



# Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 78, No. 6 • February 2017

## “Safer for One, Safer for Everyone”

February Meeting Date: February 8, 2017 7:00 pm  
Location: Elmhurst Public Library, Kossman Meeting Room  
Speaker: Lauren DeSimone, Family Shelter Service

The mission of Family Shelter Service in Wheaton is – “Transforming lives by offering help and hope to those affected by domestic violence.” Our February Meeting program will be presented by Lauren DeSimone, Annual Giving Coordinator.

Domestic violence is a very difficult and complex community issue that affects not only the victim, but also the victim’s family. It affects us all. Lauren will define domestic abuse and violence and describe how Family Shelter Service helps those affected by this prevalent crime as well as the services the agency offers to victims and community members. The presentation will also include information on how we can help make a difference and be an advocate for victims in need in our own communities.

Additionally, we are grateful that our member and producer for Elmhurst Community Programs, Genie Urick, has arranged for this program to be videotaped for broadcast in March by Elmhurst Cable TV. This will mean that the important information given us by the speaker will reach a much wider audience than that in our meeting room.

**PLEASE NOTE** that the February meeting date is FEBRUARY 8 and not the 18<sup>th</sup> as was inaccurately printed in the yearbook.

## Speak Up – Fight Back

Maybe you saw it in the news. Dathan Paterno a member of the Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 resigned over derogatory comments he made on Twitter in which he described participants in the Women’s March as “vagina screechers”. Members of a Park Ridge women’s group fought back, posting their views on Social Media. Their posts went viral and soon there were stories in the press and on TV. Because of her connections to the Park Ridge women’s group, Cindy Grau was one of four women interviewed by CBS Channel 2 about the controversy (see <http://chicago.cbslocal.com/2017/01/23/park-ridge-residents-angry-after-board-members-controversial-tweets/>).

A psychologist by profession, Dr. Paterno wrote in one tweet “Alas, the 300 million pound Women March provides a strong argument for doing away with women’s suffrage.” Another called the marchers a “hysterical horde of half-wits.” Paterno submitted his resignation on the morning that the School Board was scheduled to meet.



## BRANCH CALENDAR

**February 8 - 7:00 pm**  
**Branch Program & Meeting**  
*Safer for One, Safer for Everyone (Family Shelter Service)*

**February 22 - 7:30 pm**  
**Half the Sky Outing**  
*“Mustang”*  
COD Global Flicks  
Playhouse Theater - COD  
Contact Betty LaLiberte or Pat O’Dwyer for details.

**February 23 - 1:00 pm**  
**Book Group**  
*Wright Brothers*  
by David McCullough  
Hostess: Marcia Goltermann  
Leader: Marcia Goltermann

**Board of Directors**  
*No Meeting in February*



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.

**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.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**January 25, 2017**

*Denise Thompson*  
*Director of Finance*

General Fund	\$ 3,809.18*
Conferences Fund	2,450.44
Book Sale Fund:	<u>8,150.51</u>
Total	\$14,410.13

\*Includes memorial contribution to AAUW National for Betty Rooney and Enid Baxter

**March Meeting – Bring a Friend**

We have a great program planned for March at the Elmhurst Historical Museum: a private tour by curator Lance Tawzer of the exhibit *In Her Own Right: Marion Mahony Griffin*.

Graduating from MIT, Marion was the first woman registered to practice architecture in Illinois.

We’re asking each member to bring a friend with them to this informative evening.

Do you know someone who would like to learn about local history, find out more about AAUW, and get to know some great women as well? Make plans now to contact a friend and have them save the date – March 8 @ 7 pm at the Elmhurst Historical Museum.

**New Member Taskforce Update**

You may have heard the buzz about the New Member Taskforce, formed in an effort to grow the membership of our branch, with an emphasis on recruiting younger members.

Our taskforce would like to work more intentionally with other groups in the Elmhurst area to share information where appropriate. Do you belong to a group whose members may be interested in our branch’s programs and the AAUW mission in general?

We’re already aware of AAUW members who belong to some of these groups such as League of Women Voters, Great Decisions, and Action for a Better Tomorrow. If you belong to a group other than these that you feel should be included, please contact me ([Jordan-jennifer@att.net](mailto:Jordan-jennifer@att.net) or 630-832-4677) to let me know the name of the group so that we can use this information in crafting future communications and outreach.

**Returning Scholar Program Launched!**

By the time you read this Newsletter, our neighboring communities (Addison, Bensenville, Berkeley, Northlake, Oak Brook and Villa Park) and area colleges will have received information about AAUW Elmhurst’s Returning Scholar Scholarship Program. Press Releases have been sent to all of the local media outlets and flyers have been delivered to many Elmhurst businesses.

We hope you’re sharing the Scholarship information with prospective applicants. Interested women can access the application form at [www.aauwelmhurst.org](http://www.aauwelmhurst.org). Application deadline is April 1, 2017.

YOU can help by sharing information about the program with women in families with whom you are friends or making an announcement at organizations to which you belong.

You can also help us put flyers in businesses you patronize and maybe the church you attend. If they’re willing to display a flyer, you can get one, or more, from Maria Patt (630-661-3639) or Mary Mallon (630-290-8630).

Special thanks to Maria Patt whose “rolodex” of contacts has made so much of the Scholarship Program promotion possible.

*--Mary Mallon, Funds Committee*

**COD Global Flicks**

Half the Sky Group recommends members look into the Global Flicks Festival that is coming up at College of DuPage. A series of seven international films is being offered, with a different movie every Wednesday from February 1 to March 15. There are two showings per day - 1:30 pm and 7:30 pm - at the Playhouse Theater at College of DuPage. Free of charge. Contact Perry Doubt for details.

## President's Message

2017 is off to a great start! Our Branch kicked off a great line-up of programs in support of our mission in January, with more to come. And the efforts of many in AAUW in support of the Women's Marches across the country have me revved up.

Many of our members braved the cold in January and attended our monthly program presented by Susan Tripi DeLano, Executive Director of Re:New: Creating Hope for Women. In her presentation we learned how this non-profit in Glen Ellyn teaches refugee women skills and provides them with part-time work. The Q&A session was quite lively, discussing the challenges that refugees, especially women, have in finding a job and building a future here. We also discussed the refugee screening process, which is very arduous. So a place like Re:New is so important to them assimilating well. At our program there were examples of the women's work and everyone is welcome to visit their studio and store in Glen Ellyn to view more.

On February 8<sup>th</sup>, our program will focus on the issue of domestic violence against women and children. The Family Shelter Service, located in Wheaton, will be the presenter. While this is a difficult subject, it's one we should better understand to support these women and children and to make all of us safer.

For me the best day in January was the Women's March. I went to Chicago along with Denise Dean to join the protest and I know other members were there as well. Some of my AAUW friends were in other cities, including D.C. It was a glorious, warm, and sunny day here in Chicago. Spirits were high in the crowd, which was much larger than expected. Reading all the protest signs was inspiring and often comical. Everyone was friendly and the sense of camaraderie was amazing. Although the originally planned route was blocked due to too many people, we "marched" back to the train station, chanting and laughing. Even the train ride home was full of marchers and the party continued. I loved the energy and enthusiasm and the solidarity. Women's Rights are Human Rights! Everyone there believed it and was committed to resisting any loss of our rights. Now it's time for more action!

If you have an issue that is in danger, speak up, ask for support from this community, get involved. Check out the app Countable to keep up on the issues in Congress. Read the emails from AAUW National on Washington Update. Be an AAUW Two-Minute Activist when the email comes in. Send letters or postcards to your elected officials. Call or email or stop by their offices. **Don't keep quiet.** Remember the suffragettes who started this journey for us. We need to keep it going! We *will* continue in 2017 to strive to succeed in our mission of impacting gender equity, making a difference for women and girls.

Jan Summers  
Branch President



## Women's March - 2017

*What a day! AAUW members around the country participated in the Women's March on January 21st, including Jan Summers, Cindy Grau, Elaine Libovicz, Francis Peshkin and Denise Dean, who were kind enough to share these pictures.*



## February: Practice and Promote Self-Care

*Taken from the Five Ways to Crush the Patriarchy on Campus in 2017, written by Sarah Best*

Between a draining presidential election and an increase in hate crimes around the country, it's been hard to stay positive. While we wait for the new administration to take shape and examine how it will act on AAUW's policy priorities...

While activism is necessary, it can also take a toll on your body and mind. Make time to let go of stress and take care of yourself. AAUW Pitt loves to have coloring sessions to relax and reenergize the movement to fight the patriarchy! Remember what Audre Lorde said:

"Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare."

– Audre Lorde, poet, feminist, activist

**Pro Tip:** On February 13 [the day before Valentine's Day], participate in #NaturalDay, a body positivity movement created by ... AAUW National Student Advisory Council member Sanah Jivani.

.....

Please take the time to view the three-minute video about Natural Day at: <http://www.aauw.org/2017/01/03/5-ways-to-crush-the-patriarchy-on-campus-in-2017/> Try to feel better about yourselves, and share with the young and not-so-young people in your lives during these stressful times.

Denise Dean, Public Policy

## AAUW Exhibit at Elmhurst Public Library

AAUW has been granted the exhibit case at the Elmhurst Public Library for the month of March.

Located in the foyer on the right side when you walk into the library from the parking lot, I am hoping that we can use this case to highlight our organization, the Returning Student Scholarship, and the Used Book Sale.

The library has indicated to me that "3D" objects make good display items. I am looking for a yellow Used Book Sale apron and/or t-shirt that I can use in the display.

I am also open to any other "AAUW objects" that members might be willing to lend me for the case. I will certainly return any items promptly to their owners once the display is taken down.

Please contact me if you can help with this project.

Maria Patt  
Director of Communications/Publicity



**Take Action**  
*Become a Two-Minute Activist*

[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)





*JANUARY MEETING drew a great crowd of members interested in learning about Re: New and the work it does to assist refugee women in our area. Above - lower left corner, Pat O'Dwyer and speaker Susan Tripi DeLano.*