

News from the Northwest

August, 2017



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

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

IT'S A CELEBRATION!

Thursday, August 24, 2017

7:00 p.m.

At the Home of Irene Jinks

We're celebrating the beginning of a new program year, but we have another reason to celebrate! Northwest Suburban Branch has its seventieth anniversary in 2017! This branch has been a part of AAUW since 1947, when it was organized by a group of twenty women who became the charter members. As we begin the year, with exciting things in store, we honor these women and celebrate the many programs and projects that have been undertaken by the branch. We'll even pull out some of the old pictures and stuff to look at! It will be a great time to socialize and get to know other branch members better. We have added several new members during the past couple of years, so now's the time for new and "old" (or perhaps we should say "long-term") members to really get acquainted. We'll have refreshments and, of course, birthday cake!

All this will happen on Thursday evening, August 24. We will be meeting at the home of Irene Jinks, 834 Carolyn Lane, Park Ridge. For those of you who have not been to Irene's, it is located near Busse and Dee Rds. in Park Ridge. If you come by way of Touhy, take it to Dee Rd., then turn north and go about a mile to Mary Jane Lane. Turn onto Mary Jane and go one-half block to Carolyn Lane. It is the next-to-last house on Carolyn. If you come on Oakton, go south on Dee Rd., cross the tracks and continue for about a block to Mary Jane Lane.

Come! It will be a great start for a year of interesting events! We are asking each attendee for a contribution of \$10.00 toward our projects. It's a wonderful opportunity to invite prospective members to come and get acquainted. Contact Irene to let her know that you will be with us; call 847-698-3113 or email her at wijinks@aol.com.

A VERY SPECIAL HAPPENING!

We're planning to celebrate the 19th – the Nineteenth Amendment, that is – by having an outing to Navy Pier to the Chicago Shakespeare Theater for *The Taming of the Shrew* on Tuesday, September 19. From their website: "Artistic Director Barbara Gaines re-examines Shakespeare's notorious 'battle of the sexes'. On the eve of the passing of the 19th Amendment in 1919, a band of Suffragettes embarks on a production of *The Taming of the Shrew*. Framed with additional text by Ron West, longtime performer and writer at Second City, this new interpretation features an all-woman cast to explore one of the Bard's most delightfully controversial comedies. Shakespeare's men are seen through the eyes of women, as sexual politics and power, human rights, and true love are debated with wit and style."

Tickets are not yet on sale, but are expected to be about \$50.00. If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Suzanne Kowalski at 847-696-0215 or kowasuza@gmail.com.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I attended AAUW's national convention in D.C., which is always inspiring. Some snippets of the convention:

On Lobby Day hundreds of AAUW members lobbied for continued enforcement of Title IX and funding of the Office of Civil Rights in the Department of Education, and we also lobbied on behalf of student debt relief. Our latest research has shown a disproportionate amount of student debt belongs to women, especially women of color. We met with Dick Durbin's staff; he is supportive. We met with Tammy Duckworth directly, which was so uplifting that I cried. I also met with Jan Schakowsky and took some other Illinoisans with me. Of course, health care and Illinois' budget impasse came up in our conversations as well.

At convention, we met our new Executive Director, Kimberly Churches, who comes to us from Brookings Institution. She has extensive fundraising background which will be very important for AAUW going forward. We learned in the Friday business meeting about all the cuts that were made in expenses to better line up with our income in the interim before Kimberly joined the organization. She is a no-nonsense leader and I think she is up for the challenge.

We learned about AAUW's latest research on student debt (which both Senator's offices had read as they received it from our Lobby Corps. One staffer said that they rely on our research because it is so sound. They also rely on our Lobby Corps to make them aware of legislation because so many bills get introduced every day.) This research may be a good basis for a program at a high school.

The banquet on Friday night featured two inspirational leaders, Dr. Tererai Trent and Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. Trent received an AAUW Fellowship that helped her get her Master's degree when she was turned away because she hadn't paid for her undergrad degree. She sang a song of celebration talking about opening that envelope from AAUW and how it changed her life. She is responsible for building 11 schools for 6,000 children in rural Africa with help from Oprah who called Tererai her favorite guest on her show. I felt so proud to have contributed to the International Fellowship Fund after hearing her story.

Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Sonya Sotomayor was amazing. She took interview questions as she walked around the room shaking hands at every table. I am inspired to read her autobiography after hearing her speak.

There were many speakers who had benefitted from AAUW's programs such as *\$tart \$mart, Work Smart, National Conference for College Women Student Leaders* and the *Legal Advocacy Fund*. *Elect Her* became so popular after the November Election that it was spun off into its own entity. AAUW could not manage all the requests from college campuses to run the program.

Cindy Grau

ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

At the annual meeting, we held our election of officers. The last issue of the newsletter had listed the nominees, but by the time of the meeting we learned that Rhonda Kalkwarf was relocating to California, so she would not be our secretary. One of our newer members, Fran Kampwirth, came forward to say that she would be willing to serve in that office, so our officers are:

President: Cindy Grau

Co-Vice Presidents for Program: Lisa Crocco and Suzanne Kowalski

Secretary: Fran Kampwirth

Treasurer: Irene Jinks

Our budget was adopted, with projected expenditures of just under \$2,000. We know that our dues do not generate enough income to support this, so we must do some fundraising and must also draw from our savings reserve.

Several members made contributions toward our Oakton and AAUW gifts.

THANKS FROM THE TREASURER!

All membership dues had been submitted to the treasurer by June 30, either directly or by online payment to AAUW. This is the first time this has happened in the many years that this treasurer has served! Thank you!

Irene Jinks

COULD YOU HELP?

Oakton Community College will once again sponsor *Futures Unlimited* next January. This is the STEM program where middle school girls who will be going into high school the following fall have the opportunity to hear speakers who represent many different fields of work – often areas not thought of as being for girls. The school is looking for presenters for this day. Each presentation is scheduled for an hour and is repeated, since the girls are in small groups during the day for the presentations. Last year over three hundred girls participated. If you would be interested, contact Cindy Grau or Pili Richardson for more information.

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, September 28

**Northwest Suburban Branch and the League of Women Voters of Park Ridge.
will cosponsor a program on school finance.**

**The speaker will be Thomas Kersten, adjunct professor at Roosevelt Univ.,
and representatives from Dist. 64 and Dist. 207 will also participate.**

This meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. at Lincoln Middle School in Park Ridge.

Full information in your next newsletter!

IT'S A FUNDRAISER!

In the fall we want to brighten our balconies and patios with colorful plants, so once again we will be selling the beautiful mums that we had last year. The order form is found on the last page of this newsletter. Please place your orders by August 24, 2017 (you could bring them when you come to our summer social). Plants will be available for pickup on Friday, September 8.

Ask your neighbors and friends to help support this effort. The money raised will help fund our Oakton Scholarship.

SPEAKING OF SCHOLARSHIPS . . .

A recent Park Ridge *Advocate* had an article featuring Oakton graduate Dina Margetis who, as a part of her studies, produced a brochure detailing volunteer opportunities at local food pantries. The brochure will be used by Oakton as a part of their service learning program. Dina worked many hours at the Niles Township Pantry as a part of her Oakton program. Dina was a recipient of the Northwest Suburban AAUW Scholarship! She is a fine example of our dollars at work.

DIRECTORIES

Branch directories with the program for the coming year will be available for distribution at the August 24 gathering. Please come to pick yours up or have someone get it for you to minimize the need for mailing.

Spectacular Super-Sized Mums

- Celebrate Fall in style...
- Buy mums for yourself...
- These make wonderful gifts...
- Add colorful Fall accents...

Pick up on Friday, September 8th
From 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at

Irene Jinks' Home
834 Carolyn Lane, Park Ridge, IL 60068
847 698-3113



Plants from Joe Heidgen at Shady Acres come in 1.5 gallon pots, 18 inches in height and diameter. The cost is \$12.00 each, or if you buy 3 or more they are \$11.00 each. Orders are due to Cindy Grau by August 24th. Mums can be displayed in sun or part shade. The colors and sizes were spectacular last year!

Send your order form and check made out to Northwest Suburban AAUW to:
Cindy Grau at 412 Lake Ave., Park Ridge IL 60068

Proceeds will benefit our Oakton Scholarship Fund

Plant Color	Number of Plants	Total Cost
Dark Red		
Yellow		
Bronze		
Purple		
White		
	Total	Total cost

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

Contact Cindy Grau at 847 384-8136 or cmgrau@att.net