

News from the Northwest

June, 2013

Newsletter of the Northwest Suburban University Women

Let's celebrate a special date –
An anniversary we should know.
Something that happened in 1913;
A whole century ago!
“What? What?” you say; “What can it be?”
The date you might not remember;
But the names, you'll see
Will be ones you know:
Women who stood up for women!

Join you Northwest Suburban Sisters
for

MOVIE NIGHT!

Thursday, June 27, 2013

6:30 P.M.

412 Lake Ave., Park Ridge
(The home of Cindy Grau)

IRON JAWED ANGELS

(It will blow you away!)

A CENTURY AGO

June 11, 1913 – something special happened. Grace Wilbur Trout, president of the Illinois Political Equality League, turned from a confrontational style of lobbying the state legislature to working to build a local organization in every senate district in the state. She sent four lobbyists to Springfield to lobby one legislator at a time to support women’s suffrage. Having passed the State Senate, the bill was brought to the House on June 11, 1913. Grace Trout and her allies went so far as to fetch male voters from their homes while making sure that no members who favored suffrage left the chambers. The bill passed the Illinois House, 83 to 58 – with six votes to spare! On June 26, 1913, Gov. Edward F. Dunne signed the bill, making Illinois the first state east of the Mississippi River to grant women the right to vote for President!

The year 1913 was also significant in nationwide suffrage. In March of that year, over 5,000 women paraded in Washington D.C. It was there that Chicagoan Ida B. Wells-Barnett, who had founded the Alpha Suffrage Club in Illinois, was asked to move to the rear of the parade so as not to offend the southern marchers; she pretended to agree, but once the parade started she joined the Illinois delegation, marching with her white sisters.

Iron Jawed Angels, starring Hilary Swank, Frances O’Connor, Julia Ormond and Angelica Huston, tells the moving story of activists Alice Paul and Lucy Burns who were leaders in the national suffrage movement and what they suffered for those of us who came after. If you have never seen this film, you have a treat in store; if you have seen it, it bears viewing again – several times. When we vote (or choose not to), we often forget what others did for us. This film will remind you – you won’t be likely to forget again! Join your AAUW sisters on Thursday, June 27th at 6:30 p.m. We’ll socialize first, then begin the movie at 7:00. (Just to be sure that we will have enough chairs and popcorn, please let Cindy Grau know that you will come: 847-384-8136 or cindy@equivoice.com. Cindy can also give you directions, in case your GPS isn’t working!)

WHAT HAPPENED IN APRIL

A group of us met in April at the Elks Club, had lunch and socialized and made some plans for the remainder of the year. We want to continue as a branch, and want to be a part of AAUW, so we hope that some who have been “community” (local) members will rejoin AAUW and support its work for women, promoting education and equality. A dues form for 2013-2014 is included with this issue of *News from Northwest*.

An organization must have officers, and we elected Cindy Grau as president, Merna Folkers as vice president, and Irene Jinks as secretary/treasurer. All of you know Merna and Irene but some have not met Cindy, who is also a member of the Elmhurst Branch and has served as vice president of AAUW-IL, Inc. Cindy lives in Park Ridge and, when she moved to this area, joined the Elmhurst Branch because she did not know that there was a branch in the northwest suburbs! We are delighted to have Cindy working with us.

We have planned a few programs. The first is our celebration of women’s suffrage in June, as outlined above, when we will go to the movies and discuss the film. Then, on September 26, we hope to tour the Ianelli Studios in Park Ridge. Alphonso Ianelli, a sculptor and designer noted for his design of the Pickwick Theater in Park Ridge as well as for many sculptures in the Chicagoland area, lived and worked in Park Ridge. His home went through many phases; most recently it was Audrey’s Flowers and Gifts in Park Ridge. When it went up for sale, a group of interested persons banded together to purchase and restore the home to what it was when Ianelli lived and worked there. There are often special art displays at the studio. On November 2, a Saturday, we will have lunch together and have a business meeting. This will probably be at the Des Plaines Elks Club, as it is convenient and has ample parking available. In December, tentatively Saturday, December 2, Irene Jinks has agreed to have our traditional holiday brunch at her home (with the traditional strata, of course). We then hope to meet every other month, with activities to be determined.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I recently attended the joint Illinois/Missouri AAUW convention and there was so much energy and information that it would be hard to relay the scope of what happened there. I do want to share with you a few things from our excellent keynote speakers.

AAUW's Executive Director, Linda Hallman, is a dynamic leader. Her presentations were strong, informative and inspiring. She made us proud of the work AAUW is doing for women and girls. One small item she mentioned sticks with me today. AAUW has a volunteer archival group that goes through the history we have stored away in boxes to bring AAUW's history out into the light. Just recently, this group found a letter from the author Rachel Carson where she thanks AAUW for the grant given to her to let her take time to write her next book. Upon further investigation, it was determined that her next book published was *Silent Spring*, the book that kicked off the environmental movement in the U.S.

At lunchtime, we heard from Dr. Cathy Pieronek of Notre Dame University who educated us to the fact that Title IX is not just about sports but about equity for women and girls in all aspects of education. Her presentation about women in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields was enlightening and showed us that women are avoiding the high paying STEM fields when choosing their college majors. Data from other countries show that this is a cultural issue and not a gender issue. There is still work to be done to bring women into the highest paid careers.

At an evening banquet we heard from Daniele Hoffman, a plaintiff in a sexual assault case against the military. This 27 year old tearfully told us about her recruiter who not only recruited and preyed upon her but specialized in finding fatherless girls to recruit mentor and assault. The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) is helping fund her case to bring visibility to this pervasive problem in the military.

Lastly, thanks to those of you who donated to the EF Cubs vs. Cardinals walk. The Cubs won! And the Eleanor Roosevelt Foundation will continue to provide research of AAUW issues, thanks to your generosity.

- Cindy Grau

WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING?

Our bridge group and reading group continue to meet and would welcome new members. The bridge players now meet on Saturday afternoon at the Des Plaines Elks Club. They generally meet for lunch and then stay to play. We thank the bridge players for their contributions to our projects, notably Oakton College where we are still supporting our scholarship for a woman returning to school to complete her education. For information, contact Ginny Puchner (ginpuc@msn.com) or Anne Evans (ahevans57@att.net).

The reading group is now on hiatus for the summer but will resume in September. It meets once a month, on the fourth Tuesday evening, to discuss the book that was chosen for the month. This group meets in members' homes for dessert and talk. If you are a reader, come out and join us. We read books of any and every genre – from modern fiction to classics. Some you will like, some you won't, but some of our best discussions have been about books that were not generally popular! For information, contact Irene Jinks (wijinks@aol.com).

For many years we had an ethnic dining group that met once a month, usually on Saturday for lunch. There are still a lot of interesting places to try; are there members who would be interested in bringing this group back to life? Or do you have ideas for other interest groups that could be organized? We are open to all suggestions!

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

Diane Forsythe, who has served as our president for several years, is relocating to Wisconsin. She is moving to the home where her parents lived. She will still be working in this area, but will be doing a reverse commute and will do much of her work from home. We certainly hope to see you once in a while, Diane!

Mickey Gaza slipped and fell in her basement and fractured her femur. She has had surgery to insert a rod and pins and is presently at Lutheran General Hospital but expects to be moved to a rehab facility soon. Cards sent to her home, 6849 Seward St., Niles IL 60714, will be brought to her.

Roberta Skelton, who has been a member of our group for many years, has been experiencing some health problems. She is now living at The Moorings in Arlington Heights, but has spent a lot of time recently in their health center. Her address is 811 E. Central Rd., #447, Arlington Heights IL 60005.

DUES TIME!

The AAUW fiscal year is July 1 – June 30, so that means that annual dues for 2013-2014 should be paid very soon. If you have let your national/state membership lapse, or if you have not been an AAUW member but have an associate or higher degree, you can become a member and support the activities of AAUW. National is now putting much emphasis on the education of girls in junior and senior high school, encouraging STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and working for pay equity for women. These are important to all of us – for daughters, granddaughters and those girls and women who will come after. Even though many of us are no longer working, we know the value of relationships with like-minded women. Through AAUW we can continue to support education and women's issues – those things that have motivated the Northwest Suburban Branch since its organization in 1947.

We *are* a branch of The American Association of University Women, as we have been since 1947. You will soon be receiving a dues letter – please heed it and join or rejoin AAUW!

-- Irene Jinks, Treasurer

Don't Forget!
Thursday, June 27, 2013
It's Movie Night!