



NEWSLETTER - February 2026 (Volume 87, Issue 7)



Branch Calendar

February 4 - 7:00 pm

Women's Art History Program: Women of Renaissance Art
Elmhurst Public Library Kossman Room

February 18 - 1:30 pm or 7:30 pm

Half the Sky
Made In Bangladesh
College of DuPage

February 19 - 10:30 am

Coffee Hour
Brewpoint Coffee
617 N York Road Elmhurst IL

February 25 - 7:00 pm

Board of Directors
Elmhurst Public Library Gathering Room

February 26 - 1:00 pm

Book Discussion
The Traitor's Wife by Allison Pataki
Discussion Leader Andrea Hutchinson
Elmhurst Public Library Gathering Room

Next Meeting - Women's Art History: Women of Renaissance Art

Wednesday February 4, 2026 7pm

Elmhurst Public Library Kossman Room

Who can name the great women artists in Renaissance Italy and France? The great women writers? Who were the women patrons who commissioned the works? This presentation will uncover brilliant women whose accomplishments have been erased, minimized, and obscured by

history. We will explore these women and their contributions. Our speaker is Kristen Beirne, President of the Downers Grove AAUW branch. Kristen is an art historian who teaches at the College of DuPage. She is a dynamic presenter who will keep us intrigued with her stories.

Susan Boyd/Mary Nic Foster
Program Vice Presidents

President's Message

Lots happening with AAUW at the local, state and national levels. I'll try to highlight some of those things so every member can decide what they might be interested in getting involved!

First, we had 10 members attend our initial coffee hour on Monday, January 12. Definitely an enjoyable morning, and everyone there was supportive of continuing to sponsor these on a monthly basis. We will meet again in February, this time on Thursday, February 19 at 10:30am at Brewpoint Coffee. For those of you who haven't been there, it is a lively, vibrant community center that Melissa Villanueva has put together in North Elmhurst.

We are beginning to publicize our scholarships, so remember to share the opportunity with different groups and at different locations. If you need a poster, contact Jo Mulvihill. Here are a couple offerings from the Naperville AAUW branch that may be of interest. Please let me know if you would like more information about either opportunity:

1. January 28 at 6:30 pm, they are sponsoring a screening of a new documentary titled "Zero Weeks", highlighting concerns about the lack of paid family leave in the United States.
2. February 10 at 7pm they are sponsoring a mini online workshop that will teach you how to protect yourself from scams, find truth, and combat disinformation.

The State convention has been set for April 24-25 in Rockford with a theme of "Beyond the Ballot and the Baseline: Charting our Course for the next Century." Thinking you can attend both days or drive over early on Saturday. Please consider whether you can come to Rockford, meet your fellow AAUW members, hear from great speakers, and help chart the future of the organization.

And for those who are interested in becoming more involved in the Public Policy side of AAUW, here are a few upcoming webinars that may be of interest:

School Boards: Take Action for Gender Equity

Thursday February 12, 2026, 7:00pm

Click here to register: <https://my.aauw.org/event-information?id=a0lQr000001ieXRIAY>

Voting in Illinois: A Look into the Board of Elections

Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 7:00-8:00pm CT Hybrid

Click here to register: <https://www.schaumburglibrary.org/events?id=14348136>

AAUW is having a State Lobby Day on March 25 in Springfield. More details to follow. Mark your calendars if you are interested in a road trip to talk to our legislators about advocacy for women and girls!

I look forward to seeing many of you at our February 4 meeting on Women of Renaissance Art. I know we will all learn a lot about women who influenced the Renaissance – who just don't seem to get discussed in our textbooks!

Renee Oshinski
President
AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch NFP

FINANCIAL REPORT

December 31, 2025
Beverly Maguire, Director of Finance

December 31, 2025

Bank Accounts

Checking accounts - US Bank	
Fundraiser Fund	2,784.98
General Fund	<u>5,157.97</u>
Total Checking	7,942.95
CDs at US Bank	
CD Fundraiser Account	9,350.73
CD General Account	5,219.24
Total CD at US Bank	<u>14,569.97</u>
<i>Grand Total</i>	22,512.92

Totals by Fund

Fundraiser Fund	12,135.71
General Fund	<u>10,377.21</u>
<i>Grand Total</i>	22,512.92

Membership

Our dear member, Margaret Franson Pruter, age 87, passed away on January 6, 2026, after a prolonged illness.

Margaret earned her AB degree from Rosary College and an MA in history from Northwestern University. Her love of history shaped both her professional career and her lifelong civic involvement.

She worked for 32 years as senior social science editor for the New Standard Encyclopedia and later as a textbook editor for McDougall-Littell.

When their daughter Robin was born, Margaret and her husband Bob both wanted to be an important part of her care. Since they worked for the same firm, they convinced their employer to allow them to job share, an idea new to the corporate world at the time!!

Her commitment to local history and public service was deep and sustained. She served as president of the DuPage Historical Society and spent 30 years on the Elmhurst Historical Commission, which later became the Elmhurst Heritage Foundation.

A lifelong Democrat, she followed politics avidly, kept a campaign button collection on presidential candidates and wrote every U.S President article in her work for the encyclopedia.

Those who knew Margaret will remember her sharp intellect, gentle humor, boundless curiosity, and enduring kindness.

As an AAUW branch member for close to 50 years, Margaret will be remembered as a huge used book sale fan, who for countless years organized the coffee table book selections, lovingly buying

many for her book collection at home. Margaret was thrilled when her daughter Robin became a branch member!

Linda Fischer, Jen Fetty
Membership Vice Presidents

Half the Sky

Many thanks to Gay Ness who has given us our direction for February. The College of DuPage has an annual free international movie festival. Gay has found the perfect movie for Half the Sky. Please mark your calendar for Wednesday February 18 1:30 or 7:30pm. COD will be showing *Made in Bangladesh*.

"Inspired by the true story of a female textile worker in Dhaka who founded the country's first women's union, *Made in Bangladesh* tells the story of Shimu's revolt, when against all odds, management threats, and her husband's anger, she sets up a union with other female workers of a garment sweatshop factory making 1,500 shirts a day for minimal pay. Shimu works to transform a tale of exploitation into one of empowerment with better working conditions and pay."

Contact Betty Laliberte if you are interested in joining us. Bettylaliberte2007@gmail.com or 630 832 9010 to please leave a message.

Half the Sky ongoing projects:

1. We are collecting plastic grocery bags to be reused at the Elmhurst Yorkfield Food Pantry. These bags will be used for toting the cleaning supplies and dry goods given to patrons. The money saved from not needing to buy the bags will be used for food. If you have extra bags, please bring them to the general meetings or the Half the Sky meetings.
2. Jane Jegerski, who is working at a DuPage community garden, is asking for help obtaining plastic hinged boxes (those used for fruits and vegetables) to use for harvesting foods. If you have any to reuse, please bring them to either our AAUW general meetings or to the Half the Sky meetings.

If you have questions, please email bettylaliberte2007@gmail.com

Betty Laliberte
Half the Sky Chair

Funds Committee

Scholarship Applications Being Accepted

Applications are now being accepted for three \$3,500 continuing education scholarships for 2026. The Chapter's Scholarship program is the culmination of all of the hard work our AAUW members put into last year's annual Book Sale. The appreciation for the scholarships expressed by last year's recipients at the Spring luncheon was truly an inspiration.

The Funds Committee met in early December to plan strategies for the 2026 advertising campaign. Like last year, there will be a multi-pronged approach with press releases, community calendar announcements, Facebook posts, distribution of flyers, and the Chapter's website.

Qualifications and application information are on our website. A flyer is available at the end of this newsletter.

Please help spread the word to all of your community contacts. If you need a poster, please contact me. It is also helpful if you share the posts on Facebook on your individual pages.

Josephine Mulvihill
Director of AAUW Funds

Coffee Hour at Brewpoint Coffee



2026 Scholarship Flyer

2026



Returning Student Scholarships

\$3,500

The AAUW Elmhurst Area Branch
is offering **three (3) grants of \$3,500** 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
<https://elmhurstarea-il.aauw.net/scholarship/apply/>
or call 630-207-4851.

Application Deadline
is April 3, 2026 at 5pm cst

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

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