



AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP

wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net

Twigs

March 2018

A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

We don't usually begin talking about membership renewal until later in the spring, but we wanted to provide you with an update earlier this year. As many of you may know, the AAUW national board of directors voted last June to enact the first dues change in almost a decade. Effective March 16, 2018, national dues will increase from \$49.00 to \$59.00. There will be no change to state dues (\$10.00) or Branch dues (\$19.00); \$56.00 of your national dues and all \$19.00 of Branch dues are tax deductible.

Annual national dues currently account for 13 percent of AAUW's annual budget. They help to sustain and grow AAUW's programs and work that advances equity for women and girls. A combination of dues, donations and corporate and foundation funding is critical to supporting AAUW's salary negotiation workshops, groundbreaking research, advocacy efforts, campus leadership programs, and so much more.

Speaking of AAUW research and salary negotiation workshops, we want to thank those of you who attended our Branch program on the gender pay gap and what AAUW is doing to close the gap and provided us with such positive feedback. Actually, we heard that you want to know what more we can be doing locally and we heard from members who want to participate as part of the solution. We (your Branch board of directors) can think of no better way to maintain and grow our membership than to continue to provide specific information on all that your AAUW national, state and branch organizations are doing to change the climate for women and girls. But we know you don't just want information. You want results. Our CEO, Kim Churches has said "we can't remain mired in an outdated dues structure while expecting new results from the organization we love."

With the goals of women's access to education, economic security and securing leadership positions, I believe it's an honor to be a member of AAUW. Sue and I hope that every member of our Branch will renew their membership and continue this extraordinary journey to equity in the company of such wonderful Branch members.

Lastly, don't forget to mark your March calendar for our Branch program and annual meeting to elect officers. Our own Ewa Bacon has graciously agreed to will be with us to discuss her new book and we need your vote to elect our new officers!

Lisa

Saving Lives in Auschwitz

**Our own Ewa Bacon, PhD.,
Historian and Professor
Emerita, Lewis University,
will discuss her book,
*Saving Lives in Auschwitz:
The Prisoners' Hospital in
Buna-Monowitz***

Wednesday, March 7

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

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

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

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Information
March 2	AM Lit	9:30 am	LaVonne Ruoff's
March 7	Branch Meeting	7:00 pm	Glen Ellyn History Center, 800 N Main St., Glen Ellyn
March 9	Film Group	7:00 pm	Jean Lindsey's
March 14	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Suzanne Gagner's
March 19	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Lisa Cherry's
March 20	March General Primary Election	6:00 am to 7:00 pm	Check your polling place location.
March 28	PM Non-Fiction	7:00 pm	Phyllis Fogel's

Branch Program: *Saving Lives in Auschwitz* Co-VP Programs: Janet Arden and Donna Jean Simon

Dr. Ewa Bacon is a historian who was most fortunate to get access to a primary source, the oral history of her father about his experience in Auschwitz. As a newly minted Polish physician, he became a prisoner functionary because his skill set was useful. Auschwitz was a remarkably complicated organization. Ewa will discuss the labor camp, the role of German big business and the creation of a prisoners' hospital in an Auschwitz unit: Buna-Monowitz. It took a lot of ingenuity and guile to save lives in such a place.



Membership
Schulz

Kitty Johansson and Karen

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kathrynj@herpersgmbh.com

On Sunday, February 4, several new and potential members attended an AAUW in-depth information gathering at the home of Karen Schulz. It was a great time of getting to know each other, learning more about the mission of AAUW and sharing where their interests were and how their talents can be used for our local Branch. An added bonus was having Co-President Lisa Cherry and past Co-President Kitty Johansson on hand to share their wealth of AAUW knowledge.

Nominating Committee Report

Under the umbrella of Membership, the Nominating Committee, including Kitty Johansson, Patricia Bernhold, and Karen Schulz, has concluded work for this year's March Branch election. We are very pleased to present the following slate of nominees:

Karen Schulz: Membership Vice President
Elaine Nissen: Treasurer

Nominations for Branch offices may also be made from the floor, providing the written consent of the nominee has been obtained in advance. Be sure to attend the March Branch meeting and vote!



Member Records and Directory

Maureen Sheehan and Karen Schulz

maureenjsheehan@aol.com

okschulz@aol.com

Please add the following email address and phone number update to your directory :

Jane Stroh

New Email Address: *justbook475@gmail.com*

Phone Number: 630-790-1528 **Other:** 630-469-2891



Book Sale

Carolyn Oesterle and Nancy Possinger

csoesterle@gmail.com nap101547@ameritech.net

Get ready for May! It will be here sooner than you think and the snow will be gone! Our big week is May 7 to 12. Thanks to all the members picking up books and sorting. Marilyn has turned into the full time book storage manager—three cheers to her! We are doing well with our book collection and have had good success with BESI (Books from Estate Sales Initiative). Estate sales and garage sales will increase with the warmer weather. Let Elaine Nissen know when you can help.



Cultural Arts

Suzanne Gagner

petalpower1@yahoo.com

This is the last Cultural Arts event being planned before summer.

Stranger in a Strange Land, Thursday, April 25, 7:30 pm, at the MAC Auditorium at College of DuPage. Spend an evening with the first female photographer at National Geographic magazine and the first woman named White House Photographer of the Year. We will peer through her lens into the secret lives of Saudi Arabian women, Geisha Societies, human trafficking and more.

Tickets are \$36.00 and a group rate may apply. Feel free to email me if you are interested. I will also have a sign up form available at the March 7 meeting





Spotlight on AAUW 2017-2019 Action Priorities

To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society, is the third AAUW Action Priority, therefore, AAUW advocates:

- Vigorous enforcement of and full access to civil and constitutional rights, including affirmative action and expanding voting rights;
- Self-determination of one's reproductive health decisions;
- Increased access to quality, affordable health care and family planning services, including expansion of patients' rights.

Show Me the Money- Illinois Style

Several large companies in recent weeks announced new policies that will benefit women in the workplace. Starbucks will expand its paid sick and parental leave policies, while Amazon and Bank of America both announced they will no longer ask applicants about their salary history. AAUW hopes the three employers, with multiple Illinois locations, have set an example to be followed by other businesses.

State Senator, Chris Nybo (District 24) is co-sponsoring SB 2333 that would make it illegal for employers to ask prospective or current employees about their previous wage or salary history. (Please note: I asked AAUW-Illinois Public Policy Chair, Jo-An Takamoto Sanbonjian, why our state organization had not filed a Witness Slip in support of SB 2333. Jo-An replied concern exists that in its current form SB 2333 is an unacceptable rewrite of HB 2462). HB 2462 was last session's wage history bill that AAUW lobbied for but was ultimately defeated by Governor Rauner's veto and by a subsequent failure of efforts to overturn the veto (Senator Nybo is the State Senator for many of our Branch members).

The Department of Labor (DOL) has proposed a rule that would make it legal for employers to pocket their workers' tips, as long as they pay those workers at least the minimum wage. Because women are more likely to be tipped workers and to earn lower wages, this rule would disproportionately harm them. Illinois women will lose an estimated 21 to 42 million dollars annually. AAUW has responded critically to the DOL regarding this measure.

On Your Calendar:

- **February 28, 7:00 pm**, League of Women Voters Candidate Forum, candidates in the March 2018 primary election for the U.S. Representative in Illinois 6th Congressional District, Glenbard South High School Auditorium (Incumbent: Rep. 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.



What is this funny-looking picture? Many of you will recognize that this is a QR Code. Similar to a UPC Code on merchandise, it includes embedded information. This particular QR Code simply includes our Branch's website address. With an I-Phone, a person opens the camera application and focuses on the QR Code image. A pop-up message appears that says, "Website QR Code. Click to go to wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net." How cool is that? (For other smart phones, you may need to download the free QR scanner application rather than just using the camera).



How can we use this QR Code to bring people to our website? We can include it in flyers for the Book Sale and other events. At the Book Sale, we can include it in our thank you handouts at the cashier table or on some of our wall signs. The possibilities are endless. Contact Jane Palmer for the JPEG file or go to the Members Only section of the website (password = twigs) to copy it.



On Monday, March 19, 7:00 pm, PM Lit meets at the home of Lisa Cherry to discuss *Hillbilly Elegy, a Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* by J. D. Vance. From a former Marine and Yale Law School graduate, it's a poignant account of growing up in a poor Appalachian town that offers a broader, probing look at the struggles of America's white working class. Part memoir, part historical and social analysis, it is a fascinating consideration of class, culture, and the American Dream.

Lisa is also the discussion leader. Please let her know if you are coming. Phyllis is the co-hostess. Multiple copies of the book are reserved for us at the Glen Ellyn Public Library on the second floor.

For those who like to read ahead our next two books are *Moonglow* by Michael Chabon and *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury.

I have read like a man on fire my whole life because the genius of English teachers touched me with the dazzling beauty of language.

Pat Conroy, *A Lowcountry Heart: Reflections on a Writing Life*



AM Non-Fiction

Sue Herrmann

sherrmann710@gmail.com

We will meet 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.

We do not meet in March, but resume meeting again on April 25, at 10:00 am, at the home of Jean Lindsey to discuss *Devil in the Grove* by Gilbert King. Carolyn Oesterle will be our discussion leader and Barb Isom will provide treats.

The Glen Ellyn Public 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 Branch website for a list of the books for 2018.



PM Non-Fiction

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

We will have our March 28 meeting of the PM Non-Fiction readers at 7:00 pm, at the home of Phyllis Fogel who is also our co-hostess. Peggy Connolly will lead us in an unusual double bill. Our main reading is Colin Woodard's *American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America*, but we will combine it with Vance's *Hillbilly Elegy* which many of us have read for other groups or on our own. We are combining these titles to examine Woodard's premise that America exists in numerous, some incompatible, cultural spheres. How extensive is this regionalism? Do you feel these constraints or perhaps celebrate these differences?

A look ahead: our May 23 meeting will feature John Pollack's *The Pun Also Rises: How the Humble Pun Revolutionized Language, Changed History, and Made Wordplay More Than Some Antic*. The subtitle says it all! It's classified both as reference and as humor.

Please let your hostess know if you are planning to attend.



Save the Date

**The AAUW spring banquet will be held Monday, June 4, at Adelle's in Wheaton.
Social time with cash bar begins at 5:30 pm, followed by dinner at 6:15 pm.
Complete details with menu choices and reservation information will be in the
April issue of *Twigs*.**



March's Film Group meeting will be at 7:00 pm, on Friday, March 9, at the home of Jean Lindsay. By then we will know which films won the Oscars. We can talk about what the Academy got right and what it got wrong! We will also talk about the March film, of course. Check your email for the film selection the weekend before the meeting. I will miss the March meeting, so am looking for volunteers to lead the discussion. Please let me know if you would like to do it!

Looking ahead, our April meeting will be on the second Saturday, April 14, at my home. Finally, if you are not on the distribution list and would like to join us, please contact me.



Highlighting One of our Branch Members from Sue Hermann

I have always known that this Branch has terrific members, but a recent experience simply brought home that message loud and clear.

My husband, Jim, and I were at the Field Museum of Chicago recently and visited the Ancient American Cultures exhibit. Low and behold, there was our friend and AAUW Branch member, Winifred Creamer, highlighted on the video presentation in the Ancient Peru exhibit area!

Winifred is a retired archeologist who taught at Northern Illinois University. Winifred and her husband, Jonathan Haas, are in Peru for the winter. They are traveling to Ayacucho, a city in the Peru highlands known for archaeological sites, artisanal ceramics and some unusual paintings on wood. She will post some sights on her blog website; the address is at the bottom of this article. Winifred gives everyone at AAUW her best. She'll be back in May and will make the Spring Banquet if at all possible.

llywindatravels.wordpress.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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