

News from the Northwest

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

From the President

I hope you have finished your Thanksgiving leftovers by now and are focused on December holiday baking, the lights displays and special programs. Wishing you a peaceful, safe and joyful holiday season.

Our Dec. 20th AAUW branch program will be a casual, social get together via Zoom, **Did You Say Books and PJ's? Count Me In!** Wear your holiday PJ's or your holiday sweater and plan to share one (or maybe two) of your favorite books with all of us that you have read in 2023. It can be a novel, historical fiction, mystery, thriller, non-fiction or even poetry; your choice - your favorite! Join the PJ Party, sign-up link.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwucO6urTMpH9L-cxB1fzxWtyw1NVLMNNI>

I hope you have time to join us. And, guests are always welcome.

On Nov. 11, the Chicago AAUW branch invited us to join them to hear from two recipients of **AAUW Fellowships and Grants**. It was very interesting to hear about the impact of AAUW on their lives. If you missed it, the program was recorded and is posted to the Jane Addams branch web site.

<https://janeaddams-il.aauw.net/>

On Nov. 14 - AAUW Naperville sponsored program **Debunking Gun Violence Myths**, presented by Devin Hughes, founder of GVPedia. The recording is about 60 minutes long and is packed with useful info. It can be found here:

<https://youtu.be/oe1ITH8695Q>

On Nov. 29th - AAUW Jane Addams Movie Discussion, of the movie **Golda** played by Helen Mirren. It is a movie worth seeing with some parallels to current conflicts. Golda Meir was the first woman prime minister of Israel.

In December, we gather with friends and family to re-connect and enjoy the holidays. On **Dec. 10**, we can join others in an Interfaith Vigil to remember victims of gun violence. It will be at Arlington Heights United Methodist church or by Zoom. Details on p. 2. Are you ready for those holiday family discussions that may touch on gun safety? Take the Gun Violence Quiz on page 3 of the newsletter.

I hope to see you Dec. 20 online in your holiday PJs or sweater!

Elaine

News of Interest

11th Annual National Interfaith Vigil for All Victims and Survivors of Gun Violence

Sunday, December 10, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

First United Methodist Church
of Arlington Heights (FUMCAH)
1903 E. Euclid Ave.,
Arlington Hts, IL 60004



Please join us in-person at 6:30 pm CST (or on Zoom at 7:00 pm CST) for an interfaith vigil sponsored by Chicago Survivors, Everytown Survivor Network, FUMCAH Faith in Action, Illinois Alliance to Prevent Gun Violence, Illinois Social Justice Alliance, Moms Demand Action, NWSOFA/Indivisible and One Aim Illinois. This vigil is just one of the many nationwide vigils being held in December as part of Newtown Action Alliance Foundation's 11th Annual National Vigil for All Victims and Survivors of Gun Violence in an effort to help [#EndGunViolence](#). Survivors have shared that it is important for us to stand with them to let them know this important message: "WE SEE YOU. WE SUPPORT YOU. YOU ARE NOT ALONE."

The vigil program begins at 7:00 pm CST and will be a hybrid vigil that can be watched in person or at home on Zoom.

Please know that if it works better for you to attend the vigil via ZOOM, you can use this Zoom sign-up link:

<https://act.indivisible.org/event/local-actions/171827>

Use link below to RSVP to Attend IN-Person at the 11th Annual National Interfaith Vigil- December 10th at the First Methodist United Church of Arlington Heights Gathering opens at 6:30 with Services starting at 7:00 PM on December 10th.

<https://act.indivisible.org/event/local-actions/171828>

AAUW State Public Policy Summary

This year in Illinois, we lobbied to end the Invest in Kids Act which decreased public funds to provide funds for private schools which discriminate against students on the basis of disability status, gender identity, and sexual orientation. The tax credit scholarship will end at the end of this school year.

Gun Violence Facts Quiz

Can you fill in the blanks on this quiz? Answers are on page four.

1. Since 1994, laws like background checks have blocked more than _____ gun sales.
2. The U.S. gun homicide rate is _____ times higher than that of other high-income countries.
3. True or False: Federal law prevents dating partners subject to Domestic Violence restraining orders from having guns.
4. True or False: Many guns used in crimes in Chicago come from other states.
5. True or False: A small child cannot pull a trigger.
6. Complete this common myth: "The only way to stop a bad guy with a gun, is _____"
7. In the discussion of arming teachers, research shows the presence of a gun at school, [decreases or increases] the risks posed to children and teachers.
8. _____ million U. S. children live in a home with at least one loaded, unsecured gun.
9. True or False: Federal law requires all licensed gun dealers to conduct background checks so this covers all gun sales.
10. True or False: Red flag laws mean law enforcement can remove guns if they think someone is dangerous.
11. True or False: Homicides when white shooters kill Black victims are considered justifiable more frequently than when a Black shooter kills a white victim.
12. Black people in the U.S. experience ____ times the gun homicides of White Americans.
13. True or False: Active shooter drills are known to cause trauma and anxiety, but it is acceptable since they also save lives.

Book Discussion Group

Here are the current months' books we have chosen. Discussions are afternoons at 4 pm. Remember guests are welcome; invite a friend who could become a member.

Date:

Book and Author:

November 29

Queen of Haiti by Vanessa Riley

January 23

Violeta by Isabel Allende

AAUW Northwest Suburban Oakton Community College Scholarship

This time of year, we asked to support those people who need help through gifts to charities. It's also time to contribute to our AAUW Northwest Suburban Scholarship for a woman student at Oakton Community College. Make your contribution directly to Oakton Community College Educational Foundation, 1600 E. Golf Rd., Des Plaines IL 60016 so that you can include your contribution as tax deductible on your 2023 income taxes.

AAUW Review of Achievements Nationally

Here are a few more impressive numbers that highlight what we've recently accomplished together for women and girls. Because of dedicated supporters like you, we:

- Trained over **190,000** women to negotiate their salaries and benefits through our Work Smart and Start Smart programs.
- Reached **thousands** of diverse high-school girls and their caregivers through AAUW's STEMEd for Girls virtual workshop series, now in its third year.
- Sent **19,539** letters to elected officials calling for action on AAUW priorities in 2022. I can't wait to see the updated—and undoubtedly higher—total for 2023!
- Awarded over **\$6 million** in fellowships and grants to more than 320 women and community projects in 2022-23.



Gun Facts Quiz Answers

1. 4 million, 2. 26 times, 3. False, current law only covers spouses or ex-spouses, 4. True, 5. False, hundreds of children under 17 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. 6. "is a good guy with a gun". If this was true, the U.S. would have the lowest gun death rate in the world which is not true. 7. Increases the risk posed to children and teachers, 8. 4.6 million children, 9. False, millions of guns are bought and sold by unlicensed dealers without a background check. 10. False, Red flag orders are issued by a judge on the basis of evidence that meets certain standards of proof, and final orders can only be issued after a hearing. 11. 12 times as many homicides, 13. False, active shooter drills have not shown that they save lives.