

News from the Northwest

November, 2018



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

***Our Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls
through research, education and advocacy.***

Our Vision: Equity for all.

The Harbour – A Safe Haven Saturday, November 10th, 2018 10:30 a.m., Des Plaines Public Library

Kris Salyards, LCSW, Executive Director of The Harbour, will be the speaker at our next branch meeting on Saturday, November 10th at the Des Plaines Public Library. This agency provides comprehensive housing and case management for girls and young women between the ages of twelve and twenty who are homeless and is helping to fill a great need. This is the agency for which we provided backpacks before school started this year, and we know that they were very much appreciated. Now we have the opportunity to hear more about the program and how it is administered.

Plan to be at this meeting and invite friends to join you. Following the meeting, we will have an informal lunch at the Sugar Bowl Restaurant in Des Plaines. That's always fun as the food is good and plentiful and we have so much to talk about – not only the meeting itself but also the state of the world as we perceive it! We certainly hope that you will be with us.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

This last month was a tough one no matter what side of the political spectrum you are on. The Supreme Court confirmation was rough for many women because of so many memories of incidents the hearings brought up. To some it seemed we have not learned much since Clarence Thomas was confirmed. To me it confirmed our work is still not done. Whether "he did it" or not, the arguments revealed ways in which society has failed women and girls. I hope that instead of further polarization we can in some way learn how to shine a light on "boys will be boys" behavior and stop making excuses for it. I hope women can continue to step forward, so that as each one does it becomes easier for the next to do it. Brave women have opened the door on a nasty side of our lives and it shouldn't be closed again.

The mid-term elections are right around the corner. I know I don't have to tell you to vote, because AAUW women are engaged citizens. If any of you need a ride or help with voting, please reach out to me or any of your fellow members. (Remember our membership list is now on our web page <https://nwsuburban-il.aauw.net/> on the Members Only section. Password is: equitynw). If you know anyone who might need help, reach out to them. We need to hear from all of our citizens.

If you want comfort or to celebrate after the election, please join us at our program in November. No matter what happens we continue to work on behalf of women and girls. We sometimes have more of an impact than we know.

Cindy Grau

A FOLLOW-UP ON OUR CANDIDATES' FORUM

Some controversy has followed the Candidates' Forum that we co-sponsored with the League of Women Voters of Park Ridge. The Illinois Opportunity Project, which is running Marilyn Smolenski's campaign, filmed the event with the understanding that the footage would be shared with the sponsoring organizations and not be used for political purposes.

The video was never shared with us and in the last few days emails were sent out by the campaign with video clips of the event, as well as mailers, TV commercials, and Facebook posts. (The TV commercials were put out by Liberty Principals PAC, which is not legally allowed to coordinate with the candidate's campaign committee. The IOP denies sharing the video with them.)

The letter written by the president of the Park Ridge League of Women Voters follows. It was published in the *Daily Herald* and the *Journal*. The state LWV was involved, as well. It looks like the PAC used the video in the TV commercial, which would be a violation of campaign finance law. Mary Moylan's campaign has consulted a lawyer based on the agreement signed by both candidates. It did not specify that there would be no recordings; the agreement about recordings was verbal.

Cindy

The League of Women Voters of Park Ridge recently hosted a candidate forum for the Illinois 55th House District, between candidates Marty Moylan and Marilyn Smolenski.

All candidates who agree to participate in League forums are made aware that the League does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.

Both campaigns asked to videotape the event with the verbal agreement that the video could be used for internal purposes only.

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Additionally, Marilyn Smolenski's campaign (managed by the Illinois Opportunity Project) offered to share its video with us to post for community members who could not attend.

Unfortunately, the League never received the video despite numerous attempts to contact the campaign.

Even worse, footage from the forum has since been used in an attack ad against Marty Moylan that was shared via email to Smolenski's mailing list.

We are profoundly disappointed that the Smolenski campaign chose not to follow our ground rules that state explicitly, "No voice, image or other duplication of the forum may be used by any candidate's representative or campaign in any campaign advertising."

In the spirit of civility and good faith, we ask that the Smolenski campaign remove the League forum footage from its ad immediately.

Mary Upson, president
League of Women Voters
Park Ridge

Oakton Community College – Women and Gender Studies Art Exhibit

On Saturday, October 13th, our branch sponsored an outing to the Koehline Gallery at Oakton Community College to view the new exhibit *Nevertheless She Persisted: Women of Courage, Tenacity and Strength*. Enjoying the exhibit are Cindy Grau and Suzanne Kowalski who were joined by Jo-An Sabonjian of the Waukegan Branch. District 5 Director.. They certainly appear to have been enjoying the artwork! They had lunch together after having visited the exhibition.



WORK SMART WORKSHOP

Our branch has received a grant of \$600.00 from AAUW-IL to help finance the workshop scheduled for Saturday, April 13, 2009! Many thanks to our president, Cindy Grau, for completing and submitting the grant application. The purpose of the workshop is to help train women to be better negotiators so that they can close the wage gap that we all know still exists. A committee has begun planning for this event and would welcome your help and input. There will be a short meeting on Sunday, December 2, 2018, at the Des Plaines Public Library at 2:00 p.m. where we will be discussing the logistics of the event as well as ways to get the word out. We are also looking for a sponsor for the break snacks (up to 40 people) so if you know of a company that would be interested please let Cindy know at cgrau8@gmail.com. For more information about the program: <https://salary.aauw.org/about/> The Naperville branch is sponsoring a similar workshop on Thursday evening, November 15, from 6:15-9:15 p.m. It will be held at NIU Naperville, 1120 E. Diehl Rd., Naperville. If you know someone who would be interested in this earlier event, registration is at [https://aauw-work-smart-naperville-2018\[nov\].eventbrite.com](https://aauw-work-smart-naperville-2018[nov].eventbrite.com)

NAKED SCAVENGER HUNT

This exciting event is coming up on Saturday, January 19 at the Chicago Art Institute. A flyer is included with this newsletter. Invite your friends to join you for this special day and let Cindy Grau know that you are planning to attend. This is a program where paid reservations are necessary so Cindy is asking for payment prior to the event.

UPCOMING EVENTS – SAVE THE DATES!

Sunday, December 9, 2018 Holiday Social at Fran Kampwirth's home. Details will be in the next newsletter
Friday, December 14, 2018 Oakton Community College, *Futures Unlimited (STEM Program)*
Saturday, January 26, 2019 Networking Luncheon at Deerfield Embassy Suites; speaker will be Wendy Pearlman, professor at Northwestern University who specializes in Middle East politics.

MEMBER NEWS

Alice Jenks has moved from her home in Mt. Prospect to Des Plaines. The address is 675 Pearson St., #812, Des Plaines 60016. Her phone number is 847-404-6797.

A personal note:

Many thanks to my AAUW friends for your cards and words of sympathy on Warren's death. The last few years were difficult as his health deteriorated, and the two years that he spent in the nursing home at the end were especially hard. Your kind words and prayers have meant more than I can ever tell you.

Irene

Celebrate the 19th Amendment

Saturday, January 19 at 1pm

with the

Northwest Suburban AAUW Branch

on a



Naked Scavenger Hunt

Take an unabashed look at nudity at the Art Institute of Chicago. You'll look at bathing beauties, peeping Toms, sultry sirens, a muscleman who will ruin his birthday suit while wrestling a lion, a woman enjoying a golden shower from Zeus, cads and cuckolds, provocative Picassos, dangerous natives, a mystic who has gone too far with the Slim-Fast, and much more. No previous experience with art or nudity is required. This is not a timed event or race.

- Event tickets cost \$35 plus museum entrance which will be \$20-22 for museum entrance.
- An optional brunch will be held at 11am across the street from the Art Institute. Details forthcoming.
- Please RSVP by sending a check for \$35 per participant made out to Cindy Grau to 412 Lake Ave., Park Ridge, 60068, or bring to the November meeting.