

# Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 75, No. 3 • November 2013

Wednesday - November 13

## The Triumph of Artemisia

Inspired by Susan Vreeland's book, *The Passion of Artemisia*, talented singer/songwriter **Linda M. Smith** retells Artemisia's powerful story in song with a graphic display of her paintings. Her story and her art will inspire you!

Artemisia Gentileschi (1593-1652) was the first recognized female painter in the world of post-Renaissance art. When she was 15 years old, a friend of her father's raped her. Rather than marry the man or enter a convent, Artemisia endured a seven-month trial. From the beginning, Artemisia's technical skill captured human emotion from a female perspective and she is now recognized as one of the world's greatest female artists.

Because this program is cosponsored with the Elmhurst Public Library, **please register in advance** with the Library by calling the Adult Services Department at 630-279-8696 or register online at: [www.elmhurstpubliclibrary.org](http://www.elmhurstpubliclibrary.org).

## Business Meeting

We will have a business meeting in the Kossmann Room following our co-sponsored program on Artemisia Gentileschi on November 13. Primary topic will be a vote to distribute funds from our annual Used Book Sale.

## Federal Circuit Rules in Favor of Veterans Seeking Disability Benefits after Sexual Assaults

In an encouraging step for survivors of military sexual assault, a federal appeals court recently ruled that a veteran's failure to report a sexual assault is not evidence that the assault did not occur. In *AZ v. Shinseki* and *AY v. Shinseki*, two veterans sought disability benefits for post-traumatic stress disorder that they said stemmed from sexual assaults they suffered while on active duty. Because the veterans did not file complaints at the time the alleged assaults occurred, their service records did not contain any mention of the assaults. Relying on the veterans' failure to report as evidence that the assaults never occurred, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims denied disability benefits.

On appeal, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that the "VA may not treat a claimant's failure to report an alleged sexual assault to military authorities as pertinent evidence that the sexual assault did not occur." The court recognized that "many service members fear that

*(continued p.2)*

## BRANCH CALENDAR



November 5 - 6:00 pm  
**Dare to Dream Reception**  
College of DuPage

November 5 - 7:30 pm  
**Half the Sky Group**  
*Perry Doubt's House*

November 6 - 7:00 pm  
**Board Meeting**  
MEETING CANCELLED

November 13 - 7:00 pm  
**Monthly Branch Meeting**  
*The Triumph of Artemisia*  
*(Linda M. Smith)*  
Elmhurst Public Library

December 3 - 1:00 pm  
**Noontime Potpourri**  
100 South, Elmhurst

December 5 - 1:00 pm  
**Book Discussion Group**  
*"My Beloved World"*  
(Sonia Sotomayor)  
Hostess & Discussion Leader:  
Joann McCurdy



**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.

## Elmhurst Cool Cities Coalition

The Coalition is planning to hold a private event on November 5th to share with businesses what the Coalition is about, what they have accomplished and the goals for the future. They hope to involve more businesses in the Coalition.

Although it was not a part of the discussion, I found out that the City Council has not renewed the Cool Cities Local Sustainability Agreement. The target of this agreement is to reduce climate change pollution by 2% per year from 2009 baseline levels to the year 2015 when the agreement will be revisited. I would encourage members to visit the website: Illinois Cool Cities and write their council person and City Manager Jim Grabowski requesting that they vote to renew the agreement.

Gary Smith, manager of water/waste water presented a report on the progress the city is making in the area of energy efficiency.

-Carol Rounds, Cool Cities sub

## 2013 Named Grant Honors Perry Doubt

The AAUW Funds Committee has voted to make this year's AAUW Funds contribution in honor of Perry Doubt. Perry joined the Branch in 2010 because of her interest in our annual Used Book Sale. In fact, she worked on the sale before she even joined the Branch! In the spring of 2011, Perry agreed to join our Board as Newsletter editor, and she has done a wonderful, professional job ever since. Continuing her interest in the Book Sale, Perry not only serves on the Book Sale Committee and works most sorting days but also has gotten great publicity for the sale. Last summer she even worked far into the night until she finally got Patch.com to accept her news item announcing the start of the sale! Perry is our "go to" person for printing and technical questions. Ask her about printing postcards, for instance, and she'll come up with a raft of possibilities, all priced out, in no time at all. Perry is a member of the Half the Sky study group and frequently hosts the monthly meetings at her home. Despite being a busy association executive, frequent traveler and member of the Saints volunteer ushering group, Perry makes time for AAUW, and we're all grateful for her many contributions to the Branch.

## Disability Benefits

*(continued from p.1)*

the act of reporting a rape to military authorities will subject them to personal and professional reprisals." While other courts are not required to follow it, the ruling is promising. The Federal Circuit's ruling recognizes the real barriers to justice faced by survivors of military sexual assault. AAUW is working to break down those barriers by supporting the lawsuits of survivors and supporting legislation to improve the military's handling of sexual assaults. Join us!

## Email or Address Change?

Don't forget to let us know so that we can update our records and make sure that you get Branch communications. We will be updating the directory in the Members Only section of our website during the year so that we'll all have current information. Contact Membership Directory Editor Denise Thompson at [thompson8529@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thompson8529@sbcglobal.net) with your updates, and she will pass them on to other Directors who maintain Branch records. Don't forget to update your records with AAUW, too.

## Help Wanted!

Do you have just an hour or so a month that you could spend helping to publicize our Branch? We need people who could help with one or more of the following:

- Publicize the monthly program in the local newspapers and on Patch.com.
- Post Branch news on our Facebook page.
- Write an article about the Branch's history and contributions to life in Elmhurst in connection with our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Don't worry—we have plenty of information for you to use!
- Help with publicizing our Returning Scholar grant.
- Do publicity for next summer's Used Book Sale (Perry Doubt is retiring from this function after several years of getting great visibility for the sale.)

Please contact me at [sarahccaltvedt@gmail.com](mailto:sarahccaltvedt@gmail.com) if you would be able to help with any of these tasks.

## Condolences

The Branch extends condolences to Ann Beyer, whose husband Norman died on August 7 in Penney Farms, FL

## President's Message by Sarah Caltvedt

When is the last time you visited [www.aauwelmhurst.org](http://www.aauwelmhurst.org)? If it's been a while, you may be surprised – and, I hope, delighted! Our Branch website is hosted by AAUW's Site Resources, which provides the framework and automatically updates the site with AAUW news and the latest posts from our Branch Facebook page. Susan Szymanski and I have been updating the site with our local information. Our website is our public face. It provides information on our programs and activities, membership, and contact information. But it also is our Branch information repository. Access the Members Only section with the password listed on page 5 of your 2013-14 Yearbook and Membership Directory. Although still a work in progress, we are building a resource that will contain Board agendas and minutes, Branch minutes, officer job descriptions, and an updated version of our Directory with contact information for new members as they join during the year and any changes you report to us.

We have a Facebook page as well. Just go to Facebook.com and search for AAUW Elmhurst. Cindy Grau and I have been posting information about Branch activities and also items from the AAUW National Facebook page that are of interest. If you "like" our page, you'll get these occasional updates in your Facebook feed.

If you really want to "stay tuned," there is a wealth of information on the [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) site and the AAUW Facebook page, not just about the organization but also about the issues that concern us. Want to know your rights in the workplace or at school? Look under "What we Do" for the Legal Advocacy Fund. Want to refer to an AAUW report like "Graduating to a Pay Gap?" Look under Resources for research reports. If you follow AAUW on Facebook or Twitter, you will automatically get information and links to contact your legislators on current issues. I encourage you to make use of these AAUW resources to find out more about the work that our Association does. I can assure you, it's pretty inspiring!

Does all this just make your head spin because you mostly use the Internet for email? Never fear, in April we will hear from Elmhurst librarian Rita Perona how to get connected and make the most of AAUW and other social media resources.

## This is our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year!

Branch Historical Tidbits for November: The 50s and 60s

1953: Membership stood at 150.

1957: Branch members wrote a "Start Now" booklet on college preparation and distributed copies to all eighth graders. Member Florise Gradolph was elected City Clerk, the first woman to hold that office.

1958: The Branch founded the Buttons and Bows Cooperative Nursery School.

1959: The first Used Book Sale was held October 23-24 in a vacant store.

1963: Elmhurst College was placed on the approved list for AAUW membership. Branch members held a tea for Elmhurst College senior women now eligible for AAUW membership.

1966: Start of a two-year study of Elmhurst elementary schools. Membership was at 181.

1968: The Branch "Know Your Schools" report with 10 recommendations was presented to elementary District 46 Board. Most recommendations were implemented by the Board within a few years.

### Financial Report (as of October 24, 2013)

General Account:	\$ 3,727.88
Savings Account:	2,014.88
Book Sale Account	<u>13,745.56</u>
Total:	\$19,488.32

## AAUW Funds Allocation

The book sale was very successful thanks to the work and support of you, our branch members. The funds committee, consisting of Sarah Caltvedt, Peggy Babyar, Sandy Burk, Elaine Davison, and Susanne Schmitz, has met and recommends that our branch donate the net funds received from the book sale as follows: \$1,000 to a returning scholar; \$2,300 to the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund; \$6,900 to AAUW Funds; and \$1,000, as a carryover from last year's sale, for a Dare to Dream scholarship.

The returning scholar funds will be awarded to a woman from Elmhurst, Addison, or Bensenville who will be returning to an accredited college/university. The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund supports the protection of the legal rights of women who are facing discrimination. The AAUW Funds are not restricted to a specific fund, but support the AAUW programs with the greatest needs. The Dare to Dream Scholarship will be awarded to a participant who will be attending an accredited college/university.

## Public Policy Update

While Washington continues to get its act together, we should keep in mind that the last time the minimum wage went up was in 2009. We are still stuck @ \$7.25 per hour. The *Fair Minimum Wage Act* would gradually increase the minimum wage over the next three years until it eventually reaches \$10.10. The minimum wage is a working woman's issue - 56% of the workers who would benefit from this bill are women! Take Action: Urge members of Congress to support the Fair Minimum Wage Act (H.R.1010/S.460). (Members, please see p.36 in our 2013-2014 AAUW Branch Directory for names of your Legislators.)

-Genie Urick



## Another Great Meeting!

The October meeting on the Affordable Care Act drew an interested crowd of AAUW members.



## Welcome New Members

**Lisa Fanelli** was raised in Elmhurst and graduated from York High School. She received her B.A. in Psychology from Loyola University. Until 1991, Lisa worked in the transportation industry where she held several positions, beginning in human resources and ending in shareholder relations. After living in the city and various suburbs, Lisa moved back to Elmhurst in 1993 and worked with her husband in his medical practice until 2007. She became very involved in the PTA and served on the Board of the Elmhurst District 205 Foundation for 6 years. In 2008, Lisa was hired as the Executive Director for the Foundation and still serves in this position.

Lisa and her husband have three sons; two attend college and one is an eighth grader at Sandburg Middle School. With what little free time she has, Lisa enjoys cycling, reading, watching a good movie, vegetable gardening in the warm months, and cooking (though she hates cleaning up!).

After hearing about AAUW through conversations with women whom she respected, Lisa decided to join our branch at the Shape the Future Event at our Used Book Sale in August. As she transitions from a world revolving around her children to the next phase of her life, Lisa feels that involvement with our AAUW Branch is a great step in this process. Although Foundation Board meetings happen to be scheduled on the same night as our branch meetings, she looks forward to joining in and helping wherever she can.

Welcome to our branch, Lisa!

**Anna Kinnan** received a B.A. in Elementary Education from Elmhurst College and a M.Ed. in Elementary Education from the University of Illinois. She spent her teaching career at Horace Mann Elementary School in Oak Park, where she taught children in grades 3 through 6. She retired from teaching in 2010.

Anna is very familiar with the mission of AAUW as she was a member of the AAUW Itasca Branch from 1979 until 1990. This past year, Anna came to our AAUW Elmhurst Branch's April program as the guest of Alice Smith for the film presentation of "Voices Unveiled: Turkish Women Who Dare." Anna became a member of our branch during our Shape the Future event at our Used Book Sale in August.

Anna is very involved with many cultural organizations. She is a member of the Art Institute of Chicago (as well as belonging to the Oak Park-River Forest) Community Associates of the Art Institute of Chicago. Anna enjoys having season tickets to the Lyric Opera, and she regularly attends productions at the Chicago Shakespeare Theater, the Paramount Arts Theater in Aurora, and the Marriott Theater in Lincolnshire. In her spare time, Anna likes to read. She enjoyed attending her first meeting of our branch's book group in September, and she's looking forward to participating in more book group discussions.

Anna and her husband live in Addison. They have one son who also lives in Addison and works as an electrical engineer in Elmhurst.

Welcome back to AAUW, Anna!

**Chris Smith** first heard about AAUW from her mother who was a member for many years. When working on her B.A. degree, Chris jokingly told her mother that it was so she could join AAUW. Chris now says that, after retiring from a 25-year career in teaching, she is just now getting around to joining!

Chris and her husband have lived in Elmhurst for over 40 years. Their son and his family live in Lake in the Hills, another son and his family live in Palatine, and their daughter and her family live in Elmhurst. Their dozen wonderful grandkids, ranging in age from 5 to 20, give them great pleasure.

After teaching Elmhurst history for many years, Chris and 3 of her teaching friends decided to write a book called *Treasures of Elmhurst History*. It was a wonderful experience for Chris, and she is now working on her own family history. Writing and history are two of her passions.

Chris has spent a lot of time at their log cabin in the north woods of Minnesota. She says there is nothing like the call of the loons and a night of shining stars to refresh and renew. Her time there reflects her love of nature.

Chris has been an active member of Bethel Church in Elmhurst and a long time member of the Human Concerns team, which serves as the mission arm of the church. Chris feels that the mission of AAUW fits well with her interests, and she's looking forward to being of service to our AAUW Branch.

It's nice to have you as a member, Chris!

Please join us for  
**Dare to Dream: Get Educated!**  
**Create the Dream**

Meet the Organizers  
 Network with Fellow Sponsors  
 Celebrate our Accomplishments  
 Thank the Volunteers  
 Discover Opportunities  
 Get Involved

Welcome the newly elected Dare to Dream Board.  
 As a past, present or future participant, sponsor or donor, thank you for your involvement and support.

Meet other supporters who share this vision.  
 It's a thank you party you can't miss.  
 Light appetizers and refreshments will be served.

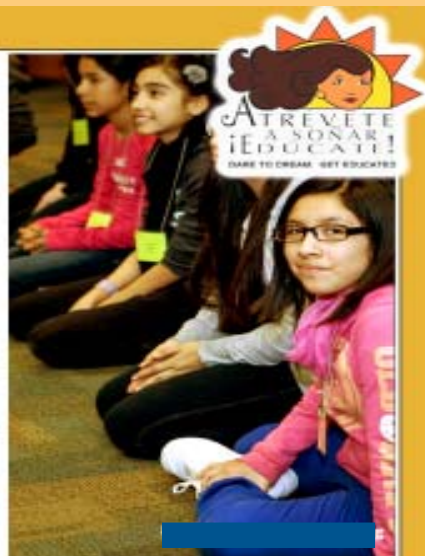
**When:**  
 Tuesday, November 5, 2013 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

**Location:**  
 College of DuPage  
 Student Activities Lounge  
 Lower Level of the Student Service Center  
 425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

If you have questions please email us  
[info@latinaconference.org](mailto:info@latinaconference.org)

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# You're Invited!

## Care to Dream: Get Educated! CREATE THE DREAM

*Meet the Organizers  
 Network with Fellow Sponsors  
 Celebrate our Accomplishments  
 Thank the Volunteers  
 Discover Opportunities  
 Get Involved*

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**No charge, but please register in advance at:**  
[www.latinaconference.org](http://www.latinaconference.org) or send email to [info@latinaconference.org](mailto:info@latinaconference.org)