



Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 82, No. 5 • December 2020

AAUW Monthly Meeting **Wednesday - December 9 - 7:00 pm** **Zoom Meeting**

Join us for a virtual Holiday Happy Hour on December 9th. We'll be raising our glasses and toasting the end of 2020, while celebrating each other with a little Trivia on Great Women throughout history. We hope to see each of you while we see this year come to a close.

Report from Director of AAUW Funds

Tsue A. Ostermann

At the November 4, 2020, Branch Board of Directors Meeting held virtually, the board voted unanimously to offer two scholarships (\$2,500 each) to returning students and one scholarship (\$1,000) to a student recommended by the Dare to Dream organization at the end of this academic year.

The \$5,000 scholarship fund for the returning students is a carryover from the previous year when the candidate selection procedure had to be suspended due to Covid-19.

The \$1,000 scholarship was given to a Dare-to-Dream recipient earlier this calendar year.

The new scholarship would be funded in part by the members' contributions received through the Easy No-Work Fundraiser.

A public announcement with all the details for the scholarships will be made after the AAUW Fund Committee meets in January 2021.



Board of Directors

No meeting in December

Book Group

December 3 • 1:00 pm
Fly Girls by Keith O'Brien
Zoom Meeting
Discussion Leader:
Sherall Carson

Branch Meeting

December 9 • 7:00 pm
Zoom Meeting
"Holiday Happy Hour"

Half the Sky

December 29 • 7:00 pm
Zoom Meeting
Agenda includes selection of immigration organization to support, selection of book to study in 2021, and sharing of holiday cheer.

Note: Zoom links will be sent by chairmen prior to scheduled meetings



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

October 31, 2020

Moira Murray

Director of Finance

Fund Raiser Fund	\$ 10,839.35
Conferences Fund	2,634.01
General Fund:	<u>7,728.15</u>
Total	\$21,201.51

Getting to Know AAUW Members . .

Elaine Liebovicz

In this year of 2020 as we celebrate 100 years of women's right to vote, we want to celebrate an AAUW member who has made an impact with her community contributions and civic service.

Elaine Libowicz has been a force for good throughout her sixty years as an Elmhurst resident. As you read further you will understand why Elaine was honored as one of the Outstanding Women Leaders in DuPage County in 1989.

In each organization she has joined, Elaine has taken a leadership role.

•League of Women Voters a member since 1960 and was president 1971-73.

•AAUW member 1964-98 and 2014 to the present, Our president 1979-81.

•Friends of the Elmhurst Public Library, President 1985-88.

•Elmhurst Rotary. She was invited by Mayor Abner Ganet to be the first woman member to be welcomed into the club in 1987. Elaine served as president in 1993-94 and is an active member today.

•Charter member of Elmhurst Historical Society.

•Board member of several other social service agencies.

In government positions, Elaine has given years of service. DuPage County Board member from 1974-78. Elaine was one of the first Democratic women board members serving with two other AAUW members, Mary Eleanor Wall and Jane Spirgel.

Elaine served on the DuPage Forest Preserve Commission and the DuPage Community Development Commission during this time.

In 1981-85 Elaine was the Elmhurst City Clerk.

She was executive Director of the DuPage County Housing Authority for a decade: 1983-93.

Elaine has been Elmhurst City Treasurer for eight years. In 2013 she ran as a write-in candidate and won.

Ever the well-rounded woman, Elaine had been hospitality minister at Old St. Pat's Church in Chicago.

She rode RAGBRAI (bike ride across Iowa) in 1990 and she ran the Chicago Marathon in (at least) 2002, 2003, and 2004!

Elaine is an accomplished quilter who had a show of her work in Glen Ellyn and has donated quilts to many fundraisers.

She is a member of Questers, an antiques study group, and has been a docent at the Mayslake Peabody Estate Oak Brook.





President's Message December 2020

Many of us enjoyed the November Branch meeting with Sharmili Majmuder, the Executive Vice President of Policy and Organizational Impact at Women Employed. She focused on "Gender Pay Equity". An enthusiastic discussion followed the ZOOM presentation. Thanks to Sally Schuster and Kimberly Miller as they meet the challenge of providing relevant programs via ZOOM. I hope you can join the holiday social party being planned for December 9. Sally and Kim have a wonderful line up of programs planned for spring 2021.

In both the October and November meetings, Half the Sky participants have focused on discussing *The Book of Rosy: A Mother's Story of Separation at the Border* by Rosayra Pablo Cruz and Julie Schwieter Collazo. Consider joining this group for upcoming meetings/discussions.

The 2020 election was unique to say the least. In spite of being in the midst of a COVID pandemic, American citizens turned out to vote in record numbers. Some voted in person while others took advantage of mail-in ballots. We now know that Vice President Joe Biden and Senator Kamala Harris will lead the nation for the upcoming four years. It has taken 231 years, since the first United States president was elected in 1789 to get an African/Asian American woman on the ticket! As Kamala stated in her acceptance speech, "While I may be the first woman in this office, I will not be the last because every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities".

Kamala's many achievements deserve mention. After serving as district attorney of San Francisco, she became the first South Asian woman to serve as attorney general of California. She then became the second Black woman to serve as a United States Senator.

Remember that the 2020 election is not quite over. In January all eyes will be on Georgia when it hosts run-off elections for two Senate seats. Results of this race will have long-lasting effects.

Racial equality is also in the forefront of current national issues. A recent press release from AAUW National condemned systemic racism and committed to fighting for justice and lasting change. Not only must AAUW denounce racism, it needs to take action. We need to remain attuned to this situation as it progresses and determine how we can engage in this challenge.

As we continue to struggle with rising COVID numbers and additional restrictions to attempt to contain COVID in our daily lives, be mindful of the promise of one or more effective vaccines becoming available soon. This development along with returning to a more normal political environment under new leadership in our country bode well for a very positive start to 2021. Happy New Year!

Suzanne J. Stock, Co-President



Free the Girls Update

We're now up to 185 bras and shooting for 200! Special thank you to Lombard AAUW for their contribution of 23 bras. There's still time to donate - we plan to deliver the bras to Free the Girls the week of December 7. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this wonderful program that helps survivors of trafficking build a new, independent life!

National Dues Increase

At its October 16, 2020, meeting, the AAUW National Board of Directors voted to increase individual Member dues for the next three years. The dues will rise by \$3 for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, \$5 for the FY 2023 and \$5 for FY 2024, making the total dues amount for those years \$62, \$67 and \$72, respectively. All but \$3 of your annual dues remains tax deductible.

Information from the AAUW State Board – as reported by Donna Jean Simon

- Grants - The state approves grants to support branches with program ideas or for assistance in paying for a Zoom subscription/license on which to hold meetings.
- Greatest Needs Fund - Since AAUW Scholarships and Fellowships are very well funded, members interested in donating to National are encouraged to allot contributions to the Greatest Needs Fund. This allows for flexibility in applying funds.
- State Convention - Plans are being made to hold a virtual state convention this year. Dates being considered are mid to late April. Details to follow.
- Connections - Connections is a monthly newsletter sent to all branch members. Members are encouraged to read it.
- Link - Link is a biannual communication that provides news of upcoming special events and information from State officers.

Membership News - Welcome back, Pat Cheffer!

We're delighted to welcome former member Pat Cheffer back to AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch. Many of you remember Pat as one of our "First Ladies of Elmhurst," the creative genius behind dozens of Elmhurst Children's Theatre shows, the host of the award-winning "Lifestyle with Pat Cheffer" show on Continental Cablevision, and an active volunteer throughout Elmhurst.

When I called to welcome Pat back to AAUW, I asked her where she'd been for the past 20 years. She told me that after her husband's death and her retirement from her TV show, she moved home to Kankakee to care for her mother and stayed on in a lovely Arts & Crafts style home she purchased there. Pat was always interested in art, and at this point in her life, it became her main focus. After seeing an ad for a watercolor course on a barge in the south of France, she realized that she could combine her love of travel and her interest in art, and she began to do just that, traveling throughout Europe and beyond with friends she met along the way. She has become an accomplished artist and has had her work exhibited in a number of galleries and shows.

Pat returned to Elmhurst last January and is living right across from the Elmhurst Art Museum. One of her two sons and a granddaughter live here in town. She had started taking classes at the museum, but the pandemic has kept her from returning to more of her former activities in Elmhurst. She's looking forward to reconnecting with friends old and new when we're able to meet again.

--Sarah Caltvedt, Membership Co-Vice President