



# Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 78, No. 1 • September 2016

**Wednesday, September 14, 6 pm**

## September Supper

### River Forest Country Club

15W468 Grand Ave., Elmhurst

On Wednesday, September 14, 6 pm, AAUW–Elmhurst Branch begins the 2016-17 year with a delicious meal, a chance to catch up with old friends, and an opportunity to meet new people. This fall the event will be held at Elmhurst's beautiful country club, River Forest Country Club. The room looks out on this gorgeous golf course, and the menu, which is detailed on the flyer, sounds absolutely wonderful. The cost is \$30 per person and includes tax, tip, and valet parking. There will be a cash bar for drinks other than coffee, tea, or water. A short talk will highlight the program schedule for the upcoming year.

The registration deadline is Wednesday, September 7. Send your reservation to Pat O'Dwyer, 5 Oak Brook Club Drive, #N204, Oak Brook, IL 60523; or contact her for more information: [pat.odwyer@comcast.net](mailto:pat.odwyer@comcast.net), [630-279-1318](tel:630-279-1318) (home), or [630-414-1746](tel:630-414-1746) (cell).

## Congratulations and Thank You!

Throughout the year, members and supporters of AAUW of Illinois sent countless messages to our legislators, urging their action to improve access to health care for women in Illinois. Once the legislature took action, we turned our attention to the governor's office to help ensure enactment of this crucial legislation.

**Thanks to your advocacy, two important bills have now become law in Illinois!**

On July 29, Governor Rauner signed into law SB 1564, an amendment to the Health Care Right of Conscience Act, and HB 5576, the Illinois Contraceptive Coverage Act. Both of these bills will make sure that women in our state will get the health care that they need without encountering unnecessary barriers.

These laws are a huge victory for women in Illinois. Congratulations and thank you!



## BRANCH CALENDAR

### Board of Directors

*No meeting this month*

### September 14 - 6 pm

*September Supper  
River Forest Country Club  
Reservations due Sept. 7*

### September 22 - 1:00 pm

*Book Group  
The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry  
by Gabrielle Zevin  
Hostess: Elaine Davison  
Leader: Mary Hallman*

### September 28 - 7:30 pm

*Half the Sky Group  
Jennifer Jordan's Home*

### October 12 - 7:00 pm

*AAUW Meeting  
"The Long Road to Victory"  
Elmhurst Public Library*

### October 22 - 9am to noon

*AAUW-IL Northern Conference  
Oakton Community College*



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**

**June 30, 2016**

*Denise Thompson*  
*Director of Finance*

Book Sale Fund:	\$ 3,186.84
Conferences Fund	1,910.44
General Fund:	<u>4,168.67</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 9,265.95</b>

**Half the Sky Group**

Half the Sky studies challenges that women around the world are facing and takes action to support efforts addressing those challenges. Our schedule is flexible, but many meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Our first meeting of the year is at **Jennifer Jordan's** home on **WED, on Sept. 28 at 7:30 pm**. We will view a 40 minute documentary about a Pakistani woman - ***A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness***.

Everyone is welcome. For more information, call Betty Laliberte 630 832 9010.

**Sexist Media Coverage at 2016 Summer Olympics**

While the Olympic Games can serve as an excellent example of how important Title IX is to American women, AAUW reports that female athletes at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio faced a barrage of sexist remarks from commentators and the media.

When three-time Olympian Corey Cogdell-Unrein won the Bronze medal in women's trap shooting, a *Chicago Tribune* headline referred to her as "wife of a Bear's lineman."

When swimmer Katie Ledecky beat her own world record in 400-meter freestyle, commentators declared "some people say she swims like a man."

Other remarks attributed breaking world records to the athlete's husband, focusing on a gold medalist's new motherhood, and asserting that women are not sports fans but instead prefer reality television. This coverage comes on the heels of a recently published study by the *Cambridge University Press* which found that the media disproportionately describes female athletes in relation to their marital status, age, or appearance while men are more likely to be placed in a sporting context.

**Honor Roll**

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Elmhurst branch members who have donated to AAUW, national or Elmhurst branch, during the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Your contributions are very important and very much appreciated.

- Betsy Aldred
- Sally Allen
- Connie Baker
- Florence Beckman
- Suman Bhorade
- Bonita Boerger
- Marga Breckenfelder
- Sarah Caltvedt
- Janice Caudy
- Millicent Chrusciel
- Elaine Davison
- Denise Dean
- Rosemarie Dressander
- Jeanette Flaningam
- Marcia Goltermann
- Cindy Grau
- Jennifer Jordan
- Jean Kane
- Jane Kiep
- Liesel Kossman
- Elaine Libovicz
- Vivian Michaelis
- Rukshad Patel
- Frances Peshkin
- Lynne Rauscher-Davoust
- Jeanne Regan
- Barbara Richardson
- Alice Smith
- Suzanne Stock
- Jan Summers
- Susan Szymanski
- Marilyn Thompson
- Eugenie Urick
- Mary Eleanor Wall

## Supreme Court Decisions

This summer, the U.S. Supreme Court decided several landmark cases that will impact the rights of women and girls across the country for years to come. But the term will be remembered for the unexpected death of Justice Antonin Scalia, who passed away in February in the middle of the 2015–16 term. Because the U.S. Senate has so far refused to consider President Obama’s nominee to fill Scalia’s seat, the court was forced to make most of its major decisions with only eight justices. So what did the eight-judge court decide this summer?

•**Contraceptive Access:** In *Zubik v. Burwell*, the court issued a per curiam opinion—an opinion that speaks for the court but doesn’t identify an author—and sent all of the cases back to the lower courts for reconsideration. The court made no decisions on any of the legal questions and certainly not on the overarching question of whether the accommodation sufficiently protected religious liberty. And since there are multiple lower courts that will have to reconsider the cases, the Supreme Court’s decision not only delays any resolution of the issues but also creates more possibility for confusion and competing interpretations of federal law.

•**Affirmative Action:** *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin* was the court’s first race-conscious admissions case since 2003. After several rounds of appeals, the high court finally heard arguments this term. In *Fisher*, a white student sued the University of Texas, claiming that the university’s admissions policy violated her rights by taking race into account. The court adhered to its earlier decisions and reaffirmed the constitutionality of race-conscious admissions.

•**Reproductive Rights:** It was the court’s decision in *Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt* that will have the most profound effects on the rights of women and girls across the country. In *Whole Woman’s Health*, the court struck down “TRAP” laws that are designed to prevent abortions by setting unnecessary requirements for doctors and clinics.



What a year! The 2016 AAUW Used Book Sale was a great success. Thanks to the hard work of all our volunteers, over \$10,000 was raised for AAUW scholarships. See page 5 for details.



## President's Message

I hope you had a great summer, with friends and family, enjoying the outdoors or vacationing in new and/or fun places. My focus, in addition to the AAUW book sale, was selling, buying and moving my home to Aurora to be near my family. As you know or can imagine, that was a busy and exhausting time. I'm settling in now, and looking forward to the coming year of fun and educational experiences with AAUW. My connection to Elmhurst remains strong and I really enjoy my time with this community of women in our AAUW branch.

Our big annual fund-raising event, the Annual Used Book Sale, occurred over the summer, beginning in June through July collecting and sorting the books, and ending with the sale over the first weekend in August. Thanks so, so much to everyone who helped before, during and after the sale. Special thanks to our new Publicity Director, Maria Patt. Everyone commented on the increased visibility of the sale and we definitely received more books than past years. This year's event was one of our best!


Our Program VPs, Pat O'Dwyer and Sally Schuster, have been very busy and very creative this summer, resulting in a great program planned for us. More details in this newsletter as well as in the Annual Directory / Yearbook. And our program year starts with a lovely dinner at the River Forest Country Club in Elmhurst on September 14th. Get your reservations in ASAP.

After I turned my attention back to AAUW and the coming year, I attended the screening of the documentary **Equal Means Equal**, at the Logan Theater in Chicago. The program sponsored by the Chicago branch of AAUW included a panel discussion afterward. It's a powerful film, which I highly recommend, and I ran the gamut of emotions as I watched it. I was stunned, depressed, appalled, horrified and distressed by the first-hand stories of women who are fighting the discrimination that we as women still encounter in the law and our patriarchal culture.

While we believe we have come a long way, the ongoing incidents, the legal rulings and the statistics highlighted by this film, prove that **women are not considered equal by the law**. At the depth of my negative emotions, with tears leaking from my eyes, I almost felt hopeless. But there is hope, and I'm proud that AAUW is involved in changing the tide. You will be hearing a lot more about the ERA and CEDAW, the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women. The U.S. is one of only seven countries not to ratify this agreement, and for no valid reason. So it is a reality that **women in the U.S. have fewer legal rights and protections than in many other countries**.

Despite the shock of the legal reality spotlighted by the film, I feel re-energized to get involved in the issues facing us and our daughters and granddaughters. As we look forward to the upcoming year, I hope to enjoy the company of a wonderful group of women in AAUW, while striving to succeed in our mission of impacting gender equity, making a difference for women and girls in 2016 and beyond !

Jan Summers  
Branch President



**Meet the Board  
AAUW Elmhurst Area  
Branch  
2016-2017**

**Elected Officers:**

President: Jan Summers

Program Vice Presidents: Pat O'Dwyer  
and Sally Schuster

Membership Vice President: Jennifer Jordan

Recording Secretary: Carol Rounds

Director of Finance: Denise Thompson

Director of Publicity/Communications: Maria Patt

Director of Bylaws and Policies: Marcia Lagerwey

AAUW Funds Director: Mary Mallon

Director of Public Policy: Denise Dean

Nominating Committee Director: Sarah Caltvedt

**Appointed Officers/Voting Board Members**

College/University Relations: Betsy Aldred

Diversity/International Affairs: Betty Laliberte

Newsletter: Perry Doubt

STEM Advocacy: Suzanne Stock

**Special Committee Chairs**

Yearbook: Sally Schuster

Study Group - Book Discussion: Carol Rounds,  
Elaine Davison and Darlene Van  
Meir

Study Group - Half the Sky: Betty Laliberte

**Preliminary Report  
Used Book Sale 2016  
7/1/16 through 8/10/16**

Income	
Cash Startup	\$ 215.00
Receipts	<u>11,702.41</u>
	\$ 11,917.41
Expenses	
Cash Startup	\$ 215.00
Labor	1,105.50
Building Rental	419.00
Promotion	<u>45.00</u>
	\$ 1,784.50
<b><u>Net Income</u></b>	<b><u>\$10,132.91</u></b>

**October AAUW Meeting  
Wednesday, October 12, 7 pm  
The Long Road to Victory  
Elmhurst Public Library**

Historian and actor Annette Baldwin recreates five leaders in the 72-year battle for women's right to vote. In this performance, you will meet Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Alice Paul, and Carrie Chapman Catt. Our branch is cosponsoring this fully-costumed and fast-paced production with the Elmhurst Public Library.





## **It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard 2016 GOTV Skill Trainings**

**August 31 – October 18, 2016**

*I'm signed up – are you? There's still time!*

*Check this out at the [AAUW.org](http://www.aauw.org) today (excerpted from the Resources page). – Denise Dean*

The It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard campaign harnesses the power of AAUW members to register and turn out millennial women voters nationwide. With Election Day rapidly approaching, it's time to spring into action to help get-out-the-vote (GOTV) in 2016.

In this series of three webinar trainings, you will learn all the information and resources you need to register, educate, and turn out voters. *Register for one or attend all three* at <http://www.aauw.org/event/2016/08/2016-gotv-skill-trainings/> and help to make a difference this Election Day!

### **Voter Registration: It's My Vote Training Part I**

Date: Wednesday, August 31, 2016 Time: 7–8 p.m. ET

With National Voter Registration Day scheduled for September 27, there's no time like the present to plan a voter registration drive in your community! In the first of a three-part series, you will learn everything you need to know to host a successful event including tips for maximizing your reach, opportunities to seize, and information about voting rights and protection efforts in the state.

### **Voter Education: It's My Vote Training Part II**

Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2016 Time: 7–8 p.m. ET

Each election cycle, AAUW members seek to provide all women voters with the information they need to cast their ballots. With so much at stake in this election, our efforts are needed across the country. At this one hour training, you will learn the ins and outs of a successful voter education campaign and tips for you to employ in your branch this fall. From hosting candidate forums, attending town halls, making use of voter guides, and bird dogging candidates, there are so many ways you can help ensure that women voters are educated, able to exercise their right, and encouraged to do so on Election Day.

### **Turning Out the Vote on Election Day: It's My Vote Training Part III**

Date: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 Time: 7–8 p.m.

Once you've helped to register and educate eligible voters, how can you ensure that they show up to the polls? Find out in this one hour webinar, which is the final training of our three-part series. You will learn the crucial actions necessary to turning out voters on Election Day and actionable strategies for following up with and getting out the vote via the It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard campaign.



# September Supper

## Wednesday, September 14, 2016, 6 pm

River Forest Country Club  
15W468 Grand Ave, Elmhurst, IL 60126  
\$30 per person (tax and gratuity included)  
FREE Valet Parking

### Menu

Fall Salad of Mixed Greens, Poached Pear, Dried Cranberries, Candied Pecans, Stilton Cheese,  
Poppyseed Dressing  
Chicken Wellington, Mushroom Duxelle with Champagne, Butter Sauce  
Herb-roasted, Red Jacket Potatoes  
Pan-seared Vegetable Medley  
Rolls and Butter  
Mini Trio Dessert of Lemon Bar, Turtle Bar, and Chocolate Raspberry Bar  
Regular and Decaf Coffee and Tea



Soft Drinks and Alcoholic Beverages may be purchased.

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Please send the portion below the dashes to Pat with your reservation.

I will attend the Fall dinner and am enclosing a check for \$30 made payable to AAUW Elmhurst Branch.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

If you have dietary restrictions, please let us know what they are so River Forest CC can accommodate you.

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Send your reservation with your check to  
Pat O'Dwyer  
5 Oak Brook Club Drive, #N204  
Oak Brook, IL 60523  
630-279-1318 (home) or 630-414-1746 (cell)

Reservations are due no later than  
Wednesday, September 7, 2016.

