

News from the Northwest

October, 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.

Fashioning the Self: You Are What You Wear?

**Saturday, October 5, 2019 11:00 A.M.
Oakton Community College, Des Plaines**

It hardly seems possible that October is nearly here, but it is, and our meeting comes early this month. We will be gathering once again at Oakton Community College to view their women's art exhibit: *Fashioning the Self: You Are What You Wear?* This is the third year that we have had the opportunity to spend a Saturday morning in the fall at the exhibit mounted by a number of women artists at the Koehnline Gallery at Oakton. Those who have joined us in past years know what powerful artwork has been exhibited, and there is no reason to believe that this year will be any different!

We will meet at the gallery, which is located at the main entrance to the college on Golf Road, spend about an hour there and then have lunch together at Panera's in Des Plaines at about noon. Please plan to join us. If you can't stay to have lunch, come for the exhibit. We always enjoy going to lunch afterward so that we can discuss what we have seen. If you are planning to come, contact Cindy Grau (cgau8@gmail.com or 847-532-0212) so that we will be watching for you.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello,

We had a successful mum sale and program on the Graduated Rate State Income Tax last month. This month we have an outing planned to the Oakton Koehnline museum. We have visited the Women and Gender Studies exhibit there the last three years and it is probably one of my favorite programs. Every year there is a different theme. "Fashioning the Self: You are What you Wear?" is the theme. Notice the question mark.

Recently young women have been challenging societies' view of immodesty and challenged my beliefs as well. I think of the unselfconscious naked women I used to peek at in National Geographic magazines and I compare them to some Muslim countries that require women to cover themselves, sometimes from head to toe. Why do we often feel the need to tell women what is ok to wear? Why is clothing so tied to a women's sexuality? Isn't the body more than an object of sexuality?

I look forward to seeing what questions are answered in this exhibit. I hope you will join us! Bring a friend!

Cindy

ANOTHER OCTOBER EVENT!

Although this is not an “event” that is a part of our branch calendar, we want you to be aware of it. On Friday, October 11, Hillary Clinton will be in Park Ridge, appearing at the Pickwick Theater under the auspices of the Park Ridge Historical Society, producer of a documentary about her years growing up in Park Ridge. It will be screened, and Clinton is expected to answer questions from student journalists from Maine East and Maine South high schools, both of which she attended. The event will be open to members of the Park Ridge Historical Society.

The Historical Society is working on an exhibit entitled *The Trailblazing Women of Park Ridge* which is to open next year; Hillary Clinton is one of the women to be featured.

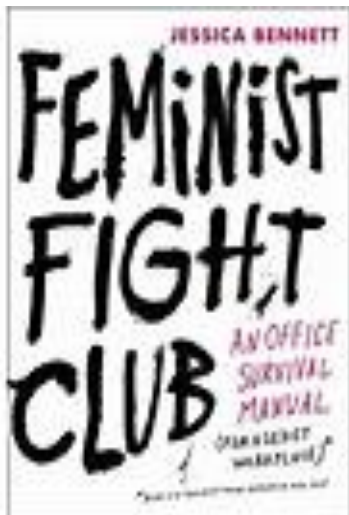
THANK YOU!

Thanks to our members who purchased mums as part of our fundraiser. The plants were huge and laden with buds, so they promise to enhance our yards and patios for quite some time. The proceeds will help finance our contributions to our Oakton scholarship and to AAUW projects.

A NEW VENTURE

Our branch has been around for a long time, since 1947 to be exact. As was true of our early members, who ventured into the community to try new things, we are going to try something new: *Drinks and Dialogue*. The first of these gatherings will be held on Tuesday, November 12, at 5:00 p.m. at the Harp and Fiddle, 110 Main St. in Park Ridge. The program will be presented by a woman banker covering three topics - strategies to slash debt; boosting credit scores; homeowners insurance – and will be geared toward younger women. All are welcome, but the focus will be those beginning careers and home ownership. There will be light refreshments (drinks on your own) and an opportunity to network and mingle. We thank Elaine Fisher and Ellen Yearwood for their work in getting this program going; we hope it may attract some younger women to AAUW.

. . . AND, RELATED TO THE ABOVE . . .



Here's some interesting reading for you, as suggested by Elaine Fisher:

FEMINIST FIGHT CLUB: An Office Survival Manual (For a Sexist Workplace)

“It was a fight club – but without the fighting and without the men. Every month, the women would huddle in a friend’s apartment to share sexist job frustrations and trade tips on how best to tackle them. Once upon a time, you might have called it a consciousness-raising group. But the problems of today’s working world are more subtle, less pronounced, harder to identify – and harder to prove – than those of our foremothers. These women weren’t just there to vent. They needed battle tactics. And so the Feminist Fight Club was born.

In *Feminist Fight Club*, acclaimed journalist Jessica Bennett blends the personal stories of her real-life fight club with research, statistics, and no-bullsh*t advice for how to combat today’s sexism (and come out the other side). Part manual, part manifesto, Bennett offers a new vocabulary for the sexist archetypes women encounter every day – such as the Manterrunter, who talks over female colleagues

in meetings; or the Bropropriator, who appropriates their ideas – as well as the self-sabotaging behavior women sometimes exhibit themselves. With original illustrations and fascinating historical research as well as a straightforward assessment of the gender gap that continues to plague the American workforce, *Feminist Fight Club* offers practical strategies, stealthy hacks, and much-needed camaraderie for women battling their way through the modern workplace. “

ARE YOU A READER?

If you are, and you are not already a member of our reading group, you should give it a try. The group meets once a month, usually the fourth Tuesday evening, at members’ homes. The books we read are of many genres: fiction, non-fiction, contemporary, classic. For more information contact Irene Jinks, 847-698-3113 or wijinks@aol.com.