



# Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 79, No. 8 • March 2018

AAUW March Branch Meeting – March 14, 2018  
*Elmhurst Public Library, 7:00 PM*

## Current Issues in Public Education

Jennifer Aldred, Ph.D.

The March Branch Meeting will be a presentation on Current Issues in Public Education by our own member, Jennifer Aldred. Jennifer comes to us with extensive education and professional experience in the field of Public Education. She earned her Ph.D. in Organization Development from Benedictine University; an M.ED. in Education Leadership and Administration from Governors State University; and a B.A. in Early Childhood and Special Education from Elmhurst College. She's had 23 years of experience in education as a classroom teacher, administrator, consultant and adjunct instructor, most recently as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for Cook County School District 130 and as District Liaison for the American Institutes for Research.

Research indicates that the top two factors significant in increasing student learning and achievement are, [1] building level leadership and, [2] the relationship between teachers and their students. Consequently, Jennifer recently made the decision to transition back into the schools. She is an Assistant Principal at Glenwood Elementary, a large K-5 school serving approximately 775 students in Waukegan Community Unit School District 60.

Jennifer's presentation will focus on three current issues with questions and discussion to follow.

### Illinois 5Essentials

Research derived from the study of the Five Essentials for School Success has proven that schools strong on at least three of them are ten times more likely to improve student outcomes. These are:

[1] effective leaders, [2] collaborative teachers, [3] involved families, [4] supportive environments, [5] ambitious instruction.

### Challenges of Student Immigration to Public Schools

Issues to be discussed will include: student populations, policies, dual language issues, parent support, and cultural issues

### Full-Day Kindergarten

Is it really worth it? How is its value measured

Please join us on Wednesday, March 14, 7:00 PM, at the Elmhurst Public Library to gain new knowledge and perspectives and to participate in discussion about public education.



## BRANCH CALENDAR

**March 7 - 7:00 pm**  
**Board of Directors**  
*Elmhurst Public Library*

**March 9 - 12 noon**  
**Social for 50-Year Members**  
*Virginia Curran's Home*

**March 14 - 7:00 pm**  
**Monthly Branch Meeting**  
**"Current Issues in Public Education"**  
*Elmhurst Public Library*

**March 22 - 1:00 pm**  
**Book Group: "The Last Days of Night"**. Hostess Darlene VanMeir; Leader Anna Kinnan

**March 24 - 8:30am - 4pm**  
**Tech Savvy Conference**  
*Triton College*

**March 27 - 7:30 pm**  
**Half the Sky Group**  
*Perry Doubt's Home*

**April 1 - Returning Scholar**  
*Application Deadline*

## Treasurer's Note

We received a notice from National indicating that for 2017 individual members of the Elmhurst Branch contributed a total of \$2,2124 during 2017. A heartfelt thank you to all who donated!



AAUW Hotline 1-800-326-2289  
Email: [info@aauwelmhurst.org](mailto: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 (July/August through May) by the American Association of University Women - Elmhurst Area Branch.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**FEBRUARY 26, 2018**

*Denise Thompson*  
Director of Finance

General Fund	\$ 4,371.63
Conf/Travel F	1,529.01
Book Sale Fund:	<u>10,690.61</u>
Total	\$16,591.25

**Deadline: April 1, 2018!**

For what, you ask? **The application deadline for our Elmhurst Branch's two (2) \$3,000 Scholarships.**

Just checked our AAUW PO Box; *no applications*, yet. As AAUW members, let's continue to spread the word about this valuable opportunity open to women at least 25 years old who are planning to return to school or are continuing their education. Applicants may be studying full or part time and must have completed at least 12 credit hours.

Maria Patt and Team (Deb Markello, Suzanne Stock and Mary Mallon) have posted flyers at many places in Elmhurst and in neighboring towns from where we hope to attract applicants. Last year's applicants learned about the scholarship from family and friends, newspaper articles and flyers at colleges, Panera, York Theater and others places. If you would like a flyer to post at a place you think would attract potential applicants, call Maria.

The application form for the scholarship can be found at our Elmhurst AAUW website: [www.aauwelmhurst.org](http://www.aauwelmhurst.org).

Mary Mallon  
Chair, Funds Committee

**You're Invited!**

**HALF THE SKY** will meet the fourth Tuesday of the month, MAR 27, 2018 at 7:30pm in Perry Doubt's home. All AAUW members are welcome.

**Please RSVP to** [bettylaliberte2007@gmail.com](mailto:bettylaliberte2007@gmail.com) by Fri Mar 23.

Topic will be the Syrian situation as it relates to women and children.

***Just a thought. . .***  
**AAUW Diversity and Inclusion**

**THE POWER OF ONE GIRL'S VOICE**  
THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VOTED!

Members of the Elmhurst Public Library have chosen **I AM MALALA** as their **ONE CITY - ONE BOOK** for the summer of 2018. Malala shows the power of one voice that can effect change.

For more information check out this website <http://elmhurstpubliclibrary.org/adults/events/one-book-one-community/>

# AAUW Diversity and Inclusion

## **AAUW ACCOMPLISHMENTS in the areas of diversity and inclusion.**

Our AAUW Elmhurst branch has been promoting our meeting dates and activities in all types of media and welcoming new members with warmth and interest.

Our AAUW Elmhurst branch is recognizing the financial needs of returning scholar and assisting women in their educational pursuits.

For over 50 years, AAUW used book sale has been creating the opportunity for area-wide communities learning and enjoyment of literature.

## **Our AAUW branch has been joining forces with other community groups to strength women's voices:**

AAUW and Elmhurst League of Women Voters 2018 are working together to become knowledgeable voters.

AAUW has joined forces with the Chicago Women's Marches to show a strength in numbers.

AAUW and the LGBTQ group at Elmhurst College 2017 had a sharing of insights and dreams.

DARE TO DREAM 2007 – present, is empowering the Hispanic women, young and more mature to envision higher education for themselves.

AAUW and the Elmhurst Public Library has been joining together to provide educational programming for the community that support our goals.

## **OUR CHALLENGE**

More diversity in our membership, including age diversity [our membership averages over 60] and also race and ethnic diversity.

## **QUESTION**

Which groups or organizations might we work with to invite / link with younger and/or women of diverse background.

All ideas welcome! Contact [bettylaliberte2007@gmail.com](mailto:bettylaliberte2007@gmail.com)

## **110<sup>th</sup> International Women's Day – Press for Progress**

*“On International Women's Day, let us all pledge to do everything we can to overcome entrenched prejudice, support engagement and activism, and promote gender equality and women's empowerment.”*

— UN Secretary-General, António Guterres

On March 8, 1908, over 15,000 women garment workers, tired of unequal treatment, began a new campaign for better working conditions and compensation, with a march through New York City. This action contributed to a period of protest that eventually resulted in enhanced living standards and economic security.

This March 8<sup>th</sup>, the International Women's Day theme is Press for Progress (use #PressforProgress in social media). Events will commemorate improvements in women's rights, and to discuss how to overcome political, educational, and employment challenges women still face by capitalizing on the momentum of the women's movement that developed over the last 15 months. In Chicago, there will be a large event held at 1871 in the Merchandise Mart.

Globally, the UN plans to take the opportunity to fast-track elements of their 2030 Agenda, particularly targeting elements of that agenda that look to ensure access to quality education for all children from early childhood through secondary level; ending all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls everywhere; and to eliminate child, early forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

Please take time to check out International Women's Day online at <https://www.internationalwomensday.com> and at the UN.org site. – Denise Dean

## President's Message

So far this year we've had two great programs already. I'm still haunted by the documentary Equal Means Equal, which we viewed and discussed in January. The legal and societal issues that are still so biased against women, as revealed in the film, are exactly why a strong national organization like AAUW is required to be our advocate and lobbyist. These aren't problems likely to be resolved at the grass roots level.

In February our program was a historic dramatization of Amelia Earhart, a joint program with the library. It was entertaining and informative. Amelia definitely had an adventurous spirit and was not deterred by frequently being told "Girls Don't Do That!". She took on the challenge to push the boundaries, striving for new "firsts". One of the discussion questions was why women are still a small percentage of commercial pilots even though we've been flying for 100 years. Despite how far we've come, we have still have a way to go.

Our March program will feature our own Jennifer Aldred, Ph.D., who will educate us and lead a discussion on the topics of Illinois 5Essentials, the challenges of student immigration, and the value of full day kindergarten. Education is a core piece of our mission, so let's all attend.

Frankly our Branch faces challenges besides gender equity. We need to increase / maintain our membership, ideally with more diversity, with more "younger" women and women of color. We need these new members as a part of our community and to take on leadership roles. As I write this, we have several Board positions still open for the coming year as we struggle to get volunteers. Many of our older members have already served several times and in several positions. We need new blood and new leaders. If you can volunteer for a board position, please let me know. And of course, please bring your friends, neighbors, and daughters to become members. If they join our community, they might be our leaders of the future.

I've been impressed with many of the outspoken teenage survivors of the Parkland massacre. These millennials aren't letting the politicians off the hook to do their job to reduce gun violence. It's unfortunate that it's necessary, but I think they're making a difference.

On a less tragic note, I recently saw an interview on a morning show with a millennial poet named Rupi Kaur, a 25 year old, Indian-American, Sikh woman and obvious feminist. Her poetry and quotes are awesome and make me hopeful that the upcoming generation will change the conversation and the stereotypes. Here are a few examples:

"Teach Your Daughters to Worry Less About Fitting into Glass Slippers and More about Shattering Glass Ceilings."

"What's a Queen without her King? Well historically speaking, more powerful."

"I want every little girl who's told she's bossy to be told instead she has leadership skills"

Let's get some of these younger feminists into our AAUW community to show off their leadership skills.

*Jan Summers, Branch President*



## February Meeting: A Fun Evening with Amelia Earhart



## AAUW Tech Savvy Conference

Triton College

March 24, 2018, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

AAUW Tech Savvy is a daylong career conference that focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). 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. As an Elmhurst AAUW member, you are encouraged to volunteer to assist at the conference. If you are interested in participating, contact Suzanne Stock. For additional information on Tech Savvy, send an email to [AAUWIL.TechSavvy@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWIL.TechSavvy@gmail.com).