



News By Degrees

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2023

Upcoming Events

- *Garden Party with Elgin AAUW, August 24 at 6PM; 667 Grand Ave, Elgin*
- *Orders for mums due to Judy Lewis, August 28 (form attached)*
- *Alfresco Lunch gathering: September 14, noon, Panera, N. Meacham*
- *General meeting & guest speaker, September 14, 6:30 ZOOM*
- *Flower pick up, September 15, Genevieve home*
- *Novel Approach: Sept. 18th at 1pm*
- *Novel Approach: October 3 at 7pm*
- *Novel Approach: October 9 at 1pm*
- *Jewel fundraiser, October 16*
- *Celebrating Women: October 23 at 1pm*
- *AAUW Mid-west Convention, St. Louis, October 19, 20 & 21*
- *Attachments: Novel Approach list; Flower order form*



President's Message

Happy new year! In the spirit of the new year, AAUW has updated its **Mission Statement to Gender Equity & Economic Security**. The national website further explains:

We've led the fight for fair pay and economic opportunity for women — and the battle continues: Women still get just 83 cents for every dollar paid to a man, and men continue to dominate the top roles and highest-paying professions.

Does this mission statement resonate with you? Would you like to become more involved? Here are a few opportunities.

Attend the AAUW Regional Conference is October 19-21 in St. Louis. The details are enclosed in the newsletter. Unfortunately, I can't attend but I hope that we can send someone. There are opportunities to have your travel and stay subsidized. Please contact me if you are interested.

- Sign up for the Two-minute Activist. <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>
- Work with a friend to plan a fundraiser for AAUW.
- Write a letter to the editor of the newspaper.
- Become a voter registrar. <https://chicagoelections.gov/en/serving-as-a-voter-registrar.html>

(continued on page 2)

August Garden Walk with Elgin AAUW Garden Party (Wine and Cheese)

Thursday, August 24, 2023, 6:00

Sue Schulz, 667 Grand Ave, Elgin, 60123



We are all invited to the Elgin AAUW summer Women and Culture meeting. Great to collaborate with this neighboring branch and consider other programs we might engage in together. We hope you can join us... A beautiful setting. A little music. Some wine, cheese, sausage, crackers, desserts. And new friends.. Email Lynn if you can join us or if you want a ride, email Lynn at lynnpriebe@gmail.com

President's Message (continued) Of course, there are many more ways to contribute to the mission of AAUW. For example, so many people have been hard at work this summer preparing great programs, lining up topics for the special interest groups, organizing fundraising opportunities, and staying on top of the public policy issues. Our first meeting this year is a joint meeting with Elgin on August 24th. Thank you Peg for making this connection. From the emails I was copied on, it seems that the Elgin Branch is rolling out the red carpet for us. I hope you will make plans to attend. Lynn and Mary have a general meeting planned for September. Fran and Carol facilitated the plan for Novel Approach. Kathy and Peg are planning very interesting topics for Celebrating Women. Judy L. is pulling together the directory for us. She is also helping Judy S. to offer the mum sale. Sue just offered a Jewel gift card purchase. Five percent of the sale comes back to the Branch. Barb Garvin has been working to ensure that all of our finances are in order so that Mary and Sue could audit the books. Ken has been on top of the policy issues and will be sure to keep us informed especially with elections coming up. Peg has put together this newsletter. Please join me in sharing appreciation for everyone's efforts.

I am looking forward to celebrating our progress and advocating for equity and economic security for all women with you this coming year. Genevieve



Come to the AAUW Central States Midwest Regional Conference at Drury Plaza Hotel in St Louis!

October 19, 20, & 21, 2023

Early bird registration through Sept 16: \$200

After Sept 16: \$225

More details and registration at AAUW of Missouri:

<https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/aauw-midwest-regional-conference/>

Join members from across 11 central states for a few days of inspiration, education, great ideas, fun and friendship.

September 14, Alfresco Lunch and Evening General Meeting

Join AAUW branch members for **lunch on Thursday September 14 at 12.00** noon to share summer adventures and kick off the 23-24 program year. Weather permitting we will meet on the patio at Panera (830 N Meacham Rd., Schaumburg).



Our **General Meeting is also Thursday, September 14 at 6:30 p.m.** via Zoom. Bring dinner or your favorite beverage to enjoy during the business meeting led by Genevieve. Following our branch business we are very lucky to host Senator Cristina Castro who will talk about legislation in Springfield as it pertains particularly to women in addition to sharing her background in politics. There will be time for Q&A following her presentation.



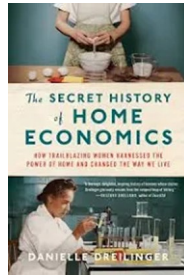
<https://www.senatorcristinacastro.com/>

JEWEL GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER

Thank you for currently making our August 15th gift card fundraiser a success. Each and every purchase order is appreciated and counts! The next two Jewel fundraisers are scheduled for Monday, October 16th and Monday, November 27th. I will send reminders when those dates are approaching.

The Jewel Gift Card amounts range from \$5 to \$250 per physical card and are good at all Albertson stores throughout the United States. Thanks again for your continued support. If you have any questions, please call, text, or email me.

Sue



Celebrating Women: Fall Meetings

Celebrating the work, energy, power and artistry of women will continue for our branch in 2023 - 2024. We plan to discuss the well-reviewed summer film, "Barbie" directed by Greta Gerwig on **Monday, October 23 at 1 P.M. on Zoom**. Wear pink for our Zoom if you want!

Then in December (date TBA) join us for a discussion of the nonfiction book, *The Secret History of Home Economics* by Danielle Dreilinger which tells of how home economics began as an intellectual haven for Black and white women who were otherwise blocked from studying science.

Co-chairs: Kathy Sicklesteel and Peg Gallagher

SUPPORT FOR OUR BRANCH FUNDRAISERS IS APPRECIATED

Let your friends and family know to order their flowers by August 28th (order form attached) and to pick up their flowers at 208 W. Beech Drive, Schaumburg on **Friday, September 15th from 9 to 11 am or from 5 to 7pm**. Thank you to Judy S and Judy L (flower sale) and Sue S (Jewel cards) for championing these fundraising efforts to support AAUW Greatest Needs and a student at Harper College.

Jewel[®]

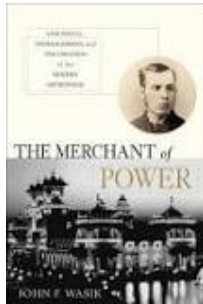


Novel Approach September and October

The Merchant of Power* by John F. Wasik **September 18 at 1PM*

You may have heard of Thomas Edison, but you may not have heard of Samuel Insull. In Insull's time, the early 1900s, he was one of the richest men in the world. He was based in Chicago and was active in developing the electrical infrastructure of the United States. He was responsible for the building of the Chicago Civic Opera House. Lake Delevan in Wisconsin was a vacation place for his employees.

He developed Hawthorn Farms outside Liberville/Vernon Hills. He built what is now the Cuneo house and museum in that area for his residence. He owned Commonwealth Edison and People's Gas, as well as numerous utilities and railroads, especially in the Chicago area. He owned significant portions of the Chicago North Shore and Milwaukee Railroad and the Chicago Rapid Transit Company. He had many holding companies. Then the Depression hit.



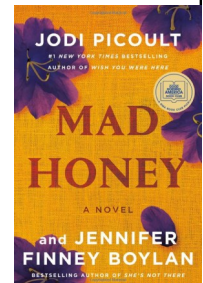
Please join us at Janet's on September 18 at 1 PM to discuss the book. Zoom will be available. janetsimmons2748@gmail.com

Mad Honey* by Jody Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan **October 9 at 1PM*

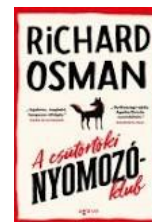
Join us for a riveting discussion on "Mad Honey" by Jody Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan, Monday, October 9th at 1:00pm. It is a novel about what we choose to keep from our past, and what we choose to leave behind.

This is a coming-of-age story with a past and present timeline. Lots of informative storytelling throughout the book! It has all the intensity of a teenage romance. All the tensions and suspense of a murder mystery with a courtroom drama! Mad Honey is a powerful and emotional tale of secrets and truth, bravery and honesty, and above all, finding the inner strength to live life fully, no matter how great the risk.

We will be meeting in person at the home of Barbara Garvin, 1865 Eton Dr, Hoffman. If you are planning on attending please let Barb know through email: nivragb@aol.com or text her at 630-835-8753.



The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman **Oct 3 at 7pm on Zoom*



This story follows Joyce and her friends as they attempt to solve a series of murders happening at Coopers Chase, a retirement facility in England. Together, the group works with the police and proves their worth by racing to solve the murders before the detectives assigned the case do. I think you will laugh out loud as you read this warm, humorous, and very likeable mystery. Together we will consider the qualities of these unique characters, as we dispel some of the frequently held myths of aging.

Fall Public Policy Update:

Public Policy Update – A Good Legislative Session in Illinois – Ken Olson

Politics currently highlight the news with coverage of the multiple inditements of the former President, but there is a lull in legislative activity. The Illinois General Assembly completed their session on May 27 and at the Federal level Congress is on their August break. The Illinois General Assembly reconvenes for the Veto Session on October 24. In Washington the Senate returns on September 5 and the House on September 11, so it is a good time to look at where things stand and what lies ahead.

At the national level AAUW has been actively advocating to Congress and the President on education funding, equality issues and more. You will find recent letters on the AAUW Website at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/documents/>. The current divided Congress makes progress difficult on most issues. In the House the GOP is seeking to use the FY24 budget negotiations for various agencies to further limit reproductive rights and access to feeding programs. Currently they are having internal battles over how far to go. The Senate is almost certain to reject significant change in these areas. This increases the risk of a government shutdown as some type of action on the budget is needed by September 30. AAUW will continue to advocate for equality, equal pay, reproductive freedom, education and more. The push to finally include the ERA in the Constitution will also continue.

At the state level things are more positive as the General Assembly wrapped up a session with good news on many issues supported by AAUW. In addition to past actions, Governor Pritzker recently signed the following into law:

SB 1909 (Deceptive Practices by Crisis Pregnancy Centers)

HB 2450 (Health Care Cultural Competency Training)

The Governor's website highlights many recent [accomplishments for Illinois](#).

There were many positives, but work remains. The Medical and Family Leave Insurance Act moved farther than it has in past legislative sessions but did not pass. AAUW lobbyist, Jenni Purdue, was a part of the negotiations seeking agreement between the various parties on legislation. An agreement was not achieved by the session's end, but our Medical and Family Leave Coalition is hopeful that an agreement may occur by the veto override session or during next year's legislative session.

Funding for the Keeping Youth Safe and Healthy Act was not included in the budget. The funding does not end until the end of this year, so it will continue to be brought up. This is not a bill, it's a line item on the budget. We support public schools and are opposed to funding private school scholarships.

AAUW IL is starting a "THANK YOUR LEGISLATORS project." Thanking legislators has been proven to be a successful project that helps build better relationships with them, as well as letting them know our AAUW Public Policy Priorities. This is a project that can be done on our own, or by hosting a party. I will share news and resources for the project as it develops.

Ken

Editors note: Janet sent me news of this recently passed bill as well: **Bill Number:** HB3129

Description: Amends the Equal Pay Act by making it unlawful for an employer with 15 or more employees to fail to include the pay scale and benefits for a position in any job posting, including with a third-party.

Action: Signed **Effective:** January 1, 2025

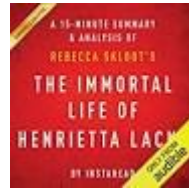
Novel Approach Booklist 2023-2024

Note: all sessions start at 1pm except for Tuesday, Oct 3 which starts at 7pm

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Title and Author</u> | <u>Discussion Leader</u> |
|-------------|---|--------------------------|
| Sept. 18 | The Merchant of Power by John F. Wasik (bio) | Janet-in person-Zoom |
| Oct. 3 | The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman (F) | Peg – Zoom (7 pm) |
| Oct. 9 | Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult (Fic.) | Barb-in person ZOOM |
| Nov. 20 | Clark & Division by Naomi Hirahara (HF) | Fran-in person Zoom |
| Jan. 15 | Independence by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni (F) | Genevieve – Zoom |
| Feb 19 | The Tender Land by William Kent Krueger (F) | Judy - Zoom |
| Mar. 18 | The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post by Alison Pataki (F) | Kathy – Zoom |
| April 15 | The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict & Victoria Christopher Murray (HF) | Sue-in person-Zoom |
| May 20 | The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride by Joe Siple (F) | Anne-in person-Zoom |

FOLLOW UP NOTES FROM BOOKS RECENTLY READ AT NOVEL APPROACH

Shared by Janet



The family of a black woman whose cervical cells were harvested in 1951 without her knowledge and replicated infinitely ever since have reached a settlement with a biotech company... Read more at

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-66376758>

Also, look for upcoming documentary on this story.

<https://ltgov.illinois.gov/news/press-release.26858.html>

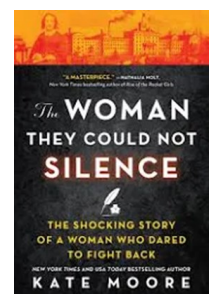
Gov. Pritzker Announces Mental Health Center Renamed for Elizabeth Packard

The Packard Mental Health Center supports more than 120 patients with serious mental illness in Springfield

SPRINGFIELD – Today, Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) announced a new name for the McFarland Mental Health Center. By executive proclamation, it is now officially the **Elizabeth Parsons Ware Packard Mental Health Center**. On signage and in common use, it will become known simply as the Packard Mental Health Center. Located on the south side of Springfield, the psychiatric hospital employs more than 250 staff and supports over 120 patients with serious mental illness on a 24/7 basis.

"Today, we are putting a spotlight on the real hero associated with this institution, someone who in truth better expresses our proud history of positive reform and someone who changed our world for the better," **said Governor JB Pritzker**. "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."

"The renaming of the Packard Mental Health Center in memory of Elizabeth Packard comes as a reminder that for too long, systems worked to repress and discount the voices of women and individuals in psychiatric facilities. But Elizabeth Packard's legacy lives on to show us that a commitment to truth and justice can break down barriers and build toward something greater," **said Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton**. "Today, we honor her experiences and contributions by working to ensure we continue to do better as leaders, and by creating opportunities that uplift and support every resident so they are seen, heard, and can live with dignity."





Spectacular Super-Sized Mums

Our Michigan greenhouse grower is returning to offer their fabulous mum plants again. This beautiful mum arrives in a twelve inch pot. The price has been raised slightly due to an increase by the grower. The mums are \$17.50 each; or \$16.50 each, if you buy 3 or more. Orders and checks are due to Judy Lewis at 1640 Brittany Lane, Hoffman Estates, IL 60192 by August 28th. Please make your check out to Schaumburg AAUW.

These gorgeous mums are guaranteed to be healthy when you pick them up. They can be displayed in sun or part shade. Although not guaranteed to come back, some of mine have in the past. Periodic watering will be necessary. The colors and sizes remain the same. Send your order form and check made out to Schaumburg AAUW to Judy Lewis.

- Celebrate Fall in style with Schaumburg AAUW.
- Mums make beautiful gifts for you, your family, and friends and raise money for scholarships.
- Send checks made out to Schaumburg AAUW with your order to Judy Lewis at 1640 Brittany Lane Hoffman Estates, IL 60192 by Aug.28th.
- Pick up is on Friday, September 15th from
9:00 to 11:00 a.m. & 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at
Genevieve's house, 208 West Beech Drive

Deliveries are available – Check here if you would like yours delivered. #

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Thank you for your support. Genevieve, Judy L., and Judy Stewart