



Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 78, No. 5 • January 2017

January Program

Pat O'Dwyer and Sally Schuster, Program Vice-Presidents

Meeting Date: January 11, 2017

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Elmhurst Public Library, Kossman Meeting Room

**Speaker: Susan Tripi DeLano, Executive Director
RE:NEW Project**

RE:NEW is a nonprofit organization that provides training, employment, and community to refugee women resettled in DuPage County, Illinois. It is a team of over 40 women volunteers, staff and artisans working together to design and market handcrafted products as it creates a space for refugee women to thrive.

Susan Tripi DeLano, Executive Director, will share some of the challenges refugees encounter in the resettlement process as well as the ways the Re:new Project is meeting the emotional, social and financial needs of refugee women by offering flexible employment in a safe, nurturing, and encouraging environment that focuses on both personal and professional development of the women in the Artisan Development programs.

Our AAUW Value Promise states that, "By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through education and economic barriers so all women have a fair chance." Re:new is an organization that is doing that here in our own community.

We are grateful to our member Betty Laliberte, Chair of the Half-the-Sky Study Group, for her recommendation of Re:new as a possible program meeting topic and for her initial research and contact information.



BRANCH CALENDAR

January 4 - 6:00 pm
Funds Committee Meeting
before the Board Meeting
Elmhurst Public Library

January 4 - 7:00 pm
Board of Directors
Elmhurst Public Library

January 11 - 7:00 pm
Branch Program & Meeting
Elmhurst Public Library
"The Story of Women
Refugees"
Susan Tripi DeLano, RE:NEW
Project

January 25 - 7:00 pm
Half the Sky Group
Perry Doubt's Home

January 26 - 1:00 pm
Book Group
10 North Frederick
by John O'Hara
Hostess: Jeanne Regan
Leader: Jeanne Regan

February 8 - 7:00 pm
Branch Program & Meeting
NOT February 18 - see note p.3.
Elmhurst Public Library



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.

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

December 14, 2016

Denise Thompson
Director of Finance

General Fund	\$3,911.18
Conferences Fund	2,450.44
Book Sale Fund:	<u>8,150.51*</u>
Total	\$14,528.13

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

Elmhurst Branch Returning Scholar Scholarship Search Begins

Hope all of you had personally satisfying, peaceful and fun holidays.

With the New Year comes our Branch's annual search for a deserving returning scholar. As you may remember, \$3,000 has been allocated for the Returning Scholar scholarship.

The Funds Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 4, at 6:00 p.m. (just before the Board Meeting) to again prepare and then carry out plans to promote 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 (Betsy Aldred, Elaine Davison, Jan Summers and Denise Thompson) a call with your suggestions. Maria Patt is joining the Funds Committee to lend her expertise in communications. All ideas are welcome.

The selection of the scholarship recipient will take place in April, 2017 by the Funds Committee.

Mary Mallon, Funds Committee Chair, mary.mallon@comcast.net 630-290-8630.

****IMPORTANT****

Meeting Date Correction!

The date for the February meeting is not accurate in both the yearbook and on the program bookmark that we distributed in September.

They both list the date incorrectly as February 18. The correct date is Feb. 8, 2017.

Please note the correct date both in the yearbook and on the bookmark you were given.



We were happy to see new members Nancy Fako and Sally Ott at the December meeting. Welcome to AAUW!

President's Message

Our December Holiday Party was fantastic! Anne Klein hosted us in her lovely home, decorated beautifully for the Holidays. Thanks Anne and family! Attendance was high, especially considering how cold it was. The food brought by everyone was delicious and plentiful, really challenging my plan to minimize my consumption. And Les Caltvedt played Christmas music for us while we mingled and socialized. I really enjoyed catching up with friends and meeting some of the members I didn't know. Great food, wine, music, lovely surroundings, and socializing with a community of like-minded women. A perfect evening!

After the lovely social event in December, we're kicking back into gear in 2017 to focus on our mission. Our January program will highlight the plight of women refugees with a presentation by Re:New: Creating Hope for Women. I hope you will brave the cold weather and attend to learn about this local effort.

As I mentioned last month, we've established a Membership Task Force, led by Jennifer Jordan, our Membership VP. This Task Force will be meeting in the New Year to develop and implement ideas as to how to better link our branch to the community and to increase awareness of our group for prospective members. 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.

Overall December was a cold and snowy month, but filled with many heart-warming moments with family, friends, and activities. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season with your friends and family. For me, like many others, there have been tensions surrounding the recent political events on top of the normal and sometimes stressful family dynamics. But we've survived the holidays and now need to refocus on surviving the upcoming changes in the political world. That's why being a part of AAUW is so important to me, providing time with like-minded friends to get my enthusiasm revived. We **will** continue in 2017 to strive to succeed in our mission of impacting gender equity, making a difference for women and girls.
Happy New Year!

Jan Summers
Branch President

Thanks!

We wanted to share the following note that we received from Kathleen Eckeberg, the Returning Scholarship recipient for 2015, along with a \$25 dollar donation.

Dear AAUW of Elmhurst,

I hope you had a great book fair, as you continue helping girls/ women of all ages to pursue higher education. As I pursue my bachelor's degree in accounting I will always remember your help and generosity last year. Please accept this small donation to help the next recipient as she reaches her educational goals.

*Blessings,
Kathleen
2015 Recipient*

Betty Rooney

Longtime AAUW member, Betty Rooney, 85, passed away on December 15, 2016 surrounded by her family.

Betty grew up in East Chicago, Indiana and graduated from Northwestern University. After she married, she moved to the Chicago area, settling in Elmhurst where she raised her family and was an active participant in many community organizations, including AAUW.

After her husband's death, she worked as a bookkeeper for 18 years. Fifteen years ago she moved to Oak Brook Club

A celebration of Betty's life will be held at a future date at the First United Methodist Church in Elmhurst, IL, where Betty was a member for over 50 years.



**Holiday
Party
2016**

**AAUW
Elmhurst
Area
Branch**





**Great
Party**



**Great
Friends**

Thanks to Les Caltvedt for the music and to Anne Klein for having us in her beautiful home!

Making Title IX History at the Office for Civil Rights

December 12, 2016 by Amy Becker

As we approach the 45th anniversary of Title IX in June 2017, AAUW is assessing the recent efforts of the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and evaluating the tremendous positive effect it's had in the past eight years with enforcing this longstanding civil rights law.

"For decades students and advocates have called on OCR to enforce long-standing Title IX statute, regulations, and Supreme Court case law concerning sexual harassment and violence, protections for pregnant and parenting students, equity in career and technical education, athletics, transgender students, and more," said Lisa Maatz, AAUW's vice president of government relations. "OCR's recent report documents what students and advocates already know: Under the Obama administration and Assistant Secretary Catherine Lhamon's leadership, this OCR steadily increased technical assistance and enforcement and provided critical guidance to schools, which led to better outcomes and safer climates for students at every level nationwide."

OCR plays a critical role in promoting and ensuring equity and fairness in educational settings, as well as addressing violations of students' civil rights that can seriously undermine a student's access to an education. According to OCR's FY 2016 annual report, the agency was hard at work providing enforcement and tools to help stop sex discrimination in education. It resolved 1,346 Title IX complaints that ranged from school's handling of athletics to sexual harassment and more. That's one and a half (almost two) cases an hour for the entire year. OCR provided technical assistance to 110 events on Title IX-related issues at schools and communities nationwide. OCR also issued additional guidance documents or packages that helped schools address gender discrimination in education. OCR has provided vigorous legal defense of these improvements to gender equity in schools and on college campuses across the country and at the U.S. Supreme Court.

"This generation of women, girls, LGBTQ, students with disabilities, students of color, and survivors of campus sexual violence will reap the benefit of greater understanding, application, and enforcement of Title IX, which has positively affected academic results and resulted in safer environments for all students," said Maatz. "Students demanded this change, schools asked for additional clarity, and OCR answered the call by ensuring that schools and colleges implemented many of these changes. It's a new day, and we will never go back."

This OCR also prioritized data transparency so that anyone can see how their school or college is meeting key gender equity indicators such as disaggregated data on sports participation, the number of complaints of sexual harassment and bullying, incidents of sexual violence, single sex classrooms, and more. For the first time ever, OCR published the name and contact information for Title IX coordinators in more than 17,000 schools on its website. Such information supports community collaboration in a way that has made equity and fairness in education a priority like never before.

AAUW commends the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights for its focus on and dedication to upholding the rights of students in education.

"We've had this perfect storm around campus sexual assault and other Title IX issues for the last eight years," said Maatz. "This was a grassroots movement started by student activists who found a strong ally in AAUW and in the recent leadership at OCR. Although we will see changes at OCR, the student movement will continue, no matter who's president or who's in control of Congress. AAUW expects OCR's robust Title IX enforcement activities to continue because every student deserves an equal opportunity to learn. That must remain a priority regardless of who occupies the White House."

For an additional research data from US Dept. of Education / Office of Civil Rights, please take a moment to check "Achieving Simple Justice" at http://www2.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/ocr/achieving-simple-justice.pdf?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term - it's super interesting. Happy Holidays! Denise Dean