

A Leaf from the President

Our Ewa Bacon (whose membership covers over 40 years) recently passed on an astute article to me by David Brooks of the *New York Times* (<https://nyti.ms/2pwdTYz>). In it he describes organizations that are “thick” - and leave lasting marks on their members, and “thin” - groups that have merely a short term personal promotional value, quickly forgotten upon exit. Without rephrasing Mr. Brooks’ article, I would like to point out that the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch of AAUW is just such a “thick organization.” It leaves its mark on those who pass through its paces, as well as those faithful who visit its Book Sale year after year. Members absorb the shared group spirit and buyers feel its magic. “I wouldn’t miss it!” they say, unfolding their self-printed coupon(s) that they want to apply to the \$10 Bag of Books.

Members complain that their backs are hurting, that they have previous commitments, and that having already served, it’s someone else’s turn. But if one scans the faces at the Book Sale and, indeed, at other meetings, there are clusters of animated conversations, eyes flashing with radiant greetings and delighted surprise while fingers continue reshuffling books. There is a sense of pride and determined dedication to what we’re busily doing and a glow is discernible around us. Maybe it’s only the slanted rays of golden sun on the gym floor as the Sale days roll by. We are doing for those who need us, pursuing their needs before our own. Haven’t we heard before that to gain true inner peace, do for others not for self?

We are dedicated to these principles in our Branch and to the good work we do. Truly, for most of us it is the most worthwhile thing we do all year. There are phone calls, pick-ups, plans and organizational schemes, complaints about a job done incorrectly because it IS so important we get it right, and there are the interest groups that enrich our minds by sharing our hearts. There is a coating of glue mixed with honey that feeds our souls and binds us together and we work harder than ever, forming deep and substantive friendships. It’s the shared effort, the collaboration, and the collective memory of our knowledge and experience that slowly bakes together. We know how to do this thing together, and to champion each other rather than ourselves. We are standing on shoulders that have stood before us. It is our equity.

We are working for the greater good- for the national, state and local agendas that we support and with whom we accomplish what we could not individually. It is the warmth of contact, the cooperative sharing of ideas and values that feeds our love and friendship with each other. It is acknowledgement of our valuable differences, our glorious concurrences, our human response to one another. We are surely fortunate to have this forum for our minds and hearts. We push the bar high.... our rarified banner is draped on a taut line, aflutter in the wind. It needs the constant nurturing and volunteerism we provide if it is to survive with its many quilted patches sewn together. Guard it well for it is more precarious than you think.

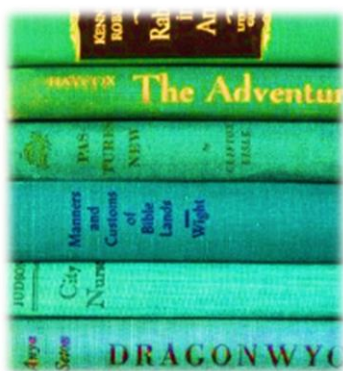
I owe you all so many thank you’s for your willingness, generosity and creativity. Thank you for the joy of working together with you these past two years... for the thoughtful conversations, the caring. Pat yourselves on the back for individually and collectively, you are indeed, SPLENDID.

Kitty



UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Time	Information
May 22	Spring Banquet	5:30 pm	Adelle's Restaurant, 535 West Liberty, Wheaton 5:30 Social, Cash Bar and Raffle Ticket Sales 6:15 Dinner RSVPs were due May 16
June 2	AM Lit	9:30 am	LaVonne Ruoff's
June 6	Program Planning Meeting	7:00 pm	Janet Arden's
June 7	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Lisa Cherry's
June 9	Book Sale Wrap Up Meeting	9:30 am	Laura Desmarais' Please RSVP
June 12	PM Lit	6:00 pm	Bonnie Wheaton's
June 28	AM Nonfiction Lit	10:00 am	Phyllis Fogel's
June 28	PM Nonfiction Lit	7:00 pm	Ewa Bacon's
July 7	AM Lit	9:30 am	Location is TBD
August 4	AM Lit	9:30 am	Location is TBD
August 23	AM Nonfiction Lit	10:00 am	Sue Herrmann's
August 27	PM Nonfiction Lit	7:00 pm	Location TBD



BOOK SALE WRAP UP MEETING

We want your opinion about the Sale. What worked and what didn't. There was a lot of talk about ideas for next year. This is the time to start the discussion.

Friday, June 9 at 9:30 at Laura Desmarais' home. Please RSVP.



Membership

Lisa Cherry and Karen Schulz

lisacherryhome@aol.com okschulz@aol.com

Once again, our Book Sale offered members the opportunity to work for a goal that we all support, renew old friendships and make some new acquaintances. Speaking of new folks, **Suzanne Burdett** and **Karen Warner** joined our Branch at the Sale. We extend a warm welcome to them. You will be hearing more about them and **Sarah Allen**, another recent new member, in our next newsletter issue. Over the summer, you may encounter someone interested in AAUW and while we welcome membership inquiries at any time, please remember to invite your friends and all potential new members to our September kickoff meeting. This is always a very special and informative event and our discounted membership rate (\$53.50) will be available to anyone who joins at the meeting.

Below please read about a wonderful new member who joined us this spring:

Anju Agarwal grew up in Alsip before settling out here in Glen Ellyn. She is married and has 2 children. Anju earned her BS in biology at UIUC then went on to medical school at Midwestern University. Currently, Anju is working as a hospitalist. For her job, she travels to underserved areas in the Midwest. In the past, she has worked at Central DuPage Hospital and Good Samaritan Hospital. In her spare time, Anju enjoys reading, gardening, hiking, photography and playing with her kids. Anju was attracted to AAUW because of their mission and wanted to become part of a group that values and promotes the importance of supporting women in science and education. Please look for and welcome Anju in a book discussion group or one of the theater activities.



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Programs

Janet Arden and Donna Jean Simon

janarden@icloud.com djsimon@questillc.com

We are seeking the help of members to provide us with great ideas and contacts for future programs. We will meet at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, June 6 at Janet Arden's home. All members are welcome to attend.

To uphold the tradition of previous programs, we want ideas for interesting and thought provoking speakers and events that support the mission of AAUW and increase our understanding of how we can support and use our resources to benefit our Branch, our community, and our country.

We hope that between now and the meeting, you will have an opportunity to identify interesting program ideas that you would like to see during the next year at our Branch meetings. As you put together your ideas, please also identify speakers and resources, so that we can easily contact and follow up on your suggestions. We look forward to this meeting and receiving your contributions to upcoming Branch programs.



Book Sale

Laura Desmarais

lkdesmarais@gmail.com

One last thank you for a job well done. Feel free to pat yourselves on the back! The Sale itself went without a hitch. We had a fantastic Branch turnout. You volunteered for every job I could think up!

Jean Tuffano and Stephanie Zvirin are retiring from the Book Sale after giving it their best for four years. They manned the locker and coordinated over 50 book sorts. The Sale never would have happened without their untiring energy. I am grateful for every hour they contributed. I am also grateful for all those who supported their efforts by showing up to sort. I watched Jean and Steph develop a special friendship. Who says there aren't side benefits to being in AAUW? Thank you, Jean and Steph!

Special thanks to those who:

- volunteered to be 'Captains for the Day'
- got the word out to the public— posted flyers, left bookmarks, placed ads wherever they could
- updated yard signs, distributed them and found places to display them
- maintained contact with our Realtors and coordinated book pickups
- coordinated our high school volunteers
- coordinated sign up for Branch members to work the Sale
- volunteered to work so many hours at the Sale

If you have Book Sale yard signs, drop them off at the following locations:

Margaret McGrath
Marilyn Wiedemann
Donna Jennings
Laura Desmarais



Film Group

Anne Hanley

ahanley@mindspring.com

We might meet on our usual evenings (second Friday or Saturday of the month) informally over the summer. Keep an eye out for emails. Regular meetings will resume in September. Have a great summer!



PM Lit

Janet Arden

janarden@icloud.com

Bonnie Wheaton will host our book selection potluck on Monday, June 12. **The time is earlier than usual, at 6:00 pm.** We will select books to be read next year. If you can't come and have recommendations, send them to Bonnie.

PM Lit is in need of a new chair. If you are interested, contact Lisa Cherry or Sue Herrmann.



AM Lit

Kathy McCullough

kathymccull@gmail.com

Date	Title and Author	Leader	Hostess	Co-Hostesses
June 2 Potluck Lunch	<i>Someone</i> Alice McDermott	Judy Sims	LaVonne Ruoff	Suzanne Gagner Elaine Nissen
July 7	<i>The Sympathizer</i> Viet Thanh Nguyen	TBD	TBD	Susan Levy-Creed TBD
August 4	<i>The Nest</i> Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney	Karen Bondy	TBD	Elaine Nissen TBD
September 8 (Date change due to holiday)	Book Selection Meeting	Jane Palmer Judy Sims	TBD	Ruth Schumacher TBD

The Glen Ellyn Library obtains a 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.



AM Non-Fiction Lit

Please note that our next meeting will be June 28 at 10:00 am. We will be discussing *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*, by Atul Gawande. Carolyn Oesterle will be our discussion leader. We will meet at Phyllis Fogel's home and LaVonne Ruoff will provide a bite to eat.

Important summer dates and information are as follows:

1. August 23: Book selection day and a potluck lunch at 10:00 am at Sue Herrmann's home.
2. Please send me (Sue Herrmann) the titles, authors and a two sentence recap for two or three books that you would like us to read next year by July 23. I will arrange them into a list for you to look at before we meet to vote in August.
3. Please bring a salad or dessert for the potluck lunch on August 23. Be sure it is all ready to be served. I will provide the dishes, coffee and cold drinks.
4. Finally, we will be reading *Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World* by Andrea Wulf for October 25.

Have a wonderful summer. Happy reading!

PM Non-Fiction Lit

Come join us on June 28 to discuss Helen Rappaport's *The Romanov Sisters, The Lost Lives of the Daughters of Nicholas and Alexandra*. Rappaport is a confident guide to the complex history of the Romanov family and the disasters that led to the Russian Revolution. While much has been written about the prominent men of the era, Rappaport shows us the view from inside the family, focusing on the daughters from life in the palace to death in a mean basement in the Urals. Karen Schulz will lead us through this exciting book.

We will meet at Ewa Bacon's home at 7:00 pm. It's located directly north of the Wheaton downtown train station. There is parking in front of the condo and there is ample street parking on Front Street (one-way east).

Mark your calendars for August 27 when we meet to select books for the PM Non-Fiction readings for 2017/2018. We will announce a site at our June meeting. Start compiling your lists! We will circulate suggestions in early August. (The AM Non-Fiction Readers will be selecting a separate list. As always, you can attend either or both non-fiction meetings.)

Prepare for the September 27 meeting to discuss Browder's *Red Notice* which we selected last year. Hope you picked up some great books during our fabulous Sale and will spend the summer reading more great non-fiction books.



As a wrap up for the last *Twigs* of the year, I'd like to point out another way our donation to the Legal Advocacy Fund provides assistance to those in need. The following was taken from the LAF website:

AAUW's [Legal Advocacy Fund \(LAF\)](#) works to challenge sex discrimination in higher education and beyond. LAF Campus Outreach grants support events, programs and resources that educate campuses around issues that affect Title IX and women's equity. [AAUW student organizations](#), [AAUW branches](#), or [Younger Women's Task Force \(YWTF\) chapters](#) can apply for up to \$750 to take action around AAUW's issues on a college campus.

Previous projects have fought for fair pay and combatted campus sexual assault. LAF can help students, faculty and staff on campus know their rights by planning events that tackle AAUW policy issues.



The scholars have been chosen!

Banquet night will celebrate another fine year of AAUW Branch activities and fellowship. It will also be the night that we announce the winners of our local high school scholarships and show you their photos.

By way of preview, here are their names and brief biographical information

Wheaton-Warrenville South: Crystal Duran. Earned a 3.04 on a 4.00 scale while taking a college preparatory course load and working 20 hours a week. She graduated a semester early and has begun her studies at COD. Along with her college prep coursework, she was a student at the Technical Center of DuPage working toward a cosmetology license which she intends to use as she works for her bachelor's degree. Mario Triccoci Salon was so impressed with her that it has accepted her in its advanced salon styling school.

Wheaton North: Sabrina Szasz. Sabrina's family emigrated from Romania and "Sabrina has been taught to value the opportunities of education and democracy." Her counselor describes her as quiet, determined, and ever ready to take challenging courses including many advanced and AP-level work. Her interest is in pharmacy and she has already successfully passed a summer program through the Midwest College of Pharmacy recommended to her by her counselor.

Glenbard West: Johanna Kando. The third of six children, Johanna has been involved in many activities and after school clubs, including GW theatre, track and field, and church youth leadership. She has also worked at various jobs to help with the family finances. She expressed gratitude to the Branch for this scholarship, excitement over entering college and a liberal arts degree.

Glenbard South: Mystery person at publication deadline! We'll know Monday.



Vote Now for the AAUW Board, Bylaws, and More

You have until June 15 to vote in our biennial election. Check out our voter guide online and in the Spring 2017 *Outlook* (pink hat on cover). Read the compelling descriptions of the candidates and the well-reasoned explanations of the Public Policy changes, the amendments and the bylaws. The email you received from Mark Hopkins, Interim Chief Executive Officer, embeds a voting link and includes your member number and pin, so all you need to do is follow through on the instructions in that email.

Based on voter turnout in the last three elections, AAUW leadership has come to expect a voter turnout of only 3 percent within the expectable numbers needed to produce the quorum for a viable election. I know that our Branch will put our characteristic 100% effort in this endeavor.

"When we dream a dream alone, we call it a dream; when we dream together, we call it reality."

Yoko Ono

New AAUW CEO

As of June 1 Kimberly Churches is our new AAUW CEO. Her former position was guiding research and policy at the Brookings Institution. Given that her professional background also includes experience in higher education and fundraising, Kimberly seems to offer "right fit" leadership for our AAUW mission: research, advocacy, education and philanthropy.

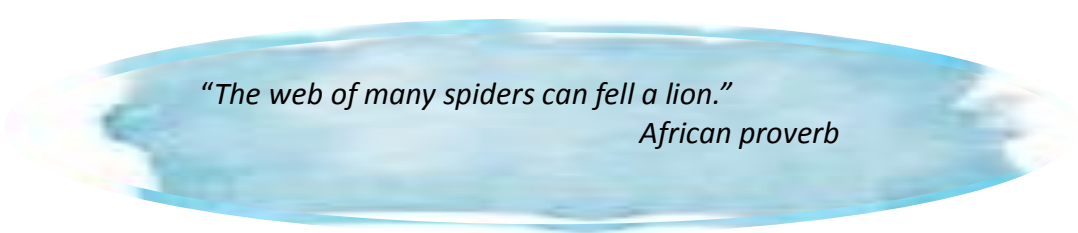
Witness Slips and the Illinois Legislature

When the state legislature is in session a critical advocacy tool we can all use is filing a “witness slip.” During committee hearings is the only time public opinion is openly incorporated in the Illinois House decision making. To find out more about filing a witness slip, go to <http://illinoisreview.typepad.com/illinoisreview/2012/03/file-a-house-committee-witness-slip-online.html>. Before the end of this year’s legislative session, AAUW-Illinois Public Policy leaders may be asking members to fill out witness slips in support of AAUW activity in Springfield.

Communicating with Elected Officials

As you know the *Two Minute Activist* is the cornerstone of AAUW e- advocacy efforts at national and state levels. While each *Two Minute Activist* alert provides an online, easy to fill in format to email to designated legislators, consider adding a phone call to emphasize your concern. In a recent *New York Times* article, op-ed columnist Charles Blow, cites another journalist, Kathryn Schulz, “There are a great many ways to petition the government, including with actual petitions, but, short of showing up in person, the one reputed to be the most effective is picking up the phone and calling your congressional representatives.” (*The New Yorker*, March 3) Schulz adds: “For mass protests, such as those that have been happening recently, phone calls *are* a better way of contacting lawmakers, not because they get taken more seriously but because they take up more time- thereby occupying staff, obstructing business as usual, and attracting media attention.”

One more note about our emails sent through the *Two Minute Activist*: Congressional offices do use a filter on incoming constituent correspondence to capture “form” emails. AAUW takes steps to avoid triggering such filters and contracts with a service to ensure deliverability. If a recipient of one or more of your “Two Minute Activist” emails is dismissive of your communication because it has been sent through a “third-party,” please let me know. I will alert the national office immediately.



“The web of many spiders can fell a lion.”

African proverb



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Participate in Raising Funds to Send Our Officers
to AAUW's National Convention
in Washington, DC This June

PRIZES

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Improbable Fiction good until June 4, 2017 at The Mac

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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.