



Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 83, No. 3 • September 2021

Membership Update

We're happy to report that seven new members have joined us in the last couple of months. They are:

Dana Sample
Susan Fullerton
Katie Marsico
Amy Lippert
Sarah Catalano
Mary Ann Santucci
Josephine Mulvihill

We also have two members who have returned after a short hiatus:

Lauren Pittelli
Peggy Babyar

Their contact information will be in the new directory issued to each member soon. Over the next few months we'll be sharing a brief introduction to each of the new members in the newsletter.

In the meantime, please join us in welcoming them to AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch!

--Linda Fischer and Rosemarie Eck
Membership Co-Vice Presidents



Branch Zoom Meeting

September 1, 2021
7:00 pm
"Cocktails & Conversations"

Book Group

September 23 - 1 pm
Memory Keeper's Daughter by Kim Edwards
Discussion Leader: Peggy Fox
Hostess: Carol Rounds

Half the Sky

September 28 - 7 pm
Perry Doubt's Home

Board of Directors

September 29 - 7 pm
Elmhurst Public Library

The September Supper Has Been Cancelled

Instead we are having

Cocktails and Conversation Via Zoom

Wednesday, September 1 • 7 pm

Join AAUW for our kickoff meeting on September 1st at 7:00 pm. COVID is once again making in person meetings uncomfortable so the Board decided to have a Zoom meeting to begin this year. Learn about plans for the upcoming year, including programs. Meet the new members and Board of Directors. Discover the fantastic results of this year's book sale. Feel free to bring something to drink and enjoy this evening of "Cocktails and Conversation" Watch your email for a Zoom link to the meeting. We hope to see you there.



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.

HALF THE SKY

Our Half the Sky planning session in August has given us a direction: We will be studying the current situation of women in Afghanistan this year. Bring a current article to the Sept. 28th meeting at 7:00 pm at Perry Doubt's home. We will send an email the weekend before if in-person gathering needs to be changed to a Zoom meeting.

Our action component will have LOCAL focus this year as we work in conjunction with other organizations: To support new Afghan refugees, we will create a WELCOME KIT working with WORLD RELIEF. Check out this site <https://worldrelief.org/content/uploads/2021/08/Welcome-Kit-Donation-Guide.pdf>. Email Betty Laliberte, bettylaliberte2007@gmail.com to tell her which items you will donate. Be on the lookout for sales. We will see how quickly we can assemble the welcome kit. ALL AAUW members are welcome to join this project.

WE POP UP ELMHURST is providing items for immigrant families in the NW corner of District #205. Go to their Facebook page and learn what items are needed. They are constantly updating their needs list. And the items are going to our neighbors here in Elmhurst.

6,000+ Moms have also been working with our Elmhurst student immigrant population. We are in contact with them to support continuing education possibilities. More on this in future newsletters.

In February Half the Sky has been given a general branch meeting to share some of our research. We will have Pat Motto of the Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants. Not only will you learn about the challenges these immigrants face, but you also will learn how our Chicagoland community of ICDI is supporting them. AND we will end the meeting by creating an assembly line of members to pack "SNACK BAGS" for immigrants on their bus journeys.

What an ACTION PACKED year we have planned for you! If you would like to get email announcements and updates on HALF THE SKY email bettylaliberte2007@gmail.com.

ALL AAUW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME to join a Half the Sky meeting whenever you are free to attend.

Paid Leave & Child Care are Critical Infrastructure!

Today, the percentage of women in the labor force is the lowest it's been 32 years. While job growth began to pick up in 2021, women are not consistently included: job gains are slow to reach women of color, and 1.5 million mothers still had not returned to the workforce as of April 2021. Over half of mothers who left their jobs during the pandemic reportedly did so because their child's school or daycare closed. And those women who are returning to the workforce are predominately looking for work (97%) while most men who are returning are already employed (88%). Take action through AAUW: <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/crisis-recovery-budget/>

NOTE: Bank balances are currently at a high point due to the success of the Used Book Sale this summer. Balances will be reduced as proceeds from the fundraiser are remitted to AAUW National and future scholarship winners, as recommended by the AAUW Funds Committee and approved by branch membership later in the fall.

--Jennifer Jordan, Director of Finance

FINANCIAL REPORT

July 31, 2021

Jennifer Jordan

Director of Finance

Fund Raiser Fund	\$ 21,651.60
Conferences Fund	3,564.01
General Fund:	<u>8,098.66</u>
Total	\$33,314.27



President's Message • September 2021

I love the changes of the seasons. I am looking forward to Fall after this hot summer! I'm sorry we were not able to meet in person for the September dinner meeting, but I hope everyone who joins the virtual meeting will have a good time.

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

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

I hope everyone has become familiar with AAUW's Two Minute Activist tool. It takes just two minutes to make a difference – one minute to read, one minute to act. Join the AAUW Action Network to receive alerts about congressional actions that impact women and families. AAUW locates our members of congress and gets your email or texts in the express lane to the Hill. You can join by going to AAUW.org and tapping the Take Action tab. This tool lets you send emails and texts to our legislators to fight for equal pay, family leave, stopping sexual harassment, equality in education and more.

Respectfully,
Moira Murray, President

2021-22 Yearbook and Membership Directory and Branch Website

The updated Directory is being printed and will be distributed to members. The Board is still working out exactly how we will accomplish that task. The membership list is updated; this year's programs are listed; and the books for the book discussion group are included. Both the Policies and Bylaws have been updated and are included in the booklet. For many of you, this is your go-to guide for our branch.

I would like to encourage all of you to become more familiar with our website (www.aauwelmhurst.org). All of the information included in the yearbook is on the website, but the web is updated as things change. There is an interactive membership list which allows you to directly email any member.

The latest program information is on the homepage of the web along with this month's Book Discussion Group and Half the Sky information. If any special projects are going on, the homepage is the best place to find that information. We are working hard to keep the website as current as possible.

I recommend that you bookmark the website so you can access it easily. I hope you all browse through all the information that is online about our branch and its many activities.

Thanks - *Sally Schuster, Branch Yearbook & Website*

Chicago Advocacy in Action

Cook County's domestic violence court has a long history of mistreating survivors and creating barriers to timely dealing with petitions for emergency protection from abusers.

Early in August, an outcry from advocates prompted Chief Judge Timothy Evans to "announce efforts" to implement a 24/7 court access program but no timeline was given.

A second problem with this branch of the Cook County Circuit Court is one of the current presiding judges, Judge Raul Vega, who has been the target of many complaints. Chief Judge Evans admits that "there may be some misogyny going on (in Judge Vega's court), and we can't tolerate that in the court." Again, no action plan, no timeline, to address this problem, which has been exacerbated by an increase in calls on the state hotline during the pandemic. Chief Judge Evans' office promises to update the public in the coming months.

Illinois Legislation

On August 20, Governor Pritzker signed the new Illinois sex education bill (SB 818) to go into effect immediately. As previously reported in this column, new voluntary standards will emphasize health, safety, and inclusivity with K-12 students learning about concepts like consent and developing self-advocacy skills for effective communication with parents, professionals, other trusted adults, and peers about health and relationships.

At the same time, Pritzker signed HB 24 not reported here previously. This bill requires sex education classes to address sexting and internet safety. This includes information on the real-life consequences of sharing sexually explicit or suggestive content (e.g., identifying bullying or harassment as a result of sexting). The bill also addresses the identification of people who can help students on this issue and the development of strategies to resist peer pressure.

If you need inspiration to keep up the good fight for women's rights, I recommend reading *The Woman They Could Not Silence* by Kate Moore (author of *The Radium Girls*), 2021. It is a non-fiction account of Elizabeth Packard who was put in the Illinois State Hospital (for the insane) in 1860 by her husband though she displayed no symptoms of mental illness. Her impact on public policy (rights of wives, mental illness treatment and laws) still resonates today.

--Jane Jegerski, Public Policy

Dare to Dream Scholarship Winner: Hilary Perez

The Dare to Dream Scholarship is offered by our branch to a Female Hispanic Student who aspires to receive higher education. The applicants are screened by the Dare to Dream Board of Directors.

This year, Hilary Perez of Glendale Heights was selected to be the winner of this \$1,000 scholarship. Hilary graduated from Glenbard East High School and will be attending Elmhurst University starting this fall.

Hilary plans to major in Finance and Spanish with the ultimate goal of finding a position either as a financial analyst or investment banker. We wish Hilary much success in achieving her goal.

--Tsue Ostermann
Director, AAUW Funds



Hilary Perez

Consequences for Women in the New Afghanistan

by Elizabeth Neill, Diversity and International Affairs

Since the fall of Kabul on August 15, 2021, the Taliban now rules Afghanistan. What does this mean for Afghan women?

During the previous period of Taliban rule, 1996-2001, Afghan women were not allowed to go to school, to work, or to hardly leave their homes.

According to "The Critical Questions for Afghanistan," by Adam Nossiter, in the April 14, 2021 New York Times, in areas that fell to the Taliban recently, before the fall of Kabul, the Taliban have forbidden the teaching of social sciences in schools, for which religious subjects have been substituted.

On CNN's "The Situation Room" (August 16, 2021), Clarissa Ward, CNN Chief International Correspondent, reported that a Taliban commander told her, when she asked him if girls could continue to go to school, "...They can continue their education wearing Islamic niqaab." The niqaab is a head dress that covers the hair and face except for a slit for the eyes.

Presenter Wolf Blitzer later asked Ward about the implications for women of Taliban rule. Ward replied, "I asked a Talib today if he would allow women to continue working as journalists, in the same way that I [do] as a television journalist. And he said, 'Provided they wear a full facial covering and gloves, and don't interact with men, they can continue their work.'" Ward went on to say, "This was the same trick that was played before. Yes, girls can go to school. But once they hit puberty, they need to go to a separate school, because there needs to be gender separation. But there are no girl schools. So then we have to wait until they build the girls' schools and so on and so forth. And before you know it, you find a generation of girls and young women who are completely disenfranchised."

A little later in the same broadcast, Blitzer noted that women journalists in Afghanistan were receiving threatening phone calls and visits from the Taliban. He asked CNN Senior International Correspondent Arwa Damon if this explained why people are so desperate to leave Afghanistan. Damon replied, "...So many people do not want to live under Taliban rule. They do not want to subject their children to what it was that they went through."

"...I was talking to this young Afghan woman, a student who I had interviewed at the beginning of COVID, and she was part of this electronics technology group with a bunch of other young female students called 'The Dreamers.' And they were putting together a makeshift ventilator using Toyota car parts.

"And I was messaging her, and I ache for her and for all the other young women who don't know what life is like under the Taliban, who don't necessarily know what is coming. And she just messaged me back one sentence, saying, 'It is very painful.'"

The freedom to work, to go to school, to wear Western dress outside your home, to participate in government, seems to be ending in Afghanistan.