



Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP

# Twigs

[wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net](http://wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net)

March 2016

## A Leaf from the Presidents

Thanks to Peggy Connolly and Susie Gullickson for February's thoughtful program on end-of-life decisions. Such relevant programs spotlight the value of our own continuing education, supplemental to our Book Sale work for student scholarships and fellowships.

And the Book Sale *IS* gearing up! Get in the swing and sign up for one of many jobs you can do. We need lots of drivers, lots of publicity, sign revisions, sign distribution, book sorting and set up. If you have questions or would like to help, call Laura Desmarais at (630) 871 2730.

**Well Done!** to Suzanne Elger, who chairs our Branch participation in Dare to Dream. Since 2009, this effective, daylong event has encouraged 8th grade Latina girls- together with their moms- to pursue their education for a brighter future. This year over 250 girls and 157 moms attended. Among those from our Branch who helped make the program a **success** were Sherry Yarema, Pat Walton, Rosemary Hahn, Maureen Sheehan, Donna Jean Simon, Margaret McGrath, Jean Lindsey, and Susie Gullickson. Our support work is all but done as Dare to Dream now functions almost independently. We can be proud of our members and the Branch's contribution. Soon we will turn our attention to other projects like STEM, Start Smart, and Tech Savvy. Tech Savvy needs volunteers for an April 16 workshop at Oakton Community College. Contact Fran Kravitz at [fk1456@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fk1456@sbcglobal.net) if you can help that day, or, perhaps you'd like to work with Fran on a STEM project?

On a cold day in January, Membership Vice President Lisa Cherry held a potluck brunch and orientation for new members in her home. It was a warm, informative and thoroughly helpful introduction to our Branch and AAUW's ongoing mission. What a talented, inspiring group of new members! We look forward to welcoming them and working with them in the Branch. Read those bios in *Twigs* and get to know them!

On Wednesday, March 2, our Branch will hold its annual business meeting. We will elect new Board members (Treasurer and Membership Co-Vice Presidents) and vote on changes to our Branch bylaws and Policy Handbook. The proposed changes were presented at the February Branch meeting and in February *Twigs*. They will also be sent to all members so everyone can make an informed vote. Please come and cast your vote... and sign up for your favorite Book Sale job!

*Kitty and Laura*



## Global Security and Energy Challenges and Innovation

Leah Guzowski, Director, Strategic Programs & Energy Policy Scientist Argonne National Laboratory and University of Chicago, will speak about science and engineering innovation related to some of the world's most challenging energy and global security issues. Prior to joining Argonne, Leah's work spanned private industry and international trade development and policy, with particular interest in the research, development and commercialization of clean energy technologies.

Leah graduated from Harvard University and the University of Wisconsin- Madison. She also studied economics and policy at the University of Oxford (UK). She has authored or co-authored dozens of related articles and is a frequent speaker at technical conferences and public events across the country.

**Wednesday, March 2**

**7:00 pm Social      7:15 pm Program**  
**8:15 Business Meeting**

**Glen Ellyn Public Library**  
**400 Duane Street, Glen Ellyn**

**NOTE LOCATION CHANGE**

Co-Program  
Vice Presidents

P. Connolly  
S. Gullickson

[connolly.peggy@gmail.com](mailto:connolly.peggy@gmail.com)  
[GULLICKSONSUSAN@comcast.net](mailto:GULLICKSONSUSAN@comcast.net)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Time	Information
March 2	Branch Meeting Annual Business Mtg	7:00 pm	<b>Glen Ellyn Public Library, 400 Duane Street, Glen Ellyn</b> <b>NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION</b>
March 4	AM Lit	9:30 am	Jean Lindsey's
March 9	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Peggy Connolly's
March 11	Book Sale Planning	9:00 am	Laura Desmarais'
March 14	Book Sorting	10:30 am	Public Storage, 280 South Main Place, Carol Stream
March 14	Book Sale Planning	7:00 pm	Laura Desmarais'
March 16	Memoir Circle	7:00 pm	Location is TBD
March 21	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Peggy Connolly's
March 23	Non-Fiction Lit	7:00 pm	Phyllis Fogel's
March 24	Spice Routes	7:00 PM	Peggy Connolly's
April 5	Program Planning	7:00 pm	Peggy Connolly's
April 11	Book Sorting	10:30 am	Public Storage, 280 South Main Place, Carol Stream
April 16	Tech Savvy	8:00 am	Oakton Community College, Des Plaines <b>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</b>
May 23	Spring Banquet	6:00 pm	Adelle's Restaurant, Wheaton



### Membership

**Lisa Cherry**

lisacherryhome@aol.com

Under the umbrella of Membership, the Nominating Committee, including Susie Gullickson, Margaret McGrath and Lisa Cherry has concluded work for this year's March Branch election. We are very pleased to present a slate of nominees that combines new and tenured Branch members. Our Branch is now 144 members strong and some of our newest members have been making a big difference in carrying out the tasks and goals of our Branch. If the slate is elected, Membership will be run by two co-vice presidents and one additional committee member. The committee member is appointed and not part of our election process, but serves the dual purpose of membership support and leadership development. We are pleased that Jan Ciccarelli has agreed to serve the Branch in this position. Below please find our slate of nominees. If prior written consent is obtained, nominations from the floor will also be accepted.

#### PROPOSED SLATE

**Co-Vice President – Membership:** Karen Schulz

**Co-Vice President – Membership:** Lisa Cherry

**Treasurer:** Carolyn Oesterle



### Member Records and Directory

**Jane Palmer**

jfpalmer@comcast.net

**New Address and Email**

Removed for website edition.



### **Dues are Tax Deductible**

Just a reminder – Your Branch dues are 100% tax deductible as a charitable contribution and you can also deduct all but \$3 of your national dues. However, your \$10 state dues is not tax deductible. For example, if you wrote a check for \$78 in 2015, you can deduct \$65. Contact me if you have any questions about how much of your dues can be deducted for 2015.



### **Book Sale**

**Laura Desmarais**

lkdesmarais@gmail.com

#### **LOGISTICS**

Spring is just around the corner. That means our annual Book Sale, and we want your books. If you are thinking about spring cleaning, check your home library for books you no longer want. Ask your friends, too. It's a perfect time to start collecting. We also need packers, sorters and lifters to keep up with donations.

Upcoming sort dates are March 14 and April 11, with interim dates as needed. Let Stef Zvirin ([szvirin@gmail.com](mailto:szvirin@gmail.com)) or Jean Tufano ([vsq531@aol.com](mailto:vsq531@aol.com)) know when you are available to help. As the May Sale dates approaches, we'll need your help even more to unpack boxes, set up tables, collect money and help customers. It's a wonderful fundraiser for a good cause.

**Stef and Jean**

#### **PLANNING**

We will have two planning meetings; one for members who prefer day and another in the evening for those members who prefer later meetings. Information from the Friday morning meeting will be available for those attending the Monday evening meeting.

**Friday, March 11 at 9:00 am** at Laura Desmarais' home

**Monday, March 14 at 7:00 pm** at Laura Desmarais' home

Book collection and sorting is going strong. Publicity is in full swing. We will distribute flyers and bookmarks at the April Branch meeting. Thanks to Mary Sue Brown, Suzanne Gagner, Iola Denson, and Karen Bondy for spearheading the publicity.

**Laura**



### **Memoir Circle**

**Patricia Bernhold**

pbernhold@hotmail.com

The Memoir Circle will meet at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, March 16. We are always open to new members who are looking for a safe place to hone their writing skills and share their experiences.

The meeting place will be announced by March 13 to everyone on the mailing list. Please feel free to add your name even though you might not be able to attend every meeting.





## **AM Lit**

**Kathy McCullough**

kathymccull@gmail.com

On March 4, we meet at the home of Jean Lindsey to discuss *Night in Shanghai* by Nicole Mones. Our co-hostesses are Sandra Alexander and Elaine Nissen. Patricia Spence will lead the discussion.

Mones weaves together the lives of a classical pianist hired to lead a jazz band; an adopted son of a Chinese crime boss and his indentured servant who longs to join the communist party; and a Jewish refugee from Austria. The novel is set in 1936-39 when Shanghai was an open city and culminates in a final night with an attempted escape from the city as the Japanese invade.

Looking ahead to April 1, we will discuss *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr at the home of Sue Herrmann. Our discussion leader will be Mary Mossman. Eleanor Saliamonas and Laura Desmarais will co-host.

The Glen Ellyn Library obtains a small supply of the selected books a month before the discussion. Those who hold a card from another local library are also eligible to check out the books.

If you wish to be added to the email distribution list for updates, please contact me.



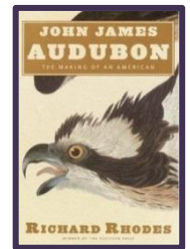
## **Non-Fiction Lit Group**

**Sue Balk and Pam Starr**

suzannebalk@yahoo.com pstarr1965@gmail.com

Non Fiction readers will meet on Wednesday, March 23 at Phyllis Fogel's home at 7:00 pm. Elaine Nissen will be our co-hostess. Carolyn Oesterle will lead the discussion of *John James Audubon* by Richard Rhodes.

The book is available at the Glen Ellyn library. Hurry and get your copy of this wonderful story of a remarkable young man who spends 35 years traveling to the most remote regions of our new country. His quest to discover and draw birds in their natural habitat resulted in his famous collection, *The Birds of America*. This is more than a biography; it's a historical documentation of an era.



## **Cultural Arts**

**Kathleen McCullough and Ellen McGowan**

kathymccull@gmail.com emcgowan123@sbcglobal.net

Our members enjoyed a lively lecture by Jessica Fellowes on *Downton Abbey* in late January and rocked out with *Beautiful, The Carol King Musical* in early February.

Upcoming at COD McAninch Arts Center is *Global Flicks* during February and early March. Foreign films in their original language (with English subtitles) are shown on Wednesdays at 1:30 pm and 7:30 pm, followed by a COD faculty-led discussion. A schedule of films is available at [www.atthemac.org/](http://www.atthemac.org/) (search global flicks).

If you wish to be on the Cultural Arts email distribution list for updated information, please contact Kathy. Ideas for future events are welcome!



## **Legal Advocacy Fund**

**Gail Davis**

kengaildavis@comcast.net

There has been success in an AAUW-supported case. The plaintiffs won in the 2012 *Moshak et al v. University of Tennessee* discrimination case in January. The plaintiffs claim they were unlawfully discriminated against and eventually forced out of their positions during a university-led merger of the men's and women's athletic departments. This suit was argued under not only Title IX, but also the Civil Rights Act and the Equal Pay Act.

This is another example of the work done by the LAF committee and our donations. If you are interested in more information about LAF, please visit the AAUW website and search for LAF.





Next month we will meet on March 21 at 7:00 pm at the home of Peggy Connolly. The March book is *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins. *The Minneapolis Star Tribune* said it is a "tale of love, regret, violence and forgetting... an engrossing psychological thriller with plenty of surprises."



*Girl Reading*, Martha Armstrong, 1994



**History and Cuisine of the Spice Routes**

**Peggy Connolly and Pat Kaczor**

connolly.peggy@gmail.com patk3872@gmail.com

**THE SPICE ROUTES: THE LEVANT**

(Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, & Southern Turkey)

As early as 1,000 BC caravans went from the Middle East and to China, trading spices from the Levant for silk. By mid-7th century AD, the rise of Islam closed the overland caravan routes through Egypt and the Suez, and sundered the European trade community from Northern Africa and India. Arab traders eventually took over trade via the Levant to Europe, until the rise of the Ottoman Turks closed the route again by 1453.

Please let Peggy know by March 17 what delicious dish you will bring to the Levantine feast.



**Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF)**

**Susan Levy-Creed and Marilyn Weidemann**

susanlevycreed@gmail.com hillaryln@wowway.com

**March is Women's History Month. In honor of that, here's a little history about AAUW's Educational Opportunities Fund.**

**1881**

AAUW is founded, promoting women's education and women's employment in institutions of higher education.

**1885**

AAUW funds its first research study- to provide proof that women who pursue higher education do not actually become physically frail or damage their brains, contrary to an official statement made by a prominent Boston physician of that time and a viewpoint generally held publicly.

**1888**

AAUW funded its first fellowship, granted to Ida Street, a University of Michigan alumna who was a pioneer in early American Indian History. The amount was a whopping \$350.

**1898**

AAUW created a Committee on Educational Legislation to provide educational opportunities for women and girls. Realizing that political action would be necessary to attain its goals, AAUW advocated for compulsory education, regulation of child labor, abolition of child labor, juvenile courts, and funding for public schools and libraries.





Our first Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch-sponsored STEM program was held on February 13 at the Wheaton Public Library.

A recap of the event will appear in the April edition of *Twigs*.



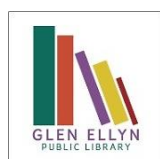
### **Branch-Sponsored STEM Programs at Glen Ellyn Public Library**

Saturday, June 11, 2016	DNA- The Blueprint for Life
Saturday, August 27, 2016	Squishy Circuits
Saturday, October 15, 2016	Density
Saturday, December 10, 2016	Astronomy
Saturday, February, 11, 2017	Simple Robotics

#### **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR THESE EVENTS!**

No science experience is needed- just enthusiasm. Each program will have two sessions. The first session is for Grades 2-5 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. The second session is for Grades 6-8 from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Please contact me at [fk1456@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fk1456@sbcglobal.net) to volunteer for these events. You will receive further information on the experiment a week before the event.



On Saturday, March 19, we will have an exhibit table at the **Glen Ellyn Public Library STEAM\* Fair.**

This is a Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW Branch event powered by The STEM Wizards, a not-for-profit brainchild of Fran Kravitz and Karen Cochran.

No volunteers are needed unless you want to come out and support two chemists.

(\*The A is for Art.)



Our Branch is participating in Tech Savvy 2016 which is scheduled for Saturday, April 16 at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines.

Tech Savvy is a full-day STEM program that offers middle school girls the opportunity to explore areas of science, technology, engineering and math and learn savvy skills to get ready for college.

The committee is looking for volunteers to help on April 16. Please contact Harriett Lindstrom for more information or to sign-up to help on the day of the event: [iltechsavvy.signup@gmail.com](mailto:iltechsavvy.signup@gmail.com)

The STEM committee received a request for adult STEM programming. We have been discussing this with the program committee to provide one science program a year at a Branch meeting. Stay tune for further details.

We are also looking into a science café format. This would allow our Branch to provide a hot topic in science at a nontraditional venue like a coffee house, etc. to the public.





### **AAUW Statement on Obama's Proposed Rule on Equal Pay**

**January 29, 2016**

**Source: AAUW website**

Seven years ago today, President Barack Obama signed into law his first piece of legislation as president, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. At today's event celebrating the anniversary, the president directed the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor, to publish a proposal to annually collect summary pay data by gender, race, and ethnicity from businesses with 100 or more employees. Under the proposal, employers would first submit pay data as of the September 30, 2017, EEO-1 filing deadline, as required by the federal government. This step also expands on and replaces an earlier AAUW-supported plan for the Department of Labor to collect similar information from federal contractors.

The new proposal will cover more than 63 million employees, and the data collected will provide critical insights into the gender and racial pay gap. This step, stemming from a recommendation of the president's National Equal Pay Task Force and a presidential memorandum issued on Equal Pay Day 2014, will help focus public enforcement of equal pay laws and provide better insight into discriminatory pay practices across industries and occupations.

The Department of Labor has identified the EEOC as the best collector of this summary data from employers. AAUW has long asserted that this kind of transparency is associated with a smaller gender pay gap and that implementing this nationwide data collection is an important step in our efforts to ensure fair pay for all. The proposed rule would be an innovative improvement over the April 2014 memorandum; it's more efficient, dramatically less costly for business, and uses existing mechanisms to collect and report the data through the annual EEO-1 filing process.

### **How Did AAUW Action Fund Score Your Elected Officials in the New Congressional Voting Record?**

The Congressional Voting Record for the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress- CVR for short- includes legislators' votes or co-sponsorship on legislation to strengthen our nation's equal pay laws, prevent campus assault, protect women's healthcare and other critical issues. Look up the details of your elected officials' records.





## Are you a Tech Savvy Volunteer?

Volunteers are needed to support the Jane Addams AAUW Online Branch for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chicagoland Tech Savvy program. Over 250 students and 100 parents are expected to attend.

Volunteers are needed on Saturday, April 16 at Oakton Community College, 1600 East Golf Road, Des Plaines. The time will be approximately 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. We will also need some volunteers to help assemble materials at Oakton during the week prior to April 16.

Send an email to [iltechsavvy.signup@gmail.com](mailto:iltechsavvy.signup@gmail.com) to indicate an interest in volunteering. Harriett Lindstrom from the Downers Grove Area AAUW is monitoring this email account and will be in touch with volunteers.

This is the program own Branch member, Fran Kravitz, has worked hard to plan and coordinate. Let's support her and make sure this is a fantastic experience.

## Branch Program Planning Meeting

**Do you have ideas you'd like to be considered for 2016-2017 Branch programs?**

The program planning meeting will be at Peggy Connolly's home on Tuesday, April 5 at 7:00 pm. All are encouraged to submit program suggestions and all are welcome to attend the meeting and promote your ideas.

Please send program ideas, along with contact information for speakers, to Peggy and Susie by Sunday, April 3 so a list can be prepared before the meeting. You may also bring suggestions to the meeting to add to the list.

[connolly.peggy@gmail.com](mailto:connolly.peggy@gmail.com) [gullicksonsusan@comcast.net](mailto:gullicksonsusan@comcast.net)







## **SAVE THE DATE SPRING BANQUET**

**Monday, May 23**

Monday, May 23 is the date for our annual end-of-the-season banquet and installation of officers.

The event will again be at Adelle's in downtown Wheaton.

Note that it will be on a MONDAY. Adelle's will be closed to the public to host our event.

Mark your calendars now and look for complete menu and reservation information in the April edition of *Twigs*.

Karen Bondy



## **JOIN AAUW'S LEGACY CIRCLE**

By making a planned gift to AAUW national, you become a member of the AAUW Legacy Circle and affirm your commitment to women and girls.

Planned gifts expand AAUW's programs and public policy agenda by providing for future generations. We all know how important it is to increase the number, scope and size of the gifts that form the long-term financial reservoir for our work on behalf of women and girls.

There are many ways to make a planned gift to AAUW. You can establish a charitable gift annuity or name AAUW as a beneficiary in your will, trust, insurance policy, or individual retirement account, among other options.

I am pleased to be a member of our Legacy Circle and would be very happy to provide a brochure, additional information or answer any question about the program. You may also contact the AAUW Planned Giving Department at (877) 357-5587.

Lisa Cherry





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### What is AAUW?

<b>Mission:</b>	AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.
<b>Membership:</b>	In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, class or disability. Membership is not by invitation.
<b>Legal Advocacy Fund:</b>	AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.
<b>Vision Statement</b>	AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.