

Press Clippings 03/26/2019

---Kane County Connects---03/26/2019

YWCA Elgin announces 2019 Women Leader Nominees



The **YWCA Elgin** has announced the nominees for its **36th Annual Leader Luncheon Awards** to be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, May 9, 2019, at The Seville in Streamwood. The Leader Luncheon is attended by hundreds of community leaders, business and community representatives and volunteers.



“Our YWCA Leader Luncheon continues to be a highly recognized and time-honored community event and tradition to acknowledge women from Elgin and the surrounding communities,” said Rebecca Hardekopf, this year’s Leader Luncheon chair.

All nominations are reviewed and judged by community members.

One woman from each category will be selected and announced at the Leader Luncheon. The following women community leaders have been nominated by their colleagues and peers:

- **Margaret Hillis Award for the Arts:** Jane Erlandson, Madeline Franklin and Ursula Borodzinska.
- **Beatrice Dorsey Award for Business & Professions:** Aimee Novelli, Mary Martini and Mary Pierce.
- **Marguerite Henry Award for Communications & Technology:** Margarita Mendoza and Natalie Kiburg.
- **Harriet Gifford & Hattie Griffin Award for Education:** Abigail Bailey, PhD., **Andrea Gaitan-Bustos** and **Dr. Ushma Shah**.
- **Myrtle Spiegler Gerberding Award for Public Service:** Sgt. Katy Potts and Kim Wascher.
- **Betty Brown Award for Racial Justice:** Paola Velasquez.
- **Marie Grolich Award for Social Services:** Lea Conrad and Mary Jo Imperato.

- **Marjorie Leonard Award for Volunteer & Community Service:** Carri Laird, Patty Aroyo, Nancy Gerner and Wendy Covich.



Gilbertson

“In addition to acknowledging our Leader Luncheon recipients,” adds Hardekopf, “we are very pleased to announce that business leader Jane Blain Gilbertson, president, CEO, and sole owner of 41 Blain’s Farm & Fleet stores, will be our keynote speaker.”

Blain Gilbertson leads stores located throughout Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, and Michigan and Blain Supply, Inc., headquartered in Janesville, Wisconsin. The family owned companies were founded in 1955 and currently employ 4,400 associates.

Her recognitions include: Janesville Gazette’s “50 Who Matter”, 2005; Forward Janesville’s “Athena” award recipient, 2006; Craig High School Graduates’ Honor Wall of Fame, 2006; YWCA of Rock County’s Woman of Distinction Award recipient, 2007; Forward Janesville’s Lifetime Achievement Award recipient 2017; Rock County Historical Society Phoenix Award, 2017.

Call the YWCA Elgin at 847-742-7930 or visit ywcaelgin.ywca.org/LL19 for more information, to purchase tickets, or become a sponsor of this prestigious event.

SOURCE: YWCA Elgin news release

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YWCA Elgin announces 2019 Women Leader Nominees

Submitted By: Pat Szpekowski

It's spring break time and Danny's on Douglas in downtown Elgin is having a "staycation party" with a purpose.

A "Get the Zed Out" free event to attract young Elgin Gen Z and millennial voters will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 28, at Danny's on Douglas, 231 Douglas Ave.

The free "Get the Zed Out" event, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Elgin Area, will feature plenty of free pizza, Elgin's Mama Lee's popcorn, music, and a good time.

It will provide an opportunity for people to learn more about Grace Period Voter Registration and the upcoming April 2 election.

"While all are welcome," said Wendy Covich, of the League of Women Voters of Elgin, "a big goal of this nonpartisan gathering is to get young people informed and engaged in the electoral process so they will head to the polls."

"It's never been easier to register to vote and with early voting locations and mail-in ballots, it has never been easier to cast your vote, too," added Covich.

Now during Early Voting through April 2, Elgin voters will be electing a mayor as well as city council members, and Elgin Community College District 509 and **Elgin Area School District U-46 board members**.

League of Women Voters of the Elgin Area and Elgin Standing Together volunteers will have information on hand about where to register and vote in advance or on the day of the election.

Organizers have also invited all candidates running for local offices to the mixer.

"Voter turnout typically has been low for these off-year elections at around 13 percent," said Ramona Burns of Elgin Standing Together. "We're hoping 'Get the Zed Out' will bring up those numbers. After all, decisions made by the local government have a direct impact on our daily lives. Parents may fret about what they pay in property and sales taxes and other fees for services. What the City Council and School Boards do should also matter to young people."

Host and owner of Danny's on Douglas, Jerry Dalton, is pleased to host the event. "It's spring break and while it might not be a trip to the beach, the 'Get the Zed Out' event should be fun," Dalton said. "Those attending will learn about the upcoming Elgin election, registering to vote and becoming a better and informed citizen all in one place."

For more information, visit Elgin Standing Together at www.facebook.com/ElginStandingTogether/ or League of Women Voters of the Elgin Area at www.facebook.com/LWVElginArea/.