

Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 74, No. 2 • October 2012

October 10 Meeting

It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard

The millennial woman is bright, educated, and part of the first generation to have had computers available from birth. She is 18 to 30 years of age and she is very, very busy!

So, the program chairs consider it a privilege that five millennial women will speak at our October meeting. Following the 2012 Public Policy mission to register 18 to 30-year-old women for the presidential election, we asked our five panelists to conduct a mini-research project using social media. They agreed to ask their peers three questions: 1) Are you voting in the upcoming presidential election? 2) Why are you voting or why are you not voting in the upcoming presidential election? 3) What issues or topics should the next president resolve?

The answers to these questions will reveal a great deal about the voting habits and attitudes of young women today. Most important is that AAUW members know and understand what inspires 18 to 30-year-old women to participate in the voting process. Members of the panel are:

- Rose Skegg, recent naturalized citizen
- Mayra Chauvez, volunteer for the Pink and Blue Revolution
- Megan Soger, graduate student at Adler School of Psychology
- Blessing Steele, student at Elmhurst College and Miss Addison 2012

•Safira Patel, homemaker, learning Arabic

Let's encourage the millennial-aged women in our own Branch to attend the meeting and contribute their opinions. Do some homework before attending by reading the latest Outlook and visiting the social media sites suggested in the sidebars.

We will all leave this meeting with new insight on the views of millennial women and how they embrace the slogan, "It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard."

Half the Sky Group` Viewing Oct. 2nd

With AAUW joining the Half the Sky Movement, our Half the Sky Interest Group continues to learn more about how this movement is helping to raise awareness of women's issues. The Half the Sky Movement is a transmedia project based on Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn's book, *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. The movement uses video, websites, games, blogs and other educational tools to spread the message that empowering women is the key to alleviating global poverty.

Part of The Half the Sky Movement includes a four-hour PBS documentary that will air on October 1st

(continued next page)

Calendar of Events

Oct. 1 - 1:00 pm
Noontime Potpourri
 Cafe Amano

October 2 - 7:30 pm
Half the Sky Group
Viewing of "Half the Sky - Part I"
 Susan Szymanski's House

October 2 - 7:00 pm
Cool Cities Seminar
 Home Energy Efficiency
 Elmhurst Public Library

October 3 - 7:00 pm
Board Meeting
 Pat O'Dwyer's House

October 10 - 7:00 pm
Branch Meeting
 It's My Vote - I Will Be Heard
 Elmhurst Public Library

October 25 - 1:00 pm
Book Discussion Group
Georgetown Ladies Society
 by C. David Heymann
 Hostess: Joanne McCurdy

October 30 - 6:00 pm
Dare to Dream
 1st Annual Reception
 College of DuPage



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.



Welcome New Member

Leslie Stipe (above right) joined AAUW this summer at the invitation of member Betsy Aldred (above left). They are members of Bethel United Church of Christ.

Leslie has lived in Elmhurst her whole life and teaches math at York High School. She has been there 13 years and she loves her job.

She is married to husband Rod. They have two sons who are 20 and 23 years old, the former is in college and the latter is working in the city. They also have two cats and a dog.

Leslie is a member of the Elmhurst Running Club and is active in her church. She is currently reading "Half the Sky" at Betsy's suggestion and cannot put it down. Welcome to the branch, Leslie.

Voter Registration Update

The following is a rundown on VR drives completed thus far by our very active and energetic AAUW Volunteer Registrars. Thanks to Alice Smith and her hard working committee.

1. St. Philip, The Apostle Church, February 4/5.
2. Elmhurst College, Student Union, April 3.
3. Elmhurst Memorial Day Parade, May 28.
4. Fireman's Association of Illinois Firefighters, June 14/15.
5. Elmhurst Park District – Court's Plus, June 18, 20, 22.
6. Elmhurst College, Taste of Elmhurst: A Street Fair Experience, August 30.
7. Visitation Parish in Elmhurst, September 15/16.

Future Events: Elmhurst College, Frick Center, October 1 and 3.



Barbara Richardson, Voter Registrar, relaxing in her backyard between registrations. Barbara was the first to volunteer at St. Phillips in February and she will be the last to volunteer at the Frick Center, Oct. 1 and 3. Thank you, Barbara, from all of us in the Elmhurst Branch.

Half the Sky Viewing

(continued from 1st page)

and October 2nd. Inspired by the *Half the Sky* book, this documentary follows several celebrities and human rights advocates to ten different countries with the quest of confronting the issue of oppression of women and girls in the developing countries.

The Half the Sky Interest Group will meet on Tuesday, October 2nd to watch the first of part of *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. We will meet at Susan Szymanski's house at 7:30 p.m., and if you are interested in attending, please call Susan at 630-833-4344.

Financial Report

as of September 22, 2012

General Account:	\$ 3,777.23
Savings Account:	1,746.45
Book Sale Account	<u>12,829.39</u>
Total:	\$18,353.07

Carolyn's Corner

What's the Status of the Used Book Sale for Next Year?

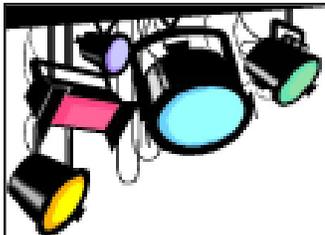
The news is wonderful! Plans are underway for another used book sale at Conrad Fischer School. Some of you have heard or even asked the questions. Will we be able to continue the sale with the increased facility District 205 use costs? Are we receiving enough used books with the introduction of Kindles, and Nooks, and iPads to make our sale worthwhile for another year? Do we have enough buyers willing to purchase books?

Yes, yes, and yes. While all of these questions are relevant, the most important one this summer was the rental fee for the Conrad Fischer gym. After meeting with District 205 officials, I can report that we will be able to pay the reasonable rental fees.

Our branch board looked at ways that we could make changes that would require less contact time and thus fewer hours of air conditioning the gym. We examined the number of members who sort at certain times and plan to reduce the number of sorting times to two per week. Based on our experience last year, we also will reduce the number of weeks that we actually sort before the sale. This should be a doable plan with your support.

While the number of books that we received this year was down, our profits weren't. We feel that we can continue the sale for another year. We are not ignoring the fact that the increased use of technology may at some point force us to look for a different fundraiser; however, this should not affect the sale for 2013.

It is true that this year we had fewer dealers and booksellers on our opening night; however, the number of shoppers throughout the sale was steady. We sold many, many books, enough to make the sale a "Go" for next year. Save those used books!



Special Spotlight on You

We often miss the opportunity to say 'thank you' to someone, because we didn't know that they did something special for us. Sometimes we are just oblivious, because we didn't know that a real person had to physically go and perform a task for our benefit. Luckily, this spring I discovered that one of our members has been on such a mission for years. The secret is out, and now it is time to say thanks to **Sharon Karpziel**, a branch board member and the Head of Kids' Library at the Elmhurst Public Library. For years Sharon has been getting up early and standing in line before the library opens to reserve the library meeting room for the second Wednesday of each month for our AAUW meetings. On this one special day when registration for rooms first opens, she is there for us. Thanks, Sharon!

Get the Tools You Need to Host a Presidential Debate Watch Party

Now that the political conventions are over, it's time to gear up for the presidential debates! Debate watch parties are a great way to engage family, friends, and your community to discuss the issues and the candidates' stances on policies that are important to women and their families.

AAUW is once again an official voter education partner of the Commission on Presidential Debates and its [DebateWatch](#) program, which urges citizens like you to watch the televised presidential and vice presidential debates and talk about what they've learned.

The DebateWatch site includes a complete [guide to hosting a DebateWatch](#) party with details on what to do before, during, and after the debate as well as general discussion questions to use. AAUW has also created [fact sheets on key issues](#) for you to distribute at your DebateWatch party and use as a discussion piece.

Home Energy Efficiency Seminar

The Elmhurst Cool Cities Coalition is presenting a seminar on Home Energy Efficiency that is open to the public. Please tell your friends and neighbors and plan to attend yourself:

When: October 2nd at 7pm

Where: Elmhurst Public Library, Large Meeting Room

A panel of experts will provide insight and suggestions on how to improve your home's energy efficiency to ultimately save money and cut your carbon footprint.

If you plan on attending, please RSVP to: ecoolcities@gmail.com

Drag 'Em to the Polls

This election season, countless get-out-the-vote campaigns will sweep across the United States to convince Americans to register and vote this November — including the AAUW Action Fund's It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard campaign.

It's My Vote is focused on educating, engaging, and registering millennial women voters by emphasizing how things like equal pay, student debt, and birth control access affect women. These voter mobilization efforts might have different tactics, but what they want is the same — to express the importance of each and every vote.

As much as voter mobilization efforts accomplish, they will never succeed in catching every potential voter. I know this because I work for one of these campaigns. Don't get me wrong — the work we do is wonderful. I am filled with pride every time I hear about a successful voter registration drive or see a video of a young woman telling her personal story of what voting means to her.

But we — you and I, as individuals — can fill in the gaps missed by get-out-the-vote efforts. If you believe, like I do, that democracy is the best form of government we've yet sustained, then it should also be important to you that everyone in your life votes. I mean everyone — from your 86-year-old grandmother to your 18-year-old brother, who spends most of his day playing video games.

No matter how insignificant our actions and our votes may seem, it will take everyone's effort if we ever hope to reach that "more perfect Union."

Like thousands of men and women who came before me, I believe in democracy. I believe in it enough to drag you to the polls — no matter who you are or who you vote for. So on November 6, take responsibility for more than one vote, and get as many folks as possible to cast their ballots.

Excerpted from post on AAUW website by Social Media Intern Brittany Edwardes.

AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch Board of Directors 2012-2013

Elected Officers

President

Carolyn Heiney

Program Vice Presidents

Cheri Richards

Alice Smith

Membership V.P.

Cindy Grau

Recording Secretary

Rita Andreuccetti

Finance Director

Darlene Van Meir

Publicity/Communications

Sharon Karp

Susan Szymanski

Nominating Committee Director

Pat O'Dwyer

Standing Directors

(Voting Board Members)

AAUW Funds

Peggy Babyar

Public Policy

Claudia Stenvig-Olsen

Newsletter

Perry Doubt

College/University Relations

Kathy Willis

Diversity/International Affairs

Anne Klein

Bylaws and Policies

Carol Rounds

Special Committee Directors

(Non-Voting Directors)

Yearbook

Sarah Caltvedt

Cool Cities

Sarah Caltvedt

Carol Rounds

Book Discussion Group

Jean Bassindale

Elaine Davison

Carol Rounds

Noontime Potpourri Group

Florence Beckman

Half the Sky Group

Anne Klein

September Supper at Francesca's A Great Success!



DARE TO DREAM: GET EDUCATED!

Motivating and Inspiring Latina Middle School Girls to Seek and Achieve Higher Education



1st Annual Reception

Dare to Dream: Get Educated!

Tuesday, October 30, 2012

College of DuPage, (SRC) Room 2000

6:00pm to 8:00pm

You are invited!

- Meet the Organizers
- Network with Fellow Sponsors
- Celebrate our Accomplishments
 - Thank the Volunteers
 - Discover Opportunities
 - Get Involved
- Meet other supporters who share this vision

It's a thank you party you can't miss.

Light appetizers and refreshments will be served