



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

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# Twigs

**January 2018**

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

The Winter Banquet was a glorious end to the first half of our AAUW fiscal year! Many thanks to Deb Ness and Gail Davis who once again sprinkled their winter magic dust all over the event with great planning and a festive atmosphere. We had the opportunity to celebrate our new members and contributions to our EOF, LAF and Eleanor Roosevelt funds. Marilyn Wiedemann and Susan Levy-Creed brought us Rosemary Guzman, a recipient of two AAUW grants, who won our hearts with her accomplishments and work to mentor other women in STEM careers.

The evening also afforded us the opportunity to review just some of the results of AAUW's work nationally in 2017. STEM events took place in 35 states, 270,000 messages were sent to lawmakers regarding legislation, 17,000 people were trained in salary negotiation and \$3.7 million was granted to individuals and community projects.

Kimberly Churches, our new CEO, has launched a "listening tour" and is meeting with member leaders across the country. Kim recognizes and appreciates the rich foundation, accomplishments and committed staff and membership of AAUW. She also recognizes the challenges we face and is laser-focused on our sustainability. We can all look forward to a new and exciting strategic plan in the second half of our year.

Our Nominating Committee will meet in January and prepare a slate of nominees to be presented to the Branch in February. Karen Schulz and Kitty Johansson will join with Patricia Bernhold to form the committee. Treasurer and Membership Vice President are the positions to be filled.

Much work has already been done by Carolyn Oesterle and her Book Sale cohorts, but the pace will really pick up in the spring. Let's all stay tuned to their requests for assistance with this critical fundraising event.

**Best wishes for a very Happy New Year!**

**Lisa**

## Upcoming Events

| Date        | Event           | Time     | Information   |
|-------------|-----------------|----------|---|
| January 5   | AM Lit          | 9:30 am  | Nancy Possinger's   |
| January 7   | Cultural Arts   | 2:00 pm  | 42 <sup>nd</sup> Street, Drury Lane Theater, Oak Brook        |
| January 10  | Board Meeting   | 7:00 pm  | Kitty Johansson's   |
| January 12  | Film Group      | 7:00 pm  | Anne Hanley's   |
| January 15  | PM Lit          | 7:00 pm  | Kitty Johansson's   |
| January 24  | PM Non-Fiction  | 7:00 pm  | Kitty Johansson's   |
| February 2  | AM Lit          | 9:30 am  | Eleanor Saliamonas's  |
| February 8  | Spice Routes    | 7:00 pm  | Peggy Connolly's  |
| February 18 | Cultural Arts   | 3:00 pm  | <i>Women in Jeopardy</i> , Mayslake Peabody Estate, Oak Brook |
| February 28 | AM Non-Fiction  | 10:00 am | Donna Jennings's  |
| February 28 | Candidate Forum | 7:00 pm  | Glenbard South High School, 23W200 Butterfield Rd. GE         |



### Save the date! Annual Spring Banquet Monday, June 4

Now that you have your 2018 calendar ready to go, please save the date for our annual Spring Banquet. Typically this is the May Banquet, but due to scheduling challenges and the Book Sale a little later than in other years, we are bumping this event onto the first Monday of June. Make a note and look for details later in the spring.



#### Membership

**Kitty Johansson and Karen Schulz**

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

We have had the privilege of welcoming ten new members into our local Branch this past year bringing our total up to 136 members. As we move into 2018, we are looking forward to seeing them "spread their wings" and begin to use their talents and interests to become more involved in our Branch activities and committees.

**New Members:** Anju Agarwal, Sarah Allen, Chana Bernstein, Suzanne Burdett, Grace Greenberg, Tracy Kline, Karla Megow, Laura Michaels, Alice Pluntko and Karen Warner.

Over half of our new members were able to join us for an enjoyable evening of good food and fellowship at our recent Winter Banquet.

They are pictured from left to right: Suzanne Burdett, Grace Greenberg, Karen Schulz (Co-VP Membership), Xris Rahn (Guest), Karla Megow, Chana Bernstein, Kitty Johansson (Co-VP Membership) and Sarah Allen.



**AM Lit**

**A. LaVonne Ruoff**

*LRuoff@UIC.edu*

We meet at 9:30 am, Friday, January 5, at Nancy Possinger's home. Co-hostess is Kathy McCullough. Jean Lindsey will lead our discussion of Fanny Flagg's hilarious *The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion*. The *New York Times* calls Flagg "a born storyteller." The *Washington Post* says, "It's Flagg's pleasure to hit her characters with several happy endings, but the real happiness is that she has given us another lovable—and quirky—novel." Flagg is the author of the much-acclaimed *Fried Green Tomatoes*.

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



**PM Lit**  
**Fogel**

**Phyllis**

*prfogel@live.com*

On Monday, January 15, 7:00 pm, we meet at Kitty Johansson's home to discuss *The Signature of All Things* by Elizabeth Gilbert. *Booklist* says, "Gilbert, in supreme command of her material, effortlessly invokes the questing spirit of the nineteenth century, when amateur explorers, naturalists, and enthusiasts were making major contributions to progress. Beautifully written and imbued with a reverence for science and for learning, this is a must-read." As there is no discussion leader, Phyllis will research the author and book reviews and also be co-hostess. We will all have points to discuss. Please let Kitty know if you are coming.

For those who like to read ahead our next two books are *Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austin and *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance. Everyone is welcome to attend one, all, or just a few meetings.

Multiple copies of the book are reserved for us at the Glen Ellyn Public Library on the second floor.

*When the Day of Judgment dawns and people, great and small, come marching in to receive their heavenly rewards, the Almighty will gaze upon the mere bookworms and say to Peter, "Look, there need be no reward. We have nothing to give them. They have loved reading."*

Virginia Woolf



**AM Non-Fiction**

**Sue Herrmann**

*sherrmann710@gmail.com*

We will meet on 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 and Cynthia Chand will provide treats.

The Glen Ellyn Public Library has set books aside for us early in the month that the book is read. The Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch website includes a list of our books for 2018.

Please be sure to call the hostess each meeting to tell her if you are coming.

See you February 28!



**PM Non-Fiction**

**Ewa Bacon**

*baconew@lewis.edu*

Join us for our first 2018 PM Non-Fiction reading on January 24, at 7:00 pm, at the home of Kitty Johansson, who will also co-host. We will be discussing Ewa Bacon's *Saving Lives In Auschwitz: The Prisoners' Hospital in Buna-Monowitz*. In an unusual twist, the author will be there leading the discussion. This book is too recent to be available via interlibrary loan though the Wheaton Public Library has a copy. However, there a number of copies available from Branch members so please network to see if you can borrow one.

Planning ahead? On March 28, we will do a double-header: Woodard's *American Nations* and Vance's *Hillbilly Elegy* at Phyllis Fogel's (host and co-host) with Peggy Connolly leading our discussion.

Contact Ewa Bacon if you need more information.



## **Cultural Arts**

**Suzanne Gagner**  
[petalpower1@yahoo.com](mailto:petalpower1@yahoo.com)

Our next Cultural Arts event is: *Women in Jeopardy*, Sunday, February 18, at 3:00 pm, Mayslake Peabody Estate on 31st Street in Oak Brook.

The ticket price will be \$39.60. 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. Playwright, Wendy MacCleod is the author of *The House of Yes* (Miramax Films starring Parker Posey) and *Schoolgirl Figure* (World Premiere at The Goodman) and *Things Being What They Are* (Steppenwolf).

### Tickets are Purchased Independently for the Following Events:

**Buffalo Theater Ensemble**, tickets at the McAninch Art Center (COD) box office, Tuesday through Sunday, 12:00 to -6:00 pm, 630-942-4000. Peggy Connolly hosts a pre-show party.

February 1, *Time Stands Still*. Sarah, a photo journalist is injured by a roadside bomb in Iraq.

**Wheaton Drama**, Playhouse 111, 111 N. Hale, Wheaton, tickets at [www.wheatondrama.org](http://www.wheatondrama.org) or call 630-260-1820. January 19 through February 11, *Sex In The Title*.

Future Events: Please peruse our suggestions for an April event at the February Branch meeting. Voting forms will be available.



## **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. This has proven to be a timely topic this year.

There are a lot of interesting items in the LAF newsletter that arrived on November 21. If you go to the AAUW web site and search for LAF you will be able to arrange to receive this newsletter.

In the newsletter, Ebonee Avery-Washington reports about a new book, journalist Gretchen Carlson's *Be Fierce: Stop Harassment and Take Your Power Back*, which chronicles stories from women who confronted workplace harassment. In this revealing and timely book, Gretchen shares her views on what women can do to empower and protect themselves in the workplace or on a college campus. Gretchen also discusses why this fight will require both women and men working together to ensure that our daughters and sons will have a brighter future.



**Spotlight on AAUW 2017-2019 Action Priorities:** “To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women” is the second Action Priority. AAUW advocates:

- Pay equity and fairness in compensation and benefits.
- Equitable access and advancement in employment, including vigorous enforcement of employment and anti-discrimination statutes.
- Greater availability of and access to a high standard of benefits and policies that promote work-life balance, including quality and affordable dependent care.

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

**Meeting with State Senator Chris Nybo (D 24) and State Representative Peter Breen (D48):** On December 1, I had the opportunity to ask my Glen Ellyn State Legislators why they did not support HB 2462, which prohibits screening job applicants based on wage or salary history and SB 1657, which authorizes state level licenses for all gun dealers. I was in a group of five constituents who sought feedback on a variety of issues. Another participant asked about HB 4117, i.e., the “Bump Stock Ban.” My questions were related to the AAUW “pay equity” priority and the AAUW characterization of gun violence as a national health crisis. The meeting was excellently arranged, organized and moderated by Branch member, Sandy Alexander. A significant portion of my report consists of Sandy’s post-meeting notes, verbatim.

**HB 2462:** According to Senator Nybo, the penalties incurred by employers violating this bill are too severe. Also, he believes the bill interferes with the ability of companies to establish compensation guidelines. He is in support of pay equity and suggested we talk with Representative Anna Moeller (Elgin), a bill sponsor, to work with him to develop a bill the Senate can support. Representative Breen noted that there tends to be a 3%-5% wage gap between men and women in spite of experience and credentials.

**SB 1657:** Senator Nybo said he opposes this bill because “we need to deal with the bad actors” and not all gun dealers in Illinois. Dealers would have to pay licensing fees. Representative Breen left the meeting for a photo opportunity and did not explain his “no” vote. (Public Policy note: While the Federal Government does require all dealers possess a Federal Firearms License, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms had the resources to inspect only 6.3 percent of the nation’s 140,000 gun dealers in 2016.)

**HB 4117:** Senator Nybo said that most legislators did not realize there was a loophole in gun laws to allow bump stocks. He felt the legislation was too broad. Instead he proposed SB 2247. Senator Nybo was also interested in a recent Supreme Court ruling that upheld Maryland’s assault weapon ban. He suggested that Illinois could craft such a law. Representative Breen said that he co-sponsored SB 4120. SB 2247 and SB 4120 are versions of bump stock ban legislation and made little progress through the legislative process.

Postscript: I shared the legislators’ comments with Jo-An Takamoto Sabonjian, AAUW-IL Public Policy Chair. She believes that Senator Nybo should reach out to Representative Moeller indicating what specific bill modifications would allow him to support HB 2462. She commented that as long as SB 1657 and HB 4117 are viewed as bad for gun business, they have little chance of passing. She is not sure if any of these bills will be revived in the 101st Legislature and, if they do, they may appear with different number identifications.

**Save the Date: LWV Candidate Forum:** February 28, 7:00 pm, candidates in the March 2018 primary election for the U.S. Representative in Illinois 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, Glenbard South High School Auditorium (Incumbent: Representative Peter Roskam -R).





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

**Peggy Connolly and Pat Kaczor**

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

Though Russia calls to mind caviar and vodka, the cuisine of the world's largest country is a tantalizing bounty reflecting Russia's many exotic cultures. Russia's ancient trade routes also evince its diverse heritage, from the Varangian (Viking) Volga Route that traded goods in lands from the icy northern regions to the desert kingdoms of the Middle East, and the Amber Road, connecting the North Sea to the Mediterranean. Join us Thursday, February 8, as we explore the munificent cuisine of Russia.

Please let Peggy know what delicacy you will bring to the feast by February 1. Due to the growing popularity of Spice Routes, and the physical limitations of space, chairs, and dishes, the evening will be limited to the first 24 guests.

Future dinners will sample the cuisines of countries involved in the Dutch East India Company trade (April 12), and the spices of Mexico (June 7).



Check your National AAUW Website for information:



**CALLING ALL AAUW ARTISTS!**

Here's a great opportunity to showcase your artwork!  
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**JANUARY 2018**  
Submit your art design online. Original art can be in any medium but must be submitted electronically.

**FEBRUARY 2018**  
Members vote for their favorite designs on the AAUW website. For more information, including submission and voting instructions, visit [www.aauw.org/contests](http://www.aauw.org/contests).

AAUW  
ADVANCING WOMEN'S EQUITY SINCE 1896

### 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.  |



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