

Elmhurst Area Branch News

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Branch Calendar

March 5 - 7:30 pm
Half the Sky Group
 Anne Klein's House

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

March 13 - 7:00 pm
Branch Meeting
 "Interactive Performance -
 Women's History "Rap"
 Elmhurst Public Library

March 28 - 1:00 pm
Book Discussion Group
House of Spirits
 by Isabel Allende
 Discussion Leader:
 Marilyn Thompson
 Hostess: Darlene Van Meir

April 2 - 1:00 pm
Noontime Potpourri
 100 South Chophouse & Grill
 100 S. York Street

March 13 Branch Meeting

Celebrate Women's History Month With Your AAUW Sisters, Past and Present!

At our March 13, 7:00 meeting, we will celebrate our contributions to society by featuring "Historical Impersonators."

Through an interactive performance - akin to American Idol - these good sports *from our own branch* will inform us about the women who have shaped today's society, after which we will play games, and enjoy refreshments.

Each member will receive the 2013 National Women's History Project Newspaper.

This is an event not to be missed! Come for fellowship, education, and FUN!

Drawing for Free National Membership in April

Members who bring a guest to one of our meetings this year are automatically entered into a drawing for a free national membership worth \$49 to be given out at our April meeting.

For each visitor you bring you receive one chance. So invite a friend to the March and April meetings to find out a little more about AAUW.

Good Luck!

Illinois-Missouri Convention

See You in St. Louis???

Over ten years ago when our member Alice Smith was state president for AAUW- IL, Inc., she presided over a joint state convention with Missouri. Our current state president Andi Danis remembers it well as it was her first state convention, and it was so large and exciting.

This **May 3rd-5th** we will meet again for a joint convention in downtown St. Louis overlooking Busch Stadium.

Elmhurst Area Branch member Cindy Grau, Program VP for AAUW- IL, Inc., is working on the convention with help from Alice Smith.

There is a great line up of speakers starting with AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman who will be featured on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

At the Saturday evening banquet a Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) plaintiff who has a pending suit against the US military for a sexual assault case will be the featured speaker.

Title IX in the STEM fields will be the topic at lunchtime Saturday in a speech given by an Assistant Professor of Engineering from Notre Dame University.

Eight different breakout sessions are scheduled on a variety of topics during the day Saturday. For

(continued next page)



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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Illinois-Missouri Convention *(continued)*

fun on Sunday there will be a little rivalry between the states in a Cubs vs. Cardinals Walk for the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund.

A full schedule and registration information is coming in the State newsletter and can be found on the state webpage www.aauw-il.org. St. Louis is a lovely town with lots to offer on either end of your trip. If anyone is interested in carpooling contact Cindy or Alice. See you in St. Louis!



Special Spotlight on You

This month we have turned up the lights to celebrate the accomplishments of an amazing group of people, the Elmhurst Area Branch members who planned and participated in this year's **Dare to Dream: Get Educated Conference**. This wonderful ongoing project was the dream child of **Connie Baker**. What a legacy she has left to young Latina girls! At the beginning and still working tirelessly today is **Dorothy Valintis**. This year **Dorothy and her husband Joe** donated a \$1,000 college scholarship to a deserving Dare to Dream student. Dorothy not only has given generously through this scholarship, but she also has donated hours and hours of her time and her amazing organizational skills. Dorothy is priceless!

Current hard-working board members from our branch included **Susan Boyd, Anna Gay, Jennifer Jordan, and Kathy Willis**. In addition to these fine women were the committee members **Betsy Aldred, Rosemarie Dressander, Carmen Higgins, Marcia Lagerway, Claudia Stenvig-Olsen, Laurie Provancal, and Dorothy Valintis** who worked extremely hard all year to plan and execute a wonderful day for the girls and their mothers.

More members used their talents on the day of the conference. Campus Life Moderators included **Peggy Babyar and Carolyn Heiney**. **Jennifer Aldred-Berry** also moderated a Career Panel. Members **Barbara Richardson, Sarah Caltvedt, and Darlene Van Meir** also were there to assist with special assignments during the conference.

A project like this always needs donors. Thanks to **Cindy and Scott Grau, Dorothy and Joe Valintis, Connie Baker, Florence Beckman, Sarah Caltvedt, Sherall Carson, Rosemarie Dressander, Anna Gay, Jennifer Jordan, Marcia Lagerway, Vivian Michaelis, Patricia O'Dwyer, Carol Rounds, Alice Smith, Marilyn Thompson, and Mary Eleanor Wall** for their financial gifts.

Of course, when our branch starts something exceptional, the word spreads, and others want to try it too. This year **Jennifer Aldred-Berry** brought 6 members from her Blue Island School District to observe the conference with the intention of starting a Dare to Dream in their district!! They were all enthused and returned home hoping to put the ball in motion.

Thanks to all. Through all of your gifts, you all have touched a life or two or three or hundreds.

CHECK IT OUT!

The revamped website for our chapter is up and running. To see both our Directory and a current branch membership list with contact information for new members, go to www.aauwelmhurst.org, click on Members Only on the right side of the screen, and use the password AAUWEImhurst.

Welcome New Members

Diane Allen

is a newcomer to Elmhurst and lives in Elmhurst Manor. She is the Director of Morris Graduate School at Robert Morris University in Schaumburg and she holds an MA from DePaul University.



Diane is an academic and admission counselor to students as they enter and progress through their schooling toward graduation. Before that she founded and developed Haven for Tots, a church based child-care center in Evergreen Park that is still serving families today.

She has two grown children and two grandchildren who are both 3 years of age and are fortunate to attend Haven for Tots! Diane came to AAUW at the invitation of her friend Vivian Michaelis. Diane says AAUW gives her the opportunity to

join in the efforts of supporting women. We look forward to working with you Diane.

Tammy Oberg De La Garza

joined our branch after speaking at our branch's September Supper. She was the recipient of an AAUW 2011-2012 American Fellowship grant which she used to finish a research project on Latina literacy in five elementary schools near Logan Square. She is an assistant professor of language and literacy at Roosevelt University.



Tammy and her husband, who live in Chicago, have two children together and they also are foster parents. In what she feels is her most authentic calling, Tammy supports women through life's difficult challenges as a Stephen Minister.

COWL Scholarship Available

Women over 25 years of age who are seeking an undergraduate degree are invited to apply for a scholarship funded by the Illinois Conference of Women Legislators (COWL).

The goal of the scholarship fund is to focus on deserving, qualified women whose educations were interrupted due to family concerns and economic problems. The scholarship covers tuition, books and fees up to \$2500 per year, including summer school. Deadline for applying is March 29.

Details are available at www.cowlil.com. Thanks to Kathy Willis for sending us information on this opportunity.

State Newsletter Goes Electronic

State AAUW President Andi Danos announced recently that the state will send out the Spring Edition of the LINK electronically. If successful, the state will save many trees and real money by adopting a "greener" approach. They will use the email list provided by National.

If an email is returned as "not deliverable," then they will mail a paper copy. Paper copies will be sent to those members who do not have an email on file.

Expect the email on or around March 1 (You may need to check your spam account this first time.) If you do not get the email by Sunday, March 3rd, contact Marilyn Van Ausdall at vanausd@frontiernet.net.

Election of 2013 Branch Officers

Pat O'Dwyer, Director-Nominating Committee

The 2013 Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following slate of nominations for election to a two-year term on the Branch Board of Directors.

We are grateful to these members who have agreed to serve the branch as elected officers.

This notification fulfills the requirement stated in the branch bylaws that the names of nominees for elected office be published and sent to all members at least one month prior to election.

Elections will be held at the annual meeting which will be our regular April Branch Meeting that will take place on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 at 7:00 pm at the Elmhurst Public Library.

Please plan on attending this meeting to be a part of electing and celebrating the branch officers who will provide leadership for the next term of office.

President - Sarah Caltvedt

Co-Program V.P. - Sally Schuster

Co-Membership V.P. - Anne Klein

Director- Finance - Sandra Burk

Director-Nominating Committee - Carolyn Heiney

Coming Your Way

•**SWAN Day** (Supporting Women Artists Now)

March 13 & 14, Screenings of the movie "Divan" in Chicago and Northbrook.

Details www.womenarts.org/swan/history.htm

•**Working Women's History Project** (WWHP) presentation on "Taking Teachers to Task"

March 16, Jane Addams Hull-House Museum.

Details www.wwhpchicago.org

•**Equal Pay Day Rally**

April 9 - Daley Plaza

Carolyn's Corner

Have You Used the Two-Minute Activist? or Are You an AAUW Rock Star?

Shortly after the State of the Union speech, I received an email from Lisa Maatz, AAUW Director of Public Policy and Governmental Relations. Maybe you did too. In my opinion Lisa is an AAUW rock star. At the 2011 convention she amazed me with her knowledge, her humor, and her brilliance. Lisa's letter didn't tell me anything I didn't know, but it reminded me that we do have a say in government; yet, how many of us really use it?

Now I know some of you are also rock stars and regularly contact your senators and representatives with your opinions and your preferences on how they should vote, but others new to AAUW or others who might not have received the memo on the Two-Minute Activist, might appreciate an explanation of the time-saving, two minute (maybe even less) process, so we can all be rock stars.

It is so very easy. Just go to aauw.org and type in Two-Minute Activist in the small search box. On the next page enter your zip code in the gray box at the top or bottom of the page. When you get to the bill, you can read AAUW's position. You can even choose which statements you want to use in your communication. You can add your own comments or not. Then click. Your senator or representative usually will send you a response. Once you are in the system, as legislation that fits AAUW's mission comes close to a vote, you should automatically receive a notice. Respond or ignore it based on your beliefs. That is up to you.

If you listened to the State of the Union, your ears probably perked up when you heard that the President is ready to sign the Paycheck Fairness Act. Really, who can be against that? He laid out an ambitious agenda on many of AAUW's priorities from passing the Violence Against Women's Act to improving educational opportunities in STEM. If these issues are important to you, let those who can do something know.

As Lisa wrote, **"Together, we can change the state of the union – it starts with us, and it starts with Congress."** Be a rock star!



AAUW February Meeting on Cyber-Bullying

