

# News from the Northwest

August, 2020



**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.***

## **Continue to Stay Home and Stay Safe!**

We've been doing that now for several months, and we hope that all of our members and their families are well. If, at the beginning of this year, someone had predicted that we would be experiencing a pandemic with its many ramifications we would have responded *No way!* Yet, here we are, more than halfway through this year, doing the things that disease experts say we should do.

However, we are *not* just sitting at home twiddling our thumbs and bemoaning our fate. Because we are women, resourceful women, we have lots of things going on. Our AAUW branch is no different. Even though we can't be together in person, we are busy and will continue to be, often through the wonders of the Internet!

Several of our members spent time watching the Hulu series *Mrs. America* and were so fortunate to have Paula Purdue with us for the discussions. Paula is a long-time lobbyist who was active during the 1970's when so many of us worked hard to have Illinois support the Equal Rights Amendment. Many of us also watched several PBS programs on women who broke barriers: Marian Anderson, Mae West, Ann Richards, Toni Morrison, and Gloria Steinem. July brought *The Vote* to PBS and we were reminded of the struggles of those who fought for the ratification of the Twentieth Amendment to the Constitution, which we also discussed.

So, even though we cannot have face-to-face meetings, we have been engaging virtually and will continue to do this. On August 27<sup>th</sup> we will have the opportunity to join the Jane Addams Branch for a discussion of the book *The Woman's Hour – The Great Fight to Win the Vote*. One of the discussion leaders will be our own Elaine Fisher. Information on registering for this event is found on the next page of the newsletter. If you have a computer or a Smart Phone, plan to join in the fun! Your board has been meeting regularly (virtually) and continues to seek opportunities for us to "get together" until such time as we can safely have regular meetings.

We have a continuing local project, and we need your support. For many years, we have provided scholarship help for a woman returning to complete her education at Oakton College. This, together with our desire to support national AAUW projects, is a big financial commitment, and we cannot fund it through our dues, so we are again going to sell fall mums to raise money. The form is included with this newsletter, and we hope that you will order flowers and ask your friends to help us, also. Last year, the plants were gorgeous – large and covered with buds that opened beautifully. The plants will come from the same source, so we expect to be just as pleased this year! The price has gone up a bit, because the supplier is charging more, but these are magnificent plants – a bargain at this price!

## **FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS**

We are excited to begin a new AAUW year as your branch co-presidents, and we're optimistic about using Zoom to stay connected and experience programs together.

As we all learned something new - using Zoom, we've had some very interesting discussions of Mrs. America and the **still ongoing struggle** to win equal rights. Members shared their experience of being in the trenches in 1970's, and a lively expression of their opinions of Phyllis Schlafly, Gloria Steinem, Betty Friedan, Shirley Chisholm, Jill Ruckelshaus and Bella Abzug. Through Great Performances/American Masters we experienced the life stories of women who broke barriers in the arts, literature, and politics. If you missed these outstanding programs, check for the links on our [branch website](#).

Another excellent program that we discussed, **The Vote**, reviewed the historical fight to win the right to vote for women. This prepared us to read "*The Woman's Hour*" by Elaine Weiss. We hope you will join us for the August 27<sup>th</sup> program to discuss this with other AAUW members. Details on how to register are found below.

In spite of challenges, our goal is to provide inspiring, thought provoking programs that support our mission of advancing equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. A perfect example of this is voting based on research of candidates' positions on AAUW public policy issues. See separate article on how to vote during a pandemic.

The branch is conducting a Mum Sale again to raise funds for our annual branch Oakton Community College Scholarship. We hope you can participate. Let us know if you need delivery due to sheltering at home.

We know that in these times, we won't get together in person; but we hope you will join our branch Zoom programs via computer or smart phone. Also please feel free to reach out to us via phone or email if you have a concern, need help using Zoom or have a new program idea.

*We are here for you and open to new ideas!*

*Elaine Fisher & Wendi Thourson*

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

Our programs will be virtual, but you will want to participate in the discussions.

### **August 27: Book Discussion**

**Invitation** to register for the August 27<sup>th</sup> 7:30 – 8:30 pm AAUW program - a book discussion of ***The Woman's Hour - The Great Fight to Win the Vote***, by Elaine Weiss. Please share this email with anyone who might be interested in this topic. Advance registration is required in order to receive the Zoom meeting login info. Use this link to register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZakduqpqz0tE9w2AA00BUe3M3Dg2KpW96Ss>

**Elaine Fisher and Harriet Lindstrom** will lead the book discussion. Read the thrilling story of the struggle to win adoption of the women's suffrage amendment - the fight for the right to vote in the last state needed, Tennessee; leaders of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, the Anti-Suffrage Association, and the National Woman's Party. In addition, there is lobbying activity by the tobacco and alcohol industries. The decision was not certain until the final vote.

### **Will you join us to learn about the fight for Votes for Women?**

Here are a couple of questions to think about as you read the book:

Which of the three national organizations would you have joined if you had lived in 1910?

Carrie Catt believed women voters would bring about an end to war. Do you think women voters have improved our political systems?

**Note:** You will need to download the latest version of the Zoom client for meetings at <https://zoom.us/>

If you have questions, contact Kate Skegg, webinar registrar, at [aauwJaneAddams@gmail.com](mailto:aauwJaneAddams@gmail.com)

### **Watch for further details on these upcoming online programs:**

**September: Getting Out the Vote in 2020**

**October: Virtual Tours and Oakton College Women's Art Exhibit**

**November 18: Women Filmmakers and Movies**, sponsored by AAUW Jane Addams Branch

**December: Zoom Social; Trivia?**

## **MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD! GET OUT THE 2020 VOTE!**

### **The November 3rd election is the most important election in our lifetime for women and families!**

Title IX guidelines have been weakened in protecting college women from sexual assault. Access to complete healthcare for women is being threatened depending on your zip code. Domestic and gun violence against women is increasing. Voters rights are being denied or suppressed. Public school funding is being diverted to private schools. Student loan providers are not being held to fair lending standards. Paid Medical and Family Leave and paid sick leave is not a priority for legislation by current government officials and agencies.



#### **Ways to Vote:**

1. **Vote by Mail** is highly recommended as a secure, safe, virus threat-free method of voting. Voter signature verification by election judges when ballots are received prevents voting fraud. Voters must sign the envelope containing their ballot. This signature is compared to their signature on record in voter files. Many counties have locations of locked ballot collection boxes if you do not want to mail your ballot. Contact your county election officials to request a Vote by Mail ballot and get complete information.
2. **Early Voting Avoids the Crowd**. Everyone will be wearing masks, socially distancing and using hand sanitizer. Election judges will be disinfecting the voting equipment frequently. More early voting days and locations will make it easy to avoid lines and crowds.
3. **Vote on November 3, 2020 Election Day**. This day will be an Illinois state holiday so more locations like school gymnasiums will be available, hopefully using larger spaces in order to accommodate social distancing. Some polling locations will probably change from last year. Check your county election website for up to date information.

**Prepare to Vote – Know your candidates’ position on AAUW Issues.** Use the [AAUW-2020-Voter-Issue-Guide](#) to review the issues to prepare to interview a candidate or to research their positions on their web site or Facebook page. Other sources of information are on the League of Women Voters website, [Vote411.org](#). Candidates are sent a questionnaire. The candidate’s answers are posted. If they did not respond, it is noted.

### **"TRAILBLAZING WOMEN OF PARK RIDGE" EXHIBIT**

The Park Ridge History Center recently opened its exhibit highlighting the work of four trailblazing women with connections to Park Ridge: **Hannah Greenebaum Solomon, Clara Barck Welles, Mother Francis Cabrini and Hillary Rodham Clinton**. The significant contributions each of these women made to society are highlighted in an exhibit open to the public. This exhibit was sponsored by Ann Drake.

**Where:** Park Ridge History Center, 721 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068

**When:** Typically weekends from 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. through 2020 but please consult the website to confirm. A limited number of viewers are permitted per time period.

**Cost:** A \$10 donation is requested

**Further information:** [info@parkridgehistorycenter.org](mailto:info@parkridgehistorycenter.org)

## **BRANCH ELECTION**

Many thanks to members who responded to our online election. There was only one candidate for each office, but we did need to have the vote be "official." Our officers are:

Co-Presidents: Elaine Fisher and Wendi Thourson

Program Vice President: Fran Stott Kampwirth (continuing)

Membership Vice President: Open

Secretary: Laurie Mallin (serving second year of unexpired term)

Treasurer: Megan McGaughey (continuing)

Cindy Grau will serve as Public Policy Chair and Irene Jinks will continue to produce our newsletter.

## **NEWS FROM AAUW**

### **Act:**

In May, the Department of Education issued a harmful rule designed to substantially weaken Title IX. AAUW vigorously opposed this change. Now we need to work together to stop this rule from going into effect.

Urge your members of Congress to cosponsor the Patsy T. Mink and Louise M. Slaughter Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA).

Write a letter to the editor (LTE) in support of Title IX.

As the 2020 campaign season heats up, voter education and "get out the vote" efforts must shift to virtual platforms. Learn how to get involved and explore the AAUW 2020 Voter Issue Guide for key information, terms, and questions to ask your candidates. Then urge your Senators to support the Voting Rights Advancement Act to ensure everyone is able to exercise their right.

### **Learn:**

The U.S. Supreme Court issued several opinions on critical AAUW priorities.

In *Bostock v. Clayton County*, the Supreme Court ruled that it is a violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to fire any employee for being gay, lesbian or transgender. AAUW has long argued that Title VII encompasses this meaning and prohibits discrimination based on sex stereotyping.

In *June Medical Services v. Russo*, the Supreme Court struck down a 2014 Louisiana law that severely restricts access to abortion. Finding it nearly identical to a Texas law that was deemed unconstitutional in 2016, the Court reiterated that requiring abortion providers to have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital "imposes an undue burden on a woman's constitutional right to choose to have an abortion." AAUW supports choice in the determination of one's reproductive life and joined an amicus brief backing June Medical Services.

The Supreme Court declined to hear a challenge to the Ninth Circuit Court's decision in *Yovino v. Rizo* that prohibited employers from relying on a person's salary history to justify pay disparities. We are honored to have worked with Aileen Rizo, who challenged the practice under the federal Equal Pay Act, and are proud to have helped establish important precedent that brings us a step close to gender pay equity.

In *Department of Homeland Security v. Regents of the University of California*, the Supreme Court rebuked the current administration for their "arbitrary and capricious" decision to rescind the DACA program, as they did not show sufficient legal justification to terminate it.

Unfortunately, the Court also issued unfavorable decisions in two cases AAUW weighed in on via amicus briefs: *Our Lady of Guadalupe School v. Morrissey-Berru* concerned employment discrimination and *Little Sisters of the Poor v. Pennsylvania* addressed contraceptive coverage protections within the Affordable Care Act.

On May 15, 2020 the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act (HEROES) passed the House of Representatives. H.R. 6800 provides relief measures in response to the COVID-19 crisis, including addressing vital AAUW priorities such as expanding paid sick days, family and medical leave, unemployment compensation, and nutrition and food assistance programs, as well as providing student loan forgiveness to some borrowers and expanding funding for free, fair, accessible, and safe elections. Though the Senate has not taken up the HEROES Act, the Senate Majority Leader has signaled the chamber's intent to pass another round of aid by the end of July before benefits made available in the CARES Act run out.

### **Engage:**

AAUW condemns racism and recognizes that there can be no justice or equality when Black and Brown communities are seen as less deserving of basic human and civil rights. The statement from AAUW CEO Kim Churches, AAUW Stands Against Racism, pledges to work to advance the policies and systemic changes identified in the New Era of Public Safety: A Guide to Fair, Safe, and Effective Community Policing and Vision for Justice platforms.

## **FUNDING OUR CONTRIBUTIONS**

As mentioned in our lead article, for many years our branch has funded a scholarship at Oakton Community College for a woman returning to school after a break in her education. The scholarship of \$1,000 does not quite pay for a semester, but it is a great help to the recipient. We also contribute for support of national AAUW advocacy of women's rights. In years past, we had bridge groups which helped with funding, but we no longer have those, so we need to raise the money in a different way. The sale of mums, which we have done for several years, has helped a great deal, and we will be doing that again. The price from the supplier has gone up, so our price this year is \$25.00 for each plant. We know, though, that the sale will not be enough to cover the full scholarship, so we are also asking our members to contribute, as several have already done.

Contributions may be sent to our treasurer, Megan McGaughey, 153 N. Babcock Dr., Palatine IL 60074, designated for the Oakton Scholarship. (If you itemize deductions for federal tax, make the check payable to Oakton College and indicate that it is for the Northwest Suburban AAUW Scholarship.)

## **BRANCH NEWS**

We extend our condolences to Carolyn Baker whose sister, Mary, died recently. Mary came here from Colorado several years ago. After that, she and Carolyn were both residents at Belmont Village for some time but had separate rooms. A few years ago, they moved to Brookdale in Des Plaines where they shared an apartment. Mary's funeral was held in Harlan, Iowa, where she was buried in the family plot.

Thanks to Pili Richardson who has kept in touch with Carolyn and Mary. She sent a beautiful floral arrangement to Carolyn on behalf of the branch and Carolyn was most appreciative.

We know that Carolyn will be moving to a different facility soon. As soon as we have the address, we will let you know so that you may keep in touch.

**Remember your AAUW sisters.** We know that not everyone in our branch has a connection to the Internet and those who are without cannot participate in our virtual get-togethers. Please try to keep in touch with those members by phone or by sending a card or note. We know that most of us are in what is considered the more vulnerable group for the corona virus and so are not spending much time outside our homes, so keeping in touch is especially important!



# Mum Fundraiser

- Celebrate Fall in style...
- Add colorful accents. . .
- Buy mums for yourself...
- Give someone a gift...
- Ask your friends to buy. . .



White



Purple



Yellow



Orange

**Thank You  
for  
Your  
Support**



Burgundy

**Plants from Northwoods Wreaths come in 12-inch containers. The cost is \$25.00 each.**

**Orders are due to Megan McGaughey, 153 N. Babcock Dr., Palatine IL 60074**

**By August 24, 2020**

**Pickup Date: Sept. 17-19 (We will notify you of exact date)**

**Pickup Location: Irene Jinks' Home, 834 Carolyn Lane, Park Ridge IL 60068**

**Please use the order form on the next page**

**Checks should be payable to Northwest Suburban Branch, AAUW**

**Mums can be displayed in sun or part shade. Plants are guaranteed to be healthy when you pick them up. They will then need your tender care, including periodic watering, when necessary.**

**Send checks, payable to Northwest Suburban Branch, AAUW, to  
Megan McGaughey, 153 N. Babcock Dr., Palatine IL 60074**

**Please order the following plants for me:**

Color	Number of Plants	Cost ( \$25 per plant)
Burgundy		
Orange		
Purple		
White		
Yellow		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total cost</b>

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

(Questions about pickup? Call Irene at 847-698-3113 or email her at [wijinks@aol.com](mailto:wijinks@aol.com))

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR BRANCH AND OUR PROJECTS!**