



Elmhurst Area Branch News

Volume 84, No. 4 • October 2022

Stories of Race in Elmhurst

October 5, 2022, at 7:00 PM

Elmhurst Public Library - Kossman Room

The **Backyard Caucus, Inc.** (BYC) of Elmhurst, Illinois is comprised of a diverse group of Elmhurst community residents, mostly parents, dedicated to doing something about systemic racism.

“BYC’s mission is to establish itself as a voice for diversity, inclusion and equity; to educate, inform, and advocate for diversity, inclusion, and equity; and to engage for institutional change toward diversity, inclusion, and equity.”

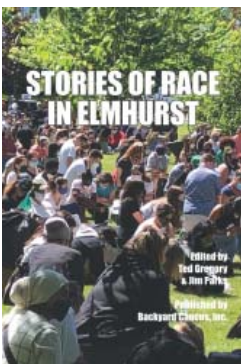
I have read the book, *Stories of Race in Elmhurst*, a product of the BYC. It consists of a collection of short personal stories about experiences with race. The authors represent Asian, Black, Latinx and White perspectives.

On October 5, the Elmhurst Area Branch is most fortunate to have several authors of this book, including Co-founders **Jan Alexander** and **Margaret Harrell**, discuss how the group (BYC) organized, what has been accomplished over the last two years and what the future holds.

Many of you have also read this book and in some cases have discussed it at various book club meetings. Please invite your friends, fellow book club members, family members and neighbors to join us for this enlightening and eye-opening program. As you know, guests are always welcome to our programs.

Copies of the book, *Stories of Race in Elmhurst*, will be available for purchase and signing at the meeting.

Suzanne J. Stock
Co-Director, Programs



OCTOBER 2022

Branch Meeting

October 5 - 7:00 pm
Stories of Race in Elmhurst
Jan Alexander & Margaret Harrell
Elmhurst Public Library
Kossman Room

AAUW-Illinois

October 8, 2022 - 12 noon
Abortion and Full Reproductive Rights National Day of Action
Federal Plaza - Chicago

Half the Sky

October 22 - 9:30 am
Dean’s Beans Coffee Tasting and discussion about fair trade movement
Carol Rounds’ house. Must reserve by October 15 with Betty Laliberte

Book Group

October 27 - 1:00 pm
Every Day Is A Gift
by Tammy Duckworth
Discussion Leader: Elaine Davison
Hostess: Elaine Davison



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

Fundraiser Fund	\$22,736.28
Conferences Fund	2,611.75
General Fund:	<u>8,592.15</u>
Total	\$33,940.18

United Against Banned Books

The following note from the American Library Association was passed along to us by AAUW-IL. Hope you'll consider adding your support to this effort.. --Jane Jegerski, Public Policy

Hello, friends. It's Banned Books Week this week, and you probably know how much higher the stakes have become in the past year as we fight censorship and support everyone's freedom to read what they choose and access the information they want and need.

Here's my colleague Deborah Caldwell-Stone and the author of frequently banned All Boys Aren't Blue by George M. Johnson on the Daily Show podcast talking about what's going on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2iiyU-z5E4>

Please stand with us in the work we're doing at the American Library Association by signing up for the Unite Against Book Bans campaign and staying informed about what's happening to libraries and library workers in the book banning and censorship arenas. Your support and your voice mean a lot! <https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/>

Thanks for considering adding your name and sharing this with others.

Half the Sky Report

Our Half the Sky Group studies women's issues around the world and works locally. September activities included the following:

- 75 items of boys' clothing [ages 6-16] were collected and delivered to ICDI, the Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants. These items are going immediately to the immigrants who have arrived in Chicago from Texas and Florida. Thank you! The need is great.

- 153 snack bags were made and delivered to ICDI for immigrants coming into Chicago.

- 9 more bras were donated to FREE THE GIRLS. This is an ongoing project. If you, family, friends have gently used bras or find a great sale on new bras, we will continue to collect them and bring them to TREASURE HOUSE in Glen Ellyn.

Our next meeting is on Saturday, October 22, 2022 at 9:30am at Carol Rounds house. Dean's Beans coffee tasting and discussion about fair trade movement and various women supported companies will be featured. Please RSVP by Oct 15, 2022 so we can prepare: bettylaliberte2007@gmail.com

--Betty Lalliberte

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I recently attended my 50th College Reunion at Dominican University in River Forest (formerly Rosary College). I met the new President and many of the current Deans. During one of the get together's I asked if Dominican was a member of AAUW, since it seemed to be a perfect fit for a number of demographics. They didn't know, but seemed interested in possibly joining when I mentioned some of the benefits. I wanted to be able to send them something to reinforce this option, but could not find anything that could be "sent" online on either AAUW's National or Illinois Website.

I contacted Ruth Holst (Director for AAUW Illinois College/University Relations) who I met at the Illinois Convention in Lisle in early May. She said she will be putting together a document that would highlight the benefits of joining AAUW for a College or University. It is now on the Illinois website and it is attached in this newsletter. I was surprised to learn that there are only 15 Colleges/University (C/U) AAUW Members in Illinois. Those are:

Augustana College - Rock Island
Blessing-Reiman College of Nursing - Quincy
Bradley College - Peoria
College of Lake County - Grayslake
Elmhurst University - Elmhurst
Governors State University - University Park
Illinois College - Jacksonville
Illinois Wesleyan University - Bloomington

Millikin University - Decatur
Monmouth College - Monmouth
Moraine Valley Community College - Palos Hills
North Central College - Naperville
Northwestern University - Evanston
Rockford University - Rockford
University of Illinois - Urbana Champaign

If you happen to be visiting a College or University which is not a member of AAUW for any reason and have the opportunity to meet with anyone from "management" please consider discussing AAUW with them and send them a copy of these benefits of membership.

Thank You
Moira Murray

Revisions/Amendments to Branch By-Laws

Pat O'Dwyer, Director of Bylaws and Policies

As you may recall, several revisions were made to our Elmhurst Area Branch Policies In February, March and July of this year. Those revisions were approved by the Board of Directors and were published to all members in the branch Newsletter. The fully revised Statement of Branch Policies is published in our new 2022-2023 Yearbook and Membership Directory. Also published in our Yearbook/Directory are the Bylaws of AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch, NFP.

Recently, Branch President, Moira Murray, and I reviewed and discussed our Branch Bylaws and have drafted proposed revisions to them. These are relatively small revisions which support the recent changes to the Policies or which clarify specific details of our branch leadership, organization, and processes. We submitted the Proposed Revisions/Amendments to the Board of Directors who approved sending them to the membership for their approval.

Our current Bylaws state that Bylaws "may be amended at a Branch meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting provided written notice shall have been sent to the members at least 21 days prior to the meeting." I will send that written notice to all of you on Monday, October 10. Please plan on reading and considering the Proposed Revisions/Amendments in preparation for voting at the November 2 Branch Business Meeting. Thank you for your consideration and participation in our Branch administration and leadership.

SEPTEMBER SUPPER - 2022
AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch



AAUW FUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Judy Ekblad, Director

September 30, 2022

Judy Ekblad, Director of AAUW Funds, called two virtual meetings of the AAUW Funds Committee on Thursdays, September 22 and 29. The committee members present were Moira Murray, President; Jennifer Jordan, Director of Finance and Fundraiser Chair; Carolyn Heiney, Fundraiser Chair; Tsue Ostermann, former Director of AAUW Funds; and Suzanne Stock, who was asked to serve on the committee as a person knowledgeable of the university education system. Jane Klenck, Director of Communications/Publicity was absent.

Our Used Book Sale raised \$18,800.45 after expenses due to the excellent leadership of our Fundraiser Chairs and many dedicated branch members who contributed their time and effort to our very successful sale. Using the 50-50 ratio between national and local that was approved last year by branch members, there is \$9,400.23 to send to national and \$9,400.23 to retain for branch scholarships.

Once the \$18,800.45 is deducted from the Fundraiser Account, the balance would be \$3,212.08. This is sufficient for book sale 2023 start up.

The Conference Account has \$2,611.75 currently. The committee proposes to take \$1200 from the Conference account to have \$20,000 for national and local scholarships. The \$1400 remaining in the Conference Account is adequate as some of the conferences are now virtual, and there will not be a National Convention.

Using the additional funds from the Conference Account, the Funds Committee proposes that \$10,000 be sent to national and \$10,000 to be used for local scholarships. Our donation to national would be \$5,000 to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund, \$2,500 to the Education and Training Fund, and \$2500 to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders Scholarships.

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. It is exciting to be able to offer these substantial scholarships.

The recommendation for the allocation of our funds will be presented at the October branch meeting. The branch will vote to approve for the final distribution of funds at the November business meeting. If you have any questions, please contact one of the Funds Committee members.



DEI STUDY GROUP REPORT

By Elizabeth Neill

On October 5, our monthly Branch meeting will feature Jan Alexander and Margaret Harrell talking about the Elmhurst Backyard Caucus, and the book published two years ago, *Stories of Race in Elmhurst*. These issues are important for Elmhurst AAUW, and I encourage everyone to attend.

The DEI Study Group will not meet in October, but we will read, along with the Half the Sky Study Group, *American Like Me*, the Elmhurst Public Library's One Book, One Elmhurst selection for this year. *American Like Me: Reflections on Living Between Cultures* is a collection of essays by immigrants, edited by Latina actress America Ferrara.

In November, DEI Study Group members will attend the discussion group at the Elmhurst History Museum on Tuesday, November 29th, at 7pm. Register by calling the Library (630-279-8696) or the History Museum (630-833-1457). You can place the book on hold to pick up when you register; or you can buy it for \$12 on Amazon. If you cannot attend on November 29th, you have the option to attend the discussion being held at the Library on Thursday, Nov. 17, from 1-2:15 p.m., in person in the Gathering Room, and also on Zoom.

When I read *Stories of Race in Elmhurst*, I was struck by "Speak Up," by Wayne Alexander, who's lived in Elmhurst since 1958. He concludes his essay, "You must speak up when you hear or see injustice from the mouth of a friend, relative or acquaintance."

I was saddened when I read the essay by Allison Alexander, in which she says, ". . . Diversity is so important for children. . . I can only imagine that if I had had that type of representation in Elmhurst, I would have felt a lot less pain growing up."

I was angry but not surprised when I read Terry Harrell's essay in which he recounted experiencing housing discrimination and police harassment in Elmhurst.

Dick Reed's "Deciding to Change," was the single most important essay in the book for me. After George Floyd was killed, he decided to attend a meeting of the Elmhurst Backyard Caucus. He decided that while he was concerned about racism, Backyard Caucus was not something that interested him.

But his wife persuaded him to read Layla Saad's *White Supremacy and Me*, and he realized that he had white supremacy issues that he'd never had to confront because he'd led such a sheltered life. He wrote: "I have resolved to be more conscious of my own issues with racism and to consciously think of each person of color—and everyone I meet—as an individual where skin color is one superficial feature among many physical attributes."

This is tough but necessary work, and I hope that, as a branch, we can "walk the walk" of anti-racism together.

AAUW College and University Membership

Accredited institutions of higher learning can join AAUW for annual dues of \$175, which includes personal membership for two representatives from the member institution. When you join AAUW, you become part of a global community of 170,000 AAUW members and supporters as well as more than 800 college/university member schools and nearly 1,000 AAUW branches. For more information, visit [colleges and universities](#) on the AAUW website. Here are some highlights:

Access research and educational funding:

- AAUW [fellowships and grants](#) that provide funding (more than \$5 million for the 2022-2023 fiscal year) for research projects or degree programs.
- [Local scholarships](#) to undergraduate and graduate women through AAUW branches.
- Regional and national scholarships to attend the [National Conference for College Women Student Leaders](#) (NCCWSL).

Benefits and Leadership opportunities for Campus Professionals:

- Enjoy the same benefits as personal members when you serve as one of the two college/university (C/U) representatives for your school, including access to AAUW's research publications.
- Serve as a panelist for [AAUW's fellow and grantee selection](#) or on a national AAUW committee or become a facilitator for our [Work Smart](#) salary-negotiation program.
- Submit a workshop proposal for the nation's premiere conference for student leaders — [the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders](#) (NCCWSL) — and attend sessions designed for campus professionals.
- Bring an [AAUW Start Smart](#) salary negotiation workshop to your campus to teach college women about negotiating salaries and benefits in their first jobs.
- Join your [local AAUW branch](#).

Leadership and networking opportunities for Students:

- Free AAUW membership for undergraduate/graduate students attending AAUW member schools.
- Attend the annual [National Conference for College Women Student Leaders](#) (NCCWSL) conference that empowers women leaders from across the globe.
- Become part of AAUW's [Equity Network](#), a community of students and young professionals committed to gender equity and allyship.
- Access to AAUW's Career Center, including salary negotiation workshops and career development webinars.