

# Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 75, No. 2 • October 2013

## October 9th: The Affordable Care Act

What is the Affordable Care Act? How will it impact you? Learn about the changes that are coming.

This presentation concentrates on the health care exchanges which are supposed to be up and running in October. Who should use the exchanges; how are they accessed; what do the different companies offer you or a family member?

But, the Affordable Care Act is much more than the exchanges. How is Medicare affected? What are some of the other ways we access health care that will change in 2014?

Our very qualified speaker is Larry Grudzien, JD, LL.M., an Oak Park attorney who practices exclusively in the field of employee benefits.

He has more than 26 years experience in employee benefit law, speaks at many conferences, is a published author of materials about employee benefits, and is an adjunct faculty member of John Marshall Law School's LL.M. program in Employee Benefits and at the Valparaiso University's School of Law.

We are lucky to have a speaker with Larry's qualification explain the changes this complex act brings.

Bring your questions...leave with answers.

## Public Policy Update

Our students are back in school and Congress has returned to Capitol Hill. Here is some homework for Congress (and for us). Contact your senator and representative and urge them to:

1. Update the *No Child Left Behind Act* by reauthorizing the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

2. Create a comprehensive law to address bullying & harassment so students feel safe in school.

3. Pass the *Real Education for Healthy Youth Act* (S.372/H.R.725) which insures federal funds are spent on age-appropriate, medically accurate information programs.

*Genie Urick*



*Attorney Larry Grudzien headlines the Branch meeting on October 9th. See you there!*

## Branch Calendar



October 1 - 7:30 pm  
**Half the Sky Group**

*Anne Klein's Home*  
Discussing International Grass Roots Organizations Empowering Women

October 7 - 1:00 pm  
**Noontime Potpourri**  
100 South, Elmhurst

October 9 - 7:00 pm  
**Monthly Branch Meeting**  
*"Affordable Health Care Act"*  
(Larry Grudzien)  
Elmhurst Public Library

October 10 - 7:00 pm  
**Board Meeting**  
Elmhurst Public Library

October 23 - 7:00 PM  
**New & Prospective Member Reception**  
*Anne Klein's Home*

October 24 - 1:00 pm  
**Book Discussion Group**  
*"The Jungle"*  
by Upton Sinclair  
Hostess: Darlene Van Mier  
Leader: Sandy Burk



**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.

**AAUWFUNDS**

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**

**September 21, 2013**

*Sandra Burk*  
*Director of Finance*

Book Sale Account:	\$14,505.95
Savings Account:	1,324.38
General Account:	<u>3,989.13</u>
Total All Accounts:	\$19,819.46

## Welcome New Members

**Jane Jergerski** has lived in Elmhurst for 17 years and has worked at Elmhurst College for almost 30 years. She is currently a Professor of Social Psychology at Elmhurst College, and her main teaching interests are interculturalism and social justice. Jane has known about AAUW for many years and has been interested in all of AAUW's work with and for women, especially in regards to research on girls being "overlooked" in the classroom.

When Jane isn't working at Elmhurst College, she is busy volunteering her time with a number of organizations. She is an English tutor with Literacy DuPage, as well as being a volunteer at George Williams Campus of Aurora College in Williams Bay, Wisconsin. For over 25 years,

Jane has banded and worked with wild birds at Sand Bluff Bird Observatory in Northwest Winnebago County, Illinois. She also volunteers her time with the Key West Library and Archives.

She has two grown daughters. One daughter works in HR, and the other daughter is a Professor in Spanish Linguistics at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.

In the little spare time she has, Jane enjoys spending time with family and friends, reading and participating in book clubs, practicing her Spanish skills, native plant gardening (including raising Monarch butterflies!), traveling, walking/hiking, bicycling, and water aerobics.

Welcome Jane!

**Susan Schmitz** joined AAUW earlier this summer when Carolyn Heiney contacted her to become the Elmhurst College liaison to our branch. Susan is currently a Professor of Economics and Chair of the Economics Department at Elmhurst College. She came to Elmhurst College in 1990 as an Assistant Professor of Economics, and prior to coming to Elmhurst, she was an Assistant Professor of Economics at Ohio Northern University in Ada, OH.

Susan received a B.S. in Economics from the University of Kentucky and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Kentucky with concentrations in applied Microeconomic Theory and Labor Economics.

When not busy at Elmhurst College, Susan enjoys swimming, biking, traveling, knitting, and spending time with her family. Susan has a son and a daughter who both attend small liberal arts colleges in the Midwest.

It's nice to have you as part of our branch, Susan!

**Ruth Zervas** has lived in Elmhurst since 1978. She initially joined AAUW shortly after moving to Elmhurst, mainly to be assured of her daughter's enrollment in the Buttons and Bows Pre-school, which at that time was sponsored by AAUW. Ruth served on the Buttons and Bows Pre-school Board for a number of years and was an AAUW member until the mid or late 80's when she could no longer attend meetings due to working at night. With encouragement from Carolyn Heiney, Ruth decided once again to join our AAUW branch.

Ruth received a B.A. in sociology from Illinois Wesleyan University and a M. Ed in elementary education from Penn State University. She is currently employed at the First United Methodist Church of Elmhurst, where she has been Director of Christian Education for 19 years. Ruth has a grown son and daughter who both live in the area. In her free time, Ruth enjoys reading and taking walks with her dog.

Welcome back to our branch, Ruth!

## Legal Advocacy Fund

The Legal Advocacy Fund works to challenge sex discrimination in the workplace and higher education.

Our branch's recent meeting with the Lombard and Glen Ellyn-Wheaton branches made that seemingly neutral sounding goal a reality.

We heard Daniele Hoffman, a woman who at the age of 17 had joined the Indiana National Guard full of idealism, face the culture of sexual harassment in the military. Her moving story and the emotional and legal support of the LAF helped the large audience at the meeting realize the strong need to support Daniele and other women facing sexual discrimination.

We are very pleased to report that our branch members donated \$770 to the LAF fund.

## Annual Membership Reception

Wednesday, October 23 7:00 pm

Anne Klein's Home

280 Cottage Hill Ave - Elmhurst

New and prospective members are invited to join the Branch Board for an evening of food, fellowship, and an opportunity to learn more about AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

All members are welcome to invite prospective members to this event. Please RSVP to Anne Klein 630-834-5718.

## New Yearbook & Directory

By now everyone should have a copy of the 2013-2014 Yearbook and Directory. A copy is also posted at our Branch website in the Members Only section. Thanks to Denise Thompson for putting everything together for us.

## President's Message

Like many of you, I joined AAUW because a friend invited me, and over the years I've made many more friends among the amazing women of our Branch. For a long time my focus was on the local activities of Branch, and I didn't know much about the wider world of AAUW.

I've come to realize, though, how important the Association is to us, and how important we are to the Association. Every day, our Association is out there working to improve the lives of women by ensuring that we have equal opportunities in education, work, and society.

Our lobby corps visits Capitol Hill every week to lobby Congress on legislation important to women, like Paycheck Fairness or voting rights. They are so respected that legislators now approach them for help on legislation.

We can help by becoming Two Minute Activists at <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/> Researchers funded by AAUW issue reports that are picked up by the media and influence public policy.

We provide educational grants to help women like our own member, poet Laura Van Prooyen, further their education, and research grants to enable women professors to do the work that will qualify them for tenure and promotion. And when a woman like Lily Ledbetter or Daniele Hoffman needs support to assert her rights in Court, AAUW and LAF are there.

AAUW is working for college women, too, with programs like Elect Her which has had tremendous success in helping women be elected to office in campus organizations, and Start Smart workshops, which teach women to negotiate their first salary out of college so that they don't start out with a pay gap compared to men with the same qualifications.

All this is reason to be proud that we are members of AAUW and that our annual Book Sale and other donations have enabled us to be among the top Branches in the state and nation in giving to AAUW to support this valuable work.

## AAUW Backs Tech Trek Effort

This week, *Traditional Home* magazine honored five women for their exceptional volunteerism with the Classic Woman Award. One of those awardees was AAUW member **Marie Wolbach**.

Back in 1998, long before the national conversation around women in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields began, Wolbach knew the value of programs that inspired girls' excitement and confidence in STEM. With the help of an AAUW **Community Action Grant**, she founded the very first **Tech Trek camp in California**. The program was simple: Teachers nominated girls to attend Tech Trek, where girls stayed on a college campus for a week. Campers performed hands-on experiments, met women role models in STEM careers, and went on field trips to see the science and math they learned in class put into practice.

Wolbach's program has inspired the AAUW community across the country. Every year, AAUW members in California put in a tremendous effort to ensure that girls from all socioeconomic backgrounds can attend Tech Trek, raising funds throughout the state to provide scholarships to all campers. And their hard work has paid off. Tech Trek has been an enormous success, **growing to 10 camps on eight California college campuses** and inspiring camp alumnae to take advanced math and science classes and **attend college at a higher rate** than their peers do.

*(continued from previous page)*

Now Wolbach's vision is being realized across the country. With Wolbach's

## Tech Trek Effort

encouragement and guidance, **AAUW selected Tech Trek as an ideal candidate for national expansion.** In the summer of 2013, AAUW members in four new states held camps that served more than 160 girls. And Tech Trek will continue to grow: AAUW will be announcing three new campus sites for 2014 this week.



Marie Wolbach with California Tech Trek alumna Ellen Le at the 2013 Classic Woman Awards ceremony.

## Wage Gap Info

The new wage gap number is here — and it's not so new. A woman working full time, year-round still typically takes home 77 cents for every dollar a man takes home. The gap is even worse for women of color. Get all the facts here:

<http://bit.ly/15AdeHH>

The U.S. Census Bureau just announced that the wage gap hasn't budged from 23 cents. We know that women deserve fair pay now. Tell the federal government that it's time for a new tool to protect women from wage discrimination:

<http://bit.ly/165mrKF>

AAUW has just updated our report *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap* with the latest numbers. Check it out:

<http://bit.ly/14773ly>

## Branch Highlights Part I: The 30s and 40s

**1938.** Elmhurst Branch was chartered with 58 members. Alice Shepherd Selden was the first President. We were the 36th Branch in Illinois.

**1942.** The Branch newsletter was launched. We sponsored wartime nutrition classes. The Needlecraft Group became a Red Cross support group, with members teaching sewing of war-related items

**1943.** The Branch opened the Children's Exchange Shop as a community service project to meet the shortage of nursery and children's equipment, toys and clothing. We received citations at the State Convention for the newsletter, international relations, and the Children's Exchange Shop. The Branch hosted the state fall workshop at Elmhurst College. Membership was 89.

**1947.** The Recent Graduates Group was formed.

**1948.** The Education Committee, chaired by Elizabeth Ackerman, studied Community Recreation and concluded that a recreational organization was needed. With the help of Trudy Tripp and Esther Bigler, she convinced the public and prominent businessmen to establish the Elmhurst YMCA. Elizabeth was the first Recording Secretary.

**1949.** To help relieve the teacher shortage, the Education Committee distributed a list of college scholarships to York High 11th and 12th graders. The committee also suggested the formation of a Future Teachers of America club at York.

### *Factoid:*

AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch members have been involved in founding several other Elmhurst and DuPage institutions: The Elmhurst YMCA, Elmhurst Genealogical Forum, Elmhurst Historical Society, Senior Home Sharing, DuPage Community Foundation.

## *Our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

This is the year to celebrate! A committee of former branch presidents has been busy at work planning a year of activities to commemorate 75 years of branch accomplishments. A panel of members has already been highlighted on Comcast sharing with the public all the good that AAUW does. Each month you will find historic factoids in the newsletter, in January you will learn about the branch at the Elmhurst Historical Museum, and maybe you will even find yourself walking with other members in the Memorial Day Parade in May. Of course, the biggest and best just might be our spring celebration.

**Our culminating event will be a luncheon at Butterfield Country Club on Saturday, May 3, 2014.** Please place the date on your calendar, because you won't want to miss this event.

If you know former members who might come back for the festivities, please let them know with an email or phone call. (The personal touch is always so warm and wonderful.) The committee will contact them too to invite them to the luncheon, so forward their addresses to Carolyn Heiney at [cheiney@att.net](mailto:cheiney@att.net) so that they will be included in our correspondence.

What a great year it will be to celebrate the history of our terrific branch!

## Check Out the New ¡Adelante! Book Selections

Are you a book lover? Join the ¡Adelante! Book of the Month Club. Thanks to submissions from AAUW members, branches, and states, our national organization has established a list of diverse and fascinating books for you to dive into.

Check online for the 2013–14 list, and pick up your books today. Make sure to use your 30 percent discount at Feminist Press.