



# News By Degrees

FEBRUARY TO APRIL 2025



## President's Message

Our small and mighty branch earned 3-stars this year! The AAUW Five Star Program is designed to help branches like ours align with AAUW's strategic priorities and advance our mission of achieving gender equity for women and girls. Because of your efforts, the Schaumburg Area Branch had the third highest rating in the state. Amazing job! For information on this program and the criteria to earn stars, go to [Five-Star Program – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#).

A new calendar year has started with already a number of changes that impact on AAUW's mission. I am finding it hard to turn on the news but when I do, I am reminded of the need for continued advocacy. AAUW national has shared a number of resources and emails lately on how the AAUW is relevant and poised to contribute. If you aren't already signed up for the two-minute advocate, I would encourage you to do so. If you have an idea about an advocacy project for our 3-star branch, I encourage you to bring it to the Board.

The Board recently met. We discussed a number of items that I wanted to pass along here.

- We have the Spring Convention coming up in April in Springfield. We have a couple of members planning to attend. If you are considering attending, I want to remind everyone that we have money in the budget to help offset any costs.
- The national dues are likely to increase \$5.00 per year. However, the Board voted to keep our Branch dues at \$9.00 per year.
- Peg and Lynn have agreed to staff a nominating committee to find a new Branch President. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the amazing Board over the last three years but I will need to step down at the conclusion of this year. Please seriously consider taking on this role. You will have the best support that you can imagine both from the Board and the membership. Anyone of you would be well qualified to lead the Branch. And there is no time in recent history that has needed AAUW to be strong as right now.

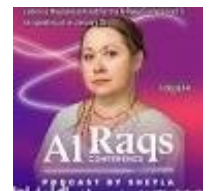
Continue reading the newsletter about many more great happenings including informative program, future fundraisers, website changes and our interest groups.  
- Genevieve

## Upcoming Events

- *Jewel card orders due, Feb 10*
- *General meeting, Feb 12, 7pm, Zoom*
- *Novel Approach, Feb, 17, at 1PM, ZOOM*
- *Celebrating Women, Feb. 24, 1pm, Zoom*
- *Novel Approach, March 17, 1pm, Zoom*
- *General meeting, March 20, 7pm, Zoom*
- *Equal Pay Day 2025, March 25*
- *Flower orders due, March 31*
- *Jewel Card Order, March 31*
- *General meeting, April 10, 7pm, Zoom*
- *Novel Approach, April 21, 1pm, Zoom*
- *AAUW-IL Convention, April 25/26, Springfield*
- *Jewel Card Order, May 15*
- *Flower pick up, May 16*

## February General Meeting

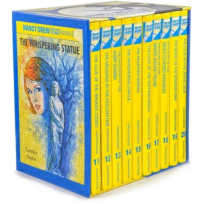
Dr. Margaret (Meg) Morley, Educator and Cultural anthropologist, Fulbright & AAUW Fellow. Feb 12, 7pm via Zoom



On February 12th Dr. Meg Morely, a cultural anthropologist and seasoned belly dancer will provide a unique lens into the belly dancing world. Dr. Morely has a Phd. in anthropology and a year of immersive research in Cairo. She is a Fulbright Scholar and an AAUW Fellow. Dr. Morely will begin at 7:00 and we will conclude with a business meeting following her presentation. Hope you all can join us for what promises to be an enlightening presentation.

Mary and Lynn

## Spring General Meetings March 20 and April 10



General Meeting Thursday, March 20 7:00 p.m. Virtual  
**The Mystery of Nancy Drew with Leslie Goddard**

Daring. Decisive. Discerning. What's not to love? Very few fictional characters enjoy the fame, celebrity and longevity of Nancy Drew. Learn more about America's favorite sleuth, her creators, her reach and her impact on generations of readers.

General Meeting Thursday, April 10, 2025 7:00 p.m. Virtual  
**America's First Ladies: The Best, The Worst, and the Strangely Forgotten with Leslie Goddard**

The role of First Lady comes with hefty responsibility. Thrown into the spotlight, she's the object of criticism, admiration and ordinary observations. However, once she leaves the public eye, she leaves the collective memory as well. Leslie Goddard spills the tea on some former First Ladies.

Both meetings with Leslie Goddard are from 7 - 8:00 p.m. and will be followed with a business and discussion meeting. Links will be forwarded closer to the meeting dates.

## Public Policy Update, Ken Olson

Last month I expressed the hope that after the election the rhetoric would tone down. Unfortunately, given the results of the election, it has ramped up even further. When talking about Public Policy right now it is challenging to know where to start. Given the administration's attacks on DEI, education, refugees, health care, reproductive rights, science, the judicial system, relief efforts and more, chaos is the rule of the day. Unfortunately, that seems to be the SOP for this administration, distract us with all the "noise", tire us out and then get more of their radical ideas through when we aren't paying attention. It will take a concentrated and coordinated effort among many groups to stand up to the attacks that will continue to come. AAUW is working to assure that we are

AAUW is finalizing our Biennial Action Priorities for federal action. The recent member survey was part of determining those priorities. They are chosen to provide viability, meet critical needs, have strong member support, and have the potential for distinctive AAUW contribution or leadership. The national priorities help state and local branches determine where they may be most effective.

AAUW's priorities are domestic issues and given the nature of our membership, higher education is a primary area of work. Priorities are being finalized, but overall we will continue to support equitable access to higher education that promotes gender fairness, equity, diversity and inclusivity, and to address the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women and girls.

At the state level the Illinois General Assembly is currently in session and will remain in session until May 31st. The General Assembly reconvenes for two weeks in the Fall to consider the Governor's vetoes. Bills are just beginning to be introduced and I am working with the other co-Director of Public Policy and our lobbyist to determine bills for AAUW to support or oppose based on our policies. As the session moves forward you can expect requests to submit witness slips in support of or opposition to specific bills. One thing that has been requested by AAUW members is to try to let folks know as much as possible about bills before they come up. We will look for ways to do that.

At the local level our branch will again be working to increase awareness of Equal Pay Day. **Equal Pay Day 2025 is on March 25 and marks the current state of the gender pay gap for women: 83% for full-time, year-round workers and 75% for all workers (including part-time and seasonal). The dates for specific groups are still pending but will be available soon.**

**Please let me know if you have questions, comments or information. I do appreciate them.**

## Novel Approach

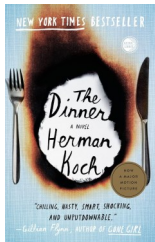
### **The Dinner by Herman Koch February 17 at 1PM**

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.

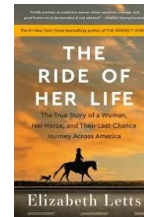
Each couple has a fifteen-year-old son. The two boys are united by their accountability for a single horrific act; an act that has triggered a police investigation and shattered the comfortable, insulated worlds of their families. As the dinner reaches its culinary climax, the conversation finally touches 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



### **The Ride of her Life: The True Story of a Woman, Her Horse, and Their Last-Chance Journey Across America by Elizabeth Letts, March 17 at 1pm**

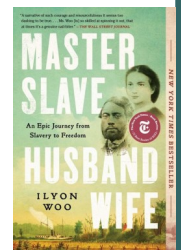
Saddle up your horses ladies as we go for a four – thousand mile ride with sixty-three year old Maine farmer Annie Wilkins in 1954. True story, Annie has no money, no family and has just lost her farm. Oh, and her doctor has told her she only has two years to live. But she wants to see the Pacific Ocean, so she buys a cast-off horse, Tarzen and rides off on her gelding with her faithful mutt, Depeche Toi in tow. She meets ordinary folk and celebrities on her journey as she inspires an outpouring of neighborliness in a changing post-war world. Let's discuss her amazing journey! Kathy S.



### **Master Slave Husband Wife: An epic journey from slave to freedom by Ilyon Woo, April 21 at 1PM, Zoom**

Join us to discuss this remarkable true story of Ellen and William Craft, who escaped slavery through daring, determination, and disguise, with Ellen passing as a wealthy, disabled White man and William posing as "his" slave. In 1848, this young enslaved couple, achieved one of the boldest feats of self-emancipation in American history. Posing as master and slave, while sustained by their love as husband and wife, they made their escape together across more than 1,000 miles, riding out in the open on steamboats, carriages, and trains that took them from bondage in Georgia to the free states of the North and beyond.

The tale of their adventure soon made them celebrities, and generated headlines around the country. Americans could not get enough of this charismatic young couple. With three epic journeys compressed into one monumental bid for freedom, Master Slave Husband Wife is an American love story—one that would challenge the nation's core precepts of life, liberty, and justice for all—one that challenges us even now.. (adapted from NYT) Peg



\*Get Ready for May 19: **Lady Tan's Circle of Women** by Lisa See

## Celebrating Women—Feb 24 at 1pm

Celebrating Women—Movie Time! “Shirley” and “The Six Triple Eight” on Netflix

Monday, February 24, at 1PM on Zoom

By Peg and Kathy



Perfect for Black History Month, let’s discuss the two movies listed above about strong, amazing women. Shirley Chisholm made history as the first African American woman to run for president. According to Ann Hornaday in the Daily Herald, Regina King gives a lively, convincing portrayal of pioneering U.S. Congresswomen Chisholm whose campaign slogan was “Unbought and Unbossed.”

The second movie, a period drama by Tyler Perry tells the true story of the only Black female WWII battalion sent to Europe where their job was to unplug a three-year bottleneck of mail from GIs to folks back home and vice versa. Of course, they weren’t wanted there by Army brass who didn’t make their job any easier.



Springtime (month and date TBD) brings two nonfiction books to discuss regarding book banning and the influence of Christian Nationalism on public education.

*That Librarian: The Fight Against Book Banning in America* by Amanda Jones, tells her story of 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. *They Came for the Schools* by Mike Hixenbaugh is the story of how a Texas school board win for Christian Nationalists is undermining public education. Read one or both for the discussion. The books are available at libraries and bookstores.



## Holiday Stockings & Gift Bag Appreciation Note, Lynn

Thank you to all our branch members for your very generous contributions to the stockings and gift bags for WINGS. Your contributions were so creative and I know very much appreciated by the children when they were distributed at the WINGS holiday party.

Assembly of the stockings at Rising Early Cafe was a little confusing but we still got it done! Management at the cafe was very supportive of our time at the restaurant and has welcomed us back for next year. Many thanks to all of you!

## Jewel Gift Card Fundraiser

I would like to place our next Jewel Gift Card order on Monday, February 10. 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. Also, please send your payment to Barb by February 10.

Additional Jewel gift card fundraisers will be on Monday, March 31 (before Passover and Easter) and on Thursday, May 15.

Your continued support of this fundraiser is very much appreciated. Thank you!  
Sue



## Flower Sale – Think Spring!!

Welcome to all our Spring Flower aficionados! With this frigid weather that we have experienced in the past, we will truly appreciate the Spring season and the flowers that will bloom this year in your gardens.

To capitalize on that thought, we will be sponsoring our Spring AAUW Flower Fundraiser where you can order a vast variety of gorgeous plants by March 31st, have an easy pick-up destination on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at (208 Beech Street in Schaumburg), and **enjoy last year's similar prices on most of the flowers.**

Flowers will include our vast variety of bedding plants, accent plants, premium annuals, hanging baskets, planters, and ever hardy geraniums. Flower pouches are back too.

Just fill out the attached order form with the number of plants that you would like to purchase. Total the plants on the first line and the total cost on the line next to it. Please fill out your name, address, email, and phone on the bottom lines included in the form. Next make a copy of your order form to bring on pick-up day which is Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Place your original order form with a check made out to Schaumburg AAUW for the total cost of your plants. Send the form and check to Judy Lewis at 1640 Brittany Lane, Hoffman Estates, IL 60192 several days before March 31<sup>st</sup>.

My gratitude goes out to Mary this time for her help with the plant prices. Thanks also to Peg for sending this information out to everyone. Thank you in advance is extended to Judy Lewis for collecting the checks and the order forms. We couldn't do this fundraiser without all of you supporting us by purchasing and helping distribute the flowers.

Thank you for supporting our fundraiser.. Judy Stewart

## Nominating Committee Request

As Genevieve mentioned, she will be ending her term as President for our branch in May. Sue has also decided that after many years as Membership Director, she will step aside at the end of this term. Both Genevieve and Sue have been great leaders for us, always supportive of our AAUW mission and our members.

We are very lucky that the other board members have decided to stay in their roles for next year. Let us know if you want to discuss this “opportunity” to be our branch president or our branch membership director. Perhaps it is your turn to step up (maybe even again!) to serve our branch for a two-year term

Lynn and Peg

**AAUW SPRING 2025 FLOWER FUNDRAISER**

**Pick-up:** Friday, May 16th, 2025 at Genevieve's  
208 Beech St., Schaumburg, IL  
**From:** 1:00 p.m. to 7:p.m Bring order copy  
**Question:** [JudyLynnStewart47@outlook.com](mailto:JudyLynnStewart47@outlook.com)  
[daminco.genevieve@gmail.com](mailto:daminco.genevieve@gmail.com)

**FLOWER PICK-UP** [FRIDAY, MAY 16th 2025](#)  
**ORDER DEADLINE** [Monday, March 31st, 2025](#)  
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 Brittany 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**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>_____ Gerbera Daisy</li> <li>_____ New Guinea Impatiens</li> <li>_____ Non Stop Begonias</li> <li>_____ Osteospermum</li> <li>_____ Pennisetum Rubrum (grass)</li> <li>_____ Dragon Wing Begonias - RED</li> <li>_____ Dragon Wing Begonias - PINK</li> <li>_____ <b>Sweet Potato Vine</b></li> <li>_____ Blackie</li> <li>_____ Lime Green</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>_____ <b>Lantana</b></li> <li>_____ Yellow</li> <li>_____ Red Shades</li> <li>_____ Pink Shades</li> <li>_____ <b>Wave Petunias</b></li> <li>_____ Blue Wave (dark purple)</li> <li>_____ Pink Wave (medium pink)</li> <li>_____ Purple Wave (magenta)</li> </ul> |
|---|--|
- 
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Total #**      \_\_\_\_\_ **Cost\$**

**ACCENT PLANTS 3" pot - \$4.00 each**

- |              |                 |                  |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
| _____ Spikes | _____ Sprengeri | _____ Vinca Vine |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
- 
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Total #**      \_\_\_\_\_ **Cost\$**

**HANGING BASKETS 10" - \$18.50 each**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>_____ Boston Fern</li> <li>_____ New Guinea Impatiens</li> <li>_____ Non-Stop Begonias</li> <li>_____ Ivy Geraniums</li> <li>_____ Combination of Flowers - <b>SUN</b></li> <li>_____ Combination of Flowers - <b>SHADE</b></li> <li>_____ Combination of Flowers - <b>PART SUN</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>_____ Impatiens</li> <li>_____ Fuchsia</li> <li>_____ Million Bells (Calibrachoa)</li> <li>_____ Wave Petunias</li> </ul> |
|---|--|
- 
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Total#**      \_\_\_\_\_ **Cost \$**

**PLANTERS - 12" - \$24.50 each (Dark Red Geranium Planters are back!)**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 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" - \$16.50 each**

- |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| _____ White | _____ Red    |
| _____ Pink  | _____ Violet |
- 
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Total#**      \_\_\_\_\_ **Cost**

**Zonal Geranium 4/12" 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.      \_\_\_\_\_