



## NEWSLETTER - November 2024 (Volume 88, Issue 4)

### **Next Meeting:**

**November 6, 2024 - 7:00 pm**  
**Elmhurst Public Library**

### **How the Dignity Index Can Improve Relationships**

People in the U.S. are exhausted from years of political and social high conflict and crave a way out of the polarized climate. The Connections group of the Batavia, Geneva, St Charles Branch of AAUW has considered several possible solutions and, in 2023, began focusing on the Dignity Index.

The Dignity Index is a process of coding civil discourse with a goal of changing how we communicate with each other. Developed and promoted by the national organization UNITE, the Dignity Index is an eight-point scale that rates speech from most contemptuous to most dignified. Research sponsored by UNITE has shown that by pointing a spotlight on contempt, we get more dignity and less contempt. Dignified speech then leads to better communication between individuals and groups and increases the opportunities for compromise.

Connections members Rosie McVay, Maureen Brandon, Chris Bruun and Pat Hendrix will lead the group in understanding and applying the Dignity Index. We will practice rating quotes and changing speech to make it more dignified.

We often complain about the divisions in our society, work place, and family. Come join your fellow AAUW members on Wednesday, November 6th, to learn the skills we can use to perhaps change the conversation.

We will not be able to use the zoom feature for this meeting, so please make every effort to attend in person.



### **Branch Calendar**

**November 6 - 7 pm**  
**The Dignity Index**  
*Elmhurst Public Library*

**November 26 - 7 pm**  
**Half the Sky**  
**Prohibition and Prostitution**  
*Elmhurst Public Library*  
**No meeting in November**  
Board of Directors  
Book Discussion Group

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Members:

I received an AAUW Newsletter from Gloria Blackwell (CEO) at the end of last month. I would like to share some of this article and some other important information with you.

*"As fall brings cooler air and vibrant foliage, I am reminded of the work that lies ahead with the upcoming election and beyond.*

*This season, we face a troubling setback: unfortunately, the gender pay gap has widened. Women working full-time now earn just 83% of what men earn— a decline from last year's 84%. This amounts to a loss of \$11,550 annually for each full-time working woman. While there have been gains in real earnings for both men and women, women, especially women of color, continue to be pushed into lower wage jobs.*

*"This pay gap hurts us, our families, and our communities. As I've said before, "The pay gap should be shrinking, not growing." We must address the systemic barriers that keep women from earning their fair share — like the lack of paid leave, affordable childcare, and strong pay equity laws."*

*As we move forward this fall, let's channel our collective energy. Whether it's by joining Two-Minute Activist, voting for candidates that support women's issues, or standing up against injustice wherever you can, each of us has a role to play in creating a more equitable world.*

*Thank you for your unwavering commitment to AAUW's mission. Together, we will continue pushing for equity and opportunities for all women."*

One of the interesting programs I attended at the Illinois Convention is now online: "The Truth, Trust, and Turnout: Navigating Elections, Civic Engagement, and Disinformation." The program was presented by Dr. Suzanne Chod or North Central College. It's worth a review as we receive more information daily about election candidates. **Here's the link:** <https://youtu.be/rkIT7gThSV4>. The presentation is also available on the Jane Addams branch website. <https://janeaddams-il.aauw.net/>

See the end of the newsletter for a link to a report on Project 2025 that was written by the National Women's Law Center and sent to Branch leaders by the new AAUW Illinois Co-Director of Public Policy, Ken Olsen.

I hope to see you at the timely November 6th branch meeting about The Dignity Index. We will be having a business meeting afterwards and voting on items including Scholarship Awards.

**Moirra Murray**  
**President**  
**AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch NFP**

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## FINANCIAL REPORT

September 30, 2024

Jennifer Jordan, Director of Finance

Sep 30, 2024

### Bank Accounts

Checking accounts - US Bank	
Fundraiser Fund	25,702.46
General Fund	<u>5,649.47</u>
Total Checking	31,351.93

### CDs at US Bank

CD Fundraiser Account	1,019.28
CD General Account	<u>5,096.24</u>

Total CD at US Bank 6,115.52

*Grand Total* 37,467.45

### Totals by Fund

Fundraiser Fund	26,721.74
General Fund	<u>10,745.71</u>

*Grand Total* 37,467.45

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the branch will be held immediately after the November 6th meeting at the library. It won't take long but it is important that all members stay for this session. Please stay!

Primary item on the agenda is a report by the Funds Committee with recommendations for our 2024 Scholarship Program (see below).

## FUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT

The AAUW Funds Committee met on 10/14/2024 to draft a proposal for disbursement of funds earned at the 2024 Book Sale.

Members of the committee, Josephine Mulvihill, Director; Moira Murray, President; Jennifer Jordan, Director of Finance and Fundraising Chair; Judy Ekbal, Former Director of AAUW Funds; Susan Pingitore, Publicity; Renee Oshinski, (absent), Co-Chair Fundraising.

The Used Book Sale raised \$18,648.95 after expenses. Maintaining the 50/50 ratio between National and Local that was approved 3 years ago by branch members, \$9,500.00 will be sent to National, with \$9,324.00 to be retained for branch scholarships.

The following recommendations are hereby proposed by the Funds Committee. They were endorsed by the Board of Directors on October 30, 2024 and will be presented for a vote by the membership branch on November 6, 2024.

Proposed:

1. Lower age to 23 years old for returning student scholarships
2. Offer 3 & 4,500.00 returning student scholarships and 2 \$1,000.00 scholarships for Dare to Dream
3. Donate \$9,500.00 to AAUW National for Greater Needs Fund

Once the donation to National and all scholarships are deducted the Fundraiser account will be \$1,721.74, an amount sufficient for the 2025 Book Sale start up.

**Josephine Mulvihill**  
**Director, Funds Committee**

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## HALF THE SKY

HALF THE SKY will meet on Tuesday November 26, 2024 in the Gathering Room of Elmhurst Public Library. We are revisiting some of the topics of the book Half the Sky by Kristof and WuDunn and considering new developments/ findings within the last 10 years. Jennifer Jordan introduced us to another of their books: A Path Appears.

November topic - PROHIBITION and PROSTITUTION chapter 2 - related topics in chapters 1-4 . Deb Markello will lead the discussion. All are welcome to come.

For questions contact Betty Laliberte [bettylaliberte2007@gmail.com](mailto:bettylaliberte2007@gmail.com).

## ICDI PROJECT

During our 2024-25 year, Half the Sky would like to support the ICDI Illinois Community for Displaced Immigrants' request for household supplies. We will have a hamper at the entrance door of our monthly general meeting. If you are interested in supporting these efforts, please feel free to add an item or two to the collection. ICDI is looking for these items to assist families as they set up households with essential supplies.

### Cleaning Supplies:

**All-Purpose Cleaners** - disinfectants, glass cleaner, floor cleaners

**Cleaning Tools** - microfiber cloths, sponges and scrubbers, mops, buckets, brooms and dustpans

**Restrooms Supplies** - toilet bowl cleaner, hand soap, paper towels, and toilet paper

**Kitchen Supplies** - dish soap, trash bags, dishcloths and scrub brushes

### Personal Hygiene Items:

**Personal Care Items** - tooth brush, deodorant, toothpaste, dental floss, shampoo, conditioner, body wash/soap, razor, shaving cream

**Skin Care**- moisturizer, sunscreen, facial cleanser, facial cleanser, hand cream

**Hair Care** - hair brush/comb for different kinds of hair, hair styling products

**Feminine Hygiene** - sanitary pads, tampons

**Foot Care** - Foot powder/spray, foot cream

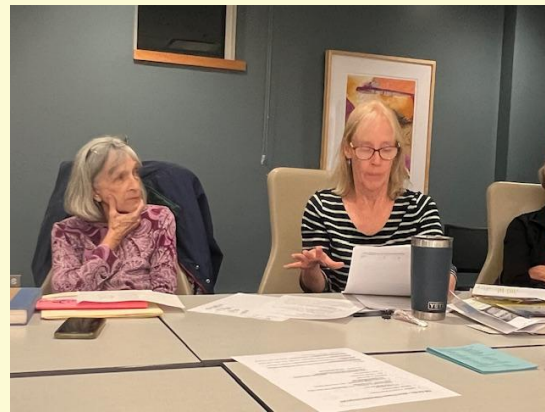
## ELMHURST YORKFIELD FOOD PANTRY

Recycle those plastic and plastic grocery bags. If you have extra grocery bags, please bring them to an AAUW general meeting or the Half the Sky meeting. We will deliver them to the Elmhurst Yorkfield Food Pantry. Any bags that we donate will mean fewer bags that the food pantry will need to purchase and more funds can go to buying food.

## Helping Women through Micro Finance Loans

This fall the Half the Sky Group is going back to its roots by re-examining the book, *Half the Sky* by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, published in 2009. For October, Jennifer Jordan led a discussion of Chapter 11, "Micro Credit: the Financial Revolution" the practice under which small loans are made to individuals seeking tools and supplies to start or grow their businesses.

Over the years, working through the Kiva organization, the Elmhurst group has made a total of 36 loans to entrepreneurs in 13 countries, ranging from Guatemala, to Kenya and Pakistan. All loans were made to women; their businesses centered on such things as sewing, animals and food products. Several reports questioning the long term benefits of micro financing were discussed at the meeting.



## UNDERSTANDING PROJECT 2025

A complete copy of the report prepared by National Women's Law Center on "Project 2025: What it Means for Women, Families and Gender Justice" is available [by clicking here](#). First page of the document is pictured at the right.



As a 501(c)(3) organization, NWLC does not endorse or oppose any candidate for elected public office.

### Project 2025: What It Means for Women, Families, and Gender Justice

Project 2025 is a 900-plus-page handbook assembled by the Heritage Foundation, a leading conservative think tank, with at least 140 former Trump administration officials involved in its drafting.<sup>1</sup> It offers a step-by-step guide for how to quickly implement an extreme agenda across the federal government from day one of a conservative presidential administration. If realized, Project 2025's proposals would have devastating consequences for our democracy, and for the lives of women, girls, LGBTQ+ people, and entire communities.

As president, Donald Trump and his administration previously relied heavily on the Heritage Foundation's "Mandate for Leadership" for policy guidance and incorporated many of these proposals into rulemaking, executive orders, and policy guidance.<sup>2</sup> According to the Heritage Foundation, there were "334 unique policy recommendations and 64 percent were included in Trump's budget, implemented through regulatory guidance, or under consideration for action."<sup>3</sup>

The Project 2025 policy handbook is part of a broader project that focuses on four pillars:

- The 900+ page conservative policy agenda
- A roster of potential political personnel<sup>4</sup>
- Trainings for potential political appointees in a conservative administration<sup>5</sup>
- A 180-day playbook for immediate actions to be undertaken by each federal agency (not made public)

The Project 2025 agenda offers sweeping policy proposals that would dramatically overhaul how our federal government, including departments, agencies, sub-agencies, and personnel, would function, all geared toward implementing and institutionalizing extremist policy priorities and power. Most of Project 2025's proposals can be achieved through executive authority alone, without Congress, and this resource focuses primarily on these proposals. In addition, Project 2025 includes legislative proposals for the next administration to work with Congress to enact.

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