

Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 78, No. 4 • December 2016

December 14 Holiday Party

Anne Klein's home
280 S. Cottage Hill

Join us for a festive evening of holiday cheer when Anne Klein graciously opens her historic Elmhurst home for our Holiday Party. Making the evening more memorable, **Les Caltvedt** will entertain us with his wonderful music. As we enjoy delicious food, we have time to renew friendships and meet new members.

Members whose last names begin with A-L bring an appetizer while those with M-Z bring a dessert. A \$5 fee, collected at the party, covers beverages and other incidentals. For more information contact Pat O'Dwyer (pat.odwyer@comcast.net, 630-279-1318) or Sally Schuster (sally@schuster.me, 630-833-3132).



Branch Members Approve Book Sale Funds Distribution

At the Branch Business Meeting on November 9, AAUW members approved the Funds Committee and Board Members' recommendations for the distribution of the proceeds from the Book Sale:

- \$6,000 to be sent to AAUW National to the AAUW Fund, which is used to fund all national activities, including LAF.

- \$3,000 to be allocated for the Returning Scholar scholarship. The selection of the scholarship recipient will be conducted in April, 2017 by the Funds Committee. If there is no deserving applicant, the \$3,000 will be re-allocated by the Board.

- \$1,000 to Dare to Dream as funding for an alumna's scholarship for college.

Members were especially pleased with the recommendation of the \$1,000 scholarship for an alumna of the Dare to Dream program, as so many in our Branch were, and some still are, involved in this program.

The Funds Committee will be meeting shortly regarding the Returning Scholar Scholarship Program. We're open to new ideas and ways to enhance our Branch's past promotional efforts. Give me or anyone on the Funds Committee a call with your suggestions. All ideas are welcome.

Mary Mallon
Funds Committee Chair
630-290-8630



BRANCH CALENDAR

December 5 9 am

Half the Sky Exhibit

Holocaust Museum - Skokie.

Contact Betty LaLiberte or Sarah Caltvedt for details.

December 14 - 7:00 pm

Branch Holiday Party

Home of Anne Klein

280 S. Cottage Hill

Board of Directors

No Meeting in December

December 1 - 1:00 pm

Book Group

Sisters in Law

by Linda Hirshman

Hostess: Joanne McCurdy

Leader: Sherall Carson

January 11 - 7:00 pm

Branch Program & Meeting

Elmhurst Public Library

"The Story of Women

Refugees"



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.

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.

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FINANCIAL REPORT

November 27, 2016

*Denise Thompson
Director of Finance*

General Fund	\$ 3,927.18
Conferences Fund	2,450.44
Book Sale Fund:	<u>8,150.51*</u>
Total	\$14,528.13

*Includes \$6,000 donation to AAUW National.

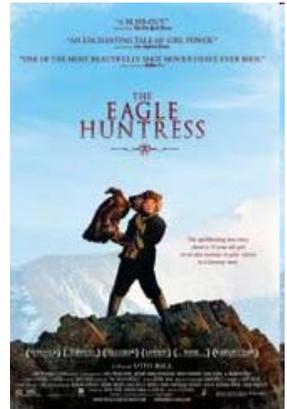
Ideas from Half the Sky Group

Treat yourself to an uplifting movie :

“THE EAGLE HUNTRESS” – a Sony Classic documentary film - CELEBRATES A STRONG YOUNG WOMAN and the family who supports her!

“Aishol-pan, a 13-year-old girl, trains to become the first female in 12 generations of her Kazakh family to become an eagle hunter and rises to the pinnacle of a tradition that has been handed down from father to son for centuries.” [Sony Classics]

This is breathtaking cinematography coupled with a glimpse into strong family support of a powerfully talented young women. We get a glimpse into the life of a Kazakhstan family!



The film is currently playing at the Century Centre Cinema in Chicago and Renaissance Place Cinema in Highland Park. Check for other listings as the film gains wider distribution.

Treat yourself and others with gifts from RE:NEW

RE:NEW, located at 483 N. Main St. Glen Ellyn, IL (phone 630 547 2176 - www.renewproject.org) provides employment and community for refugee women in DuPage County.

As you shop for special gifts for your special people, please consider RE:NEW. This store offers items for holiday giving that have equally strong returns for the women who created and for those who receive them.

We can support the work of refugee women right here in DuPage County. If you are looking for a gift that gives and gives, please visit Re: NEW.

By shopping at Re:new, you are not only getting a high quality product, but you are also directly supporting local refugee women and their families. Your money is used to help them resettle and rebuild their lives, both professionally and personally, in the U.S.

AAUW will have a presentation of Re:NEW’s work at our January 11, 2017 general meeting. Please mark your calendar.



RE:NEW
creating hope for women

483 N. Main - Glen Ellyn

**MWF 9:30 am - 5:30 pm
Th - 9:30 am - 8:00 pm
Sat - 10 am - 4 pm
Closed Sundays**

President's Message

November was an emotional roller coaster for me and I have felt really drained at times. Besides the election, it was also birthday time for me, which also had its highs and lows. But I just had a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend and the upcoming Holidays look exciting, filled with family, friends and activities. I'm getting refocused.

Like many in our Branch, I also celebrated the end of the World Series drought for the Chicago Cubs, which was tense but provided an emotional boost for fans. That evening, just before the final game, our Branch's dedicated Board of Directors met to strategize and brainstorm how to increase our membership and retain existing members. We have developed a few ideas as to how to better link to the community and to increase awareness of our group. But we're still working on more ideas and ways to implement them. First step, we've established a Membership Task Force, led by Jennifer Jordan, our Membership VP. If you have some ideas on how to attract more members, or if you want to be a part of the Task Force, talk to Jennifer or me.

At the November Branch Business Meeting, we voted to accept the AAUW Funds Committee recommendation on the distribution of funds: \$6000 to AAUW Fund at National, \$3000 for our local Returning Scholar, and \$1000 for a Dare to Dream Scholarship. Now we get started looking for a good candidate for the local scholarship. If you know someone who meets the criteria, make her aware of the process and the timeline – application in by April 1st.

Our program in November, the day after the election, was about gender stereotypes. It was a great program, with discussion led by our own Jane Jegerski. It made me aware that although the patriarchal cultural impacts have lessened to some degree over the last few decades, the body image issues are actually getting worse, as even the models can't live up to their digitally modified images. This affects women and girls' confidence levels, sometimes dramatically. And the trend in advertising of implied violence towards women is increasing, scarily. Misogyny is in some ways more overt than before and we need to find a way to fight back. We'll kick back into gear on these kinds of issues in our 2017 programs.

I hope to see you at the December Holiday party at Anne Klein's home. I know I need this time with like-minded friends and family to get my enthusiasm revived. We **will** continue to strive to succeed in our mission of impacting gender equity, making a difference for women and girls.

Jan Summers
Branch President



Analyzing the 2016 Election

On the afternoon of November 16th, I listened to a live member conference call, during which AAUW Vice President of Government Relations and Advocacy, Lisa Maatz, discussed outcomes of the general election, and more.

Below are the important points from that call, which appear in the article posted on the Issues/Advocacy page of the national AAUW site. Viewing the article directly on that page will provide you with links to supporting data and explanatory articles. If you are interested in the details, it's worth the trip.

If you would like to listen to the audio recording (approx. 90 min.), here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6fXSo3J2EQ&feature=youtu.be>
--Denise Dean

Five Takeaways from Election 2016

The seemingly never-ending 2016 election is finally over, and it was one for the record books. It was a year fraught with controversial candidates, positions, statements, and tweets — one that saw an uptick in voter interest and engagement but then a major decline in voter turnout. It was an election that saw increased levels of anxiety among voters as well as incidents of bullying in schools.

One important takeaway I have about this election is that candidates did speak to issues affecting women and families. Remember in the first presidential debate when both candidates had mentioned equal pay AND child care in the first five minutes? While America, and the world respectively, try to process last week's outcome, I'm here to help you nurse your election season hangover with a few takeaways to mull over.

1. 2016 Shocker

No one saw this coming. Reading the polls and looking at early voting and registration numbers, who could have guessed it? For the first time ever, America elected a president with no background in politics or public service, who touted his role as a business leader as his main qualification for office. All most Americans have to go on is the controversial racist, sexist, and xenophobic language President-elect Donald Trump used on the campaign trail.

While campaign rhetoric is one thing and governing is another, we do have to continue to hold Trump accountable for his behavior both during the campaign and after. AAUW, along with the rest of the country, will be waiting with bated breath to see what we can expect from the Trump administration and the appointees who will make up his cabinet. We believe personnel is policy. We will continue to speak truth to power as we have for 135 years and will act as valuable allies or fierce critics, depending on what's warranted at the time.

2. Congress Stays the Same, Mostly

We will still be focusing on AAUW policy priorities. Women are still facing unequal pay and calling for relief through the Paycheck Fairness Act and Pay Equity for All Act. Students are still waiting for real action on college affordability and high student debt, and they expect a continued commitment to combating campus sexual assault. Working families are still looking for good jobs with paid family and medical leave and other workplace equity policies. And Americans still don't have the basic necessity of a full Supreme Court.

Interesting fact to remember: Vice President-elect Mike Pence was a U.S. representative for more than a decade and knows the ins and outs of the process. The vice president-elect looks to be a major player in a Trump presidency, but it'll be interesting to see what his impact will be on policy and if Trump administration priorities will line up with Speaker Paul Ryan's (R-WI) and those of other House Republicans.

3. Good Night for Women in the Senate

Women did make impressive gains in Senate representation this cycle. In 2017, there will be 21 women serving in the U.S. Senate — the highest number in history. The chamber will also feature a record number of women of color. Senators-elect Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), and Kamala Harris (D-CA) made history by becoming the first Thai American, first Latina, and first biracial woman, respectively, to serve in the Senate.

4. AAUW-Supported Ballot Initiatives Did Well

Ballot measures related to AAUW's priority issues had a pretty successful night. Voters in Maine, Colorado, Washington, and Arizona voted to increase their state minimum wages. Arizona and Washington also approved new paid sick leave programs. In Missouri, a ballot question on raising the cigarette tax to help fund a school voucher scheme failed. But it was disappointing to see that the state passed a measure requiring government-issued photo IDs in future elections. Alaska passed an initiative to automatically register all qualified voters when applying for a

(continued next page)

Happy Anniversary!

Congratulations these members who are celebrating milestone anniversaries with AAUW this year:

5 Years

Jennifer Aldred
Sarah Aldred-Fleege
Rita Andreuccetti
Susan Boyd
Perry Doubt
Anne Klein
Cheri Richards

20 Years

Sarah Caltvedt

30 Years

Betty Rooney
Darlene Van Meir

40 Years

Betsy Aldred
Judith Ekblad

New Member Spotlight: Sally Ott

Sally Ott joined AAUW this fall. She's a retired elementary school teacher and administrator.

She has a daughter and a 10 month old grandson who live in San Francisco, and she tries to see them as often as possible.

In her spare time, Sally volunteers with the Elmhurst School District and Meals on Wheels. She has several friends who are members of AAUW and has attended several events with them over the years. She finally decided to join AAUW and looks forward to meeting people in the group and participating in many of the activities and programs.

Welcome, Sally!

Permanent Fund dividend. In addition, California passed a number of AAUW-supported ballot initiatives, including wins for community college funding and improving health coverage for low-income Californians.

These ballot initiatives serve as reminders that it's not only candidates that matter on the ballot each election cycle.

5. Voter Suppression Tactics in Motion

I'm sure I wasn't alone at 10 p.m. on election night wondering why there were so many states too close to call amid reports about polls going haywire. From miles-long early voting lines to extended voting hours due to Election Day glitches, many would-be voters saw their right to vote stymied at every turn. This wasn't a complete surprise since it is the first presidential election in 50 years without the full protections of the Voting Rights Act (VRA). Since the Supreme Court's decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, states have been emboldened to pass harmful voting restrictions in response to discredited claims of voter fraud.

All told, in 2016, 14 states had new voting restrictions in place for the first time in a presidential election, and many amount to a return to the poll tax, which disenfranchised so many would-be voters. Politicians should not be allowed to choose their electorate — or to manipulate it in a way that not only silences voters' voices but affects the outcome.

You can show your support for enhanced voting rights by urging your member of Congress to cosponsor the Voting Rights Advancement Act to restore the protections of the VRA and ensure equal access to the ballot box in all future elections.