



News By Degrees

SCHAUMBURG AREA BRANCH

FEBRUARY 1, 2024—APRIL 2024

Upcoming Events

- *Jewel Card order due, Feb.4*
- *Celebrating Women: February 12.1pm*
- *Branch program and meeting: Feb 13 STDL*
- *Novel Approach: February 19, 1pm*
- *Equal Pay Day, Pay Day candy packets, at Jewel., March 12*
- *Novel Approach: March 18, 1pm*
- *Branch program and meeting, March 19,7pm*
- *Flower order: April 1*
- *Novel Approach: April 15, 1pm*
- *AAUW-IL Convention, April 19/20, ECC*
- *Flower pickup, May 17*

President's Message



Happy New Year! The second half of our program year brings many opportunities to support the mission of AAUW.

- ◆ Lynn and Mary have lined up several programs that will grow in our perspective starting with Hidden Messages in Negro Spirituals – Codes on the Underground Railroad. This is going to be a powerful program.
- ◆ March 12 is Equal Pay Day. The board is pulling together our Pay Day candy bar packets to hand out at Jewel. I hope you can participate.

- ◆ April 19 -20 will be the State Convention in Elgin. Peg is co-chair of the event so you know the programming will be top notch. We will have a table showcasing our Branch's contributions to the lives of women and children in Illinois. I hope you will be able to attend. It is a short drive. Find a friend to carpool with.
- ◆ The legislative year promises to call our names to submit witness slips, write our representatives, and speak boldly about the issues and why they matter. Watch for emails from Ken and sign up for the Two-Minute Activist,

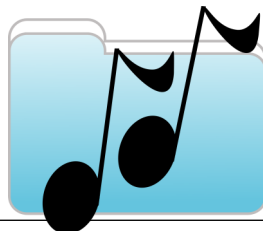
- ◆ We will also continue with our successful fundraising efforts. Judy has included the order form for the spring flowers and Sue has a Jewel card fundraiser. Because of these fundraisers last year we were able to support a scholarship at Harper and send in \$1150 to the Greatest Needs fund.
- ◆ Given that it is a Presidential election year, more people will be likely to vote. Encourage those in your circle to register to vote. Maybe you could even share resources that you use to navigate the local, less publicized races.

◆ Continued on Page 2

February General Meeting, Lynn and Mary

HIDDEN MESSAGES IN NEGRO SPIRITUALS - CODES ON THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Negro spirituals, as originated in America tell of sorrow, trials, tribulations, secrecy and the hope for a sense of community. On **February 13, at 7:00** we will join presenter Connie Martin as she explains the connections of plantations songs or Negro spirituals with the meanings and interpretations of the lyrics that signaled multiple signs and tips, aiding enslaved people to find freedom. This is an in person program at the Schaumburg Library. We will have a business meeting following the presentations.



Make sure to register online at STDL.

President's Message (continued)

- ◆ Our special interest groups are going strong. Look for information about Celebrating Women, Novel Approach, and maybe even Dining Out in the newsletter.

Please share all of these opportunities to engage in and contribute to AAUW's mission with neighbors or friends. Maybe your neighbor would like some Jewel gift cards or reconsider purchasing spring flowers. Maybe your friend would like to try out our branch and consider joining.

I would also like to sincerely thank all of you taking leadership roles to make these opportunities a reality. Your contributions are an inspiration to me. - Genevieve



AAUW-IL State Convention: Celebrating 100 Years of Empowering Women
April 19-20, 2024, Elgin Community College, Elgin, IL

Registration Details in the February 15 Connections Newsletter

AAUW-IL is 100! Join your friends and colleagues in Elgin, IL as we celebrate 100 years of Advancing Equity for Women and Girls in Illinois! We'll have an engaging program focused on saluting our accomplishments and pursuing new ways to support women as we look forward to the next 100 years. Watch for details on registration, programming, and activities on the AAUW-IL website and via the monthly Connection.

Venue: University and Business Center at Elgin Community College - As AAUW has deep roots supporting academic opportunities for women, it seems fitting that we should gather for this significant anniversary at an educational institution. The conference center at Elgin Community College (ECC) in Elgin, IL is perfectly poised as the setting for us to come together. Elgin is situated between Chicago and Rockford on the scenic Fox River Valley and home to Elgin Area Branch, an active AAUW-IL branch.

Hotel: [The Holiday Inn & Suites Chicago Northwest](#) - Elgin, a contemporary hotel just off I90 is holding a block of rooms for us. This full service hotel is less than 5 miles from the ECC. We have a free shuttle to transport us to and from the Friday evening convention session. The address for the hotel is 495 Airport Road, Elgin, IL 60123. The cost for the double queen standard room is \$109 and the junior king suite is \$124 (plus tax). Group Code: AAU. You can make reservations by calling 847.488.9000 but you have to say that you are part of "AAUW-IL Room Block" to receive the discounted rate. Please reserve early to guarantee your spot in the hotel block, reservations made after April 5th, 2024 will not be eligible for the group discount.

March General Meeting, Lynn and Mary

The *Killers of the Flower Moon* book and movie have inspired many discussions about the unfair treatment of the Native American Indians. Did you know in the 1920s the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Nation in Oklahoma? At our March 19th meeting we will discuss the book and movie, *Killers of the Flower Moon* which tells the story of how the Osage began to be mysteriously murdered after deposits of big oil were discovered beneath the Osage land and how the FBI stepped in to uncover a widespread conspiracy involving corrupt guardians, judges, lawyers, doctors and businesses. Mark your calendar for our branch business meeting on **March 19 at 7:00 pm via Zoom** followed by a lively discussion about the Osage Nation and the plight of Native



Branch Fundraising, Sue & Judy S

Our next Jewel Gift Card order will be placed on **Sunday, February 4th**. If you would like to be included in this order, please let me know the denominations (\$5 to \$250 per card) that you would like to purchase. Please send your payment to Barb by February 4th

Additional Jewel gift card fundraisers will be on **March 20 and May 15** this branch year. We appreciate your continued support of this fundraiser. Thank You! Sue



Snow and ice maybe plaguing us, but Spring is guaranteed to come sooner than you think! This year Grassmid Greenhouse and grower Ann Morris is once again providing us with gorgeous flowers and plants for you to purchase. We will have our 26 varieties of beautiful bedding plants, our premium annuals, accent plants, two types of dependable geraniums, lush hanging baskets, bountiful planters (one new dark geranium color) and new hanging flower pouches to decorate your house and gardens.

All you have to do is choose which flowers and plants you want, mark the quantities of each, and total the cost on the attached order form. The bottom left hand corner of the order sheet is for you to fill out your name, address, email, and phone number for our records. We will once again have some extra flowers available for sale on the day you pick up your original order.

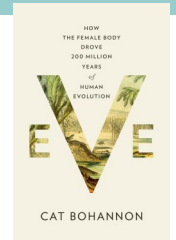
The flower order sheet and a check made out to Schaumburg AAUW for your order is then sent to Judy Lewis, 1640 Brittany Lane, Hoffman Estates, IL 60192. **The orders and checks are due Monday, April 1st, 2024 to Judy Lewis. Pick-Up day is Friday, May 17th, 2024 at Genevieve's house at 208 Beech Street, in Schaumburg, IL. The pick-up times are 9 to 11a.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. Please bring a copy of your order sheet.**

Please feel free to pass on the order sheet to friends and family members so we can make this fundraiser truly successful. The money raised is earmarked for educational funds. Your generosity will enable students to come closer to attain their educational goals.

If you have any questions, just email me at JudyLynnStewart47@outlook.com or Genevieve at daminco.genevieve@gmail.com. Thank you once again for your tremendous support. Judy S

Celebrating Women — FEBRUARY 12, Kathy & Peg

We plan to ZOOM our next Celebrating Women on Monday, February 12 at 1 pm when we discuss an interview with Cat Bohannon about her book released late last year, *Eve: How the Female Body Drove 200 Million Years of Human Evolution* (long title, but lots of info!).



I've enclosed the link to the interview, which is from "Fresh Air" on NPR. Listen and join our discussion next month. <https://www.npr.org/2023/10/03/1203208967/cat-bohannon-women-female-health-eve>

Novel Approach — FEBRUARY 19, Judy S

The Tender Land by William Kent Krueger

This page turning book is found on the New York Times Bestseller's List and similar to *Where the Crawdads Sing*. It is a captivating tale of adventure which takes place during the Great Depression in Minnesota by the Gilead River. Four orphans named Odie, Albert, Moses, and Emmy were mistreated while forcibly staying in a boarding school for Native American children called the Lincoln Indian School. This is a story of courage, cowardice, love, betrayal, and hope that the children experience as they fight demons, prejudice, and cruelty trying to get to safety.



Our Novel Approach will take place on Zoom, on February 19th, at 1:00 p.m. with me. If it's a nice day, and you feel like joining in person, just let me know. Judy S.

Novel Approach — MARCH 18, Kathy S

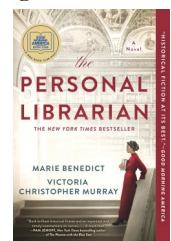
The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post by Allison Pataki

Perhaps you've heard of Mar-a-Lago in Florida. Marjorie Merriweather Post, heiress to the General Food empire built it, but she was known for much more. Coming from humble Midwest beginnings, Marjorie became an entrepreneur, philanthropist, and presidential hostess among other roles. This historical fiction read will provide an exciting reimagining of a remarkable life. Join us for an interesting discussion. Join us on March 18th at 1pm via Zoom.



Novel Approach — APRIL 15, Sue

The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray, is a personalized account of the true life librarian, Belle da Costa Green. She was hired by J.P. Morgan to curate a collection of manuscripts, books, and artwork for his newly built library in NYC. Her hiring was notable in its day because of her gender. But, what J. P. Morgan didn't know (and only a few suspected) was that she was an African American passing as white and working as a curator. Thus, Belle had become a fixture in New York City's society. She was also one of the most powerful people in the art and book world. She had impeccable taste and shrewd negotiating skills to create a world class collection.



Please join us as we discuss this remarkable story about Belle who was forced to hide her true identity. She went through great lengths to protect her family and to leave an everlasting legacy that enriched our nation.

Please let me know if you will be attending.; in person or on Zoom , Sue

Membership, Sue

We would like to welcome our newest member, Janice Noble, to our Schaumburg Area branch. Janice and her husband recently moved here from Nevada where she was very active in the AAUW Capital (NV) Branch. We all enjoyed meeting Janice at our Holiday Brunch and look forward to seeing her again soon.

Membership note – please add Janice to your branch directory. drjanicenoble@gmail.com

Public Policy, Ken

Spotlight on Politics - Ken Olson - Public Policy chair

Welcome to 2024, another Presidential Election year. It seems we have been hearing campaign rhetoric forever but be prepared for more. In addition to the President all members of the US House and Illinois Assembly will be up for election. Our state Senator, Laura Murphy, is also up for reelection. All elections are important, but this year is especially so as we look to support candidates who will support and work for AAUW priorities, protect women's rights and defend democracy for the future. AAUW is non-partisan, but I would note that all of our current elected officials have done the three things noted above.

Let's look at some important dates relative to the elections:

- The Illinois Primary Election where we select candidates for the fall ballot will be March 19. We hear frequently about the Presidential primary, but the primary includes local and state offices, so it is very important.
- The General election will be Tuesday November 5, 2024
- You must be registered to vote. You can check your status, and register if needed, on the Illinois Board of Elections page https://ova.elections.il.gov/?ref=voteusa_en. I tried it and it is easy to do.

It is difficult to do much legislatively in an election year, but let's take a brief look at some legislative issues of interest. The IL Assembly is back in session in Springfield. The current session runs to May 24. An important issue for AAUW is paid family and medical leave. Some good news in Illinois as effective Jan. 1 nearly all Illinois employees became eligible for a minimum of 40 hours of paid leave per year. This comes from the [Paid Leave for All Workers Act](#) that passed last year. Both full-time and part-time employees are covered by this Act. However, employees who work fewer hours may accrue less leave time compared to full time employees. It would be nice to have more than 40 hours and employers can offer more. We have noted in previous articles that last year was good legislatively in Illinois. We need to continue to talk with our representative, submit witness slips and be sure to vote to keep the progress going.

At the federal level, Congress has struggled to do anything meaningful since the GOP took control of the House. They have elected one speaker, threw him out, elected a second speaker and now there is rumbling about removing him. They have been unable to pass the 12 Appropriations Bills needed to fund the government, but thankfully working with Democrats they recently passed their third Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the government.

AAUW SPRING 2024 FLOWER FUNDRAISER

Pick-up: Friday, May 17th, 2024 at Genevieve's House
208 Beech St., Schaumburg, IL
From: 9-11am 5-7pm Bring order copy
Question: judy4.vnnsteward7@outlook.com
damiano.genevieve@att.net

FLOWER PICK-UP FRIDAY, MAY 17th 2024
ORDER DEADLINE Monday, APRIL 1st 2024
Fundraiser Purpose is for Educational Funds
Supplier Grassmid Greenhouse-Ann Morris
AAUW Schaumburg Branch-Total Qty. & Cost Below

Send order form & check made out to: Schaumburg AAUW
Send to: Judy Lewis
1640 Britany Lane
Hoffman Estates, IL 60192

BEDDING PLANTS 48/flat \$17, 1/2 flat \$10	
_____	Alyssum White
_____	Begonia Gr Lf Mix
_____	Begonia Gr Lf Red Flower
_____	Begonia Gr Lf Pink Flower
_____	Begonia Gr Lf White Flower
_____	Coleus Wizard Mix
_____	Dianthus Mix
_____	Dusty Miller
_____	Impatiens White
_____	Impatiens Red
_____	Impatiens Mixed Colors
_____	Lobelia Blue
_____	Marigold Dwarf Yellow
_____	Marigold Dwarf Mix
_____	Marigold Large Head Yellow
_____	Moss Rose Mixed Bright
_____	Pansy Mixed
_____	Petunia White
_____	Petunia Purple/Blue
_____	Petunia Mixed Color
_____	Salvia Red Medium
_____	Salvia Mixed Medium
_____	Salvia Victoria Blue
_____	Snapdragons Dwarf Mixed
_____	Snapdragons Rocket Mix
_____	Vinca Mix
_____	Total #
_____	Cost \$

Flower Pouches (New) \$15.00 each	
_____	Impatiens Mix
_____	Petunia Mix
_____	Total#
_____	Cost

PREMIUM ANNUALS 4 1/2 pot - \$5.00 each	
_____	Gerbers Daisy
_____	New Guinea Impatiens
_____	Non Stop Begonias
_____	Osteospermum
_____	Pennisetum Rubrum (grass)
_____	Dragon Wing Begonias - RED
_____	Dragon Wing Begonias - PINK
_____	Sweet Potato Vine
_____	Blackie
_____	Lime Green
_____	Total #
_____	Cost \$

ACCENT PLANTS 3" pot - \$4.00 each	
_____	Spikes
_____	Sprengerii
_____	Vinca Vine
_____	Total #
_____	Cost \$

HANGING BASKETS 10" - \$18.00 each	
_____	Boston Fern
_____	New Guinea Impatiens
_____	Non-Stop Begonias
_____	Ivy Geraniums
_____	Combination of Flowers - SUN
_____	Combination of Flowers - SHADE
_____	Combination of Flowers - PART SUN
_____	Total#
_____	Cost \$

PLANTERS - 12" - \$24.00 each (Dark Red Geranium Planters are new!)	
_____	Dark Red Geranium Planters - with spikes, vinca vine, yellow marigolds
_____	Premium Combination Planters - SUN
_____	Premium Combination Planters - SHADE
_____	Premium Combination Planters - PART SUN
_____	Total#
_____	Cost

STOCK GERANIUM POTS - 10" - \$16.00 each	
_____	White
_____	Red
_____	Pink
_____	Violet
_____	Total#
_____	Cost

Zonal Geranium 4 1/2" Pot - \$5.00 each	
_____	Pink Zonal Geranium
_____	White Zonal Geranium
_____	Red Zonal Geranium
_____	Violet Zonal Geranium
_____	Total#
_____	Cost

News: Some extra flowers will be available for sale on Pick-Up Day.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Let us know if you need delivery.