



Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 79, No. 7 • February 2018

Amelia Earhart: A First-Person Portrayal By Leslie Goddard, Ph.D.

February 14, 2018, 7:00 PM
Elmhurst Public Library

All branch members are invited to attend our February Branch Program which will be an historical dramatization of aviator Amelia Earhart, the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic by plane in 1932. Her courageous exploits and charismatic personality made Earhart an international celebrity in the early 20th century. She set numerous speed and altitude records. Earhart, as portrayed by Leslie Goddard, will describe how she learned to fly, what inspired her adventurous spirit, and why she set off in 1937 for an around-the-world flight during which she and her plane mysteriously disappeared.



Leslie Goddard is an award-winning actress and scholar who has been portraying famous women and presenting history lectures for more than ten years. She holds a Ph.D. from Northwestern University specializing in U.S. History and American Studies as well as Master's Degrees in both theater and museum studies. A former museum director, she is the author of two books on Chicago history and currently works full-time as an historical interpreter, author, and public speaker. Quoting Goddard from her website, "I give voice to stories from the past. It's my life's work to bring memorable women from the past alive and to tell historical stories so that lessons from the past are more meaningful and powerful."

Please note that our branch is co-sponsoring this program with the Elmhurst Public Library. It is not necessary for members to call a reservation into the library for a seat at this program.



BRANCH CALENDAR

Board of Directors
No meeting in February

February 14 - 7:00 pm
Monthly Branch Meeting
"Amelia Earhart" portrayed by
Leslie Goddard

February 22 - 1:00 pm
Book Group: "News of the
World" by Paulette Jiles
Hostess & Leader: Jeanne
Regan

February 28 - 7:30 pm
Half the Sky Group: Film
"Sweet Bean," McInich Arts
Center at College of DuPage

STEM Focused Mini Career Day at York High School,

On March 21, 2018, York High School is hosting a mini career day focused specifically on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) areas.

Anyone with a career in one of these areas and who is willing to participate is more than welcome. If you or someone you know would like to take part in this special day, please contact Suzanne Stock.



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.

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FINANCIAL REPORT

January 31, 2018

*Denise Thompson
Director of Finance*

General Fund	\$ 4,302.88
Travel Fund	1,529.01
Book Sale Fund:	<u>10,690.61</u>
Total	\$16,522.50

ATTENTION 50 YEAR MEMBERS!

Save the date!

Friday • March 9th @ noon
All 50-Year Members are invited to attend a social at Virginia Curran’s home.

2119 High St. • Berkeley, IL
(off Butterfield Rd. across the street from Elmhurst border)

Please RSVP to Virginia @ (708) - 449-7493

Please bring a snack or appetizer to share, if possible.
Hope to see you there!

Volunteer Opportunity: Tech Savvy Conference for Girls - March 24

Tech Savvy is a daylong career conference that focuses on STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) areas. It is designed to attract girls in sixth through ninth grade to the STEM fields and to inform mentoring adults about STEM education and careers.

The 2018 Tech Savvy is scheduled on Saturday, March 24, from 8:30 AM – 4 PM and takes place at Triton College.

Several Elmhurst AAUW members volunteered last year and plan to again this year. STEM for Girls interest group encourages you to volunteer to help at the conference this March. Please contact Suzanne Stock if you are available



The January AAUW meeting featured the documentary film “Equal Means Equal,” an unflinching look at how women are treated in the United States today, from workplace matters to domestic violence, rape and sexual assault to foster care, healthcare, and legal systems.

Service Project Proposal: Crocheting Sleeping Mats for Our Homeless Neighbors

While attending a volunteer expo, I met a group from NLOB, New Life for Old Bags. Volunteers with NLOB crochet waterproof 3' x 6' sleeping mats using *plarn* – plastic yarn made from clean, used plastic grocery bags. Repurposing these bags helps both homeless citizens and the environment.

Everyone can participate - knowing how to crochet is not a prerequisite to working on this project. Simple crocheting lessons and plarn preparation methods are available. Want to see how it's done? Check out this YouTube video from Donna at NLOB Plainfield: How to Crochet a Sleeping Mat Made of Plarn at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_M2f2konXo.

In addition to Donna's video mentioned above, there is also a YouTube from last November in which WCIU visits NLOB/Plainfield's workspace (*You and Me this Morning* program) at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkWvt_4QvbA. NLOB/PlainfieldIL also has a Facebook page you can visit.

If we decide to move forward with this project, Donna will come out to get us started on the day the team gets to work. So, in order to proceed, we would need to arrange for a partner organization who will make use of the mats, secure a workspace, assemble lots of volunteers that will help us collect bags, create the plarn, and then crochet the mats. I'd like to take a few minutes at the beginning of the February meeting to listen to your thoughts and answer questions. If you will not be attending this month's meeting, please email me with your ideas and questions – I can then share them with all the members.

Cheers,

Denise Dean - Director of Public Policy

Half the Sky Group

Our last meeting centered on the Syrian refugee crisis. Two interesting Ted Talks by Melissa Fleming were presented as part of the meeting: "The Refugee Boat Hero Who Saved a Child and Stirred a Continent" and "Let's Help Refugees Thrive, Not Just Survive."

For February, Half the Sky Group will go to College of DuPage on **Wednesday, February 28 at 7:30 pm** to view "Sweet Bean," a film that is being shown as part of the free Global Flicks series at COD. All AAUW members are welcome to attend. Call Perry Doubt (630-834-5415). We will carpool if possible.

Sweet Bean is about a lonely, unhappy Japanese baker who hires a 76-year-old woman to be his new assistant, and soon learns that she has a wonderful recipe for sweet red bean paste – which she claims comes from her communion with nature. However, their partnership is threatened when it's revealed that the elderly woman is suffering from a severe illness.

Lost & Found

Are You Missing Your Serving Knife? After everyone left the Holiday Party at Janet Hodge's condo, she was left with a silver metal butter knife which was probably attached to a dip or spread. But it didn't leave with its owner. I would like to return it to its "home." Please contact Pat O'Dwyer if it belongs to you.

The Returning Scholar Scholarship Program Has 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, 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. Application deadline is April 1, 2018.

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).

Again, special thanks to Maria Patt whose list of contacts has made so much of the Scholarship Program promotion possible.

Mary Mallon - Funds Committee Chair

President's Message

Our Branch kicked off the New Year with our January program, viewing the documentary Equal Means Equal, loaned to us by AAUW-IL Gender Equity Fund. It's a powerful, impactful film in our efforts to achieve real gender equity. If you were unable to attend, try renting or streaming it. We need to understand the issues, accept the facts, and absorb the effect of the misogyny and sexism we face, including the legal issues we have as women. Although we had scheduled time for discussion, and had a few comments, many of us were a little stunned and overwhelmed by the points made in the movie. Let's keep the conversation going.

In February we will have a historic dramatization of Amelia Earhart, a joint program with the library. It's important to understand what drove the pioneering women, and what hurdles they faced, so we remember how far we've come, even if we have a way to go.

As the national conversation continues about sexual harassment and abuse, it's obvious that the power dynamic is a major contributing factor. In most jobs and careers in this country, women not only earn less than men, but often are in a subordinate role, sometimes at the mercy of the more powerful man. Systems for complaining and/or reporting abuses are often nonexistent or ridiculous, like the months long process in the US Congress. Changes are definitely needed and in some places changes are happening. We have to keep the focus on these issues, but more importantly we need to change the power dynamic.

If you watched the Grammy's, you probably noticed that there was a focus on the "Times Up" movement. Although there were many great moments, like the song "Praying" by a sexual assault survivor, Kesha, there were contradictory notes as well. While the song "Despacito" has a catchy tune, and has been popular around the world, the actual performance of the song was to me a little lurid. The men are fully dressed, just standing in front, obviously in charge. Meanwhile, scantily clad women are dancing around, bumping and grinding against them. Being in Spanish, I wasn't aware of the provocative lyrics. But this is only one example. So much of our music and entertainment, again mostly written and produced by men, continues the sexualization of women, which supports the unequal power dynamic.

One way to change the power dynamic is to get more women into power. In business companies, it is still quite a challenge for women to achieve the higher levels, but more are trying, "Leaning In". In our government, in upcoming elections, a tidal wave of women are running for office. We need to support these women and if interested, nominate ourselves, even if we're not sure we're ready. In the past, women have commonly waited until the "perfect" time or until they were sure they were 100% qualified. Most men don't wait. Which means a lesser qualified man can often get the job sooner.

Once women attain more positions of influence and power, we can add women's perspective to the decision making and improve outcomes like health care, that impact women and society.

Elect Her! That's how we can further our mission to advance gender equity.

Jan Summers, Branch President

Women's March to the Polls: January 20, 2018



Suzanne Kowalski and Cindy Grau

AAUW members were among the thousands of people who turned out last month for the March to the Polls, a day for people to come together to unite and focus on women's issues and the 2018 elections and beyond. Cindy Grau shares here some of the pictures she took on the march. Great day!

