



News By Degrees

NOVEMBER-JANUARY 2025



President's Message

I recently took a course on risk communication at work. It was very interesting to learn that facts don't change behavior. Changing someone's feelings changes behavior. In hindsight, it makes sense. How many of us have family members who use their phones while driving. You can tell them the statistics about crashes due to distracted driving and they don't change their behavior. However, if they know someone who has gotten into an accident, it changes their feelings about using their phone while driving.

How might we apply this concept to the issues important to AAUW members? When talking about equal pay day, we have a lot of facts at our fingertips, but should we be talking about how someone's daughter is making less than her counterparts or that she doesn't seem to have the same opportunities for advancement because she is a parent. When speaking about Title IX with a neighbor, are there opportunities to talk about the differences in athletics for their daughters compared to their sons. Do you have stories from your own lives that could compel a conversation about these and other important issues? I sure do. I could talk about my sixth-grade teacher who wouldn't recommend me for advanced math in seventh grade because I didn't socialize with the other girls in my class. Or my college advisor who told me I should be a nurse rather than an engineer. Of course, being a nurse is an important and honored career, but my heart was in engineering. I encourage you to think about your stories and begin changing minds and behavior with personal activism around why the issues that AAUW advocates for are important and change lives.

- Genevieve

Upcoming Events

- *VOTE, Nov. 5*
- *Veteran's Day, Nov. 11*
- *Novel Approach, Nov. 11 at 1pm. ZOOM or F2F*
- *Speaker & Discussion, Nov. 14 at 7pm ZOOM*
- *Dining Out Group, Nov. 23 6pm*
- *Jewel card orders due, Nov. 25*
- *Brunch, Dec. 7 at 9am; Rising Early Coffee*
- *Celebrating Women, Dec. 9 at 1pm, ZOOM*
- *Novel Approach, Jan. 20, at 1pm ZOOM*
- *Novel Approach, Feb, 17, at 1PM, ZOOM*

November General Meeting

Important Women Of the Columbian Exposition with Jennifer Scavone - November Branch Meeting

Women played an impressive role in the Columbian Exposition - the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. Sophia Hayden, Mary Cassatt, Bertha Honoré to name a few. We will learn about the Queen Isabella Association, the World's Congress of Representative Women and the fair's connection to women's suffrage.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, November 14 at 7:00 p.m. to join the presentation and post presentation branch discussion/meeting online. Jennifer Scavone is the same person that presented the 10 Notable Women Artists meeting in September. **Details with a link (I will confirm if Webex is required) for joining the meeting will be sent out the week of November 11. Lynn & Mary**



December Holiday Celebration & Brunch

Saturday, December 7 at 9:00 a.m.

Early Rise Cafe 1477 W Schaumburg Road



We are excited to try a new venue for our annual holiday brunch. Rising Early Cafe is locally owned and recently opened with an extensive breakfast and lunch menu. The brunch is always a special gathering - breakfast, chatting and assembling the stockings for WINGS. Please let Mary or Lynn know by December 4 if you plan to attend the brunch. *Note - we will not have separate checks so bring cash or a check to pay Barb for your breakfast (Zelle is another option). Lynn & Mary

NOTE: Reminder, Lynn is collecting items for both the Children's stockings and the Teen's stockings. Refer to her email updates or on page 6 of this newsletter for more detail.

Public Policy Update, Ken Olson

Well, election day is almost here. Thanks to Mary and Lynn for providing an excellent program on misinformation and some of the ways it is being created and used in our election. Certainly, a good prep for our voting.

I know that many of you have joined me and millions of others in voting early. As of October 25, the Illinois Board of Elections shows that a total of 1,422,768 early votes had been cast in the state. Of these 797,725 were early in-person voting and 625,043 were mail-in ballots. If you haven't voted yet, please do and encourage any friends and family who have not yet voted to do so as well. It is one important way to make our voices heard. In addition to voting our Branch has done an excellent job of communicating with our state and federal elected officials. We need to keep it up. We will be watching the coming State Veto Session, the Lame Duck session and then early next year the legislature for opportunities to encourage them to support legislation that aligns with AAUW priorities.

We do hope that after November 5 the rhetoric of the campaign season will be toned down. Unfortunately, because of the support on one side, I expect Project 2025 to continue in the news. On Tuesday October 22nd, AAUW California Public Policy presented a webinar that I think you would find of interest now and for the future "Project 2025 and How It Would Impact AAUW Public Policy Priorities". The recording, presentation, and Q&A can be found here: [Project 2025 and How it Would Impact AAUW Public Policy Priorities Webinar - AAUW California](#)

One interesting item from outside the normal political world is that Melinda French Gates recently announced a \$250 million global open call to support women's mental and physical health around the world through [Action for Women's Health](#). Eligible organizations serve women and have a track record of improving women's mental or physical health. They should center equity in their approach and be poised to scale their work to strengthen the health of more women. Each awardee will receive flexible funding between \$1 million and \$5 million USD. It will be interesting to follow this and see the impacts in coming years.

When we Vote, We Win

Celebrating Women—Dec 9 at 1pm Kathy/Peg

A discussion of the iconic Lilly Ledbetter, who recently passed at 86, will be **Monday, December 9 at 1PM on Zoom**. She's described by Deborah Vagins, director of Equal Pay Today, as an ordinary woman "who sparked a movement and changed the face of pay equity forever". Links to videos and interviews of Lilly for you to review will be sent later in November.



Taking a look ahead to 2025, we're thinking about some ideas for a February program including one about **Shirley Chisholm**, the first Black woman to seek the nomination for president of a major party.

Also, in the spring we plan to discuss two books, *That Librarian: The Fight Against Book Banning in America* by **Amanda Jones**, a middle school librarian in Watson, La., who spoke out against censorship by Christian Nationalists in her community and faced a backlash, including death threats. The book is available at libraries, bookstores and online hardback and an eBook.



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The second book is *The Vegetarian*, by South Korean author **Han Kan** the 2024 winner of the Nobel Prize for literature. It tells the story of a young woman who decides to give up meat, but the story turns into so much more according to an NPR review. Originally published in 2007, it was published in English in 2016, so it's available in libraries and bookstores. You may want to read both books or chose one, but there's plenty of time between now and spring. Happy reading!

Editors Note: I was so excited to visit the Nobel Prize Museum and the Stockholm City Hall (Nobel Prize Banquet is held there) while I was in Stockholm this summer. Kathy has been there as well. These awardees deserve our attention and discussion.

Dining Out Group, November 23 at 6PM

Reminder.... the dining out group date changed from November 9 to November 23. We will be going to Cooper's Hawk restaurant in South Barrington at 6 o'clock. The couples attending are Judy and Bob, Janet and Jim, Sue and Bob and yours truly. If anyone else would like to join us, please let me know by next week. Fran

Jewel Gift Card Fundraiser

Our next Jewel Gift Card order will be placed on Monday, November 25th. This will assure that our cards will be available for pickup at our December brunch.

If you would like to be included in this order, please let me know the denominations which you would like to purchase. Amounts can be \$5 to \$250 per gift card. Please send your payment to Barb by November 25th.

This is always a great time to purchase extra cards for holiday gifts and to donate to charitable organizations.

Thanks for your continued support. Additional dates for our Jewel card fundraisers are February 10, March 31, and May 15. Sue

Flower Sale Wrap Up

Dear Marvelous Mum distributors and Contributors,

In case you didn't see my email, I want to again thank you for supporting our 2024 Fall Mum Sale. We continue to do better each year with this year selling 105 gorgeous mums and receiving a \$30.00 donation totaling \$1884.50. After factoring the cost plus a \$75 delivery fee, we made \$519.25.

This couldn't be possible without the work of Judy Lewis and Barb's tabulations, Genevieve's house and hospitality, Sue, Lynn, Peg, Ken, Janice, Noreen, and wonderful husbands unloading, counting, and arranging the mums. Even the driver was very helpful.

Enjoy your beautiful fall and gigantic pots of mums.

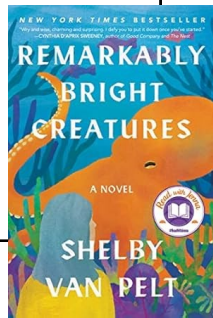
Judy Stewart



Novel Approach

Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt **November 11 at 1PM**

Novel group will meet on Monday, November 11 at my house. I will be discussing the book Remarkable Bright Creatures, by Shelby Van Pelt. It is a New York bestseller that received 30,000 five star reviews. Tova a widow takes a job at the Sowell Bay Aquarium where she develops a bond with Marcellus, a giant pacific octopus. He holds a key to the mysterious disappearance of her 18 year old son. It is a story told from two points of view, Tova and Marcellus. It is a story full of hope, and future happiness. It is being made into a movie with Sally Field playing Tova. Three of us went to hear the author speak at the Schaumburg Library in September. I can't wait to share everything I learned at the presentation. Fran

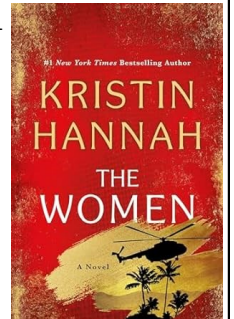


The Women by Kristin Hannah **January 20 at 1PM**

This novel is an intimate portrait of coming of age in a dangerous time and features an epic tale of a nation divided during the Viet Nam War that several of your loved ones may have served in, including my husband. This book reveals the powerful contributions and sacrifices of the American military nurses who served in a cruel war whose agencies refused to acknowledge that they were even there.

It begins with nursing student Frances McGrath joining the Army Nurse Corps after her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam. Not only did she have to deal with the chaos and destruction of the war each day, she had to deal with the divided, protesting, angry, America when she got home. The ending is a tribute to the heroism of the brave nurses who unselfishly served in this unpopular war.

Judy Stewart will be your host on January 20, 2025 at a 1:00 p.m. on Zoom. As the date approaches, please let me know if you are joining us. If you have any stories or pictures to share, please feel free to bring them.



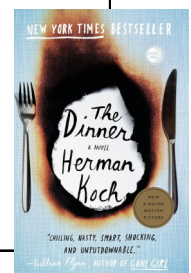
The Dinner by Herman Koch **February 17 at 1PM**

An internationally bestselling phenomenon: the darkly suspenseful, highly controversial tale of two families struggling to make the hardest decision of their lives - all over the course of one meal.

It's a summer's evening in Amsterdam, and two couples meet at a fashionable restaurant for dinner. Between mouthfuls of food and over the polite scrapings of cutlery, the conversation remains a gentle hum of polite discourse - the banality of work, the triviality of the holidays. But behind the empty words, terrible things need to be said, and with every forced smile and every new course, the knives are being sharpened.

Each couple has a fifteen-year-old son. The two boys are united by their accountability for a single horrific act; an act that has triggered a police investigation and shattered the comfortable, insulated worlds of their families. As the dinner reaches its culinary climax, the conversation finally touches on their children. As civility and friendship disintegrate, each couple show just how far they are prepared to go to protect those they love.

Tautly written, incredibly gripping, and told by an unforgettable narrator, this novel reveals the dark side of genteel society and asks what each of us would do in the face of unimaginable tragedy. Genevieve



Some detail for the Stockings project that supports WINGS

From Lynn...In addition to the sixty {stockings} we assembled last year they are asking if we are able to contribute 30 additional holiday stockings for an older 13 - 17 year age group. Following is the guidance from WINGS for the older group.

"Gifts such as hair tools, earbuds, art supplies, books, journals, cozy socks, or backup chargers and power banks would be great options to consider. We want to make sure the teens feel just as special during the holidays, and these kinds of items would really bring a smile to their faces."

I will purchase all the mesh stockings from Oriental Trading and I will purchase all the stretchy gloves from Amazon. As in the past we will plan to assemble the stockings at the Holiday Brunch on December 7.

I have a covered bin on my porch for donation drop off. Please ring the bell but also know your items are safe on the porch if no one is home. Let me know if you have questions about supplies.

Thank you again on behalf of WINGS for your continued generous support.

Let's Thank our Veterans, especially on November 11, Veterans Day

The theme for Veterans Day 2024 is "A Legacy of Loyalty and Service". This theme honors the dedication and personal sacrifices of those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

