



NEWSLETTER - February 2025 (Volume 91, Issue 7)

Next Meeting - Author April Nauman

Wednesday February 5, 2025 7pm

Elmhurst Public Library

This month's program will tell the story of young Willa raised by her father, a Klan member, and how she evolves throughout her journey in the novel, *Down the Steep* by A.D. Nauman, a friend and colleague from Northeastern Illinois University. Hear her personal story and how it "some of it" aligns with this page turner.

A.D. Nauman is an award-winning author and educator whose second novel, *Down the Steep*, was published by Regal House in 2023. Her short fiction has appeared in *Chicago Quarterly Review*, *Willow Springs*, *TriQuarterly*, *Roanoke Review*, and many other journals. Nauman's work has been recognized in *Best American Short Stories* and the *Pushcart Prize* anthology, produced by Stories on Stage, broadcast on NPR, and granted an Illinois Arts Council Literary Award. Her first novel, *Scorch*, was re-released in an ebook StoryBundle in 2019.

Jan Alexander



Branch Calendar

February 5 - 7pm

Author April Nauman

Elmhurst Public Library

February 25 - 7pm

Half the Sky

Elmhurst Public Library Gathering Room

February 26 - 7pm

Board of Directors Meeting

Elmhurst Public Library

February 27 - 1pm

Book Discussion Group

Lady Elizabeth by Allison Weir

Discussion Leader: Marcia Goltermann

Elmhurst Public Library Gathering Room

President's Message

Hello Branch Members,

I want to share with you that our Committees and Directors have been meeting this winter to plan for the 2025-2026 fiscal year: AAUW Funds Committee, Finance Committee, Publicity/Communications, Nominating Committee. We will also be updating our Policies and our By-Laws to reflect changes that National has made to theirs. We will need to come up with interesting, Mission Based Programs as well. Please share your ideas.

Also, you should have received an email from National stating that President-elect Trump nominated Linda McMahon to serve as the next Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education. AAUW opposes McMahon's nomination and invites you to join us in taking action to protect public education and students' civil rights. A Senate confirmation hearing for McMahon is expected in the next few weeks. Please ask your senators to thoroughly examine McMahon's record and intentions for the Department of Education.

National Conference for College Women Student Leaders

As many of you have heard the sponsorship for the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) Conference is changing. NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education is assuming the sponsorship of NCCWSL as of 2025. Check out their website. Their mission is focused on leadership at the college level and is compatible with the mission of AAUW. This is a great partnership. They are still in the planning stage for the 2025 NCCWSL conference. More to come....

Public Policy Update

Karen Kortsch and Ken Olson
AAUW Illinois Public Policy Co-Chairs

The Illinois lame duck session of the 103rd General Assembly just finished on January 7th, and on January 8th the inauguration of new legislators and the start of the 104th General Assembly took place. Karina's Bill, which would allow guns to be removed from domestic abusers, finally passed the Senate during the 103rd GA (President Harmon held it up in the Spring pending a supreme court case decision); and the house concurred. As I write this, the new session has only begun so we don't yet have information on what bills will be introduced this session. When Jenni, our lobbyist, gets a list together, Ken and I will get regular updates on what bills we may want to support. There may be witness slips to file or letters to legislators to be written. We will get that info to you through the public policy mailing list and hopefully people on that list will pass it along to their chapter members. There will probably be a lot of bills to consider and we will choose to focus on those that align with our AAUW values and Public Policy priorities.

The Public Policy priorities are currently being revised by the National office, and you should have received an email titled Dues Change and Governance Proposals – Comment Now! That email includes a link to review and comment on Public Policy priorities updates. If you did not receive the email please go to the AAUW website and look for this information. Also make sure you are subscribed to receive email notices from the National office

Here is the most recent news from the Public Policy Co-Chair:

Hello, a disturbing update to share:

The Administration is quickly attacking the environment/efforts to combat global warming, equity, education, the infrastructure, health programs, worker safety and much, much more. Here is an initial list of Executive Orders from the White House, with more to come. Several state AAUW's are looking to support state legislation to provide as much protection as possible. We are fortunate in Illinois that our legislature has proactively taken action already. We are currently reviewing proposed legislation to identify bill we will support to protect or implement AAUW priorities.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/initial-rescissions-of-harmful-executive-orders-and-actions/>

Ken Olson, PhD, PASAAUW IL Co-Director Public Policy

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I hope to see you at the February 5th Program with author April Nauman.

Moira Murray
President
AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch NFP

FINANCIAL REPORT	
December 31, 2024	
<i>Jennifer Jordan, Director of Finance</i>	
December 31, 2024	
Bank Accounts	
Checking accounts - US Bank	
Fundraiser Fund	1,729.53
General Fund	<u>5,739.92</u>
Total Checking	7,469.45
CDs at US Bank	
CD Fundraiser Account	15,551.32
CD General Account	<u>5,016.56</u>
Total CD at US Bank	20,567.88
<i>Grand Total</i>	<i>28,037.33</i>
Totals by Fund	
Fundraiser Fund	17,280.85
General Fund	<u>10,756.48</u>
<i>Grand Total</i>	<i>28,037.33</i>

Half the Sky

Half the Sky's February activity will be participating in the College of DuPage's GLOBAL FLICKS program.

The schedule of the free screening of six award winning international films is as follows:

February 5, 2025 — Wicked Little Letters "hilarious mystery set in 1920's England about suffragettes.

We will go to Wicked Little Letters at 1:30 pm because we have a AAUW general meeting in the evening.

February 19, 2025 — Broker set in South Korea dealing with adoption on the black market 1:30 and 7:30

February 26, 2025 — Miss Hokusai about a 19th century Japanese woman artist in anime format 1:30 and 7:30

March 5, 2025 — X-Trillion an all-women crew of scientists researches micro plastics in the Pacific Ocean

We will go to X-Trillion at 1:30 because we have a AAUW general meeting in the evening.

ALL AAUW members are welcome to join us.

Since various members are interested in attending various films, Betty Laliberte will organize groups for car pools. Just email [bettylaliberte2007@gmail.com] your preferred film and the time you wish to go. She will send interested members a joint email and the group can organize from that point.

Please email your preferences by Feb.1, 2025.

A graphic for AAUW Returning Student Scholarships. It features a large blue diamond shape on a green background. The year '2025' is in the top left corner. The AAUW logo is in the top right. The text 'Returning Student Scholarships' and '\$4,500' are prominently displayed in the center. Below this, it states that the AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch is offering three grants of \$4,500 each to local women. Eligibility criteria are listed on the right, and application information is on the left.

2025

AAUW

Returning Student Scholarships

\$4,500

The AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch
is offering **three (3) grants of \$4,500 each** to local women who need financial assistance to continue their education at the undergraduate or graduate level.

Eligibility includes:

- Resident of Elmhurst, Addison, Bensenville, Berkeley, Northlake, Oak Brook, Oakbrook Terrace, or Villa Park
- Age 23 or older
- Completion of at least 12 credit hours at an accredited community or undergraduate college/university
- Full or part time enrollment

For an application or more information, go to www.aauwelmhurst.org or call 630-207-4851.

Application Deadline is April 15, 2025

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

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