



# Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 80, No. 2 • August/September 2018

## September Supper Wednesday • September 12

### *Diplomat West*

All members of AAUW are cordially invited to our Branch's 80th September Supper on Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2018!

We'll enjoy a Cocktail Hour from 5:30-6:30pm and Dinner will be served at 6:30pm. (Please see flyer enclosed. Be sure to send in your reservation to Sally Ott by Wed. Sept. 5th!)

Co-Presidents Carolyn Heiney and Darlene Van Meir have lots of information to share...including the results of our most recent Used Book Sale. Genie Urick and Sally Ott will preview some of the exciting programs planned for this coming year.

In addition, Interest Group leaders will describe and encourage you to join their various groups. Perhaps you have an idea and would like to tell our members about it and start an interest group of your own.

We look forward to seeing you on September 12th.

--Genie Urick & Sally Ott



Well done! The 2018 Used Book Sale was one of the best ever, with dozens of members pitching in to sort books and run the sale. See more pictures on page 5.



## BRANCH CALENDAR

### Board of Directors

- August 1, 2018 - 7:00 pm
- No meeting in September

### September 12

#### September Supper

*Diplomat West (Route 83 & North Avenue)*

5:30 pm cocktails

6:30 pm dinner

### September 25 - 7:30 pm

#### Half the Sky

*Perry Doubt's Home*

### September 27 - 1:00 pm

#### Book Discussion Group

*Between the World and Me*

by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Hostess: Peggy Fox

Discussion Leader: Jan Hodge



**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.

**2018/19  
Membership**

A big thank you to all of our wonderful branch members. All renewals are in for our 2018/19 membership year!

In addition, we have gained four new members as a result of the book sale. We are currently at 84 strong!

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**May 31, 2018**

*Denise Thompson*  
*Director of Finance*

**June 30 Balances**

General Fund	\$ 4,818.18
Book Sale	4,648.52
Conf/Travel	<u>1,429.01</u>
Total	\$10,895.71

**July 31 Balances**

General Fund	\$ 4,922.68
Book Sale	3,172.38
Conf/Travel	<u>1,429.01</u>
Total	\$ 9,524.07

**Half the Sky Group**

PLEASE JOIN US Tuesday Sept 25<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm at Perry Doubt's home.

This summer our group along with the AAUW book sale committee collected 80 bras to celebrate the 80 years of our branch.

WHY?

Good question.

We are helping support an organization that works with women coming out of sex slavery. Deb Markello introduced us to this organization.

During the September meeting, we will view some videos and review the website of *FREE THE GIRLS* to better understand their impact on women in El Salvador, Mozambique and Uganda who have become their own bosses and have created a life for themselves and their children.

**Hacking the Vote in Illinois**

Midterm elections are less than 90 days away but the security of the Illinois voting system remains an important issue according to the Illinois Ballot Integrity Project. In August 2016, "amid an FBI warning to Illinois state election officials to tighten election security, the Illinois State Board of Elections said...they believe personal information...was hacked through a cyberattack of possible foreign origin." (Source: CBS-Chicago). The "possible foreign origin" refers to the knowledge that foreign servers were used but it couldn't be determined conclusively that foreign actors committed the cyberattack.

Requests for Illinois Mail Application voting begins August 8 and Illinois Early Voting starts September 27 so what do voters concerned about hacking do?

Melissa Urdu, co-director of IL Ballot Integrity, and my trainer as a precinct committeeman recommend that to hack-proof your vote, you need to:

1) Vote ON election Day. Use a paper ballot. Touch screen voting machines are extremely vulnerable to hacking, and they do not provide a paper trail making a recount impossible.

2) OR, request a Vote by Mail application by calling the Election Commission at 630-407-5600 between August 8 and November 1. Vote by Mail ballots can be mailed out starting September 27.

**BOTTOM LINE: VOTE BY PAPER.**

Jane Jegerski, Public Policy

## AAUW Issues Statement on Kavanaugh Appointment

WASHINGTON — AAUW Chief Executive Officer Kimberly Churches released the following statement announcing AAUW's opposition to the confirmation of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court:

“AAUW's expectation is that our next Supreme Court justice will support the fundamental rights of all individuals and understand that his or her decisions have a very real impact on the daily lives of women and their families. After careful review of Judge Brett Kavanaugh's available record, it is clear to us that he would not be that justice. Judge Kavanaugh's record shows that he is willing to do grave harm by undermining positions central to AAUW's mission, including upending employment and labor rights, opposing reproductive rights and access to health care, entangling public education and religion, and restricting voting rights. The Supreme Court is the arbiter of so many of the rights essential to women and girls, and if confirmed Judge Kavanaugh will have a say in those decisions for decades to come. Therefore, AAUW opposes Judge Kavanaugh's confirmation to the Supreme Court.

On the specifics of his available record, Judge Kavanaugh confirmation would put women's constitutional rights, including abortion, at risk. He has shown opposition to women's access to reproductive health care and contraception, seeking to delay a woman's access to an abortion, arguing in support of religious employers who obstruct their employees' access to contraceptive coverage, and calling into question protections of the Affordable Care Act.

Judge Kavanaugh has shown little support for workers' rights, including low-wage workers and workers of color. While on the bench, Judge Kavanaugh argued to weaken protections for race and age discrimination, as well as to narrow prohibitions against retaliation. He routinely argued to limit workers' rights to organize and to narrow the scope of our nation's labor laws. He has consistently sided with employers and against workers, refusing to support those who seek to improve workplace conditions and to protect those who have experienced discrimination.

While we continue to urge that Judge Kavanaugh's full record be released to the American public, his available record makes clear that he stands in opposition to the values and mission of AAUW. He is the wrong choice for the Supreme Court and for women and girls. Now more than ever we need a Supreme Court justice who is not beholden to ideology and will be an independent voice. The role the next justice will play in all of our lives is too important for anything less.”

AAUW urges members to call on their Senators to oppose Judge Kavanaugh's appointment, stating, “Let us be clear: this is an issue of policy, not party. AAUW advocates for the health, education, and economic security of all women and girls. Judge Kavanaugh has demonstrated hostility to women's right to access abortion; shown little support for workers' rights; failed to support contraceptive healthcare coverage; argued against long-standing precedent prohibiting the use of public funds for religious activities; and has a record of limiting access to the ballot box. If confirmed, Judge Kavanaugh will have a say in women's constitutional and civil rights for decades to come. We cannot support a nominee who will not uphold and protect our fundamental rights.”

## Shape the Future Membership Drive

Have you ever heard of Shape The Future and wondered what it is all about? Shape the Future events are those at which we offer a reduced membership fee. We have offered Shape The Future at two of our regular Wednesday programs that were cosponsored by the library as well as at the book sale.

Basically how it goes is this: The prospective member attends one of our programs and receives an application form from either Suzanne, me or from our table display. They have an indicated time frame in which to submit their completed application and payment. Payment is equal to half the current National and branch dues plus full state dues. Currently this amount is \$49.00.

For every two new members we get via Shape The Future we get one membership with dues waived by National and our branch. State dues which are presently \$10.00 must still be paid.

We are very happy to announce that we have four new members due to our event during the book sale!

*Deb Markello, Membership*

# President's Message

## Why Do We Do It?

Why do we do it? Believe me, I ask that question many times every summer. Why do we continue to plan, to sort, to toil, and to sell old books year after year?

I tell myself the reasons that I believe to be true, that elevator speech that we all could give whenever called upon. The money we raise provides scholarships for women and girls who will benefit immensely, and valuable AAUW programs like the Legal Advocacy Fund can continue to aid those in legal battles of gender equality. Of course, we provide a wonderful opportunity to help our community recycle. How many tons of books have we saved from a landfill? We also provide the community with books at very reasonable prices. A savvy shopper could purchase a year's supply of books for just a few dollars. In addition, we donate many boxes of books to the veterans at Hines Hospital, S.C.A.R.C.E., the People's Resource Center, and the Yorkfield Food Pantry. But why do we do it?

I mean why do we sweat, use back muscles we probably shouldn't, and strain our brains to decide in what category we place a book. It has to be something else. Is it the roar of laughter we participate in when someone reads aloud a title that might be a bit racy and asks for help to place it? (Do we have a sex category or is it science, self-help, sociology, or inspiration?) Is it the overwhelming feeling of accomplishment when we completely empty the tables and floors of books after a busy sorting session? Is it that we are proud when we discover that we have walked 6,000 of our 10,000 daily steps, and it's not even noon. Is it a dedication to the mission of AAUW?

Look at all the women we have helped in the last 80 years! Could it be that our work together is actually fun? Could it be that we enjoy being a part of something bigger than ourselves, something in which we play a significant part? Is it that we are women who love to make a difference in the lives of others? If you worked the sale this year, you know that you accomplished just that.

You might even have reasons different than these. Whatever your reason, I am grateful for your participation. I'm thrilled that you are a member of AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch and have worked so tirelessly to raise money for women, funds that in some way will make their lives better. Thank you so very much!!! You are an amazing group of really, really cool ladies!

Carolyn Heiney  
Co-President

## 2018 AAUW Used Book Sale



*Thanks for all the help we received from members of York High School Football Team and the National Honor Society.*



## Celebrating our 80th Anniversary

In celebration of our Branch's 80 years (1948–2018) this monthly column will feature highlights of our AAUW members who made countless contributions to the Elmhurst Community. Their complete biographies can be read in the book First Ladies of Elmhurst: Prominent Women of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Authors: Ruth Strand & Genie Urick

### Florence Elizabeth (Bliss) Aldred

In 1995 Mayor Thomas Marcucci proclaimed *Florence "Betsy" Aldred Day* in Elmhurst. Betsy was presented the 45<sup>th</sup> Elmhurst Jaycee Distinguished Service Award for her lifetime of outstanding volunteer work. In 1973 she had organized the first DuPage County Equal Rights Amendment march in the Lombard Lilac Parade. She also marched in the Springfield ERA Rally.

Betsy served as YWCA Board of Directors Chair, Girl Scout Leader, Secretary of Elmhurst's People Party, Hawthorne School PTA officer, Sandburg PTA President, St. Peter's United Church of Christ Women's Guild Treasurer, and President of the West Suburban Republic Women.

In 1997 Betsy ran for First Ward Alderman - a position she held for 16 years! In 1985 she became the first Elmhurst woman to run for Mayor. As 3-term Elmhurst Historical Society President, she initiated the first Historical Housewalk in 1986. Betsy was elected our AAUW Branch President in 1995 after serving in many offices.

She initiated the very first Recycling Program in 1972 – which consisted of Betsy & fellow AAUW members standing in front of the Elmhurst Post Office next to a dumpster on Saturdays. As cars pulled up they handed their tin cans and newspapers to Betsy & friends! As a wife, mother, speech therapist and activist, Betsy once said, "You can get a lot of work done if you don't care who gets the credit."

### **Flashbacks: Branch Historical Facts**

**1938** -- *Elmhurst Branch is chartered with 58 members — the 36<sup>th</sup> branch in Illinois. The first meeting takes place on Nov. 20, 1938. Alice Shepherd (Mrs. Carlyle).*

**1942** -- *In March 1943 the Branch opens the Children's Exchange Shop as a community service project to meet wartime shortages of nursery and children's equipment, furniture, toys and clothing during WWII. After two years of successful operation, it is sold and the profits (\$1,896) are donated to the community.*

### **Diversity Matters**

Here is a national AAUW suggestion to support DIVERSITY:

#### **Tell Congress: Pass the Dream Act!**

For the past five years, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has provided nearly **800,000 recipients** the ability to attend school, go to work, and contribute to our economy without fear of deportation. But with a simple swipe of the pen, President Trump moved toward ending the DACA program, taking with it the opportunity for thousands of immigrants to achieve the American Dream.

DACA recipients – also known as Dreamers – are an integral part of our communities. **Ninety-seven percent are either in school or employed.** One-quarter are enrolled in institutions of higher education while another third are in high school and considering their options for postsecondary education and career training. AAUW understands the impact that education has on the lives of students and on the nation's overall prosperity and strength. The DACA program has opened the doors to higher education for thousands of Dreamers, while developing a skilled workforce prepared to compete in the global economy. Our commitment to increasing opportunities in education for all women and girls stands firm.

For more information and an action plan to add your VOICE.... go to this AAUW webpage: [http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50796/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action\\_KEY=23190](http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/50796/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=23190)

*Betty Laliberte – Diversity Committee*



# September Supper

## Wednesday, September 12, 2018, 5:30 pm

The Diplomat West Banquets

681 W. North Ave., Elmhurst (North Ave. & Rt. 83)

\$25 per person (tax and gratuity included) FREE Parking

### Menu

Cream of Broccoli Soup

Chef's Tossed Garden Green Salad

Choice of Baked Stuffed Boneless Breast of Chicken

**OR** Vegetable Lasagna

Whipped Potato with Butter

Vegetable Medley

Chocolate Sundae

Regular and Decaf Coffee and Tea

Soft Drinks and Alcoholic Beverages may be purchased.



Drinks/Cash Bar and Conversation begin at 5:30pm.

Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm.

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

I will attend the Fall dinner and am enclosing a check for \$25 made payable to AAUW Elmhurst Branch.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check your choice of entree:**     Chicken                       Vegetable Lasagna

If you have dietary restrictions, please let us know what they are so The Diplomat West can accommodate you.

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Send your reservation with your check to

Sally Ott

712 Bryan Street

Elmhurst, IL 60126

630-834-7769 (home)

Reservations are due no later than

**Wednesday, September 5, 2018.**

