



**AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP**

***wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net***

# Twigs

**February 2018**

## **A Leaf from the Co-Presidents**

We are all eager to get back together and begin our second half of programs! Speaking of programs, our Vice Presidents, Donna Jean Simon and Janet Arden reacted quickly to required changes to dates, locations and topics. Karen Bondy, ever ready to also respond quickly, has sent an all-Branch email with updated information for February. Stay tuned for additional program updates.

Sometimes required changes open a door of opportunity. If you attended our Winter Banquet, you may remember me speaking of AAUW's national empowerment missions grouped under three pillars: Access to Education, Economic Security and Women in Leadership. Donna Jean and Janet are focused, more than ever, on informing our members about these topics. Under the Economic Security pillar, equal pay for women and AAUW's salary negotiation workshops will be explored at our February meeting.

The February meeting is also the time when Karen Schulz, Kitty Johansson and Patricia Bernhold (Nominating Committee) will present the slate of candidates for the offices of Treasurer and Membership Vice President. Voting for these candidates will take place at our March annual meeting.

Have you explored the AAUW national website (aauw.org) lately? I am amazed at the amount of information that is offered. This is your key source to understand all that AAUW does to fight for the empowerment of women. I would especially like to make note of the webinars that are offered to all members on a variety of topics. Missed a webinar date? No problem. They are recorded and available about a week after the original webinar date.

**Lisa**

## **Branch Meeting**

**Change is in the Air!  
Change in Date  
Change in Location  
Change in Program**

**The Gender Equity Pay Gap:  
What it is and AAUW  
strategies to address it  
through  
Work Smart and Start Smart**

**Wednesday, February 7**

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

**Glen Ellyn History Center  
800 N Main St.  
Glen Ellyn**

**\*Note: New Location**

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**Program Vice Presidents:  
Janet Arden and Donna Jean Simon**

## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Information
February 1	Cultural Arts Buffalo Theater Ensemble	5:30 pm 6:45 pm 8:00 pm	Peggy Connolly's Pre-show discussion, College of DuPage, MAC Auditorium <i>Time Stands Still</i> , MAC Auditorium
February 2	AM Lit	9:30 am	Eleanor Saliamonas's
February 7	Branch Meeting	7:00 pm	Glen Ellyn History Center, 800 N Main St., Glen Ellyn
February 10	Film Group	7:00 pm	Kitty Johansson's
February 14	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Patricia Spence's
February 18	Cultural Arts	3:00 pm	<i>Women in Jeopardy</i> , Mayslake Peabody Estate, 31 <sup>st</sup> St., Oak Brook
February 19	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Peggy Connolly's
February 23	Book Sale Meeting	10:00 am	Nancy Possinger's
February 28	AM Non-Fiction	10:00 am	Donna Jennings's
February 28	LWF Candidates Forum	7:00 pm	Glenbard South High School, 23W200 Butterfield Rd, GE

## Branch Program

**Co-VP Programs: Janet Arden and Donna Jean Simon**

## The Gender Pay Gap – What It Is and How to Address It

Are you or someone you know affected by the pay gap? Congress passed The Equal Pay Act in 1963. However, the gender pay gap still exists. Today, women earn only 80% of a man's pay with the same qualifications. At the current rate, the pay gap won't be closed until 2119.

AAUW believes we can do better (and so can our daughters and granddaughters). Learn about their extensive research and some of the strategies they have developed to address this critical issue and its dramatic impact on the economic security of families across the nation.

Join us on Wednesday, February 7, at the Glen Ellyn History Center, to learn about AAUW's research and its *Work Smart* and *Start Smart* workshops for women in the work force or graduating from school. Find out how we can address this disparity and gain gender equity.



### Membership

**Kitty Johansson and Karen Schulz**

*kathrynj@herpersgmbh.com   okschulz@aol.com*

Recruiting new members is the lifeline of our Branch. Our future.

Some thoughts from our national membership office:

“As we reflect on 2017, it's clear that this was a year of renewed activism. AAUW has attracted new members and new leadership, but our passion for gender equity is still the same — and membership in AAUW is still as valuable as it has been for 136 years” (and we have 136 Branch members!).

"I value my membership in AAUW because I need to be part of an organization that advocates for the issues that I consider important. I value my relationships with my 'sisters' in AAUW and treasure the ability to have conversations of substance with our members across the country." — Karen Coleman, AAUW of Tennessee

"I value AAUW because I am an advocate of its programs that speak daily to improve the lives of so many women and girls across our great nation. AAUW stands up and stands out on addressing the issues that matter and make a difference." — Diane Crawford, AAUW of New Jersey



## Book Sale

Carolyn Oesterle and Nancy Possinger

[csoesterle@gmail.com](mailto:csoesterle@gmail.com) [nap101547@ameritech.net](mailto:nap101547@ameritech.net)

Book Sale organizational meeting is scheduled Friday, February 23, at 10:00 am, at the home of Nancy Possinger. If you cannot make it and want to volunteer for the sale, please contact Carolyn.

We are starting a book drive for the next three months--the Books from Estate Sales Initiative (BESI). Four of us have volunteered to scour the Internet for appropriate estate sales. We will then need volunteers to pick up the books. We will stay local and, as a plus, you can enjoy the other goodies at the estate sale. We have done this several times now and we have found great books. The volunteers have also found terrific rugs, chairs and pictures to purchase at great value. What a hoot! To volunteer, contact Carolyn or Elaine Nissen. It is best to go in pairs and have a car large enough to transport the books. Most pick-ups will be on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon.

Book collection has been good with over 350 boxes now packed. Thanks to all the volunteers who have contributed by delivering, picking up or donating books. Special thanks to Marilyn who has been running the storage locker and doing a tremendous job of sorting.

Please save paper bags (especially with handles) that we will need near the start of the sale. You can have the grocery store use paper instead of plastic to accumulate them. Thanks to all!



## Cultural Arts

Suzanne Gagner

[petalpower1@yahoo.com](mailto:petalpower1@yahoo.com)

### **Buffalo Theatre Ensemble (BTE) from Peggy Connolly:**

Join us Thursday, February 1, for an evening of theater as Buffalo Theater Ensemble presents *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. We will meet at Peggy Connolly's home at 5:30 pm, to enjoy wine, hors d'oeuvres and conversation. There is a pre-show discussion at the McAninch Art Center at College of DuPage at 6:45 pm, before the 8:00 pm curtain. Feel free to attend the discussion or continue your conversations.

BTE's final production this season, *Outside Mullingar*, is a romantic comedy set in rural Ireland and a 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 shy to notice. We will again meet before the play at Peggy's, May 3.

**Our next Cultural Arts event:** *Women in Jeopardy*, Sunday, February 18, at 3:00 pm, Mayslake Peabody Estate on 31st Street in Oak Brook. The ticket price will be \$37.41. Please let me know if you would like to attend. A little about the play: "When your best friend is dating a serial killer... do you tell her if she seems happy? *Thelma and Louise* meets *The First Wives Club* in this biting comedy."

**Proposed event:** *Stranger in a Strange Land*, Wednesday, April 25, at 7:30 pm, at the MAC Auditorium at College of DuPage. While you and I try to understand the lives of women around the world through books, for 40 years Jodi Cobb has taken her camera into Saudi Arabia, Geisha Societies and other faraway places to document women's lives. Cobb was the first female photographer at National Geographic magazine. She was also the first woman named White House Photographer of the Year. Tickets are \$36.00 and a group rate may apply. Feel free to make a reservation in response to this email. I will also have sign-up sheets at the February meeting.



### Educational Opportunities Fund

Susan Levy-Creed and Marilyn Wiedemann  
[susanlevycreed@gmail.com](mailto:susanlevycreed@gmail.com) [hillarlyn@wowway.com](mailto:hillarlyn@wowway.com)

Good news. The local high school counselors are emerging like spring flowers to contact us about our local scholarships. We have told them we are again giving awards and Susan is preparing a packet to send each counselor, most of whom have been involved in this for years so they know the ropes.

Just so you know as well, our objective is to find young women from each local high school who have the academic potential and desire to attain a Bachelor's Degree, but who might not qualify for other scholarships due to work or family obligations in high school. The guidance counselors select the appropriate students and the award listing appears in the high school's honors booklet along with the AAUW mission statement. We call them our Higher Education Incentive Awards, and as you have witnessed, they have made a significant difference in the lives of many young women in our area.

Thank you! As you also know, these awards are funded by our annual used Book Sale.



### Legal Advocacy Fund

Gail Davis  
[kengaildavis@comcast.net](mailto:kengaildavis@comcast.net)

Our contribution of \$5.00 per person per year to the Legal Advocacy fund (LAF) helps to provide financial and organizational support for a select number of sex discrimination cases in the workplace and academia.

We have been watching LAF plaintiff Aileen Rizo who filed her case of wage discrimination against Fresno County Office of Education in 2012. Last year her case was denied. She recently appeared at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit concerning the permissibility of using prior salary alone to calculate current wages under the Equal Pay Act. This case was reheard by a full panel of judges, but no ruling has been made yet.

AAUW has recently signed onto the Amicus Brief of Carolyn Lazar. (Lazar v. Kroncke). She was removed as beneficiary of her ex-husband's IRA due to a "revocation-on-divorce" statute. Her son was renamed the beneficiary. Women's economic security – including pay equity and retirement benefits is a central focus of AAUW.

#### **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.



**Spotlight on AAUW 2017-2019 Action Priorities:**

"To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women" is the second action priority, therefore, AAUW advocates:

- Programs that provide women with education, training and support for success in the workforce including non-traditional occupations and women's entrepreneurship.
- Strengthening programs, including welfare and career and technical education access, career development, and earning potential.
- Strengthening retirement benefits and programs including pension improvements and protecting Social Security from privatization.

See complete list of Action Priorities at <http://www.aauw.org/resource/principles-and-priorities>

AAUW-IL registered as a participating group in the 2018 Chicago Women's March: March to the Polls. If you participated in any way, marcher and/or volunteer, please forward photos of your activity to Jane Palmer and/or me for website and Facebook posting. Selfies welcome!

**Dates to remember:**

- **February 28**, 7:00 pm, League of Women Voters Candidates Forum at Glenbard South High School Auditorium. Candidates in the March 2018 Primary Election for the U.S. Representative in Illinois 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, (Incumbent: Representative Peter Roskam -R).
- **February 8 to March 19**, early voting.
- **March 20**, General Primary Election, polls open from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm.



Join us for these book discussions.

At 9:30 am, Friday, February 2, we meet at Eleanor Saliamonas's home. Co-hostesses are Donna Staples and Laura Desmarias. Janet Arden will lead our discussion of Lisa See's *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*.

The novel tells the story of a Chinese baby girl, placed in an orphanage by her desperate mother and adopted by American parents. The book, which follows the lives of mother and daughter, gives powerful insights into the angst and pressures experienced by Chinese-American adoptees, and the daily and seasonal rhythms of a small mountain village dependent on the tea trees cultivated there for centuries.

At 9:30 am, Friday, March 2, we meet at LaVonne Ruoff's home. Co-hostesses are Elaine Nissen and Ruth Schumacher. Patricia Spence will lead our discussion of Cara Hoffman's *So Much Pretty*, which is a small-town murder mystery with a surprising twist. Told over 17 years and narrated from multiple perspectives, the novel is a devastating look at our culture's acceptance of violence against women.



## PM Lit

**Phyllis Fogel**

[prfogel@live.com](mailto:prfogel@live.com)

On Monday, February 19, 7:00 pm, PM Lit meets at the home of Peggy Connolly to discuss *Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen. It has a very different feel from Austen's other works; it is shorter, lighter, and more humorous. It has been called a parody of Gothic novels. Peggy, who is our resident expert on all things Jane Austen, is the discussion leader and please let her know if you are attending.

Everyone is welcome to come to one, all, or just a few meetings. Multiple copies of the book are reserved for us at the Glen Ellyn Library on the second floor.

**"I declare after all there is no enjoyment like reading! How much sooner one tires of anything than of a book! When I have a house of my own, I shall be miserable if I have not an excellent library."**

Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*



## AM Non-Fiction

**Sue Herrmann**

[sherrmann710@gmail.com](mailto:sherrmann710@gmail.com)

Hello to all AM Non-Fiction book group members.

We will meet on Wednesday, February 28, at 10:00 am, at the home of Donna Jennings to discuss *The Devil's Highway* by Luis Alberto Urrea. LaVonne Ruoff will be our discussion leader. Cynthia Chand will provide treats.

The Glen Ellyn Library has set books aside for us early in the month that the book is read. Please be sure to call the hostess each meeting to tell her if you are coming. Also, check our AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn website for a list of the books for 2018.



## Film Group

**Anne Hanley**

[ahanley@mindspring.com](mailto:ahanley@mindspring.com)

February's Film Group meeting will be at 7:00 pm, on Saturday, February 10, at the home of Kitty Johansson. February is always an exciting time for Film Group, because the Academy Awards nominees will still be showing and because a few theaters screen the Oscar Nominated Shorts and Documentaries. I will keep my eye out for the Shorts and Documentaries screening dates and times. In the meantime, check your email for the film selection the weekend before the meeting.

Looking ahead, our March meeting will be on the second Friday, March 9, at the home of Jean Lindsey. I will be out of town for both the February and March meetings, so am looking for volunteers to lead the discussion. If this is on your bucket list, get in touch with me! Finally, if you are not on the e-mail distribution list and would like to join us, please contact me.





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