



Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 81, No. 5 • January 2020

BRANCH MEETING

An Overview of Presidential Candidates— Platforms and Issues

January 8, 7 pm
Elmhurst Public Library

As the Illinois primary gets closer, it's time to learn more about the candidates running for the office of President of the United States. Who are all of these men and women; how can we make an educated choice? At the January meeting a panel of our members will present all of the candidates, their positions on key issues, central platforms, and signature issues. Plan to attend this informative meeting. Guests are not only welcome, but encouraged.

If you would like to help prepare information on some of the candidates, please contact Kim Miller (630-302-9280, kimberly@kcmmanagement.biz) or Sally Schuster (630-833-3132, sally@schuster.me). You will get a candidate profile to help you complete this task.



LOCAL CANDIDATE FORUM

January 26, Noon-5 pm
Elmhurst City Hall, 209 North York, Elmhurst

The League of Women Voters will introduce the candidates running for local offices. Our branch has offered to help the League. This is a great opportunity to learn more about these candidates. At our January 8 meeting, there will be a signup sheet for members who want to help on January 26.



JANUARY 2020

January 8 - 7:00 pm
Branch Meeting:
**“An Overview of
Presidential Candidates”**
Elmhurst Public Library

January 23 - 1:00 pm
AAUW Book Group
The Language of Flowers by
Vanessa Diffenbaugh
Discussion Leader:
Elaine Davison
Hostess: Elaine Davison

January 25
Dare to Dream
College of DuPage

January 26 - Noon-5:00 pm
Local Candidate Forum
Elmhurst City Hall

January 28 - 7:30 pm
Half the Sky Meeting
Perry Doubt's Home
Focus: Understanding what women in the Northern Triangle of Central America are facing: Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala. Please bring recent articles and relevant websites.



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

November 30, 2019

Moira Murray
Director of Finance

Book Sale Fund:	\$ 9,910.35
Conferences Fund	2,634.01
General Fund:	<u>6,367.53</u>
Total	\$18,911.89

President's Message

What a fun way to end the first half of our fiscal year with a wonderful holiday party held at Sally Schuster's home. This festive occasion included six fully decorated Christmas trees! We had an outstanding turn out for this very memorable experience. Our members contributed many delicious appetizers and desserts. Thanks to Sally for her hospitality and to Carolyn Heiney for assisting Sally.

Our Elmhurst AAUW Branch started the fiscal year with a very successful Used Book Sale in July. A huge thanks to Perry Doubt for once again taking the helm on this huge undertaking. And another huge thanks to all of you who worked so many hours and so diligently on this project.

In the fall we held the traditional September Supper at Livia Italian Eatery. We had a wonderful turn out which included several new members. This was followed in October by an overview of services offered by DuPage Pads. Members kindly provided donations for the organization. In November we were treated to a presentation by gemologist Marti Traci on *Read My Pins*, the story of Madeline Albright and her use of pins to deliver a message.

A year from now, the 2020 election will be in our past. While AAUW does not endorse specific candidates, we do have a history of supporting policies that advance equality for women in education and the workplace. As recently outlined by Kimberly Churches, AAUW Chief Executive Officer, there are five important issues we need to be tuned in to with regard to candidates running for office:

- Equal Pay for Equal Work
- Investing in Education
- Reducing Student Debt
- Strengthening Social Security
- Implementing Paid Leave

Kicking off this important election year of 2020, we have two programs focusing on candidates. On January 8 members of our Elmhurst AAUW Branch will present the presidential candidates, their positions on these key issues, central platforms and signature issues. Please consider volunteering to present a candidate – contact Sally Schuster or Kimberly Miller. For this program we are teaming with the League of Women Voters.

We team with the League again on January 26 when those running for local offices will be introduced. Please consider signing up at the January 8 meeting to help.

Happy New Year!

Suzanne J. Stock, Co-President



**AAUW
Holiday Party**

What a fun evening.
Thanks to Sally Schuster
for sharing her home with
us.



**Half the Sky
Meeting**

January 28, 2020
7:30 pm
Perry Doubt's home.

Focus will be on women
in the Northern Triangle
of Central America
(Honduras, Nicaragua
and Guatemala) and what
they are facing.
Bring articles from
newspapers/magazines
or media for discussion,
including information
about women who leave
their countries looking for
safe haven.

Betty Laliberte



Tech Savvy 2020

AAUW's 2020 Tech Savvy STEM Conference for 6th to 9th grade girls is just around the corner. Returning to Triton College, the event will be held on Saturday, March 21st.

AAUW-Downers Grove's Mary-Jo Wolsky has begun a volunteer outreach. Our branch has traditionally pitched in at this event, so please let Mary-Jo know (630-802-0652 or mjbwolsky7@gmail.com) you'll be a part of the Tech Savvy team this year.

Are You a Tech Savvy Girl?

You will be after a day of hands-on fun with science, technology, engineering, and mathematics!

Tech Savvy is a daylong science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) career conference designed to attract girls in sixth through ninth grade to these fields and to inform mentoring adults about STEM education and careers and how they can support the girls' interest and success in STEM.

Who: 6th to 9th grade girls and parents/mentors/teachers

Cost: \$10 per person (girls and adults)
(Includes lunch and a t-shirt for the attending girls to wear at the conference)

Where: Triton College
2000 Fifth Avenue
River Grove, IL 60171

How: Online Registration **Required** (*opens Feb 2020*)
(limited to first 200 registrants)

Date: Saturday, March 21, 2020

Questions? Send an email to: info@TechSavvy-IL.org

Time: 8:30 am – 4 pm

Online registration will be required.
Workshop choices will be first come, first served.

<http://www.techsavvy-il.org/>

Organized by Illinois Branches of AAUW:
American Association of University Women



TechSavvy
Illinois



Triton College



BRANCH RECOGNITION BY AAUW NATIONAL

In a recent AAUW Email, Bragging on Branches, our Elmhurst Area Branch was recognized as one of just eight branches that contributed \$5,000 or more to the AAUW Greatest Need Fund. We were able to make this contribution from the proceeds of this past summer's Used Book Sale. Congratulations!

STEM Stuff

New Research

From the November 2019 journal, Science of Learning on nature.com, come interesting results from two studies discussing gender brain similarities and differences in STEM learning, which attempt to address concerns with the underrepresentation of women in STEM fields. Here are brief overviews of those studies, and links to the full journal articles.

First: In the gender similarities in the brain during mathematics development study, which employs the first fMRI (functional MRI) research in early childhood math cognition, findings indicate that we begin with NO biological neural processing gender difference. Previous behavioral studies have also failed to detect gender differences for basic math learning at this point. Apparently, we are more the same than different.

These are great indicators that the old tale of girls not being as good as boys in math is a fallacy – at least early on, as the research was performed on children ages 3 to 10. Take advantage of free access to the journal article at <https://rdcu.be/bZxeF> . The first couple of pages are an easy read.

Second: Utilizing self-reported questionnaires and neuroimaging, researchers reported in sex differences in brain correlates of STEM anxiety, however, cultural and sociological pressure on female college students result in greater levels of STEM anxiety than males during some STEM courses. While both female and male students have to deal with the academic challenges of competition with their classmates, heavy lab schedules, and/or fear of advanced science and math courses, stereotyping, gender-based bias, and the absence of female role models provide additional anxiety for the female students.

For free access to this journal article, click over to <https://rdcu.be/bZxsB> to see the data and more detailed results.

Kersey, A.J., Csumitta, K.D. & Cantlon, J.F. Gender similarities in the brain during mathematics development. npj Sci. Learn. 4, 19 (2019) doi:10.1038/s41539-019-0057-x

Gonzalez, A.A., Bottenhorn, K.L., Bartley, J.E. et al. Sex differences in brain correlates of STEM anxiety. npj Sci. Learn. 4, 18 (2019) doi:10.1038/s41539-019-0058-9

Denise Dean, STEM

New Member Profile: Sheila Hope

When I talked with Sheila (pronounced Shy-la, not Shee-la) for this article, she had just returned from her son's wedding in India and a "decompression" stop in England - where she was in London at the time of the attack on London Bridge. She had quite a tale to tell!

Sheila is a returning member of AAUW. She belonged to the branch back in the 1990s but found she didn't have time while holding a job that involved frequent travel. She was an account executive with Dun & Bradstreet for 11 years, involved in market research and demographics. In earlier years, while living in Massachusetts, she working in real estate management, and for the past 19 years, she has worked in adult reference and readers advisory at the Westmont Public Library. Among other responsibilities, she leads a book discussion group for seniors at Mayslake and provides homebound service to 39 library patrons.

An Elmhurst resident for 34 years, Sheila has 2 sons - Kyle, a doctor, and Colin, a media specialist who does marketing, videography and photography, especially professional sport photography. Her husband retired at the end of the year.

I asked Sheila about hobbies and other activities and learned that she is very active in dog training

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SHEILA HOPE (*continued*): and belongs to a dog training club. She had a sharpei that she showed in obedience competition. Now she has a pug and is working to qualify it as a therapy dog. Her goal is to do therapy in places like hospitals and nursing homes. Sheila also has a 40-year-old eastern box turtle, which has lived with her for the past 31 years. Right now it's hibernating inside, but it spends summers outdoors.

The goal of these new member profiles is to provide conversation starters and help us get to know each other. There's certainly a lot to talk about with Sheila!

New Illinois Laws for 2020

Illinois has more than 250 laws that will go into effect January 1, 2020. Here are a few of the ones that align with AAUW priorities:

HB 3550 – Consent in Sexual Activity

Sex education instruction in grades 6 through 12 will now be required to include an age-appropriate discussion of the meaning of consent. This includes teaching that consent is a freely given agreement to sexual activity, that consent to one activity does not include consent to others, that a person's clothing, past activity, lack of resistance and more do not constitute consent, that a person can withdraw consent at any time, and that a person cannot consent to sexual activity if the person is unable to understand due to incapacitation from drugs and alcohol, being asleep or unconscious, having a mental disability or being a minor.

SB 1507 – Revenge Pornography

The Civil Remedies for Nonconsensual Dissemination of Private Sexual Images Act allows victims of revenge porn to recover damages (economic, emotional distress, punitive and more) in the two years after an image is disseminated or threat to disseminate is made.

HB 2135 – No Time Limitations for Criminal Sexual Assault Prosecution

This new law removes the statute of limitations for criminal sexual assault, aggravated criminal sexual assault and aggravated criminal sexual abuse for all ages, not just minors. Previously, prosecution could only be brought within 10 years of the offense and only if the victim reported it to law enforcement within three years.

HB 3498 – No Time Limitations for Female Genital Mutilation Under 18

This measure removes the statute of limitations for female genital mutilation for victims under 18, meaning the crime can be prosecuted at any time. It also makes female genital mutilation done by a parent or guardian a Class X felony.

The source of this synopsis is Common Cause Illinois ("organizes, lobbies, and builds coalitions to create a stronger democracy in the land of Lincoln") and NBC Chicago news.

Jane Jegerski, Public Policy