



# Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 83, No. 1 • July 2021

## The Used Book Sale Approaches!

Yes, we are getting close, and we still need your help! Our Used Book Sale will run from July 8 through July 11. How can you help?

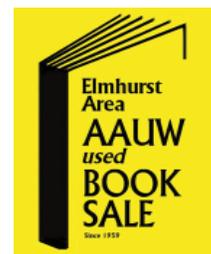
- First, you can tell others about the sale and let them know that we are still collecting books at Sandburg Middle School. They can bring them anytime, but if they want help unloading their cars, they need to come from 9-12 everyday but Sunday and holidays. Our collection ends July 5.

- Second, you can also call Pat O'Dwyer (630-414-1746) and volunteer to work the sale. Over four days we have many slots to fill, so please sign up!

- Third, you can buy books. Bring a friend with you when you shop. Many of our members have continued to sort nearly every day! We are so appreciative of their work and dedication! When we remember our mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy, we know our work is worth it!

Thanks to all who have participated in this project. You really are a group of amazing women!

--Carolyn Heiney, AAUW Used Book Sale



## Florence “Betsy” Bliss Aldred (1940-2021)

Long time Elmhurst resident and AAUW member, Betsy Bliss Aldred passed away June 21, leaving behind a beloved family, countless friends and a legacy of service to the community she loved so much. She earned bachelor and masters degrees in speech therapy and had a long and honored career in the field in the Lisle and Lyons school districts.

Betsy was deeply involved in community affairs, serving as alderperson for the Elmhurst City Council for sixteen years, proudly representing the First Ward. She was a past president of AAUW Elmhurst, active from the start in its Dare to Dream program for young Latina girls. Recipient of the Jaycee Distinguished Service Award in 1995, Betsy served as a V.P. of the local League of Women Voters and also was a founding member of 100+ Elmhurst Women Who Care, an organization that has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local charities. She actively supported her St. Peter's United Church of Christ congregation and merited a chapter in the book of *First Ladies of Elmhurst*.

Betsy's sense of fun is legendary. Who can forget the photo of her dressed in trash to publicize recycling, a program she started in Elmhurst. For a generation of young girls, she was the tooth fairy, complete with prom dress and used-toothbrush necklace. She loved dressing outlandishly to meet friends at the airport. She maintained a wardrobe of bright, happy kindergarten-teacher sweaters that perfectly represented her personality. Family, service, compassion, dedication, and fun are words that sum up a life well-lived. She once said, “I have a lovely life, and I am a happy woman. I guess my maiden name, Bliss, fits me!”



**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.

# AAUW Legal Defense Fund

Sex discrimination today takes a variety of forms. Unfair pay, pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault and violations of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 can affect both women and men.

AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund addresses these barriers by informing people of their rights and using the legal system to seek justice and change. LAF was created in 1981 by AAUW members and allocates \$100,000 annually to balance the scales of justice for people working toward gender equity through the legal system. Cases currently being supported include:

•Devan-Song v. Oregon State University. Anne Devan-Song, a PhD candidate, faced sexual and gender-based harassment at the hands of fellow graduate student. OSU not only failed to address and resolve the complaints but also discharged Devan-Song from her lab despite her excellent academic standing and then suspended her for speaking out about her experience.

•Paige v. USAID. Three women, each of whom worked for USAID for more than 27 years in overseas posts, achieved the highest rank in the Senior Foreign Service. In 2016 each discovered that, despite their greater seniority and higher rank, they were paid considerably less than dozens of lower ranking and less experienced male Senior Foreign Service officers.

•Glasson v. Google. Chelsey Glasson had a long history of exceptional performance until she began to speak out against the pregnancy discrimination she witnessed and then began to experience herself as a Google employee.

•Jane Doe v. University of Kentucky. To ensure access to education for women and girls, AAUW advocates for the full protections of Title IX. The LAF supports this case to reform the sexual assault hearing process on campuses. Currently, alleged assailants have multiple opportunities to re-victimize survivors through the hearings process, under the guise of due process.

•Portz v. St. Cloud State Univ. et.al. The case involves 10 female student athletes who filed a lawsuit against St. Cloud State University and Minnesota State College and University Systems alleging violations of Title IX.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

May 31, 2021

Moira Murray

Director of Finance

Fund Raiser Fund	\$ 10,650.35
Conferences Fund	2,634.01
General Fund:	<u>7,837.15</u>
Total	\$21,121.51

## HALF THE SKY

During the Half the Sky meeting in June our group voiced an interest in assisting local initiatives dealing with immigrants. The COD nursing student project is struggling with communication challenges.

We will create snack bags for ICDI in August.

Watch for Half the Sky emails in early July.

Enjoy the summer.

Regular meetings will hopefully start in September.

--Betty Laliberte, Chair

## President's Message • July 2021

I am honored to have been nominated and elected as our new Branch President. As we come out of a rather bleak time, it is encouraging to see our membership come together in good numbers to “work the Book Sale” and see each other in person at our June picnic get-together. It has been so fun chatting and sharing ideas these past few weeks.

Some of the Book Sale sort discussions have been hilarious. I hope some more of you can drop by Sandburg in the mornings for a bit to help sort and organize or sign up to work some of the Sale on July 8th to the 11th .

I look forward to getting to know each of you better (but must warn you, I am horrible with names). Many thanks to our outgoing Co-Presidents, Jennifer Jordan and Suzanne Stock. I intend to rely on their experience as well as that of other past-presidents to help me initially. I also want to thank those officers and directors who are taking on new responsibilities or “taking a break” from duties for a time. We also have several positions that are being filled by newer members who have been nominated for and accepted officer roles in our organization. Thank You!

Now that things have opened up again, we have been able to reserve the Library for a majority of our upcoming Programs and Branch Meetings. Our Branch will be meeting the first Wednesday evening of each Month, starting in September (with a Dinner). We will be hearing more about the Programs being put together from Kimberly Miller and Christine White.

One of my goals is to highlight aspects of our Mission Statement each month.

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

**VISION:** Equity for all.

**VALUES:** Nonpartisan. Fact-Based. Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality.

In keeping with our mission to advance gender equity for all women and girls, the strategic plan is focused on four macro areas of work: Education & Training, Economic Security, Leadership, Governance & Sustainability.

Three of these focal areas are mission-based, and one – Governance and Sustainability – is foundational in our ability to run the organization with best practices, innovation and strengthened fiscal sustainability.

**Respectfully,  
Moira Murray, President**

# Public Policy Report

## FEDERAL LEGISLATION

•Bad News first: The Paycheck Fairness Act (PFA) failed again in the U.S. Senate. This critical legislation would give women the tools they need to challenge pay discrimination and provide incentives to employers to comply with the law. AAUW has pushed for PFA's passage for more than 20 years and will keep on pushing for as long as it takes.

•AAUW celebrated the 49th anniversary of the passage of Title IX with the reintroduction of the Gender Equity in Education Act (GEEA). This Act would provide additional resources, training, and technical assistance to educational institutions and Title IX coordinators to ensure compliance with Title IX; provide competitive grants to support gender equity work; and establish an Office of Gender Equity in the U.S. Department of Education. This legislation is needed to ensure the purpose of Title IX. Urge your members of Congress to stand up for gender equity in education by cosponsoring GEEA.

## ILLINOIS LEGISLATION

The Illinois General Assembly has wrapped up after passing some notable bills:

•The Keeping Youth Safe and Healthy Act SB 818 passed both chambers and is awaiting the Governor's signature. This is an extensive sex education act that updates curriculum (for schools that choose to teach Health and Safety education) to help prevent child sexual abuse, teenage pregnancy, rape and other sexual problems with children (for more details see last month's newsletter). The new curriculum for K-12 is updated to be age appropriate, medically accurate, all inclusive, culturally appropriate, and trauma informed.

•The Ensuring Success in Schools Law HB 3223 had also passed both chambers and is awaiting the governor's signature. Survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, and gender-based harassment often endure lasting mental, physical, economic, and social consequences – and, as a result, experience a decline in academic performance. This bill focuses on success in school with appropriate, trauma-informed responses to the needs of every student.

--Jane Jegerski, Public Policy

## Returning Scholars Attend the June Picnic



AAUW members were pleased to meet the winners of the 2021 Returning Student Scholarships, Heather Callan of Villa Park and Megan Pagel of Elmhurst. The scholarships are worth \$2,500 each.

Shown here (left to right): Jennifer Jordan, Heather Callan, Suzanne Stock, Megan Pagel and Tsue Ostermann.

Heather (2nd from left) works full-time at Advocate Aurora Health and is taking classes for her MBA at Elmhurst University.

Megan (2nd from right) is a full-time social workers with a Master's Degree who is now seeking a B.S. degree in Nursing.

## Great Ending to a Strange Year



*The end-of-the-year picnic at Salt Creek Park drew an enthusiastic crowd. Above right, Jennifer Jordan presented Carolyn Heiney with an award for her selection as Branch Donation Honoree.*

