

News from the Northwest

March, 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.***

What Do You Know of Habitat?

| How About Learning More?

From One Who Really Knows!



Saturday, March 21, 2015 10:30 A.M.

Des Plaines Public Library

1501 Ellinwood St., Des Plaines

Northwest Suburban Branch will celebrate the beginning of spring by learning about a program that we've all heard about but one that we probably don't know a lot about. *Habitat for Humanity*: most of us have probably made contributions to support the program; we may have read a bit about it; we've certainly seen the logo. On March 21, we will have as our guest Ann Merrell, a graduate student at Northwestern University who has worked with the program and will tell us about her experiences.

Ann grew up in Park Ridge and attended Ohio Wesleyan University, where, in 2012, she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies and Spanish. In college, she developed a passion for social justice and community service, which manifested itself in the two and one-half years after her graduation that she spent working for Habitat for Humanity in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where she was Youth and Collegiate Programs Coordinator. She advised high school and collegiate Habitat chapters in the areas of volunteer recruitment, event planning and fundraising, while she also managed the Women Build program and visited schools to teach students of all ages about affordable housing and poverty issues. Ann is now a full-time student in the Master's in Higher Education Administration and Policy program at Northwestern and works as a graduate assistant in both the Dean of Students office and the Higher Education program office.

Obviously, Ann is a talented young woman, committed to improving conditions among the less privileged, but she is also very special to us in that she is the granddaughter of Barbara Pfaff, a long-time Northwest Suburban Branch member. Come on Saturday, March 21 to meet Ann and to learn of the work that she and so many others do and have done with Habitat for Humanity.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I am writing this the day after International Women's Day. I saw a funny comment on Facebook about celebrating International Women's Day on Daylight Savings Day – a day with only 23 hours in it. It sometimes feels like fighting for equality is an uphill battle.

But I'm encouraged when I read about countries that are using quotas for women in their government elections to ensure representation – they have more women in elected positions than the US. Rwanda has the most women in elected positions and they have rebuilt their country after the experience of genocide. I also read recently that Germany will be instituting quotas for women on supervisory boards of corporations. That is a way to break the glass ceiling!

If you want to read some challenging but also uplifting books about the plight of women internationally, I recommend "Half the Sky" by Nicholas Krystoff and Cheryl WuDunn and their most recent book, "A Path Appears". They will change your life! I would love to discuss one of these books at a branch meeting someday.

As it happens our speaker this month is Ann Merrell who will talk about her work with Habitat for Humanity. What an amazing thing to do. I'm sure she will have interesting observations. I hope to see you there!

Cindy Grau

IT HAPPENED IN FEBRUARY

Our partnering with the Des Plaines Public Library in February provided an excellent program. Cindee Schaffer provided so much interesting material about her mother's service in the WAC's and about the Second World War. There was a good crowd, although we wish more of those present had been our branch members, and many of the men were obviously veterans – if not of WWII, then of Korea or Vietnam – and many of those attending spoke of having been children during the World War II years. She also had a display of the things that her mother had saved – photos, letters, her military decorations, etc. Many thanks to Merna Folkers for making the arrangements with the Illinois Council for the Humanities to provide us and our community with this interesting program.

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?

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.

Then, the first weekend of May will be the AAUW-IL convention at the Doubletree Hotel in Bloomington. Our president, Cindy Grau, will be very busy as she is the Program Vice President for AAUW-IL and so has been responsible for planning speakers and events for the convention.

Cindy will have a couple of weeks to rest up, and then it will be time for our annual meeting. This year, we are planning to have it on Thursday evening, May 21, at the Des Plaines Elks Club. You will be receiving more information in your next newsletter.

INTEREST GROUP

The Weather in February was once again terrible, so the reading group meeting was postponed. We will meet on Tuesday, March 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!

Do you have the dates in your calendar? Be sure that you do so that you won't forget any of them.

- 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

TECH SAVVY CONFERENCE

On Saturday, March 21, several Chicago area branches are hosting their second Tech Savvy workshop. Unfortunately, we were unaware of this plan when we scheduled our programs, so we are unable to fully participate. However, if you know a sixth-ninth grade girl, you could tell her about the conference which will present information on STEM careers and will have hands-on workshops. Parents and teachers are also invited, and there will be special workshops for them. . It will be held at Triton College in River Grove, 8:30-3:30 p.m. Information and online registration are available at: <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/stem-educayion/tech-savvy/> The registration fee is \$10.00 for each person that attends

MEMBER NEWS

Our president, Cindy Grau, takes civic involvement very seriously. She is a candidate for the Park Ridge Park District board. There are four candidates running for three open positions; Cindy is the only non-incumbent running, and she has been working hard. We wish her success in this venture.

**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: _____