

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*

March 2010

American Association of University Women

Vol. 15, No. 2

March Branch Meeting

**Tuesday, March 9, 6:00 PM
Dinner Meeting**

**Café Roma
2175 Point Boulevard, Elgin**

WRITING HISTORY:

**JACK WEISS EXPLAINS HOW THE 60TH
ANNIVERSARY HISTORY
OF**

ELGIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE WAS WRITTEN

Join us on Tuesday, March 9, at Roma's for a dinner meeting which will begin at 6:00 PM. (Elsewhere in this issue you will find instructions for ordering your meal and directions to the restaurant.)

Dr. Weiss is a former professor and administrator at Elgin Community College who has firsthand knowledge of the college and its history. Because of their affiliation with ECC, he and Dr. Polly Nash wrote the 60 year history of that institution. Jack will discuss the process of writing such a document and how one goes about putting all of that information into a logical, readable document.

Join us for this unusual presentation on the writing of history.

- March 1 **Board Meeting 7 PM**
Jan Jones, Hostess
- March 3 **AAUW Lobby Day**
Springfield
- March 8 **Great Books, 7 pm**
Gail Borden Library
Philosophy and Physics, Max Plank
- March 9 **Branch Meeting 6 PM**
- March 11 **Morning Book Group 10 AM**
Liz Parker Siebeck, Hostess
Olive Kitteridge, Elizabeth Strout
- March 13 **AAUW Fellows Brunch 11 AM**
Lamb's Farm
AAUW Theatre 6:15 PM
Elgin Public House
The Beauty Part, S.J.Perelman
- March 22 **20's and 30's Book Club, 7 PM**
Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin
Gail Borden Library
- March 23 **Reel Women 6 PM**
Gail Borden Library
The Magdalene Sisters
- March 24 **Memoir Group 1 pm**
Medina Gross, hostess

March 24 **Current Literature** 7 PM
Rachel Campbell, Hostess
Gang Leader for a Day, Venkatesh

March 25 **Evening Crafters** 7 PM
Fish Stamp T-Shirt
Linda Rusenovich, hostess

President's Message

Welcome to the beginning of spring (at least on the calendar, if not outdoors). It is the time to thank those who have been so generous in their support of AAUW by nominating them for awards given by the community and the organization. Look for more information to come regarding our amazing members.

Dates to remember are March 3, which is Lobby Day in Springfield for AAUW. For more information contact fe.marcus@comcast.net. The AAUW-IL convention will be held April 30 – May 1. More information is available at www.aauw-il.org. Also remember to check our Elgin Area website (Thanks, Marcia!) for all the latest news. Remember that March is Women's History Month, with many activities available through our sister organizations and Elgin Community College. It is not too soon to be planning to attend the YWCA Leader Luncheon on May 13, a wonderful celebration of women with the guest speaker, Jessica Doyle, First Lady of Wisconsin.



Our next programs promise to be quite interesting as we celebrate two 60th anniversaries of our community – Elgin Community College and Elgin Symphony Orchestra. Jack Weiss from ECC will present the program on March 9, including information on how to write a history, and Dr. Dale Lonis from the ESO will be with us on April 7 to comment on the history of the orchestra and plans for its future. Be sure to put both those dates on your calendar.

Here's hoping that spring appears soon.

Libby Hoeft, also on behalf of Jan Jones

March 9 General Meeting

6 pm, Café Roma, 2175 Point Blvd, Elgin

Please call Muriel Fenzel or Lynn Harper by Wednesday March 3 to indicate your dinner choice. All meals are \$16 and include drinks, dessert, tax and tip. Full cash bar is available. Payment may be made that evening.

_____ **21 Vegetable Soup and cold grilled vegetable platter**

_____ **Southwest Chicken Soup and cold grilled vegetable platter**

_____ **10" pizza and side salad**

_____ **Penne Rustica (light cream sauce, peas, mushrooms, chicken) and side salad**

Dessert: Panna Cotta

Directions to Café Roma:

Take Randall Road north past I 90 to Point Blvd (this is the first light past I 90). Turn right. Drive past Jimmy's Charhouse and the hotel to 2175 Point Blvd.

February Branch Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2010, Co-president Jan Jones, called the meeting to order.

Rachel Campbell, Co-Program Chair, introduced Lynn Rymarz, who presented an entertaining and informative portrayal of Martha Washington.

Jan thanked the Program Committee for their efforts in securing our program for the day. She also thanked the Social Co-Chairs Lynn Harper and Muriel Fenzel for the refreshments.

Rachel presented the Susan B. Anthony award to Barbara Evans. Rachel reviewed Barbara's accomplishments and presented her with flowers, a certificate and a Susan B. Anthony dollar.

Minutes of January branch meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter. Shirley May Byrnes, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's report. It was filed for audit.

Membership - Guests Becky Olson, a former member, and Carrie Santucci, Nancy Gardner's daughter, were introduced.

Educational Foundation – Jan Jones announced the Garden Walk Committee would be meeting on March 9.

Program - Anne Marblestone said that Jack Weiss, our March branch meeting speaker, would speak on "How to Write a Book." He is co-author of a history of ECC; his co-author Polly Nash may possibly join him. Anne urged a large attendance, as she promised Jack there would be 40 people present.

Jan announced the March 13 brunch at Lambs Farm, at which four EO fellows will be speaking. She urged members to attend and said those wishing to go should sign up on the notice going around.

Jan suggested members take a look at our website.

Medina Gross said that the Facebook page her daughter, Rachel Bloomberg, created is up and running. She requested information to put on it, as it should be updated frequently. It is hoped we will reach younger prospective members through it. She said it would be great to have a picture and blurb of Jack Weiss to put on it.

Jan noted the following meetings: Board Meeting on March 1 at her home; International Women's Day

Luncheon on March 8; and Brunch at Lambs Farm with EO Fellows on March 13. Barbara Evans said that reservations for the International Women's Day Luncheon needed to be in on February 28 if you wish to sit at the AAUW table, otherwise the deadline was March 1.

Jan announced that the Salvation Army is packaging food to send to Haiti. They will be doing it next weekend at the former Seigle's Home and Building Center on Big Timber Road. They need 5,000 workers. Call ahead to get a time slot to help.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Hebeisen, Co-Recording Secretary

Report of the Nominating Committee Slate of Officers

Co-First Vice-President (Programs) Barbara Evans. Barbara is a graduate of the State College of Iowa. She served as co-president of the branch in the 2008-2009 year, and is the winner of our Susan B. Anthony award this year (see below)

Co-First Vice President (Programs) Carol Wieg. Carol is a graduate of Indiana University and was appointed to serve in this position last year and has graciously consented to serve another two years. Carol is a former English teacher and yearbook advisor at Larkin High School.

Treasurer: Shirley May Byrnes. Shirley is a graduate of the University of Illinois and is the former Executive Director of the DuPage Library System. She was appointed to serve as treasurer last year, and has also graciously consented to serve another two years.

Recording Secretary: Jeanne Hebeisen. Jeanne has served as president of the branch and has held most other offices, and was a mainstay of our Art Showcase for many years. She was formerly a computer programmer for Safety Kleen. She was appointed to serve as co-recording secretary last year and has graciously agreed to serve as solo recording secretary for another two years.

President-Elect: Open Position. We are currently seeking candidates for this vital position. We can accept a pair to serve in this capacity if that meets your needs better than going it alone. Why not seek out a friend and join forces to become our President-Elect. Anyone interested should contact any member of the nominating committee.

Nominating Committee 2010-2011: Barbara Evans, Judy Kaulfuss, Nancy Klemm, Judy Mavros, Mary Navin, Rita Shaw, Barbara Wahl

Alternates: Linda Youngren and Carol Wieg

Respectfully submitted, 2009-2010 Nominating Committee

Lorna Miller (chair), Wilma Booth, Marcia Cameron, Medina Gross, Anne Marblestone, Judy Mavros, Sharon Spates. Alternates: Peggie Caughlin and Julie Ford.

Theatre Party March 13

Join the 20's and 30's book group for dinner and a show as Independent Player presents "The Beauty Part," a satirical farce by one of American's greatest wits--S. J. Perelman.

A young man "enters" the world, leaving his riches behind, to find and assert artistic truth. He meets the editor of grisly pulp magazines, movie producer Harry Hubris, an ice cream soda tycoon, a TV judge, and a rollicking covey of others. The evening becomes a headlong dash in Mack Sennett catastrophes with laughs tumbling over laughs in abandon.

They play features Kristin Olson, a member of the 20's and 30's group and runs March 5-20 at 8 pm at Elgin Art Showcase, 164 Division St, Elgin. Tickets are \$15, \$12 for seniors.

A group of us will be going on Saturday March 13. We will meet for dinner first at the Elgin Public House at 6:15 pm. Tickets will be \$10 if we get a group of ten. Call or email Medina by March 8 if you are interested.

Reel Women March 23

The Magdalene Sisters

Based on actual events, this 2003 film tells the story of the convents in Ireland where girls who were thought to be sexually deviant were sent to "get right with God" via doing slave labor in the nuns' laundries. The film focuses on three girls who struggled to free themselves from their unjust incarceration and the beatings and humiliation routinely doled out by the nuns. While the incidents in this film took place in 1964, these convents and their practices persisted through the 1990's in Ireland.--Barbara Evans

Memoir Group March 24

Write a paragraph or two or more about an object that evokes memories, and bring both to share. New members are most welcome.--Gareth Sitz

Garage Sale May 21 and 22

Spring is approaching and with spring comes "GARAGE SALE." Jean Jederman has graciously consented to have our garage sale again at her Wing Street corner. The garage sale will be the third week of May, Friday May 21, and Saturday, May 22. Drop off and set up will be from Wednesday of that week. How can we not take advantage of such a great fundraiser for AAUW, plus the days of fellowship which also occur. Sign up sheets will be circulating, so please try to be generous with your time and treasures.--Mary Navin and Mary Ayd

Garden Walk June 12

Save Saturday June 12 for another glorious Garden Walk. Elgin east side city gardens will be featured and we will need many helpers to represent AAUW. This is a wonderful opportunity to see lovely gardens in an historic setting, plus visit the Elgin Public Museum in Lord's Park which will be the site for a mini art show. Please be generous with your time. Also, call any of the committee members with suggestions for local artists who would display art at the museum setting.--Mary Navin, Jan Jones, Anne Marblestone, Peg Caughlin, Lorna Miller, Muriel

Helping Haiti



Thanks to the several AAUW members who helped pack 1,040,920 meals that were assembled from volunteers mixing, bagging and boxing high-protein ready-to-cook meals, for Haiti earthquake victims this past weekend. More than 4,000 volunteers pre-registered and almost 1,000 walk-in volunteers worked over the Feb 21 and 22 weekend. The food was trucked Sunday night to Miami, because of flow into the Dominican Republic and then trucked into Haiti by Salvation Army trucks eagerly awaiting these supplies and will be feeding people in about 5 days. Folks also donated more than 3,000 food items to help local food pantries in our area.

--Jo Ann Armenta

Susan B. Anthony Award February 13, 2010



Barbara Evans

Barbara Evans, this year's Susan B. Anthony Award recipient taught English at Larkin High School for most of her career and, all the while, was busy making contributions in her neighborhood and community, too.

As a member of the Gifford park Association, Elgin's first historic district, Barbara was active in working to preserve and showcase the lovely older homes that are a part of our city's landscape. She was part of the original group that developed the idea for the Gifford Park Housewalk. She co-chaired and helped direct that event for ten years. This event draws thousands each year to our community.

Barbara served two terms on the Heritage Commission. That body promotes and oversees the preservation of historic and architecturally significant structures and areas. While a member of the commission, she approached then mayor, George Van De Voorde with the idea that he needed to honor people, organizations and events with a Mayor's award. Mayor Van de Voorde thought that was a good idea and turned the project over to Barbara who created and designed the award.

While teaching at Larkin, Barbara recognized the sad situation that students were not taking standardized testing as seriously as they should. Barbara founded RAH, a committee designed to encourage students to participate in and do well on the required tests. All sorts of incentives were used and we did see improvements on those tests.

Hurricane Katrina offered Barbara another opportunity for community service. After reading an article in a newspaper that “Angie” was going to lead a clothing drive to help victims of the Hurricane, determined to help, she appeared at Angie’s door at 8:15 AM one Sunday morning and volunteered her considerable skills. Their efforts gathered enough clothing from all across Elgin to fill an 18 wheel semi-trailer; the clothing was delivered to the victims of the hurricane.

Barbara’s leadership talents have followed her into AAUW. She and Janelle Walker worked to get the Study Group “Reel Women” off the ground and that group is now co-sponsored by our branch and the library.

Barbara took the initiative to work with the state International Affairs representative and developed a comprehensive booklist on international issues for AAUW members statewide.

Currently, Barbara is working to make the project “Networking Nites” a reality. The purpose of this project is to provide a venue for working women to meet on both a social and professional level to discuss opportunities and possibilities for furthering their careers.

Barbara has the talent for visioning possibilities, for planning the path and, finally, the determination to see her ideas through. These are all qualities that Susan B. Anthony showed in her long ago quest.

Women’s History Month Calendar

March 3, Illinois Lobby Day For Health Care, Springfield fe.marcus@comcast.net

March 4, Thursday, 11 AM – 12:15 PM, Elgin Community College ATC

Auditorium, Irina Reyn, author of the “What Happened to Anna K.” and an expert on women immigrant issues, topic – Immigrant Women Issues: Voices of Identity and Assimilation, website <http://irinareyn.com/3.html>

The presentation will be followed by the annual Immigrant Women Roundtable at 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. In ICT 102.

March 5-7, Hemmens Theatre. Elgin Symphony Orchestra presents Royal Fireworks. Jeanette Sorrel, conductor. A salute to the baroque.

March 8 International Women’s Day Luncheon, Union League Club of Chicago, speaker Maryn McKenna.

Deadline to register 3/1.
Chicagowomensday.org

March 14, 12-3 PM Opening of Elgin Area Historical Society’s new exhibits, including ATicket A Tasket: A Collection of Baskets and From River to Rails, Elgin in the 1850s and 1860s. Program at 1 pm.

April 18, Sunday, 2-4 PM Gail Borden Public Library Community Rooms. A Literary Tea with Authors Elizabeth Berg and Christine Blevins, ☐ Enjoy tea with two popular writers who will share the stories behind the stories. Elizabeth Berg's bestsellers include *The Year of Pleasures* and *Dream When You're Feeling Blue*. Her new book, *The Last Time I Saw You*, is about a 40th high school reunion, written from five different points of view. Christine Blevins’ historical fiction focuses on the early days of America. Her books include *Midwife of the Blue Ridge* and *Tory Widow*. Book sales and signings will take place at the tea. *Please register at Gail Borden.info.*

NCCWSL



Do you know a young woman college student who is interested in honing her leadership skills and networking with women leaders from around the country? Any young woman going to college in Elgin is eligible for our scholarship to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders put on by AAUW in College Park, MD, near Washington, DC. The conference is June 3-5. Application deadline is March 22.

Email medinag@gmail.com for an application

Message from Newsletter Editors

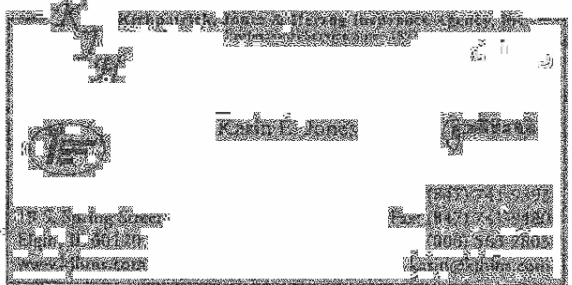
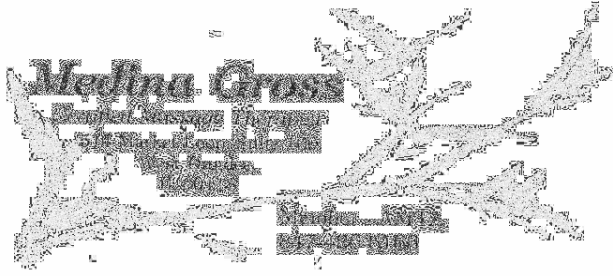
The deadline for the April newsletter is March 20.

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



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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