

September 2017

A Leaf from the Co-President

Sue Herrmann and I, along with your entire new Board of Directors, have been quite busy this summer sorting out our responsibilities and planning for an exciting new year that will begin with our Fall Showcase & Kick Off meeting. As I thought about putting together a strategic plan for the future of our Branch, I realized that with only 4 years of experience, I lacked an understanding of our rich history. Phyllis Fogel, outgoing Historian, came to my rescue by providing me with all the inspiration I needed. Paging through our Branch scrapbooks, it became clear that a sense of AAUW mission, the desire for camaraderie and the love of life long learning has always been the backbone of this Branch. What a wonderful legacy that is exactly what I have experienced and continues today!

Carolyn Oesterle has spearheaded 3 important tasks for us over the summer. She managed to make our annual budget meeting productive and, most surprising, fun! Many thanks to our audit committee, consisting of Don Westlake, Phyllis Goodman, Charles Goodman, Cathy SooHoo and Elaine Nissen who convened and pronounced our records to be in good order. While we dislike losing any member, our renewals this year are high and we thank Carolyn, with an assist from Kitty Johansson, for this accomplishment.

Janet Arden and Donna Jean Simon are putting the final touches on what promises to be a wonderful year of programs. They have chosen to hold our fall meetings at the Glen Ellyn History Center and we hope to use the beautiful community room in the new Glen Ellyn Police Department building in the spring. Do not miss the September Kick Off meeting and please bring all potential members that you have met over the summer. This will truly be a Branch showcase!

After two years of excellent Book Sale coordination, Laura Desmarais is helping us transition to new leadership and we want to express our huge thanks to her, Jean Trufano and Steph Zvirin for their hard work. Please read about the Book Sale and our new storage locker in this issue

Sue, Laura and I met with a wonderful group at College of DuPage. They want to become an AAUW College/University Partner and form an AAUW Student Organization. I know that our Branch has desired this relationship for a long time and we are thrilled with this opportunity.

Sadly, on August 2, Joan Bregman passed away after a short battle with cancer. Joan joined our Branch in the fall of 2014. She was a lovely woman and will be missed.

Lisa

Fall Kick-Off Branch Showcase and Program

Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership

Andi Danis
 Past AAUW Illinois State President
 and member of the Gender Equity
 Fund of Illinois Speaker's Bureau
 will define the
 challenge and offer solutions to
 close the leadership gap.

Wednesday, September 6

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

Glen Ellyn History Center
800 N Main St.

***Note: New Location**

Program Vice Presidents:
 Janet Arden and Donna Jean Simon

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Information
September 6	Branch Meeting	7:00 pm	Glen Ellyn History Center, 800 N Main St., Glen Ellyn
September 8	AM Lit	9:30 am	Elaine Nissen
September 8	Film Group	7:00 pm	Anne Hanley
September 13	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Carolyn Oesterle
September 18	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Bonnie Wheaton
September 27	PM Non-Fiction	7:00 pm	Marilyn Wiedemann
September 28	Cultural Arts Buffalo Theater Ensemble	6:00 pm	Peggy Connolly
		8:00 pm	<i>The 39 Steps</i> , College of DuPage, McAninch Art Center
October 4	Branch Meeting	7:00 pm	Glen Ellyn History Center, 800 N Main St., Glen Ellyn
October 6	AM Lit	9:30 am	Jean Tufano
October 7	Eleanor Roosevelt Walk/Run/Ride	9:00 am	Prairie Path from Glen Ellyn to Wheaton
October 25	AM Non-Fiction	10:00 am	Sue Herrmann



Membership

Kitty Johansson and Karen Schulz

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okschulz@aol.com

Coming right up! Showcase, September 6, is our chance to enroll new members at the BARGAIN price of \$53.50, as opposed to \$78.00 (if the prospect joins that night). Each Chair will be describing their group activities and there will be sign-ups for new email distribution. Please welcome the 3 new members listed below:

Sarah Allen who spent some of her childhood in Jordan and Lebanon, earned her degrees in Nursing/ Midwifery/ and Women's Health Care at the Universities of Michigan and Illinois. Over her 35 years of nursing she worked at Cook County, Illinois Masonic, Good Samaritan and in an OB/GYN private practice. She is passionate about women's health issues, politics and travel. She also rides her horse named Gus. Sarah has 2 children, 1 granddaughter and twin grandsons.

New member **Suzanne Burdett**, originally from Cleveland, earned degrees in Secondary English Education and Bachelor of Philosophy in Interdisciplinary Studies from Miami University of Ohio. She taught secondary school English prior to becoming a Litigation Paralegal and developed and taught a course for Paralegals for law firms and community colleges. On moving to Glen Ellyn she became interested in school safety and worked with the Glen Ellyn Police Department. She has become a widely published freelance writer on education issues. She has 4 grandchildren.

Karen Warner grew up in Holland, Michigan, where her Mom still is a long-time member of AAUW. She attended University of Michigan, earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and has just recently retired, along with her husband. They are looking forward to doing some traveling together on a more leisurely basis. They have two sons, one is a Missionary to Honduras and the other is a Minister in Des Moines. They have 4 grandchildren.

September Branch Program-Showcase Meeting

Co-VP Programs: Janet Arden and Donna Jean Simon

We invite you to join us at 7:00 pm, Wednesday, September 6, as we kick off the new program year. Meet new members, reconnect with old friends and learn about the Branch's interest groups and other initiatives as well as hear about important AAUW research. Note new location: The **Glen Ellyn History Center, 800 N. Main Street, Glen Ellyn.**

"The numbers are stark. Despite women's impressive gains in education and the workplace over the past 50 years, men greatly outnumber women in leadership, especially in top positions." So begins the AAUW Research Report **"Barriers and Bias – The Status of Women in Leadership."** Andi Danis, past AAUW Illinois State President and member of the Gender Equity Fund of Illinois Speaker's Bureau will define the challenge and offer solutions to close the leadership gap.

There are a number of parking options at the History Center.

- Parking lot in front of and to the west side of the building that has about 30 spaces.
- Parking lot at Stacy's Corner museum if you arrive from Geneva Road or St. Charles Road. Just walk across the driveway.
- Forest Glen School is south of the building and we can use their parking spaces in the evenings, which are across the street from the History Center.
- On the southeast side of Main Street, across the street from the History Center, the school district allows use of their lot in the evening.



Book Sale

TBD

Update from our Co-Presidents Lisa Cherry and Sue Herrmann

Summer is still here, but plans are underway for the 2018 Book Sale! A team of AAUW members led by Marilyn Wiedemann found us a new locker facility, ExtraSpace Storage, on Main St., Glen Ellyn just north of Geneva Road. This is going to be an exciting year for our Book Sale! Great people are stepping up to the plate to help lead the effort. Stay tuned for more info at the September Branch meeting!





Welcome to Film Group 2017-18! After last year's success in alternating our meeting days, we will continue the practice this year. We will meet either on the second Friday or the second Saturday of the month, September through May. As usual, I will send out the film selection a week in advance and welcome your suggestions. Keep an eye out in your email for the full year's schedule, and please consider either hosting a gathering or leading a discussion! If you are not on the distribution list and would like to join us, please contact me.

Our first meeting will be on Friday September 8, at my home. We will gather between 7:00 and 7:30 pm and begin our discussion immediately following.



We meet at 9:30 am on Friday, September 8, to select books for the 2017-18 reading list. Co-chairs are Jane Palmer and Judy Sims. The hostess is Elaine Nissen. Co-hostesses are Ruth Schumacher and Judy Sims.

We will meet at 9:30 am on Friday, October 6, at Jean Tufano's. Co-hostesses are Jean Lindsey and Stephanie Zvirin. LaVonne Ruoff will lead the discussion of Carol Rifka Brunt's *Tell the Wolves I'm Home*, a *New York Times* bestseller. *Booklist* praised this as a "transcendent" book "peopled by characters who will live in the readers' imaginations long after the last page is turned."



We meet Monday, September 18, to discuss *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. In 1922 Count Rostov has been sentenced to house arrest at the famed Moscow *Hotel Metropol*, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Brimming with humor and a glittering cast of characters, it relates the count's effort to find what it means to be a man of purpose. Our hostess and discussion leader is Bonnie Wheaton. Please let her know you are coming by contacting her at this email address: bonwheaton@aol.com.

Multiple copies of the books are available at the Glen Ellyn Public Library (2nd floor) approximately one month before the discussion. Over the summer we read *Nutshell* by Ian McEwan and *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett. What wonderful books!

"You can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me." C.S. Lewis



AM Non-Fiction

Sue Herrmann
sherrmann710@gmail.com

Welcome to AM Non-Fiction book group. We have an exciting year of reading planned this coming year! The first meeting will be at my home on Wednesday, October 25, at 10:00 am. Please note that my AM group will meet every other month on the 4th Wednesdays. Stay tuned for the title of the October book. The Glen Ellyn Public Library has agreed to set books aside for us early in the month. So our October book should be available in early October. Please be sure to call the hostess each meeting to tell her if you are coming. I am looking forward to spending another exciting year discussing our excellent books.



PM Non-Fiction

Ewa Bacon
baconew@lewisu.edu

Join us September 27th at 7:00 pm at Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann's home to discuss Bill Browder's book *Red Notice: A True story of High Finance, Murder and One Man's Fight for Justice*. Businessman Browder, an investor in Russia, got involved in a memorable struggle against Putin's corrupt state when his Russian lawyer was murdered. Please look for a copy of this book at the Glen Ellyn Public Library. As always, everyone is welcome to attend this lively group. Please let Marilyn know if you will be attending (marilyn.mayer@gmail.com). Contact Ewa Bacon if you need more information.



Cultural Arts Gagner

Suzanne

petalpower1@yahoo.com

From Peggy Connolly:

Cultural Arts will continue to sponsor the BTE (Buffalo Theatre Ensemble) theater evenings during the coming year. We will meet at Peggy Connolly's home at 6:00 pm for Thursday performances to enjoy wine, hors d'oeuvres, and conversation, before the 8:00 pm curtain at the *McAninch Art Center* at College of DuPage.

These are the dates for the 2017-2018 season:

September 28 *The 39 Steps* (a hilarious, spy-comedy-thriller described as a cross between Alfred Hitchcock and Monty Python).

February 1 *Time Stands Still* (Sarah, a photojournalist, returns home to Brooklyn after being injured by a roadside bomb in Iraq. James, her reporter boyfriend, is overcome with guilt for leaving Iraq without her).

May 3 *Outside Mullingar* (a romantic comedy set in rural Ireland, Tony-nominee for best play. Despite a feud between their families, Rosemary has been in love with her neighbor Anthony all her life, and Anthony has been too clueless and too shy to notice).

Hope you'll join us for another delightful year of great friendship and theater.



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Legislative Update, Springfield

As *Twigs* goes to press the status report on seven of the bills that AAUW-IL has advocated for is as follows: **HB 2462** (job applicant cannot be asked about work history); **HB 2663** (early childhood programs receiving grants from SBOE cannot expel children); and **HB 3215** (requires schools to provide free hygiene products in school bathrooms) all passed and are awaiting signature (or veto) from Governor Rauner. **HB 40** (overturning *Roe vs. Wade* will not affect Illinois); **HB457** (Task Force on Women at Risk must be appointed 60 days after bill enactment); **HB 2771** (Healthy Workplace Act) are still in committee. **SJRCA4**, the Equal Rights Amendment, has enough potential votes in the Senate to pass it, but needs support from 10 more members of the House. Proponents will work to secure this support before the 2018 session convenes.

AAUW-IL chose not to engage in lobbying on the high profile bills **SB1** (school funding reform) and **SB1351** (student loan bill of rights).

Results of AAUW National Election Re: Public Policy Program

All Proposal Topics passed. Three of eight proposed bylaw changes **did not pass**: establishing an *Advocate* category of membership; eliminating the degree requirement for AAUW membership; changing a voting quorum from 5% to 3%.

(Public)Policy Alert Group Email (PAGE)

Do you want additional emails about Public Policy-related events, national and state, that you may not already receive via your subscription to AAUW Action Alert and the Two Minute Activist? Please send me an email that you want to join our Branch PAGE email group.



kengaildavis@comcast.net

Ebonee C. Avery-Washington has begun her new position as LAF Program Manager at AAUW. I am looking forward to her bringing us up to date on AAUW-supported cases. This position had been vacant for the last year.

The Supreme Court decided 62 cases during the October 2016 term. According to Ebonee, AAUW did not sign onto any amicus briefs for cases heard during this term. She recently held a phone call with members during which she discussed cases involving universal legal themes like, the 1st Amendment, jury service, and gender discrimination. She forwarded a case review sheet in an email to me. If you are interested in knowing more about these cases, I will forward the email to you. In addition, the audio of the phone call is or will be on the website soon and you will be able to listen to it.



The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award

Margaret McGrath
margmcgrath@yahoo.com

Walk, Run, Ride

Join us on Saturday, October 7, for our Branch fundraiser to support the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Eleanor Roosevelt Fund. We will walk the Prairie Path from Glen Ellyn to Wheaton.

The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Award biennially honors an individual, project, organization or institution for outstanding contributions to education and equity for women and girls. The award can be given for a broad range of activities including classroom teaching, education and research, and legal and legislative work in equality for women and girls. The award focuses on education but recipients need not be an educator.

Last year our Branch raised \$1245. It truly is a fun morning and a great way to network with AAUW members. As an added plus, we pass by the farmers market in Wheaton! Mark your calendar and join us.

Questions please contact Margaret McGrath, 630-942-0980. Your tax-deductible donation should be made payable to: **AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch NFP**.

Registration	8:45 am
Step Off	9:00 am
Start	Glen Ellyn Public Library, west side, use Metra parking lot by Prairie Path
Route	Prairie Path from Glen Ellyn to Wheaton
End	Downtown Wheaton (Shane's Deli?)
Distance	2.9 miles (most are done in no time!)
Transport	Provided, if desired, back to Glen Ellyn start point
Reward	Coffee and snacks at the end (Shane's Deli?)

Tear off Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Walk/Run/Ride

Eleanor Roosevelt Fund Walk/Run/Ride on October 7

If you cannot make it but would like to contribute, please mail check.

Return to Margaret McGrath, 377 Turner Ave., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
Checks payable to **AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch NFP** (memo:-*Eleanor Roosevelt Fund*)

Name: _____

☐ I wish to participate in the walk/run.

☐ I will not participate, but let me contribute to the fund by sponsoring a fellow member, donation included.

☐ I will be at end of route cheerleader to join you for rolls and coffee in Wheaton around 9:45 am and will help reserve some "chat" tables.

2017 AAUW National Convention Highlights

Co-President Lisa Cherry

Shortly after dinner on the opening night of our National Convention, I stepped out into the ballroom hallway and was delighted to see Cordy Galligan, our VP of Marketing, with Judy Woodruff, veteran journalist, anchor and managing editor of the *PBS News Hour*. I could not help thinking that it was very appropriate to be able to greet Ms. Woodruff, because I have dinner with her every weekday evening that I am home. She was our speaker that evening and presented a fascinating description of what it is like putting together a news program in a politically volatile environment and a constantly changing news cycle. The bar that evening was set high, but we were not to be disappointed. An exciting and inspiring time was ahead!

My Co-President, Sue Herrmann, our new program Co-Vice President, Donna Jean Simon and Pat Walton joined me in Washington DC to represent the Branch and there were an additional 52 attendees from Illinois. We enjoyed a packed schedule of informational plenary sessions, inspirational speakers, and workshops that have instilled in us new and creative ideas. Lobby Day on Capitol Hill took on special meaning due to the tragic shooting of a Congressman the prior day. We visited with a senior member of Senator Dick Durbin's staff, a staff member from Representative Peter Roskam's office and enjoyed our time with the very informative and enthusiastic Senator Tammy Duckworth. In each meeting we advocated for two issues:

- Increased funding for the Office of Civil Rights to continue vital work to ensure civil rights statutes, including Title IX and its current regulations and guidance.
- Support protecting and strengthening federal financial aid programs that are critical to the success of women in higher education and help curb the student loan debt burden that they experience.

Speaking of student loans, our research department introduced us to their newest publication: *Deeper in Debt, Women and Student Loans* which is now available on the National website.

The key takeaway from this important publication is that about two-thirds of the 1.3 trillion dollars of student loan debt in the United States is held by women! Women are paid less than men, so it is even more difficult for them to pay off these loans.

This is a year of transition for the leadership of our national organization. We had the opportunity to say farewell to Patricia Fae Ho and welcome Julia Brown, our newly elected Board Chair. Kimberly Churches, Chief Executive Officer, had been on the job about a week but effectively addressed us throughout the convention. I look forward to their leadership.

The convention banquet was held on the last evening of our time in DC. At that point our minds were swimming with information and great pride in our organization. I don't think any of us were prepared for the experience ahead. I know I wasn't. I did not know that Tererai Trent, Ph.D., a 2001-02 AAUW International Fellow, would bring me to tears with the story of her climb out of poverty in rural Zimbabwe. Her organization's mission is based on the belief that education is the pathway out of poverty. I have never heard a more effective motivational speaker and will always remember her refusal to accept what she called "the baton of poverty" passed down through generations. I also could not have known that our next speaker, Supreme Court Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor, flanked by Secret Service agents, would refuse to stay on the ballroom stage. She chose, instead, to walk from one end of the ballroom to the other, stopping at each table to shake each hand offered or receive a hug. She said she wanted to meet the women of AAUW and as she worked her way around the room she continuously and thoughtfully answered questions posed by Kimberly Churches. I am so grateful to have a person of this caliber participating in the momentous decision making of our country's Supreme Court.

How was the convention? Unforgettable.

Branch Programs 2017-2018

The Branch generally meets each month, September through April, excluding January. All meetings are open to the public. For further information, contact one of the Co-Vice Presidents, Programs, Janet Arden or Donna Jean Simon.

<p>Fall Showcase Meeting Barriers and Bias: Status of Women in Leadership</p> <p>September 6, 2017 Wednesday, 7 pm</p> <p>Speaker: Andi Davis past AAUW Illinois State President</p> <p>Glen Ellyn History Center 800 N Main St, Glen Ellyn</p>	<p>Behind the Veil: Women's Roles in Islam</p> <p>October 4, 2017 Wednesday, 7 pm</p> <p>Speaker: Sadie Covert, Esq., Executive Director of UCARE, an organization founded to bring communities together through understanding Islam.</p> <p>Glen Ellyn History Center 800 N Main St., Glen Ellyn</p>	<p>Human Trafficking</p> <p>November 1, 2017 Wednesday, 7 pm</p> <p>Speaker: Alison Bell, Senior Resettlement Manager for World Relief DuPage / Aurora.</p> <p>Glen Ellyn History Center 800 N Main St., Glen Ellyn</p>
<p>Winter Banquet</p> <p>December, 2017, 6 pm.</p> <p>Join us for this lovely event to hear our speaker, a recent recipient of an AAUW Fellowship or Research Grant.</p> <p>Location/Date: TBD</p>	<p>Social and Political Engagement: What Everyone Should Know about Political Discourse</p> <p>February 1, 2018, Wednesday, 7 pm</p> <p>Nonpartisan panel discussion and Q & A to understand the whys and wherefore of social and political engagement.</p> <p>New Glen Ellyn Police Department Community Room 65 S Park Boulevard, Glen Ellyn</p>	<p>Morton Arboretum Botanical Art Collection</p> <p>March 3, 2018, Saturday, 9:30 am</p> <p>We meet to elect our officers and learn more about this amazing collection of 12,000 works, right in our own backyard.</p> <p>Morton Arboretum Sterling Library 4100 Illinois Route 53, Lisle</p>
<p>How to Save Lives in Auschwitz</p> <p>April 4, 2018 Wednesday, 7 pm</p> <p>Speaker: Ewa Bacon, historian, shares the oral history of her father and his experience in Auschwitz as a newly-minted Polish physician.</p> <p>Location: TBD</p>	<p>Spring Banquet</p> <p>May, 2018, Monday, 6 pm</p> <p>Join us for the Spring Banquet where we will celebrate our achievements for the year (especially, Book Sale results) and install new officers. The 2018 COD scholarship recipients will also be announced.</p> <p>Location/Date: TBD</p>	<p>Conferences and Conventions</p> <p>AAUW-IL Northern Fall Conference October 21, 2017, Saturday Illinois Institute of Technology Rice Campus 201 E Loop Rd., Wheaton</p> <p>AAUW-IL State Convention. April 27-28, 2018, Friday to Saturday Benedictine University 5700 Lake Rd., Lisle</p>

Branch Leadership 2017-2018

Officers

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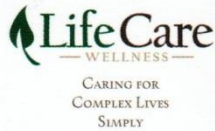
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Spring Banquet	Karen Bondy	bondykj@aol.com

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PM Non-Fiction	Ewa Bacon	baconew@lewis.edu
Film Group	Anne Hanley	ahanley@mindspring.com
Spice Routes	Peggy Connolly	connolly.peggy@gmail.com

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.



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