



# Elmhurst Area Branch News

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## November Branch Meeting Program

**Wednesday, November 8, 2017**

7:00 PM • Elmhurst Public Library

### ***“Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership”***

Speaker, Andrea Danis, AAUW-Illinois Gender Equity Fund

Despite gains in every profession, women remain underrepresented at all levels of leadership. In Congress, on corporate boards, and in our nation’s colleges and universities, male leaders outnumber female leaders by considerable margins. For women of color, leadership opportunities are even more elusive. The leadership gender gap is significant, persistent, and systemic. Women’s representation in leadership will not increase substantially without major changes in the culture, policies, and practices of the organizations where women learn and work. The AAUW report, *Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership*, delves into the reasons for these leadership gaps and proposes concrete steps for narrowing and, ultimately, eliminating them. The report focuses on four questions:

- What is the gender leadership gap?
- What explains it?
- What strategies have already helped narrow the gap?
- What can we do about it now?

Our Speaker will be Andrea (Andi) Danis from the AAUW-Illinois Gender Equity Fund. She will present an overview of the AAUW Report and the mission-based research on which it is based.

We are fortunate to be welcoming Andi as our speaker.. Her membership in AAUW and her commitment and service to our mission are extensive on both the local and state levels. She is currently on the Gender Equity Fund Board of Directors and a presenter with its Speaker’s Bureau. She has served in various capacities on the Board of her Aurora Branch and on the AAUW-Illinois State Board, including President, LAF Chair, District #4 Co-Director and presently, Nominating Chair.

**New Study Group: STEM for Girls** will meet on Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at the Elmhurst Public Library from 6 - 7 PM, immediately prior to the monthly AAUW meeting. Room to be determined. If you plan to attend, please contact Suzanne Stock.



## BRANCH CALENDAR

### **Board of Directors**

*No meeting in November*

### **November 8 - 6:00 pm**

#### **STEM for Girls Group**

*Elmhurst Public Library*

### **November 8 - 7:00 pm**

#### **Monthly Branch Meeting**

*Elmhurst Public Library*

### **Book Discussion Group**

*No meeting in November*

## Future Meetings

**December 13, 2017**

### **Annual Holiday Party**

Please mark your calendar now and look forward to beginning our holiday celebrations with your AAUW friends at our annual Holiday Party. This year we will enjoy the hospitality of our member, Janet Hodge, at her condo in Oak Brook. The more the merrier!

**January 10, 2018**

**EARLY START TIME 6:30 pm**

### **“Equal Means Equal”**

In order to allow adequate time for viewing the movie, “Equal Means Equal,” as well as time for discussion, our January meeting will begin 30 minutes earlier than usual.



AAUW Hotline 1-800-326-2289  
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**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.

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**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**October 21, 2017**

*Denise Thompson  
Director of Finance*

General Fund	\$ 4,449.54
Conferences Fund	1,529.01
Book Sale Fund:	<u>17,741.65</u>
Total	\$23,720.54

## October Meeting Draws SRO Crowd

The Committee kept going out for more chairs as members and guests poured in for the October meeting. The speaker was Barb Warner Deane, who discussed the book she wrote, On the Homefront, and the roles that women played during WWII.



*Genie Urick (AAUW Program V.P.) with the speaker, Elmhurst author Barb Warner Deane, holding her newly released book, On the Homefront. Incidentally, Barb is one of our newest members. Welcome aboard!*



*The presentation included interesting photos and historical information about women in WWII, particular the those who worked for the American Clubmobile Program.*

## Illinois ERA Update and What We Can Do Next

During October, AAUW-Jane Addams Branch hosted a public policy webinar discussing the state of ERA ratification in Illinois, "Illinois ERA Update and What We Can Do Next."

The main presenters included A. J. Conroy, an AAUW member, attorney and advocate for the ERA. She is the Social media manager for ERA Illinois, Equal Pay Day Chicago and Chicago Craftivists. Also speaking was Kathryn Modisette, ERA Advocate, and member of NOW and the #Blono4era coalition.

The webinar provided a recent history, and more importantly, the organizations collaborating to pass the ERA in Illinois, and what we can do now, including: calling your House representative, sending letters to the editors, reading the book, Equal Means Equal (which is different from the film of that name), posting on social media, and visiting your reps in person.

During the October veto session, I will be attending an advocacy and lobby day in Springfield, during which we will all be advocating for the bipartisan support of our respective legislators for the ERA. I will report back after the event.

In the meantime, please use this link to view "Illinois ERA Update and What We Can Do Next" for yourself: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30V-fB5Z0BE&feature=youtu.be>.

Cheers,  
Denise Dean



*Congratulations! Virginia Curran joins the ranks of our Branch's 50-Year Honorary Life Members (shown above with Membership Vice President Deb Markello). Virginia has been a proud member of the AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch for 50 years and recently was awarded lifetime membership status. She is a long time resident of Berkeley, where she and her late husband raised two sons. She is an avid reader and a member of our book discussion group.*

## Important Issue to be Voted at November Branch Meeting

Following another *very successful* AAUW Used Book Sale in August, we all now have the privilege of approving how we would like that money to be disbursed. That will take place at the Branch Business Meeting at the end of our Monthly Program Event on November 8.

The key issue we will discuss and vote on is the AAUW Funds Committee and Board recommendations for the distribution of the proceeds from the Book Sale.

The recommendation from the AAUW Funds Committee was discussed at the October Board Meeting and approved as follows:

- \$7,000 to be sent to National's AAUW Fund, which is used to fund all national activities, including the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). This is 60% of the *net* proceeds from the Book Sale as required by National.

- \$6,000 to be allocated for two (2) \$3,000 Returning Scholar scholarships. The selection of the scholarship recipients will be conducted in April, 2018 by the Funds Committee. Having received 18 applications last year and almost all deserving of a scholarship, I'm sure we will have no problem selecting one (1) STEM applicant and one (1) applicant in another field of study.

- \$1,000 to Dare to Dream to fund an alumna's scholarship for college.

Your input and vote are important. See you at the Branch Meeting/Program on November 8.

Mary Mallon  
Funds Committee Chair

## President's Message

As I write this message, I have just attended the AAUW-IL Northern Conference, a very inspirational event held in Wheaton this year. So many topics, all thought-provoking and in need of discussion.

There were a couple of speakers from *HEART Women & Girls* and *Ladies of Virtue* who have outreach programs for young women and girls. Both were excellent speakers and leaders of the programs that they themselves developed. Both acknowledged grants from AAUW that helped them achieve their success to help others. It reminded me how much I enjoyed mentoring young women in business. I must find a way to rekindle that.

Becky Sarwate of the *Illinois Women's Press Association* delivered an emotional presentation about the last year or so in politics. As a journalist she is an outspoken critic of the misogyny and hypocrisy of many of the politicians and the fringe media. As she recounted the issues that led to the Women's March, I recalled the many emotions that pushed me to attend that event on a January day in Chicago. An Anniversary March is being planned and we have many more issues to protest. I hope to attend!

We had two women state legislators attend and speak, one being my State Senator. They were quite candid about how the previous bipartisan camaraderie has been breaking down over the last few years. Issues important to women are in peril. Budget cuts are being done without fanfare, like the funding for programs for autistic kids zeroed out by the Governor on National Autism Day. Please investigate the issues that need your voice, from overriding the Governors' veto of HB 2462, the "No Salary History" Bill, or his veto of the "Student Loan Bill of Rights" – SB1351. And then there's the ERA. Only two more states are needed to ratify this amendment that would finally provide equality of rights under the law for **us!** Let's make Illinois one of them! Call your legislators!! Those against the ERA are already calling...

There was discussion of best practices by a couple branches as to how to expand membership, including several ideas for how to reach out to the community to increase awareness. But the key lesson was that ***most new members join after being personally invited by a present branch member.***

The November program will be a great opportunity to invite a guest as it should be a great program. Andi Danis from the AAUW-IL Gender Equity Fund will present the recent AAUW research on **Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership**, which should generate great discussion on how we can improve our situation. We will hold our fall Branch Meeting after the program to review and vote on the recommendation for the distribution of the proceeds from the very successful Used Book Sale.

Although at times I am disheartened with the negative discourse so common today, I am also encouraged knowing that AAUW and its members, **us**, are working hard to address many of the issues that affect us as women. Let's keep focused on the AAUW mission to advance equity for women and girls through ***advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.***

Jan Summers  
Branch President