



# News By Degrees

SCHAUMBURG AREA BRANCH

APRIL- MAY 2021

## President's Message

Despite this dreadful pandemic, as members of AAUW we continue our focus on the AAUW mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. Most recently we have done that by educating ourselves; this winter we took a deep dive into the AAUW Diversity toolkit, the life of a female sports announcer, and intersectionality feminist movies.

As you have heard from me before and as you might have read in the recent edition of the AAUW-IL LINK, in April



we all will be voting to eliminate our membership degree requirement and open up membership to all who wish to join us in our mission. Your Schaumburg Area Branch board, AAUW's National Board, and your Illinois State Board have all unanimously voted in favor of the

amendment. Each of you will receive a personal email link to vote on the amendment. Make your voice count, and please vote! A positive side of the pandemic has been our ability to interact and learn virtually.

This year the state convention (April 23-24) will be held virtually. Not only is it free, but individual sessions are readily accessible to you. "The convention kicks off Friday evening with Michelle Duster, great-granddaughter of Ida B. Wells. Ms. Duster's program will address confronting systemic racism. Saturday morning begins with an AAUW

## Upcoming Events

- *Celebrating Women:* April 5
- *Jewel card orders due:* April 8
- *General Meeting:* April 12
- *Novel Approach:* April 19
- *Plant order pick up:* May 11
- *Novel Approach:* May 17
- *End-of-year dinner:* May 26

## General Meeting

On April 12 at 7:00, join you AAUW friends to hear Jerome McDonnell, interview Gina Ramirez on the topic of environmental justice. Jerome McDonnell hosted "Worldview" on WBEZ for over 20 years. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this show, Jerome interviewed world leaders, activists, and ambassadors every day at noon for more than twenty years. More recently he was the environmental reporter for the station. Jerome will be interviewing Gina Ramirez who has brought attention to the clouds of manganese dust and petcoke, left from oil refiner-

ies and steel mills, that plague her family and neighbors on Chicago's southeast side. She is active in the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization. Maybe you have heard that this organization is opposing Chicago's addition of a recycling plant into their neighborhood. The company was previously based in Lincoln Park. Residents have tried to get the company to leave Lincoln Park for years, and now it was to be placed in Little Village. Little Village residents claim that they have an unfair



abundance of industrial companies in their neighborhoods. This program will highlight the dangers of pollution in Chicago's neighborhoods, and how polluting industries are clustered in minority or disadvantaged neighborhoods. Register through The Schaumburg Library. -Mary and Lynn

## Attachments

WINGs  
Mother's Day  
Baskets

## Celebrating Women

Thank you for participating in our upcoming discussion on April 5 to learn more about the women in the Biden administration. No need to over prepare as each of us will be limited to no more than 3 minutes to share our info. You can also add your name at the last minute or show up to listen

Here is the list of our selections.

Peg--Rachel Levine  
 Kathy--Janet Yellin  
 Janice--Isabel Guzman  
 Barb--Cecilia Rouse  
 Lynn--Marcia Fudge  
 Judy A.--Avril Haines  
 Fran--Linda Thomas Greenfield  
 Donna--Deb Haalard  
 Carol--Rochelle P. Walensky  
 Janet--Katherine Tai



## Spring Plant Sale

Our Spring Plant Sale orders from 32 people has totaled about \$2,700. A special thank you is extended to Mary for help with the order form and pricing, Judy for tabulating all the orders and collecting the checks, Barb for totaling the checks, and Sue for helping me with the order form to the grower and setting up the "Extras" plant table idea for leftover plants that we can sell using neighborhood signs.

Our pick up date for the plants is Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at my house between 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. These hours can change depending on what time the flowers are delivered. Hours to sell the plants at the "extras" table can begin after the member's orders are filled.

Thank you to all who have and continue to support our fundraiser.

- Mary, Judy and Judy

## President's message continued

update from Gloria Blackwell, Vice President for Programs and Advancement. Kimberly Stratton will focus on STEM and Dr. Gretchen Goldman will speak about the impact of the pandemic on women" (AAUW LINK). You will need to register for the convention so that you can receive the link to the sessions. We can expect that link in early April. I will be out of town during the convention; please listen when you can and share with me what you learn.

When I hear other branches talk about not having meetings and losing touch with members this past year I am so thankful that we so quickly mobilized to this virtual arena. The board, as per AAUW national directive, will support virtual gatherings through May. After May, pending safety recommendations, activities can be face to face. However, virtual options will continue to be available for our branch activities for all who prefer. Again, I can say we are small but mighty! Surely some thanks are in order:

Thanks to the board, including Mary/Lynn (programming), Fran/Sue (membership), Barb (treasurer), and Ken (public policy) for all their work this year and for their willingness to continue in these roles next year. You kept us informed and connected, all while being mission focused.

Thanks to Judy S, Sue and Mary who drove fundraisers to keep our branch contributions to AAUW greatest needs fund and the Harper College scholarship well-funded.

Thanks to Janet, Fran, and Kathy S who guided interest groups that keep us linked and learning.

Thanks to Genevieve and Judy L who keep us informed and in the know.

Thanks to Ken, Mary, and Janet



who support our social media outreach.

Thanks to Risa, Sharon, Anne, Inara, Linda and Donna who share resources and participate actively.

Thanks to Janice, Carol, and Diane who just joined or "rejoined virtually" to engage with us in the mission of AAUW.

## Jewel Fundraiser

Sue will place our next Jewel Gift Card order on Thursday, April 8th. Please let her know if you would like to be included in this order and what denominations you would like to purchase. Checks should be made payable to Schaumburg Area AAUW.

**\*\*Special Note\*\*** -- Please mail or drop off all checks for this April 8th fundraiser at Sue's house. She will have my large tan envelope between the doors if I am not home, and your checks will be safe.

Thank you for your help and for your continued support of our Jewel cards.



- Sue

## Novel Approach

### *News of the World*

by Paulette Jiles  
Discussion: April 19

It is 1870 and Captain Jefferson Kyle Kidd travels through northern Texas, giving live readings to paying audiences hungry for news of the world. In Wichita Falls, he is paid to deliver a young orphan, Johanna, to her relatives in San Antonio. Their 400-mile journey south through unsettled territory and unforgiving terrain proves difficult and at times dangerous. As the miles pass, the two lonely survivors tentatively begin to trust each other, forging a bond that marks the difference between life and death in this treacherous land. Arriving in San Antonio, the reunion is neither happy nor welcome. The captain must hand Johanna over to an aunt and uncle she does not remember—strangers who regard her as an unwanted burden. A respectable man, Captain Kidd is faced with a terrible choice: abandon the girl to her fate or become—in the eyes of the law—a kidnapper himself. The story explores the boundaries of family, responsibility, honor, and trust.

### *State: A Team, A Triumph, A Transformation*

By Melissa Isaacson  
Discussion: May 17

*State* is a compelling first-person account of what it was like to live through both the traditional gender discrimination in sports and the joy of the very first days of equality". Told through the eyes of a team member, this is a personal memoir recounting touching stories of heartache, triumph, and the binding friendships that made an indelible impression on the lives of these young female teammates. The team is the 1979 Niles West High School girls state championship basketball team. The backdrop is the recent passage of Title IX, which prohibited gender discrimination in education programs, or activities, including athletics.

Whether you enjoy sports or not, readers in our age group can identify with the doors that were opened to girls who were finally being given opportunities to play, compete in sports, and learn the valuable message of teamwork. The heartfelt stories of these teammates, as well as their dedicated coach, make for an enjoyable read set amidst a Chicago background.



The planning meeting for novel approach for next year will be the first or second week of June. We will try to get together and meet outside. Please be thinking of the books you would like to suggest for next year.

- Thanks, Fran

## May End-of-Year Dinner

May 26, 6:30 pm via Zoom

\*\*\*Dinner from Riccardo's **option**\*\*\*

Let's enjoy dinner with each other and celebrate our branch accomplishments. Our branch is an amazing group - we have much to be proud of for the 2020-2021 year. We will have a brief business meeting, installation of officers, 2 rounds of bingo and time to chat. Take the evening off from cooking and consider ordering from Riccardo's Ristorante on Roselle Rd in Schaumburg. Riccardo's offers a wide selection of dinner options on their carry out menu. The app offers dinner for 2 (if you have another person in your house) including appetizer, soup or salad, entree and dessert for \$35 or call to order. Zoom link and bingo details TBD at a later date. -Lynn & Mary

## AAUW-IL, Inc. 96th State Convention (2021 Virtual Version)

Equity Empowers – Speak Out for Equity! Friday - Saturday, April 23 - 24, 2021.

Your Zoom Room, Timing Details and Zoom Link information will follow in the next emailed issue of CONNECTION.

Our virtual state convention opens on Friday evening, April 23 at 6:30 p.m. Opening Remarks from President Lisa Cherry Michelle Duster Hospitality Session. The convention opens on Saturday morning, April 24 at 9:00 a.m.



## Baskets for WINGS

Our branch plans to donate 3 Mother's Day gift bags for WINGS. Let me know if you can help. Please see the suggested list of items for the bags. Lynn will assemble the bags and deliver them. You can drop off items at her house or she can pick them up if that's helpful. All items are due to Lynn by April 21 so she can deliver to WINGS on April 23. Thank you in advance - our effort is greatly appreciated by WINGS.



## SUGGESTED ITEMS LIST FOR MOTHER'S DAY



Donors are asked to buy items and fill small gift bags or cellophane bags (see example above) for Mother's Day. Please spend no more than \$40.00 on each bag. Please do not include money in the bags. Gift cards (\$10 Value) can be given, but need to be handed to a staff member to hand out to clients, PLEASE DON'T PUT THEM IN THE BAGS.

NOTE: The items below are only suggestions, get creative. We ask for specialty items such as Bath and Body lotions and washes etc. We already supply basics that you can get at the grocery store such as Suave shampoo and conditioner. Just think "What would I want for Mother's Day"?

**PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE:** Travel sized toiletries, used products, makeup such as foundation, blush and eyeshadow, since we don't know the client's skin color/shade or footwear since we don't know their shoe size.

Body Wash  
Loofah  
Bubble Bath  
Lotion  
Body Spray  
  
Eyeliner  
Lip Gloss  
Mascara  
Compact Mirror

Nail Polish  
Nail Polish Remover  
Manicure Items for hands and feet  
Foot lotion  
  
Adult coloring books with fine line markers, Journal, Day Planner  
  
Gift card to stores such as Bath and Body, Target, Walmart and Kohl's (\$10 only) Give to staff member.

