

# News from the Northwest

**June, 2019**



**Newsletter of the Northwest Suburban Branch**

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

***Our Vision: Equity for all.***

## **Join Us for a Concert in the Park** **Friday, June 21, 2019** **Hodges Park, Park Ridge**

Plan ahead and invite a friend or neighbor to our June 21<sup>st</sup> AAUW Picnic Social, gather at 7:00 pm at Hodges Park in Park Ridge (101 S. Courtland Ave., N. of Park Ridge City Hall.) Park either in the neighborhood or park at library lot north of the train tracks and walk to Hodges Park.



The concert begins at 8 pm. The Park Ridge Fine Arts Symphony kicks off the Summer 2019 season with musical masterworks from the Heart of Europe: the sparkling Overture to *The Marriage of Figaro* by Mozart, the charming *Czech Suite* by Dvorak, and ever-popular and delightfully exuberant *Symphony No. 7 in A Major* by Beethoven.

Look for the purple umbrella and join us to socialize before the concert. Wine and sparkling French Berry lemonade will be provided. Bring your chair, a snack to share and a friend who might join our branch. If your friend joins that night (bring checkbook), we

can offer a first year special discount rate of \$51.50. What a bargain!

Equity for women is still a challenge today. Our mission of equity for women and girls is certainly relevant! Help spread the word.

From Elaine Fisher, Membership VP

### **FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

Happy Summer!

Our new and old boards met and got a good start on plans for the next program year. I am very encouraged by our new Membership VP, Elaine Fisher. She is really a welcome addition to our board and will be helping us to remember to reach out to our friends and acquaintances about joining us. How did you get involved in AAUW? Probably because someone invited you.

AAUW is focused on attracting younger members to continue its mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. We are very blessed to have a treasurer on our board, Megan McGaughey, who is young and impassioned about helping women. Megan was involved in AAUW's Tech Savvy program at Oakton a few years ago as she is an engineer and does work helping girls get interested in STEM careers.

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Returning to our board is Irene Jinks who will remain our newsletter editor, Fran Kampwirth who is returning as our vice president of programs, and Wendi Thourson who is returning as our secretary. In the five years I have been president, I feel like this is our strongest board. I expect to see good things happen this year.

We will continue our tradition of mission-based programming. Economic Security for Women is one of AAUW's focus areas and we are working on a couple of opportunities to educate women on economic security issues through a new format called Drinks and Dialogue. We will invite anyone interested to have a drink at a local eatery and participate in an informal presentation regarding a specific area followed by a discussion. This may not appeal to all our members, but we are bringing it into the mix to attract younger audiences. We will also continue to do our regular programming schedule from September – May.

This fall we will be doing a mum sale. It will be with a different company that is on a delayed schedule so we do not have specific details yet. We use this money to support our \$1,000 scholarship to Oakton and to send contributions to AAUW in support of its mission. We hope this will be an easier process for us than in previous years.

I hope to see you at our June Concert in the Park or at our August social. Enjoy all the days of sunshine that you can!

Cindy

## **OUR ANNUAL MEETING**

On May 8 our members gathered at the Des Plaines Elks Club to enjoy dinner together and to conduct the business of the annual meeting. We adopted our budget for the coming fiscal year, elected new branch officers, and discussed upcoming events. A highlight of the evening was the honoring of Holly Sorensen as our Woman of the Year. Holly, director of the Des Plaines Public Library, is retiring this year; she has been instrumental in the development of the library into the wonderful center it is today. Our branch has been extremely fortunate to have the wonderful relationship that we have with the library; for several years, they have cosponsored programs that we could not have afforded to have for ourselves and have hosted these at the library as well as providing space for several of our meetings.



Above: Our new officers, Cindy Grau, President; Megan McGaughey, Treasurer; Elaine Fisher, Membership VP; Fran Kampwirth, Program VP. Wendi Thourson, Secretary, was unable to be present.



Above Left: Holly Sorensen, Woman of the Year, and Ellen Yearwood, who presented the award.

Left: Irene Jinks, retiring treasurer, receives flowers and champagne from Pili Richardson in thanks for her many years of service to the branch.

## **A SUMMER SOCIAL!**

Once again this year we will kick off the program year with a relaxing summer social! Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup> is the date. We will gather at Irene Jinks' home, 834 Carolyn Lane in Park Ridge, at 2:00 p.m. to munch and chat. You are invited to bring a backpack or make a monetary contribution to buy one. These backpacks will be given (as they were last year) to girls at The Harbour, an organization providing emergency shelter, transitional living, and counseling to homeless and neglected children in the northwest suburbs.

You will hear more about this, but be sure to put the date on your calendar. Not only will you be helping girls at The Harbour but also having a most enjoyable afternoon.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

Although the calendar for the coming year has not been finalized, there are a number of things planned that we want you to know about. As soon as dates are firm, we will inform you.

Friday, June 21, 7:00 p.m.: Concert in the Park at Hodges Park, Park Ridge

Sunday, August 25, 2:00 p.m.: Summer Social at Irene Jinks' home. Bring backpacks or contributions for The Harbour shelter

September or October: Joint meeting with League of Women Voters of Park Ridge on Graduated Income Tax  
Date, place and time to be announced.

November: Drinks and Dialogue – Financial and Economic Security for Women

Sunday, December 1, 2:00 p.m.: Holiday Social at Fran Kampwirth's home. We will bring contributions for our Oakton Scholarship

December or January: Futures Unlimited for middle school girls at Oakton Community College

January: A movie outing to a local theater with optional dinner together afterwards

February: Book Discussion, *The Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict

March: Film, *Iron Jawed Angels*, at Des Plaines Public Library

April: Drinks and Dialogue – Equal Pay

Wednesday, May 13, 2020: Annual Meeting

## **DID YOU DO YOUR DUES?**

Annual memberships expire on June 30 of each year, so it is now time to renew; thanks to the many members who have already done this. There is no change in dues for this year, but the branch will be submitting dues electronically to national and state. The total amount is \$81.00: \$59 for national (\$56.00 of this is deductible for tax purposes); \$10.00 for state; \$12.00 for local. If you are a paid national life member, the amount is \$22.00; honorary life members do not have to pay any dues, but contributions to the branch are appreciated. You may pay your dues online to AAUW, which will then remit the state and local dues appropriately or you may send your check to the new treasurer, Megan McGaughey. Her address is 153 N. Babcock Drive, Palatine IL 60074. Checks should be payable to Northwest Suburban AAUW.

**Join us at Hodges Park for the concert on June 21<sup>st</sup>  
and then enjoy the summer until we see you  
at our Summer Social on August 25<sup>th</sup>!**