

March 6, 2024 Meeting - 7 pm
Elmhurst Public Library

"Singing Bird and the Importance of Native American Women in Illinois"

In March our Elmhurst Area AAUW branch traditionally partners with the Elmhurst Public Library for a program to celebrate Women's History Month. This year's program on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 7PM features Kim Sigafus as Singing Bird. Dressed in native regalia, Kim Sigafus will delve into the day-to-day lives of Native American women to learn about courting, marriage and child-rearing practices, and how they affected the history of Illinois.



Kim is an internationally-published award-winning Ojibwa author and speaker. Her creative writing side includes 10 years of newspaper and photo-journalistic work. The genres she works in include Native American children's picture books, YA fiction, plays, non-fiction, and fiction writing. Kim travels frequently throughout the Midwest doing book signings and Native American programs.

Musical theater is a big part of her life. She's been a lyricist, singer, actor, and director for many years, and in her quiet time she makes dream catchers, and drums and sings.

Kim's been honored to have been chosen to be on the 2023-24 roster for the Illinois Humanities Road Scholars Speakers Bureau. She will be presenting her new program for them, Singing Bird and the Importance of Native American Women in Illinois History, the same program we will hear on March 6, at 7 PM.

Registration: Since the program is open to the public, the library is requesting registration which opens on February 17, at 9 am. You may call the library at 630-279-8696 or go to their web site to register.



February 21 - 7:30 pm
"A Community's Guide to Human Trafficking"
Online Program
Sponsored by Chicago Branch AAUW Chicago
and AAUW Jane Addams Branch

February 28 - 7:00 pm
Board of Directors Meeting
Elmhurst Public Library - Gathering Room

March 6 - 7 pm
"Singing Bird and the Importance of Native American Women in Illinois"
Kim Sigafus

March 12 - 7-8:30 pm
"Creating Allyship"
Jim Percic of ComeUnity
Mary E. Kies Recreation Center -
reservations requested

March 28 - 1 pm
Book Discussion Group
"The Moon and Sixpence"
by Somerset Maugham

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello AAUW Members:

March will be Women's History Month. This is a time to look ahead and see where we can continue to have an impact on policies which impact gender equity in education and income security. If you can, get involved. Close the gender pay gap. Pass paid family leave. Stop sexual harassment. Together we can change federal, state and local policies to advance gender equality!

The National Website [AAUW.org](https://www.aauw.org) has a Take Action section where you can "Explore the Issues", "Get Empowered" and "Take Action". I hope many of you will get involved by becoming a "Two-Minute Activist", if you already aren't one. AAUW provides all the tools we need to easily send messages to our members of Congress, and contact our state legislators about pressing issues. It only takes two minutes.

Sixty-four new Illinois laws went into effect on January 1, 2024. A particularly important new piece of Illinois election law is SB2123 which should increase voter turnout. The new law allows an individual to pre-register to vote on or after they turn 16, but they will not receive a ballot until they reach voting age. This new law also extends the sunset date for the Access to Voting for Persons with Disabilities Advisory Task Force and establishes two new task forces exploring ranked choice voting and the security of remote vote by mail.

Moira Murray
President
AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch NFP

HALF THE SKY

Half the Sky has traditionally attended the College of DuPage GLOBAL FLICKS movie that is related to or Half the Sky directive – learning about challenges around the world and how local women address these challenges. One film, **Quo Vadis, Aida?** shows a horrendous situation within the Bosnian war as it affects one woman and her family.

How about watching the movie **Quo Vadis, Aida?** Using your Elmhurst Public Library card you have access to KANOPY on the EPL website and can watch this film from home any time you are free.

We can discuss the film together in March. WARNING: It is a very strong movie about that war. The parallels with contemporary situations are sadly very clear.

ANDOR.... the Half the Sky group may attend the COD Global Flicks presentation of CAKE (see description below). Watch your email for further information.

--Betty Laliberte

"CAKE" - Wednesday, March 13 - 1:30 and 7:30 pm at COD

Director: Asim Abbasi Pakistan | Drama, 2018 2 hours, 5 min. | Urdu, Sindhi
Estranged family members begrudgingly reconnect in an effort to deal with the care of their aging parents. This colorful dramedy follows the tense reunion of two thirty something sisters where family secrets are revealed, forbidden romances both old and new are explored....

YEARBOOK & DIRECTORY UPDATE

If you have any changes in your personal information listed in the Yearbook and Membership Directory, please send them to Sally Schuster for inclusion in the next Directory.

FUTURE AAUW MEETING DATES:

April 3, 2024 - 7 pm - Local Campaigns 101

Learn how to educate yourself and others to become better local citizens. Diane Lans-Kautz will teach us more than the basics about how successful local elections are planned and implemented. Have things changed? Oh yes! The meeting will be held at the Elmhurst Public Library.

May 11, 2024 - 12 noon - River Forest Country Club

Elmhurst Area AAUW's 85th Birthday Party

Join your fellow branch members for a delicious lunch and even a surprise or two as we celebrate 85 years of branch accomplishments. Meet and greet our 2024 scholarship winners too.

Financial Report

Jennifer Jordan
Director of Finance

January 31, 2024

US Bank	
Conferences Account	\$1,332.58
Fundraiser Account	4,294.52
General Account	<u>3,204.85</u>
Total US Bank	\$8,831.95
CD at US Bank	
CD Fundraiser Account	\$7,110.60
CD General Account	<u>6,094.78</u>
Total CD at US Bank	\$13,205.38
Total at US Bank	\$22,037.33

2023 Member Donations – Thank You!

Many branch members generously donate their time to keeping our branch running, including all the time put into our summer used book sale.

Our branch would not be successful without these efforts. Additionally, we want to acknowledge those members who made monetary donations to AAUW National and / or to our branch during 2023 – thank you for your generosity!

Connie Baker
Betty Laliberte
Bonita Boerger
Elizabeth Neill
Ellen O'Hara
Janice Caudy
Ruth Thomas
Elaine Davison
Rosemarie Dressander
Genie Urick
MaryNic Foster
Robyn-Leigh Zaras

"A Community's Guide to Human Trafficking" ONLINE PROGRAM

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