



Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 76, No. 5 • JANUARY 2015

January Program, *A Call to Action*

Wednesday, January 14, 7 pm., Elmhurst Public Library

Our branch will discuss President Jimmy Carter's book *A Call to Action*. This book shares many similarities with *Half the Sky* by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. Carter's book is more comprehensive but does not have the depth of *Half the Sky*.

Carter discusses the plight of women in third world nations, but he also talks about discrimination in developed countries. He is very aware of the subtle and not so subtle areas of discrimination from the ways countries elect to prosecute prostitution to rape on college campuses to the pay inequality between men and women. He finds fault with all the major religions which interpret their teachings to keep women from reaching equality with men.

A Call to Action reminds us of all that still needs to be done before women and men are truly equal. Jimmy Carter is quick to point out that equality does not currently exist anywhere in the world, a stunning statement.

The following questions are a beginning for this year's book discussion.

1. This book shares many similarities to *Half the Sky*, however, the material is presented in very different manners. Which presentation do you prefer? Why?

2. The Carter Center (<http://www.cartercenter.org/index.html>) is mentioned frequently throughout the narrative. Are you familiar with this organization? Would you like to know more?

3. *A Call to Action* introduces many ways in which women are discriminated against. What surprised you the most?

4. President Carter states he thinks that many "Right-to-Lifers" should really be called "Right-to-Birthers." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

5. What one statement, fact, or story made you say, "That is so true!"

Worth a Look on YouTube

Several national corporations have released videos that tackle gender stereotypes and bias. Take a look at:

• *Don't be sorry - Be confident* (part of Pantene's Shine Strong campaign). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzL-vdQ3ObA>

• *Inspire Her Mind* (Verizon 2014 commercial) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XP3cyRRAfX0>)

• *Always #LikeAGirl* (video by Always) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XjJQBjWYDTs>

• *You Throw Like a Girl* (AAUW Title XI video) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vCm2E4LUHnY>



BRANCH CALENDAR

January 14 - 7 pm

Next AAUW Meeting

"A Call to Action"

Elmhurst Public Library

January 22 - 1:00 pm

Book Discussion Group

"Washington Square"

by Henry James

Hostess & Discussion

Leader:

Jeanne Regan

January 24

Dare to Dream

College of DuPage

February 2 - 1:00 pm

Noontime Potpourri

Discussion Group

Restaurant: 100 South

(York & Park Streets)

February 3 - 7:30 pm

Half the Sky Group

Perry Doubt's Home



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 25, 2014

Sandra J. Burk
Director of Finance

Conferences Fund	\$ 3,385.75
Book Sale Fund	4,047.43
General Fund:	<u>2,774.88</u>
Total	\$10,208.06

Dare To Dream Volunteers Needed

Dare to Dream is coming up soon!!

Saturday, January 24, 2015, at College of DuPage.

We encourage our members to volunteer for opportunities to assist on that day or before. For newer members who are not familiar with it, Dare to Dream is a one-day conference for Latina middle schoolers and their mothers which is designed to inspire them to complete their high school education and go on to college or get vocational training. It was founded by several local AAUW Branches after two of our Elmhurst Branch members, Connie Baker and Dorothy Valintis, got the idea at an AAUW National Convention. Our Branch members were vital to the development of the program and participated actively in the conference, especially during the years it was held at Elmhurst College. Last year the conference moved to College of DuPage in order to accommodate more girls, but our help is still needed. More information is available at www.latinaconference.org.

D2D needs people at the registration table, floaters to guide students and presenters, set up, clean up, take down, stuff folders, and other contributions.

If you can volunteer, contact Suzanne Elger of the AAUW Wheaton – Glen Ellyn Branch at selger@mac.com with your availability the day of the conference and/or the week prior. Please include your cell phone AND email for quick contact.

Laura Van Prooyen Returns

Many of you will remember Laura Van Prooyen, a former Branch member who received an AAUW grant to study at Warren Wilson College in NC and work on her poetry. We enjoyed hearing Laura read her poetry at a meeting several years ago. Laura has moved to San Antonio, but is still an AAUW member and has even helped one of her students receive an AAUW fellowship. Laura's second book of poetry is just coming out, and we were delighted to learn that she will be in the Chicago area in February. Since our February speaker will not need the full meeting time, Laura has graciously agreed to read some of her latest poetry following the program. Here is some information about her new book from www.spdbooks.org, a small press distributor:

Our House Was on Fire

Laura Van Prooyen

Publisher: Ashland Poetry Press

Pub Date: 1/15/2015

ISBN: 9780912592794

Price: \$15.95

From the distributor's website: *"I think yes. I say no," Laura Van Prooyen declares in this book of assertions and questions where danger lives at every turn—a child threatened by disease, a love passing through uncertainty, all the what ifs and keep at it of our days on the planet. Like music, these meticulously paced poems play over and over unto dark trance their observation and grief, again and again the natural world furious and spare until all seems to stand still. 'Understand, the plot doesn't matter,' this highly lyric poet insists because her staring stops time. 'I felt bad for looking,' she tells us. 'Still, I looked.'"*—Marianne Boruch

Laura Van Prooyen is the author of an earlier collection of poems, *Inkblot and Altar*, and her poetry has appeared in *The American Poetry Review*, *Ploughshares*, *The Southern Review*, and elsewhere. She is a recipient of grants from The American Association of University Women and the Barbara Deming Memorial Fund. She lives in San Antonio, Texas.

President's Message

Happy New Year! This is a time of taking stock and making resolutions for the coming year, and I think we can all feel very pleased with what our Branch has done in the past year and where we're going in the new one.

In addition to another season of outstanding, thought-provoking programs, we celebrated our 75th anniversary with a festive luncheon last May. It's a real testament to the strength of our Branch and our friendships that we had so many former members come from a distance (or just from Elmhurst) to join our celebration.

This summer we held another tremendously successful used book sale, a beloved Elmhurst tradition that has gone on for more than 50 years. How many other groups have this kind of staying power, and this much impact in the community?

Several of our members worked hard on the Tech Savvy conference held this fall, helping to further AAUW's goal of interesting girls in pursuing STEM careers. Many wonderful women have joined the Branch in the past year, bringing our membership total to 94!

The year ahead is filled with promise! As you'll read elsewhere, we have another strong slate of volunteers to help guide our Branch for the Board term starting in July; several members continue to support the Dare to Dream Conference for Latina middle schoolers, which will be held again in January; and one of our former members who was the recipient of an AAUW grant will be returning to share her latest book of poetry with us.

A new and very exciting development is that thanks to the efforts of College/University reps Susan Schmitz and Jane Jegerski, we will be partnering with Elmhurst College to bring a \$tart \$mart Salary Negotiation workshop to Elmhurst students in March. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to make ourselves known to women at Elmhurst College who could benefit so much from all that AAUW has to offer. AAUW has recently acquired the rights to \$tart \$mart and Work \$mart, a companion program for women already in the workforce. This should give us many wonderful opportunities for outreach not only to students, but also to mid-career women in our communities.

What about resolutions? Let's all resolve to attend as many Branch meetings as possible, to work hard on the next book sale, to get involved in Branch projects and to reach out to women we know who would enjoy the opportunity that comes with AAUW membership to make friends while learning about and supporting women's issues. And since I'll be the Nominating Committee chair next year, I would also suggest resolving to say "yes" when asked to take a leadership role in the Branch!

All these resolutions will not only keep our Branch strong for another 75 years, but will also give us so much personal satisfaction as we build friendships and work to make a better world for women and girls.

Sarah Caltvedt
Branch President

AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch 2015-2017 Slate of Officers

Once again our Elmhurst Area Branch is thrilled to present a slate of amazing women ready to take office in 2015. The slate of proposed elected officers includes:

President: Jan Summers
Treasurer: Denise Thompson
Membership: Jennifer Jordan
Program: Jane Jegerski
AAUW Funds: Marcia Lagerway
Bylaws & Policy: Denise Dean
Nominating: Sarah Caltvedt

Procedure requires that we present the nominees in our newsletter before voting in the spring at our business meeting. As always, branch members will receive notice of the election and will be given the opportunity to nominate others from the floor.

The nominating committee composed of chair, Carolyn Heiney, Darlene Van Meir, and Sarah Caltvedt delight in bringing the names of these women to the branch. Both Denise Dean and Jane Jegerski are fairly new members. Jan Summers, Jennifer Jordan, Marcia Lagerway, and Denise Thompson have served or are currently serving in branch leadership positions. Sarah Caltvedt, current president, will serve as the next nominating chair, as has been the custom for many years. When you see these wonderful ladies, please thank them for their willingness to serve on the board.

PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

AAUW has seen a 57% jump in the "Two-Minute Activist" messages sent by AAUW members to Congress, President Obama, and state lawmakers. We are encouraged to use this tool and the "AAUW Action Network" in 2015!

Genie Urick



Holiday Party - 2014

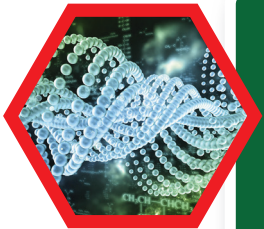
A wonderful time was had by all at our holiday party. The food was delicious, the company unmatched, the conversation lively! Many thanks to Jan Alexander for hosting.

Do You Know What You're Eating?

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) were introduced into the U.S. food supply in mid 90's.

80% of processed foods contain GMOs.

Why should you be aware of this and what can you do about it?



What Are GMOs?

Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are made by forcing genes from one species – such as bacteria, viruses, animals or even humans – into the DNA of an unrelated species in a lab in order to produce a specific trait or group of traits.

This can not happen in nature.

Elmhurst Cool Cities Coalition presents Chris Pedersen, Health Advocacy Supervisor for NOW Foods Inc., to educate us on GMOs.

- What are GMOs?
- How are they made?
- Are they safe to consume?
- How can we avoid them?

Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2015
7 P.M.

Elmhurst Public Library
125 S. Prospect Ave.

This is not an Elmhurst Public Library sponsored event



For more information, visit elmhurstcoolcities.org;
ecoolcities@gmail.com; 630/426-9789



Help Dare to Dream!

Dare to Dream: Get Educated! is a one-day conference for Latina middle school girls and their mothers to empower the dream of education. Our sixth annual conference will take place at College of DuPage in January 2015. Each conference focuses on the personal, professional and financial value of education in general, and higher education in particular. Both the girls and their mothers attend workshops on various topics such as: careers, high school and college campus life, making choices, health, navigating the American school system and family life.

Dare to Dream is presented by AAUW branches in the Lombard, Wheaton-Glen Ellyn, Downers Grove and Elmhurst areas, working together with DuPage middle schools and successful Latina business and professional women, who serve as board members, conference presenters, and role models.

Your generosity will help us to encourage Latina girls of DuPage County to dare to dream and to seek the education that will turn that dream into reality.

This year we are also continuing a program to award multiple \$1,000 scholarships to girls who attended the conference in 2011 and will be entering an accredited college, university, or vocational program for the fall of 2015.

Thank you for your support! Donors will be acknowledged in the 2015 conference program.

Conference Sponsor:

Yes! I would like to contribute \$_____ to help sponsor the 2015 Dare to Dream Conference. A tax deductible donation of \$52.00 will support the attendance of one girl to the conference. Any amount will be appreciated.

Scholarship Donation:

Yes! I would like to contribute \$_____ for the scholarship program. A contribution of \$1,000 or more allows you to create a named scholarship for a Dare to Dream Alumna. Donations in lesser amounts will be pooled and awarded in \$1,000 increments for scholarships. All donations go directly to the scholarships; they will not be used for the costs to administer the scholarship program.

Total Amount: \$_____

My check, payable to **Dare to Dream: Get Educated!** is enclosed.

I prefer to charge my contribution to my Visa MasterCard Discover
Card Number _____ Expiration Date ____/____/____ CVV _____

Authorized Signature _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City/State _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____

Please mail to: Dare to Dream: Get Educated! PO Box 328, Elmhurst, IL 60126

Dare to Dream: Get Educated! is a recognized 501(c)(3) organization (EIN 27-1778698)