



# 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*

December 2009/January 2010

American Association of University Women

Vol. 14, No. 9

## **Branch Holiday Gathering**

**December 12, 10 - Noon**

**Elgin Area Historical Society Museum**

**360 Park Street Elgin**

Celebrate the Holiday Season with your AAUW friends at the Elgin Area Historical Society Museum. Enjoy the beautifully decorated facility and the special treats while celebrating this special season with your friends and taking a brief respite during this busy time.

Artifacts from our branch's history will be displayed to acknowledge our 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2010.

We look forward to seeing all of you then.

## **January Branch Meeting**

**Saturday, January 16, 11:30 am**

**Evangelical Covenant Church**

**1565 Larkin Avenue, Elgin**

Come and enjoy our "Soup and Salad" luncheon. Members will be contacted to help with this event by Muriel Fenzel and Lynn Harper.

Our speaker for the day is Jim Kleinwachter, a land protection specialist of the Conservation Foundation, who will present a program entitled Habitat Creation and Water Sustainable Landscaping.

The Conservation Foundation has its headquarters in Naperville, IL. Its Mission Statement: "We preserve

natural areas and open space, protect rivers and watersheds, and promote stewardship of our environment."

## **December Calendar**

Dec. 7 **Garden Walk Committee**, 4 pm  
Paul's Restaurant

Dec. 10 **Morning Book Group**, 10 am  
Joan Berna, hostess  
*The Girls from Ames: A Story of  
Women and Friendship*  
Jeffrey Zaslow

Dec. 12 **Holiday Celebration**, 10 am  
Elgin Area Historical Society

Dec. 14 **Great Books**, 7 pm  
Gail Borden Library  
Selected poems by John Donne

Dec. 15 **Evening Book Group**, 7 pm  
Mary Navin, hostess  
*The Last Painting*  
Jonathan Harr  
**NOTE: CHANGE OF DATE**

Dec. 20 **20's and 30's Book Club**, 2 pm  
Leah Kattau, hostess – Pot Luck  
*The Dark is Rising*  
Susan Cooper

No December meetings for Evening Crafters and Reel Women/Real Women

# January Calendar

- Jan. 11 **Great Books**, 7 pm  
Gail Borden Library  
*Bartleby the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street*  
Herman Melville
- Jan. 14 **Morning Book Group**, 10 am  
Gareth Sitz, Hostess  
*Emily Post: Daughter of the Gilded Age, Mistress of American Manners*  
Laura Claridge
- Jan. 16 **Branch Meeting**
- Jan. 23 **27<sup>th</sup> Annual Networking Luncheon**  
**11:30 am**  
Deerfield Hyatt  
State Representative Barbara Flynn Curry, speaker
- Jan. 25 **20's and 30's Book Club**, 7 pm  
Gail Borden Library  
*Northanger Abbey*  
Jane Austen
- Jan. 26 **Reel Women/Real Women**, 6 pm  
Gail Borden Library  
*Julie & Julia*
- Jan. 27 **Evening Book Group**, 7 pm  
Jan Jones, Hostess  
*American Lion: Andrew Jackson in the White House*  
Jan Meacham
- Jan. 28 **Evening Crafters**, 7 pm  
Linda Rusenovich, Hostess  
Painted Glass Blocks

## The Co-Presidents' Message

Welcome to the busiest time of the year! In spite of the rainy weather, there are so many things going on in Elgin and the surrounding area, as well as within our branch. Be sure to check out all the happenings. Our Holiday party on Dec. 12 will be in a different venue this year, at the Elgin Area Historical Society.

See you there at 10:00 am as we look forward to our 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. (Are any of us that old?).

January 16 will be our annual Soup and Salad Luncheon, which is always an excellent event. Then January 23 is the District 5 Annual Networking Luncheon. Hope we can have a good representation from the branch at that event.

I want to personally thank Judy Mavros for writing an excellent nomination for me for Congresswoman Melissa Bean's "Winning Women" award and to Medina Gross, Barb Wahl, Bonnie Hill, Marcia Cameron and Jan Jones for attending the event on November 9. What an incredible group of women were in attendance! I felt very proud and humble to be nominated by the incredible women of the AAUW Elgin Area Branch.

Keep warm and safe, enjoy the holidays, and give thanks for all our wonderful friends and family as we celebrate.

Libby Hoeft, also on behalf of Jan Jones

## Branch Meeting Minutes

Co-President Jan Jones called the meeting to order at Elgin Evangelical Covenant Church October 24, 2009 at 10:25 AM after a time of refreshments. Congratulations were extended to Co-President Libby Hoeft who has received a "Winning Women of 2009" nomination, presented by Melissa Bean, US House of Representatives.

Rachel Campbell introduced Maggie Rosiles who attended the National Collegiate Conference for Women Student Leaders at the University of Maryland. She was sponsored by our Branch as an ECC student; she now attends Bradley. Maggie was deeply appreciative for the opportunity to attend the conference, and she gave highlights of each session.

The second part of the program was presented by Laura Van Prooyen, Career Development grant recipient, from Brookfield, IL. She shared information about her professional journey and work at Warren Wilson College, North Carolina. We were delighted to have her read some of her poetry.

In the business session, the minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Shirley May Byrnes presented the treasurer's report. It will be filed for audit.

### **Committee Reports**

EF Co-Chair Mary Navin expressed appreciation to all who helped with the successful garage sale held in September at the home of Nancy Gardner. Shop and Share coupons from Jewel will be available for November and December. A garden walk is being planned in July.

Jan announced that any suggested changes to the By-laws should be submitted immediately. Changes must be completed by October 31.

New members were welcomed: Mary Barbezat, Dale Mindell-Adams, June Soderstrom, and Mary Stafford.

Jan expressed thanks to Social Co-Chair Muriel Fenzel for the lovely refreshments. She announced the newsletter has been published via e-mail. Copies will be mailed next week.

Marcia Cameron requested that we take a look at the website.

Reel Women/Real Women will sponsor the showing of "A Powerful Noise" at Gail Borden Public Library, October 27.

Gareth Sitz reported the Memoir Writing group will meet at her home November 18, 2 PM. Femmeprov, a workshop in improvisational theatre for women, will meet November 22, noon to 8:30 PM, at Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren.

Shirley May announced a bake sale and half-price book sale today at Reruns II to benefit the Crisis Center. A folk concert will be held at First Congregational Church at 7 PM with a free-will offering to be taken for the benefit of the Center.

Anne Marblestone, Public Policy Chair, displayed a booklet containing the voting records of legislators on issues pertinent to AAUW.

Barbara Evans introduced Celeste Sonnier who was a guest today.

### **Announcements**

\*No general meeting in November. Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> is the holiday celebration at Elgin Area Historical Society, 10 AM.

\*December 6-Jane Addams Commemorative Holiday at Jane Addams Center, Bowen Park, Waukegan

\*Theater group will meet Nov. 1 at Jeanne Hebeisen's at 4:30 PM for a pot-luck and then attend "Romeo and Juliet" at Elgin Art Showcase. November 14<sup>th</sup> they will attend "Broken Eggs" at ECC, 8 PM.

\*Gareth noted the Chicago Humanities Festival in November. More information available on-line.

\*The next national AAUW convention will be in Washington, DC in 2011.

\*Concern was expressed for Margarete Schmoltdt's health issues. Gareth gave an update on her husband's condition.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Wilma Booth, Co-Recording Secretary

## **Evening Book Group**

**From Sara Ellen Anderson**



On Wednesday, October 28, twenty-four past and current members of the Elgin Branch Evening Book Group celebrated forty+ years. The evening began with a catered buffet dinner complete with wine and decadent cupcakes. The program included a tableside activity of sharing books and meeting remembrances, a decade continuum circle determined by when each person joined, recognition of the group's chairmen, selection of new and gently used bookmarks, overview of members and some of the books read, a history of the group, and finally, a distribution of a twenty page bibliography of all the books read since 1967. This bibliography was coordinated and prepared by Rachel Campbell and Sara Ellen Anderson. Contact Rachel if interested in obtaining a copy.

Responding to membership pressure for an evening book group, Branch President Miriam Wilson decided to use the "Testing Values in a Changing Society" study topic for the group's focus. It first met on September 26, 1967, with Betty Medearis as chairman. In 1969 the topic was "This Beleaguered

Earth". Early members who held active responsibilities and are still active today include Sara Ellen Anderson, Jan Jones, Judy Kaulfuss, Ann Marblestone, Mary Navin and Shirley Simon.

Since 1971 the group has selected the titles to be discussed from member suggestions and book reviews. A spring meeting is used specifically to select books and for volunteers to sign up as hostess, co-hostess or discussion leader. Over the years the group has changed meeting days, starting times and expanded to meeting year-round. In the 1980's a yearly potluck was added.

Why not join us? We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of most months at 7PM. Information appears in the newsletter and yearbook.

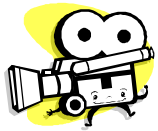
## Reel Women / Real Women

### *Julie & Julia*

From Barbara Evans

January 26

*Julie & Julia* is writer-director Nora Ephron's adaptation of two best-selling memoirs: Julia Child's *My Life in France*, set in the late 1940s and early '50s; and Julie Powell's blog-to-book chronicle, *Julie & Julia: My Year of Cooking Dangerously*, set in New York in 2002.



Though separated by 40 years, "both women are at loose ends until they discover that with the right combination of passion, fearlessness and butter, anything is possible." Julie Child (Meryl Streep) transitions from the bored housewife of a diplomat stationed in Paris to student at the famed Le Cordon Bleu school, to cooking teacher and ultimately cookbook author, and a star of her own TV show. Julie Powell (Amy Adams)—in college a writer, and out-of-college a cubicle-dwelling government worker—breaks out of her rut by cooking all 524 recipes in *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* in just one year and blogging about it.

As one critic noted, "The script employs cross-cuts of the two women as they strive to make their marks in the world, and is subtle but clever in the way it draws parallels in their lives without trying to make them mirror images of one another." Wrote another, "It's

so refreshing to see strong female characters drive a story. Streep and Adams don't share a single scene in this film, but they do share the ability to engage the audience. Together, though separate, these powerful actresses make *Julie & Julia* a scrumptious movie-going experience." So delightful is the film, in fact, that we're willing to bet good money that a number who have seen it will want to see it again.

As usual, the films will be shown at Gail Borden Public Library, starting at 6 pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month. No film is scheduled for December of 2009.

## Change of Date for Evening Book Group

The December Evening Book Group will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 15, 7 pm, at the home of Mary Navin, 1182 Sherwood Avenue, Elgin. Phone number is 847-931-0351. The December book is *The Lost Painting* by Jonathan Haar.

## Evening Crafters

From Linda Rusenovich

The evening crafters group will not meet in December.



We will meet at 7 pm on January 28 at the home of Linda Rusenovich, 168 Kathleen Drive, Elgin. All are welcome to paint a design on a glass block, or another glass surface of choice. Along with the craft, we will enjoy a homemade treat and good conversation. Please join us for the planned project or bring your own. For more information or directions, please call Linda at 847-741-7636 or Lee Engman at 847-934-0742.

## By-laws Changes

From Barb Wahl

Here are the required by-laws changes that have been made and submitted to IL State AAUW:

*The purpose of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.*

*The president shall be the designated administrative contact with the State and National AAUW.*

*The treasurer shall be the official financial contact with the State and National AAUW.*

*All members shall have a vote on National AAUW business (elections, adoption of the Public Policy Program and resolutions, amendments to the AAUW by-laws).*

## **Legal Advocacy Fund**

**From Bonnie Hill**

As we get ready to send in our donations to National I want to thank ALL the members of the Bridge Group for donating their proceeds to the LAF fund. LAF has made some significant changes over this last year. One of the major changes has been to revise the LAF case support criteria and review process. They have made the application with new criteria to be more specific and less general. This will help staff review more applications that meet our LAF eligibility requirements.

Thanks. Let me know if you have any questions.

## **Public Policy**

**From Anne Marblestone**

The AAUW Public Policy Program for 2009-2011 underscores the mission of advancing equality for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. The following principles provide a basis for all AAUW members' actions at the local, state, national and international levels:

- 1. To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society.*
- 2. To support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity and diversity.*
- 3. To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women.*

In the following months we will examine these principles for action in more detail.

## **Membership**

**From Jo Ann Armenta**

We have had a bumper crop of new members this year—9 in all. Some may be familiar names to you; they are former members who have returned after a few years away.

Please be sure to warmly welcome them.

- **Barbara Chase** has been attending chair yoga for quite some time with other AAUW members and heard so many good things about us that she decided to join. She enjoys reading and has a wide variety of interests.
- **Mr. Winfield C. Oviatt**, retired attorney, and long-time book club member. Win joined AAUW in support of our activities, especially the book clubs. He is now our second male member. Some of us met him at a theater outing recently; he's quite a charming fellow.
- **Denise Raleigh**, attorney, and communications director for the Gail Borden Public Library, is a familiar name and face to many of us in the community. We'll be hearing a lot more from her as the 2010 Census approaches.

(Contact information already printed the Yearbook) Background information about the new members listed below to follow in subsequent newsletters:

- **Dale Mindell Adams**
- **Terry Annis**
- **Irene H. Carlisle**
- **Beverly Lovett**
- **June Soderstrom**
- **Mary H. Stafford**

## 2010 Garden Walk

From Mary Navin



Plans are being made for an exciting Elgin East City Garden Walk. The date is Saturday, June 12, and the walk will feature some wonderful spring gardens, including the garden of Dan and Pat Miller on Gifford Street and the garden of our own member Mary Ellen Barbezat on Liberty Street. The next planning meeting will be Monday, Dec. 7 at 4:00 at Paul's Restaurant. Please join us if you would like to be part of the planning process. Hope to see you in December.

## Nomination Submission for Libby Hoeft as a Melissa Bean Winning Woman of 2009

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) as a Winning Woman of 2009. For all of her adult life, Libby has been a community leader, holding board memberships and numerous offices with:

- the local YMCA and YWCA,
- the Gail Borden Public Library Foundation,
- the Elgin Symphony Orchestra and Symphony League,
- the United Way of Elgin,
- Day One (formerly Kane-Kendall Service coordinators),
- Fox Valley Hospice,
- American Association of University Women,
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church, and

It is difficult to know where to start in illustrating Libby's ability 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 PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) in 2007. This is an energetic woman who gets things done.

In Doug's memory, Libby founded a Scholarship Foundation which, since 2002, has raised money for 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, hearing impairments, etc. Many of these recipients have kept in touch with the foundation to report on their successes; indeed, one such student is currently working on a law degree. What a difference a scholarship has made in the life of this one individual – itself an inspiring achievement.

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 two 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 tell her "no." Currently, Libby has been appointed by the Symphony Board 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.

Through her involvement with the Elgin Symphony, Libby participated in Elgin Days in Springfield, petitioning our state legislators to boost funding for not-for-profits. Libby is not shy about confronting state politicians on behalf of causes in which she believes, calling on her experience as a representative's wife for the 10 years her husband served, assisting him with his causes and his campaigns.

To sum up this recommendation for Libby, we would have to say that her most endearing quality is her willingness to get deeply involved with whatever organization, board, foundation, etc. needs her assistance.

\*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 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 co-president.

\*Her commitment to her church has led her to participate in its council, chair its endowment committee, and 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 President.

This is an extraordinary woman who has never been content to sit on the sidelines of her community. Libby Hoeft is most deserving of being recognized as a 2009 Winning Woman, but even without this designation, anyone who knows Libby can tell you she is "A Winner."

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to share Libby's accomplishments with your committee.

## **Following are criteria for this award:**

Nominations for the 2009 Winning Woman Awards will be assessed and selected per the following criteria:

**Inspiration:** A "Winning Woman" embraces a leadership role, engages others and inspires them to contribute to their community.

**Positive Outcomes:** A "Winning Woman" works to improve her community, better the lives of others and/or expand the capacity of an organization she serves

## **Correspondence with our November speaker, poetess Laura Van Prooyen**

### **An email to Rachel Campbell**

Dear Rachel,



Thank you so much for the invitation to speak at the AAUW-- Elgin branch. I had a wonderful time. The women were so warm and welcoming; it was a pleasure to share my work. I continue to be grateful for AAUW as an organization. The Career Development Grant not only gave me important financial support, but it also has enabled me to tap into this network of amazing women. It is no small thing to know that the women of AAUW are behind me as I pursue my goals. Being a grant recipient has given me confidence in a way that I have never felt before. Thanks to you and all of the women of your branch who work so hard to raise money for the Educational Foundation.

I hope that our paths might connect again. Thank you for the opportunity to read my poems. Please send my gratitude to all of the women of your branch.

Warmly,  
Laura

## Email between Jan Jones and Laura

Jan,

It was a pleasure to meet you today. I had a wonderful time at the Elgin branch. Everyone was so warm and welcoming!

I continue to be grateful to AAUW, and I appreciate the opportunity to read my poem to you all today. I hope we might meet again.

Warmly,  
Laura

Laura,

It was our pleasure to visit with you and listen to you read your poetry. Now, I'm reading more in your book. What I wanted to ask, but forgot, was, how did you hear of the AAUW grant that you received?

Jan

Hi Jan,

Initially, I saw the grant posted on Fastweb.com--a free scholarship search service online. When I then looked into the details of the grant and the mission of AAUW, I suspected we were a fit. I'm so grateful to have found AAUW--for the grant, of course, but for the women and the organization that will be a part of my life for the long haul.

Have a great week.  
Laura



## You've Got Mail!

Don't know what to do with it? Can't open e-mail attachments and save them or attach a photo to e-mail?

We have requested a one-time special training session, designed for AAUW members from the Gail Borden Public Library.

We need to be very specific about what we want. If you are interested in attending and learning exactly what you want to learn, send an e-mail with a description of what that is to Jo Ann Armenta at [joann\\_amenta@att.net](mailto:joann_amenta@att.net).

(This is NOT a beginner's computer or e-mail course—those courses are routinely available throughout the year.)

## Message from Newsletter Editors

Remember, there will NOT be a January newsletter. The next deadline, for the February newsletter, is January 20.

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

Medina Gross - [medina@gmail.com](mailto:medina@gmail.com)

Jeanne Hebeisen - [jeanne@mc.net](mailto:jeanne@mc.net)

Linda Youngren - [lindayoungren@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lindayoungren@sbcglobal.net)

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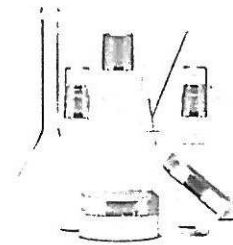
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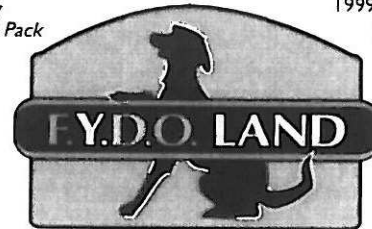


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In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

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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