

News from the Northwest

September, 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.

GRIT? What Is It and Why Do You Care?

Thursday, September 12, 2019

7:00 P.M.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Park Ridge

Grit. It's what birds need as part of their diet; it's what Rooster Cogburn had plenty of; it's unyielding courage in the face of hardship or danger (according to *Webster*). However you define it, GRIT is something that's very important to the citizens of Illinois as we move toward the election in November, 2020, because that's when we will be given the opportunity to vote on the Graduated Rate Income Tax proposed by our governor. Illinois is one of the few states in the country that has what is known as a "flat" tax, where the assessed rate is the same regardless of income. Most of the states have a graduated rate tax, similar to the federal income tax, where the rate of taxation increases as the taxable income increases – in other words, those with higher incomes are taxed at a higher rate than those with lower incomes. Illinois is also somewhat unusual in that the flat rate tax is a part of our constitution and any change in the form of the tax must be approved as a constitutional change by the electorate. So, next November Illinois voters will be asked whether they wish to change from the present flat rate tax to a graduated rate tax. We hope that all who vote will do so on the basis of knowledge, and so together with the League of Women Voters of Park Ridge we are sponsoring a presentation on the new tax proposal and what it might mean for you. The presenter is Kathy Tate Bradish, who is a member of the League of Women Voters of Evanston and is most knowledgeable about what is being proposed. Kathy has presented programs for us before, so we know that she will give us lots of information. There will be an opportunity for members of the audience to ask questions following the presentation.

The meeting will be held in Henderson Hall at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 205 N. Prospect, Park Ridge. That is on the corner of Prospect Ave. and Cedar St., just a couple of blocks north of the six-points intersection in downtown Park Ridge. There is ample parking and the meeting room is accessible by elevator. We hope that our members will plan to attend and that you will invite friends and neighbors to join you. This is a topic that affects each of us who is a resident of Illinois, so we should be as well-informed as possible before we cast our votes.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

When you look at the pictures on the next page you will be smiling! Members who attended the social at the end of August came bearing gifts for The Harbour, and the girls there will have some very nice supplies to start the school year. Thanks to those who brought actual supplies and to those who gave monetary gifts to purchase more. We were able to get lots of things, thanks to a friend of Cindy's who was able to obtain them at cost through her employment. Those who were at the social enjoyed an afternoon of good conversation and good snacks. It was a great beginning for our program year.



Above you see just some of the items that were collected for The Harbour, and to the left are our happy members, Fran Kampwirth, Cindy Grau, and Laurie Mallin (a new member), who delivered all of the things to The Harbour – they were obviously happy to do it!

GREAT DECISIONS

The Des Plaines Library has discontinued the meetings of the Great Decisions discussion group after having sponsored it for many decades. The library believes that our branch helped start the group, and we know that our members have been active participants over the years. Discussions are based on materials published yearly by the Foreign Policy Association, which describes the group as follows:

Great Decisions is American's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions Briefing Book, watching the DVD and meeting in a discussion Group to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today.

The library would like to know if any of our members would be interested in attending if this group were started again in 2020. It is an eight-segment format, and the group can meet weekly or on a different schedule. If you would be interested, please contact Cindy Grau (cgrau8@gmail.com or 847-532-0212).

YEARBOOKS AND PROGRAM UPDATES

Yearbooks are ready and were distributed at the August social. Members who were not present will receive them at the September meeting or by mail. There are a couple of program updates to be added.

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 5:00 p.m. Drinks and Dialogue at the Harp and Fiddle, 110 Main St., Park Ridge
The program, a talk by a banker on Financial/Economic Security, is designed to attract younger women who we hope will join AAUW.

Thurs., Dec. 12 and Fri. Dec. 13. Futures Unlimited at Oakton Community College
The first day will be primarily for eighth grade girls from Dist. 65 (Evanston) and the second day will be geared to the other elementary schools in the Oakton area. Our members may be asked to assist with material preparation.

Sat. Feb. 22, 2020, 10:30 a.m. The Des Plaines Library has tentatively confirmed Michelle Duster, granddaughter of Ida B. Wells. The topic will be the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment and the effect of that amendment on the civil rights movement.

NEW MEMBER

We are happy to welcome Laurie Mallin as a new member of our branch. Laurie has attended a couple of our meetings and, as you see in the included pictures, she helped deliver our contributions to The Harbour. If you have already received your yearbook, please add Laurie's information. It will be included in yearbooks still to be distributed.

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