



NEWSLETTER - August 2024 (Volume 86, Issue 1)

BOOK SALE AN INCREDIBLE SUCCESS

The AAUW Used Book Sale was an incredible success thanks to the efforts of our wonderful members! We could not have raised the money for our scholarships without the energy, enthusiasm, and yes -- sweat -- that was expended in support of this year's sale.

We were all happy to be back at Sandburg with its premier location, its open space, and all the facilities and staff that helped us sort through thousands of books and attract more people into our sale. Several new members joined our committee to help with publicity, and it truly paid off in greater outreach and more traffic at the sale. Despite having what seemed like less books than in some previous years, we had great sales -- and still many wonderful books were left to donate to hospitals and children's charities in addition to those sent to our reseller/partner this year, Better World Books.

We can't call out every individual, because 53 members and invited friends volunteered their time to sort books, hang up signs, set up the space, take down the space, pack books, and deliver leftovers to recyclers and other charities! So many organizations would be thrilled with a much smaller number being dedicated to this task -- and the amazing thing is, not all are scheduled. People just show up to help. It is a testament to the wonderful women who make being an AAUW member a priority.

We are still in the process of finalizing the financials. We know that we came very close to matching our best year (in 2022) by grossing over \$22,300 at this year's sale. We also know that our expenses will be higher this year as District 205 had a fee increase, and we spent additional funds advertising the sale, which we believe resulted in increased sales.

Our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you.

--Carolyn Heiney, Jennifer Jordan and Renee Oshinski

Thanks again to all our Volunteers!





Branch Calendar

August 28 - 7 pm
Board Meeting
Elmhurst Public Library & Zoom

September 4 - 6 pm
AAUW Progressive Dinner
Details to follow

No meeting in August
-Half the Sky
-Book Club

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

I hope everyone is having a great summer and hope to see you all at the Fall Progressive Dinner. Welcome Our Board Members!

We are happy to welcome the members of our AAUW Elmhurst Area NFP board for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024.

President: Moira Murray

Vice Presidents: Susan Boyd, Carolyn Heiney

Program Vice Presidents: Linda Fischer, Renee Oshinski

Recording Secretary: Krista Friedman

Director of Finance: Jennifer Jordan

Director of Bylaws and Policies: Patricia O'Dwyer

Director of AAUW Funds: Josephine Mulvihill

Directors of Nominating Committee: Jennifer Jordan, Suzanne Stock, Moira Murray

Director College/University Relations: Moira Murray

Director Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Jan Alexander

Editors Newsletter: Perry Doubt, Kathy Patti

Editor Yearbook/Directory: Sally Schuster

Editor Branch Facebook Page: Sarah Caltvedt

Editor Branch Website: Sally Schuster

Chairs Book Discussion: Elaine Davison, Carol Rounds, Darlene Van Meir

Chair Half the Sky: Elizabeth Laliberte

Chairs Fundraiser(s): Renee Oshinski, Jennifer Jordan

Thank you all for volunteering to do these important tasks for our branch. As we continue to work towards gender equity and inclusion through our various initiatives and programs, we look forward to working together.

Moira Murray, President
AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch NFP

2024 VOTER ISSUE GUIDE

I received a copy of the 2024 Voter Issue Guide from the AAUW Action Fund. This nonpartisan guide will help you learn about key issues related to gender equity so you can cast your ballot for candidates who share your values. [Click here for a copy.](#)

The guide includes sample questions to:

- Help you evaluate candidates' stances
- Ask at public events (virtual and in person)
- Discuss on social media

The topics cover:

When Women Vote
Sex & Gender-Based Discrimination in Schools
Diversity & Inclusion in Higher Education
College Affordability & Student Debt
Pay Equity
Paid Family & Sick Leave
Reproductive Rights & Abortion
Voting Rights
Equal Rights Amendment

--Moira Murray, President

FINANCIAL REPORT

Jennifer Jordan
Director of Finance

June 30, 2024

US Bank

Conferences Account	\$1,108.32
Fundraiser Account	6,913.10
General Account	<u>3,960.83</u>
Total US Bank	\$11,982.25

CDs at US Bank

CD Fundraiser Account	\$1,007.64
CD General Account	<u>5,038.15</u>

Total CDs at US Bank \$ 6,045.79

Grand Total at US Bank \$18,028.04

=====

Totals by Fund

Conference Fund \$ 1,108.32

Fundraiser Fund 7,920.74

General Fund..... **8,998.98**

TOTAL ALL FUNDS \$18,028.04

June 30 is the end of our branch's fiscal year. Full financial fiscal year reports will be available in a future newsletter. As of July 1, the balance of our Conferences Fund (\$1,108.32) will be transferred to the General Fund, as approved by the board of directors earlier in 2024. Going forward, we will be tracking our activity in 2 funds only: General and Fundraiser.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Jennifer Jordan, Finance Director (630-328-3857 or jennifer@jordan-dmm.com)

NEW MEMBER CORNER

Here's another chance to get to know some of the new members -- and this month, we feature two Jan's -- Jan Alexander and Jan Wernette!

JAN ALEXANDER is a lifelong resident of the Berkeley/Elmhurst area. Her three children -- Allison, Morgan and Lucas -- all attended district 205 schools. One way you may have heard of Jan is through her work in establishing the Backyard Caucus in Elmhurst. BYC is a grass roots group of Elmhurst neighbors that was formed in response to the murder of George Floyd. This local group wanted to find a way to start the conversation about race to help make Elmhurst a more welcoming community for all. They began to gather -- mainly in backyards -- to hear from speakers and offer the opportunity to share stories about racism in a community environment. The group continues to be active, and we'll hear more about it when we feature another one of our new members!

Dr. Alexander is a lifelong educator, from the classroom to administration. Beginning as a teacher for special education in the local area, she worked with children with behavioral problems from throughout Chicagoland --for those children who didn't thrive in a conventional setting, she used her talents to find ways to give them a chance to succeed. With a PhD in Curriculum & Instruction from Loyola, she continued her work at Northeastern Illinois University and supported Chicago area teachers in developing creative ways to engage students in their learning process, both in special education and all areas of STEM. While she is now retired, you continue to hear her passion about education whenever you talk to her!

Her dedication to education for all and DEI are a perfect match for the goals of the AAUW, and we look forward to her input into our activities in the future. And with her agreement to become our DEI lead for the coming year, look forward to hearing from her in our future newsletters.

JAN WERNETTE is a long time Elmhurst resident who has been active in District 205 with their arts programs over the years, and it started with her three children -- David, Nora and Linnea -- and continues to support the music program to the current day. She wants to keep these outstanding programs available for her 5 beautiful grandchildren!

Jan is a tremendous supporter of the University of Illinois. All her children followed in her footsteps and attended the University (but as she told me, none of them are working in the area where they got their degree --a fact many of us can relate to). Jan's musicality led her to participate in the Women's Glee Club there, and later to be a part of the choir at the Chicago Temple while she lived downtown. She also participated in the Panhellenic Council, to bring collaboration to the work of all

the sororities and fraternities on campus.

With an AB in History and an MA in Library science from U of I, she worked at the Chicago Public Library in a position almost like a current day Siri -- she answered questions from the public all day long. Who knew these kinds of hot lines existed before the internet?? She worked in the library of an advertising agency -- ask her sometime about the Claymation creatures in the California raisins commercial! And finally, to help with flexibility to care for her children, worked 26 years at the Villa Park Public Library.

Jan's career focus on literacy is a great match for AAUW values!

--Renee Oshinski, Membership Co-Vice President

HALF THE SKY

Join Half the Sky this coming year for work sessions, field trips and learning modules. All AAUW members and guests are welcome. Come often or come when you can.

If you have questions any time this year email bettylaliberte2007@gmail.com

HALF THE SKY will revisit the Kristoff/Wu Dunn book of the same name this year. We will review sections and illustrate what challenges women are facing since the book was published in 2009. We will also investigate other areas of concern in keeping with the book's subtitle: *Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*.

Our First meeting will be the fourth Tuesday Sept. 24, 2024 7pm Gathering Room of the Elmhurst Public Library. If you would like to lead an exploration of a topic, please email Betty Laliberte. We hope to have a year's plan in place by the September 2024 newsletter.

Help the Food Pantry: If you have extra paper grocery bags or plastic grocery bags, please bring them to a general AAUW meeting or the Half the Sky meeting. We will deliver them to the Elmhurst Yorkfield Food Pantry. These donated bags will mean fewer bags the food pantry will need to purchase. See Darlene Van Meir or Betty Laliberte with bags or questions.

--Betty Laliberte, Chair, Half the Sky

SEPTEMBER PROGRESSIVE DINNER

It's Back!!!

Save the Date: Wednesday, September 4, 2024

Once again we have several generous members who will open their homes for us to share a meal together. After you make your reservation, you will be assigned a home to have appetizers and then another for your salad supper. All of us will end the evening together with dessert. Each participant will be asked to contribute an appetizer, salad, or dessert.

Look for a separate email in a week or two with details for you to make your reservation. Email cheiney@att.net or call Carolyn Heiney with questions (630.674.1426).



AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch, NFP | PO Box 243 | Elmhurst, IL 60126 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)