells of a young man so devoted to his four grandparents that he has dinner with them every Sunday. His problems start when he must tell them that a job promotion is taking him across the country and out of their lives. Unable to handle the disruption, the elders begin plotting ways to keep him in the area.

The director is talented Tony Aiello, who played Oedipus in the production of *Oedipus Rex* some of us saw last fall. You may also remember him as the professor in the Janus Theatre production we saw at Al's in Walkabout 2008.

We will meet at 5:30 pm at the home of Rachel Campbell, 1198 Blackhawk in Elgin. Please bring an hors d'oeuvre to share. Tony Aiello will speak to us before the show, and there will be a talk-back after the show. The play is put on by Elgin Theatre Company at the Kimball Street Theatre on the campus of Elgin Academy and starts at 8 pm. Tickets are normally \$15 (\$12 for seniors), but if we get at least ten people, our cost will be only \$10.

Please let Medina Gross (847 695-1316 or Medinag@gmail.com) know by Tuesday Sept 8 if you will be able to attend and what you would like to bring. Please pay her at the dinner.

Medina Gross

Save the Date...

The Jane Addams Commemorative Holiday will be celebrated on December 6, 2009, at Bowen Park, 1917 N. Sheridan Road, Waukegan, IL. This is the site of the summer camp that Jane Addams ran for children from the city of Chicago. Lilac Cottage where Jane Addams lived during the summer and the Historical Farm House will be open for tours from 9 AM to 3 PM. A Buffet Lunch is scheduled at the Jane Addams Center at 11:30 AM. The program will be presented by Ellen Frew of the Waukegan Historical Society and Ty Rohrer, Director of the Waukegan History Museum. Come and help AAUW-IL

celebrate Jane Addams at a unique and lively location. Join us at camp for a festive holiday celebration of the life and work of Jane Addams.

Thanks,

Linda Henning Cohen
AAUW-IL President

Literacy Connection 25th Anniversary Gala, Sept. 12, 7:00 PM

Join The Literacy Connection as it celebrates 25 years of literally changing lives on Saturday, September 12, at 7 p.m. at the Gail Borden Public Library. Nationally known author John Corcoran will be the event's keynote speaker.

Author of *The Teacher Who Couldn't Read* and *The Bridge to Literacy*, Corcoran will share how for years he used his charm, intelligence, athletic and acting skills to mask his fear of words and inability to read and write. Hear firsthand the painful but amazing story of Johnny, a little boy who 'slipped through the cracks' of the educational system, only to become a teacher and real estate developer who could not read until he was 48 years old.

Tickets for the 25th Anniversary Gala are \$50 each and can be purchased by visiting The Literacy Connection at 270 N. Grove Avenue, in Elgin or by calling (847) 742-6565. For more information on the anniversary event or how to become a volunteer literacy tutor, you may also email info@elginliteracy.org, visit www.elginliteracy.org or attend The Literacy Connection's next new tutor orientation on September 2 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Gail Borden Public Library.

We know that some of your members are also tutors with our organization, and we are so thankful for the strong, ongoing support from your organization and these dedicated individuals. Neighbors helping neighbors... it's what allows The Literacy Connection to literally change lives!

Debbie Taylor
Literacy Connection Outreach & Resource
Coordinator

AAUW Crafters September Meeting

The evening crafters are preparing for fall by making A Shabby Chic Owl with felt and the 6 1/2" x 8 1/2" size is perfect for a mantel or shelf. If you feel really ambitious, we will have directions for three different owls available and you can make one, two or all three. We will be meeting Thursday, September 24, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jelayne Ewers at 13426 Dakota Fields in Huntley's Del Webb Sun City. For directions to her home, you may call her at 847-515-1145. You may also be able to share a ride with someone. Or, if you prefer, you can bring your own project to work on that evening. Come and experience good company and a delicious dessert, as well as a new decoration for your home.

For each owl you will need the following materials:

2 – 8 x 10 pieces of felt (white, light brown or a peachy pink shade)
Scrap of contrasting felt for the face (approx. 1/2 half sheet)
Scrap of coordinating vintage style cotton floral prints for chest (approx. 1/2 sheet)
Scraps of coordinating cotton prints for eyes and beak (approx. 1/4 sheet)
DMC Embroidery Floss in coordinating colors such as: white No. 157, Very Light Cornflower Blue, No. 223, Light shell Pink and No. 422 Light Hazelnut Brown
Heat n Bond Lite iron on adhesive
Embroidery needle
Polyester fiberfill
two 1/2" white buttons
Scissors
Straight pins

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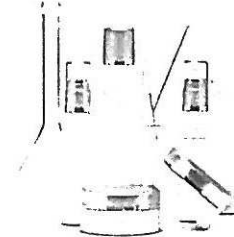


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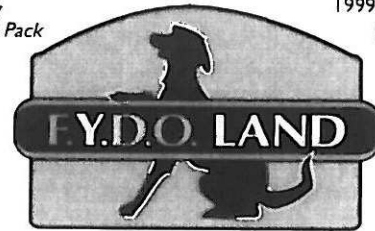


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In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

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 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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