

Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 82, No. 8 • March 2021

Wednesday, March 10, 7 pm

Girl Led: Juliette Gordon Low and the Creation of the Girl Scouts

An ardent believer in the potential of girls and the importance of fostering their individual growth, character, and self-sufficiency, Juliette Gordon Low established a global movement with the Girl Scouts. Learn about the socialite-turned-leader through this historical portrayal by Betsey Means. This program is presented with Elmhurst Public Library.

It will be live on Zoom from the Elmhurst Public Library. Register for this program through our website:

<https://elmhurstarea-il.aauw.net/>

Look for "click here" in the second paragraph of the program description.

You do not need an Elmhurst Public Library card to sign up.



Changes: May & June Meetings

We have once again cancelled the May dinner. We are planning another informational ZOOM program instead.

However, we will have a final luncheon on Saturday, June 12, at noon in Salt Creek Park. There is plenty of room to social distance, and the parking is plentiful. We have reserved the covered shelter so we will have this gathering rain or shine. We will order box lunches from Rosalie's Deli. Menu choices and cost will be in the May newsletter.

We are so looking forward to seeing everyone again. Our scholarship winners will be introduced. But, most important we can socialize.

REMINDER

AAUW National Election-2021
Member voting takes place from April 7 to May 17, 2021



Board of Directors

March 3 • 7:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

Branch Meeting

March 10 • 7:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

"Girl Led:

Juliette Gordon Low and the creation of the Girl Scouts"

Half the Sky

March 23 • 7:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

Book Group

March 25 • 1:00 pm

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek

by Kim Michele

Zoom Meeting

Discussion Leader: Peggy Fox

Links for Zoom meetings will be sent in advance by email



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

January 31, 2020

Moira Murray

Director of Finance

Fund Raiser Fund	\$ 10,919.35
Conferences Fund	2,634.01
General Fund:	<u>7,451.15</u>
Total	\$21,004.51

NATIONAL AAUW ELECTION - 2021

This spring, AAUW members will be asked to vote on amendments to the Public Policy Priorities and Bylaws, in addition to electing members to the National Board of Directors. Voting will take place from April 7 to May 17, 2021.

OPEN MEMBERSHIP BYLAWS AMENDMENT

The Bylaws Amendment change proposes the elimination of the degree requirement for membership. To further inform and explain the issues surrounding this proposed amendment, articles will be included in the next three branch newsletters. The information below comes from the AAUW National Website. To explore the issues in depth please go to aauw.org/membership, scroll down the page and click on Open Membership Toolkit.

Statement from the AAUW National Board of Directors: “The AAUW National Board of Directors strongly supports elimination of the degree requirement for membership and will put the requirement up for a membership vote this spring. This important change is a critical step in bringing AAUW’s bylaws and membership requirement in line with our mission of advancing equity for women and girls. While AAUW is fiercely committed to the educational attainment of all women, given our commitment to inclusion, this is simply the right thing to do.

Proposals to eliminate the degree requirement for membership have come before the membership for vote a number of times. The Board feels very strongly that while the degree requirement made perfect sense at AAUW’s inception, this requirement is now counter to our mission, and limits our ability to build the capacity needed to increase our impact as an organization.

Statement from the AAUW Racial and Social Justice Working Group: As members of this working group, we are passionate about ensuring that AAUW become more diverse and inclusive. Eliminating the educational requirement for membership is an essential step toward that goal: If we are truly committed to advancing equity for all, we need to become more equitable ourselves. While the requirement may have made sense early in our history, by today’s standards it is perceived as elitist, exclusionary and out of touch.

To remain relevant, every organization must evolve. It is essential that we send a loud and clear message that we welcome all who share our values and goals — regardless of whether or not they hold a college degree.

Education remains a top priority for AAUW, of course, and we continue to advocate for opening doors to schooling, training and career opportunities to advance economic security for women and girls. But we will be better positioned to do our work by welcoming a more diverse membership. We should not be turning people away.

Video Statement on Open Membership from Malinda Gaul, AAUW Board Vice Chair: To view this 3-1/2 minute video, please go to the Open Member Toolkit on the aauw.org/membership website. Scroll down to near the end of the page to see Malinda’s picture. Click on her picture to start the video or click this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuo4AX9fXqA&feature=emb_title. This is a clear and succinct statement of the rationale of AAUW National Leadership in proposing this amendment to the Bylaws.

Pat O’Dwyer, Director, Bylaws & Policies



President's Message – March 2021

As I write this, the snow is coming down - again! It seems like we've packed the whole winter into the month of February, and I am looking forward to turning the calendar to March with (hopefully) warmer temperatures.

I thoroughly enjoyed our February branch program highlighting the SCARCE organization. What a gem of an organization in our community – focused on reducing, reusing, and recycling. I was familiar with some, but not all of their work and I learned quite a few facts about how to be a more effective recycler.

As part of the national election this spring, AAUW members will be voting on a bylaw amendment to open up membership to anyone who supports the AAUW mission, not just those with college degrees. You'll find further information about this elsewhere in the newsletter.

Both the AAUW National and Illinois State Boards are encouraging members to vote in favor of this change. Suzanne and I encourage all branch members to carefully consider this issue and make sure that you make the time to vote. The online voting period will be April 7 – May 17. Paper ballots may also be requested for those who do not wish to vote on-line.

On a lighter note, there are still a few more days to vote in the 2021 AAUW Art Contest, as voting closes March 3. There are over 400 entries to choose from this year, and I enjoyed looking through them – what a wealth of talent we have in our membership! I was pleased as well to see a number of this year's entries were focused on diversity and inclusion in particular.

I hope to see you for our next branch program on March 10 at 7 pm via Zoom, which we are co-sponsoring with the library – Girl Led: Juliette Gordon Low and the Creation of the Girl Scouts. Although I wasn't a girl scout growing up, I was a proud participant in both Campfire Girls and 4H, and learned many life lessons from both experiences.

Respectfully,
Jennifer Jordan, Co-President

AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch 2021 – 2023 Slate of Officers

The Branch Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of new officers to be voted on (Branch meeting on April 14) for two-year terms that will start July 1, 2021.

President

Moira Murray

Program Co-Vice President

Chris White, Kimberly Miller

Membership Co-Vice President

Rosemarie Eck

Recording Secretary

Debra Markello

Director of Finance

Jennifer Jordan

Bylaws and Policies

Patricia O'Dwyer

Public Policy

Jane Jegerski

Directors of Nominating Committee

Jennifer Jordan & Suzanne Stock

Nominations from the floor will be accepted subject to approval by the nominee.

The Committee thanks these ladies for agreeing to serve on the Board.

Rosemarie Eck will be joining Linda Fischer who will be completing her second year as Membership Chair.

The Nominating Committee is composed of directors Carolyn Heiney and Darlene Van Meir, and members Jennifer Jordan and Suzanne Stock.

In Memory of Kathy Salzano

Kathy Salzano died Feb.6. She was one of our newest members, having joined with a Shape the Future membership last spring. Some of you may have encountered her at one of our Zoom socials in the summer. Kathy was an ESL teacher and had previously taught Spanish as well at Elmhurst College and COD. She was devoted to her students and to social justice. Cancer camp for kids, the Unitarian Church, and the Addison Township Democratic Organization were some of the organizations where she was active. The mother of three grown children, Kathy is also survived by her husband Antonio and other family.

Editorial on Repeal of the Parental Notice of Abortion Act (IL HB 2467)

The Illinois Parental Notice of Abortion Act (PNA, 1995) went into effect in 2013 and required parents or other adult family member in a girl's home to be notified by medical personnel 48 hours before a girl can have an abortion. This law is burdensome to medical staff but can be prohibitive and actually dangerous to a pregnant teen.

Most teen girls seeking abortions have had discussions with their parents or guardians. But in too many homes, telling parents can lead to 1) notifying the family members who sexually abused the girl; 2) homelessness when the girl is thrown out of her home; 3) further abuse in a troubled family; or 4) being forced to have an unwanted baby against a girl's will.

Supporters of the PNA point out that the girl can override the parental notice requirement by going to court by herself. She can locate credible legal how-to, cut school (and the school notifies her parents), find transportation (think public transportation or rural areas), and stand before a judge and discuss the most intimate details of her life. And, during all of this, she is increasing the medical risks of her abortion by waiting.

An Illinois teen can, without parental knowledge, go through labor and delivery, give a child up for adoption, and obtain surgeries including a Cesarean, among other rights. Why not an abortion?

There is no medical basis for the PNA. In fact, going through with a pregnancy and delivery in Illinois is more dangerous than having an abortion especially for a black girl who faces six times the risk of mortality than white girls for herself and almost three times the risk of seeing her infant die.

IL HB 2467 is the repeal of the Illinois Parental Notice of Abortion Act and it is coming up soon in the Illinois House. Representatives need to hear about your views on this bill. Even if you think your representative supports abortion, let them know that you do, too.

We know that Governor Pritzker will sign the bill if passed but there is a strong minority pressure to ensure the survival of the PNA. Please tell others about calling their representatives, too.

I worked as the Pregnancy Counselor in a Job Corps Center for (Impoverished) Women 16-21 in the 1970's and I know the consequences of unwanted pregnancies to these young women. I know they still exist.

Jane Jegerski
Public Policy

AAUW-IL District 5 Educational Opportunities Fund - 14th Annual Fellows Presentation

Saturday, April 17, 2021 • 1:00 p.m

Please plan to join a ZOOM presentation with some of the 2020-21 AAUW Fellows and Grantees

- Marquitta Dorsey, American Fellowship, Loyola University, Social Work, a Publication Grant focusing on elevating the voices of Black adolescent females about sexual health and sexual activity.
- Kate Brunk, Director, YWCA McLean County, Community Action Grant: YW Strive Program for women who have experienced incarceration, providing skills and education to reduce barriers to gainful employment
- Kelly Fair, Director, Reflections Foundation. Community Action Grant: Pink Hard Hats. Mentoring program for low-income African-American and Latina girls.
- Michelle Friedner, American Fellowship, U of Chicago, Anthropology and Archaeology. Postdoctoral program. Project focusing on Becoming Normal: Deafness, Cochlear Implants, and Sensory infrastructures in India.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92820659728?pwd=dWtxbWZJd3lFTzFkUjJGVdZ4ajBrUT09>

Meeting ID: 928 2065 9728

Passcode: 302632

The AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund is one of the world's largest sources of funding exclusively for graduate women. For 2020-21, \$3.5 million dollars were awarded to more than 200 women. These exceptional recipients are pursuing academic work and leading innovative community projects to empower women and girls.

Half the Sky's ICDI PROJECT UPDATE

Working in cooperation with the Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants (ICDH) we have given:

- 161 snack bags for immigrants' bus travel
- 15 wallets - 12 of which had \$20 added
- 10 men's COATS

ICDI is using the snack bags because every day there are 5-10 immigrants coming through the bus terminal. Seventeen AAUW members and friends have contributed to this project.

Additionally, more AAUW members have expressed interest in supporting this project in the future. We will send alerts when more bags are needed.

More men's winter coats sizes large and extra large are needed.

Contact Betty Laliberte 630 832 9010