

# News from the Northwest

OCTOBER 2023

## **From the President**

*Fall has arrived and school schedules are now routine. Our AAUW Sept. program focused on a discussion of the movie Barbie. A movie that attracted a lot of attention and was a commercial success! AND was co-written and directed by a woman, Greta Gerwig!*

*The September program about the Barbie movie, considered some popular reviews, followed by a discussion of key moments, characters, dialogue, and scenes in the movie. The beginning suggested the beginning of a new world due to the arrival of Barbie (the doll.) This was followed by an visual, colorful illustration of Barbieland where women held all the powerful positions, like a Supreme Court of all women. It was lovely! Ken or all the Ken's depended on the Barbies for approval and meaning. Then strange things begin happening; reality starts leaking into the gated Barbieland community. This leads to some thought-provoking conversations about patriarchy, Barbie's impact on girls self image and conflicting expectations for women. Along the way, you enjoy colorful sets and costumes, choreographed dance numbers and a soul searching ballad, I Am Ken. In a survey of men who saw the movie, 63% said it increased their understanding of patriarchy. So was the movie just a pretty visual feast, and not very deep? Or a feminist message of disruption pushed into the mainstream conversation? You decide.*

*In case you missed it, the discussion was recorded. Here's the Link:*

*<https://janeaddams-il.aauw.net/> There's also a resource listing some suggestions for "Barbie Bookworm." These books could be future selections for our book group. Also on this web page is the link to the recording of the August program: **Teaching Civics: Why It Is Important**. A values framework for teaching civics is presented that can be shared with school boards.*

*Speaking of books, the Book Group discussion on Oct. 24 at 4 pm. continues the doll theme. **America's Women: Dolls, Drudges, Helpmates, and Heroines** by Gail Collins. Gail is the author of several feminist history books. Think about who you could invite to join us for a book discussion. It's a small group and an easy way to get acquainted with our branch. I hope we can add five new members this year to our Northwest Suburban branch. Enjoy the beautiful fall colors,  
Elaine*

## **AAUW programs for November:**

**Nov. 11, 10:30 - 12:00 noon** AAUW Fellows & Grantees Showcase

Sponsored by [Chicago Inc. branch](#) in partnership with the Jane Addams Online branch of AAUW. More speaker details to come. Advance registration required.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAscuytrz8pE9y9TQ4c\\_5wnl5DxBrx7BZ89](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAscuytrz8pE9y9TQ4c_5wnl5DxBrx7BZ89)

**Nov. 29, 7:30 pm** After Thanksgiving, discussion of *The Golda* film is based on the true story of Israel's first female PM, Golda Meir and her handling of the 1973 Yom Kippur War. Written by Nicholas Martin and starring Helen Mirren as Golda, the biopic tells an adapted version of the real-life event. More details and Zoom registration link will be emailed.

## **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. Guests are welcome.

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Book and Author:</u>
October 24	<i>America's Women: 400 Years of Dolls, Drudges, Helpmates, and Heroines</i> by Gail Collins
<b>November 29</b>	<b><i>Queen of Exiles: A Novel</i> by Vanessa Riley</b>
January 23	<i>Violeta</i> by Isabel Allende

## **AAUW IL Public Policy: Sunset Invest in Kids Act**

Support public schools by ending the Invest in Kids program. This may be brought up during the Veto session in early November. Email or call to encourage our representatives in Springfield to end/sunset this program.

### **Vouchers fund discrimination**

Public schools in Illinois can't discriminate on the basis of disability status, gender identity, sexual orientation, language, pregnancy or parenting status, marital status, or religion. But under the Invest in Kids voucher program, public dollars are now going to private schools in Illinois, many of which do discriminate against students in all these protected categories.

Public dollars should be for public schools—schools that serve **all** children and families.

That's why IL Families for Public Schools, along with [more than 50 state and local orgs in Illinois](#) are calling for the Invest in Kids program to end—just like the IL General Assembly intended for it to do when it was created it in 2017. Call [your state rep and state senator](#) and ask them to oppose any extension or expansion of this program. You can [read our most recent action alert here](#) and [everything you need to know about the Invest in Kids voucher program here](#).

## **News of Interest**

Des Plaines Historical Center Newsletter, Cobweb

The **special exhibit on Women of Des Plaines has been extended** to 2024. Stop by and you will see women pioneers, AAUW member Anne Evans' desk from the IL Constitutional Convention and photos from the AAUW summer school for migrant workers' children.

### **“AAUW**

*From 1948 to 1957, the Northwest Suburban Chapter of the American Association of Uni-versity Women (AAUW) ran a summer school for the children of migrant farm workers that came to Des Plaines from Texas every sum-mer.*

*For the first few years, the summer school met in area churches with instruction provided by volunteer teachers. In 1953, the summer school began meeting at Central School. The AAUW raised enough funds by 1953 to hire professional teachers and a curriculum coor-dinator for the school.”*

### **Northwestern, Oakton College set path to four-year NU degree**

The community college route to a bachelor's degree is now more straightforward for students who transition from Oakton College to Northwestern University School of Professional Studies. The Early Admission and Transfer Agreement, signed Aug. 31, establishes a partnership between the two institutions that will support students from the time they start their higher education journey at Oakton, and helps to ensure that, once accepted, they will succeed in achieving their goals.

More than 6,000 students enroll in credit courses at Oakton College each year. “Eighty percent of students who enter want to go on to a four-year college,” Oakton's Assistant V.P. for Academic Affairs and College Transitions Anne Brennan told the RoundTable.

Northwestern representatives approached Oakton administrators in April, Brennan said, although the idea had been under discussion for several years. “It took two years of faculty exchanging syllabi with us and making agreements, and then the faculty at Northwestern working with the Provost to talk about how they should use that work that the faculty had done, and how they should make it known ... as we begin to talk about it,” she said.

This is the first such agreement between Northwestern and a community college, according to a press release from Oakton. It allows for Oakton students who complete at least 24 transferable semester credits, or an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree and meet minimum grade point average requirements, to apply for early admission to bachelor's degree programs offered by [Northwestern's School of Professional Studies](#).