

Elmhurst Area Branch News

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February 13 Meeting on Cyber-Bullying

Join AAUW for our February program featuring **Julie Nicolai**, teacher, writer, speaker and expert on bullying.

The author of "*Road Map through Bullying: Effective Bully Prevention for Educators*," Julie has been fighting to eradicate bullying for years. As a facilitator and member of the Bully Task Force in her school district, she created a code of conduct form addressing bullying behaviors specifying appropriate levels of interventions and responses from teachers, administrators, and students. Julie is sought out for guidance on bully issues by students, parents, teachers, and administrators. She was recently interviewed for the Glen Ellyn News and the Geneva Republican. She was also interviewed as a teacher representative in a Hollywood-produced documentary entitled "Bullies 101".

Julie's program provides practical and useful advice for parents, grandparents and community members - as we continue to support AAUW's longstanding leadership addressing issues of sexual harassment in schools.

In 2011 AAUW published, "Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School" which presents new evidence on sexual harassment and now addresses cyber-bullying. What are some of these "new tools" of bullying? What can we do as a community to help our children navigate the

pitfalls of social media – where harassment can be sent to hundreds with the click of "enter"? Let's work together to understand bullying and cyber-bullying and its impact on our community and its youngest members.

Paycheck Fairness Act Reintroduced

On January 23, Senators Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) re-introduced in the Senate the Paycheck Fairness Act, which addresses the wage gap between men and women.

The bill, S. 84 seeks to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 and require employers to prove that differences in wage are the result of differences in merit, not gender. It also prohibits retaliation against employees who file claims of wage discrimination, and allows victims of wage discrimination to seek punitive damages for lost wages.

In a press release, Senator Mikulski said "The Paycheck Fairness Act ensures that women will no longer be fighting on their own for equal pay for equal work."

The Paycheck Fairness Act was first introduced in 2009 but failed to get the necessary 60 votes to pass in the Senate. Last year, the act was filibustered by Senate Republicans in June.



Branch Calendar

February 5 - 7:30 pm
Half the Sky Group
Perry Doubt's House

February 6 - 7:00 pm
Board of Directors
Carolyn Heiney's House

February 13 - 7:00 pm
Branch Meeting
"Cyber-Bullying" (Julie Nicolai)
Elmhurst Public Library

February 28 - 1:00 pm
Book Discussion Group
The Tiger: A True Story of Vengeance and Survival by John Vaillant
Hostess & Leader: Marcia Goltermann (Note that books for the February and March meetings have been switched.)

February 4 - 1:00 pm
Noontime Potpourri
100 South Chophouse & Grill
100 S. York Street
We will continue to discuss the mayoral and school Board elections



AAUW Hotline 1-800-326-2289

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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Carolyn's Corner

Will We Celebrate?

Of course, we will celebrate our 75th Elmhurst Area Branch Anniversary!! In fact, the celebration might last a year. We hope to kick off the festivities this May and end the year of activities and special events in May of 2014.

A committee of past branch presidents has begun work, but we can always use your help. At this time we are looking for pictures or memorabilia from past branch events that could be shared with the membership. We also need your stories, those special AAUW memories that you have. Take a few moments to reflect about why the organization is special to you. Feel free to contact me if you have something you might like to contribute.

Our members are the ones that have made this branch exceptional. A year of celebrating the history and accomplishments of this wonderful group of women will help us appreciate who we are and what we have accomplished. What a terrific time we will have!



Last week a bipartisan group of senators announced the reintroduction of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). This is essentially the same bipartisan bill that the Senate passed in April 2012 to improve VAWA programs and ensure all victims get the services they need. Because the House didn't pass this version of VAWA before the end of 2012, we must renew our efforts today to protect victims of domestic violence.

Your passionate advocacy got this bill passed last year. Let's keep the momentum going: Urge your senators to cosponsor and vote for VAWA!

Since its enactment in 1994, VAWA has saved lives and saved money. Though the programs continue to run, the current authorization expired almost two years ago. VAWA reauthorization is long overdue and should be a priority in the 113th Congress.

S. 47 is a well-crafted bill with strong bipartisan support. AAUW is particularly pleased that S. 47 includes campus safety provisions which will ensure that institutions of higher education have comprehensive procedures in place to address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. **Urge your senators to cosponsor VAWA and move this bill forward!**

Financial Report

*Director of Finance
Darlene Van Meir*

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Savings Account | \$ 1,817.45 |
| General Account | 3,644.41 |
| Book Sale Account | <u>3,369.30</u> |
| Total | \$ 8,831.16 |



Special Spotlight on You

As noted before in this column, some of our members continue to assist our branch through quiet yet very important ways. One of our board members, **Cheri Richards**, our co-program chair, qualifies as a perfect example of a branch treasure. Not only does Cheri work diligently to provide our members with quality programs, but she also has worn her 'lawyer hat' for us on several occasions. When we seek to make sure that the branch proceeds in the proper direction, Cheri's advice is always wise and greatly appreciated. On occasion, during the last two years Cheri has provided information that has helped the board make good decisions. Thank you, Cheri, for your wonderful contributions to our branch.



The January meeting on the book "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Roberta Skloot drew an enthusiastic crowd and lots of discussion.