

# News from the Northwest

December, 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 Special Date!*

*It's very hard to understand how quickly time has passed!*

*But just look at your calendar – December's almost here!*

*That means our branch is ready for our holiday event;*

*It's coming up, and very soon; you'll want to share the cheer!*



**Sunday, December 10, 2017**

**2:00 p.m.**

**At the Home of Irene Jinks  
834 Carolyn Lane, Park Ridge**

Once again it's time for us to gather for some holiday cheer and socializing! There will be no special program – just a lot of conversation and fun, with some special pitches for our upcoming events and projects! We'll be gathering at Irene's home – let's hope that the weather cooperates this year – and we certainly hope that all of you will be able to attend, as we always have so much fun when we have a social event.

As part of our holiday social, we will be collecting donations for STEM books for the Plainfield Elementary School Library in Des Plaines. Eighty-two percent of the students at this school are low income and sixty-seven percent are Hispanic. We don't usually think of children in our community as being in need, but these are children who have very little in their homes that would encourage them to read and to think of pursuing careers in STEM fields. The school librarian at Plainfield gave us a list of books that she would like for their library. At the social, you'll be able to "adopt" a book of your choosing to buy and that will be purchased for children, or you can just make a monetary contribution that will be used to buy books that are on the list. We are not asking you to make the purchases yourselves because we can get better prices and more sturdily bound books through school suppliers, but we certainly hope that you will participate to help these children.

In addition to asking for the contributions for the school, we will ask each of you to contribute \$10.00 for the social, not for food, which is contributed, but to help finance our project contributions for the year. We don't have many fundraising events, so this is a way for each of us to help our branch support the AAUW and community projects that are important to us. Please let Irene know that you will be attending. Call her at 847-698-3113 or email her at [wijinks@aol.com](mailto:wijinks@aol.com). This is also a good opportunity to invite guests who might be interested in AAUW.

## **FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

There has been a lot of activity around the Equal Rights Amendment this fall. The movie *Equal Means Equal* was shown in many different venues including both campuses of Oakton Community College thanks to our branch. AAUW was hopeful that the ERA would be brought up in veto session this year in Springfield so that Illinois could close the gap of 2 states needed ratify the amendment. Unfortunately, it did not occur.

If you have any questions about why we need the ERA you may not know that back in 2011, then Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia said that the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment does not protect against discrimination on the basis of gender. The ERA would guarantee the equality of rights under the law not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex. Such a simple concept, but it is somehow alarming to legislators.

The Jane Addams branch of AAUW, a virtual branch, recently put on a webinar about the ERA if you want to find out more and see this unique branch project which was funded by an AAUW Illinois LEG UP grant. It is about an hour long – you can skip the first several minutes which are commercials for AAUW!! It is found on their website: <https://janeaddams-il.aauw.net/>

One of our speakers at the AAUW Northern Conference this fall, AJ Conroy, is featured in the video and was very eloquent in her defense of the precedence to allow this amendment to take effect after the delay of all these years. She has been working on an ERA coloring book entitle “Equal – An Illinois Activity Book”. She has raised enough money to have it printed. We hope to be able to see them next year. And maybe next year will be the year for Illinois to pass the ERA!

I hope to see you soon at Irene’s home.

Cindy

## **COULD YOU HELP?**

Oakton Community College will sponsor a *Futures Unlimited* workshop on Friday, January 12, 2018. 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 program will run from 8:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., and volunteers will be needed to help with various tasks. A few volunteers will also be needed on Monday, January 8, starting at 1:00 p.m., to help stuff the bags that the girls will receive. If you could help on either of these days, please contact Pili Richardson at 847-224-2026 or [pilirichardson@yahoo.com](mailto:pilirichardson@yahoo.com) to let her know when you would be available. (Please note that Pili’s contacts are new; they are not those listed in our directory.)

Last year, over 300 girls participated in this event and it is anticipated that about as many will be coming this time. It’s a wonderful opportunity for them to hear from women who are successful in many non-traditional fields, letting them know that careers for girls are not limited.

## **WE WERE BUSY IN OCTOBER!**

Several of our members met at the Koehnline Museum of Art at Oakton to view the exhibit *Women and Anger: Resistance, Power and Inspiration*. Wow! The exhibit was not large, but it was moving. Because there was so much to think about, it was the kind of exhibit that needed to be absorbed in small segments. We went to lunch together afterwards and spent quite a lot of time talking about what we had experienced.

Then, Oakton did actually show the film, *Equal Means Equal*, but not on the dates that had originally been planned. A few of our members were able to attend and a few others journeyed to Schaumburg to see the film when it was presented by the Schaumburg Branch. It was a revelation of facts about the ERA and why we need it! Perhaps there will be a time when we will be able to have a showing for our branch members. It’s something that everyone, not only women, should see!

## **OAKTON SCHOLAR RECOGNITION**

On Saturday, November 4, Oakton College held their Donor and Scholar Recognition Brunch. This is an opportunity for scholarship recipients and those who provide scholarships to meet. Suzanne Kowalski and Jo Ann Slager, members of our branch, attended the event and met our scholarship recipient, Lindsey Fetzer (second from left). Lindsey has worked as a cook, but is now studying at Oakton to become a nurse. Claudette Daley, at the far left, is a winner whose scholarship donor was not present, so our members “adopted” her for the luncheon. Both of these young women are very appreciative of their scholarships and are excited about their studies. We hope that Lindsey will be able to attend one of our meetings later this year. We would be pleased to have many of our members meet her. Our branch can be proud of the benefits that our scholarship has provided for a number of young women like Lindsey.



## **LOOKING AHEAD TO OUR NETWORKING LUNCHEON**

The date is Saturday, January 27, 2018 and the place is the Deerfield Embassy Suites Hotel. That’s the day and place for the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Networking Luncheon sponsored by the branches of AAUW-IL District 5, the district of which we are a part. The speaker this year is Heidi Stevens, a columnist whose work appears regularly in the *Chicago Tribune*. Networking/socialization begins at 11:30 a.m., with lunch at 12:15 and the speaker at 1:15. The cost is \$40 per person. The reservation form is included with this newsletter. If you plan to attend, please let Cindy Grau know. Perhaps we can arrange to carpool if there are several of us who plan to attend. It’s always fun to share our thoughts after attending a program like this.

## **. . . AND TO FEBRUARY AND MARCH**

It is necessary for us to change the date of our February meeting. Instead of February 11, as originally listed, it will be on Sunday, February 18. It will be a movie at the home of Fran Kampwirth at 2:00 p.m.

In March we will be partnering with the Des Plaines Public Library for a Women’s History Month program on Saturday, March 10 at 10:30 a.m. Our speaker will be Leslie Goddard who will portray Alice Paul – most appropriate as we continue our fight for equal rights for women!

In March there will also be a Tech Savvy conference on the 24<sup>th</sup> at Triton College for anyone who might be able to help by volunteering.

## **. . . AND BACK TO DECEMBER**

We’ve listed a number of activities, but don’t forget that the first thing on our agenda is our December social. Let Irene know that you will be attending, and then be generous in your support; the children that we help today are the AAUW members of tomorrow. Study the list of STEM books and toys attached to this newsletter. You might want to suggest one or more of them to be purchased for the Plainfield School library – or you might want to get something from the list for the young ones on your own gift list.

We hope you will start the holiday season with your AAUW friends as we eat and chat and get to know each other better!

# AAUW-IL District 5

## 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Networking Luncheon

Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Deerfield Embassy Suites

1445 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield, Illinois

Networking at 11:30 ≈ Lunch at 12:15 ≈ Guest Speaker, Heidi Stevens at 1:15



Celebrate the new year by coming together with other AAUW-Illinois, District 5 members and guests to NETWORK, to DINE - and to LEARN FROM & ENJOY first hand - the words of Heidi Stevens of the Chicago Tribune. Ms. Stevens is a columnist at the Chicago Tribune where she has worked as a writer and editor since 1998. Her daily column, *Balancing Act*, tackles parenting, relationships, education policy, body image and gender bias and explores the ways in which they intersect with current events. Prior to the Tribune, Stevens worked at The Times in Munster, IN. She graduated from Eastern Illinois University in 1996, where she studied journalism and political science. Stevens lives in Chicago's Logan Square neighborhood with her husband and three children.

### Ms. Stevens' Topic:

Living a purposeful life is proven to improve our emotional and physical health, but it can feel like an impossible indulgence when you're already juggling family and career obligations. Heidi will discuss ways to carve out space in your life to improve your corner of the world and share stories about people she has interviewed in various walks of life who've done just that.

### Entrée Choices:

Curry Rubbed Tilapia

Sliced Beef Sirloin

Chicken Parmesan

Pappardelle Alfredo

Cost: \$40

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

BRANCH \_\_\_\_\_

ENTRÉE CHOICE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please send completed form and check made payable to AAUW Networking Luncheon to:

Lisa Davlin

53 Marion Lane

Streamwood, IL 60107—to arrive no later than January 20th. Questions? Contact Lisa at [lisadavlin@hotmail.com](mailto:lisadavlin@hotmail.com)

# Feminist Book & STEM Toy Holiday Shopping List

## Feminist Books

- We Should All Be Feminists by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World by Chelsea Clinton
- Feminist Baby by Loryn Brantz
- I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark by Debbie Levy
- Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls by Elena Favilli
- Life in Motion: An Unlikely Ballerina Young Readers Edition by Misty Copeland
- Hidden Figures Young Readers' Edition by Margot Lee Shetterly
- I am Rosa Parks by Brad Meltzer
- The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks, a Young Civil Rights Activist by Cynthia Levinson
- Mo'ne Davis: Remember My Name: My Story from First Pitch to Game Changer by Mo'ne Davis
- The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles
- Little People, Big Dream series by Isabel Sanchez
- Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson
- A Day in the Life of Madam President by Jessica Garber
- Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World by Rachel Ignotofsky
- I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition) by Malala Yousafzai,
- Ada Twist, Scientist by Andrea Beaty
- Rosie Revere, Engineer by Andrea Beaty
- Hillary Rodham Clinton: Some Girls Are Born to Lead by Michelle Markel,
- Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters by Barack Obama
- Girls Who Code: Learn to Code and Change the World by Reshma Saujani
- It Takes A Village: Picture Book by Hillary Rodham Clinton
- Princesses Wear Pants by Savannah Guthrie & Allison Oppenheim

## **STEM Toys**

- GoldieBlox
- Women of NASA LEGO Set
- Roominate Building Systems
- K'Nex kits
- 3-D Solar System
- Around the House Tool Set
- Chemistry Kit
- Doctor Costume
- Pretend & Play Doctor Set
- Periodic Table Building Blocks
- Pretend & Play Science Lab Set
- Rock On! A Geology Game
- Nanotechnology Kit
- Microscope
- Young Scientist Sets
- Indoor Gardening Kit
- Anatomy Models
- LEGOS
- Remote Control Machines
- Kinetic Sand Activity Kit
- Green Science Clean Water Kit
- Telescope
- DNA Experiment Kit
- Gears Gears Gears
- Connectagons

*Need specific ideas & links to purchase? Head to <https://www.amightygirl.com/toys?cat=480&p=1> or <http://www.aauw.org/2015/11/10/gift-guide/> for awesome STEM toy ideas.*