



Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 76, No. 4 • December 2014

December 10

Celebrate with AAUW

The Holiday Party will be on Wednesday, December 10, from 7pm-10pm. It will be held at the home of Jan Alexander, 242 N. Caroline, Elmhurst. This is directly across from East End parking lot exit. There is plenty of street parking and the lot is also available. If anyone needs to park in the driveway, that can be arranged also.

If your last name begins with A-L, please bring an appetizer. If it begins with M-Z, please bring a dessert. Please bring finger foods only. A \$5 donation is requested. Any questions, please call Jan at 630-745-0187 or email at doctorja7100@gmail.com.

Put AAUW on Your Gift List!

When you're doing your year-end charitable giving, don't forget AAUW. Go to <http://www.aauw.org/contribute> to find out how to give to AAUW in general or to specific causes such as research, education or advocacy. Any contribution you make will also be credited to our Branch giving total.

Annual Book Study

Plan ahead for the AAUW meeting on January 14th at the Elmhurst Public Library. This is our annual Book Study Meeting and we will discuss *A call to Action: Women, Religion, Violence and Power* by President Jimmy Carter.

In this groundbreaking book, President Carter touches on many issues important to AAUW members. He focuses on the discrimination and abuse of women and girls in many countries from the most shocking and disturbing human rights abuses to the social undercurrent of discrimination in the U.S. that results in fewer promotions, lower pay and unequal representation in leadership positions. *Call to Action* is a must read.

Public Policy Update

Thanks to the voters in last month's elections, Alma Adams (R) of North Carolina has become the 100th woman member of the current 113th Congress. This is the highest number of women in Congress in U.S. history. --Genie Urick



Branch Calendar

December 1 - 1:00 pm
Noontime Potpourri Discussion Group
Restaurant: 100 South
(York & Park Streets)

December 2- 6:30 pm
Half the Sky
Holiday Dinner
Rio's (1600 W. Lake St.,
Addison)
Reservations: Jan Summers

December 4 - 1:00 pm
Book Discussion Group
"Boys in a Boat"
by Daniel James Brown
Discussion Leader:
Joanne McCurdy
Hostess: Joanne McCurdy

December 10 - 7 pm-10 pm
Next AAUW Meeting
"Annual Holiday Party"
Jan Alexander's Home

AAUW Publishes Gift Guide for Girls

Giving a gift to a girl in your life is more than just a way to celebrate the holidays: It's a way to empower girls to believe in themselves, be creative, dream big, and try new things. For the third year in a row AAUW has published a list of recommendations that look beyond the "pink aisle" to find gifts that will stay with girls all year long. Take a look at <http://www.aauw.org/2014/11/10/gift-guide-2014>. Guides for 2013 and 2012 are also available online.



AAUW Hotline 1-800-326-2289

Email: info@aauwelmhurst.org

Mission Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

AAUW Value Promise

By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so all women have a fair chance.

Membership

The American Association of University Women is open to any graduate holding an associate or equivalent, baccalaureate, or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution.

AAUWFUNDS

The AAUW Funds support educational fellowships and grants, legal advocacy, public policy, leadership programs and research reports.

ELMHURST AREA BRANCH

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FINANCIAL REPORT

November 25, 2014

Sandra Burk

Director of Finance

Book Sale Fund	\$ 4,062.43
Conference Fund	2,774.88
General Fund	<u>3,401.99</u>
Total Account	
Balance	\$10,239.30

President's December Message

As I write this, we are still digesting the results of the state and congressional elections.

It was a bad night for women candidates on the national level, although there were several firsts for women: the first female governor of Rhode Island and the first African American Republican woman elected to Congress. On the state level, ballot initiatives that reflect AAUW priorities generally passed.

However, as Denise Dean summarized for us at our Branch meeting, AAUW has a number of concerns about the impact of the elections on issues that are important to women. Read more at <http://www.aauw.org/2014/11/05/midterms-takeaways-2014>. A very important factor is that not enough women voted. Women tend to vote for candidates who are supportive of women's issues, but this time around, the "gender gap" on issues was overwhelmed by the low "women's vote."

What can we do about this? Although elections come only every 2 years, AAUW works hard all the time to advance our mission of creating an environment that permits women to thrive. Every week our legislative corps visits Capitol Hill to lobby for laws and regulations that will safeguard women's rights and provide equal opportunity. We have a strong policy expert in our Vice President, Government Relations, Lisa Maatz. To quote from the AAUW web site:

*As AAUW's top policy adviser, Maatz works to advance AAUW's priority issues on Capitol Hill, in the White House, and in coalition with other organizations. She is a sought-after speaker across the nation and in our nation's capital, and has a large and devoted following on Twitter. Lisa also provides leadership to several coalitions working to advance opportunities for women and girls, including the National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education and the Paycheck Fairness Act Coalition. Recently featured in the book *Secrets of Powerful Women*, Lisa has developed a reputation for her strategic approach to legislation and advocacy.*

Through our membership dues and our work on the Used Book Sale, which raised \$2500 for the Legal Advocacy Fund and \$5700 for unrestricted purposes of AAUW, we are contributing to AAUW's voice in Washington and elsewhere. However, each of us can also help by becoming a Two Minute Activist and contacting our legislators when AAUW alerts us to upcoming votes or hearings. (It goes without saying that if you use the AAUW link or identify yourself as an AAUW member, you should be writing in support of AAUW's position.) And when the next election comes around, let's work to get out the women's vote!

Sarah Caltvedt
Branch President

November Meeting Highlights



November Branch Meeting. Group shot with AAUW Funds Chair, Elaine Davison, asking for a vote on the distribution of the Used Book Sale Funds.



Denise Dean and Jeannette Flaningam



Margaret Pruter and Dorothy Valintis



Getting to Know Vivian Maier

The November Branch meeting featured Dramatic Book Reviewed, Jenny Riddle, dressed as Vivian Maier with one of her "favorite music teachers," Mary Hallman. Shown here with XXXX, Jenny is a lifelong Elmhurst resident who attended Elmhurst grammar and union high schools as well as York High School

AAUW TechSavvy Conference November 15, 2014 • IIT • Wheaton Campus



Volunteers Pat O'Dwyer, Alice Smith and Leslie Stipe from AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch helped organize the 2014 TechSavvy Conference at the Wheaton Campus of IIT. Pat worked the Membership Table while Alice served as on-site event coordinator and Leslie helped with the coordination of volunteers.



Leslie Stipe and Alice Smith show off their "Volunteer" t-shirts.



The purpose of the conference was to provide information on the importance of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), including hands-on workshops. The all day meeting was open to 6th through 9th grade girls and their parents.