



Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 77, No. 4 • November 2015

Next Branch Meeting:

November 11th at Elmhurst College

Continuing with our Branch's efforts to forge new connections with Elmhurst College and to expand our community's knowledge on issues of diversity, our November program features five faculty and staff well versed in LGBTQ issues.

Scott Matheney, Elmhurst College Chaplain, leads a reflective discussion on the LGBTQ movement in our community of Elmhurst. The panel will cover a brief history while considering:

How welcoming are we as a community? What are the marks of a welcoming community in education, political life, social life and religious life? Matheney sees this as an opportunity to think about how we build a better and healthier community through the lens of human sexuality and gender identity.

Joining Scott Matheney on the panel are Dr. Colleen Munro-Leighton (Chemistry), Dr. Mike Lindberg (Intercultural Studies), Soon-to-be-Reverend and Director of the Niebuhr Center Emily Labrecque, and Susan Swords Steffen (Director of the Library).

We will have a Branch meeting after the panel discussion.

Both events take place at the Elmhurst College Library in the main classroom on the first floor – the "Fishbowl." Go in the main entrance of the Elmhurst College Library (by the circle fountain) and take a slight right after the coffee shop. Jane Jegerski will be there to greet and direct. Contact Jane at her home phone with any questions, 630-530-4826.

New & Prospective Member Event

All new and prospective branch members are invited to attend the AAUW New and Prospective Member Event to be held on Thursday, November 5 at 7:30 pm at the home of Jennifer Jordan (256 E. Columbia Ave. in Elmhurst).

Come for food, fellowship, and to learn more about AAUW.

Please RSVP to Jennifer if you are able attend (630-832-4677 or jordan-jennifer@att.net).

Save the Date

AAUW TECH SAVVY

April 16, 2015

8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Oakton Community College

Registration available in February



BRANCH CALENDAR

October 28 - 7:30 pm

Half the Sky Group

Book discussion:

"Keeping Hope Alive" by

Dr. Hawa Abdi

Perry Doubt's Home

November 4 - 7 pm

Board of Directors

Elmhurst Public Library

November 5 - 7:30 pm

New & Prospective Member Event

Jennifer Jordan's Home

November 11 - 7:00 pm

AAUW Meeting

"Exploring LGBTQ Issues in a Local Context"

Elmhurst College Library

December 3 - 1:00 pm

Book Discussion Group

"I Feel Bad About My Neck: And Other Thoughts on Being a Woman" by Nora Ephron

Hostess - Joanne McCurdy

Leader - Sherall Carson



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.

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.

QUARTERLY BALANCES REPORT

July - September 2015

Denise Thomposon
Director of Finance

Book Sale Fund:	\$5,686.84
General Fund	4,246.52
Conf./Convention	<u>2,065.44</u>
Total	\$11,998.80

Dare to Dream Conference Seeking Volunteers

Founded in 2007 by four AAUW branches, including the Elmhurst Area Branch, *Atrévete a Soñar ¡Educate!* (Dare to Dream: Get Educated!) is a one-day conference for Latina middle school girls.

The conferences focuses on the personal, professional and financial value of education in general and higher education in particular.

The first conference had 105 girls and mothers attend. Since that time, the conference has grown significantly. The 2015 conference had over 600 girls and mothers register.

The 2016 conference will be held at College of DuPage on Saturday, January 30. Volunteers are needed for a variety of activities for the weeks leading up to the conference, as well as the day of the conference itself. To volunteer, please contact Suzanne Elger at selger@me.com, or look for the sign up sheet at the next branch meeting.



AAUW Funds Allocation

The book sale, our branch's fund raising activity, has resulted in \$8,000 net funds available to support AAUW's mission to develop women's potential to lead in their communities and country, and provide the educational and lifelong learning opportunities to have a chance for success.

The Funds Committee consists of Peggy Babyar, Elaine Davison, Charlotte Mushow, Jan Summers, and Denise Thompson. We are recommending that our branch allocate the funds as follows: \$2,500 for a Returning Student Scholarship; \$500 for Stem Grant Students, and \$5,000 to AAUW Funds.

The Returning Student Scholarship funds will be awarded to a local woman returning to undergraduate or graduate school needing financial assistance to continue her education.

The Stem Grant will be awarded to a local student or students, encouraging study in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math.

AAUW Funds is an unrestricted fund providing for the accomplishment of our organization's mission to support existing programs with the dexterity to act quickly and responsibly in the wake of any new challenges facing women and girls. This fund includes the Leadership Programs Fund, the Educational Opportunities Fund, the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, the Legal Advocacy Fund, the Public Policy Fund, and the AAUW Action Fund.

Gender Pay Equity and the Paycheck Fairness Act, HR 1619

Pay Gap Fast Facts

Nationally

- 79.2¢ – The average amount U.S. women currently earn for every dollar a man earns
- \$800k – Approximate lifetime earnings lost by college educated women born in the '50s
- ~ Women with a bachelor degree earn wages comparable to a man with an associate degree
- ~ Women with a graduate degree earn less than a man with a bachelor degree

In Illinois

- 80¢ – The amount Illinois women currently earn for every dollar a man earns
- 2065 – The year Illinois women are estimated to finally reach pay equity

Ready to tell your house member and senator to support the Paycheck Fairness, HR 1619? Click on the following link at AAUW.org, enter your zip code (if you have not done so before), and send off your message: http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50796/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=14710&killorg=True

President's Message

Our October program was a success, with a guided tour of the Imagist art in the Elmhurst College collection. The curator, Suellen Rocca, is a contemporary and friend of the female artists that were the focus of the tour, and her insights provided a valuable perspective on the art works and the history. I appreciated the art much more after understanding the background of these accomplished women.

November's program should be very interesting, with a panel discussion on LGBTQ issues at the Elmhurst College Library (see more details elsewhere in this newsletter). I hope you can attend to learn more about this issue important to many in our diverse population. In addition, we will have a Branch meeting shortly after the Program to review the Book Sale funds allocation as well as other issues.

Our branch co-sponsored a Public Policy event on September 29th, "Illinois Power Woman", with Illinois Senator Christine Radogno. Frankly, it was a little disappointing, as she didn't seem optimistic that there will be progress on any of the issues pertinent to women's equity, including the ratification of the ERA. Our present political turmoil and financial budget crisis in Illinois might even hurt our cause, as funding for important issues can, at best, get lost in the mess. For the sake of my daughters and my little granddaughter, I still hope for something more positive.

On October 10th, Denise Dean, Leslie Stipe and I attended the AAUW-IL conference for the northern half of the state. We brought back fresh ideas and information on STEM projects, public policy, membership, Salary Negotiation Programs, and other topics. And Energy!

Also, with Mary Eleanor Wall's initiation, she and I met with the Title IX Coordinator for District 205. It was an introductory meeting, with expression of our support for equity issues for girls in the public schools, such as Title IX and STEM programs. There will be follow-up meetings on both topics by me, Jennifer Aldred-Berry and Leslie Stipe.

We are still in need of someone to help us with Policy and Bylaws, making sure we're aligned with national and state policy changes. See the Job Description in this Newsletter.

We're having a New Member event at Jennifer Jordan's on Nov. 5th. If you're a new member, you are definitely invited. I also encourage everyone to think of a prospective new member to invite, and bring them to the event. That's how we can grow and strengthen our community, making a difference for women and girls!

Jan Summers
Branch President

Volunteer Needed!

If you're good at word-smithing, or editing, we could use your help.

This role has focused activity only once every two years, to update our Bylaws and Policies to conform to National AAUW Changes and any changes we want to make to improve our Branch.

This required activity needs to be accomplished this term by April 2016. Job Description is as follows:

AAUW – Elmhurst Area Branch

Bylaws and Policies

Duties and Responsibilities

*Throughout the year as needed:
Maintain awareness of changes in National or AAUW –IL Policies and Bylaws, usually done once every two years.*

Biannually (or annually if needed):

1) Convene the Bylaws and Policies Committee, comprised of the Branch President and a Veteran Board Member.

2) Review changes to Bylaws voted on at the AAUW National Convention (in odd years). These changes are sent to the branches via email.

3) Review any other recommended changes sent from AAUW-Illinois.

4) Update Branch Bylaws as required.

5) Branch Policies are then reviewed and changes made as needed.

6) All changes to policy and bylaws are then sent to the person in charge of the yearbook who makes the changes to the Branch Yearbook.

Please Contact Jan Summers if you can volunteer