



Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 74, No. 4 • December 2012

Holiday Cheer and Live Music at December Meeting

Make it merry! Make it music-filled! Let's enjoy the holiday spirit with a reception at the home of Anne Klein, 280 S. Cottage Hill Ave., Elmhurst on Wednesday, December 12th.. Come together from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. to celebrate our diversity, our blessings, and our commitment to AAUW's mission.

We will enjoy live music with Les Caltvedt on keyboard! We hope you can join us and bring a friend. The cost is \$10.00 per person to cover the costs of wine, soft drinks and appetizers. A reservation form is attached to this newsletter.

For Cookie Lovers Only: We will have plenty of goodies, but if you truly enjoy baking, please feel free to bring along some cookies to share.

Did You Know?

Our local AAUW branch supports STEM and Dare to Dream by covering the insurance costs involved with these events.

With your branch dues we pay increased yearly premiums to cover the insurance needs for both of these partner projects. Your local dues continue to work for women, as do the portions sent to the state and national. You continue to make a difference!

New Website for Elmhurst Branch

Over the last few months Susan Szymanski has been working with AAUW National to create a new website for our branch. This is a free service that AAUW National offers to its branches. Our new website address is elmhurstarea-il.aauw.net

Don't worry if you can't remember the exact address. If you enter Elmhurst Area AAUW in the search box of any search engine our site will come up.

One of the exciting features of this new website is a Member's Only Login.

This feature will allow us to keep our directory, board minutes, meeting minutes, budget, and anything else that we as a branch would like to keep confidential on our website.

To access the Members Only portion of the new website, look for the tab that says Members Login in the upper right hand corner. Click on it and then enter our password AAUWElmhurst. The password is case sensitive, AAUW and the E in Elmhurst must be capitalized and the lmhurst in Elmhurst lower case

The site is still a work in progress. We will soon be adding pictures from our meetings and other events. If you have any questions about navigating through the new website or comments on how we might improve upon it, please contact Susan Szymanski at 630-833-4344.

CALENDAR

December 3 - 1:00 pm
Noontime Potpourri
100 South

Continuation of TIF discussion plus other local area news and issues including the Elmhurst city elections in April. Note new location!

December 4 - 6:30 pm
Half the Sky Group
Dinner
Desi Chili - Westmont

December 6 - 1:00 pm
Book Discussion Group
Georgetown Ladies Society by C. David Heymann
Hostess: Joanne McCurdy

December 12 - 7-9:00 pm
Branch Meeting
Holiday Get Together
Anne Klein's Home
Reservation form enclosed

December 15 (3 pm - 9 pm)
December 16 (11 am - 3 pm)
Gift-Wrapping Service
Barnes & Noble
Oak Brook Center
Donations will go towards Half the Sky Group donations and microloans.





AAUW Hotline 1-800-326-2289

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.

Financial Report

as of October 25, 2012

General Account:	\$3661.30
Savings Account:	1746.45
Book Sale Account	3362.05
Total:	\$8769.80

Half the Sky Interest Group Tops \$1,000 in Donations

Our Half the Sky Interest Group reached a significant milestone at our November meeting.

At each monthly meeting, members may choose to make a monetary donation (usually \$5, but more if they wish). In less than two years, we've collected \$1,090 to donate to international women's organizations, primarily those connected with the Half the Sky Movement (www.halftheskymovement.org).

To date, we have donated \$925. During the past two meetings, we viewed the PBS documentary of Half the Sky, and contributed to the organizations featured in the show. In addition, our group has made eight microloans of \$25 to female business owners in other countries. Five of these loans have been paid back in full. Three loans are still outstanding, with the recipients paying back on-time from the following businesses: Nuriya (Kyrgyzstan) – Automobile Spare Parts, Nergui (Mongolia) – Organic Dairy Product Sales, Satum (Cambodia) – Farming (Pigs and Rice).



The November meeting featured a fascinating presentation by Annette Baldwin (center) on Julia Morgan, an accomplished architect/engineer who designed over 700 buildings, including William Randolph-Hearst's castle in San Simeon. Also shown: Program chairs Alice Smith (left) and Cheryl Richards (right).

Dare to Dream Seeks Sponsors

Dare to Dream: Get Educated! is actively seeking sponsors for our upcoming conference as well as our new scholarship program.

Our fifth annual **Dare to Dream: Get Educated!** conference will take place at Elmhurst College on January 26, 2013. This one-day conference for Latina middle school girls and their mothers is to empower the dream of education. Each conference focuses on the personal, professional and financial value of education in general, and higher education in particular.

We have worked diligently to keep the costs of the conference reasonable. There is no charge to the girls or their mothers to attend. **A tax deductible donation of \$48 will sponsor a girl or her mother to attend the conference.**

The Latina middle school girls who attended our inaugural conference in April 2009 are now seniors, and many are making preparations for additional schooling after high school. Help us make their dreams to advance their education a reality!

Dare to Dream: Get Educated! plans to award multiple \$1,000 scholarships to girls who attended the first conference in 2009 and are accepted to an accredited college, university, or vocational program for the fall of 2013. Girls will complete an application, write an essay, and provide a school transcript. Scholarships will be awarded based on scholastic achievement and merit.

Our Elmhurst Area AAUW branch will be supporting one scholarship with the proceeds from the summer book sale. **Help us give additional scholarships to these motivated young Latinas!**

If you are interested in becoming a Dare to Dream sponsor, see the enclosed form, visit our website at www.latinaconference.org, or contact branch member Jennifer Jordan at 630-832-5223 or jordan-jennifer@att.net.



Special Spotlight on You

By Carolyn Heiney

November 17th passed and most of us didn't realize that a very special branch –connected event had occurred at Elmhurst College. This year 72 girls in grades 6, 7, 8, and 9 solved problems through codes, learned new computer programs like ALICE, experimented with terrific applications for Google maps, and even discovered how to find the calorie count of foods they eat. Yes, it was the amazing STEM Conference for girls from Chicago and from our Dare to Dream schools.

Branch member, **Susan Szymanski**, once again was responsible for much of the preparation that this project required. As always, Susan quietly worked behind the scenes and magically a successful event happened. We thank you, Susan, for your dedication and hours of planning! In addition, we appreciate the expertise of Linda Krause and members of the Elmhurst College faculty who taught the workshops and motivated the girls to consider careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math.

Thanks, Susan, for all you do for the branch!

VAWA Action

Once again the Violence Against Women Act takes center stage in Washington, D.C. AAUW clearly supports the reauthorization of VAWA and expects it to be at the top of the to-do list for Congress. The Senate passed the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (S. 1925) by a bipartisan vote in April—now it is time for action in the House of Representatives.

Since its enactment in 1994, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) has saved lives and saved money. Though the programs continue to run, the current authorization expired almost two years ago. VAWA reauthorization is long overdue and should be a priority in the lame duck session.

What can you do? Call your representative and tell her or him to:

1. Urge the House leadership to bring an inclusive reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act to the House floor for a vote.

2. Speak out in support of the bipartisan AAUW-supported Senate-passed bill, S. 1925.

To call your representative and view talking points, visit [AAUW Two-Minute Activist](http://www.aauw.org/learn/activist) on the AAUW website.



KATHY WILLIS WINS! Congratulations to Elmhurst Area AAUW Branch member **Kathy Willis** who won a seat in the Illinois state legislature in November with 53% of the vote in her district. Kathy, who ran for office with an amazing door-to-door campaign, contacted the voters of all or parts of Addison, Bensenville, Franklin Park, Melrose Park, Northlake, Rosemont, unincorporated Leyden Township and Wood Dale face to face. On her website, Kathy listed her priorities as fighting for jobs, demanding fiscal responsibility, preventing unfair property tax increases, and making legislators take a pay cut. Kathy will serve a 2 year term. Good luck, Kathy, on your new endeavor!

Fellowship and Grant Applications

AAUW has a long and distinguished history of advancing educational and professional opportunities for women in the United States and around the globe. One of the world's largest sources of funding for graduate women, AAUW is providing more than \$4.3 million in funding for more than 278 fellowships and grants to outstanding women and nonprofit organizations in the 2012-13 academic year.

There are five types of awards: American Fellowships, Career Development Grants, Community Action Grants, International Fellowships, and Selected Professions Fellowships. Applications are currently being taken for the 2013-2014 Academic Year. If you are thinking about going back to school or know a woman who would be interested in AAUW's graduate funding check out the details at: http://www.aauw.org/learn/fellows_directory/

New Members

You may have met one of our newest members, **Gail Brasie**, at the Used Book Sale this summer. Gail has a Master's in Library Science and



served as our Assistant Manager during the sale. She came to our All Branch Read in January as the guest of Barbara Richardson. Gail

was recently married and lives in Elmhurst with her husband and two dogs.

Gail writes for an alternative fashion and lifestyle magazine and is learning to play banjo. Gail is drawn to the mission of AAUW. She says it is "work worth doing". We are glad to have Gail in our branch to help us with our mission.

Sandra Burk joined AAUW at the invitation of Darlene Van Meir. She has been attending Book Club and appreciated the discussion of AAUW's well-informed members. Sandra works part time doing health promotion for companies through activities, screenings and education. She has four children and ten grandchildren in the area. Sandra lives with her life partner who has children of his own. She enjoys reading, gardening and traveling. She gets to Europe every year and makes frequent trips to California as well. Welcome to our branch Sandra!

Jeanne Regan was invited to our Book Club by Joanne McCurdy. She loves to read and enjoys the great discussions.

Jeanne was an Art Major and taught art at a grammar school in River Forest. She currently volunteers at the Elmhurst Art Museum where she is a docent. She is also on an Outreach Board for the Chicago Art Institute. She loves the perks of volunteering in these positions.

Jeanne also enjoys dabbling in interior design. She has six children, most living nearby. In her spare time she likes to travel. It's nice to have you as a part of our branch, Jeanne!

Carolyn's Corner

Have you met one of our guests this year?

If you have been to a branch meeting lately, you probably have been amazed to see the number of guests that have come to enjoy our programs. Some have found the branch members and topics so terrific that they plan to join. It's wonderful. Our numbers continue to grow. We take pride in our branch.

But there's more to it than keeping our membership numbers high or receiving a certificate at the state convention in the spring. By introducing women to our branch, we are sharing the joy and benefits of AAUW with more women. The statistics really don't matter. The people and mission do.

Many of our members are making an effort to introduce AAUW to their neighbors, friends, and women they have met through other organizations. Without this invitation, the guest would have missed the AAUW experience, missed meeting you, some very incredible women. So thanks to Cindy and Betsy and Vivian and Roe and Kathy, who all asked a relative, a neighbor, or a friend to come to hear Annette Baldwin describe the incredible Julia Morgan. No one was disappointed. We laughed. We listened. We learned. We shared a lovely evening together and even gave the gift of an AAUW meeting to others.

Continue to invite someone new. We all benefit.



ON THE SCENE AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING

Marcia Lagerwey, Roe Dressander and Dorothy Valintis.



Suman Bhorde, Carol Rounds and Florence Beckman.



AAUW Holiday Reception

Wednesday, December 12th

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Anne Klein's Home

280 S. Cottage Hill Ave., Elmhurst

Please join us this holiday season for a reception at the home of Anne Klein, 280 S. Cottage Hill Avenue, Elmhurst. Let's come together to celebrate our diversity, our blessings, and our commitment to AAUW's mission. We hope you can join us and bring a friend! The cost is \$10.00 per person and includes wine, soft drinks and appetizers. We will enjoy live music with Les Caltvedt on keyboard!

For Cookie Lovers Only: If you enjoy holiday baking, please feel free to bring along some cookies to share. We will have plenty of goodies for all – so please only bring cookies to share if you enjoy baking!

Yes I am looking forward to attending!

Member Name _____

Guest Name(s) _____

Total amount included _____

Make checks payable to: AAUW Elmhurst Branch, and submit payment to Cheri Richards 205 N. Larch Ave., Elmhurst, IL, 60126, **no later than December 7th**.

Questions? Contact Cheri Richards at 630-833-4344 or Alice Smith at 630-666-8706.



Help Dare to Dream!

Dare to Dream: Get Educated! is a one-day conference for Latina middle school girls and their mothers to empower the dream of education. Our fifth annual conference will take place at Elmhurst College in January 2013. Each conference focuses on the personal, professional and financial value of education in general, and higher education in particular. Both the girls and their mothers attend workshops on various topics such as: careers, high school and college campus life, making choices, health, navigating the American school system and family life.

Dare to Dream is presented by AAUW branches in the Lombard, Wheaton-Glen Ellyn, Downers Grove and Elmhurst areas, working together with DuPage middle schools and successful Latina business and professional women, who serve as board members, conference presenters, and role models.

Your generosity will help us to encourage Latina girls of DuPage County to dare to dream and to seek the education that will turn that dream into reality.

This year we are also launching a program to award multiple \$1,000 scholarships to girls who attended the first conference in 2009 and are now entering an accredited college, university, or vocational program for the fall of 2013.

Thanks! Donors will be acknowledged in the 2013 conference program.

Conference Sponsor:

Yes! I would like to contribute \$_____ to help sponsor the 2013 Dare to Dream Conference. A tax deductible donation of \$48.00 will support the attendance of one girl to the conference. Any amount will be appreciated.

Scholarship Donation:

Yes! I would like to contribute \$_____ for the scholarship program. A contribution of \$1,000 or more allows you to create a named scholarship for a Dare to Dream Alumna. Donations in lesser amounts will be pooled and awarded in \$1,000 increments for scholarships. All donations go directly to the scholarships; they will not be used for the costs to administer the scholarship program.

Total Amount: \$_____

My check, payable to **Dare to Dream: Get Educated!** is enclosed.

I prefer to charge my contribution to my Visa MasterCard Discover
Card Number _____ Expiration Date ____/____/____ CVV _____

Authorized Signature _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City/State _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____

Please mail to: Dare to Dream: Get Educated! PO Box 328, Elmhurst, IL 60126

Dare to Dream: Get Educated! is a recognized 501(c)(3) organization (EIN 27-1778698)