



Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 82, No. 10 • May 2021

AAUW Monthly Meeting

Wednesday - May 12 - 7:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

Gender Bias: Cracking Unconscious Bias

AAUW Elmhurst will have an open discussion on the Unconscious Gender Bias that still exists within each of us. We will look at reports and tools that help us all recognize these inherent bias to (hopefully) chip away at them internally and externally.

For those interested in preparing for the discussion by testing their own – please follow this link: <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>

AAUW at Work

Last month, AAUW signed on to important efforts regarding student loan debt and forgiveness, paid sick leave, and more.

Check out the letters, comments, testimony and legal briefs to learn more about AAUW's positions and advocacy efforts regarding economic security, civil rights and education.

For details, click on the following link to "AAUW Weighs in: Policy Updates":

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/documents/?emci=df4c1510-6ea3-eb11-85aa-0050f237abef&emdi=9ddd058e-73a3-eb11-85aa-0050f237abef&ceid=912965>

REMINDER

AAUW National Election-2021

May 17 will be the final day to vote in the National Election. Please vote using the personalized ballot that was emailed to members on April 7, or contact the National Office at connect@aauw.org to request voting information.



Branch Meeting

May 12 • 7:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

"Gender Bias: Cracking Unconscious Bias"

Half the Sky

May 25 • 6 pm

Carolyn Heiney's Backyard
(Picnic dinner - details will be emailed)

Book Group

June 3 • 1:00 pm

Hill Women

by Cassie Chambers

Marcia Goltermann's Home

Hostess: Carol Rounds

Discussion: Darlene VanMeir

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

March 31, 2021

Moira Murray

Director of Finance

Fund Raiser Fund	\$ 10,650.35
Conferences Fund	2,634.01
General Fund:	<u>7,241.15</u>
Total	\$20,525.51

Used Book Sale 2021?

Could it happen? Yes. We're very close to once again collecting, sorting and selling all the used books we can find.

In order to use Sandburg Middle School, we have to change our usual dates. If the plan goes through, we would begin sorting around June 7th. The sale would start July 8th and end on Sunday July 11th.

Please save these dates and contact Carolyn Heiney - cheiney@att.net, (630-834-1426) if you want to be a part of the planning committee and/or want to be a part of the camaraderie and excitement of our favorite fundraiser.

Half the Sky

Our 2020-21 research into the challenges for women and children in the Northern Triangle of Central America [Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador] has brought us in a full circle back to Chicago. Our study group has been reading about women-lead charities assisting women and children in country and as immigrants.

Our action component has yielded generous contributions to the Chicago based Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants. ICDI member Pat Motto explained the workings of ICDI to our group in the summer of 2020. In 2021 our Half the Sky group chose to team with ICDI to assist immigrants traveling via bus through the Chicago. We have provided over 44 wallets each with \$20 to the ICDI efforts. We have provided over 250 snack bags to give immigrants traveling through Chicago some healthy foods. How much fun it has been to deliver the snack bags to ICDI.

In this time of Covid, we have reached out to connect with those in need. Sometimes connections are physical hugs and handshakes. During this year of Covid, our connections with food and some funds take the place of hugs and handshakes connecting us with others.

In keeping with the idea of coming full circle in our education about immigrants, we are now back in Elmhurst. In April, Mr. Lorenzo Rubio, chair of the World Language Department spoke with us about the immigrant student population at York High School. In the last nine years the Guatemalan population has grown from 3 students to over 60 students. Mr. Rubio spoke about the needs of these students, some coming here with families and some unaccompanied. The demands placed upon these students are so much more than academic. An article in ProPublica helped us understand: <https://www.propublica.org/article/the-stolen-childhood-of-teenage-factory-workers>

Here in Elmhurst many organizations are working together to assist those who struggle. Members of our Half the Sky group are part of the Elmhurst Resource Collaborative. We hope to keep learning and working with them in the near future.

Join us as we meet together in May for further discussion on this topic.

--Betty Laliberte

President's Message - May 2021

This past week, I was able to get my second dose of the Pfizer vaccine – hooray for science! I'm already feeling more optimistic about what the summer might bring, including some in-person gatherings with friends, like our June 12 branch lunch, and perhaps a branch book sale.

The state convention took place via Zoom April 23 and 24, with some excellent presentations:

- Michelle Duster, great-granddaughter of Ida B. Wells – reviewed the highlights of her great-grandmother's life and legacy. I did not realize that Ida had run for Illinois state senate in 1930 – just 10 years after white women received the right to vote. She was a trailblazer and it gives me pause to reflect on the civil rights issues that we are still grappling with over a century later.

- Kimberly Stratton, aerospace engineer working at Caterpillar – what a role model for young girls interested in STEM. It was so uplifting to hear her story and the work she's doing to encourage today's youth to pursue careers in engineering.

- Dr. Gretchen Goldman, Union of Concerned Scientists – reminded us of the challenges that working mothers of young children have faced throughout the pandemic. There is much work to be done to regain ground lost this past year for women, especially women of color. Women's participation in the workforce has not been this low since 1988.

- Gloria Blackwell, AAUW – gave an update on the National organization, including updated Work Smart education efforts, and a pilot program for college women regarding financial literacy, among other initiatives focused on moving women forward. She let us know that there will soon be an updated membership portal on the website, which will replace the outdated Member Services Database that we've been using.

Our branch ranked 8th among Illinois branches last year, donating \$4,285 to AAUW Funds. While that figure is lower than prior years, it's still an accomplishment given we were unable to hold our summer book sale.

A final reminder to vote in the AAUW national election before the May 17 deadline. In the last election (2017), only 12% of Illinois AAUW members voted – which is quite frankly, an embarrassment. Let's do our best to make sure the percentage is higher this time around.

I hope to see you for our next branch program on May 12 at 7 pm via Zoom, during which we'll be exploring Gender Bias with the help of resources from the toolkit on the national website – see details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Respectfully,
Jennifer Jordan, Co-President

June Lunch Meeting • Saturday, June 12, 12 noon

Our final meeting for this year will take place in person at Salt Creek Park, 574 W 2nd St, Elmhurst, IL 60126. We will have box lunches from Rosalia's Deli. The cost is \$15 per person. Lunch includes a choice of one of three sub sandwiches plus cookies and bottled water.

In addition to enjoying everyone's company, we will meet this year's returning scholarship award winners. Included with this newsletter is a flyer about the event. Reservations must be received by June 4. We have reserved the shelter at Salt Creek Park so this event will take place rain or shine. We look forward to seeing everyone. Bring your mask, just in case.

It's Time to Renew Your Membership!

AAUW's membership year runs from July 31 to June 30, and renewals have already begun. As of May 1, 25 branch members have already renewed. Thank you! The remaining 37 regular Branch members with an email address will soon receive another message from our Director of Finance, Moira Murray, with a link to renew their membership for 2021-22. This is by far the quickest and easiest way to renew, for you and for Moira.

Don't lose your link in your inbox - click on it, enter your credit card information, update with any changes in your contact information, and you're done! However, if you prefer, you can fill out the Renewal Form in this newsletter and send it with a check to our P.O. Box.

You'll notice that national dues are increasing by \$3 this year, bringing the total to \$91, of which \$59 is tax-deductible. Our Branch and State dues remain the same.

Special note to 50-year Honorary Life Members: Although you are exempt from paying dues, would you consider making a voluntary contribution to help support Branch activities if you are able?

Half the Sky Tuesday May 25, 2021

A Gathering of Gals!

6:00 pm - the gathering begins

6:30 pm - dinner starts

South of the Border Cuisine

*Carolyn Heiney's backyard
Celebrating the work of 2020-2021.*

And planning for more!

Additional details coming soon.
If you are not on our Half the Sky email list
and want to come, drop a note to
bettylaliberte2007@gmail.com

Open Membership Bylaws Amendment

There are two more weeks left for us to cast our ballots in the National Election. Voting ends on May 17, 2021. One of the important issues on the ballot is the Open Membership Bylaws Amendment which proposes the elimination of the degree requirement for membership.

This is a significant change in the AAUW Bylaws. Your Elmhurst Area Branch Board of Directors is unanimously in favor of approval of the Open Membership Bylaws Amendment and encourages us to vote to approve the amendment.

The following is explanatory and supporting information from the AAUW National website, www.aauw.org/membership.

- The reasons we should drop the education requirement are simply: [1] Because it is the right thing to do; [2] Because it is in keeping with our mission to advance gender equity.

- Simply put, this is about inclusion. AAUW's vision is Equity for All. Our membership practices should align with this vision.

- The educational requirement is counterproductive to recruiting diverse members as well as younger members.

- There are many paths to education beyond colleges and universities. As important as the P-12 and four-year college system is, education comes in many forms, including Career Technical Education, on-the-job training, and similar education routes.

- Those who do not have degrees can be strong advocates for our mission.

- We are an organization that promotes equity, yet we do not treat non-degree individuals as equal. This is simply unacceptable.

- Times have changed. Younger feminists care about our mission but don't join us because they see us as an exclusionary or elitist organization, one that hasn't evolved into modern thinking about equity and inclusion.

- Corporations and foundations prefer to work with and/or fund organizations that adhere to their diversity, inclusion, and equity policies and practices. We lose out on dollars that could help us move forward with our mission and vision which puts a bigger burden on our members to contribute to AAUW.

*Pat O'Dwyer
Director of Bylaws and Policies*

(Mostly) Maternal Health Bills in the Illinois General Assembly This Spring

Menstrual Equity Bills:

- The Homeless Act (HB310) – feminine hygiene products available at all homeless shelters
- School Buildings (HB156) – feminine hygiene products available at no cost in every school building
- SNAP Benefits (HB155) – menstrual hygiene products can be purchased under SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), WIC (Women, Infant, and Children program), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program
- Higher Education (HB641) – menstrual hygiene products available at no cost in each public University and community college

Planning a Pregnancy

- HB135 – Allows for pharmacists to dispense hormonal contraceptives/birth control
- HB3995 – Allows for the establishment and licenses for birth centers (important in rural areas where travel to full hospital services is too far and urban/rural areas facing a shortage/closing of full service hospitals)
- HB 3709 – Allows for infertility coverage for same sex couples; gives the LGBTQ community the same kind of insurance coverage that is given to cross sex couples

Ensuring Equitable Restrooms in Businesses

- HB3195 – Amends the Equitable Restrooms Act and allows for businesses that would like to install unisex bathrooms the ability to do so. It is a may and not a shall.

Protecting the Safety of Abortion Providers

- HB3990 – Amends the Reproductive Health Act to shield the personal information of abortion providers from the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests.

Decriminalizing HIV – removes the stigma/penalties that people living with HIV face for their everyday actions, e.g. being prosecuted for consensual sex, donating blood

SOURCE: Rianne Hawkins, Illinois Planned Parenthood

*Submitted by Jane Jegerski
Public Policy*

2020 AAUW Branch Donation Honoree – Carolyn Heiney

The branch board of directors has unanimously approved Carolyn Heiney as Branch Honoree for 2020.

The Branch Honoree is typically designated at the end of the calendar year, at the same time that a portion of the proceeds from the annual book sale are remitted to the national organization. As we're well aware, 2020 was not a normal year! Though the recognition is a bit delayed, it's certainly no less deserved than in prior years.

Once the book sale was cancelled last summer, Carolyn conceived of the 'Easy No-Work Fundraiser'. Reminding branch members of the different ways in which they might be spending less during the pandemic, Carolyn's fundraising letter encouraged members to donate to either National, our branch, or both. Her efforts resulted in raising \$1,661 for National and \$2,484 for our branch (for both scholarships and regular branch expenses)! As the finishing touch, Carolyn handwrote thank you notes to those who had donated.

Thank you, Carolyn, for stepping in to run this fundraiser when our branch needed you – and congratulations on being the 2020 Branch Honoree!



Linda Fischer and her neighbor Barb Davelis (above) put together 95 snack bags for Half the Sky last month. Nice job, ladies!

June Lunch

Saturday, June 12, 2021
12 noon

Salt Creek Park

574 W 2nd St, Elmhurst, IL 60126

Catered by Rosalia's Deli

\$15 per person



Rain or Shine

Menu

CHOICE OF SUB SANDWICH

ALL COME WITH LETTUCE, TOMATO, & ONION

ITALIAN: Dressing, Mortadella, Salami, Hot Capicola, & Provolone

AMERICAN: Mayo, Ham, Turkey, American Cheese & Pickle

CAPRESE: Tomatoes, Fresh Mozzarella, Basil, Red Pepper, Balsamic Glaze, & Olive Oil

DESSERT:

COOKIE TRAY

BOTTLED WATER

If you do not want water, please bring your own drink.

Please send the portion below the dashes to Sally with your reservation.

I will attend the June lunch and am enclosing a check for \$15 made payable to AAUW Elmhurst Branch.

Name _____

Select One: Italian___ American ___ Caprese___

If you have dietary restrictions, please let us know what they are so they can be accommodated.

Send your reservation with your check to
Sally Schuster
253 N. Ridgeland Ave.
Elmhurst, IL 60126



Reservations are due no later than June 4, 2021.

2021-22 AAUW Membership Form - New and Renewal

Please complete all information.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

E-mail _____

**Please send check (payable to AAUW-Elmhurst) and this form to:
AAUW Finance Director, P.O. Box
243, Elmhurst, IL 60126**

Please check one:

- Regular Member \$91
- Non C/U partner Student Member \$47.81
- Elmhurst College or other C/U partner Student Member \$29
- Life Member \$29 (branch + state fees only)
- Fifty-Year Honor: Fifty-year members are exempt from association, state and branch dues. Please consider a donation.

Membership Dues:

\$ _____

Elmhurst AAUW Donation:

\$ _____

Total Check: Amount

\$ _____

Note: Of the \$62 that we pay to the Association, \$3 goes to support the AAUW Lobby Corps and is not tax deductible. \$59 is payable to AAUW, our 501(c) (3) charitable organization, and is tax deductible.

Please list all degrees: List additional degrees on back.

Undergraduate College/University _____

Degree _____ Field of Study _____ Year received _____

Graduate School _____

Degree _____ Field of Study _____ Year received _____

Interest Inventory

I have skills and interests in these areas. Check all that apply.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> computer/technology | <input type="checkbox"/> publicity/communications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> organization | <input type="checkbox"/> financial/AAUW Funds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> national/local women's issues | <input type="checkbox"/> program planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> membership | <input type="checkbox"/> book sale |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cultural/social activities | <input type="checkbox"/> other (list) _____ |

I would like to participate in a study group about _____.