



Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 76, No. 8 • April 2015

April 8 - 7:00 pm
Elmhurst Public Library

“Girl Reporter: Tracing the Role of Women at the Chicago Tribune”

The fascinating female journalists who worked for the *Chicago Tribune* were the first to report from battlefields, cover sensational crimes, work behind the scenes in Nazi Germany, and more.

Speaker Laurie Russell, a docent and program developer for the McCormick Foundation at Cantigny, traces the influential and groundbreaking role of Robert McCormick in the development of women reporters, columnists, and editors. Laurie illustrates her lecture with historic and vintage photographs as well as *Tribune* pages from the past.

Elmhurst College \$mart \$tart Workshop

On Sunday, March 15, Elmhurst College student organizations and our Elmhurst Area Branch of AAUW sponsored a \$mart \$tart workshop at Elmhurst College.

This AAUW workshop focused on negotiating salaries to earn what is deserved. The program provided information on the gender wage gap and on skills to benchmark salaries. Finally, it provided students with an opportunity to practice negotiating salaries.

A special thanks to branch member Dr. Susanne Schmitz, for her outstanding work and dedication in planning this workshop opportunity. Her coordination efforts with the Elmhurst College Student Government Association, Let's Talk Gender, National Panhellenic Council, the Department of Economics, and students at Elmhurst College are much appreciated.

AAUW Membership Renewal

It's dues time! This year you may renew your membership, either by filling out the form included in this newsletter OR you may renew ONLINE!

If possible, please renew online – it's easier for our Director of Finance and the AAUW Board. The directions for the online renewal are at the bottom of the form. Be GREEN, save paper, save a stamp, save time!

If you wish to contribute extra funds to the branch, please give a separate check to Sandy Burk, Director of Finance.

If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Burk, Anne Klein or Sarah Caltvedt.



BRANCH CALENDAR

April 6 - 1:00 pm
Noontime Potpourri Discussion Group
Cafe Amano

April 7 - 7:30 pm
Half the Sky Group
Perry Doubt's Home

April 8 - 7:00 pm
Next AAUW Meeting
“Girl Reporter: Tracing the Role of Women at the Chicago Tribune”
Laurie Russell
Elmhurst Public Library

April 23 - 1:00 pm
Book Discussion Group
“Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China”
by Leslie Chang
Leader: Jan Hodge
Hostess: Jan Hodge



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.

PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

April 15 is Equal Pay Day.

AAUW advocates across the nation are watching Washington because at the recent rate of progress the pay gap won't fully close for another 124 years - until 2139!

Genie Urick



March Meeting Brings Out the Stars

Leslie Goddard's witty, sharp portrayal of Bette Davis was a big hit.



President's Message

As I write this, I'm still in the throes of jet lag after returning from a trip to Turkey and Greece. It was a very thought provoking trip in many ways, especially our time in Turkey.

Some of you may remember that several years ago one of our programs was a film entitled "Voices Unveiled: Turkish Women Who Dare." It examined the question of whether Islamic values can coexist with equality for women.

In Turkey I was struck by the question over and over as I saw women in clothing ranging from fitted Western fashions to full covering with only a slit for the eyes – and many variations in between. It was very striking to see these extremes of dress and self expression mixing on the busy streets of Istanbul and at tourist sites, where I also saw completely veiled women posing for photos. I wondered what life was like for the veiled women and what they thought of me, with my uncovered hair and slacks. What was their role in their society, and how did they feel about it?

Those of you who saw the film "Wadjda" with the Half the Sky Study Group will know what I'm talking about when I say that I saw her in Topkapi Palace. Truly, this young girl looked just like Wadjda, with a long black coat over jeans and sneakers, her hair uncovered in a long ponytail, looking detached and caught up in her own thoughts. She was with a group of female family members accompanied by a young man who was obviously watching over them. What was going on in her mind, and what will her world be like when she grows up?

Fortunately, I also got the chance to talk with a couple of Turkish women in their early thirties. One had studied in the U.S., the other had spent part of her childhood in Germany, but both had returned to Turkey to live. The one thing they both told me was that while they don't wish to wear the veil themselves, they think it's just fine for others to do so and are glad that past restrictions have been lifted.

I had to examine my own reactions to the veiled women, too. What assumptions was I making about them? Why did I find the veiling so troubling?

My experiences in Turkey reminded me that AAUW is an organization that helps us examine the questions of women's equality and roles, not only in the US, but in the entire world. It gives us the opportunity to learn more and to do what we can to obtain for women the rights that they desire and deserve.

Sarah Caltvedt
Branch President

AAUW and Verizon to Bring Coding Course to Girls across the Country

Following the success of an initial pilot program, AAUW and Verizon are expanding programming designed to teach coding and app development to middle school girls through the AAUW National Tech Trek Program. The collaboration was announced in March as part of the 2015 White House Science Fair.

Tech Trek is a series of 21 highly successful, weeklong STEM summer camps that will be held on college and university campuses across 10 states in summer 2015.

The expanded collaboration between AAUW and Verizon will build on the substantial successes fostered by their 2014 pilot program.

Last summer, AAUW and Verizon brought the course, which uses the App Inventor programming tool developed by MIT to 48 students and trained seven instructors at Tech Trek camps.

The pilot program took place at the University of Alabama, Huntsville; Southwestern Oklahoma State University; and the University of California, Santa Barbara. After participating in the course, 90 percent of campers said they intend to pursue a career in a STEM field, and 80 percent said app development was easier than they anticipated.

EQUAL PAY DAY RALLY

April 14

12:00 noon
Daley Plaza

Clark & Washington
Chicago

