

News from the Northwest

February, 2014



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

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

Off We GO . . .

Saturday, February 22, 2014

Noon

Des Plaines Elks Club

495 Lee Street, Des Plaines

Our first program of 2014 will take us back in history and up into the clouds as we are joined by Amelia Earhart, in the person of Leslie Goddard. Ms. Goddard, a well-known area speaker, will take us on an exciting journey. As Amelia Earhart, she will take us to the clouds and lead us through an adventure that is still being examined.

Come and learn of the wonder of early aviation, and the attraction it held for the young Amelia. Dream of the adventure, and all that it held for her -as an aviator and a **WOMAN!** Speculate on her experience and what happened. . .

All this will be a part of our first meeting of 2014. We will have lunch at noon, but come early to enjoy some socialization. We expect to be able to order from the menu and pay our own checks. Please let Irene Jinks know if you will be attending so that we can be set up for the proper number. Respond by Thursday, February 20, if possible. Call her at 847-698-3113, or email her at wijinks@aol.com.

This program is sponsored by a grant from the Illinois Council for the Humanities. The program is free and open to the public.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings!

I hope you all are staying warm and finding the best way to deal with this weather. For me I am sharing my space with two noisy teenagers who have been home more this month than in school!

I would like to share two events I attended recently for AAUW. Irene and I both went to the Networking Luncheon in Deerfield (on what turned out to be one those dreadful driving days!) The guest speaker, Laura Caldwell, was an inspiring speaker. Her careers include lawyer, author and now she runs the non-profit "After Innocence" to help those adjusting back into life after unwarranted incarceration. She spoke about the especially harsh situation that women have in this situation. Often they are mothers of children who were murdered. They were unjustly accused and convicted of the most horrific crime of killing their child. Not only are they dealing with the reality of being an innocent person in jail but also the pain of having a child murdered and the stigma of being perceived as a mother who killed her child. There are no support services for those who are exonerated of their crimes – unlike those provided to criminals who have served their time and are reentering into society. After learning more about AAUW, Caldwell is hoping to partner with our state lobbyist to see what can be done to help these women. The day following the event the Tribune had a front page article profiling such a woman who is in the process of remaking her life after being released from jail.

Recently I attended the "Dare to Dream" conference at College of DuPage. This project began about 5 years ago and is the product of several AAUW branches. Over 400 middle school Latina girls and their mothers attended the daylong event which is geared to teach these young women to not be afraid to dream big, to attend college and have a career. Panelists of Latina high school and college students teach the girls about what to expect from school. The career panels are filled with women in many various careers from police officer to TV broadcasting. The mothers are encouraged to set educational goals of their own and to support their daughters. They are given information about financial aid, how to navigate the college process if their child is undocumented. Some of the stories of the panelist's lives are very moving. A few years ago a friend of mine presented and I found out for the first time that she was born and lived in Cabrini Green. The whole day is very uplifting even for those of us who are already living their dreams.

I hope that you can join me at other future AAUW events such as the Scholarship Luncheon in April or the State Convention on May 2 and 3. One of the programs being held at convention is *Start Smart*, which is a workshop for college women to teach them to negotiate the salaries and benefits of their first jobs.

Stay warm and see it at our next event,

Cindy

IT HAPPENED IN DECEMBER

Seventeen people, members and a couple of guests, came out into the cold on December 7th for our annual brunch. We thought all of our members knew each other, but we found that was not true, and it became a wonderful time of socialization! As always, you were generous in bringing things for the Self Help Closet and Food Pantry in Des Plaines. We had several boxes and bags of non-perishable items and a total of \$135.00 in monetary gifts! We have received thanks from the Pantry for our support.

BRANCH BYLAWS

At our December meeting the members approved the revised bylaws for our branch that were sent to you with the last newsletter. Our bylaws had not been updated for a number of years; we are now in compliance with the Association and have made changes appropriate for our group.

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN WEBSITE

Have you checked out our website? If you are on the Internet, visit: <http://nwsurban-il.aauw.net/>.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

Lots of things are happening in AAUW, and we hope that our members will participate in many of them. The first is our own branch meeting on February 22 at the Elks Club. There is lots of parking and the club is accessible, so we hope to see many of you. You'll enjoy lunch and the excellent program. We thank Merna Folkers for arranging the program for us.

Then, in March, there is the International Women's Day celebration with a fair and luncheon at the Union League Club of Chicago. AAUW is a partner in sponsoring this event. (Information and registration form are included in this newsletter.)

April brings us two events, our own branch meeting on Thursday, April 9 and the District 5 Annual Scholars Brunch, featuring AAUW Educational Fellows on Saturday, April 11. Since we are a part of District 5, wouldn't it be nice if we could have a few of our branch members attend this event? Please let us know if you would like to attend; we could make arrangements to carpool.

In May we have the AAUW-IL convention at Pheasant Run on the first weekend. This would be a great opportunity for some of us to attend at least a part of the convention, if not all. Further information will be coming to you. Then on May 17 we will have our final meeting for this program year – a luncheon at the Elks Club.

DIRECTORIES

After not having had a directory for several years, we now have a new one! Updated copies will be sent to our members. Please check your information and let Irene Jinks know if there are any errors that should be corrected. She will publish any needed corrections. Since production of a directory is a rather large task, we will not do a full one each year but will, instead, issue supplemental pages containing new information. The directory you receive will contain current information; in the fall you will receive an insert containing the new program schedule and any changes that should be made. Please hold on to your directory, as we will not have extras available.

NEWS OF A FRIEND

Our good friend, Mary Carlson, celebrated her 88th birthday at the end of December. Mary, who was a long-time member of Northwest Suburban Branch, served not only as branch president but went on to be president of the state organization. Mary moved to Kansas several years ago to be closer to her family. She is now in an assisted living facility called Neuvant House. Cards and notes to Mary can be addressed to her, in care of Bob and Evelyn Senecal (her sister-in-law and brother-in-law) at 2101 Louisiana Street, Lawrence KS 66046. She would be delighted to hear from any members of the branch.

You Are Invited
to the
13th Annual International Women's Day Luncheon
Friday, March 7, 2014

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 7, 2014, to explore the vast resources available to women in the Chicago land 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, at the 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.

Our keynote speaker is Michèle Legerwood. Michèle Legerwood is a Senior Associate at the Center for Strategic Center for International Studies discussing "Seven Revolutions: Global Trends and the Role of Women in 2035."

Make your check made out to "World Chicago" for **\$65-** and mail to:

Lori Switzer 2746 W Morse Ave. Chicago 60645

chicagoaauw@hotmail.com

Deadline is Feb 24th.

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

AAUW-IL District 5

Educational Opportunities Fund

Annual Brunch with Fellows

11:00 a.m., Saturday, April 12, 2014

at Highland Park Country Club

1201 Park Avenue West (off Route 41), Highland Park, IL

Honorees:

- Katherine Good, PhD, Communications Studies, Northwestern U
- Cindy Nguyen, MBA, Strategy, Operations, U of Chicago
- Kathleen Dupaya, Social Work, U of Chicago

MENU: Cup of Soup, Choice of Salad (Chicken Caesar/Chicken Cobb),
Rolls & Butter, Dessert, Coffee/Tea/Soda

COST: \$30 (includes tax & tip)

DEADLINE: Reservations must be received by **April 1**

Make your reservation by sending this form with a check for \$30
payable to: *Deerfield Area AAUW*

Send to: Kay Madden, 143 Rivershire Lane, Lincolnshire, IL 60069
to arrive no later than Tuesday, April 1. Include your choice of salad on the memo line
of your check. Questions: Contact Kay at 847-955-1708 or kaymadden@comcast.net.

Guests are welcome!

Hope to see you at this outstanding annual event!

Full Name of Attendee: _____

AAUW Branch/Organization: _____

Menu Choice: _____



Dear Friend,

I'd like to share with you a story from Stephanie Hnatiw, an AAUW member in Bethlehem, PA. Today, we mark the 21st anniversary of the landmark Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) – yet Stephanie's story shows us why Congress needs to act to bring our employment laws more in line with the needs of the 21st century workforce.

Here is Stephanie's story, in her own words:

"I'm the mother of a daughter with severe disabilities. My daughter, Raisa, is 26 years old and in a wheelchair. She can't talk, and one of the disorders she struggles with is cluster seizures. If she has a bad seizure in the morning, she can't go to her adult day program, which means someone has to stay home to care for her. My husband and I both work full-time jobs. My job is at a small nonprofit organization of less than 50 people, so I am not eligible for leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). For years throughout my career, I've had to use my vacation days to care for Raisa if she was having seizures. Fortunately, my husband works for a large business that is covered by FMLA, so he has been able to split some of the caregiving duties with me. But even then, the leave he takes to care for our daughter is unpaid, which means our family is taking a hit every time he stays home. We're just trying to be good parents – why are the laws in our country making that so difficult?"

Across the country, people like Stephanie are working hard to make ends meet and provide for their families, yet our nation fails to provide the support people need to manage job and family – and the support businesses need to maintain healthy and productive workplaces.

That's why AAUW supports the Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act (FAMILY Act), which would create a national insurance program funded by employee and employer contributions. [Will you urge your representative to co-sponsor the FAMILY Act today?](#)

The FAMILY Act would provide eligible employees with up to 12 weeks of paid leave to care for situations such as their own serious illness, the serious illness of a child, parent or spouse (including a domestic partner), and the birth or adoption of a child. Employees who work full time at small organizations like Stephanie's nonprofit would be covered, and the program would be funded by employee and employer contributions that would amount to less than \$1.50 per week for the average worker.

"The Family and Medical Leave Act was very important to my family, and the FAMILY Act will make it even better for families," Stephanie says. "I want future generations of women and their families to have it better than I had it."

Stephanie, we couldn't have said it better ourselves. [Urge your representative to co-sponsor the FAMILY Act today!](#)

Lisa M. Maatz
AAUW Vice President of Government Relations

AAUW

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