



Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 81, No. 2 • October 2019

Wednesday, October 9, 2019 • 7:00 pm

Elmhurst Public Library

DuPage Pads -- What They Do and Who They Support

Scott Austgen, VP, Programs at DuPage Pads will discuss the various programs offered by DuPage Pads as well as the clients they support at the AAUW meeting on October 9.

DuPagePads is so much more than a pad on the floor. DuPagePads is about the journey home. It's about the journey from dependency to self-sufficiency. Not the shelter. Not the nights spent in a car, in a motel room or on the street. DuPagePads is a journey that begins with an extended hand, an affirming voice, and a trusting soul that will advocate undividedly for each individual.

The solution to end homelessness is more complex than providing individuals with food and shelter. Founded in 1985, DuPagePads is the largest provider of interim and permanent housing, coupled with support services in order to help individuals work toward becoming self-sufficient. These vital support services enable individuals to receive case management and life coaching, employment support such as job coaching, as well as engagement with employers—effectively stopping the cycle of homelessness. DuPagePads IS the solution to end homelessness—because when someone believes in you, everything can change.

In kind donations are requested to be brought to the meeting. See list of items on page 8.

New and Prospective Member Event

We invite our new members to join us for a social and informational gathering at the home of Carol Rounds on Wednesday, October 30 at 7:00 p.m. If you joined in the last year or so but were unable to come to a previous new member event, please feel free to join us, too, to learn more about the Branch and AAUW on the state and national level. Prospective members are also most welcome, so if you know someone who might be interested in AAUW (like the friend who comes to every book sale!), please invite her, too. Let Carol or me know if you are planning to attend, so that we can plan for refreshments and seating.

Sarah Caltvedt, Membership Vice President



OCTOBER 2019

October 2 - 7:00 pm
Board of Directors Meeting
Elmhurst Public Library

October 9, 2019 - 7:00 pm
Branch Meeting
DuPage Pads: What They Do and
Who They Support
Elmhurst Public Library

October 23 - 12pm-4pm
Half the Sky Project
Days for Girls Event
Creative Sewing Center
Geneva, IL

October 24 - 1:00 pm
AAUW Book Group
To the Lighthouse
by Virginia Wolf
Hostess: Mary Hallman
Discussion Leader:
Mary Hallman

October 30 - 7:00 pm
New & Prospective Member Event
Carol Rounds' home



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

July 31, 2019

Moira Murray

Director of Finance

Book Sale Fund:	\$22,129.32
Conferences Fund	1,969.01
General Fund:	<u>5,940.33</u>
Total	\$30,038.66

Updates on Website

The Branch Website has been updated to include information about the 2019-2020 year. The biggest change is to the membership directory. This list will be kept as current as possible. Our newest member, Adrienne Curiale, has already been added.

<https://elmhurstarea-il.aauw.net/about/members/membership-directory/>

In the past the list of member information was a PDF of the member pages from the Directory itself. That has changed. The list is now an active list of each members name, address, phone number(s), and email address. You can click on the email address and be ready to contact another member.

Please check your own listing to make certain all of the information is correct. For example, Sally Allen told me that her email address was incorrect in the print Directory. Her corrected address, *paymeray@hotmail.com*, is now on the member list on the Website.

If any of your information changes, just let me know, and I'll update the site. Any corrections or new data will be made in the print copy of the Directory, but you will not see that until next year. I hope you will find this new list easy to use.

Sally Schuster

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

I'm happy to report that four new members have joined us this fall:

- Chris White
- Lynn Rosiejka
- Sheila Hope
- Adrienne Curiale

Chris, Lynn and Sheila joined us in time to be included in our new Yearbook and Membership Directory. Adrienne's contact information will be added to our online directory in the passworded Members section of our website (the password is on page 1 of your directory).

Over the next few months I'll be sharing a brief introduction to each of them in the newsletter. In the meantime, please join me in welcoming them to AAUW-Elmhurst Area Branch!

Sarah Caltvedt
Membership V.P.

President's Message

It was wonderful to have such a good turnout for our September Supper at Livia. I was able to sit with two of our newer members who were in attendance and had the opportunity to get to know a bit about them and what brought them to AAUW.

This past summer, AAUW published a strategic plan which sets forth the vision of equity for all – which states (in part)... “We are not satisfied to simply document and discuss the inequities women and girls face. AAUW aims to achieve equity through practical solutions in education, workplaces, and communities.” The strategic plan and goals are focused on key areas where the organization is positioned to make a lasting impact. We will be working as a branch to determine how we can participate in reaching these goals.

You can access the AAUW strategic plan (PDF) here:

<https://www.aauw.org/who-we-are/strategic-plan/>

I'm looking forward to the Half the Sky field trip that has been scheduled for the afternoon of October 23 to work with Days for Girls, an organization that (among other things) makes reusable menstrual pads so that girls in developing countries can attend school even when they have their period. (Please see the article elsewhere in the newsletter for more specifics.) Although sewing is not one of my skills, I've been assured that there will be a task with which I will be capable of helping! We'd like to have a good turnout from our branch, so please consider joining us if you are available.

The October 9th branch program is sure to be of interest. I have volunteered for PADS many times over the years, and am interested to learn more about the organization, what the causes of homeless are in our county, and how women in particular are impacted. Please invite a friend to join you at the meeting.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Jordan, Co-President

2019 Scholarship Recipients



- Jo Booty Scholarship- Maria Ibarra Luna, Addison Trail High School
- Elmhurst AAUW Scholarship- Gabriela Hurtado, West Leyden High School
- Marilyn Thompson Scholarship- Arlene Vargas, Maine West High School
- STEM 1 Scholarship- Karime Martinez, Addison Trail High School
- STEM 2 Scholarship- Martha Esparza, Plainfield High School

The Dare to Dream: Get Educated organization thanks the Elmhurst AAUW Chapter and all individuals who made these five scholarships possible. These bright, young women have access to higher education as a result of your generosity.

Set0
2019 September Supper: Great Time with Good



Women and Violence in Chicago

According to the 2019 Report on the Status of Chicago's Women and Girls, the key indicators of gender equity are unpaid care work, female-headed households, teen pregnancy, and violence against women. Of these, violence against Chicago women, especially women of color, remains "alarmingly high." In 2017 (latest date for final analyses) there were,

111 reported instances of rape per 100,000 people

10 reported cases of human trafficking

61 female victims of homicide

19 violent crimes against women per day

To understand violence against women in Chicago, we need to put it in the larger context of all violent crime in Chicago which is not as the political media presents it.

There exists a strong myth that Chicago is the "U.S. Murder Capitol" or the "Most Dangerous City in the U.S." Here are the facts:

Media sources frequently compare Chicago to its slightly larger coastal competitors, Los Angeles and New York City. NYC, in particular, has an enviable low murder rate but both cities have less murder and violent crime rates than Chicago.* This leaves Chicago in the spotlight with the highest absolute total killings per year because Chicago has so many people. If we look at murder rates as the FBI and other responsible agencies do, Chicago is nowhere near the nation's worst. In fact, in rankings of the world's most dangerous cities, Chicago does not even make the top 50 list whereas St. Louis (15th worst in the world!), Baltimore (23rd worst), Detroit (46th worst), and New Orleans (50th worst) do.

Narrowing our lens to U.S. cities, the data also shows again that Chicago clearly does not deserve its reputation. The FBI Uniform Crime Reports 2017 is the best source and many organizations use its data for their reports. One report focusing on the 100 most populous U.S. cities reports that 15 cities have higher total violent crime rates than Chicago.** Violent crime includes rape (Chicago ranks 34th), robbery (Chicago ranks 7th), aggravated assault (Chicago ranks 21st), and the headliner murder (Chicago ranks 10th).

If the report using FBI data focuses on all U.S. cities of a certain population size, say 250,000, Chicago looks even better: 24th out of 30 in one report or 25th out of 100 in another. Or, if you want to make Chicago look totally safe: the Swedish Nomad site (admittedly no data source given!) doesn't even include Chicago in its 25 Most Dangerous U.S. cities list!

Despite the slight differences in rankings, we can safely conclude that Chicago's reputation is being seriously tarnished by a media out-of-touch with reality. This is not to say that Chicago doesn't have a violent crime problem that especially affects women and minorities – most U.S. cities have the same issue. However I, like Melinda Gates, like to look at the data when considering public policy issues and possible remedies. Maybe U.S. cities can spend more time learning from cities with lower violent crime rates (another M. Gates strategy – looking at examples where things work well).

Jane Jegerski - Public Policy

*These rates are for gun homicides only. Non-gun homicides for the 3 cities are effectively equal.

**For the curious, besides the 4 cities mentioned above, the U.S. cities with higher murder or violent crime rates than Chicago are Kansas City, Newark, Memphis, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Milwaukee, San Bernardino, and Indianapolis (order varies depending on source).

October STEM Event Reminders

This month, there are two STEM events on the same day – **Saturday, October 19th** – so, please share the details about these activities with your family, friends, and any children’s or scouting organizations you know.

Staying local, the library scheduled:

Slightly Spooky STEM Party

Elmhurst Public Library - Large Meeting Room
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

This family, Halloween-themed activity is geared to pre-school and elementary aged kids (ages 3+) and their families. It appears all children need to be accompanied by an adult, but please check with the library.

Moving a bit farther away:

STEMFest 2019

Northern Illinois University - Convocation Center
1525 W Lincoln Hwy
DeKalb, IL 60115
10 am to 5 pm

STEMFest offers several opportunities for scouting and youth groups to get involved, learn new concepts, explore STEM careers and earn patches.

“NIU’s STEM departments, student groups, regional corporations, museums, educators, and national labs are joining forces to present hundreds of activities that range in complexity to entertain people of all ages.” Here’s one item of interest:

Girl Scouts’ Passport to My Future

Girl Scouts who participate can receive an embroidered Passport to My Future activity patch by completing their choice of activities in each of the STEM areas and recording their experiences in a passport form.

As part of their activities, girls will have their photo taken, and through the wonders of digital photo processing, will take home a photo as a professional in one of several STEM careers.

Visit <https://www.niu.edu/stemfest/what-to-do/scout-youth-groups/index.shtml> for more details.

Denise Dean

Introducing Chris White

You may have already met Chris this summer, when she helped us prepare for the Book Sale, or at the September Supper.

She’s a long-time Elmhurst resident who previously lived in Litchfield, IL, where she was a Special Education teacher.

Here in Elmhurst she raised her son and daughter and worked at a variety of jobs, including 14 years as a computer aide at Sandburg and a number of years as a unit clerk in cardiac rehab at Elmhurst Hospital.

Now retired, Chris enjoys volunteering at the hospital in the Volunteer Office, being a member of Questers (antique study group), gardening and playing pickleball. Currently her big project is completing the petit point Christmas stockings her late sister had started for her children.

Chris also has a long-time interest in politics, having volunteered for the Obama campaign and even gone to Iowa to knock on doors.

Asked why she decided to join AAUW, Chris said that she was looking for more to do and talked to Suzanne Stock about our Branch. She’s particularly interested in the Half the Sky group because her daughter works on projects for USAID all over the world.

Welcome, Chris!

Sarah Caltvedt
Membership Vice President

Half the Sky Project

All members and friends are invited to join our upcoming Half the Sky Project.

Days for Girls Workshop

Wednesday - October 23rd - 12-4:00 pm

Creative Sewing Center

11 N 1st Street, Geneva, IL 60134

Phone: (630) 208-6789 creativesewing.biz

We are working with DAYS FOR GIRLS to make menstrual pad kits to send to areas where the young women do not attend school because they have their periods and no way to manage the flow. These kits change the lives of girl students.

Come for the whole time or as long as you are able. We will have some refreshments.

ALL interested people are welcome to join us. We have a tentative group of 13 people; we need 20 to have an effective team for the afternoon. *No experience required* - instruction will be provided.

Connect with Betty Laliberte 630 832 9010 if you want to join a carpool. We plan to leave from Perry Doubt's home around 11 am the day of the event.



In Kind Donations to Bring to October 9th Meeting

***Most Needed Items**

Clothing:

- ***Men's and Women's Belts**
- Men's and Women's new Hooded Sweatshirts (M-3XL)
- Men's, Women's and Kid's new Walking Shoes
- Women's new Underwear (M-2XL)
- Women's Dress Flats (7-11)

For the Weather:

- ***Rain Ponchos**
- ***Sun Glasses**
- Umbrellas

Toiletries:

- ***Deodorant**
- Disposable Razors
- Full-Size Toiletries

For Work:

- Planners/Folders/Notebooks
- ***USB Drives**

Children and Babies:

- Baby Formula
- Diapers (all sizes) and ***Pull Ups**

Home Supplies:

- Alarm Clocks with Radio (in working condition)
- ***Cleaning Supplies** (all purpose, dish soap, etc.)
- ***Laundry Detergent**

Gift Cards for Basic Needs:

(\$10, \$20, \$30)

- Gas Cards, Walmart, Jewel, Aldi, Walgreens