



# Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 82, No. 2 • September 2020

**Wednesday, September 9, 2020**

**7 pm**

## **Free the Girls**

Through training and charity, Free the Girls is taking young women caught in sex trafficking and giving them the means to self-reliance through starting their own businesses. Tracey Jarzombek, Board President, and Courtney Skiera-Vaughn, Executive Director of Free the Girls (<https://freethegirls.org>), tell us how donated bras empower survivors of sex trafficking with a path to freedom. This organization currently works in Maputo, Mozambique; San Salvador, El Salvador; and San Jose, Costa Rica.

Join our first virtual program to learn more about this wonderful organization we've supported over the years. 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.

## **Half the Sky Report**

On August 18, 2020 Half the Sky had a virtual luncheon with young women from Bethany House of Hospitality.

We listened to women from Brazil, Venezuela, Pakistan and Honduras. Each had strong stories to tell.

Bethany House supports young refugee women as they turn 18 years of age and would otherwise be moved to adult detention centers.

Bethany House is looking for computers for the women to use for GED and college coursework. They are also looking for funds to support a therapist to assist these young women. We were honored to have heard their personal stories.

On August 25, 2020, Half the Sky also held an in-person meeting at the Salt Creek Park Shelter, here in Elmhurst, with Patricia Motto, an Elmhurst lawyer who spoke about the Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants in the Chicagoland area.

Financial support for this organization as well as for Bethany House is always welcome. Contact Betty Laliberte for details.



## **Board of Directors**

September 2 • 7:00 pm  
Zoom Meeting

## **Branch Meeting**

September 9 • 7:00 pm  
Zoom Meeting  
"Free the Girls"

## **Half the Sky**

September 22 • 7:00 pm  
Zoom Meeting

## **Book Group**

September 24 • 1:30 pm  
*A Line Becomes a River* by  
Francisco Cantú  
Hostess and Discussion Leader:  
Carol Rounds. Meet in the  
backyard of 436 S Parkside

**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.

## Easy No-Work AAUW Fundraiser Update

Yes, you got the idea. You were up for the challenge!!! Thanks to all of you who have donated to our used book sale substitute, our branch Easy No-Work AAUW Fundraiser. From July 1st through August 9th you have given \$3,770. Amazing! To date we have received the following:

Direct to National	\$ 566
Checks to National	<u>1,095</u>
Total to National	\$1,661
Branch Scholarships	\$1,190
Branch Expenses	<u>919</u>
Total to Branch	\$2,109

Sorry we don't have the breakdown on how many pedicures, haircuts, and dinners out, etc., you sacrificed, but you certainly were generous in your donations!

As you all know, the valuable work of AAUW continues, so if the letter about the fundraiser mysteriously disappeared, and you really want to join the effort, there is still time to contribute. If you plan to donate to National, go to [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) and give by clicking on the red donate button. Have your membership number that appears on your directory handy, so that you and the branch can be recognized. If you want to contribute to the branch or write a check to National follow these directions:

Send your check to our branch please mail to:

AAUW Elmhurst  
PO Box 243,  
Elmhurst, IL 60126

We will forward the funds electronically to National under your name. In this case, please make the check out to AAUW and indicate "Greatest Needs Fund" on the memo line. To make a donation to our branch for local expenses, send a check payable to AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch to the PO Box above and indicate "Branch Scholarships" or "Local Expenses" on the memo line.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Questions? Call Carolyn Heiney 630-834-1426

## FINANCIAL REPORT

July 31, 2020

Moira Murray

Director of Finance

Fund Raiser Fund	\$ 10,900.35
Conferences Fund	2,634.01
General Fund:	<u>7,757.17</u>
Total	\$21,291.53

## New Legal Advocacy Fund Cases

AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund has accepted two new cases into its portfolio. They include:

- Beth Paige, et. al., v. Mark Green, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID): a pay equity case between three senior foreign service officers and USAID, relating to the problems with relying on salary history to establish compensation.

- Glasson v. Google: a pregnancy discrimination case brought by a former Google employee who also claims she was retaliated against.

Did you know that AAUW allocates \$100,000 annually to help fund landmark cases, such as Wal-Mart v. Dukes and Cioca v. Rumsfeld, as well as cases with the potential to set future precedents like Rizo v. Fresno County Office of Education.



## President's Message September 2020

I hope this finds you fully recovered from any tree damage or power outages caused by the derecho storm in mid-August. It only took a day without electricity to remind me that almost every item in our household requires power to function. And I continued to turn on the light switch in every room I entered, even though there was no hope of the light turning on! I was grateful that we had a good supply of batteries on hand, so that I was able to read my book by flashlight at night.

August was an historic month as it marked the 100th anniversary since the 19th amendment was passed – granting women the right to vote. In reality, this meant that primarily white women could vote. Women of other races (Native American, Asian, African-American) would gradually achieve the same right over the years – concluding with remaining black women in 1965 when the Voter Rights Act was passed. Although progress has been made, this year as served as a reminder that we have so much further to go – for women's equality, as well as equality for people who are not white.

Along with others in the Half the Sky group, I participated in a lunchtime Zoom session in August and was privileged to hear stories from young immigrant women living at Bethany House of Hospitality in Hyde Park while they are seeking asylum in the US. It's one thing to read these stories or even see stories like these on a documentary. But hearing them directly from these women, who sacrificed so much to come to our county, was something else entirely. They are courageous and their stories inspiring.

Our branch was given the opportunity in August to present at an Elmhurst Rotary Club meeting. Thank you to Sarah Caltvedt and Betty Laliberte for their willingness to create and give this presentation. Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll find a summary of the presentation, including talking points on AAUW National as well as highlights of our branch's history. Even those of you who are long time members may learn something new!

We had a good turnout for our summer Zoom social calls in July and August with 22 and 15 members participating, respectively. Some of our members were trying Zoom for the first time. Other members were able to join from other states including Wisconsin and California. Due to the pandemic, we'll be conducting our fall programs via Zoom. You can join Zoom from your phone, tablet, laptop or PC. Please let me know if you have questions about Zoom or how to use it. We'll connect you with someone who can help.

I hope to see you on the September 9 Zoom session for what looks to be a great opening session for this programming year on the Free the Girls organization!

Respectfully,

Jennifer Jordan, Co-President

## Ethics Reform Package Unveiled in Springfield

On August 13, sixteen Democratic lawmakers from both the Illinois Senate and House of Representatives stood with The League's Just Democracy Coalition partner Reform for Illinois to unveil nine ethics proposals as part of a legislative package that would start to bring Illinois into line with ethics rules in states across the country. The proposals would make meaningful changes to lobbying, ethics oversight and General Assembly leadership. Moreover, the lawmakers believe the following ethics reform measures could receive bi-partisan support in the upcoming veto session:

1. Prohibit legislator-lobbyists
2. Stop the legislator-lobbyist revolving door
3. Better define who is a lobbyist
4. Fuller disclosure of outside income
5. Establish an official censure process
6. Measures to strengthen the office of Legislative Inspector General
7. End the exemption for General Assembly employees from the Human Rights Act
8. Establish term-limits for Legislative leaders
9. Establish a process for removal of leaders and committee chairs

Legislators who have endorsed the package include the following:

- Illinois Senate: Senators Melinda Bush, Sara Feigenholtz, Laura Fine, Kimberly Lightford, Andy Manar, Iris Martinez and Heather Steans.
- Illinois House of Representatives: Representative Kelly Cassidy, Daniel Didech, Mary Edly-Allen, Robyn Gabel, Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz, Lindsey LaPointe, Bob Morgan, Jonathan "Yoni" Pizer and Delia Ramirez.

Be sure and thank these Senators and Representatives who are already committed to these reforms. If your representatives are not on this list, ask them to add their endorsement to the ethics package: ask them to urge the Joint Commission on Ethics and Lobbying Reform and the General Assembly to turn the nine specific ethics reform proposals into law. Add that we expect broad, bi-partisan support of these laws to show the taxpayers of Illinois its elected officials are serious about reforming our state government.

Background: Governor Pritzker and The General Assembly created the Joint Commission on Ethics and Lobbying Reform in response to ongoing federal investigations involving bribery, influence peddling and insider-trading impacting state government officials and lobbyists. The Commission was charged with holding hearings and issuing a report and recommendations by March 31, 2020. Although hearings began early this year, the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the commission's work and final report.

There is also a focus on ethics within DuPage County. Represent Us DuPage County is joining forces with Citizen Advocacy Center to deliver the webinar, Fight Corruption with Ethics Reform, at the Glen Ellyn Public Library on Thursday, September 24 at 7 p.m. Learn more about why they have proposed six critical reforms to the DuPage County Ethics Ordinance of 2012 as an important first step in fighting corruption, not just in DuPage County but in our state and nation.

Contact me if you have questions or want further information.

*Jane Jegerski, Public Policy*

## 100 Years of Women Voting

The US Capitol Historical Society invites you to attend its 2020 Annual Symposium, 100 Years of Women Voting. Over a series of weekly sessions, distinguished speakers will discuss the impact of women in American Government and public life over the last century. All sessions are free and open to the public but you must register in advance at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/100-years-of-women-voting-2020-symposium-tickets-115522205025>

- September 10 - "Diverse Voices from the Suffrage Movement"
- September 17 - "Women in Leadership"
- September 24 - "Gender and Political Participation"
- October 1 - Closing Keynote - Martha Jones (Society of Black Alumni Presidential Professors)

## A LOOK AT AAUW - ELMHURST AREA BRANCH

- with thanks to Sarah Caltvedt and Pat O'Dwyer

AAUW, the American Association of University Women, was started in 1881 by a group of women college graduates who wanted to improve educational and employment opportunities for women. In fact, the first piece of research they issued was entitled Health Statistics of Women College Graduates, which countered a widely held belief that women's health and fertility was adversely affected by attending college.

AAUW has become a strong voice for women. It provides scholarships, study and project grants, research reports on the status of women, funding for plaintiffs in employment discrimination lawsuits and - through our AAUW Action Fund - advocacy for legislation that promotes equality in education and employment.

Here are a few fun tidbits from the National Organization:

- AAUW paid for Marie Curie's first supply of radium for her research.
- Rachel Carson's research for Silent Spring was funded in part by a grant from AAUW.
- An AAUW member, U.S. Representative Chase Goodnow Woodhouse (D-CT), introduced the first proposed federal equal pay legislation — The Equal Pay Act of 1945. AAUW has fought for every subsequent piece of legislation calling for pay equity, right up to the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 and beyond.
- AAUW is currently focusing primarily on pay equity and is making salary negotiation training available to women everywhere at no cost.

Our Elmhurst branch was founded in 1938, so we celebrated our 80th anniversary not too long ago. People in Elmhurst know us for our annual Used Book Sale, but we've been involved in the community from the very beginning, donating to local organizations like the library and providing scholarships. Here are some interesting facts about AAUW Elmhurst:

- AAUW ran a Children's Exchange Shop during World War II to help parents deal with shortages of clothing and equipment for children.
- The Branch's Community Recreation Study in 1948 led to the founding of the Elmhurst YMCA.
- Our book sale began in 1959 - 61 years ago!
- In 1959, the branch founded the Buttons and Bows Cooperative Nursery School to meet the need for pre-school education in Elmhurst,
- Building on research and information learned in the Branch study group, This Beleaguered Earth, members advocated for a recycling program in Elmhurst. Once established, members actively publicized it in the community, encouraged its use and provided volunteer staff.
- In 1974, 3 branch members, Mary Eleanor Wall, Jane Spigel, and Elaine Libowicz, were elected to the County Board, and several members have served in governmental positions - especially Elaine, who probably holds the record for the number of political roles she's had.
- Recently our Branch received a project grant from AAUW to develop the Dare to Dream: Get Educated program which brings 8th grade Latinas and their mothers together for a day-long conference that encourages them to complete their education and work towards a meaningful career. That program began in 2009 and continues today, but according to plan, it has been turned over to an all-Latina board.

AAUW-Elmhurst has been involved in a lot of different community activities. Our annual Used Book Sale has probably had our biggest continuing impact on the community. As we like to say, it's a great win-win-win program. People get to donate their used books instead of throwing them out; other people - or actually many of the same people - get to buy a new supply of books at a very low price; and the money we raise (in the range of \$12,000-\$14,000 in recent years) goes to fund AAUW's national programs and local scholarships. Some numbers to crunch about our AAUW Elmhurst Branch:

- We currently have about 72 members, 10 of whom are 50+ year Life Members!
- Our annual dues are \$88, of which only \$19 goes to the Branch to fund our programs and administrative costs. AAUW-Illinois gets \$10, and \$59 goes to AAUW national. All but \$3 of that is tax-deductible, since AAUW is a 501(c)3 organization - the \$3 goes to the AAUW Action Fund for lobbying activities.
- The Book Sale fund is completely separate.

In addition to our monthly meetings, we always have a few study groups. Our current study groups are the monthly Book Discussion and Half the Sky.



# Book Sales Remembered 2016-2019



*Clockwise from top:*  
 2016  
 2019, 2019  
 2018, 2017

