

News from the Northwest

AUGUST 2023

Message from the President

Where did the summer go? We are at the beginning of another school year with photos of youngsters going off to school again. It's time for us to begin another AAUW program year too.

We have two branch programs coming soon in August - **Teaching Civics: Why It is Important** and in September - **Barbie & Ken: Gender Roles Discussion**. Fall is a time people may consider a new activity or club to join. Think about people you know; at a fitness group, at church or in your neighborhood. Who do you know who might like to join AAUW. We certainly need more advocates of equity for women in these regressive times. Invite them to join us at a program or book discussion.

We have a book discussion group that may appeal to some possible members. This group meets via Zoom on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 4 pm. The next four books are: *One Thousand White Women – The Journals of May Dodd, America's Women, 400 Years of Dolls, Drudges, Helpmates, and Heroines, Queen of Haiti, and Violeta* (details on p. 3.)

You may have read this interesting book, by best selling author Kate Moore of Cambridge IL, ***The Woman They Could Not Silence: One Woman, Her Incredible Fight for Freedom, and the Men Who Tried to Make Her Disappear***. This historical Illinois story was in the news recently. The story of Elizabeth Parsons Ware Packard included raising six children and supporting their household and her husband, a Calvinist minister. However, Elizabeth publicly disagreed with her husband on religion, women's rights and slavery. In 1860, her husband had her committed to an insane asylum in Jacksonville, IL. Her psychiatrist, Andrew McFarland used tortuous treatment methods like waterboarding. The mental health institution in Springfield was named in his honor for 50 years until recently. Thanks to a Springfield woman, Miranda Bailey Peetz, the facility has been re-named to honor Elizabeth Packard. (the full story from the Capital Times was published in the Daily Herald, June 13.) Just another example, motivated women can do anything!

Let's plan to have an active AAUW year, Elaine

Upcoming Programs:

August 30. 7:30 pm **Teaching Civics: Why It is Important**

Advance Zoom registration is required. Registration link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9171111111>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing the link to join the meeting.

Let's talk about the importance of civics education in our US schools!

Our national report card shows that we are not doing a good job teaching US history and civics, and that is not preparing our students to be active citizens.

Understanding how our government works, our rights and responsibilities as citizens, and the importance of active participation in our democracy is crucial to maintaining a healthy society. An informed and engaged citizenry is the cornerstone of a vibrant democracy. Join us for the presentation!

Civics education is the foundation upon which informed and engaged citizens are built. It empowers us to make well-informed decisions, hold our elected officials accountable, and actively contribute to shaping our communities.

That's why we invite you to join us for an enlightening presentation on how we can improve civics education in our schools. **Our presenter, Ed Spire**, looks into these issues and focuses on the newly created Educating for American Democracy Roadmap, which points the way to improving this important area of education.

Ed Spire is co-lead of NWSOFA's Restore our Democracy project, where they focus on issues regarding the effectiveness of the US democracy. Mr. Spire recently retired from a lengthy career in software engineering management, for companies both small and large, public and private, local and international.

September 20, 7:30 pm Barbie & Ken: Discussion of Gender Roles

Have you seen the Barbie movie? Did it change your mind about the roles of men and women?

Does Barbie discover her true purpose? How would you describe the movie? a gleeful escape, a laugh out loud comedy or a battle cry. What aspects did you enjoy most? music, costumes, content, production, or drama? What was the influence of director/co-writer, Greta Gerwig?

Is Ken a helpless pawn in Barbieland?

Here's an interesting article.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/.../what-the-movie-barbie...>

Join us for a guided discussion on Sept. 20.

Advance registration is required for Zoom program. Registration link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/98123456789>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing the link to join the meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Elaine at elainefisher128@gmail.com

Book Discussion Group

Here are the books we have chosen for the next four meetings and the dates. In September, we will discuss which date we prefer for Nov-Dec. Discussions are Tuesday afternoons at 4 pm.

| <u>Date:</u> | <u>Book and Author:</u> |
|------------------------------|--|
| September 26 | <i>One Thousand White Women – The Journals of May Dodd</i> by Jim Fergus |
| October 24 | <i>America's Women: 400 Years of Dolls, Drudges, Helpmates, and Heroines</i> by Gail Collins |
| TBD (Nov, 29, 12/4, 5, or 6) | <i>Queen of Haiti</i> by Vanessa Riley |
| January 23 | <i>Violeta</i> by Isabel Allende |

Celebration of Life for Irene Jinks: Sept. 9, 10:00 am. Lunch afterwards, RSVP

We received this invitation from Susan Olsen, a close friend of Irene. I hope you to see you there.

As you know, Irene unfortunately passed away on June 5th. A Celebration of Life for Irene will be held on September 9, 2023 at St. Lukes Lutheran Church of Park Ridge at 205 N Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068. Visitation will start at 10:00 am followed by a service at 10:30 a.m.

Following the service, I would like to invite you to continue the Celebration of her Life with lunch at the Des Plaines Elks Lodge, 495 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL 60016.

To make sure we have places for everyone attending the lunch, please RSVP by responding to the email below if you plan to attend the lunch. If you have any questions please use this email address. I look forward to meeting all of you.

I know Irene would want her friends to come and celebrate her life.

Susan Olsen Email: irenejinkscelebrationoflife@gmail.com

News of Interest:

Illinois Renames McFarland Mental Health Center (will be Packard Mental Health Center)
Governor JB Pritzker said “Here in Illinois, we are committed to righting the wrongs of the past wherever we can. Renaming this Center in honor of Elizabeth Packard, who founded the Anti-Insane Asylum Society and pushed multiple states to reform their laws to better recognize the rights of mental health patients, is an important step in the right direction.”
<https://khqa.com/news/local/illinois-renames-mcfarland-mental-health-center>

NPR Report of young American’s views survey support stricter gun safety laws.
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=young+people+views+on+gun+safety

Member Remembrance

Amelia "Mickey" Gaza, 90, of Niles, loving sister of the late Judith (Steven) Svetlik and Anne (Walter) Wielgus; dear aunt of Barbara Wielgus, George (Denene) Wielgus, Steve Svetlik, Kenneth (Mary) Svetlik, Bob (Susan) Svetlik, and William Svetlik. Memorial service was held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Evanston, IL on Tuesday, August 8th. Memorial service may be viewed on a live stream by accessing <https://www.trinityevanston.org/gaza>

To close the newsletter, I’m sharing an excerpt from one of Irene Jink’s poems.

I’m thankful we fought and won this first round –
But those who oppose us still truly abound.
I’m thankful that I am still able to fight;
I can’t carry a sign, but I can call and write.
I’m thankful for all who have stood up as one,
But let’s keep remembering, we are not done;
We’ve got to keep working, sisters and brothers,
And part of our work is to bring in the others
Who are not yet working the way that they should,
Doing all they can for the greater good.
I’m thankful the judges saw things our way
And made, for the many, a much brighter day.
So let’s all be thankful for all that’s gone right,
But never forget, we’re still in this fight!