



Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 83, No. 4 • October 2021

Branch Meeting

Wednesday • October 6 • 7:00 pm

Elmhurst Public Library or Zoom

“Restore Our Democracy”

Restore our Democracy addresses the problem of unlimited political money corrupting our democracy. Ed Spire (Co-leader, Restore our Democracy Project, NWSOFA-Indivisible) explains the problem clearly and discusses the causes and possible solutions, including steps that we can take in our own communities to begin addressing this structural problem in our country. The presentation is non-partisan and brings issues to light which are of concern across the aisle.

Members, watch your email for a Zoom link to the October meeting. We hope to see many of you there. If the COVID situation should improve to the point that it is safe to meet at the Elmhurst Public Library, You will be notified of that.

Guests are always welcome.

Rally for Women’s Rights October 3 at 2 pm in Naperville

A series of marches and rallies are being held across the United States the weekend of October 2-3, 2021 as part of National Mobilization for Reproductive Justice. Click here for details about the event that will be held at the Naperville Riverwalk at the Free Speech Pavilion at 2 on Sunday, October 3rd:

https://act.womensmarch.com/event/oct-2-2021-march/se-arch/?source=plannedparenthood_attend

Membership Directories

You should have received your 2021-22 Yearbook and Membership Directory. Many were hand delivered and a few were mailed. If you have not gotten this year’s directory, please contact Sally Schuster, 630-833-3132 or sally@schuster.me.

Once again, I remind you that the most current information about our branch is on the Website (www.aauwelmhurst.org). Information about this month’s program, the book discussion group, and the many activities of Half the Sky. Watch your email for a Zoom link to the meeting. We hope to see you there.

--Sally Schuster, Directory Editor



Board Meeting

September 29, 2021

7:00 pm

Elmhurst Public Library or Zoom

Branch Meeting

October 6, 2021

7:00 pm

Elmhurst Public Library
“Restore Our Democracy”

Half the Sky Group

October 26, 2021

7:00 pm

Notice will be sent a week ahead
about whether meeting will be
via Zoom or in person

Book Group

October 28, 2021 - 1 pm

The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan

Discussion Leader: Elaine Davison

Meet via Zoom



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

August 31, 2021

Jennifer Jordan
Director of Finance

Fund Raiser Fund	\$ 20,610.50
Conferences Fund	3,564.01
General Fund:	<u>8,186.66</u>
Total	\$32,361.17

Hal the Sky Group

Unbelievably, we are close to completing THREE WELCOME KITS for refugees and immigrants to share with World Relief. THANK YOU TO SO MANY who have helped contribute to the completion of these kits.

We have been asked to hold the kits until the beginning of November. The World Relief warehouses are filled due to one large donation. We will deliver the kits as soon as they can accommodate the boxes.

The Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants (ICDI) is having a fundraiser Brunch at Drury Lane Oakbrook on Sunday mid-morning October 3, 2021. If you are interested in attending please contact Betty Laliberte via email. This past month Half the Sky has contributed shoes, coats, t-shirts and socks.

Another Half the Sky ACTION component is directed locally to the young Guatemalan women who live in the northwest corner of District #205. Each meeting an update is given.

During our meetings, we will focus on the challenges of Afghani women. At the September meeting we discussed SOLA, School of Leadership Afghanistan. <https://www.sola-afghanistan.org/> The week before our October meeting we will send at least one article for the group to read and discuss. --Betty Laliberte



Half the Sky members gather to box up supplies for the Welcome Kits the group is assembling for newly arrived refugee families.

Plan Ahead for January Meeting

The January 5 Branch Program will be a discussion led by the book group. The book: The Women’s March: A novel of the 1913 Woman Suffrage Procession by Jennifer Chiaverini. Since the book has been newly released the library has limited copies. We suggest members read the book at their earliest convenience.

Funds Committee Report

By Tsue Ostermann, Director

September 23, 2021

The AAUW Funds Committee meeting was called by Tsue Ostermann, Director of AAUW Funds Committee, and a virtual meeting was held on Wednesday, September 15, 2021. Everyone on the committee was present.

The committee members are Moira Murray, President; Jennifer Jordan, Director of Finance; Carolyn Heiney, Fundraiser Chair; Jane Klenck, Director of Communications/Publicity; Carol Rounds, a former Director of AAUW Funds, and Suzanne Stock, who was asked to continue on the committee as a person knowledgeable of the university education system.

The Used Book Sale, our primary fundraising activity, raised \$16,849.15 after expenses thanks to Carolyn Heiney's great leadership. Maintaining the 60-40 ratio between national and local, the committee proposes to send \$10,109.49 to national and retain \$6,739.66 for branch scholarships.

Once the \$16,849.15 is deducted from the Fundraiser Account, the balance would be \$4,587.25.

The Conference Account has \$3,564.01 currently. This is an amount much higher than usual, because there have not been any in-person AAUW conferences/conventions to attend due to the pandemic in the last two years. The committee proposes to take \$1,630.17 each out of the Fundraiser Account and the Conference Account so the local scholarship fund would total \$10,000.

The committee further proposes to offer three \$3,000 scholarships to returning students and one \$1,000 scholarship to a Dare-to-Dream Scholarship student.

The balance of the Fundraiser Account would still have enough to start another used book sale, and the Conference Account would have a sufficient balance when in-person conferences resume. We are pleased to offer these larger-than-ever scholarships.

The committee unanimously voted to nominate Jennifer Jordan and Suzanne Stock, the two immediate past co-presidents as grant honorees.

Finally, the committee proposes that a separate committee be formed to study the issue of the 60-40 ratio used in disbursing the proceeds of the fundraiser between national and local. Any recommendation resulting from this committee's work would be presented to this committee and then to the board by the end of the fiscal year.

Welcome New Member: Katie Marsico

Katie Marsico and her husband Carl have lived in Elmhurst since 2008. Actually, Katie grew up in Elmhurst and then returned to raise a family here. They are parents of seven children: Maria – 16, CJ – 15, Thomas – 12, Megan – 9, Abby – 8, Lauren – 6, and Molly – a newborn hoping to come home soon from the NICU.

Katie received her degree in Journalism from Northwestern University. She worked in publishing for several years and has now been working from home since 2006. She has a substitute teaching license and is hoping to use it once the pandemic subsides.

Her personal interests include art which she discovered when she had a stroke from a brain hemorrhage in 2016. She had always been interested in writing but found it difficult after the stroke. What she did find is that she could sketch and found pleasure in it. She also loves reading, especially about history.

Betsy Aldred was the influence on Katie to join AAUW. Katie is on the board of the League of Women Voters as was Betsy. Katie says that Betsy's positive attitude really inspired her.

Abortion Policy and Law Update

AAUW's Senior Director of Public Policy, K. Nielson delivered this statement on abortion on September 2:

AAUW strongly condemns the U.S. Supreme Court's refusal to suspend implementation of a dangerous Texas law that would virtually strip individuals of their well-established, Constitutional right to control their bodies and erode their economic security.

The nation's highest court is enabling a vicious system of vigilante lawsuits that aims to turn citizens against one another in furtherance of the most extreme anti-choice agenda.

This ruling, which bypasses Constitutional review, effectively abolishes a pregnant person's ability to make personal choices. Curtailing reproductive rights is a seismic affront to all Americans and AAUW vows to ferociously fight to ensure quality, affordable, and accessible health care for all.

According to U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky, research shows that 85% of the U.S. supports the individual's decision on abortion; the same source reports that 68% of the U.S. supports the current federal abortion law.

In an attempt to make the right to abortion a legislative law which overrides a Supreme Court decision, Congress has introduced the Women's Health Protection Act of 2021, bill HR 3755 in the House and bill S 1975 in the Senate. HR 3755 was passed in the U.S. House on September 24. It states "To protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue to end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services." The Senate has not passed the WHPA of 2021 yet (it is in the Committee on the Judiciary).

Bottom Line: Support U.S. House bill HR 3755 and U.S. Senate bill S 1975 whenever, wherever, you can. --Jane Jegerski, Public Policy



This gives you an idea of all the things that went into the three Welcome Kits put together by Half the Sky group under auspices of World Relief, everything you need to set up an apartment, from food staples, linens and tableware to vacuums, electric fans and toothbrushes. Well done, ladies!

Born a Crime

by Elizabeth Neill, Diversity and International Affairs

I've recently read *Born a Crime*, the thought-provoking memoir by comedian and *The Daily Show* host Trevor Noah. I find it delightful. Noah is a good prose stylist and certainly knows how to tell a story. But this book is something more: Noah is a man who has considered the role race plays in our lives. Having been born into apartheid as the son of a black mother and a white father, he has reflections to share that may have some relevance to our own considerations of race in this country.

Language is a theme in *Born a Crime*. In his life, Noah has found that differences in how groups speak seem to divide them. Even in his adolescence, he discovered that mastery of different languages gave him entrée to many different groups.

Revealing how important language was in the apartheid system of social control, Noah reports that people were instructed only in specific, state-sanctioned languages. Blacks were discouraged from learning the languages of other tribes, as the white government strove to foster division between black peoples and so discouraged tribal language acquisition, to make it more difficult for Blacks to organize against the government.

Noah points out that our notion of race is an artificial creation, invented for political and economic reasons. The creators of South Africa's apartheid, Noah explains, researched race control around the world, in the U.S., in the Netherlands, and other countries. Apartheid propaganda, he reports, asserted that "colored" (mixed-race) people were above blacks but below whites, and told the "coloreds" that their black blood was holding them back. They created a system that Noah shows became a kind of Orwellian mind control.

Noah tells a very funny childhood story about a time when he was playing doctor with his black cousins. By accident, he injured one of his cousins, who began to cry. His grandmother rushed into the room, took care of his cousin, and then proceeded to give all the children a beating, except Noah. When Noah's mother came home from work, she found her mother shattered. Mom soon heard the whole story and her mother confessed that she could not give Noah a beating because to her, he was white. In a recent interview, Noah confessed that he finds it difficult to confront his own white privilege: acknowledging it is naturally guilt-inducing.

Noah has a fine sense of domestic comedy, and I richly enjoyed Noah's portrait of his mother, a true original. When Noah's mother began working, her mother insisted that all her salary go to supporting her entire family. So, she literally ran away to Johannesburg, sleeping in public toilets until she could find a place to live that she could afford. She enjoyed going out, and met a German-speaking Swiss, Noah's father. After some time she simply announced that she wanted to have a child with him, although because of the apartheid laws, they could not marry.

I'm delighted that Noah's father agreed, because this is a wonderful book.