



Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 76, No. 6 • February 2015

February 11th Branch Meeting

Blair Brettschneider will be joining us from GirlForward, an organization that is making a difference in the lives of young girls who are refugees living in the Chicago area. She won an AAUW Community Action Grant in 2012-13 and has been recognized as a 2013 CNN Hero. Blair will talk about her young organization and the work she is doing to help teenage girls settling in Chicago.

In addition, Laura Van Prooyen will give a short reading from her new book, *Our House Was on Fire*. This collection of poems was completed with financial backing of AAUW's Career Development Grant that allowed her to earn an MFA in Poetry. She will also share a few words about this process.

AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch 2015-2017 Slate of Officers

Once again our Elmhurst Area Branch is thrilled to present a slate of amazing women ready to take office in 2015. The slate of proposed elected officers includes:

President:	Jan Summers
Treasurer:	Denise Thompson
Membership:	Jennifer Jordan
Program:	Jane Jegerski
AAUW Funds	Marcia Lagerway
Bylaws & Policy:	Denise Dean
Nominating:	Sarah Caltvedt

Procedure requires that we present the nominees in our newsletter before voting in the spring at our business meeting. As always, branch members will receive notice of the election and will be given the opportunity to nominate others from the floor.

The nominating committee composed of chair, Carolyn Heiney, Darlene Van Meir, and Sarah Caltvedt delight in bringing the names of these women to the branch. Both Denise Dean and Jane Jegerski are fairly new members. Jan Summers, Jennifer Jordan, Marcia Lagerway, and Denise Thompson have served or are currently serving in branch leadership positions. Sarah Caltvedt, current president, will serve as the next nominating chair, as has been the custom for many years. When you see these wonderful ladies, please thank them for their willingness to serve on the board.



BRANCH CALENDAR

February 2 - 1:00 pm
**Noontime Potpourri
Discussion Group**
Cafe Amano
(116 Schiller)

February 3 - 7:30 pm
Half the Sky Group
Perry Doubt's Home

February 4 - 7:00 pm
Board of Directors
Elmhurst Public Library

February 11 - 7 pm
Next AAUW Meeting
"GirlForward"
Elmhurst Public Library

February 26 - 1:00 pm
Book Discussion Group
"Still Life with Bread
Crumbs"
by Anna Quindlen
Location: Library
Leader:
Jean Bassindale



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.

AAUW FUNDS

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

ELMHURST AREA BRANCH

NEWS is published ten times a year (August/September through May) by the American Association of University Women - Elmhurst Area Branch.

On the National Front

ESEA. On January 27 the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions committee held its second hearing about the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB). The hearing focused on ways to evaluate teachers. AAUW volunteers advocated on Capitol Hill for AAUW's principles regarding ESEA reauthorization, this time on the House side. This week's focus on education coincided with National School Choice Week, which, despite the name, is truly a push for private school vouchers. AAUW opposes voucher schemes as they often involve federal funding for private and religious schools (a clear violation of separation of church and state), exclusion of students with disabilities, and discrimination based on gender, religion, ability, race, and income.

Paid Parental Leave Act. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) has reintroduced the AAUW-supported Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act, which would make federal employees eligible for six weeks of paid parental leave. Federal workers are currently eligible for only 12 weeks of unpaid parental leave.

Mandatory Reporting Bill for Campus Sexual Assault

A bill has been introduced in the State of Virginia to force public colleges and universities in the state to report allegations of campus sexual assault to the police within 24 hours of notification, regardless of whether the survivor wants to pursue a criminal investigation. Several university officials have spoken against the bill out of concern that mandatory reporting to law enforcement will deter campus sexual assault survivors from coming forward. AAUW opposes mandatory reporting laws. Instead, AAUW seeks changes in how our criminal justice system responds to survivors to make it worth the personal cost of reporting and supports efforts to help communities and schools develop services to not only assist victims but also to aid prevention efforts.

Coming Your Way

May 1-2
 AAUW-Illinois Convention
 Bloomington IL

June 18-21
 National Convention
 San Diego

Spread the Word!

Do you know an adult woman who needs help to continue her education? Our Branch's Returning Student Scholarship can help! This year's award is \$2,500, funded through our annual Used Book Sale. Qualifications include:

- Age 25 or over
- Completion of at least 12 credit hours at an accredited community or undergraduate college or university
- Resident of Elmhurst or an adjacent community

Complete application information is available on our website, aauwelmhurst.org, under Scholarship. Applications are due April 1, and we will hope to meet and congratulate this year's recipient at our May supper.

Public Policy Update

As you probably heard, President Obama has announced a plan offering *free* Community College tuition to some students for the first two years.

AAUW values public education and has funded research that finds more women than ever rely on Community Colleges as a path to higher education and workforce preparation. Community Colleges can definitely help women toward BA degrees in STEM. AAUW is keeping an eye on future developments... *Genie Urick*

FINANCIAL REPORT

January 29, 2015

Sandra J. Burk
 Director of Finance

Book Sale Fund:	\$4,047.43
Conferences Fund	3,385.75
General Fund:	<u>2710.43</u>
Total	\$10,143.61

Bring a Guest to the February Meeting!

President's Message

I want to share with you the news that Dare to Dream is alive and thriving, even though it is no longer held here in Elmhurst.

On Saturday, January 24, more than 700 Latina girls (from 21 schools), parents, mentors, speakers, volunteers and panelists gathered at College of DuPage for the 7th annual Dare to Dream conference. In fact, turnout was so high that an overflow room had to be set up for the plenary sessions.

Energy was high, too, as the girls and mothers listened to presentations by community leaders, career women and college students, all of them Latinas who had dared to dream.

Keynote speaker was Clarisol Duque, who grew up in Humboldt Park and is now Chicago Director and Chief of Staff to Senator Dick Durbin. Illustrating her personal story with a slide show of her travels and the important people she's met, she showed the girls that success can come from working hard, believing in yourself and daring to dream. Other speakers and panelists included Lourdes Duarte of WGN; Joan Velez of the Elmhurst Police Department; lawyers, doctors, teachers and more.

Our Branch can be very proud of what Dare to Dream has accomplished. Two of our members, Dorothy Valintis and Connie Baker, came up with the idea for D2D after attending the AAUW National Convention in Phoenix and hearing about an AAUW program in California that encourages Latina middle and high school girls to complete their education and introduces them to college and career role models.

Recognizing that the Latino population in our area is growing and that Latina girls are at high risk for dropping out of school, Connie and Dorothy conceived of a program that would target middle schoolers before they were exposed to the distractions of high school and that would include their mothers to ensure that the girls would have family support in pursuing an education instead of dropping out to work or have children at an early age.

Connie and Dorothy worked hard with other Branch members for nearly two years, obtained a grant from AAUW, and enlisted the participation of three other AAUW branches. Dare to Dream: Get Educated debuted in 2009 with 105 girls in attendance at Elmhurst College, and it has grown every year since then.

Over the past years, dozens of our Elmhurst Area Branch members have been involved with Dare to Dream in a multitude of roles. At present Susan Boyd is serving as Vice President, and several others have served on the Board. The Branch and individual members continue to provide financial as well as volunteer support to the conference.

Dare to Dream is such a wonderful example of what AAUW can do. It exemplifies our concern for education and equality of opportunity as well as the energy and dedication of our members. Best of all, Dare to Dream works. For example, at West Leyden High School, of the 22 Latinas who attended the first D2D conference, 20 applied to four year colleges in 2013. Clearly AAUW works, too.

SarahCaltvedt
Branch President

January 2015: Dare to Dream and Branch Meeting



Elmhurst Branch volunteers for D2D 2015: : Jennifer Aldred-Berry, Betsy Aldred, Jennifer Jordan, Sarah Caltvedt. Not pictured: Susan Boyd.



Jennifer Jordan and Cindy Grau



Jeanette Flaningham and Mary Eleanor Wall



Amy Allen, Jan Alexander and Florence Beckman



Anne Klein and Jan Summers