



# Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 77, No. 6 • January 2016

## January 13th Meeting 7:00 pm - Elmhurst Public Library

At the Branch meeting on January 13 we will view the documentary "Girl Rising," a series of short stories of young women and girls from Academy Award-nominated director Richard E. Robbins.

"Girl Rising" journeys around the globe to witness the strength of the human spirit and the power of education to change the world. Viewers get to know nine unforgettable girls living in the developing world: ordinary girls who confront tremendous challenges and overcome nearly impossible odds to pursue their dreams. Prize-winning authors put the girls' remarkable stories into words, and renowned actors give them voice.

If time allows, we'll discuss some of the issues inspired in the movie. Hope to see you then.

**Bring a guest!**

## Tell your Senators to Oppose the Workplace Advancement Act

AAUW has long urged Congress to address the longstanding discriminatory practices that contribute to the gender wage gap. However, we know that not all reforms are created equal. The Senate is expected to vote soon on the Workplace Advancement Act (S. 2200), a well-meaning but wholly inadequate bill that would do more harm than good.

Contact your Senators today to urge them to oppose the Workplace Advancement Act (S. 2200) and vote NO on cloture when the bill comes to a vote.

The Workplace Advancement Act puts forth only one solution to address the gender pay gap: a very weak, very narrow non-retaliation provision. The bill recommits to the legal principles previously passed in the Equal Pay Act of 1963, an antiquated law that no longer has the teeth necessary to make meaningful strides in closing the gender pay gap.

The Workplace Advancement Act does not adequately address the problem it seeks to remedy. Tell your Senators to vote NO on cloture and to OPPOSE this misguided reform.

[http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50796/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action\\_KEY=16344&killorg=True](http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50796/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=16344&killorg=True)

**Book Discussion in February: "Grace and Grit" by Lilly Ledbetter**  
AAUW • February 10, 2015 • Elmhurst Public Library • 7:00 pm



## Branch Calendar

January 6 - 7:00 pm  
**Board of Directors**  
Elmhurst Public Library

January 13 - 7:00 pm  
**AAUW Meeting**  
"Girl Rising" Documentary  
Elmhurst Public Library

January 27 - 7:30 pm  
**Half the Sky Group**  
*Perry Doubt's Home*

January 21 - 1:00 pm  
**Book Discussion Group**  
*Americanah* by  
*Chimamanda N. Adichie*  
Hostess: Library  
Leader: Elaine Davison

January 30  
**Dare to Dream Conference**  
College of DuPage  
Contact: Suzanne Elger  
[selger@me.com](mailto:selger@me.com)

February 1 - 1:00 pm  
**Noontime Potpourri**  
Cafe Amano - 116 Schiller



**AAUW Hotline 1-800-326-2289**  
**Email: [info@aauwelmhurst.org](mailto: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.

**AAUWFUNDS**

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.

## Closing the Pay Gap

Martin J. Walsh, the Mayor of Boston MA, recently announced an ambitious initiative to offer free AAUW Work Smart salary negotiation training to half of Boston's working women in the next five years.

That means training 85,000 women to negotiate higher salaries and better benefits — and making a dent in the gender pay gap, which stands nationally at 21 percent.

Women working full time in the United States typically are paid just 79 percent of what men are paid, and it's even worse for most women of color.

AAUW Start Smart is designed for college students who are about to enter the job market and AAUW Work Smart is for women who are already working.

Both workshops have been completely redesigned using the latest research and negotiation strategies so that participants will leave with the skills and confidence to successfully navigate the complexities of job offers and promotions.

"I am thrilled to partner with AAUW to offer these workshops to the working women of Boston," says Mayor Walsh. "The AAUW workshops are the next step in giving women the tools they need to compete in today's economy. When women succeed, our businesses, our communities, and our city succeeds."

## Half the Sky Meeting

Our study group, Half the Sky, welcomes all AAUW members.

On the fourth Wednesday - January 27, 2016 we will meet at Perry Doubt's home 119. E. Van Buren St. Elmhurst, IL at 7:30pm. Please RSVP to [bettylaliberte@hotmail.com](mailto:bettylaliberte@hotmail.com) if you can attend.

This month's meeting topic: **Women Refugees - Focusing on the Syrian Crisis.** Each member is asked to bring an article to share. Bring newspaper/magazine or online articles.

### Research Tip

Looking for a perspective beyond our Chicago media? The Elmhurst Public Library has databases that can get you to a variety of viewpoints and country perspectives.

On the homepage for [www.elmhurstpubliclibrary.org](http://www.elmhurstpubliclibrary.org). Click on **elibrary**. From there choose **Magazines and Newspapers**. For general Interest try **Proquest Newsstand**. You might also try the academic databases. (Have your EPL card ready to type in your library card number.)

## QUARTERLY BALANCES REPORT

October-December 2015

*Denise Thompson*  
*Director of Finance*

Book Sale Fund:	\$5,686.84
General Fund	3,387.67
Conf./Convention	<u>2,065.44</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,139.95</b>



*AND A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL. Thanks again to Sally Schuster for opening her home to us for the December meeting. It was a wonderful evening. Shown here: Cheri Richards, Darlene Van Meir, and Mary Hallman.*



*Sarah Caltvedt and Jane Jegerski try some of the goodies.*



*Spreading cheer: Debra Markello, Genie Urick and Maria Patt.*



*Charlotte Mushow, Suzanne Werle and Lynne Rauscher-Davoust catch up on the news.*

## President's Message

During the Holiday Season, we all celebrated the special moments of our varying faiths and traditions. I hope you enjoyed your holidays with friends and family as much as I did. Although the weather was uncharacteristically warm, the spirit of the holidays was still evident at many of the gatherings I attended. For me, that included our AAUW Elmhurst Holiday party, where we not only enjoyed great food and conversation, but I was again reminded what this community of intelligent women means to me.

As we head into 2016, and as we make New Year's resolutions or review the vision and goals for the coming year, let's resolve to grow and strengthen our AAUW community. I hope you can attend the planned program events, such as the showing of the documentary Girl Rising in January. A discussion of the movie will follow to focus on the global gender equity issues highlighted in the documentary. And we'll tackle the book Grace and Grit by Lilly Ledbetter in February. Despite recent laws, our culture and economy are not truly supportive of gender equity in pay. So get your copy of the book and read it, so we can discuss these issues in February.

If you have an idea for a program in the future, please advise me or one of our Program VPs. We're working to strengthen our community, which includes programs which interest our members, both socially and mission-based on the issues impacting gender equity. Let's enjoy ourselves and make a difference for women and girls in 2016!

Jan Summers  
Branch President

# Eileen Ward Wins College of DuPage Distinguished Alumni Award 2015

*By Darlene Van Meir*

If I described a person in the following way: gargantuan vocabulary; fabulous wit; unbelievable knowledge of Shakespeare; 22 year professor of humanities; wisdom and expertise in the field of literature; a teacher who instills “I CAN” in her students; and one who truly cares for each student, I would of course be writing about EILEEN WARD.

Eileen, an active Elmhurst AAUW member for many years, continues her membership in our branch, even though she now resides in San Diego, CA. Pat O’Dwyer, Vivian Michaelis and I were privileged to attend the ceremony at the College of DuPage honoring Eileen as one of their Distinguished Alumni.

Her acceptance speech was inspiring and beautifully spoken as only Eileen can do. If you would like to listen to a recording of her speech, please go to the following link: <http://alumni.cod.edu/distinguished-alumni-2015>

Eileen Ward still calls herself “Gotham gal”—a fitting nickname for the COD humanities professor emerita and Manhattan native known for her gigantic, New York-accented vocabulary. Eileen graduated magna cum laude from Fordham University, New York’s Jesuit University.

She and her husband, Tom, moved to Illinois in 1973, where they raised two sons and pursued their respective careers. Eileen began teaching liberal arts courses at COD in 1975. In addition, she served on the formation committee for COD’s Older Adult Institute and taught in that program for 18 years. She team-taught in English Language Community, a program combining English composition courses and social science courses, designed and developed by Bill Myers for non-native speakers of English.

Beyond the classroom, she coordinated humanities offerings delivered non-traditionally through the Learning Lab for 10 years and led travel/study courses to Ireland, Canada, Greece, and other national and international destinations from 1983 through 1996. She was named COD’s 1997-1998 Outstanding Faculty Member, the same year she retired, after more than two decades of teaching at COD.



*Celebrating the occasion: Pat O’Dwyer, Eileen Ward, Vivian Michaelis, Tom Ward and Darlene VanMeir.*