

News from the Northwest

February, 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.***

The Journey to Mollie's War: WACs and World War II

Saturday, February 21, 2015 1:30 P.M.

Des Plaines Public Library

1501 Ellinwood St., Des Plaines

Friends Rooms B/C



Join your AAUW sisters and other community residents as we partner with the Des Plaines Public Library to present this interesting and informative picture of women's role in World War II. The slide presentation looks at the life of WAC Mollie Weinstein from basic training in Florida in October, 1943 to the dramatic moment when the Statue of Liberty came into view upon her return in November, 1945. Drawing upon excerpts from Mollie's letters to her family during the war, this presentation provides a glimpse into the life of a woman in uniform during this crucial time in history, showing the vital role that military women played.

The program will be presented by Cyndee Schaffer, Mollie's daughter, who is a member of the AAUW Glenview Branch. It is being provided through the Illinois Humanities Council's Road Scholars Speakers Bureau. We have had programs provided by this group in the past and have always found them to be excellent. This year, as we observe the seventieth anniversary of the end of World War II, it is certainly appropriate for us to learn more about these women of the Women's Army Corps – some 150,000 of them – the first women other than nurses to serve overseas in World War II. The book written by Mollie Weinstein Schaffer and her daughter, *Mollie's War: The Letters of a World War II WAC in Europe*, has received excellent reviews.

Plan to attend this program and invite others to join you. This is a wonderful opportunity to share AAUW with others who would enjoy being a part of the organization. Although we have not made specific arrangements, perhaps some of our members would like to get together after the program for an afternoon coffee and dessert to discuss the program.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings this fine February day!

I am so pleased that as a result of a Illinois Humanities Council grant that Merna Folkers obtained, the program "The Journey to Mollie's War : WACS and WWII" will be presented at the Des Plaines library on the AFTERNOON of February 21 at 1:30 p.m. We changed the time to the afternoon at the request of the Des Plaines Library, which is our co-sponsor in this event. This is a great opportunity for the community and your friends to hear this excellent speaker for free. We hope that this event will bring us some visibility in the community.

We've been approached by Oakton College to help them sponsor an AAUW Tech Savvy program in April of 2016. It is a daylong event that brings middle-school girls to the campus to experience, hands-on, all types of science programs. I hope that you will consider helping if/when this program comes to fruition.

Also, I hope some of you are thinking about the Illinois Convention in Bloomington on May 1-2. We will be hearing from a LAF Plaintiff who is a Title IX attorney who was involved in a case that AAUW supported in California. These cases are fascinating views into the often blatant sex discrimination that takes place on campuses and workplaces right here in the United States. There will be a host of other speakers and workshops. If you are interested in attending and haven't attended a state convention before, you can take advantage of a TRIO grant to pay for the registration cost of convention. Please let me know if you are interested and I can give you more details.

I look forward to seeing you at our February meeting!

Cindy Grau

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

We were so sorry to have to cancel our traditional December gathering, but we had so few reservations that it was not feasible to have the event. It appears that we had a conflict with another organization in which many of our members are also involved that had also planned a special event for that day. Thank you to our members who made contributions to the Des Plaines Self-Help Pantry, even though we did not have our brunch. Maybe next December . . .

Remembering what our weather was like last year, we had not planned a meeting for January. Sometimes the Annual Networking Luncheon is at the end of January, but this year it was the first Saturday of February. It was a well-attended event at the Embassy Suites in Deerfield. Cindy Grau and Irene Jinks were able to attend and enjoyed talking with members of other branches in District 5 and learning about some of their activities. The speaker, Dr. Lise Eliot, gave an interesting program debunking theories of brain differences in boys and girls and how they learn. For many years, our branch was one of the branches participating in the planning of this event. We have had the opportunity to hear a number of outstanding women speakers.

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?

We're going to have our regular February meeting at the Des Plaines Library, as indicated at the beginning of the newsletter. The program will be at 1:30 and will last about an hour, so you will still have most of the day for other things. Remember, parking is available in the garage in back of the library, as well as some street parking nearby.

Our regular March meeting will feature Ann Merrell, who is Barbara Pfaff's granddaughter. Ann has been employed by Habitat for Humanity, but is now at Northwestern working on a Master's degree. She will tell us about the work that she has done, and the programs that Habitat sponsors. This program will also be held at the Des Plaines Public Library, on Saturday, March 21, in the morning.

(Continued on next page)

A bit earlier in March, on Monday, March 9th, we are invited to celebrate International Women's Day at a luncheon at the Union League Club of Chicago. This is an annual event; last year Cindy Grau and Pili Richardson attended. Specific information is included on another page.

On April 11th, we hope that many of our members will be able to attend the AAUW Fellows Brunch at Lambs Farm in Libertyville. This is a wonderful opportunity to see what AAUW funds are accomplishing. The reservation form is included with this newsletter. If you would like to attend, please let Cindy Grau or Irene Jinks know.

Be sure that you have included that date on your calendar as a regular Northwest Suburban function.

INTEREST GROUP

The reading group will meet on Tuesday, February 24th, 7:00 p.m., at the home of Irene Jinks. The book to be discussed is *And the Mountains Echoed* by Kahled Hosseini. Please let Irene know if you will attend (847-698-3113 or wijinks@aol.com). New members would be warmly welcomed!

WHAT'S IN STORE!

Put the dates in your calendar so that you will be sure to plan to attend!

- Monday, March 9: International Women's Day – AAUW, Illinois
- Saturday, March 21: Speaker: Ann Merrell
Working with Habitat for Humanity, Des Plaines Public Library
- Saturday, April 11: AAUW Scholars Brunch, Lambs Farm, Libertyville
- Fri. – Sat., May 1-2: AAUW-IL Convention, Doubletree Hotel, Bloomington
- Thursday, May 21: Annual Meeting; dinner at the Des Plaines Elks Club
- Saturday, June 13: Outing to the Trickster Gallery in Schaumburg
- June 18-21: AAUW Convention, San Diego, California

DEATH OF FORMER MEMBER

Those who have been members for a long time will remember Ruth Lindahl, who was very active. Ruth died in January after a long illness.

**AAUW-IL, DISTRICT 5
Annual Brunch with Fellows**

**Saturday, April 11, 2015, 11:00 a.m.
Lambs Farm, Libertyville**

**Honorees: Fiona Chin, Ph.D., Sociology, Northwestern University
Vanessa Dion Fletcher, M.F.A., Art Institute of Chicago**

**Menu: Cup of Soup, Choice of Salad (Chicken Caesar or Chicken Cobb),
Rolls and butter, Dessert, Coffee/Tea/Soda**

Cost: \$20.00, includes tax and tip

**Deadline: Reservations must be received by April 1. Checks should be payable to
Deerfield Area Branch and sent to Kay Madden, 425 Village Green, #304,
Lincolnshire IL 60069**

Name of Attendee: _____

AAUW Branch: _____

Menu Choice: _____



**You Are Invited to the 14th Annual
International Women's Day Luncheon
Monday, March 9, 2015**

**Chicago Celebrates International Women's Day
presented by The International Trade Club of Chicago, World Chicago,
Union League Club of Chicago**

International Women's Day began as a remembrance and celebration of the struggle faced by women around the world in the name of equality, justice, peace, and development. Though the role of women around the world has continued to evolve in the nine decades since the inception of International Women's Day, women in the 21st century still face many obstacles in the advancement of their status worldwide. Regardless of ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic and political differences, the desire and need for progressive change is universal.

Chicago is host to dozens of organizations focused on women's issues, both domestic and international. You are invited to attend the Women's Day Fair and Luncheon on March 9, 2015, to explore the vast resources available to women in the Chicagoland area. From relief organizations to the arts, healthcare to technology, there will be something at the fair for everyone. For more info, go to www.chicagowomensday.org or www.worldchicago.org.

The International Fair starts at 10:30am and the luncheon starts at 12 noon
Union League Club, 65 West Jackson, Chicago.
Cost is \$65- per ticket.

We will have an AAUW table at the fair and at the luncheon.
Please join us at our AAUW table for lunch. Please invite a friend or co-worker.

Make your check out to "World Chicago" for **\$65-** and mail to:
Lori Switzer 2746 W Morse Ave. Chicago 60645
chicagoauw@hotmail.com
Deadline is Feb 25th.

American Association of University Women – Illinois is one of the hosting partners for this event.

