



Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 78, No. 2 • October 2016

October Program

Wednesday, October 12th

7:00 pm

Elmhurst Public Library
Large Meeting Room

The Long Road to Victory:
From Pedestal to Politics and Prison
in the Battle for Woman Suffrage

*Presenter: Annette Baldwin
Historian and Actor*

At the first women’s rights conference held at Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton stood on the public platform and stated that it was “the duty of the women of this country to secure to themselves their sacred right to the elective franchise.”

And so began a 72-year battle for women’s right to vote. It ended in August, 1920, when the 19th Amendment to our national constitution was ratified, guaranteeing that right.

The Long Road to Victory is a portrait of five brilliant, dedicated leaders in the woman suffrage movement: Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Alice Paul, and Carrie Chapman Catt. A passionate and inspiring story, this program is presented as a series of vignettes, with the Woman Suffrage Leaders sharing their experiences and expressing their views. It is a fully-costumed production presented in historical chronological order. What these courageous women have to say will remind us that the social, political, educational and professional freedom and advancement of women was a long and difficult journey that moved forward because of the commitment of the leaders and their thousands of followers. And, almost a century later, women continue to face many of the same issues today.

Our Branch is co-sponsoring this program with the Elmhurst Public Library. The presentation will take place in the Large Meeting Room. At its conclusion AAUW members will move to the adjoining Kossman Room for a short branch meeting. PLEASE NOTE: Although the Library requires registration for this program AAUW Branch members do not need to do so. The library is expecting us and will provide enough seating to accommodate us.

Sally Schuster, Pat O’Dwyer, Program Vice-Presidents



BRANCH CALENDAR

Board of Directors
To be announced

October 12 - 7:00 pm
Branch Program & Meeting
*Long Road to Victory
Elmhurst Public Library
Annette Baldwin*

October 27 - 1:00 pm
Book Group
*Circling the Sun
by Paula McLain
Hostess: Mary Hallman
Leader: Peggy Fox*

October 26 - 7:30 pm
Half the Sky Group
Perry Doubt’s Home



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.

FINANCIAL REPORT

September 25, 2016

*Denise Thompson
Director of Finance*

General Fund:	\$ 4,010.72
Conferences Fund	2,450.44
Book Sale Fund:	<u>13,137.11</u>
Total	\$19,598.27

Half the Sky Group

Half the Sky will meet Wednesday October 26, 2016 at 7:30 pm at the home of Perry Doubt.

An email reminder notice will provide the topic for October. Watch for an email reminder the week before this meeting.

Any one interested in attending, please call Betty Laliberte. Phone 630-832-9010 or email bettylaliberte@hotmail.com for further information.

Women Legislators Accomplish More in Office

According to a study of Congress since 2009, women legislators passed twice as many bills as their male counterparts.

Women are more likely to introduce legislation focused on women, such as increasing paid leave, equal pay, and prosecuting violence against women.

Women legislators are even better at securing funds for their home districts, bringing nine percent more federal funds—for improving programs such as early education and local infrastructure—back to their home districts than their male colleagues.

Today, about one-fifth of Congress is made up of women (104 women), compared to just 33 women 25 years ago. However, barriers persist in women’s access to higher offices. Women are less likely to feel qualified for political office and are less likely to have a colleague or mentor encourage them to run.

In addition, Brookings research found that women running for office are 15 times more likely to be responsible for child care and are six times more likely to do the majority of housework than their male political opponents.

New Member Updates

In the past two months, we welcomed two new members to our branch:

•**Hannah Ballas** – Hannah lives in Bensenville. She has MA degrees in both Psychological Science (Ball State) and Psychology (Eastern Illinois). Hannah works at Triton College in the Institutional Research Department. She provides student data to faculty and staff and also compiles federal and state reporting. Hannah heard about AAUW from a colleague who helps at our book sale.

•**Virginia Curran** – Virginia lives in Elmhurst with her son. She was a long time member of our branch from 1967 – 2006. After 2006 she continued her national dues as she focused on other priorities. She has now rejoined our branch.

Please make sure to welcome Hannah and Virginia to the branch when you see them at a branch event in the future.

Let’s Grow our Membership!

Shape the Future at the October Meeting

Our October branch meeting will be co-sponsored with the library and is designated as ‘Shape the Future’ event.

Any new member who joins our branch within a week of this event will be given a discounted rate for membership – they can join for just \$44 for the year, which is a savings of \$34.

This is a great opportunity to invite friends, neighbors, or colleagues who are interested in learning more about AAUW! Even if they do not attend the October meeting, they will still be eligible for the discounted rate during that month.

Please contact Jennifer Jordan (630-832-4677, Jordan-jennifer@att.net) for further information.

President's Message

We had a fantastic kickoff dinner in September, with a great meal and over 50% attendance. It seemed everyone enjoyed the opportunity to socialize with old and new friends, as well as learn about the upcoming program events for our branch. We have many great programs ahead, with October being a reenactment focused on the suffragette leaders. Great timing, just before the election, and a reminder of the significance of the centennial celebration of the 19th amendment in 2020

Another program, scheduled in November after the election, is about gender stereotypes. I'm sure it will also be a great program, with a film and a discussion led by our own Jane Jegerski. It is still one of the significant issues impeding our progress towards gender equity. I see examples every day on TV, in movies and the news. I'm often frustrated when people, men and even women, make negative judgments of a woman, and may criticize with words they would never say about a man.

I've experienced this criticism, and even attempts at shaming, all my life. How dare I run for Student Council President? "Girls can't be President!" - that was actually the phrase on my opponent's posters. And I lost. As the first female supervisor at US Steel in 1975, I had to summon up all my strength to survive and succeed. I had a number of male subordinates who didn't believe I was strong enough or called me a number of female slur words for being strong. And I had customers who refused to work with me as I couldn't possibly be effective. I was much more fortunate than Lilly Ledbetter, in that although I had to survive the verbal harassment, US Steel stood behind me in all the personnel issues. And although I eventually was respected and promoted well, the culture stayed the same.

As I moved on to other corporations and moved up in the organization, even to Vice President, I thought I was helping to change the stereotypes and the image of women. But frankly, although much has improved, we still have an issue with female leaders. We are either not strong enough or too strong, therefore "bitchy". I was told on one performance review that I didn't smile enough. Yet many studies in corporations show that women are actually better managers and leaders, possibly because of our empathy and concern for others. We listen better, and care, and want to help or fix the problem. That is not weakness.

While I've shared some of the issues about my life as a leader, I'm sure we all have had some similar experiences when we tried to take the lead. It's important to remember that implicit bias, that we all have to some degree, as we evaluate candidates for elected offices, locally or nationally. We want leaders, male or female, who care about us, listen to us and will try to make a difference – like us!

I'm really looking forward to our upcoming program year at AAUW. We will continue to strive to succeed in our mission of impacting gender equity, making a difference for women and girls.

Jan Summers
Branch President



September Supper Drew an Enthusiastic Crowd



Special Exhibit: Marion Mahony Griffin

To say that Marion Mahony Griffin was a pioneer in her field is a bit of an understatement. Terms like “force of nature” or “trailblazer” are more fitting to describe a woman—the first registered architect in the state of Illinois and the second woman to earn an architecture degree from MIT—who stood shoulder-to-shoulder with her male peers in the vaunted Prairie School of Architecture led by the inimitable Frank Lloyd Wright.

Though Wright and her husband, Walter Burley Griffin, may be more familiar to those who know about American architecture, it is the often unheralded design work by Marion that became the distinct hallmark of the Prairie School through detailed renderings of such masterpieces as Unity Temple in Oak Park and the Plan for Canberra in Australia. Mahony Griffin was one of Wright’s first employees in the legendary Oak Park studio, and she proved to be ahead of her time in her ideas and innovative drawing style that integrated the natural environment into the design process.

For many years, Marion Mahony Griffin’s story went untold as the spotlight shone on men like Louis Sullivan, Wright, and others. Her story is now being brought to light with a new exhibit presented by the **Elmhurst History Museum** entitled “*In Her Own Right: Marion Mahony Griffin*.” The exhibit will be open from October 7, 2016 through March 12, 2017 and brings Mahony Griffin’s own story out of the shadows as a brilliant architect, talented artist, avid environmentalist, and social activist. “*In Her Own Right*” traces Mahony Griffin’s early life, her personal and professional partnership with her husband on three continents, her final years in Chicago where she died in obscurity and penniless—and considers the legacy of a Chicagoan of immense but often overlooked importance. Elmhurst History Museum has planned a full roster of exhibit-related programs with visiting scholars, authors and interesting tours to learn more about Marion Mahony Griffin, including:

Oct. 6: Opening Lecture, 7 p.m.—Dr. Anna Rubbo presents the opening lecture to launch the exhibit, discussing Mahony Griffin’s remarkable life and legacy. *Location:* Elmhurst History Museum Education Center *Cost:* Members Free, Non-Members \$10.

Oct. 25: Graceland Cemetery Tour: Women of Influence, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.—The Chicago Architecture Foundation will lead this tour of Chicago’s northside cemetery where Mahony Griffin and other notable Chicago women are buried. *Location:* Tour begins/ends at Elmhurst History Museum *Cost:* Members \$30, Non-Members \$35.

Nov. 1: Marion Mahony Griffin: A Force of Nature, 7 p.m.—Noted Griffin historian Christopher Vernon presents an illustrated lecture on Marion’s little-known practice as a landscape architect, her impressive work on the Plan for Canberra, and her legacy to the world. *Location:* Elmhurst History Museum Education Center *Cost:* Members Free, Non-Members \$5

Nov. 17: Women of Steel & Stone: Inspirational Architects, Engineers & Landscape Designers 1 p.m.—Author Anna M. Lewis shares stories of female architect, engineers, and landscape designers from the 1800s to today. *Location:* Elmhurst History Museum Education Center *Cost:* FREE

Reservations for all of these programs are required, and can be made by emailing EHMprograms@elmhurst.org or online at elmhursthistory.org (in the Adult Programs section). Additional programs will be added throughout the exhibit’s run into March of 2017. For registration and more information on these programs, go to www.elmhursthistory.org in the Adult Programs section. For the latest exhibit and program information, please visit www.elmhursthistory.org or call (630) 833-1457.

Members of AAUW can look forward to the **Branch Program on March 8** which will take place at the Elmhurst History Museum. Museum Curator, Lance Tawzer will lead us on a private tour of the Marion Mahony Griffin exhibit.

The Truth about the Gender Pay Gap

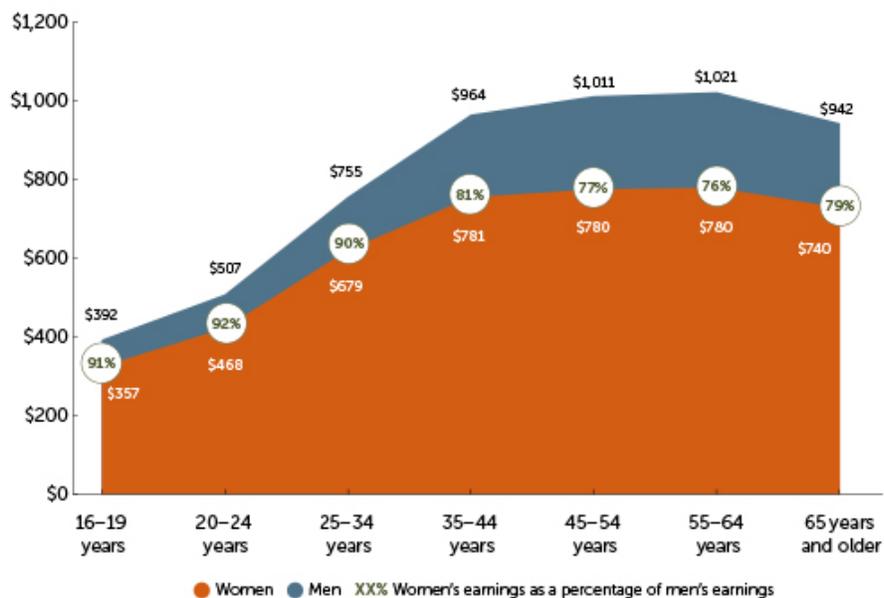
You've probably heard that men are paid more than women are paid over their lifetimes. But what does that mean? Are women paid less because they choose lower-paying jobs? Is it because more women work part time than men do? Or is it because women have more caregiving responsibilities? And what, exactly, does gender bias have to do with paychecks?

AAUW's *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap* succinctly addresses these issues by going beyond the widely reported 80 percent statistic. The report explains the pay gap in the United States; how it affects women of all ages, races, and education levels; and what you can do to close it. For 2016, the fifth anniversary of *The Simple Truth*, we've updated the report with information on disability status, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Here is a sample:

Age Is More than Just a Number

Earnings for both female and male full-time workers tend to increase with age, with a plateau after 45 and a drop after age 65. The gender pay gap also grows with age, and differences among older workers are considerably larger than gaps among younger workers. Women typically earn about 90 percent of what men are paid until they hit 35. After that median earnings for women are typically 76–81 percent of what men are paid.

Median Weekly Earnings, by Gender and Age, 2014



Note: Based on median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers, 2014 annual averages
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Survey*, reported in U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Highlights of Women's Earnings in 2014*, Table 1

www.aauw.org AAUW

Visit the AAUW website for the complete report: *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap, Fall 2016*. The report has been updated with the most current statistics from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Census Bureau.

To learn more about this important issue plan to attend our **Branch Meeting on April 12, 2017**. Our speaker will be Lisa Cherry from the AAUW-Illinois Gender Equity Fund. Her topic will be "The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap."