



# Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 82, No. 3 • October 2020

## BRANCH MEETING

Wednesday, October 14, 7pm

### **Creating a Positive Future after the Pandemic: How Innovation Can Help Businesses Come Out of the Crisis Stronger**

The presenter for our October meeting is Marion Cook who works with many organizations on trends and outlooks. She's updated her "Future of Work" presentation to the current situation we're facing.

This pandemic has tragic human impact. It is considered a "black swan" event. Black swans are very rare and very high impact events and include pandemics and economic recessions. They can change the trajectory of governments, economies, and businesses. Many agree that this one will make the world a different place for all of us, and that includes for businesses.

Once the immediate needs of people and organizations are met, it is important to reflect and prepare for the long-term impacts of this pandemic. This webinar will explore:

- What are black swans and what can history teach us?
- What megatrends make black swans more dangerous than ever?
- What does the current situation mean for our economic structures, institutions, business strategies and priorities?
- What is changing, or could change in the future as a result?
- How does business innovation help create a positive future?

A ZOOM invitation will be emailed to each member about a week before the program. If you are new to ZOOM and need assistance, log in around 6:45 pm. Someone will help you get started.

## **Renewed STEM Momentum**

Thanks to a generous bequest from AAUW member and scientific pioneer Nancy Grace Roman, AAUW is pursuing several important STEM initiatives this fall. Roman, who died in 2018, served as NASA's first chief astronomer and is known as the mother of the Hubble Telescope. We're launching projects to increase STEM participation by women of color and expand opportunities in the physical sciences and engineering. We'll also assess how parents and guardians can influence higher educational choices for girls.



### **Board of Directors**

No meeting in October

### **Branch Meeting**

October 14 • 7:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

*"Creating a Positive Future after  
the Pandemic"*

Marion Cook

### **Half the Sky**

October 27 • 7:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

Discuss Part 1 of *The Book  
of Rosy: A Mother's Story of  
Separation at the Border* by

Rosayra Pablo Cruz and Julie  
Schwletert Collazo

### **Book Group**

October 22 • 1:00 pm

*The Fifth Child* by Doris Lessing  
Hostess and Discussion Leader:

Mary Hallman

Location: tba

**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**

August 31, 2020

Moira Murray

Director of Finance

Fund Raiser Fund	\$ 11,560.35
Conferences Fund	2,634.01
General Fund:	<u>7,759.15</u>
Total	\$21,953.51

# AAUW Statement on the Nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court

Sept. 27, 2020. The following is a statement by AAUW CEO Kimberly Churches:

*When the time is right, it is AAUW's fervent hope that Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg be replaced with a justice who, like her, can be an independent voice and fierce, fair-minded advocate for American women and their families.*

*The time is not right. And Judge Amy Coney Barrett is not that person.*

*With so much at stake, it is more essential than ever that the nominee get a comprehensive and thorough vetting. Given that the election is already underway, with hundreds of thousands of ballots already cast, the timing is insufficient to hold the kind of thoughtful and deliberative hearings that the nominee — and the American people — deserve. AAUW stands staunchly against filling this court vacancy until after the next president is inaugurated in January.*

*We are also adamantly opposed to the selection of Judge Barrett. While we agree that it's essential to choose a woman for this powerful and distinguished role, women are not interchangeable. We need a justice who is committed to safeguarding our rights and advocating for AAUW's priorities with the track record to prove it. Judge Barrett is not the right person for the lifetime appointment. She is on the wrong side of many of the issues that are central to AAUW's mission of advancing gender equity. Her record of curtailing reproductive freedoms and access to health care, entangling public education and religion, and restricting voting rights does not bode well in ensuring that we have the advocate we need on the highest court in our land.*

## Communicating with National

For any branch members who have had difficulty contacting AAUW National during the Pandemic, please note the following information from AAUW.org. AAUW National will not return to in-person work or events until at least 2021. But we're as dedicated as always to advancing equity for all. You can help us serve you better by directing any matters requiring our attention to [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) rather than calling or mailing.

## Help Wanted

Got a few hours to spare? Ready to learn something new while you wait out the winter? Get more involved in AAUW!

We are looking for a volunteer to help Perry Doubt put together the monthly AAUW newsletter. Experience with desktop publishing is helpful but not a requirement - Perry will train you.

We also have vacancies on the Board for College/University Relations and STEM positions.

Contact Suzanne Stock for more information.



## President's Message October 2020

As we mourn the loss of over 200,000 Americans to COVID-19, we also mourn the loss of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, “Notorious RBG”. We are in awe of her lifetime of trailblazing accomplishments. She was relentless in her work toward gender equality and representation everywhere. As she indicated, “women belong in all places where decisions are being made.”

The Elmhurst Area AAUW Branch continues to adapt to our new reality within this COVID – 19 environment. While we have had to cancel or postpone some board and branch events, we are moving forward with what we can do. To date, we have held several ZOOM meetings, including two Happy Hours. Sally Schuster and Kimberly Miller are to be commended for their ability to be open and flexible as they adapt programs to new formats and venues. As we continue to steer through these unparalleled times, we appreciate your patience.

Our September Branch meeting featured Free the Girls. Courtney Skiera-Vaughn, Executive Director of Free the Girls, related how donated bras provide young women caught in sex trafficking with a pathway to financial independence. We are looking forward to the October 14 program, Black Swan: How to Have a Positive Future in a Bad Situation. The presenter is Marion Cook who works with many organizations on trends and outlooks and has adapted her Future of Work presentation to our current situation. A ZOOM link will be shared with members shortly before October 14.

The AAUW National Office has been working hard continuing to fight for the rights of women and girls, focusing on family leave, equal pay, equity in education and stopping sexual harassment. Check out the new National website at <http://www.aauw.org/>.

National AAUW is considering several possible plans for increasing National dues. This was discussed at the September 2 Branch Board meeting. The Board felt an increase at this time is not warranted. Thanks to Pat O’Dwyer who wrote an email to National reflecting this sentiment. A number of individuals, myself included, also sent emails recommending no dues increase at this time.

As you recall, on August 26th we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote. This is an election year so please use your power and VOTE on November 3. If you have not already registered to vote, please do so. If you have, please make sure your information is correct with the Board of Elections. Registered voters should already have received information in the mail about the possibility of voting by mail in lieu of in-person voting at a polling place. As we all are aware, this election is incredibly important! Please VOTE November 3!

Respectfully,

Suzanne Stock, Co-President

## Update from Returning Student Scholarship Winner of 2018

Hello! I am Suzanne Oddo, one of the scholarship recipients of 2018 and I wanted to reach out to let the ladies of the Elmhurst branch of the AAUW know that I have recently graduated from my Master's program for family nurse practitioner!

I wanted to extend a heartfelt thank you and express my gratitude for supporting me at the beginning of my journey to further my education. Going back to school proved more difficult than I first anticipated, but I was able to stick with my program and graduate on time, pass my boards for certification, and just recently, receive my license to practice as a family nurse practitioner in the state of Illinois. Unfortunately, the times we find ourselves in has proved to be a difficult environment to find a new job, and the challenges continue. I remain hopeful that the right opportunity will come along that will allow for growth and life long learning in my new role.

I hope that this update finds you all well, and thank you all again for your support and generosity!

Sincerely - Suzanne

## Working Together

This summer, AAUW's Half the Sky study group had presentations about the plight of refugees in our area. Together with the 6440 Rotary Club of Antioch and the 6450 Rotary Club of Elmhurst we are making a difference!

Our AAUW branch made a connection with Bethany House of Hospitality as well as The Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants. The groups talked about their need for computers. The Antioch Rotary Club has worked with their local school districts who teach high school students how to refurbish computers. The Elmhurst Club bridged the connections.

Through the combined efforts of these three Illinois community groups Bethany House received twelve chromebooks for refugee women needing computers for English language training, GED and junior college courses. ICDI (Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants) was able to give five computers to Nigerians doing medical studies in the Chicago area. These five young men had previously shared one computer for their studies.

The Covid pandemic has made the need for computers to access online classes, online legal hearings and online research a basic need. Working collaboratively with like-minded groups we have been able to assist these young people in their studies.



*Emannuelle*



*Nigerian medical student*



*Bethany House women*



September 20, 2020

To: National AAUW Board of Directors  
Re: Potential Member Dues Increase in July 2021  
From: Branch Board of Directors, AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch [Elmhurst, IL]

This is a response to your email message of August 17, 2020, notifying members that the AAUW Board of Directors will “consider and vote on a change in individual member dues at their upcoming Board meeting on October 15, 2020.” Your message then outlines the options, timeline, and reasons for the dues increase.

The Board of Directors of the Elmhurst Area Branch does not agree with your proposal of an increase in Individual Member Dues.

[1] Our primary and most important reason for opposition to a dues increase is our current, national (and worldwide) COVID-19 pandemic. We believe that if members have funds that they are able to donate, they would best be given to help our neighbors, i.e., local food banks, support for essential workers.

You state that, “in recent years dues have not increased with enough regularity to keep pace with expenses,” and that some members’ services and support might have to be scaled back without an increase. We accept and prefer that decrease of member services and support. The funding of some AAUW services at the national level is best delayed for more important causes at this time.

[2] We believe that the increase in dues will most likely result in a decrease in membership due to members choosing to end their membership rather than pay more. Rather than an increase to the association’s budget, this proposed dues increase may well result in no increase or a decrease in funding.

[3] Our national dues were increased in 2018-19 – just two years ago -- from \$49 to \$59. Please assume responsibility and rethink your use and allocation of these funds rather than increasing our dues again in such a short period of time

Thank you.

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### **Free the Girls Update**

As of September 29, 2020 we have collected 64 gently used bras for FREE THE GIRLS.  
Our goal is 100 bras by December 1, 2020 to honor 100 years of women’s voting rights.

Help us reach this goal.

Drop off bras with Linda Fischer or Betty Laliberte

For more information please view: <https://freethegirls.org/>

## Membership News

We're happy to report that three new members have joined us this fall: Peggy DeYoung, Elizabeth Neill, and Kathy Salzano. We hope you will be able to meet them soon in person or in our virtual meetings this fall. The introductions below will provide some conversation starters and perhaps common interests for you to explore with them. Their contact information has been added to our online directory in the passworded Members section of our website (the password is on page 1 of last year's printed directory). Please join us in welcoming Peggy, Elizabeth and Kathy to AAUW-Elmhurst Area Branch!

*Sarah Caltvedt and Linda Fischer, Membership Co-Vice Presidents*

### Elizabeth Neill

Elizabeth has lived in Elmhurst since 1999. She has degrees in Urban Planning and Library Science and has worked at several libraries in the west suburban area.

Earlier she worked for DuPage Community Development and at the Landmarks Preservation Council, where she developed an interest in historic preservation and architectural history.

When we talked, she told me she had been watching a lot of films during the pandemic, including "Columbus," which is set in Columbus, IN, with its stunning modernist architecture surrounded by a ring of pedestrian small-town development.

Naturally, she's also a reader, particularly enjoying books with quirky Midwestern themes. Elizabeth has had a reading blog, [Bookinbeat.blogspot.com](http://Bookinbeat.blogspot.com), for about 10 years. She also belongs to 2 book clubs and a Toastmasters group. She has two dogs, Sophia, a cocker spaniel, and Sammy, a shih tzu.

What attracted her to AAUW was the annual Used Book Sale, especially after she was able to facilitate a connection between the sale and a teacher in Cicero whose students had no books in their homes. Although she was disappointed (as we all were) that the sale was cancelled this year, she decided to join for the opportunity to get to know a group of like-minded women. Elizabeth has joined several of our Zoom meetings, and we look forward to

seeing her in person as soon as possible.

Welcome, Elizabeth!

### Kathy Salzano

Kathy moved to Elmhurst at the age of 5, when her mother took a teaching position at Elmhurst College. She has also lived in Italy, Spain, Los Angeles...and Villa Park. In fact she met her husband at the border between Spain and France. She was living in Milan during a year of travel and study, and accepted his invitation to visit him in Rome. The rest, as they say, is history.

Kathy's passion is teaching, and she is particularly devoted to her ELL students. She is the specialist and lead teacher for ESL in her school in Chicago Heights.

The path to that position began when she worked as a community service officer in a police department after college and realized that she most enjoyed working with the Hispanic community. That led her to an MA in Spanish and additional graduate work after her year of study in Europe.

She also had her own company, writing and developing curriculum for English speaking children to learn Spanish.

In addition to kids and teaching, Kathy's interests include technology, building on her college minor in computer science. Volleyball is another regular activity, although it's

currently on hold because of the pandemic.

She enjoys music and singing, and she plays the guitar and djembe drum. Kathy is active in her Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and also has an interest in meditation.

When Sarah asked why she joined AAUW, Kathy said it was because we ran into each other while out walking one day in August! Actually she had been interested for some time because of all the good things that AAUW does. Welcome, Kathy!

### Peggy Lewis DeYoung

Peggy's family has lived in Elmhurst for seven generations. Last year she married a man who is also from Elmhurst. In fact, she went to high school with him.

Peggy is the Jackson Elementary School Librarian. She has been at Jackson Elementary for the past ten years. She has also worked at Emerson School.

Peggy received her undergraduate degree in Art History from the University of California, Berkley. She then attended the University of Illinois for a Master's Degree in Library Science and Harvard University for another Master's Degree in Art History.

Our book sale and scholarships drew Peggy's interest to AAUW.

Peggy is an animal lover. She has a cat and two dogs – a Border Collie and an Australian Shepherd – that she loves to walk all over Elmhurst. Welcome, Peggy!