**1938-1949**

BRANCH PRESIDENTS

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| Alice Shepherd Selden | 1938-1941 |
| Ruth Paintin | 1941-1943 |
| Irene Orton | 1943-1945 |
| Alma Van Auden | 1945-1947 |
| Ida Lane Settle | 1947-1949 |

**AAUW Purpose**

The purpose of this organization shall be:

1. To promote wider opportunities for women in higher education.
2. To secure the intellectual advancement of individual members.
3. To procure broader opportunities for women.
4. To enlarge the educational and cultural resources of the community.
5. To cooperate with the National and State Associations.

**Purpose of AAUW Elmhurst Branch:**  To develop a program enabling college women to continue their own intellectual growth, to further the advancement of women, and to discharge the responsibilities to society of those who have enjoyed the advantages of higher education.

BRANCH HISTORY

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| 1938 | --Elmhurst Branch is chartered with 58 members -- the 36th branch in Illinois.  The first meeting takes place on Nov. 20, 1938. Alice Shepherd (Mrs. Carlyle) Selden is elected the first President. Meetings are held in the homes of members with tea served at the end of the evening’s program. |
| 1939 | --At the third Branch Meeting in January, 1939, the first study groups are formed: Heirloom Needlecraft, International Relations, and Drama.  --The first guest dinner is held in April with a guest speaker from Northwestern University.  --Monthly Bridge Teas are held alternately in afternoons and evenings. Funds from these teas are used for AAUW expenses and primarily for donation to the fellowship fund.  --At the AAUW Illinois Division State Convention in April 1939, the Elmhurst group is officially received as the 36th AAUW Branch in Illinois. |
| 1940 | --The annual guest dinner is shifted to the Christmas Season and the Spring event became the Maytime Luncheon for members. |
| 1941 | --Early activity in Community Service is demonstrated by a “Best Letter Contest” conducted to encourage youth interest in a community swimming pool. This is an outgrowth of the Guidance Study Group and is related to the Branch’s work as one of the sponsoring groups of a summer city recreation program. The Branch receives State recognition for this project.  --In May the Branch holds the first Maytime Luncheon.  --Ruth (Mrs. Edward) Paintin is elected the second Branch President in April 1941. |
| 1942 | --The first branch newsletter is created in August, 1942. It is mailed to members using a one-and-a-half-cent stamp.  --The Needlecraft group changes its focus to become the Red Cross support group with members teaching sewing of war-related items.  --The Branch sponsors wartime nutrition classes.  --The Branch begins the tradition of holding three summer membership teas.  --Philanthropy:  [1] The first Branch Rummage Sale is held to raise funds for local community service and welfare earning a net profit of $202.28.  [2] The Branch sponsors a community-wide Bridge party for 200 women to raise funds for the AAUW Fellowship Program. |
| 1943 | --In March, 1943, the Branch opens the Children’s Exchange Shop as a community service project to meet wartime shortages of nursery and children’s equipment, furniture, toys and clothing during World War II. The shop is a great success with 1,000 articles exchanged in less than a year. It is open daily for a total of 48 hours a week and staffed by volunteer members with a full-time manager. Items are accepted on a consignment basis. After successfully maintaining the shop for two years it is sold and the profits ($1,896) are donated to community organizations.  --The Branch is awarded three citations at the AAUW Illinois Division Convention, [1] for its Newsletter, [2] for its work in International Relations and [3] for the Children’s Exchange Shop.  --During the Summer of 1943 the Branch hosts three summer Sunday teas (June, July, August) at a charge of fifteen cents per member.  --The Branch hosts the State Fall Workshop at Elmhurst College.  --The AAUW National Convention is canceled due to the burden of war transportation.  --Irene (Mrs. Vernon) Orton is elected third Branch President in April, 1943.  --Branch Membership - 89 |
| 1944 | --The Branch holds a New Member Tea to welcome and celebrate 35 new members.  --Branch President, Irene (Mrs. Vernon) Orton is appointed AAUW State International Relations Chairman in recognition of her leadership of the Branch International Relations Study Group. The Branch Study Group and Orton receive State recognition for their work and its study materials and outlines are distributed for use statewide,  --Yearly Dues - $6.00 |
| 1945 | --The Children’s Exchange Shop is sold. Profits of $1,896.75 are donated as follows: $1,000.00 to furnish an isolation room in the Children’s Ward of Elmhurst Hospital’s new unit, $268.46 to the Youth Center, $81.36 to the Elmhurst College Campus Club, and $171.93 to Elmhurst Public Schools for purchase of new gym mats.  --The Social Welfare Committee sponsors a Christmas Party for the children at Illinois Research Hospital. Members contribute books and gifts.  --The Branch meeting in December 1945 is a Dinner Meeting featuring a returned overseas Red Cross worker as the speaker followed by a musical program.  --Branch President, Alma Van Auden’s Message in the Branch Newsletter, Dec. 1945: “As we approach our first peace-time Holiday Season, let us not forget to count our special blessings…that throughout the coming year we will remember the many good things in our lives, and be thankful that by right of birth we are citizens of a great country, one where value is placed on the life of each individual.” |
| 1946 | --Monthly Branch meetings became too large to hold in member’s homes and so the location is moved, first, to the Old Main Building at Elmhurst College and then, a year later, to the American Legion Hall. |
| 1947 | --The Recent Graduates Group is formed.  --Membership - 125 |
| 1948 | --The Education Committee, chaired by member Elizabeth Ackerman, studies Community Recreation concluding that a recreational organization is needed in Elmhurst. This impetus leads to the establishment of the Elmhurst YMCA. Ackerman is its first Recording Secretary.  --The Branch inaugurates the “Back to College” branch program held at Elmhurst college in the Fall of the year. Presented by college faculty, this program features simulated college classes in various subject areas from which member can choose. This becomes a regular Fall Branch Program that continues until the mid-1970s. |
| 1949 | --The Branch Education Committee distributes a list of college scholarships to York High School 11th and 12th grade students. The committee also suggests the formation of a Future Teachers of America club at York High School. |

AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch

**1949-1959**

BRANCH PRESIDENTS

|  |  |
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| Trude Tripp | 1949-1951 |
| Lucille Friedli | 1951-1953 |
| Olive Van de Van | 1953-1955 |
| Katherine Huston | 1955-1956 |
| June Ray | 1956-1957 |
| Marguerite Kroeplin | 1957-1959 |

BRANCH HISTORY

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| 1950 | -- The Recent Grads Group sponsors a six-week babysitting course for 7th grade girls along with a placement bureau for parents needing a sitter.  --The Branch donates the sum of $132.00 ($1 per member) to a National AAUW program which finances study in the United States for women from war-devastated countries who will use their knowledge to help in the reconstruction of their homelands. |
| 1951 | --President Lucille Friedli presents a new plan for Branch programs giving each branch committee and study group the responsibility of presenting a program at a general meeting over a two-year period.  --Interest/Study Groups: International Relations, legislative, Education, Social Studies, child Study, Recent Graduates, Crafts, Status of Women, Youth Guidance, Radio Listening, Interior Decorating. |
| 1952 | --The Education Committee sponsors a series of forums on the topic of ”Parents and Youth.” |
| 1953 | --The first Branch Yearbook is printed and distributed to members.  --Due to the large membership of 150 women, Summer Picnics are held as social events to facilitate interest, knowledge and connection to the branch.  --Branch President Lucille Friedli is a member of a Program Planning Panel at the State Convention.  --Interest/Study Groups: Language Study, Home Arts, Arts and Crafts, International Relations, Recent Graduates, Literature.  -- Membership - 150 |
| 1954 | --The Branch holds a rummage sale – profits $171. |
| 1956 | --The Branch sponsors a picnic attended by 111 members and prospective members. |
| 1957 | --Branch members create “Start Now,” a booklet on college preparation and distributes copies to all Elmhurst 8th grade students.  --Branch sponsors a Bake Sale - earnings $105.  --Nationally, AAUW boasts a membership of 140,000 women.  --Member Florise Gradolph is elected Elmhurst City Clerk, the first woman to hold that office.  -- Branch Dues - $8.00 |
| 1958 | --National AAUW celebrates its 75th Anniversary with an active membership of 140,000 women.  --the Branch sponsors a Dinner-Dance for members and spouses.  --Yearly Dues - $8.00. |
| 1959 | --After organizing and storing books in member’s basements, the first AAUW Used Book Sale takes place, October 23-24, in a vacant Elmhurst storefront. All books are priced at $1.00 and under. The proceeds from the sale - $375.00.  --The Branch’s First Named Grant of $500 honors Helen Bailey, Arlington Heights, Regional Vice President, AAUW.  --To meet the need for pre-school education in the community, the Elmhurst Branch founds Buttons & Bows Cooperative Nursery School which opens on Feb. 16, 1959 at Bethel United Church of Christ. Classes were held 3 mornings a week for 4-year-olds. |
| 1960 | --The second Used Book Sale takes place in the Fall of 1960 earning approximately $500 with donations going to the Friends of the Library and to the Elmhurst College Scholarship Fund. |

AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch

**1959-1969**

BRANCH PRESIDENTS

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| Dorothy Schneider | 1959-1961 |
| Dorothy Koval | 1961-1963 |
| Marjorie Tingley | 1963-1965 |
| Mary Eleanor Wall | 1965-1967 |
| Evangelyn Sandeen | 1967-1969 |
| Francis Toombs | 1969-1971 |

BRANCH HISTORY

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| 1962 | --The program years begins with a Potluck Supper in September 1962.  --A Christmas-Holiday Dinner Party is in held in December. |
| 1963 | --Elmhurst College is placed on the approved list for AAUW membership.  --The Branch holds a tea for Elmhurst College senior women now eligible for membership.  --Second Named Grant to AAUW Fellowships Program honors first branch president, Alice Shepherd Selden.  --Member, Fran Toombs, chairs the planning committee for the 25th Anniversary celebration of the Branch.  --Interest/Study Groups - Recent Grads, Literature, International Relations, Creative Writing, Arts, Mass Media, National Goals.  --Philanthropy - Books Sale Funds - $200 to Elmhurst college, $200 to Elmhurst Public Library, $25 to Friends of the Library.  --Membership -175 |
| 1964 | --The 6th Annual Used Book Sale takes place in October 1964.  --The Branch ends its program year with the May Dinner.  --The Branch works with the Elmhurst League of Women Voters to organize the Caucus for School District 88 which interviews and nominates candidates for the School Board.  --The Branch cooperates with the League of Women Voters to write the booklet, “Elmhurst City Government.” As an offshoot of the booklet a study of community recreational needs was made which subsequently led to the formation of the Elmhurst YMCA. |
| 1965 | --The Branch Named Grant honors Ruth Strand, AAUW Elmhurst branch member and Head Librarian at Elmhurst Public Library.  --Branch Member, Audra Pence, an Elmhurst elementary school teacher, is a member of the Illinois Curriculum Council Executive Board which serves as an advisory committee to the Superintendent of Public Instruction. She is the Chair of the elementary Education Commission.  -- The Branch sponsors two neighborhood potluck suppers for member.  --Philanthropy - $500 to AAUW Educational Foundation; $200 to Elmhurst College; $200 to Elmhurst Public Library. |
| 1966 | --The Branch begins a two-year study of Elmhurst elementary schools.  --The Branch chooses two study topics for the year, [1] Revolution in Modern China and [2] The Law and the Citizen.  --In September the Branch continues its annual “Back to College” night for members at Elmhurst College.  --Used Book Sale profits - $723.64, donated as follows: $500.00 to AAUW Fellowships Program, $200.00 to Elmhurst College.  --Branch Membership – 181 members  --Yearly Dues - $12.00. |
| 1967 | --AAUW-Illinois State President Martha Luck appoints Elmhurst Branch member, Mary Eleanor Wall, to State Topic Committee. |
| 1968 | --“Know Your Schools,” a two-year study containing ten recommendations and prepared in consultation with the Teacher’s Association is presented to the District School Board. Most recommendations are implemented by the Board within a few years.  --Philanthropy from Book Sale proceeds - $800 to AAUW Fellowships; $100 to Elmhurst College; $50. To Elmhurst Public Library; $285 to Buttons & Bows Scholarships. |
| 1969 | --The Branch advocates for an effective Fair Housing Ordinance for the City of Elmhurst.  --The Branch raised $175 for the AAUW Coretta Scott King Fund.  --30 Branch members volunteer to work at the National AAUW Convention in Chicago at the Hilton Hotel.  --Member Mary Eleanor Wall appointed to the AAUW-Illinois State Board of Directors as Community Representative.  --The 10th Used Book Sale takes place with funds donated as follows - $800 to AAUW Fellowships; $100 to Elmhurst College: $50 to Elmhurst Public Library; $285 to Buttons & Bows Pre-School Scholarships. |

AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch

**1969-1979**

BRANCH PRESIDENTS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Francis Toombs | 1969-1971 |
| Mary Mahon | 1971-1973 |
| June McGonnagle | 1973-1975 |
| Elaine Grote | 1975-1977 |
| Jane Messimer | 1977-1979 |

**AAUW Purpose**

To develop a program to enable college women to continue their own intellectual growth, to further the advancement of women, and to discharge the special responsibilities to society to those who have enjoyed the advantage of higher education.

BRANCH HISTORY

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| 1970 | --“We the People” study group topic leads to active support for the development of the Illinois Prairie Path. The Branch urges the DuPage County Board to extend the lease on the Path. The Path receives a National Trailways designation.  --As part of the Founder’s Day Celebration at Elmhurst college in Dec. 1970 a letter detailing the history of the AAUW Elmhurst Branch is placed in a time capsule. |
| 1971 | --The Branch organizes a program that provides more than 100 Educational Resource volunteers for District 46 schools.  --Responding to the increasing problems of pollution, AAUW Elmhurst and the Elmhurst College Faculty and Students compile an educational booklet, “Help Yourself: A Citizen’s Guide to His Environment,” and distribute it in the community.  --Buttons & Bows Pre-School expands to four sites in Elmhurst.  --The Branch becomes a charter member of the Elmhurst Historical Society.  --Branch Membership - 165 |
| 1972 | --Building on research and information learned in the Branch study group, This Beleaguered Earth, members advocate for a recycling program in Elmhurst. Once established, members actively publicize it in the community, encourage its use and provide volunteer staff.  --State Representative Giddy Dyer, Hinsdale, speaks for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment at an Elmhurst Branch meeting.  --Dr. Anne Campbell, Association President, names Mary Eleanor Wall to a commission on the Future of AAUW.  --Branch Philanthropy - $1,000 to AAUW Fellowships; $588 to Buttons & Bows Pre-School. |
| 1973 | --The Recent Grads Group, under the leadership of member Genie Urick, designs and creates a Branch Banner to honor both the 35th Anniversary of the Elmhurst Branch and the 50th Anniversary of the AAUW-Illinois Division. The banner is displayed in May 1974, first, at the State Convention and then displayed and presented to the Branch at the May Luncheon.  --Philanthropy - $1,000 to AAUW Fellowships; $588 to Buttons & Bows Nursery School.  --Branch Membership – 223. |
| 1974 | --Branch Membership – 200. Elmhurst Branch is named one of the “Top 15” branches in Illinois for attracting new members.  --The Branch celebrates its 35th Anniversary.  --Three Elmhurst Branch members are elected to the DuPage County Board: Elaine Libovicz, Jane Spirgel and Mary Eleanor Wall. |
| 1975 | --The Branch sponsors an essay contest for Elmhurst students on the topic, “Why ERA Should Become the 27th Amendment to the Constitution.”  --The Branch organizes a babysitting coop for members.  --Philanthropy: - $1,237 to AAUW Fellowships; $525 to Buttons & Bows Scholarships.  -- Branch Membership – 223. |
| 1976 | --In celebration of the U.S. Bicentennial, the Elmhurst Branch publishes an 88-page booklet of local history entitled, ”Elmhurst: Origin of Names – Streets, Schools, Parks and Landmarks.” |
| 1977 | --Branch member Betsy Aldred is elected to the Elmhurst City Council. |
| 1978 | --The extensive list of Branch Study Groups includes: Women as Agents of Change, African Studies, American Foreign Policy, International Gourmet, Literature, I Always Wanted to Read that, but…., Parenting.  --Buttons & Bows Nursery School is 20 years old. It was founded in 1958 in response to a community need -- there were no nursery schools in town. It is a not-for-profit entity with a volunteer Board of Directors who are responsible to AAUW but which operates independently of the branch. The Purpose of the school is to provide a stimulating and constructive environment in which young children can grow and develop into healthy, happy and well-adjusted young people.  --December 1, 1978 is the 40th Anniversary of the Elmhurst Branch. In honor of the anniversary Elmhurst Branch historical information is given to the Elmhurst Historical Museum – scrapbooks and oral tapes covering the years 1938-1971.  --United States President, Jimmy Carter, stays overnight at the home of Branch Member Mary Eleanor Wall and her husband, Jim.  --Annual Used Book Sale proceeds - $1,773.  --Branch Membership – 220. |
| 1979 | --At the AAUW-Illinois State Convention, two Elmhurst Branch members are elected to positions on the State Board -- member Mary Eleanor Wall is elected President and Member Janet Hodge is elected Corresponding Secretary. The State convention is held in Janesville, Wisconsin, because unlike Illinois, Wisconsin has ratified the Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution. There are 10,000 AAUW members in the State of Illinois.  --Elmhurst Branch members work with School District 205 to implement and extend special education testing for all three, four, and five-year-old children in the district. Five-year-olds had always been tested prior to entering kindergarten but branch members urged testing of three and four-year-olds so that any child with a learning problem could be identified and helped as early as possible. In the Spring of 1979 and again in 1980, AAUW Elmhurst provides the 70 volunteers needed to help with the testing. The Branch receives commendation and gratitude from District 205 administration.  --Member Mary Mahon, former Branch President, is elected President of the District 205 School Board and receives the Jaycees Distinguished Service Award for service to the community.  --Member, Ruth Strand, is Head Librarian of the Elmhurst Public Library and a member of the Elmhurst Historical Commission.  --The Branch presents a program commemorating the 100th birthday of Carl Sandburg – “A Carl Sandburg Experience.”  --Used Book Sale proceeds - $1,350.  --Philanthropy - $1,200 to the AAUW Education Foundation; $430 to Buttons & Bows Nursery School.  --Yearly Dues - $19.00. |

AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch

**1979-1989**

**AAUW Mission Statements**

--AAUW promotes equity for women, education and self-development over the life span, and positive societal change.

--The AAUW Educational Foundation provides funds to advance education, research, and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change.

--AAUW’s Legal Advocacy Fund provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

BRANCH PRESIDENTS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Elaine Libovicz | 1979-1981 |
| Marcia Goltermann | 1981-1983 |
| Judy Ekblad | 1983-1985 |
| Tsue Ostermann | 1985-1987 |
| Janet Hodge | 1987-1989 |

BRANCH HISTORY

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| 1980 | --There is strong AAUW participation in support of the passage of the ERA Amendment. Fourteen Elmhurst Branch members participate in the National March for Equality which takes place in Chicago on May 10, 1980 along with Elmhurst Branch President, Elaine Libovicz, AAUW-Illinois State President, Mary Eleanor Wall, Mary Grefe, Association President, and thousands of AAUW members from all over the United States.  --AAUW Week in Elmhurst – March 16-22, 1980.  -- Used Book Sale proceeds - $1,925.  --Membership – 150. |
| 1981 | --The 100th Birthday of the national AAUW Association is celebrated at the State convention in Hammond, Indiana (an ERA-ratified State).  --Alice Selden, founder of the Elmhurst Branch, is still an active branch member.  --Member Mary Eleanor Wall is elected to the national AAUW Association Nominating Committee.  --AAUW-Illinois creates a 125-page booklet for teen-age girls, “Patterns for Your Future.” This booklet is distributed statewide by the 90 local AAUW branches, at no cost, to all junior and senior high school students in the State.  --Member Elaine Libovicz is elected Elmhurst city Clerk. |
| 1983 | --The Branch sponsors a lecture at York High School by Margaret Papandreou, Elmhurst native and First Lady of Greece. |
| 1985 | --First Branch President, Alice Selden, dies in December 1985.  --Member Sally Allen elected to the AAUW-Illinois State Board of Directors in the position of Recording Secretary.  --Branch member Betsy Aldred is the first woman candidate to run for Mayor of Elmhurst, losing by just 43 votes. |
| 1987 | --In anticipation of the celebration of its 50th Anniversary the Branch establishes an Elmhurst Branch Named Research and Projects Endowments of $35,000 as part of the AAUW Educational Foundation and commits to its full funding within 15 years. It is completed in 8 years.  --At the 34th National Convention the bylaws are changed allowing men to become AAUW members. |
| 1988 | --The Branch presents an informational panel discussion at Elmhurst College on the subject of AIDS to which the community members are invited.  --The Elmhurst Branch receives five awards at State Convention: Newsletter, Public Information / Community Intervention Program, Membership (12% Increase), Educational Foundation Donation, implementation of Promoting Individual Liberties issue.  --The National AAUW Association celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the AAUW Educational Foundation – 100 years of awarding fellowships, grants, and awards have enabled women to acquire the education and training necessary to realize their potential and contribute to a better society.  --Member, Pat Cheffer, hosts “Lifestyles,” a popular daily talk show on the local Elmhurst cable Television channel.  --Branch member, Elaine Libovicz, serves as a member of the DuPage Housing Authority. |
| 1989 | --The Branch 50th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon, honoring past presidents of the branch, takes place in May 1989 at the Glen Oaks Country club, Glen Ellyn.  --To educate and raise awareness, the Branch works with the Substance Abuse Committee of District 205 to sponsor a Community Intervention Workshop.  --Study/Action Groups: American Quilts, Literature, Parenting, Family Narratives, Personal Financial Planning, Theater reading and Production, American Art, the Middle East. The Reader’s Theater Group is especially active during the 1980’s presenting programs to other branches in the area.  --Branch member Elaine Libovicz is honored by the West Suburban YWCA as an Outstanding Women Leader of DuPage County. |

AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch

**1989-1999**

BRANCH PRESIDENTS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Jean Cameron | 1989-1991 |
| Darlene Van Meir | 1991-1993 |
| Rosemarie DeOrio Dressander | 1993-1995 |
| Betsy Aldred | 1995-1997 |
| Florence Beckman and  Mary Eleanor Wall | 1997-1998 |
| Mary Eleanor Wall and  Carolyn Heiney | 1998-1999 |

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| 1990 | --The “Child Care Is Good Business Conference” takes place at the College of DuPage in March 1990. This is a multi-branch project in which four local branches take part. Members Ann Beyer, Janet Hodge and Mary Eleanor Wall are on the Planning Committee. The project receives an AAUW Association Research and Projects Grant.  --To commemorate “Earth Day & Beyond” Branch members plant trees in the community. |
| 1991 | --The “Child Care is Good Business Conference” receives special recognition at the State Convention.  --Member Janet Hodge is one of a team of three local area AAUW members who travel to California to make a presentation titled, “Global Perspectives in Child Care,” at the IFUW-International Federation of University Women Conference in Palo Alto.  --Elmhurst Branch is recognized at the AAUW-Illinois State Convention for its Newsletter and as one of Top Ten Branches in donations to the AAUW Education Foundation. |
| 1992 | --Branch sponsors, “The Hidden Agender,” a workshop on gender bias for the parents of young children.  --“Who Done It? – Mystery Evening” raises $250 for the Legal Advocacy Fund. |
| 1993 | --The Elmhurst Branch joins seven other AAUW branches in DuPage County to sponsor the AAUW Educational Equity Roundtable with participation of local civic, business and religious leaders.  --Branch sponsors “Yes I Can” Seminar for junior high school girls to encourage interest in math and science.  --Elmhurst Branch has its first male member, Illinois State Representative, Bob Biggins. |
| 1995 | --Branch President, Rosemarie DeOrio, reports a membership increase of 30 new members which she attributes to issues-driven programming and interest in the gender equity issue.  --The Branch completes its 50th Anniversary Research and Projects Endowment fund commitment of $35,000 in 8 years, 1987-1995.  --Branch member Betsy Aldred wins the Elmhurst Jaycees Distinguished Service Award for “outstanding lifetime volunteer service to the community.” |
| 1998 | --AAUW Elmhurst Branch joins with the Elmhurst League of Women Voters and other community groups to study the need for a new Elmhurst Public Library building. Branch member Barbara Swords is Chair of this study committee which results in a referendum in which the community of Elmhurst votes to fund the design and construction of a new Elmhurst Public Library. |
| 1999 | --The Branch celebrates its 60th Anniversary with a luncheon held in May 1999 at the Medinah Country Club – Janet Hodge, Chair.  --The Branch wins the following awards at AAUW-Illinois 75th State Convention held in Oak Brook, IL: Seven Star Award, Newsletter Award, and Top Ten Branch in total Educational Foundation Donation of $5,050.  --Philanthropy - Funds raised by the 40th Annual Used Book Sale were donated as follows: AAUW Education Foundation - $3,800; local scholarship - $2,500.  --Membership – 103. |

AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch

**1999-2009**

BRANCH PRESIDENTS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Carolyn Heiney and Florence Beckman | 1999-2000 |
| Sarah Caltvedt and  Carol Rounds | 2000-2002 |
| Diana Keich and Marilyn Thompson | 2002-2003 |
| Marilyn Thompson | 2003-2005 |
| Dorothy Valintis | 2005-2007 |
| Connie Baker | 2007-2009 |

BRANCH HISTORY

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| 2000 | --Two new study/action groups are launched: Literacy and Computers for Kids.  --In preparation for the annual Used Book Sale, this is the first year that members are able to sort books right onto the sale tables instead of into boxes. The sale takes place at the Madison School Administrative Center. |
| 2001 | --The Elmhurst Historical Museum sponsors the writing of the book, The First Ladies of Elmhurst: Prominent Women of the Twentieth Century. Nine Branch members are profiled in the book. The book is co-authored by Branch members Ruth Strand and Genie Urick. |
| 2002 | --The 43rd annual Used Book Sale is held at Jefferson Elementary School and earns over $10,000. |
| 2003 | --Because it has become a large and time-consuming job for a volunteer, the Branch makes the decision to hire a Manager for the annual Used Book Sale. |
| 2004 | --Branch Membership stands at 80, a 10% increase over the previous year. |
| 2005 | --The Branch begins a strong focus on mission-based programming at branch meetings.  --The first Branch website is launched.  --The Branch is a Platinum Award winner in the AAUW 21st Century Recognition Program. |
| 2007 | --AAUW Addison Area Branch disbands and merges with AAUW Elmhurst. The branch revises its name to AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch to reflect the expansion of membership and geographical area. AAUW Addison Branch President, Alice Smith, has also served on the AAUW-Illinois State Board as Membership Vice-President, Program vice-President and President.  --In December, under the leadership of member, Azra Haque, Branch members work with women from the Islamic Foundation in Villa park to wrap gifts at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore in Oak Brook. Donations total over $600 which is given to the Human Development Foundation to fund schools for girls in Pakistan. This begins the branch tradition of holiday gift wrapping.  --Philanthropy - Proceeds from the annual Used Book Sale are dispersed as follows: $7,000 to the AAUW Educational Foundation, $900 to the Legal Advocacy Fund, and $1,000 to send two Elmhurst College students to the 2007 AAUW National Conference of Women Student Leaders in Washington, DC.  --Member Janet Hodge is honored at the AAUW-Illinois Convention for her loyalty and service to AAUW and for her leadership at both the branch and state levels. She is a 40-year member of the Elmhurst Branch and is active in various Elmhurst community organizations as well as in AAUW.  --Branch President, Connie Baker, and Former President and current Membership Vice President, Dorothy Valintis, return inspired from the AAUW National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona with ideas for possible future projects. |
| 2008 | --Under the leadership of Branch President Connie Baker, discussion and organization begin to join with four other area AAUW Branches to create and present “Dare to Dream: Get Educated!,” a conference for Hispanic middle school girls and their mothers to encourage completion of high school and college education. One of the first steps in the process is writing and submitting an application for an AAUW Community Action Grant which is awarded to the project.  --The Holiday Book Wrap takes place again this year with branch members and women from the Islamic Foundation in Villa Park wrapping gifts and the proceeds donated to the Human Development Foundation.  --A portion of the receipts from the Used Book Sale are used again this year to fund the attendance of two Elmhurst College students to the 2008 AAUW National Conference of College Women Student Leaders.  --The Branch sends representation to the Elmhurst Cool Cities Coalition which is formed to teach and encourage citizens to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle to lessen our impact on the environment. |
| 2009 | --“Dare to Dream: Get Educated / Atrevete A Sonar: Educate!” the first conference for Hispanic middle school girls and their mothers takes place at Elmhurst College on April 4, 2009. Free to attendees, the purpose of the conference is to empower young Latina girls to create and educational vision for their futures, and then to start them on their way to making that vision a reality. The conference is sponsored, organized, supported and funded by five AAUW Branches – Elmhurst Area, Lombard, Glen Ellyn, Downers Grove and Naperville – and by an AAUW Community Action Grant, and grants from AAUW-Illinois, the DuPage Community Foundation, Elmhurst College and many private donations. The DuPage Office of Education supports the conference. It is attended by over 200 girls and their mothers and is a grand success. AAUW National President, Ruth Sweetser, is present at the opening session to welcome attendees.  --Four Branch members attend the AAUW National Convention in St. Louis, MO.  --The Branch sponsors the attendance of two Elmhurst College students at the 2009 AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in Washington, DC.  --The Branch participates in Greenfest, a recycling event sponsored by the Cool Cities Coalition in Elmhurst. Used books are collected for our annual sale.  --Ruth Sweetser, AAUW National President, speaks at the October Branch Meeting.  --Member Susan Szymanski works with Elmhurst College Professors to organize and present a STEM Event for high school girls to encourage interest in science, technology, engineering and math careers. Girls from our Dare to Dream Conference are the participants. |

AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch

**2009-2015**

BRANCH PRESIDENTS

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| Patricia O’Dwyer | 2009-2011 |
| Carolyn Heiney | 2011-2013 |
| Sarah Caltvedt | 2013-2015 |

**Mission**: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

**Value Promise**: By joining AAUW we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so all women have a fair chance.

**AAUW Funds**: The AAUW Funds support educational fellowships and grants, legal advocacy, public policy, leadership programs and research reports.

BRANCH HISTORY

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| 2010 | --The Dare to Dream initiative continues for our middle school girls with a second STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) conference in partnership with Elmhurst College on Jan. 30, 2010.  --The second successful Dare to Dream Conference takes place on April 24, 2010, at Elmhurst College with increased attendance of girls and their mothers.  --Connie Baker, former branch president and Project Director of the Dare to Dream Conference, wins the prestigious AAUW-Illinois Agent-of-Change Award at the State Convention in April 2010.  --The speaker at the September Supper is Laura Van Prooyen, a new branch member. She is a writer and poet and the recipient of an AAUW Career Development Grant which helped fund the completion of her Master’s Degree.  --At the AAUW-Illinois State Convention (April 2010) the branch is recognized for achievement in: Public Policy, International Programming, 90% Member Retention, Excellence in Branch Programming, and places among the Top Ten Branches in Total Giving and Per Member Giving to both the AAUW Educational Programs and the AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund.  --The Branch is proud and honored to have seven 50-Year Honorary Members as part of its current membership: Vivian Michaelis, Mary Eleanor Wall, Marcia Goltermann, Geraldine Plummer, Norma Kroeplin, Jeanette Flaningam and Ann Beyer.  --The “2010 AAUW National Annual Report” highlights the Dare to Dream: Get Educated Conference as an “outstanding accomplishment” of the year. |
| 2011 | --Following the January Branch Book Read of Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide by Nicholas Kristoff & Sheryl WuDunn, a new branch interest group is formed by members who want to take action and become further informed.  --Member Barbara Swords receives the Elmhurst College Founders Medal. The award recognizes those who have distinguished themselves through service to the College. Barbara taught English at the College from 1960-1989 and was appointed Professor Emerita in 1996.  --The Branch is recognized at the AAUW-Illinois State Convention (April 2011) in seven areas of achievement.  --Member Cindy Grau is nominated and elected to the position of Secretary on the AAUW-Illinois State Board of Directors.  --Members Carolyn Heiney, President, and Cindy Grau, Membership Vice President, attend the AAUW National Convention in June in Washington, DC.  --The annual Used Book Sale is increased from a 3-day to a 4-day sale with the addition of Sunday hours from 12noon to 3pm. Book sale profits are in excess of $10,000.  --The branch begins the program year in September with the addition of 12 new members. |
| 2012 | --The 4th annual Dare to Dream Conference takes place on Jan. 28, 2012 on the campus of Elmhurst College attended by 225 girls and 150 mothers.  --The Branch partners with the Elmhurst PTA Council to sponsor a showing and discussion of the movie “The Race to Nowhere.” Members of the community are invited to attend; attendance is over 300 people. A DVD copy of the movie along with a copy of the Facilitator’s Guide is donated to the Elmhurst Public Library.  --Member Kathy Willis wins election to the Illinois State House of Representatives in the 77th District.  --Member Susan Szymanski, Director of Publicity/Communications works with the AAUW National Office to create a revised and updated website for the branch.  --The Half-the-Sky Interest Group has made over $1,000 in donations to international women’s organizations in its two years of existence.  --In anticipation of the November 2012 national elections and as part of the AAUW initiative “It’s My Vote-I Will Be Heard,” member Alice Smith organizes and schedules Voter Registration events at churches and schools throughout the community. Fifteen Branch Members and husbands take the training and volunteer as Voter Registrars. |
| 2013 | --The fifth annual Dare to Dream Conference takes place on Jan. 26, 2013 at Elmhurst College.  --The Elmhurst Area Branch gives $1,000 from the Used Book Sale proceeds to fund a college scholarship for a Dare to Dream attendee. The girls who attended the first conference in 2009 will be graduating high school in June of this year and will be moving on to college.  --Member Cindy Grau is elected to the position of Program Vice President on the AAUW-Illinois State Board of Directors. |
| 2014 | --The 6th annual Dare to Dream conference takes place in Jan. 2014 – moving to the campus of the College of DuPage. As was intended from its founding, conference leadership has been successfully passed to a Latina-led Board of Directors.  --Former Branch President, Dorothy Valintis, receives the 2014 Woman of Distinction Award presented by the Women’s Studies Committee of the College of DuPage. She is cited for her contributions to the personal and professional advancement of women through education, advocacy and mentoring. Dorothy’s work with the Dare to Dream Conference and Children Up, which supports the education of children in Uganda, received particular attention.  --The Branch celebrates its 75th anniversary with a luncheon at Butterfield Country Club in May. Chair: Carolyn Heiney  Membership: 94 |