



Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch NFP

# Twigs

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

January 2017



## A LEAF FROM THE PRESIDENT

The holidays have done their magic- dressing and draping us with their measure of holly and jolly, and our Banquet is a warm memory now, among many others. Thanks to Gail Davis and Deb Ness it was a splendid occasion- reviewing our 2016 accomplishments and rededicating ourselves to yet another year of educational support to women and girls. It takes a willingness to participate and contribute- sometimes just on the smallest level. But everyone is needed. I am constantly amazed at the generosity and stabilizing dependability of our members.

We've had enough of election campaigning and hopefully now we can settle down to see what we can do for a better world. AAUW has a very professional public policy team in Washington working hard on issues we care about and we have a terrific Branch Public Policy chair in Patricia Spence who keeps us well-informed. By partnering with State and National on targeted issues we can benefit from solid research and legislative lobbying. Our efforts can be enhanced.

Fran Kravitz has developed our STEM project into stellar local library programs and has been awarded a state AAUW grant to fund them. We are proud to be a supporter of her achievements and thrilled that our volunteer members are having such fun helping. It's Fran's sweet touch. Past President Cheryl Temple has been in touch with Fran for help establishing a similar program in Florida, where Cheryl lives. Cheryl received her introductory information via *Twigs* pigeons.

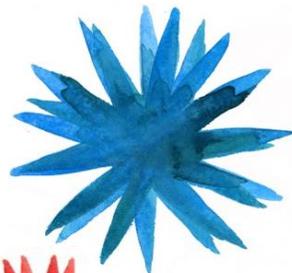
The talented executive trio of Laura Desmarais, Jean Tufano and Steph Zvirin will soon bring the Book Sale into focus. We will need worker bees scattered throughout the Branch, humming along to our time-honored, highly-developed Book Sale rhythm. If you want to catch the spirit of AAUW, that's the place to find it. In fact, we're magicians with every aspect of books- from Fiction and Non Fiction Book Groups which enrich our minds to the challenge of resale- funding our cause. We turn books into banquets...and more importantly- into grants and scholarships!

Our own Three Tenors: Kathy McCullough, Ellen McGowan, and the MAC have become the three Macs of Cultural Arts- applause! Their persistent quest for quality entertainment and learning offer us splendid opportunities with optimal arrangements. Their venue choices bring joy and positive cohesiveness to the Branch...and put a little glitter in our lives.

We are proud of Laura Desmarais and Lisa Cherry, both officers of the Illinois board of AAUW. Along with a certificate of appreciation from National for 60 great years, our Branch can celebrate its accomplishments and the talent we have nurtured. Take a bow, ladies.

And quietly broadcasting all of this and more, is our own Pulitzer Prize candidate for journalism- the creative and talented editor of *Twigs*...Kimberly Thacker. Read *Twigs*, everybody. It tops *The Huffington Post* and *The Onion*!

Kitty



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Time	Information
January 6	AM Lit	9:30 am	Marilyn Wiedemann's
January 11	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Susie Gullickson's
January 14	STEM Event	1:00 pm	Wheaton Public Library, 225 North Cross Street, Wheaton
January 14	Film Group	7:00 pm	Kitty Johansson's
January 16	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Kitty Johansson's
January 25	PM Non-Fiction Lit	7:00 pm	Marilyn Wiedemann's
February 2	Avant Le Théâtre	5:15 pm	Wine and cheese avant le Buffalo Theater Ensemble event Peggy Connolly's, 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton
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 11	STEM Event	10:00 am	Glen Ellyn Public Library, 400 Duane Street, Glen Ellyn
February 16	Spice Routes: Egypt	7:00 pm	Peggy Connolly's
February 22	AM Non-Fiction Lit	10:00 am	Location TBD
February 25	Cultural Arts Event	8:00 pm	Ira Glass, MAC, COD



**NO GENERAL MEETING IN JANUARY**



### Membership

**Lisa Cherry and Karen Schulz**

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

At our wonderful Winter Banquet, your Membership committee (Lisa, Karen and Jan) were thrilled to spend the evening with six of our nine 2016 new members. We had the opportunity to get to know each other and celebrate their decision to join our Branch, which now totals 134 members. We hope that all new members will be able to attend an orientation gathering which will be held in January. Details on the gathering will be sent out soon to the Class of 2016!





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***Treasury***

**Carolyn Oesterle**

coesterle@wheatoneye.com

Our Branch is now signed up for the AmazonSmile donations program. This means you can purchase products on Amazon and have 0.5% of the price donated to our Branch automatically.

You need to sign up and purchase items through AmazonSmile.com, not Amazon.com. To sign up, log into Smile.Amazon.com. Type the Branch name, "AAUW Wheaton Glen Ellyn Branch NFP" in the box of charity listings and enter. Check the box that appears that you understand. You are now signed in.

To shop, log into amazonsmile.com. Not all items are eligible. You can see the eligibility for AmazonSmile listed in the box where you add the item to your cart. Happy shopping.



***Book Sale***

**Laura Desmarais**

lkdesmarais@gmail.com

Drop off books at either RE/MAX Suburban location:

**RE/MAX Suburban  
1417 North Main Street  
Wheaton**

**RE/MAX Suburban  
441 Taft Avenue  
Glen Ellyn**



***AM Lit***

**Kathy McCullough**

kathymccull@gmail.com

We meet January 6 to discuss *The Forest Lover* by Susan Vreeland at the home of Marilyn Wiedemann. Our discussion leader is Jane Palmer with Janet Arden and Susan Levy-Creed serving as our co-hostesses.

“Chafing against the confines of colonial Victorian culture, Emily Carr shucked her prescribed life of teaching pretty art to the children of the British Columbian elite. Defying convention, she set off alone into the wilderness to paint the last remnants of Pacific Northwest Native American culture that the British were trying to eradicate. Carr provides us with one of the few existing visual records of Native American ceremony, art and culture.”

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

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 and announcements, please contact me.



## STEM

Fran Kravitz

fk1456@sbcglobal.net

The Wheaton Glen Ellyn Branch AAUW has been very busy with STEM workshops at the end of November and mid-December. On Tuesday afternoon, November 29, the Branch presented a workshop on polymers at the Wheaton Public Library. During the holiday season it is difficult to get space on a Saturday at the Wheaton Public Library. There were approximately 24 eager and inquisitive children in grades 3-5 waiting to make a variety of polymers. We discussed what polymers are, both natural and synthetic; viewed the start of a 2-liter bottle before it undergoes blow molding; demonstrated superabsorbent polymers found in baby diapers; made artificial snow; and talked about non-Newtonian properties before preparing slime and silly putty. Branch members who participated in this event were: Patricia Bernhold, Jean Lindsey and Donna Jean Simon.

Next on the calendar was our STEM event on Saturday, December 10 at Glen Ellyn Public Library. The topic was astronomy which is bit of a far reach for a chemist but scientists always stretch themselves in other scientific areas with the aid of the Internet and new member Rita Butler (soon to be a high school astronomy and earth science teacher). We had 18 very bright children in grades 2-5 in the morning. After some technical difficulties with the A/V equipment, we discussed the universe and the solar system, looked at the composition and environment of the planets, discussed the loss of Pluto's status as a planet and then quickly worked on building simple telescopes out of PVC pipes. Our second session in the afternoon was canceled even though 3 students registered. We had several volunteers at the ready but, alas, no one came. Branch members who participated in this event were: Nancy Daly, Sharon Garney, Jean Lindsey, Deb Ness, Elaine Nissen and Patricia Spence.

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.

### Wheaton Public Library

Saturday, January 14



1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

### 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





## **Film Group**

**Anne Hanley**

ahanley@mindspring.com

If you are like me, you plan to see a lot of movies over the holidays! This is Oscar season, the best time of the year for film lovers and for Film Group. Take note of your holiday film viewing and share it with us at our January meeting! We will gather at 7:00 pm on Saturday, January 14 at the home of Kitty and Tomas Johansson to discuss our film selection. As always, the choice will go out via email the weekend before. If you aren't receiving the emails and think you would like to join us, send me a note at ahanley@mindspring.com.



## **Non-Fiction Lit**

**Sue Herrmann Ewa Bacon**

sherrmann710@gmail.com baconew@lewisu.edu

### **AM Non-Fiction**

Welcome one and all to AM Non-Fiction. Please note that we have decided to meet at 10:00 am rather than 10:30 am. Our next meeting will be February 22. 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 February.

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

February 22: *Asia's Cauldron, the South China Sea and the End of a Stable Pacific*, Robert Kaplan

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 possibly a potluck lunch

Once we have a February site hostess, (we select her at our December meeting), we will contact all of you. Please remember to call the site hostess to reserve a chair for the meeting. Otherwise, the floor is always available!

You can contact me at the email address above or (h) (630) 665-9221, (c) (630) 234-1941.

**Sue Herrmann**

### **PM Non-Fiction**

The next meeting of the PM Non-Fiction readers is scheduled for January 25. We are meeting at 7:00 pm at the home of Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann. Please let her know if you are planning to attend. (Call (630)-858-2091 or email marilyn.mayer@gmail.com). Ewa Bacon will be leading the discussion of Yuval Noah Harari's *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*. This book is an example of what is called "deep history." Harari's subject is the biological species *Homo sapiens sapiens* and our good friend Jared Diamond (*Guns, Germs, and Steel*) says that "*Sapiens* tackles the biggest questions of history and of the modern world, and it is written in unforgettably vivid language." You can now read this book in 26 languages, (but I'd recommend English). Harari is a lively and provocative writer. So...what were those Hunters and Gatherers up to? What connects the Code of Hammurabi and Jefferson's Declaration of Independence? Do we understand the origins of patriarchy? What is the "discovery of ignorance" all about? 20 sizzling chapters. Pick your favorite and let's talk about it!

PM Non-Fiction, please contact Ewa Bacon at the address above or (630) 871-7741.

**Ewa Bacon**



## **PM Lit**

**Janet Arden**

janarden@icloud.com

PM Lit meets January 16 to discuss *The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman. Rachel Pomie, the only child of French/Jewish refugees, was raised on the Danish West Indies island of St. Thomas in the early 19th century. To save her family's business, she was married to Isaac Petit, an older widower three children. Together they had three more

children before he died and the estate passed to his family. Isaac's young cousin Frederic Pissaro was sent from Paris to manage the business and the estate. He and Rachel were secretly married and had four sons, the third was the Impressionist Camille Pissaro. Join us as we delve into the life of a woman constrained by the limitations of her time and religion, yet also emboldened by the African-Caribbean culture around her.

Our hostess is Kitty Johansson.



## **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 at her home prior to the 6:45 pm pre-show discussion. *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." Ticket fee will be approximately \$31, if we have the minimum number of 10 attendees.

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. Production dates are mid-January to mid-March 2017.

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.

### ***Play Before the Play***

Cultural Arts' February 2 event, a theater evening to see a performance of Buffalo Theatre Ensemble's *Good People* and a pre-show discussion at the theater, will be preceded by a pre-discussion gathering at 5:15 pm at the home of Peggy Connolly. Please join us for wine, light appetizers, and convivial conversation.



## **Legal Advocacy Fund**

**Gail Davis**

kengaildavis@comcast.net

The Legal Advocacy fund (LAF) provides financial and organizational support for a select number of sex discrimination cases in the workplace and academia that have the potential to provide significant protection for all women.

Nathalie Gosset has worked for 30 years as an engineer and was hired in 2003 by the Alfred E. Mann Institute at the University of Southern California. Later, she was promoted into a position directly below the executive director, Jonathan Lasch. Gosset claims that she was subjected to ongoing sexual harassment by Lasch. In 2007, her reports of sexual misconduct to her superiors and her claims were disregarded. She claims that her ability to perform her duties was obstructed. She was terminated in 2015, and so was the four-year scholarship awarded to her daughter by the university.

Gossett is now in arbitration hearings under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the California Fair Employment and Housing Act. Because it is not a federal case, AAUW cannot offer financial support. However, they are dedicating moral support to this individual, to her case, and to the upholding of Title VII's protections.



**I don't ever remember feeling this awake.**

**Thelma**

**From AAUW Washington Updates:**

Equal Pay Pledge: Forty-four new employers signed the Equal Pay Pledge, bringing the total to over 100 businesses, who have committed to advance equal pay. They include eBay, AT&T, Yahoo, Zillow Group, Amazon and PepsiCo. Its provisions include conducting a company-wide gender pay analysis, reviewing hiring and promotion processes to reduce unconscious bias, and incorporating equal pay efforts as equity initiatives. Anheuser-Busch made news when they signed the pledge after urging from the public and AAUW members.

Trump Cabinet Members: The Senate advises on and consents to cabinet-level positions and Supreme Court nominations. AAUW believes a full vetting of each nominee must include close examination of threshold questions concerning qualifications and temperament. Each nominee should also be free from all current and potential conflicts of interest.

AAUW will be watching the confirmation hearings with our mission and goals in mind. The heads of the **Departments of Education, Labor, Justice and Health and Human Services**, in particular, stand to have significant influence, positive or negative, on issues affecting women and families. See list of issues at <http://www.aauw.org/article/trump-cabinet-picks-must-face-full-and-fair-vetting-process/>

**AAUW 2017 National Elections: Key Dates**

Early April	Voter PINs emailed to members and mailed with the Spring AAUW <i>Outlook</i> .
April 14-June 15	Members vote online.
June 16	Election results announced at National Convention (June 14-17) and online. See <a href="http://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/">http://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/</a>

Of Special Note: The *Spring Outlook* will contain the candidate slate, bylaws proposals, Public Policy Program proposals, and resolutions we will be voting on. A proposed national bylaws change would move the approval of the Biennial Public Policy Program (PPP) to the AAUW Board of Directors and away from the direct votes of individual members.

While the AAUW Governance Committee's rationale states that the PPP is the only "program" that is voted on by the general membership, others feel the PPP is the very core of AAUW. All members should have a direct vote. The period to comment on or propose bylaws amendments, Public Policy Program changes, and resolutions has ended. The April to June voting period will allow more time for examination of proposed changes.

**You get what you settle for.**

**Louise**

**Invitation from the Gender Equity Fund of Illinois**

*Equal Means Equal*, the new documentary that investigates gender inequities in the U.S. justice system and supports passage of the ERA, is available to stream from iTunes. Coincidentally, one of the proposed revisions to the Public Policy Program is "*The AAUW supports the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, by supporting the three state strategy, as the quickest means to ratification.*" GEF will reimburse members for the cost of the movie rental (\$12.99) if they screen the movie in their private homes for at least six viewers. If you are interested in hosting a screening, contact Patricia Spence for more details.

### **"Mobilizing Women" at COD**

On November 20 the College of Du Page Women's Studies Committee hosted "Mobilizing Women," an event meant to bring women's and service organizations around the county together to strategize, build bridges, and give women in the county a chance to act and to make our presence and power more visible. Representatives from the Downers Grove, Naperville, and Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW branches addressed the attendees about the breadth of activities and achievements of AAUW national, state and local organizations. Event organizers plan a similar event in January, date to be announced.

### **Women's March, Washington, D.C.**

AAUW will have an official delegation to the Women's March, slated to begin at 10:00 am on January 21 at Independence Avenue and Third Street SW, right in front of the U.S. Capitol. We are all invited. Email Patricia Spence for details.

*You said you 'n' me was gonna get out of town and for once just really let our hair down. Well, darlin', look out, 'cause my hair is comin' down!*

Thelma

## **Phyllis Fogel Is Featured in *Daily Herald* Article**

Our Branch's very own longtime member and past president Phyllis Fogel and her husband Ron are featured in a *Daily Herald* article that details their passion for playing and teaching bridge.

Click here to read the article:

[Phyllis and Ron](#)





2016



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### What is AAUW?

- Mission:** AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.
- Membership:** 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.
- Legal Advocacy Fund:** AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.
- Vision Statement** 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.