

## A Leaf from the President

It's a new year and most of us at least think about making a New Year's resolution even if we don't carry it out. In an introspective moment we might wrestle with our consciences, take a deep breath and march forth for a few days of reform before sneaking back to our old ways. We mean to make changes but our daily priorities limit our accomplishments. We spend time where we must and count on others to help us with the rest. We can't do it all so it's a case of balance.

As some of you know, I had several misadventures in 2016 including three 'major' falls resulting in first name familiarity with Immediate and Orthopaedic Care personnel at DuPage Medical Center. I have absorbed the fact that the invisible aging process going on day by day is really going on day by day. Unobserved, but happening nevertheless. The knees don't work as well. I'm not so limber. Good balance is imagined. I have proof in the time I've spent in casts and braces, being x-rayed and smiling while being escorted into cold exam rooms. I'm not complaining. There are many others with more serious problems. I'm merely pointing out how I have been fooling myself about being the same old Kitty as of the 1980's and 90's- not the 20teens. It has jolted me into committing to a Health Track membership and to thinking about that community of helpers who have been there for me. I wouldn't have managed returning health and quality of life without help from many of you....you are my balance.

This month we are about to choose new officers and chairs for the Branch. We are its stewards, we are its engine. We are thrilled to choose a new book list, to cook a gourmet dish for the Silk Road, to come to two wonderful celebratory banquets. We delight in a rich Cultural Arts agenda. We cheer ourselves and each other in the glow of the Book Sale and the educational opportunities it provides. We are proud of our STEM program, our Public Policy reach, and our general involvement in issues that make a difference in our world. We learn from each other and rely on a network of like-minded women who work for a better community, state and country. The joy of our constituency. Our Branch rests precariously in our hands. We are so busy with other things. We want to travel. We've made other promises. We have family and other commitments. But no matter how much we can't, everyone can do a little 'can.' None of us is naturally qualified to do every job. But we can ask for help- for a buddy, or 'co' to make the work of many hands. We have a printed structure for the jobs to be done, and continuity.

Excellence is what we make of it...We choose patience and tolerance with and of each other. We love the quality of Branch activities and we know it springs from love of learning and a yearning for the higher ground we seek in our lives. Balance. Think about what you can do to contribute. Remember Dickens' unforgettable character in *Oliver Twist* who chimed out "Barkis is willin' " (in that case, to take on a wife). YOU are merely being asked to lend a hand. You'll be surprised how much fun you will have, how your efforts will broaden you and the Branch. After all, someone else is not doing these jobs. We ARE 'The Branch.'

*Kitty*

## The Underground Railroad in DuPage County



**Branch member  
Glennette Tilley Turner  
will share her extensive  
knowledge about the  
Underground Railroad  
in DuPage County.**

**Learn more about  
Glennette inside.**

**Wednesday, February 1**

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

**Glen Ellyn Civic Center  
535 Duane Street**

Program VPs

P. Connolly  
S. Gullickson

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Time	Information
February 1	Branch Meeting	7:00 pm	Glen Ellyn Civic Center, 535 Duane Street, Glen Ellyn
February 2	Avant Le Théâtre	5:15 pm	Wine and cheese avant le Buffalo Theater Ensemble event Peggy Connolly's
February 2	Le Théâtre Cultural Arts Event	6:45 pm 8:00 pm	<i>Good People</i> by Buffalo Theater Ensemble Pre-show discussion and play at the MAC, COD
February 3	AM Lit	9:30 am	Kitty Johansson's
February 6	Book Sorting	10:30 am	U-STOR-IT, 120 Tubeway Drive, Carol Stream
February 8	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Laura Desmarais'
February 10	Book Sale Organizational Mtg	9:30 am	Laura Desmarais'
February 10	Film Group	7:00 pm	Elinor Saliamonas'
February 11	STEM Event	10:00 am	Glen Ellyn Public Library, 400 Duane Street, Glen Ellyn
February 16	Spice Routes	7:00 pm	Peggy Connolly's
February 20	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Phyllis Fogel's
February 22	AM Non-Fiction Lit	10:00 am	Peggy Connolly's
February 25	Cultural Arts Event	8:00 pm	Ira Glass, MAC, College of DuPage
March 4	Branch Meeting	9:30 am- 11:00 am	Morton Arboretum, 4100 Illinois Route 53, Lisle <b>SPECIAL DAY - TIME - LOCATION</b>

## Important Reminder About Our March Meeting

### Save the Date



On March 4 we will be treated to a program by Rita Hassert, Curator of the Morton Arboretum's Botanical Art Collection at the **Arboretum on Saturday morning from 9:30 am - 11:00 am.**

We will also elect our new slate of officers so come and VOTE!

(We need a quorum so be there and vote your choice!).



### **Membership**

**Lisa Cherry and Karen Schulz**

[lisacherryhome@aol.com](mailto:lisacherryhome@aol.com) [okschulz@aol.com](mailto:okschulz@aol.com)

It's hard to believe we are already well into the second half of our program year. That means we are also able to offer deeply discounted memberships that finish out our current year. Our best value is always for those who join us at one of our public events (Branch meetings, Book Sale, STEM) and for those who sign up at such an event after March 1, new memberships are effective all the way through June of 2018! We are always happy to discuss the best option for potential members, so please keep your referrals coming!

Please read the following to become acquainted with a wonderful new member.

Welcome new member, **Rita Butler** from Winfield! Rita left banking, despite her BS in finance from Northeastern Illinois and years of experience, to pursue her passion in earth and space sciences. While Rita expects her new career to be challenging, she is excited to put her recently-earned MA in teaching to use. She started 2017 student teaching Astronomy, Biology and Geology at Naperville High School. Rita looks forward to pursuing additional interests including AAUW and continuing to be a 'Solar System Ambassador' for Jet Propulsion Labs/NASA. She continues to volunteer as Committee Chairperson for Boy Scout Troop #33 and leader for an Ambassador Girl Scout Troop, both in West Chicago. Rita and her husband, Frank, have 2 children. Daughter, Jacquelyn, attends Illinois Math & Science Academy and their son, Jonathan, attends Michigan State University. We thank Fran Kravitz for inviting Rita to become an AAUW member and look forward to seeing her at upcoming events and meetings.



## **Member Records and Directory**

**Jane Palmer**

jfpalmer@comcast.net

This portion removed from Internet edition.



## **Book Sale**

**Laura Desmarais**

lkdesmarais@gmail.com

It is time to get ready for the Book Sale. We will have our first organizational meeting at my house on February 10 at 9:30 am. I plan to discuss all that happens leading up to this great event and to begin to recruit volunteers. Remember, there are lots of us. My goal is to get as many of you involved in the Sale as possible. This way, we all contribute and no one does it all. I am always amazed at how the Sale falls into place. It takes a Branch! Looking forward to seeing you at the first meeting. Please let me know if you plan to attend.

We can all contribute by talking to friends and family about the Book Sale. The more books and buyers we have, the better the Sale. Thanks to all who pick up donations and take them to the locker. Remember to let Jean or Stephanie know when you made deliveries.

Book Sale sorting is held at 10:30 at the locker. See your Directory for location information.

### **Sorting Dates**

Monday, February 6 10:30 am

Monday, March 6 10:30 am

Monday, April 3 10:30 am





## **Film Group**

**Anne Hanley**

ahanley@mindspring.com

By the time you read this, you will probably know which movies were nominated for the Academy Awards (Nominations January 24, Awards February 26). Members shared their thoughts about their favorite films at our January meeting, a fun conversation that demonstrated the great movies out there for the viewing. One I missed but now want to see is *Florence Foster Jenkins*. Don't you miss out! Join us for our February meeting at the home of Eleanor Saliamonas. We will meet on Friday, February 10 at 7:00 pm.

As always, the film selection will go out the weekend before the meeting.



## **AM Lit**

**Kathy McCullough**

kathymccull@gmail.com

We meet on Friday, February 3, at the home of Kitty Johansson to discuss *Madame Bovary* by Gustave Flaubert. Our discussion leader is LaVonne Ruoff with co-hostesses Nancy Possinger and Eleanor Saliamonas.

"Emma Bovary is a bored, unhappy, middle-class wife who deludes herself with romantic fantasies that destroy her. These fantasies lead her into a disastrous love affair and debt. The book is famous for his [Flaubert's] focus on realism vs. romance and his elegant style."

Looking ahead to March 3, Elaine Nissen will lead the discussion of *Mr. Penumbra's 24 Hour Bookstore* by Robin Sloan. Gail Davis will serve as co-hostess; however we need a volunteer to host our meeting as well as another co-hostess.

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 would like to be added to my email distribution list for updates/announcements, please contact me.



## **Non-Fiction Lit**

**Sue Herrmann Ewa Bacon**

sherrmann710@gmail.com baconew@lewisu.edu

### **AM Non-Fiction**

Welcome to AM Non-Fiction. **Note time change: We have decided to meet at 10:00 am rather than 10:30 am.** Our next meeting will be February 22. We will meet at the home of Laura Desmarais. Our discussion leader will be Elaine Nissen and our co-hostess is Phyllis Fogel. We will be discussing *Asia's Cauldron: The South China Sea and the End of a Stable Pacific* by Robert Kaplan. You may pick up a copy of the book at the Glen Ellyn Public Library in early February.

Please note the following books that will be read this coming year:

April 26: *The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of the Native People in North America*, Thomas King

June 28: *Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World*, Andrea Wulf

August 23: Book selection day and potluck lunch

Please remember to call the monthly site hostess to reserve a chair for the meeting. Otherwise, the floor is always available!

**Sue Herrmann**



## **History and Cuisine of the Spice Routes**

**Peggy Connolly and Pat Kaczor**

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

The Egyptians were the first to record transactions of the ancient spice trade. As early as the 3rd millennium BC, Egypt documented trade with the ancient lands of Punt and Arabia. Initially overland routes were used, but trade grew as maritime routes were added. In the last three centuries BCE the Ptolemaic dynasty extended to India using Red Sea ports. Join us February 16 as we explore the ancient Spice Routes and Egyptian Cuisine.

Please let Peggy know by February 9 what Egyptian delicacy you will tempt us with.



The Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch presented a workshop on *Refraction of Light* at the Wheaton Public Library on January 14. Unlike previous workshops, we were scheduled in the afternoon from 1:00 to 2:00 pm immediately following *Reading with Rover*. There were 28 very excited children in grades 3-5, many who have taken workshops with us since we began this program. The library informed us that 30 children had signed up with a waiting list of 10 more that could not be accommodated. In this workshop, we delved into understanding the principles of light. We discussed forms of energy, waves, the composition of visible light, rainbows and prisms. This was followed by making a kaleidoscope out of an empty toilet paper rolls lined inside with aluminum foil and placing a cut out shape on one end and a diffraction gradient on the other. The diffraction gradient acts as a prism bending the light so that you see a rainbow of, in this case, colored stars when you look through the tube at the light. The children went on to decorate the outside of their toilet paper roll. Branch members who participated in this event were: Patricia Bernhold, Jean Lindsey, Elaine Nissen, Donna Jean Simon and a new member, Sarah Moore, who will be joining the Branch at the March meeting.

Our next STEM event will be on Saturday, February 11 at the Glen Ellyn Public Library. The topic will be on Wobbly Robots. This a very simple robot made out of a plastic up and vibrating motor. The vibrations cause the robot to draw on paper using its marker legs.

We could use your help as a volunteer for this outreach program. No science experience needed- just enthusiasm. There is no better fulfillment than seeing a child's eyes light up when they understand a new concept. Please join us at our next library events.

**Glen Ellyn Public Library**

Saturday, February, 11     Simple Robotics

First session for grades 2-5

10:00 am to 11:00 am

Second session for grades 6-8

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Finally, Tech Savvy is seeking volunteers for its Saturday, March 25 event. Please contact me at the email above if you are able to help.

**Cultural Arts****Kathleen McCullough and Ellen McGowan**

kathymccull@gmail.com    emcgowan123@sbcglobal.net

Buffalo Theater Ensemble at the MAC, College of DuPage, is presenting *Good People* by David Lindsay-Abaire. Cultural Arts is planning a Thursday evening, 8:00 pm, February 2, outing to see this production. Peggy Connolly has offered to host wine and appetizers, 5:15 pm, at her home prior to the 6:45 pm pre-show discussion at the MAC. *The New York Post* hails this play set in an old South Boston neighborhood as "poignant, brave and almost subversive in its focus on what it really means to be down on your luck." As of this writing, there are still several seats remaining in the block at the price of \$31.20 per ticket.



We have reserved group seats at the MAC for *Seven Things I Have Learned: An Evening with Ira Glass*, Saturday, February 25, at 8:00 pm. Glass, a humorist and host of NPR's award-winning *This American Life* "recounts some of the more memorable events that led to his career as one of the seminal voices in American Radio." Group sales rate based on a minimum number of 10 tickets is \$64.60, payable to College of DuPage.

We are also looking into a winter 2017 Drury Lane production of *Saturday Night Fever*. We are assessing if there is interest and will then pursue group rate tickets, if we have the required minimum of 20 attendees.

Please contact Kathy to reserve your seat for any of the above events or to be added to the Cultural Arts database for email announcements.



### **PM Lit**

**Janet Arden**

janarden@icloud.com

PM Lit: Good reads and great conversation

PM Lit meets on February 20 to discuss *The Secret Chord* by Geraldine Brooks. Based on the life of the biblical King David, *The New York Times* calls this novel a "thundering, gritty, and emotionally devastating reconsideration of King David." We'll be meeting at 7:00 pm at Phyllis Fogel's home. If possible, please let Phyllis know you are coming at prfogel@live.com.

Want to read ahead for our March 20 meeting? The book is *The Japanese Lover* by Isabelle Allende.



### **Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF)**

**Susan Levy-Creed and Marilyn Wiedemann**

susanlevycreed@gmail.com hillaryln@wowway.com

Good news. We've already received a letter from one of our local high schools asking us if we intend to again support a COD scholarship. We've responded with a hearty 'yes.'

Two other letters arrived from viewers of our website inquiring about scholarships. Looks like we have become important in the community for this educational support. Great!

That means our Book Sale efforts continue in earnest. Please donate what you can, and ask your neighbors to donate what they can- spring cleaning in winter!

Our local scholarship recipients won't be chosen until after spring break; and the national scholars will be chosen by AAUW National which we won't hear about until next fall. But the effort starts now to make that a reality.

Thank you for all you do to make support of the education of young woman a continuing reality.



### **Legal Advocacy Fund**

**Gail Davis**

kengaildavis@comcast.net

In recent years, we have all been aware of the sexual assault epidemic in the U.S. military. AAUW is supporting the case of *Baldwin et al. v. Department of Defense* which we hope will advance this struggle.

This case was filed by Celina Baldwin, Alyssa Rodriguez, Jennifer Smith and Carmelita Swain after they were forced to endure sexual assault or rape while on active duty, some during deployments. The military failed to provide fair hearings or protect them from retaliation. The plaintiffs also claim that the military allowed service members who were themselves accused of sexual assault or harassment to serve as authorities in similar cases.

The plaintiffs are seeking an injunction to stop the military from allowing service members who have committed sexual harassment or assault to serve as convening authorities in sexual assault investigations.

Little by little, our member donations of \$5 help our country to move toward equality.



*Liberty's too precious a thing to be buried in books, Miss Saunders.  
Men and women should hold it up in front of them every single day of their lives and say:  
'I'm free to think and to speak. My ancestors couldn't. I can. And my children will.'  
Boys and girls want to grow up remembering.*

Jefferson Smith  
*Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*

Your voice matters, whether that 'voice' is called, tweeted, emailed or mailed in. Recently, House Republicans voted (119-74) to include in a package of rules a measure that would weaken the Office of Congressional Ethics. This independent office is responsible for investigating members of Congress and their staff who are accused of misconduct. If implemented, the amendment would strip the office's independent status by placing it under the jurisdiction of the House Ethics Committee, and it would limit consideration of anonymous tips. The proposed changes drew criticism from Democrats and from President-elect Donald Trump, who condemned the vote on Twitter before the 115th Congress commenced. In response to Trump's criticism, House Republicans held an emergency meeting to remove the changes to the ethics panel from the rules package. **In addition, several media sources, including PBS, reported that immediately following the initial vote to weaken the OCE, the phone calls from constituents overwhelmed Congressional staffers. Callers protested both the plan to weaken the OCE as well as that action assuming priority over other matters.** This instance of citizens speaking out reminds us as AAUW members to sign up for Action Network alerts and the Two Minute Activist at <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist>.

At *Twigs* press time, the AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch is officially registered as an organization participating in the Chicago Women's March on January 21 with a projected participation of 22,000. Branch members will carry our banner and join other AAUW branches at the rally and start location. The Chicago March is a 'sister' march to the Women's March on Washington. AAUW branches are participating in marches in seven other Illinois cities. AAUW will have an official delegation at the Women's March on Washington.

From the League of Women Voters e-News, January 12: "The January 21st march is being held on the day after President-elect Trump's inauguration. A massive parade of men and women advocating women's suffrage took place in Washington, D.C. on March 3, 1913 the day before President Woodrow Wilson's first inauguration and featured more than 8,000 marchers, nine bands and 20 floats. Within 7 years, the 19th amendment to the Constitution was ratified giving women the right to vote."

The League of Women Voters of Glen Ellyn invites us to  
**"An Evening with Dr. Ann Rondeau, President, College of DuPage"**

Wednesday, January 25 at the Glen Ellyn Civic Center. Doors open at 7:00 pm; program begins at 7:30 pm.

## Branch Member Glennette Tilley Turner

# The Underground Railroad in DuPage County

On February 1, we have the honor of hearing our beloved member, Glennette Tilley Turner, share her extensive knowledge of the Underground Railroad. Glennette is one of the country's foremost experts on the Underground Railroad, and serves on the National Park Service Underground Railroad Advisory Committee. She is an author, lecturer, educator, historian, researcher, and consultant to local historic organizations including Naper Settlement, Graue Mill, Blackberry Farm, and the Wheaton History Center. She narrated the Chicago Opera Theater's production of Harriet Tubman.

Glennette was born in Raleigh, North Carolina, but moved to Florida, where her father was president of a small college. After a full day's work, he drove to distant Baptist churches seeking funding for the struggling college. Fearful he would fall asleep driving, her mother sent 10-year old Glennette along to ask questions and keep her father talking and awake. He told her of the achievements of Black men and women: achievements not included in school texts and library books. He encouraged her to write these down.

Glennette earned a BA in English from Lake Forest College. Initially working in advertising, she followed her heart into a teaching career of three decades, during which she earned her MA from Goddard in 1979. After she retired from the classroom, Glennette was the supervisor of student teachers for National-Louis University.

Glennette knows what inspires children to learn. To make history come alive for her students, she wrote skits and plays of the lives her father had told her about. She turned those skits into two of her early books: *Take a Walk in Their Shoes* and *Follow in Their Footsteps*. She received an AAUW grant to support research on Harriet Tubman, including recording an interview with Harriet Tubman's last living relative. In addition to publishing ten books of history and biography, she has written articles for numerous magazines and newspapers, including a monthly biographical sketch for *Ebony, Jr!*




Glennette has received numerous awards for her writing, historical research, and leadership including the *Studs Terkel Humanities Award*, the *Margaret Landon Award*, the *Alice Browning Award of the International Black Writers Conference*, the *Wilbur Siebert Award*, the *Irma Kingsley Johnson Award of the Friends of Amistad*, and the *DuPage County NAACP Medgar Evers Award*. She was inducted into the International Literary Hall of Fame for Writers of African Descent at the Gwendolyn Brooks Center. She received a lifetime achievement award from Operation Uplift, was selected as an Outstanding Woman Educator of DuPage County, and was honored by Top Ladies of Distinction, a professional humanitarian organization serving young people. Glennette is a former president of the Black Literary Umbrella and the Children's Reading Roundtable of Chicago.

Glennette and her husband Albert are long-time residents of Wheaton and have two grown sons.

Please join us for a very special evening with Glennette Tilley Turner.





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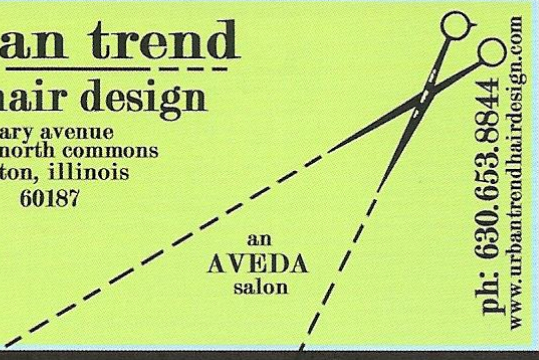
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### What is AAUW?

<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.