

News from the Northwest

August, 2015



**Newsletter of the Northwest Suburban Branch
American Association of University Women**

*AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy,
education, philanthropy, and research.*

A NEW YEAR BEGINS!

**Our program year begins anew;
We've really good things in store.
Start with a social, just for you –
Chat, munch, enjoy – hear more!**

Northwest Suburban Branch is beginning its sixty-ninth program year! Organized in 1947, our branch has been advancing educational opportunities for women and girls ever since then. Of course, along with our primary mission, we have fostered a spirit of friendship and collegiality that still exists.

Continuing in that spirit, we will begin the 2015-2016 program year with a social gathering on

Thursday, August 27th, 7:00 p.m., at the home of Irene Jinks.



We'll eat and have a cup of punch, chat about what we've done this summer, eat some more, and look ahead to some of the exciting events planned for our branch this year. We will ask for a \$10.00 contribution from each guest, and all proceeds will go to help support our projects – our Oakton Community College scholarship and AAUW funds.

This is a great opportunity for you to invite a woman who could and should be a member of AAUW! Each of us surely knows at least one person who would enjoy our company and would support our mission. Recruit her! All of us have enjoyed our AAUW affiliation. Let's share that enjoyment!

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 27TH, 7:00 P.M.
834 CAROLYN LANE, PARK RIDGE**

**Call or email Irene to let her know you are coming.
847-698-3113 or wijinks@aol.com**

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the summer nears a close – our program year begins. Your board has been busy planning programs this summer which you can read about in the newsletter. I really hope that members can make an effort to attend our very interesting meetings this year. I am thinking of this year as a watershed year for our branch. I am hoping our membership will grow as a result of several efforts.

Once again we will be joining forces with the Park Ridge League of Women Voters and the Des Plaines Library for one program each. These are great opportunities to get our name out to the public and to invite non-members to attend excellent programs.

Tech Savvy will be happening on April 16 in conjunction with Oakton College and several other branches in the area. We are undertaking some fundraising to support the day long STEM camp for middle school girls and their parents. Peggy St. Leger, Pili Richardson, Michelle Smith and I have come up with several ideas which we will pursue along with the Glenview AAUW branch. The first is a fundraiser at Culver's in Niles. Secondly, we will be raffling baskets at the Fall District meeting. Lastly we are working on a possible Trivia Night. Doesn't that sound like fun?

I am also proud to announce that we will have a Membership Recruitment Event on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 7p.m., at my home, 412 Lake Ave., Park Ridge. Please consider coming to meet potential members or bring a potential member with you for desserts and a discussion about AAUW in general and our Northwest Suburban Branch specifically.

All of these things make me excited about our next program year. I hope you will get excited too!

Cindy Grau

SEPTEMBER!

For our September meeting, we are joining with the Park Ridge League of Women Voters to present a program on the Independent Maps initiative. It will be held on **Wednesday, September 16th, 7:00 p.m., at the Park Ridge Public Library.** The speaker is Christopher Butler, Illinois Field Director for Independent Maps.

Independent Maps is collecting signatures to get a Constitutional Amendment on the November, 2016 ballot to have Illinois' political maps redistricted by an independent body rather than the political party in power. Redistricting, which is done every ten years, has caused many races to go uncontested due to districts being drawn unfavorably towards the opposing party. Cities have been divided during the process and current legislators have been drawn out of their districts, requiring them to move in order to run to retain their seats.

We are inviting the public to attend this meeting, and hope that not only will you attend but that you will invite your friends and neighbors. This is something that affects all of us in Illinois! We are deviating from our usual Thursday meeting night, but the library is unavailable on Thursdays because of their scheduled programs. Because this is such a timely and important topic, we felt that it would be worth changing our date.

The Park Ridge Public Library is located at 20 S. Prospect in Park Ridge, at the intersection of Touhy, Northwest Highway and Prospect in downtown Park Ridge (across the street from the Pickwick Theater). There is a large city parking lot just south of the library building. It can be entered from either Prospect Ave. or Summit St.

Dues Payments: Your treasurer thanks all of those who sent their dues so promptly. Nearly all of our members sent them so that they could be remitted at the proper time. (If you haven't sent your dues, it is never too late! Please send them to Irene Jinks, 834 Carolyn Lane, Park Ridge 60068. The total is \$71.00 for National, State and Local, or \$12.00 if you are a dual member with primary membership in another branch.)

Northwest Suburban Branch, 2015-2016

- Thursday, August 27
7:00 p.m. Summer Social at the home of Irene Jinks – just relaxation and conversation!
- Wednesday, Sept. 16
7:00 p.m. *Why Redistricting Matters in Changing Illinois*
Cosponsored with the Park Ridge League of Women Voters
Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect, Park Ridge
- Saturday, Oct. 24
10:00 a.m. *What Do You Know about GMO's?*
Barbara Kimcasa, Illinois Right to Know GMO
Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St., Des Plaines
- Saturday, Dec. 5
9:30 a.m. Holiday Brunch: A fundraising event for our projects
Home of Irene Jinks
- Saturday, Jan. 30
11:30 a.m. District 5 Networking Luncheon
Col. Jill Morgenthaler, author of *The Courage to Take Command*
Deerfield Embassy Suites Hotel
- Saturday, Feb. 20
10:00 a.m. *The ABC's of Sex Education*, an educational project in Kenya to
diminish the spread of HIV and AIDS
Kathy Tate-Bradish, Exec. Director of the project
Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St., Des Plaines
- Saturday, March 19
10:00 a.m. *Finding Vivian Maier*, a film about the reclusive photographer
Cosponsored with the Des Plaines Public Library
Des Plaines Public Library
- Saturday, April 9
10:30 a.m. Scholars' Brunch sponsored by District 5 featuring recipients of
AAUW grants and fellowships
Lambs Farm, Libertyville
- Saturday, April 16
9:00 a.m. *Tech Savvy* Conference
Cosponsored with Oakton Community College
Oakton College, 1600 E. Golf Rd., Des Plaines
- April 29-30
AAUW, Illinois State Convention
Roosevelt University, Schaumburg Campus
- Thursday, May 12
6:00 p.m. Branch Annual Meeting and Dinner
Elks Club, 495 Lee St., Des Plaines

Please enter the dates in your calendar now so that you can avoid conflicts! You will receive more specific information prior to each of the events and, when needed, a registration form.

YEARBOOK/DIRECTORY

You will be receiving a new directory early this fall. If there are any changes that should be noted in your listing, please contact Irene Jinks. We will include the schedule for the year as well as other AAUW information.

Join Us to Learn

WHY REDISTRICTING MATTERS IN CHANGING ILLINOIS

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Park Ridge Public Library

20 S. Prospect Avenue

Park Ridge

- **Legislative districts are redrawn every ten years following the U.S. Census**
- **District boundaries in Illinois are drawn by the party in power to strengthen that power**
- **Illinois' Constitution allows citizens to propose an amendment to change the way the districts are drawn**
- **Independent Maps is a non-partisan coalition to reform legislative redistricting in Illinois**

**Speaker: Christopher Butler
Illinois Field Director, Independent Maps**

Sponsored by:

Park Ridge League of Women Voters

Contact: Diane Edmundson 847-292-1867

Northwest Suburban Branch, AAUW

Contact: Cynthia Grau 847-384-8136

(This is not a Library-run event. Except for providing meeting space, the Park Ridge Public Library is not in any manner connected with this meeting, and neither the Library nor the Board of Trustees endorses the presenter nor any position expressed by the group)