

Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 77, No. 2 • September 2015

September 9th Supper Meeting

Reserve now! Our fall dinner will be on Wednesday, September 9, at Francesca's Restaurant, 174 N. York Rd. beginning at 6:30 pm. The cost is \$28 per person and guests are welcome.

The program will include our guest speaker, Blair Brettschneider from GirlForward, Inc. This organization is making a difference in the lives of young girls who are refugees living in the Chicago area. She won an AAUW Community Action Grant in 2012-2013.

A reservation form is enclosed. Please make your reservations in advance so we can inform the restaurant. Please note any special dietary requests with your reservation.

For more information on the meeting contact Jan Alexander at doctorja7100@gmail.com.



Blair Brettschneider (right) founded GirForward in 2011. Attend the September meeting and learn what her organization is doing to make a difference in the Chicago area.

Used Book Sale

We had a successful Used Book Sale again this year! Thanks to the many people who donated books, and to those who volunteered their time to sort and work at the sale.

Although there are always challenges, we worked through the issues with the new venue, and had a great sale. We hope in the future to increase the publicity around our event, so if you have ideas as to where we should publicize to get the word out, let us know.

The Financial report is not yet finalized, but the gross sales were around \$11,000. We use the net funds, after expenses, to support scholarships for local women and to contribute to AAUW Funds nationally, which supports all the special projects in AAUW's mission.

This is our big and only fundraiser of the year. And we're still taking donations. If you were unable to volunteer your time, perhaps you would like to donate money.

If so, you can provide a check to AAUW Elmhurst Branch at the September Supper, or send a donation to AAUW Funds, which is tax-deductible. Go online at <https://ww2.aauw.org/donate-gift/> or mail a check to AAUW directly.



BRANCH CALENDAR

September 9 - 6:30 pm

September Supper

Francesca's
171 York Rd., Elmhurst

September 15 - 7:30 pm

Half the Sky Group
Perry Doubt's Home

September 16 - 7:00 pm

Why Redistricting Matters in Changing Illinois

Park Ridge Library
20 S. Prospectd, Park Ridge

September 24 - 1:00 pm

Book Discussion Group

Favored Daughter
Hostess - Mary Hallman
Leader - Peggy Fox

September 29 - 7:00 pm

Illinois Power Woman, Hon. Christine Radogno

Downers Grove Park District
Rec. Center
4500 Belmont Rd.

October 5, 2015 1 pm

Noontime Potpourri

Cafe Amana

October 7 - 7:00 pm

Board of Directors

Elmhurst Public Library

Supreme Court Victories: 2015 *(from AAUW Today)*

Pregnancy Discrimination: *Young v. UPS* went to the heart of one of the most important workplace protection laws: the Pregnancy Discrimination Act (PDA).

Passed in 1978, the PDA states unequivocally that pregnancy discrimination is a form of sex discrimination, and it requires employers to treat pregnant employees the same as non-pregnant employees who have similar abilities or inabilities to work. The plaintiff in this case, Peggy Young, worked for UPS and had requested temporary light-duty work as a result of pregnancy complications. Even though UPS provided light-duty work to other drivers with similar restrictions who were not pregnant, the company refused to provide the same accommodation to Young. As a result, she was forced to leave her job.

After a long battle, the Supreme Court finally agreed to hear Young's appeal. This spring, the court ruled 6-3 in favor of Young, which means that she will be able to present her case to the lower court for a ruling on the merits. Had the court sided with UPS, it could have weakened the PDA's protection for pregnant workers.

Women's Health Care: *King v. Burwell* was yet another challenge to the Affordable Care Act. In *King*, opponents of the health care law argued that tax credits that help low-income people afford health care coverage should only be available to people in states with state-run health care exchanges. If the court had sided with the challengers, millions of women would have lost health care coverage.

The challengers focused their entire argument on four words of the law's regulations: "established by the state." The law's regulations say that the subsidies or credits are available to people who purchase insurance through an exchange that is "established by the state." The challengers argued that the federal government isn't a state, so the subsidies shouldn't be available to anyone who purchased insurance through a federal exchange.

In an opinion written by Chief Justice John Roberts, the court rejected the challengers' argument. Because the goal of the law was expressly to help ensure that people can access health care, it would be untenable to read the word "state" in isolation and deny millions of people that access, Roberts wrote. The subsidies are crucial to the viability of the health care exchanges, and Congress could not have intended a narrow reading that would destroy the ability of the exchanges to function.

Voting Rights: The court saw several significant cases this term that addressed gerrymandering and redistricting. Two of the most significant were the linked cases *Alabama Legislative Black Caucus v. Alabama* and *Alabama Democratic Conference v. Alabama*.

After the 2010 census, the Alabama legislature redrew the state's voting districts. The resulting district plan packed more African American voters into fewer districts, diluting the voting power of African American communities. The Alabama Legislative Black Caucus and Alabama Democratic Conference challenged the constitutionality of the plan in court, arguing that it amounted to racial gerrymandering. The court of appeals sided with the state. In a 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court reversed, sending the plan back to the lower court for a district-by-district review. Although the court did not rule on the constitutionality of the plan, it indicated that a majority of justices believed that at least some of the districts were drawn unconstitutionally. In addition to the Alabama cases, which are not over yet, voters and civil rights groups have challenged new restrictions and redistricting in several states. As we approach the 2016 election next year, these challenges will be front and center.

Marriage Equality. Though all of the court's decisions are significant, this term will be remembered for one particular case: *Obergefell v. Hodges*.

Over the last few years, same-sex couples wishing to marry filed legal challenges to state bans on same-sex marriages, arguing that they were entitled to the same legal rights as heterosexual couples. And because some states performed same-sex marriages but others refused to recognize those marriages, many same-sex couples were stuck in legal limbo. Finally, last year, several of those cases reached the Supreme Court, ensuring that it would decide the question of marriage equality once and for all.

In a landmark decision, the Supreme Court ruled that states must allow same-sex couples to marry and must recognize same-sex marriages validly performed in other states. Justice Anthony Kennedy, writing for the court, relied on earlier cases that had established the right to marry as a fundamental right. Of the same-sex couples seeking to marry, he wrote, "They ask for equal dignity in the eyes of the law. The Constitution grants them that right."

FINANCIAL REPORT

August 18, 2015

Denise Thompson
Director of Finance

Book Sale Fund:	\$ 10,082.18
Conferences Fund	2,065.44
General Fund:	<u>4,306.80</u>
Total	\$16,454.42



AAUW Hotline 1-800-326-2289
Email: info@aauwelmhurst.org

President's Message

Another newsletter already! As the new Board and Officers get into their roles, we have so much information to share and exciting ideas for the upcoming year, we want to share it as it develops.

We will kick off the program year at our September Supper, on September 9th at Francesca's, with a guest speaker, Blair Brettschneider, from Girl Forward, Inc. It's also a great time to socialize with old and new friends, building and strengthening our **community**. If you haven't already signed up, we need your reservation by Sept. 2nd.

As I noted in the last newsletter, I attended the biannual AAUW National Convention in San Diego in June. I've just finished reviewing and summarizing my notes, and have shared the key points at our first Board Meeting. Some of the key priorities of AAUW that I hope to expand in our branch are STEM education, Title IX enforcement, and Equal Pay support. Our plan is to have a Strategic Planning meeting in the coming months to see how we can develop & strengthen our **Branch Brand**. Since our Mission is **Equality & Equity for Women & Girls**, it's also our product. Ideally, a strong **Branch Brand** automatically markets our product and supports our mission. More about our Branch Brand in future communications.

Public Policy is a hot topic after the National Convention, and several related events are upcoming. Our branch is co-sponsoring a Public Policy event on September 29th, "Illinois Power Woman", with Illinois Senator Christine Radogno, who will speak on women's issues in Illinois, including the ratification of the ERA. And one of our members, Cindy Grau, is leading a program on Sept. 16th entitled, "Why Redistricting Matters in Changing Illinois". I also attended a Public Policy event last weekend, hosted by AAUW Illinois, and learned even more ideas about possible mission-based programs. Denise Dean, who is taking on Public Policy for our Branch, will have more information in the next newsletter.

One of my themes from the convention is that we are a **community** of people in support of the **mission to advance equity for women and girls**. That's why I belong to AAUW, and it's why I'm motivated to develop our branch's **community**. If you have additional ideas for programs, interest groups, or ways to build and strengthen our **community**, let's talk!

Reminder: keep watching the newsletters and our social media for upcoming activities. "Like" our Facebook page and add our website to your Favorites.

I am looking forward to meeting you and/or getting to know you all better soon. We have a great year ahead of us and we're ready to start!

Jan Summers
Branch President

Funds Committee Report

You, our branch members, worked hard to make the book sale successful. This philanthropic effort makes it possible for us to advance educational and professional opportunities for women internationally, nationally, and locally.

When a woman is educated, she becomes empowered to start a ripple effect in her community.

Without the voices of these educated women, legislation would never be passed such as the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes and Prevention Act, and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

Our branch will soon decide how to distribute the funds from the book sale to make it possible for women to improve their lives and those of others.

Elaine Davison
AAUW Funds

Dreamcatcher Fundraiser

Human trafficking in Chicago? It DOES happen here more often than you know.

Dreamcatcher Foundation, an organization that fights human trafficking right here in the Chicagoland area, is the subject of a Sundance Film Festival Director's Award winning documentary. This powerful film will be shown at the **Metropolis Theater**, 111 W. Campbell, Arlington Heights, at **7pm, Sunday, September 27**.

Dreamcatcher Foundation co-founder Brenda Myers-Powell will be there to talk about her experience with trafficking and to answer questions following the film. Tickets - \$20 - will be available at the door that night. All proceeds will go to help Dreamcatcher Foundation continue to do their important work.

Come find out what is being done to combat the problem of human trafficking in our area.

New Member Spotlight: Frances Peshkin

Frances joined AAUW this summer after she became interested in the book sale because her granddaughter was setting up a library for her new role as teacher of third graders in Cleveland, Ohio.

Frances graduated from Northwestern University in June 1956. At that time, she was already married to her husband, Murray. This past June, they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary!

Frances was kept busy being a faculty wife at Northwestern, then the mother of three children, and volunteering for many causes. Her teaching preparation became relevant for some years as she was a part-time instructor in Hebrew language classes at several congregations. In 1959 and 1968, Murray, a physicist, was sent by his employer, Argonne National Laboratory, to spend the year at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel. In 1968, all three children attended Israeli schools. She was a volunteer teacher of English at the ORT School in Rehovot.

Two of Frances' children reside in the Chicago area: Michael is a professor of mechanical engineering at Northwestern University, and Sharon is a professor in journalism at Columbia College in Chicago, Joel is an electronics engineer at Broadcom in Irvine, California. Frances has three granddaughters and one grandson.

Frances notes that it was quite natural to join AAUW inasmuch as she has been participating in Great Decisions for some years.

Welcome to the branch, Frances!

San Diego Convention Rocks!

Jan Summers attended the AAUW National Convention in San Diego this past June. It was in a lovely setting, on the water, with fantastic weather for outdoor dining. Jan met and networked with AAUW Illinois leaders, as well as national AAUW personnel.

The speakers were amazing and inspirational, including the panel with Lilly Ledbetter on "What Does It Take to Make a Woman Leader?" (A video of this panel discussion can be found online at <http://convention.aauw.org/2015/06/17/presentations-and-materials/>). Jan was also proud to point to the banner where Elmhurst Area Branch was recognized as one of the Top 50 Contributors to AAUW.



How do we encourage more women to risk becoming leaders? That was the question moderator Marianne Schnall and panelists Noorjahan Akbar, Kate Farrar, Lilly Ledbetter, and Don McPherson attempted to answer during a plenary session at the 2015 AAUW National Convention in San Diego.



Join us for the September Supper at Francesca's Amici

174 N. York Road, Elmhurst

Wednesday, September 9, 6:30 pm

Registration deadline, Wednesday, September 2

\$28 per person, inclusive

Menu

SALAD: Insalata della Casa

Romaine, carrot, cucumber, and tomato with balsamic vinaigrette

MAIN COURSE: Rigatoni con Mozzarella

*Rigatoni pasta sauteed with tomato basil sauce and fresh
mozzarella*

Pollo alla Romano

*Roasted chicken breast with garlic, shallots, rosemary, lemon,
olive oil, and roasted potatoes*

DESSERT: Profiteroles

DRINKS: Coffee, Hot or Iced Tea, Water (Cash bar for all other beverages)

Registration

NAME: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION: _____

GUESTS: _____

PAYMENT AMOUNT at \$28 per person: _____

Special dietary needs: _____

**Make out checks to AAUW, Elmhurst-Area Branch.
Send to AAUW, PO Box 243, Elmhurst, IL 60126, by September 2**

Join Us to Learn

WHY REDISTRICTING MATTERS IN CHANGING ILLINOIS

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Park Ridge Public Library

20 S. Prospect Avenue

Park Ridge

- **Legislative districts are redrawn every ten years following the U.S. Census**
- **District boundaries in Illinois are drawn by the party in power to strengthen that power**
- **Illinois' Constitution allows citizens to propose an amendment to change the way the districts are drawn**
- **Independent Maps is a non-partisan coalition to reform legislative redistricting in Illinois**

**Speaker: Christopher Butler
Illinois Field Director, Independent Maps**

Sponsored by:

Park Ridge League of Women Voters

Contact: Diane Edmundson 847-292-1867

Northwest Suburban Branch, AAUW

Contact: Cynthia Grau 847-384-8136

(This is not a Library-run event. Except for providing meeting space, the Park Ridge Public Library is not in any manner connected with this meeting, and neither the Library nor the Board of Trustees endorses the presenter nor any position expressed by the group.)

AAUW PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM
Co-sponsored by Elmhurst Area AAUW

**“ILLINOIS POWER WOMAN”
Hon. Christine Radogno
Senate Republican Leader**



**Tuesday, September 29, 2015; 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Downers Grove Park District Recreation Center
4500 Belmont Rd., Multi-Purpose Room**

Senator Christine Radogno is the first female Caucus Leader in the history of the Illinois General Assembly. She began her third term as Senate Republican Leader in 2013, and has served in the Illinois Senate since 1997, representing the 41st District in DuPage, Will and Cook Counties.

Before running for Senate, Radogno served as Village of LaGrange Trustee (1989-1996), and worked as a social worker at Mercy Center for Health Care Services. She holds a master’s degree in social work from Loyola University.

Her human services background has reinforced her dedication to fostering responsible health care in Illinois, sponsoring Medicaid Reform legislation, and advocating common sense changes to Illinois’ public health system.

In May, 2014, in a critical vote for Illinois’ ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the U.S. Constitution, Senator Radogno voted “YES”, paving the way for its passage in the Illinois Senate.

**Key Sponsor: Moe Headington, Public Policy Chair, Hinsdale-Oak Brook AAUW
Tel: 630-323-6891; moeteam@comcast.net:
Co-sponsors: Downers Grove, Elmhurst Area, Jane Addams,
and Salt Creek AAUW Branches**