

News from the Northwest

November, 2021



Newsletter of the Northwest Suburban Branch

***Our Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls
through research, education, and advocacy.***

Our Vision: Equity for all.

Zoom! Apart but Together

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

7:30 p.m.

Sex Trafficking in Our Own Backyard



Women are 90% of the victims of sex trafficking, which is a form of modern slavery. Trafficking is happening right here in Chicago and the suburbs. This program will present victim statistics, how to recognize a victim, methods being used to recruit young women, and what we as community members can do to prevent trafficking.

This meeting is co-sponsored with the Jane Addams branch.

Advance Registration is required; after registering you will receive an email with the Zoom link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZl5f--uqiMvE9cu_C4LDW9qdVouh8jx5_pD

Presenter: Priscilla Cruz, Midwest Prevention Advocate at SelahFreedom, B.S. of Psychology,
SelahFreedom, Bringing Light into the Darkness of Sex Trafficking

Selah Freedom is a nonprofit anti-human trafficking organization, based in Florida and the Midwest, with the mission to end sex trafficking and bring freedom to the exploited through four strong programs: Advocacy and Awareness; Prevention; Outreach; and Residential.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

The Oct. 30th AAUW-IL Conference was very inspiring and interesting with 95 members attending. Lisa Cherry, state president, kicked off the conference by summarizing our accomplishments on the state and national levels, and reminded us that we have a new AAUW CEO, Gloria Blackwell who was promoted from Executive Vice President and Program Officer. We know Gloria from staff visits to our state conventions in the past. Our keynote speaker, Deanie Brown, presented an enlightening talk about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Her talk was not recorded, but she shared several impactful videos; here are some you can watch:

Ted Talk by Dushaw Hockett <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKHSJHkPeLY>

The Look <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxZbtWGYV1c>

Point Of View: Implicit Bias <https://www.pbs.org/video/pov-implicit-bias-peanut-butter-jelly-and-racism/>

The second speaker gave us ideas on fundraising, followed by breaking out into seven different affinity groups. It is always exciting to hear ideas from across the state of Illinois.

Our November 17th Wednesday evening NW Suburban program will be very informative, and perhaps alarming, that Sex Trafficking is happening all around us. We will learn the new ways that girls are recruited online. I hope you can attend so that we become more aware and informed, and can share this information with our friends. Please invite anyone (like mothers of teenage girls) to join us - our program is open to the public. Registration details were sent in an email Nov. 3 and are shown elsewhere in the newsletter.

We are also invited to join the Chicago branch program via Zoom on Saturday Nov. 13, *AAUW Fellows and Grantees* (more details in the "Upcoming Programs" section).

Last Saturday, I attended (via Zoom) a recognition event for Oakton scholarship donors and student recipients. It was interesting to hear from the President of the Oakton Foundation and hear a summary of how the funds have been used during the past year. Many of the students are first generation college students, which demonstrates the value of scholarships at Oakton Community College. They stated how helpful the scholarship was since receiving it allowed them to spend less time working and more time focused on their studies. A total of 344 students received scholarships this past year. Also, during the pandemic, students' families faced challenging financial times which created a greater need for scholarships.



After the informational speakers, the female students I met in the breakout group were Diana Tulchinsky, Josselyn Cruz and Ewelina Gruska. Diana was a first-generation student from a family of Russian immigrants and hopes to complete her degree. Josselyn Cruz has completed her work at Oakton and transferred to Northeastern University. She hopes to become a teacher. Ewelina Gruska is a mother and is working to complete a nursing program and work as a nurse. She also hopes to continue her studies to get a nursing degree.

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Our AAUW NW Suburban branch Oakton Scholarship helps make these dreams come true. I hope you will consider donating to this worthwhile scholarship fund. We're doing an E-Z No Work fundraiser this year by just writing checks to: "Oakton Foundation" with a memo note, "AAUW NW Suburban Scholarship." Mail to: Oakton Community College, Educational Foundation, 1600 E. Golf Rd, Des Plaines IL 60016-1268.

And now, as the temperature drops day by day, we are looking forward to the holiday season - a season of giving and family gatherings. We hope to see everyone online in November, then watch for a special December holiday invitation.

Elaine

UPCOMING PROGRAMS/SAVE THE DATES:

Saturday, Nov. 13, 2021 10:30 a.m. - AAUW Fellows and Grantees

Join us for our most popular meeting of the year.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqcuCgrTspH9N2j-ZRbS-2XwhofSNI56LP>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Our three presenting fellows are:

- Melissa Mister, Project Director, After School Matters
AAUW Community Action Grant:
Pre-Freshman Program in Engineering and Science
- Ramael Ohiomoba, Northwestern University School of Medicine
AAUW Selected Professions Fellowship
Research: Investigating biological and social risk factors for cardiovascular disease
- Jenny Lopez Alvarado, M.S.W, Loyola University Chicago
AAUW Career Development Grant
Research: Mental Health in the Latinx Population

The AAUW Funds—as one of the world's largest sources of funding exclusively for graduate women-- supports aspiring scholars around the globe, teachers and activists in local communities, women at critical stages of their careers, and those pursuing professions where women are underrepresented. AAUW Funds is providing nearly \$5 million in 2021–22 in support of 250 scholars. AAUW has been a leading source of funding, providing more than \$115 million in fellowships and grants to more than 13,000 women and organizations in the US and around the world.

This program is sponsored by Chicago Inc. branch in partnership with the Jane Addams Online branch of AAUW. For more information, contact chicagoaauw@hotmail.com

Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021 7:30 pm Sex Trafficking in Our Own Backyard

This is our branch program. Details are found on first page of newsletter

December Meeting – 'Tis the Season for Celebrating and Sharing (date to be determined)

Plan to share a holiday tradition or recipe, and what we can celebrate as the year ends.

PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

Reminder to become a Two Minute AAUW Activist (it only takes 4 minutes!)

Paid leave and access to child care: <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/crisis-recovery-budget/>

ERA: <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/era/>

Reference hotlines:

National Human Trafficking Hotline: [Call 1-888-373-7888 \(TTY: 711\)](tel:1-888-373-7888) | *Text 233733

Domestic Abuse Hotline: [1.800.799.SAFE \(7233\)](tel:1-800-799-SAFE) TTY 1.800.787.3224 Text "Start" to 8788

FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE (AND INFORMATION)

At our September meeting we discussed books that our members have recently read and enjoyed. We share some of those titles with you.

Leaving Time, by Jodi Picoult

Small Great Things, by Jodi Picoult

The Other Einstein, by Marie Benedict

Peril, by Bob Woodward and Robert Costa

Fear, by Bob Woodward

Such a Fun Age, by Kiley Reid

The Giver of Stars, by JoJo Moyes

The Hate U Give, by Angie Thomas

Caste, by Isabel Wilkerson

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You, by Jason Reynolds & Ibram X. Kendi

Stamped From the Beginning, by Ibram X. Kendi

The Ride of Her Life, by Elizabeth Letts

Finding Dorothy, by Elizabeth Letts

The Vanishing Half, by Britt Bennett

Homegoing, by Yaa Gyasi

Midnight in Washington, How We Almost Lost our Democracy and Still Could, by Adam Schiff

Vanderbilt: The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty, by Anderson Cooper & Katherine Howe

Our branch reading group continues to meet monthly via Zoom. If you would like to join us (the fourth Tuesday evening of the month) contact Irene Jinks (847-698-3113 or wijinks@aol.com) for information.



*Happy Thanksgiving to all
our members and friends!*