



Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 79, No. 5 • December 2017

Holiday Gathering – You are invited!

Wednesday, December 13, 2017
Home of Janet Hodge
Oak Brook Club Condominiums

It's time to nurture our friendships, spend time together, and begin to "celebrate the season" at our annual holiday gathering. This year it will take place on the evening of Wednesday, December 13, at 7:00 PM, at the condo-home of our gracious member, Janet Hodge.

Members are asked to bring appetizers [A-K names] or sweets [L-Z names] and to contribute \$5.00 (collected at the party) for beverages and incidentals.

We ask that you RSVP to Janet if you plan to attend at 630-279-9643. And please leave a message if you don't speak to her. Detailed directions will be emailed as the date approaches.

Our Holiday Party has traditionally been a lovely way to be together and enjoy each other's company. Please join us.



BRANCH CALENDAR

Board of Directors
No meeting in December

Half the Sky Group
No meeting in December

December 7, 2017 - 1:00 pm
Book Discussion Group
"Cleopatra" by Stacy Schiff
Hostess: Carol Rounds
(NOTE CHANGE)
Leader: Marilyn Thompson

December 13 - 7:00 pm
Monthly Branch Meeting
Holiday Gathering
Home of Janet Hodge
Oak Brook Club Condominiums

January Meeting - "Equal Means Equal"

January 10, 2018
Elmhurst Public Library
EARLY START TIME 6:30 pm

Don't miss the January meeting of AAUW. Our program features "Equal Means Equal", an award-winning documentary film on the status of women in the U.S. today.

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
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.

AAUWFUNDS

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 (July/August through May) by the American Association of University Women - Elmhurst Area Branch.

FINANCIAL REPORT

November 27, 2017

*Denise Thompson
Director of Finance*

General Fund	\$ 4,279.88
Conferences Fund	1,529.01
Book Sale Fund:	<u>10,690.61</u>
Total	\$16,449.50*

*The annual donation to AAUW national for \$7,000 was drawn from the Book Sale Account.

Branch Members Approve Distribution of Book Sale Funds

At the Branch Business Meeting on November 8, AAUW members approved the Funds Committee and Board Members' recommendations for the distribution of the proceeds from the Book Sale:

•\$7,000 to be sent to AAUW National's **AAUW Fund**. What is the AAUW Fund? Unrestricted gifts that make it possible for AAUW to respond quickly to new or unforeseen challenges facing women and girls, to leverage and innovate mission-based opportunities, and to attract new audiences by enabling us to expand our programs.

•\$6,000 to be allocated for two (2) - \$3,000 Returning Scholar scholarships. The selection of the scholarship recipients will be conducted in April, 2017 by the Funds Committee.

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

The Funds Committee will be meeting shortly to again prepare and then carry out a plan to promote the Returning Scholar Scholarship Program. We're open to new ideas and ways to enhance our Branch's past promotional efforts. Our efforts last year netted 18 applications. Give me or anyone on the Funds Committee a call with your suggestions. All ideas are welcome.

*Mary Mallon
Funds Committee Chair
mary.mallon@comcast.net
630-290-8630*

Update: Eileen Ward

Even after she and her husband, Tom, retired and moved to California several years ago, long-time branch member Eileen Ward has been a dual member of our Elmhurst Area Branch and the San Diego Branch.

Roe Dressander (branch member and Eileen's good friend) wants us to know that Eileen is recovering from a fall resulting in a fractured pelvis. She is currently in a rehab facility near her home in San Diego.

Eileen would enjoy hearing from us via email at Eileenw705@aol.com, or snail mail at 4944 Cass St., Unit #1109, San Diego, CA 92109-2044.

Make a Difference: Become A Two Minute Activist

As a Two-Minute Activist, you will receive urgent email notices from AAUW when your advocacy is needed most. We'll provide all the tools you need to call or send messages to your members of Congress, write letters to the editor for your local newspapers, contact your state legislators about pressing issues, and more.

Sign up at the AAUW website:
<https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>

Scenes from November Branch Meeting



President's Message

November was an interesting month for me. I usually love November as it's my birthday month, and I love the long Thanksgiving holiday weekend. It was a great one this year for me, with lots of family and friends in several celebrations with food, wine, and fun. Also during this time, several events collided to remind me of the issues we as women still face.

On the positive note: at our Branch Meeting in November, we confirmed the Board's approval of the AAUW Funds recommendation for distribution of the Book Sale proceeds. We will again have a \$1,000 Scholarship for a Dare to Dream alumna, and this year we will have two (2) Returning Scholar awards of \$3,000 each. As this was made possible by our very successful Used Book Sale, we are making our national contribution in honor of our Used Book Sale Committee. Our donation to AAUW will be \$7,000, specifically to the AAUW Fund, which supports our AAUW mission to advance equity for women and girls through **advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research**.

Our planned November program was focused on some of that AAUW research - **Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership**. Unfortunately, our speaker from the AAUW-IL Gender Equity Fund cancelled that morning as she was ill. Our program team scrambled and were able to retrieve the slides and notes, so I could present the slides and generate some discussion on the planned program topic. Although I'm sure the practiced speaker would have done a more professional presentation, we salvaged the meeting and had some interesting discussion. That focus on the presentation issues had a real impact on me as the topics raised by the presentation really got into my head.

I encourage everyone to read this research online or borrow our Branch's copy of **Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership**. We as women need to be the change, to ensure we minimize our own implicit bias, so that we can enable more women to be leaders. I am heartened by the number of women running for office now. For example, in the Virginia state legislature, 11 diverse women unseated white men in the 15 seats that changed. Wow!

And of course, all the news about various celebrities, politicians, and powerful men, who have been finally exposed for their abuses, ranging from verbal harassment, to groping, to sexual assault. All of it crosses the line, but some are so bad and long-standing, it's depressing that it took so long for these women to be heard. Yet, I've already heard even some women blaming the victims. Uggh! We've got to look inside ourselves and stand up for other women, always!

In January, we will dig even a little deeper into the misogyny and sexism we face, including the legal issues we have as women. We will watch the documentary Equal Means Equal, and will discuss key points afterwards, facilitated by Denise Dean and me. As this is a packed program, we will start at 6:30 pm. Please bring any feminist friends with you.

In December we will have our Holiday Party at Janet Hodge's home. I hope to see you there. If I don't get a chance to see you, I wish you Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

Jan Summers
Branch President

Holiday Giving Ideas

Looking for a special holiday gift for that fabulous feminist or future AAUW member in your life? Check out fun STEM toys, inspiring books, baby onesies, t-shirts and more that reflect AAUW supported issues and policies here: <https://www.aauw.org/2017/11/22/holiday-gift-guide-for-girls-2017-edition/>.

Happy Holidays, Denise Dean.

Holiday Gift Guide for Girls: 2017 Edition. AAUW's Holiday Gift Guide for Girls has you covered. For the sixth year in a row (Check out our gift guides from previous years for more ideas!) we've created a list of gifts that empower girls to believe in themselves, defy stereotypes, be creative, and dream big! Read on to find gifts for *activists, scientists, and change makers* at every age and at every stage of their trailblazing careers. If you're purchasing any of our great gift recommendations through Amazon, don't forget to set AAUW as your charity of choice on Amazon Smile. A portion of revenue from eligible purchases will be donated to AAUW at no extra cost to you!

Shop by Age Group:

0-3

4-6

7-10

Tweens

Teens

College Students

Graduate Students and Young Professionals

Professionals and Parents

65+

Small Gifts for All Ages

Diversity/ International Affairs

The AAUW website suggests a few videos from the **Independent Lens** series *Women and Girls Lead*.

"Founded on the principle that women's equity has not yet been reached worldwide, Women and Girls Lead [http://itvs.org] reacts to the gap in opportunity with a media campaign that utilizes powerful documentary films to amplify the work that women and girls around the world are doing to ignite change. With more than three dozen films by prominent independent filmmakers, Women and Girls Lead is carving out an important space in media for stories that usually go unheard."

Women and Girls Lead collaborates with a broad range of partners in the media, nongovernmental organizations, and public television to really engage audiences with the content. Film clips, games, curricula, and discussion questions are just some of the tools provided to help strengthen the campaign and bring attention to the issues.

Ultimately the goal is to, through this public awareness and education, promote leadership development, violence prevention, and economic empowerment of women across the globe."

This excerpt is taken from <https://www.aauw.org/resource/spark-discussion-and-action-on-global-issues/>

May I recommend

"*Taking Root: Vision of Wangari Maathai*" (1:20 min.) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wjs0F8FdSCw>

Wangari established the GREEN BELT MOVEMENT in Kenya, now it is international environmental organization. She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for her work.

As you browse the list and view some films, please let me know which video has touched you.

Betty Laliberte bettylaliberte2007@gmail.com

New Member and Prospective Member Event

New and prospective members of the AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch attended a get-together with the Board of Directors on November 29 at the home of Jennifer Jordan, Membership Vice President. We socialized, watched the One AAUW video, and heard remarks from Jan Summers as well as the leaders of the branch special interest groups.



Below: Jennifer Jordan and Jacki Boglia



Left: Maria Patt, Jennifer Jordan, Deb Markello and Linda Fischer.



Denise Thompson, Moira Murray and, Carol Rounds.

Barbara Hunter, Pat O'Dwyer and Maria Patt.



Jane Klenck, Barb Warner and Rose Riccio.



Suzanne Stock, Betty Laliberte and Jan Summers.