

# News from the Northwest

October, 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.***

## **We May Not Be Meeting, but There's a Lot Going On!**

Just a year ago, if someone had predicted what 2020 would be like we would have declared them insane! Yet here we are in October, having had no face-to-face meetings since March, and with no prospects of regular meetings in the near future! Thank heaven for technology! Thanks to the wonders of the Internet and Zoom we have been able to join with other groups and your board has been able to meet regularly. Since the situation is not getting better, we will probably continue in this pattern for some time, and we hope that our members will continue to participate. The health and well-being of all of us is our primary concern.

Our September meeting, the presentation on *Getting Out the Vote*, was most informative. For those who were not able to attend, and for those who want a "refresher," a summary of the content of the program is included elsewhere in this newsletter.

This month, we are suggesting that our members participate in a virtual tour of the *Notorious RBG* exhibit at the Illinois Holocaust Museum; there is a fee to take this tour, which is docent directed; information is found in this newsletter. This was something that we had planned to visit as a branch, before the pandemic made so many changes in our schedule! We are also hoping that we can participate in Oakton Community College's virtual art tour, which is to begin on October 19. The exhibit, entitled *Where Are We Now? Activism of the Everyday*, sponsored by the Koehnline Museum of Art and Women's Gender Studies, is to run through November 20. In the past, we have toured the exhibit on a Saturday morning and then enjoyed lunch together, but that will not happen this year. Instead we are hoping to have a Zoom discussion of the exhibit after members have done the virtual tour. There are also a couple of other interesting programs coming up, sponsored by other groups. You will find the information in the newsletter, and we will give you specific link information as soon as we receive it.

### **MUM SALE SUCCESS**

Thanks to everyone who promoted and supported our marvelous Mum Sale. The mums were as beautiful as last year, and we made over \$500 toward our Oakton Community College Scholarship! The scholarship is \$1000 for a woman student with financial need who is returning to school after a break in her education.

We are still accepting donations for this worthy cause. If you wish to donate, you can send a check to our treasurer, Megan McGaughey, 153 N. Babcock Dr., Palatine, IL 60074-5561.

## **FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS**

Dear Members,

With the passing of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, we're left with heavy hearts but awestruck by her courage, strength of character and tenacity. That one person, just one person, could reach such immeasurable heights. Changing the way law sees gender and interprets true equity is NO LITTLE TASK!

Ginsburg told *USA Today* in 2009: "Women belong in all places where decisions are being made." "It shouldn't be that women are the exception."

Millions have been empowered by this role model extraordinaire.

In an article on *The Global Citizen* website, "5 Laws Ruth Bader Ginsburg Championed to Support Gender Equality," the following were listed:

1. Employers cannot discriminate against employees based on gender or reproductive choices.
2. State-funded schools must admit women.
3. Women have the right to financial independence and equal benefits.
4. Men are entitled to the same care-giving and Social Security rights as women.
5. Juries must include women.

And while these laws may be on the books, many are not fully realized.

As we honor RBG, we are left to wonder if interpretations of gender equity set forth by the Supreme Court up until now, may be in jeopardy.

The mission of AAUW is to advocate for true gender equity! Let us raise our voices, stronger and louder than ever before! May you rest in peace, Notorious RBG.

*Honor Ruth by voting in spite of a pandemic,*

*Elaine and Wendi*

## **NEWS FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

We are doing all that we can to stay connected via the Internet and have joined other groups to provide informative and interesting programs. We will add others to our list as they become available and will provide the links that you need to access them. As we gather virtually, we at least have a chance to see and greet each other.

**October: Virtual Tours of the RBG Exhibit at Illinois Holocaust Museum; various times; cost is \$10 per person, payable at time of registration; [www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/pubtours/](http://www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/pubtours/)**

Based on the New York Times bestselling book and Tumblr page of the same name, *Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg* is the first-ever museum exhibition focused solely on this judicial icon, whose image graces mugs, t-shirts, posters, and bobbleheads. The exhibit is a vibrant exploration of Justice Ginsburg's life and her numerous, often simultaneous roles as a student, wife, mother, lawyer, judge, women's rights pioneer, and Internet phenomenon. Whether you're a fan or a legal scholar, don't miss this blockbuster exhibit!

This exhibition was developed by Associate Curator at Los Angeles Skirball Cultural Center, Cate Thurston, in partnership with Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik, co-authors of the *New York Times* bestselling book, *Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg*.

### **Oakton College Women's Virtual Art Exhibit: Where Are We Now? Activism of the Everyday**

This exhibit will be available online from Oct. 19 – Nov. 20. According to their website, "This year's exhibition thoughtfully examines how women have continued to evolve and change. Topics include: women as global citizens, providers, voters entering an election year, lovers, activists and individuals. Furthermore, the art show will explore where women are headed and why it matters."

When the link becomes available, it'll be sent to our members by email. You can also check the AAUW NW website under Events.

Monday, Oct. 27, 7:00 p.m., we will have an online branch meeting to discuss these two programs and will also share voting experiences and progress encouraging others to vote. The Zoom link will be sent prior to the date.

## **NEWS FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE (Continued)**

**Saturday, November 14, 10:30 a.m.:** Zoom program sponsored by the Chicago Branch featuring AAUW Fellows. It will be open to any member who wishes to attend. This is the program usually featured at a luncheon at Lambs Farm; registration information will be sent.

**Wednesday, November 18: Women Filmmakers and Movies,** sponsored by AAUW Jane Addams Branch. Presenter: Jan Lisa Huttner. Zoom link will be sent

**Friday, December 4 (tentative) 7:00 p.m.:** Zoom Social: Herstory Trivia Game.

A virtual holiday social event promoting the Oakton Community College Scholarship; *Herstory Trivia Game* with questions about historical women of achievement and shows we watched and discussed virtually. Invite a friend! There will be prizes!



### **Highlights of the September Get Out the Vote Program**

**Vote by Mail fraud is a myth.** This is a tactic to convince voters not to vote during a pandemic. We learned each ballot has a unique number/barcode that identifies your ballot as your vote. You sign the ballot return envelope and this is verified by election judges when your ballot is received (just like voting at the polls).

If you requested a Vote by Mail ballot and have not received it by Oct. 10, call the county election office to resolve the problem or request another ballot. When you mail your ballot, take it inside the post office and give it to a clerk to see that it is postmarked.

If you are planning to return your ballot by US postal service, mail it as early as possible or by Oct. 20. The alternative is to drop your ballot (in the signed envelope) in a secure ballot collection box.

If you don't trust the US Post Office to deliver your ballot, you can deliver your ballot to a secure ballot collection box at the following locations beginning Oct. 19.

Des Plaines Public Library  
1501 Ellinwood Street  
Des Plaines 60016

Monday-Friday, 8:30am-7:00pm  
Saturdays and Sundays, 9:00am-5:00pm

Mount Prospect Village Hall  
50 S. Emerson Street  
Mount Prospect 60056

Monday-Friday, 8:30am-7:00pm  
Saturdays and Sundays, 9:00am-5:00pm

Niles Village Hall  
1000 Civic Center Drive  
Niles 60714

Monday-Friday, 8:30am-7:00pm  
Saturdays and Sundays, 9:00am-5:00pm

Park Ridge City Hall  
505 Butler Place  
Park Ridge 60068

Monday-Friday, 8:30am-7:00pm  
Saturdays and Sundays, 9:00am-5:00pm

Some discussion points of getting out the vote 2020 were:

- **the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women getting the vote** is a historic time to get high voter turnout and honor our foremothers. If they could rally support for an amendment in 1919-20, we can vote in 2020 in spite of a pandemic.
- **get voters' attention** by a neighborhood bike parade; "Vote" signs in the window, on your car, or yard signs; social media posts; chat vote reminders during Zoom meetings; or wear a VOTE message t-shirt on daily walks or hiking trails.
- **share info that you learned about voting** in 2020 with at least 5-10 friends in your personal network and ask them each to share with at least 5-10 more friends (use outdoor coffees, phone, email, letter or postcard). Also, use social media to share what you learned.
- **Democracy is not a spectator sport, it requires active citizens to survive!**

If you missed the September program, you can listen to the recording here: <https://youtu.be/eMsbACxM6oY>

## **Equal Pay Day Chicago Hosting Latina Equal Pay Day on October 29**

Facebook event link: <https://fb.me/e/1w6qnXRIn>

While on average, women earn 82¢ for every \$1.00 men earn, women of color routinely experience much wider wage gaps due to the compounding effects of gender and racial discrimination. COVID-19 threatens to widen those disparities. Join us on [#LatinaEqualPay](#) Day, the last equal pay day of the year, for a virtual event with Chicago leaders on working women, COVID-19, and the racial and gender pay disparities that continue to exist in our country.

### FEATURING:

Illinois State Rep. Anna Moeller;

Cherita Ellens, President and CEO of Women Employed;

Linda Xóchitl Tortolero, President and CEO of Mujeres Latinas en Acción;

Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza;

Moderator: Kelly Saulsberry, Director of Policy and Outreach for the Chicago Commission on Human Rights.

This event will be livestreamed on Facebook Thursday, October 29 from 4-5PM

The Equal Pay Day Chicago coalition and our partners are working to lift up the voices and experiences of women of color in conversations about the wage gap. That's why this year, we are holding Chicago's annual equal pay event on Latina Equal Pay Day in recognition of the fact that we cannot close the wage gap until ALL women are paid equitably.

## **BRANCH NEWS**

Continue to remember your AAUW sisters who do not have Internet connection and so cannot keep in touch with us that way. Please try to keep in touch by phone or by sending a card. They will appreciate it!

Our friend Mary Margaret Reed has moved from her home in Des Plaines and is now living at Brookdale in Des Plaines. The address there is 800 S. River Rd., Des Plaines IL 60016. Mary Margaret is one of our honorary 50-year life members.

Virginia McGrath, who was a member of the branch for a number of years, recently passed away after a serious illness.

And in your concern with voting, COVID, and all the other things you have to think about, don't forget that October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. Be sure that you have scheduled your mammogram.

**We hope to see you soon at one or more of our  
Zoom opportunities!**