



Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 84, No. 1 • July 2022

Membership Renewal Deadline

Thanks to everyone who has already renewed their membership dues for the upcoming program year!

AAUW national has completed their work on the Community Hub website, so dues can be renewed online. With the new website, the renewal process will be different than in prior years. If you have not yet set up a new log in on the website, you'll need to do that as part of this process.

If you would prefer to renew your dues and pay by check, please find a renewal form at the back of the newsletter that can be mailed to: AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch, PO Box 243, Elmhurst, IL 60126.

However you decide to renew your dues, please be aware that of the \$96 total, \$83 is tax-deductible (\$64 from national + \$19 from branch).

Half the Sky

You are invited to help us with Half the Sky's action component this summer.

FREE THE GIRLS (<https://freethegirls.org>) collects gently used bras. The organization works with women who have been trafficked.

The bras become the basis of a new life in which the women set up their own businesses, selling the bras to other women.

If you have "almost new" bras that you are not using, please bring them to the book sorting. We will collect the bras and take them to the Treasure House in Glen Ellyn where they will be sent to the organization.

We hope you can help. Call Betty Laliberte 630 832 9010 if you have questions Please leave a message (I'm always losing my phone).



Get Ready for the 2022 Used Book Sale

It's coming! Sort Sessions for the 2022 Used Book Sale start Monday, July 11 and run through August 3rd. The Book Sale dates are August 4-7.

Thanks to all the branch members who turned out for the Memorial Day Parade in Elmhurst. Some carried the banner while others passed out handbills advertising the Book Sale. Great job, ladies!

See page 3 for further information on the Book Sale. 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.

FINANCIAL REPORT

May 31, 2021

Jennifer Jordan

Director of Finance

Fund Raiser Fund	\$ 2,750.52
Conferences Fund	1,681.75
General Fund:	<u>8,758.98</u>
Total	\$13,191.25

EDI Report

By Elizabeth Neill

The first meeting of the AAUW Elmhurst Branch EDI Equality, Diversity & Inclusion) group was held on June 25th and included nine participants led by Elizabeth Neill. Our discussion centered on *Stories of Race in Elmhurst*.

Jan Alexander and Soon Har Tan, members of the Backyard Caucus who are featured in the book, provided not only personal experiences but suggestions for ways to support all community members.

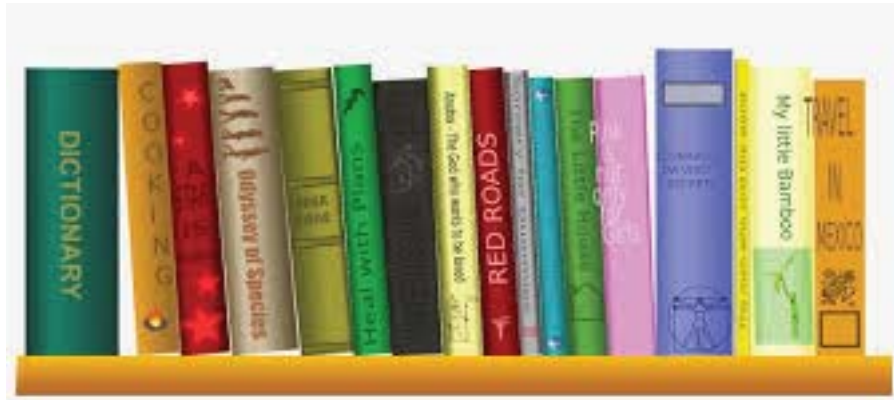
NEXT MEETING Saturday, September 17, 2022. 2 pm, in the Elmhurst Public Library’s Gathering Room.

Mary Eleanor Wall Memorial Service

The celebration of life for Mary Eleanor Wall (long time Elmhurst branch member and former AAUW State of IL president) will be held on Saturday, Oct. 1 at First United Methodist Church of Elmhurst (232 S. York St.). Food and fellowship will follow the service. All are invited. A time for the service has not been set. We will update you further once we receive that information.



2022 Illinois AAUW State Convention. Moira Murray and other Illinois AAUW members at the 97th AAUW Illinois Convention held in Lisle, IL on May 6th and 7th



Used Book Sale 2022 It's Time to Sort

Finally, it's here! From Monday, July 11, through Saturday, July 30, branch members will be sorting book donations from 9 to noon at Sandburg Middle School. You can come for twenty minutes or three hours, whatever your schedule allows. Those first days will be busy, because we will be working on books that have been stored in garages.

Our sale is always ranked highly, because of our detailed categories. To continue this reputation, we really need our members to assist us in the sorting process. Think about it this way. Where else can you get a workout, talk to friends, and feel that you have made a contribution to better the world. After all, we reuse and recycle by keeping books out of landfills. We provide books at very reasonable prices to the community, and then, of course, we celebrate all the good we do with our profits.

So come, bring a friend. If they enjoy their time with us, they might even want to join the branch. What better time to become a member than our half-price Shape the Future membership deal that we will offer at our book sale!!

Spread the Word about the Book Sale

Attached you will find one of our leaflets to advertise the sale. Leaflets are being posted in stores, restaurants, and public places in and around Elmhurst. Feel free to make a copy or two and take them with you to give to your friends or post at your favorite business. Feel free to tell your Facebook friends about our sale too. Refer questions to our web site or Carolyn Heiney 630-674-1426.

Remember: Bring paper grocery bags and boxes when you come to sort.



WE WON'T BACK DOWN

Last week's Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*—and reverse nearly half a century of legal precedent—was shocking in its disregard for women's health, privacy and reproductive rights. I hope you're giving yourself grace to process this setback in our work towards equity.

I use the word "setback" not to minimize the blow, which is enormous, but to indicate that we're in this fight for the long haul. Reproductive freedom has been an AAUW policy principle since 1977, and that's not changing anytime soon.

We must work together in the days ahead to:

Demand that state legislators preserve reproductive rights.
Support the Women's Health Protection Act, which would provide federal protections to reproductive health services.

Make our voices heard as individuals and communities.
And, because we could all use a reminder of the power we have to effect change, I invite you to peruse our tribute page on the 50th anniversary of Title IX. AAUW contributed significantly to this foundational law for decades before and after its passage, transforming the lives of millions of women and girls.

Remember, our work is a marathon, not a sprint, and we fully intend to go the distance.

Sincerely,

GLORIA L. BLACKWELL
Chief Executive Officer
AAUW National



June has been a remarkably interesting DEI month. Our inaugural AAUW DEI Study Group Meeting on Saturday, June 25th, attracted seven attendees. Jan Alexander and Soon Har Tan are members of the Backyard Caucus who both contributed essays to the *Stories of Race in Elmhurst*, and shared firsthand experiences and suggestions for ways to support all community members. The conversation illuminated aspects of life in Elmhurst. As an action component of the meeting there was a suggestion to work with other like-minded groups in the future.

NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY Sept 17, 2022, 2 p.m., in the Library's Gathering Room, when the conversation will continue, with Betty Laliberte facilitating.

Earlier in June, I'd attended a church picnic at Lombard UCC celebrating Unity Day with folks from the Anti-Racism Group at First United Methodist Church. There I met representatives of four groups involved in anti-racism work: Illinois Citizens for Race Amity, onecommunity, Coffee Break for Social Justice, and Pizza and Social Justice.

While I was at the picnic, I learned from a onecommunity member at lunch that their organization organized an after-school program at Glenbard East where students could talk about their police experiences with local police chiefs. All these organizations have a Facebook page; if you're on Facebook, I encourage you to like those pages.

Last Monday, I attended an "Around the Table" conversation event at the Elmhurst Public Library held in conjunction with the Elmhurst Pride Collective. Two transgender youth spoke during the program, a lesbian spoke about her experience living in Elmhurst, and the mother of a transgender child talked about her experience with the Elmhurst schools.

The two transgender teens are both working as peer counselors at an organization called Youth Outlook which provides drop-in centers for LGBTQ+ teens. The single thing that sticks with me most about what they had to say is that they are called names every time they walk down the hall at school, and teachers do nothing. This was my own experience at York when I objected to my friend being attacked for her ethnicity; my teacher said that there was nothing that could be done.

At Monday's meeting, one of the speakers was asked what all of us can do to be better allies. The mother of a child in Elmhurst schools said, "Stand up and speak out (respectfully)." She suggested that we support inclusive curriculum and support SEL (social-emotional learning.)

At our meeting on the 25th, Jan Alexander shared that there are many churches and other groups around Elmhurst that have read or are reading *Stories of Race in Elmhurst*. I'm heartened to learn that there are others who are concerned by these issues and are working in this space.

Eldridge Cleaver said, "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem." Get involved! Why not join us September 17 at 2 p.m., in the Gathering Room at the Elmhurst Public Library, as we continue to educate ourselves about these issues?

--Elizabeth Neill, DEI Study Group

Action Plan: Illinois School Project

Feeling overwhelmed from the news lately? Illinois AAUW strongly recommends targeting LOCAL politics, namely School Boards. As NPR (Danielle Kurtzleben, May 2022) blandly puts it: “There has been an undeniable groundswell of conservative enthusiasm around school politics in the last few years around national issues like race, LGBTQ issues, and COVID.” The Washington Post noted in 2017 that “Dark Money just keeps on coming in school board races.” NPR (May 2022) specifically names the Leadership Institute (“which is the Koch Brothers-funded nonprofit that does conservative training for operatives and activists”) as providing tons of spending on training for running for school boards.

I attended Zoom training on Illinois AAUW’s approach for preventing or dealing with right-wing anger that interferes with the normal, nonpartisan functioning of school boards. Paula Purdue, IL AAUW Public Policy, has had experience with working with school boards with extreme conservatives. Paula started the training by presenting the AAUW values/issues regarding schools and their curricula:

1. Sex education is to be healthy and age-appropriate. For example, schools cannot teach abstinence only or K children putting on condoms correctly. If a school teaches sex education, it needs to include “good touch, bad touch” for young children.
2. Children are able to get help through crises.
3. All sexual orientations are accepted.
4. Librarians should be certified school librarians which means they use professional guidelines for appropriate books; they do not forbid books that may be personally offensive.
5. Children learn ACTUAL U.S. history.

For chapter members interested in working with the IL School Board Project plan as outlined by Paula Purdue:

1. Attend school board meetings and get connected with school board members. Call your group the “School Board Communication Committee.”
2. Learn the positions of school board members on the AAUW issues above.
3. Try to get 2-3 AAUW (or others on “our page”) members for each school board member, meet once a month (Practical for our chapter?)
4. Get in touch with the Superintendent and let she/he know that we will be connecting school board members in our district.
5. Meet with school (your small group of 2-3 members) to get to know school board member. Can we support this board member? Should we look for a new candidate to support? (Again practical?)

Are there any AAUW Elmhurst members who attend/have attended Elmhurst District 205 meetings? Who know how our School Board currently works? If our branch does not know what’s happening with our School Board, I am willing to start attending some meetings in September to start seeing if we should be concerned.

Meetings are the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. IL AAUW is very concerned that this is where actions counter to AAUW values are happening. Note: Elmhurst District 205 posts videos to stream of their meetings so they get kudos for transparency. Second note: I have not viewed any of the videos yet.

Jane Jegerski
Public Policy

AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch NFP Membership Form New and Renewing Members

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
PO Box 243, Elmhurst, IL 60126**

Please check one:

Regular Member \$96

Life Member \$29 (branch + state fees only)

Fifty-Year Honorary: Fifty-year members are exempt
from association, state and branch dues.

Membership Dues: \$ _____

Elmhurst AAUW Donation: \$ _____

Total Check Amount: \$ _____

Note: Of the \$67 that we pay to National AAUW, \$3 goes to support the AAUW Lobby corps and is not tax deductible. \$64 is payable to AAUW, our 501(c) (3) charitable organization, and is tax deductible, as well as the \$19 for branch dues for a total of \$83 which is tax deductible.

Please list all degrees (for new members or members with new information): List additional degrees on back.

Undergraduate College/University _____

Degree _____ Field of Study _____ Year received _____

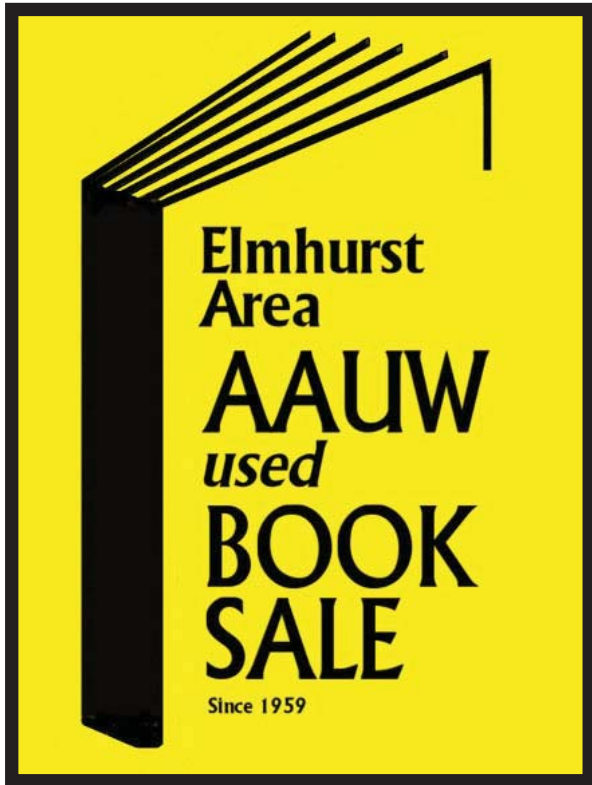
Graduate School _____

Degree _____ Field of Study _____ Year received _____

TO RENEW ONLINE

my.aauw.org

Log into your Personal Snapshot. Click the blue RENEW button at the bottom and follow the prompts. If you need help, email connect@aauw.org or call 202-785-7782 weekdays 10 am – 5 pm ET.



August 4-7, 2022

**SANDBURG
MIDDLE SCHOOL**
345 E. St.Charles Rd • Elmhurst, IL

Giant Used Book Sale



Great sale! Thousands of books organized into over 30 categories.
CDs and DVDs also available.
Collectors books. Large children's area.

Location: North side of St.Charles Road, between Poplar and Fair Avenues.

AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization. Proceeds from the sale of books are used to benefit local scholarships and national AAUW research and programs for women.

Collection Locations for Donations

July 9 - August 1

- Sandburg Middle School (preferred)
Monday to Saturday (9 am to 12 noon)
- Elmhurst Public Library (125 S. Prospect)
- Park District Courts Plus (186 S. West Avenue)

SALE DATES

Thursday • August 4
Preview Sale
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
\$10 Entrance Fee

Friday • August 5
9:00 am - 8:00 pm
Free Admission

Saturday • August 6
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Free Admission

Sunday • August 7
11:00 am - 3:00 pm
\$10 Bag Sale
Free Admission

Cash or Checks ONLY

*Contact for details:
info@aauwelmhurst.org
Phone (630) 834-1426*