



Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 80, No. 8 • March 2019

MARCH BRANCH MEETING

Come celebrate Women's History Month on Wed. March 13 at 7pm at the Elmhurst Public Library - and bring a guest!

Author Pamela Toler will talk about her book *Heroines of Mercy Street*, a fascinating true story of nurses in the Civil War who ushered in a new era for medicine in the midst of tremendous hardship.

The Elmhurst Library is a cosponsor of this program and books will be available for purchase...



MARCH 2019 _____

March 6 - 7:00 pm
Board of Directors Meeting
Elmhurst Public Library

March 13 - 7:00 pm
Elmhurst Branch Meeting
Heroines of Mercy Street
Elmhurst Public Library

March 23
TechSavvy
Lewis University
Romeoville, IL

March 26 - 7:30 pm
Half the Sky Group
Perry Doubt's home

March 28
AAUW Book Group
Exit West
by Mosh Hamid
Discussion Leader:
Mariyn Thompson
Hostess: Marilyn Thompson

March 23 - 8:30am-4:00 pm
TechSavvy Illinois
Lewis University - Romeoville



BRAvo Elmhurst Branch of AAUW

We have reached our goal!

89 bras will be sent to FREE THE GIRLS.

THANK YOU for supporting [pun intended] this endeavor.

This year we have sent a total of 169 bras to women starting a new life.

Betty Laliberte - Half the Sky



AAUW Hotline 1-800-326-2289
Email: info@aauwelmhurst.org

Mission

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

Values

Nonpartisan. Fact-based Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality.

Vision

Equity for all.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

February 18, 2019

Denise Thompson
Director of Finance

Book Sale Fund:	\$10,368.92
Conferences Fund	1,969.01
General Fund:	<u>4,727.41</u>
Total	\$17,065.34

SHOULD THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE BE ABOLISHED

The framers of the U.S. Constitution created the Electoral College to avoid the British/Congressional selection model for choosing the best presidential candidate. The framers' decision also reflected a concern for limited information across large distances and the weighing of the slave states' votes more. The Electoral College was "the second choice of many but the first choice of few." The EC was a compromise and designed for purposes that are no longer relevant.

Today the Electoral College is considered by many to hurt our democracy. Because women's votes were extremely important in the 2016 Presidential election, this is a critical women's issue. It has polarized the country into "red" and "blue" states where citizens in the 46 non-swing states frequently do not vote because they view voting as futile. Our presidential elections have become a mostly a contest among Florida, Iowa, Nevada, and Ohio.

The League of Women Voters and many other organizations support a direct popular election of the President and VP. One person, one-vote is considered the basic requirement of a democracy. Assigning electors proportionate to each state's popular vote is not an acceptable solution because the likely outcome is no candidate winning and the House of Representatives making the final decision.

On January 3, 2019, a constitutional amendment for a nation-wide popular vote was presented (again) in the U.S. House of Representatives (H.J. RES. 7). It currently, has four sponsors and its passage will probably take several years. An "acceptable interim solution" is the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC). In this compact, states would apportion their electoral votes to whomever wins the national popular vote. Currently the NPVIC has garnered 165 electoral votes out of the 270 necessary for the NPVIC to go into effect. (Illinois joined NPVIC in 2008.)

We need to pass the constitutional amendment to abolish the Electoral College and install popular voting. To reach this goal, we need to contact our members of Congress "repeatedly and persistently."

For more information:

lwvwillmette.org/electoral-college-reform.html
abolishelectoral@gmail.com
facebook.com/abolishelectoralcollegelwv

Jane Jegerski
Public Policy

Note: The source for most of the information above is the League of Women Voters.

President's Message

Why Is Our Half the Sky Study Group So Amazing?

For those of you who attended our February branch meeting, you easily can answer the question. It all began with the January 2011 branch program when the entire branch met to discuss Nicholas Kristof's and Sheryl WuDunn's book, *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women*, which was the choice for an all branch book study.

The book was so enlightening, so moving, and the discussion at that meeting was so meaningful that about seven branch members decided that they had to learn more about the needs of women, especially those in third world countries. After reading the book, it was hard to forget the issues. The stories touched us so much that we thought that maybe we could search for ways that we could make a difference. And that we certainly did!!!

It was quickly decided that one way we could help was to send money to projects highlighted by Kristof. We researched some that peaked our interest and decided which we thought were worthy. (Thank goodness for Charity Navigator, a wonderful resource that rates charities.) Each month those attending contribute \$5, sometimes more. Contributions are always optional.

The dollars grew, and we paid for several fistula operations at the Hamlin Hospital in Africa (\$1,600) and contributed to the Women at the Well Literacy project in South Sudan (\$545) that taught women to read while they waited in line to get water. We've made numerous Kiva loans to women. We've contributed to the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund, to the UN Refugee Agency, and numerous other projects, over \$4,550 in fabulous contributions. All of this done while we read and studied and enjoyed each other's ideas and each other's company.

I realize that some might think studying about the problems of women in need is depressing, but they couldn't be more wrong. While the information we've discovered can be sad and mind-boggling at times, the group has been energized by what we've learned and then by what we've done.

We have had opportunities to reflect and to mostly feel really good about what we have contributed to make life better for women. We know that we have made a difference in their lives. This study group has given women educational tools, economic support, and has shown them that others care. What power we have given to them, and what power we have received doing it.

It's hard to imagine how many lives we've impacted. How has one Kiva loan or one fistula operation changed a woman's life? How have her children benefitted? How has the community in which she lives changed for the better? We can only trust that our gifts have had a positive impact on the lives of women. I believe it has. Come join the study group and see for yourself.

--Carolyn Heiney, Co-President

SHE PERSISTED

Nancy Grace Roman, 1925-2018

Nancy Grace Roman earned her doctorate in astronomy and astrophysics at the University of Chicago in 1949, and went on to a 21-year career with NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. While at NASA she managed the agency's astronomy program and, quoting their website, was often called the "Mother of Hubble," for her work in making the Hubble Space Telescope a reality.

After earning her undergraduate degree in astronomy and her Ph.D., Dr. Roman stayed on as a postdoctoral student, instructor, and then the first female faculty member in the physical sciences at the University of Chicago. She soon realized that she wasn't going to get tenure at the U. of C. and had little chance of getting tenure in any astronomy research department in those days.

Like most women in the sciences in the mid-twentieth century, Roman was faced with problems related to male domination in science and technology and the roles perceived as appropriate for women at that time.

In the mid-1950's she accepted a position in the Naval Research Laboratory and then joined NASA in 1959, a year after the agency was formed. She was intrigued by the idea of setting up a program in space astronomy. "The idea of coming in with an absolutely clean slate to set up a program that I thought was likely to influence astronomy for 50 years was a challenge that I couldn't turn down," she said in an oral history interview for the American Institute of Physics in 1980.

Dr. Roman was the first Chief of Astronomy in the Of-

fice of Space Science at NASA Headquarters and the first woman to hold an executive position at NASA. In her role, she had oversight for the planning and development of programs including the Cosmic Background Explorer and the Hubble Space Telescope. NASA's website notes that Roman was instrumental in establishing the new era of space-based astronomical instrumentation.

Throughout her career Dr. Roman received many honors some of which include: NASA Exceptional Scientific Achievement Award, NASA Outstanding Scientific Leadership Award, the American Astronautical Society Fellow, and the Women in Aerospace Lifetime Achievement Award. The fellowship, The Nancy Grace Roman Technology Fellowship in Astrophysics of NASA, has been named for her. In 2017, a "Women of NASA" LEGO set went on sale featuring (among other things) mini-figures of Roman, Margaret Hamilton, Mae Jemison, and Sally Ride.

Retirement did not stop Dr. Roman from encouraging other women to continue the journey she started so many years ago. On her 90th birthday in 2015, NASA said she continued to speak "eloquently and intelligently with a passion to encourage young women to pursue careers in science and engineering." She was a strong advocate for science education and opportunities for women and girls and an active public speaker and educator.

"My career was quite unusual, so my main advice to someone interested in a career similar to my own is to remain open to change and new opportunities. I like to tell students that the jobs I took after my Ph.D. were not in existence only a few years before. New opportunities

can open up for you in this ever-changing field." --Dr. Nancy Roman

(Information for this article compiled from the NASA website, Wikipedia, Science & Astronomy Magazine-3/8/2018, and the Chicago Tribune Death Notice)

MEET OUR NEW MEMBER

We would like to introduce our new member, **Rosemarie Eck**. Rosemarie has been a resident of Elmhurst for three years, formerly living on the north side of Chicago. Rosemarie holds a B.A. in business and accounting and a MBA. After working in corporate finance, Rosemarie decided to embark on a career change and earned a BSN from Rush and a MA from UIC.

She is currently a Nurse Practitioner at Hines Veterans Hospital with a specialization in Geriatrics. She has been in the medical field for eleven years.

Rosemarie's interests include the arts; music of all kinds, dancing, crafts and drawing. She enjoys visiting museums and zoos as well as attending performance dance events. She also spends her leisure time cooking, reading fiction and renovating her townhouse .

She decided to join AAUW because she had experienced discrimination and financial inequities during her financial career and felt our mission aligned with her personal philosophies regarding women's equality.

Welcome Rosemarie!

Be a TECH SAVVY Volunteer this Year!

This is an exciting opportunity to work with Generation Z girls. We are looking for volunteers to support the 6th Chicagoland Tech Savvy program. Tech Savvy is a daylong career conference that focuses on STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) areas, designed to attract girls in sixth through ninth grade to the STEM fields and to inform mentoring adults about STEM education and careers.

We expect over 200 students and 100 parents to attend, so please join us at:

Lewis University
One University Pkwy
Romeoville, IL

Saturday, March 23, 2019

Activities will run from about 8 am to 4 pm. If you cannot spend the whole day, there are a few different volunteer schedules available – plus, we also need help to assemble materials on Friday, March 22nd.

So, head on over to Our Volunteer Signup to indicate your availability:

<https://techsavvy-il.us18.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=9d9116e1ce1e9f23bb46de7aa&id=62f1422ef7>

Volunteers will come from AAUW, educators, local college students, and professional women in science organizations. At least 80 volunteers will be needed throughout the day. Orientation for Volunteers will be conducted at Lewis University approximately one week prior to the event.

Help stimulate new interest and fuel the passion in Gen Z girls for STEM activities and careers. Visit www.techsavvy-il.org for the latest updates.

HALF THE SKY ANNOUNCEMENTS

College of DuPage: Global Flicks Contact Betty Laliberte if you are interested in carpooling:

•Okja (Korea) Wednesday, Mar. 6 7:30pm Okja is a remarkable pig who is loved by a young girl named Mija who risks everything to prevent a powerful, multinational company from kidnapping her best friend.

•Bad Genius (Thailand) Wednesday, Mar. 13, 1:30 pm Lynn is a genius high school student who finds her path out of poverty by making money helping others cheat on tests.

Half the Sky Meeting: Tuesday, March 26 7:30pm Half the Sky - continuing to study 100 under \$100

WE'RE IN THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AGAIN

Last year Memorial Day was hot. We were hot! And we are prepared to do it again this year! That's right. It was so much fun and so successful that we're marching again this Memorial Day. There will be a convertible and members carrying our used book sale banner and passing out information about the book sale. We found that it was a terrific way to give our branch a visual presence in the community, as well as provide a wonderful advertisement for the book sale.

As a member of the branch, please consider joining us. The walk is not far, maybe a mile. If you will be in town and want to enjoy the parade from a different perspective, call Carolyn Heiney 630-834-1426 to let her know that you will be a part of the group.

FEBRUARY AAUW MEETING

