



Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP

wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net

Twigs

December 2018

A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

We have all accomplished a great deal since the Branch Kick Off meeting in September! Let me recap all of our activities and accomplishments.

Thanks to Maureen Sheehan, who did an outstanding job publishing our Membership Directory. And hats off to Margaret McGrath and members who raised \$1,400 for the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund! Carolyn Oesterle, Nancy Possinger and Marilyn Wiedemann organized a special book drive in Glen Ellyn from October 9 to 29.

Donna Jean Simon and Janet Arden have presented outstanding speakers for our Branch meetings. Thanks to the efforts of Karen Schultz, our membership is now at 130 and rising. Our literature groups are thriving under the able leadership of Jean Lindsey, Phyllis Fogel, Ewa Bacon and yours truly!

Public Policy, under the direction of Patricia Spence, is actively working on the 2017-19 AAUW Action Priorities. Laura Desmarais is cementing a relationship with College of DuPage to help them start an AAUW College/University Association.

Thank you to Susan Levy-Creed for keeping us up to date on EOF as well as Mary Sue Brown with LAF. Anne Hanley is keeping us going to the movies and discussing them at Film Group, while Peggy Connolly and Pat Kaczor plan splendid Spice Routes dinners. And of course, Suzanne Gagner, who is bringing culture into our lives!

And great thanks to Jane Palmer and Patricia Spence for keeping our website and social media sites humming along and keeping all of us on our toes when state and federal reports must be filed. And of course, Elaine Nissen for keeping our finances straight. Also, hats off to Patricia Bernhold for taking our minutes at board meetings.

Last but not least, Frankie Robinson and Debbie Ness are busy planning the December 5 Winter Banquet to be held at Reserve 22 Restaurant, Village Links in Glen Ellyn.

Finally, there are no scheduled Branch meetings in December or January and no board meeting in December. A Blessed Holiday and a Special New Year!

Sue



Annual Winter Banquet

Speaker: Naeema Torres
AAUW Career Development
Grant Winner

6:00 pm, Wednesday,
December 5

Reserve 22 Restaurant
Village Links of Glen Ellyn
485 Winchell Way
Glen Ellyn

EOF Chair:
Susan Levy-Creed

Winter Banquet Chairs:
Deb Ness
Frankie Robinson

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Information
Dec. 5	Annual Winter Banquet	6:00 pm	Reserve 22 Restaurant, Village Links, 485 Winchell Way, Glen Ellyn, (Paid Reservation Only).
Dec. 7	AM Lit	9:30 am	Kitty Johansson's
Dec. 7	Cultural Arts: 6 th Annual Jazz Faculty Christmas Concert	8:00 pm	North Central College, Madden Theatre, Wentz Fine Arts Center, 171 E Chicago Ave., Naperville.
Dec. 8	Film Group	6:30 pm	Jean Lindsey's
Dec. 19	AM Non-Fiction	10:00 am	Sue Herrmann's
Jan. 4	AM Lit	9:30 am	Janet Arden's



Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF)

Susan Levy-Creed

susanlevycreed@gmail.com

Winter Banquet Speaker

Our speaker at the **December 5 Annual Winter Banquet** is Naeema Torres, who was awarded a Career Development Grant by AAUW to assist her in pursuing her M.F.A. in Documentary Media Studies at Northwestern University. She is completing her thesis on site in New Orleans currently. She plans to tell us about that and her prior career in film production. She should be an interesting speaker, in addition to whetting our excitement for our upcoming *LUNAFEST* fundraiser.



Membership

Karen Schulz

okschulz@aol.com

The Winter Banquet coming up on December 5, is a wonderful evening to introduce a potential member to all that we are and all that we have to offer! They will experience the warmth and camaraderie in the room and hear from a speaker who has benefited from an AAUW fellowship or grant. Anyone who signs up that evening will join at the discounted rate of \$58.50. So, please do invite a guest! We will have a special table for all the members who joined in 2018 and will celebrate with a Class of 2018 photo. We look forward to visiting with you and meeting your guests at this delightful affair.

Directories:

If you have not received your directory, please contact Karen Schulz by email or by phone: 630.207.6130 to arrange for pick up. Thanks!



Treasury

Elaine Nissen

nissen.elaine@comcast.net

As you complete your year-end financial planning, please consider a tax-deductible donation to our Branch. See the form at end of Twigs or on our Branch website and submit to me along with your check indicating how you would like your Branch donation used. If you prefer, you may donate via the AAUW national website with a credit card. Funds will be donated to AAUW national and not our Branch. Thank you for your consideration.

Please remember *AmazonSmile* when purchasing for your holiday needs. Click on AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch NFP so your purchase will be counted towards a donation to our Branch. Log onto AmazonSmile rather than Amazon, follow the prompts. Please see additional information on fundraising page. Thank you and enjoy the holiday season!



About those surveys...

When we started programming planning for 2018-2019, our goal was to more fully engage our members in traditional AAUW initiatives as well as develop potential local initiatives in our own Branch. And we wanted more attendees at our meetings. Attendance has persistently lingered in the mid-thirties despite a membership of more than 130!

There is an interesting difference between attendance at meetings and participation in the surveys. Member participation in the post-meeting surveys has been beyond our expectations. Many of you take considerable time to offer lengthy, heartfelt comments in your survey responses, what you would like to see next time and how we can improve. We really appreciate your investment in the surveys.

September Survey

We wondered what we would get in response since this was a different meeting format on a different day and at a different time. There were a whopping 68 responses, 24 from those who attended and 46 from those who did not; 90% of this latter group said they had another commitment. Seventy-seven percent of attendees said the meeting exceeded expectations; 22% said the meeting met expectations. Some of you came away energized with a new enthusiasm for the Branch. You found the Economics/Work Smart and Leadership Beyond AAUW conversations to be the most interesting, but in general endorsed all the topics. (A Work Smart workshop is in the works.)

October survey

Because the Board believed hearing from Dr. Rondeau, president of College of DuPage (COD), was a priority, we moved the meeting to accommodate her schedule. Unfortunately, both Program Vice-Presidents were unavailable at that date and Dr. Rondeau abruptly withdrew due to her COD resignation. (A perfect program-planning storm!) Many of you expressed dismay at Dr. Rondeau's absence but appreciated the informative presentation offered by the two speakers COD did send.

This is the first time we asked about the business portion of the meeting. Commenters wondered what we could do to streamline this portion, referring to it as boring and redundant, but admitting that some business is a necessity. (Questions you asked: *How do we separate business from announcements? Do we need a business meeting every month?*)

November survey

Forty-seven people responded to this survey, including 24 members who attended and 23 members who did not. Of the non-attendees who shared their reason for not attending, 15 indicated another commitment and two reported they do not attend evening meetings. Twenty-two attendees were enthusiastic about Dr. Bang's presentation and ten respondents indicated an interest in pursuing additional information about STEAM and/or Native American topics. (We will pursue this for those who are interested.)

Regarding the business meeting, in response to the question about satisfaction with the manner in which the newsletter discussion was handled, 12 people were satisfied and eight were not. Your comments reflected a lack of clarity in presenting the topic, general discomfort with the emotional aspect of the discussion, a desire to find a simple solution for those wanting a print newsletter and surprise that this topic became an issue for the entire membership versus being determined by the Board of Directors. These responses have been shared with the Board of Directors.

The survey project will continue, as well as some action based on your responses. For now, we have one last question: *What would you like us to ask about that would improve your experience as a member of our Branch?*

Our Branch Fundraising Activities



Booksale

Nancy Possinger

nap101547@ameritech.net

This is a reminder that it seems that everyone knows someone who has books they no longer need or want. Two of my neighbors came up with five boxes of book donations for me last week! Estate sales have again been a source of good book finds as well as the multiple large book donations from our members, friends and relatives. Marilyn Wiedemann and her helpers have continued to do a great job in keeping up with the weekly estate sales, HealthTrack donations and the sorting at our locker. Give Marilyn a call if you can help with these efforts in any way. Pick-ups continue weekly at the Wheaton and Glen Ellyn RE/MAX locations. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving everyone!

LUNAFEST

Suzanne Gagner

petalpower1@yahoo.com

**SAVE THE DATE!!
SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2019**

Our vision for a new fundraiser that would be fun and profitable led us to **LUNAFEST**, a traveling film festival to celebrate, showcase and champion women in film. Written and produced by women, they *tell stories that have to be told*.

We need AAUW members to volunteer to assist in planning and executing this exciting new event. Our two basic committees this year are: Promotion/Sponsorship and Site Planning/Clean Up. Please let me know if you would like to join us. We will kick into high gear in January with our local responsibilities for promotion and site planning.

If you would like to buy tickets to LUNAFEST as Christmas gifts, follow this link:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lunafest-naperville-il-tickets-52068243518>

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I will be in regular contact with the attendees who have signed up to provide time and location information.

- December 7, 2018, Friday, 8:00 pm, \$20/senior, **6th Annual Jazz Faculty Christmas Concert** by North Central College Faculty at Madden Theatre, Naperville. **Only TWO tickets available for this event!**
- January 27, 2019, Sunday, 6:00 pm, \$35, **Joan Curto, Songs of the Leading Ladies** at North Central College, Madden Theatre, Naperville.
- March 22, 2019, Friday, 7:30 pm, McAninch Arts Center, College of DuPage, \$55, **Take 6, an intoxicating brew of gospel, jazz, R&B and pop.** Heralded by Quincy Jones as the *baddest vocal cats on the planet.*
- April 2019, date TBA, **Newberry Research Library**, arrangements are being made for a tour of the library with lunch at Bistro Zinc.
- May 3, 2019, Friday, 7:30 pm, McAninch Arts Center, College of DuPage, \$55, **Dee Dee Bridgewater and the Memphis Soulphony**, American jazz singer, three-time Grammy Winner and Tony Award winner for *The Wiz*.

Additional Events: I have listed these additional performances for your information. *I will not be organizing them as group events*; ticketing information is provided for your convenience.

- **David Saliamonas** will perform two piano concerts, Friday, November 30 and Saturday, December 1, \$50, Eleanor Saliamonas' home, reservations to Eleanor at 630.858.3486.
- **Buffalo Theatre Ensemble** at the McAninch Arts Center.
Tickets sold at the MAC Box Office, 630.942.4000 and *AtTheMAC.org*. Peggy Connolly will host a pre-show party at her home before each of these performances. Details will be announced in Twigs.
Defiance, Thursday, February 7, 2019.
Miracle on South Division Street, Thursday, May 23, 2019.
- **Wheaton Drama.**
Tickets at *www.wheatondrama.org*, 630.260.1820, 111 N Hale St. Wheaton.
Silent Laughter, November 16 through December 9, 2018.
Wit, January 18 through February 10, 2019.
Murdered To Death, March 22 through April 14, 2019.
Sweeney Todd, May 24 through June 16, 2019.



Walk, Run, Ride

The final tally of funds raised from this year's October walk to support the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund is **\$1400**. Thanks to all who contributed to this AAUW biennial award established in 1989, which honors an individual, project, organization or institution for outstanding contributions to education and equity for women and girls. The award will next be made in 2019. Special thanks to our walkers and our supporters who joined us at Shane's Deli for coffee and treats. As always, it was a fun morning and a lovely way to raise funds for a significant cause.





Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) was initiated in 1981 during the AAUW national convention to support women seeking justice for gender discrimination. Over the ensuing years, LAF has provided millions of dollars to balance the scales of justice for people seeking gender equity through the legal system. LAF supports brave plaintiffs seeking legal redress for Title VII, Title X, equal pay, sexual harassment and tenure denial violations.

Please go to the LAF page of the AAUW website to review its four active cases. LAF provides financial support, organizational support through amicus signatory and a statement of support, and emotional support: a family of AAUW members are present at significant legal proceedings. LAF does not provide legal advice or legal representation.

Sign up for the monthly LAF Express from the AAUW website. Click on *Resources* from the bar across the top of the page; from the *Resources* page, choose *Newsletters and magazines*. Scroll down to the seventh entry, *LAF Express* to sign up. This should be simpler. Ebonee Avery-Washington directs the activities of LAF. Her email is *washington@aauw.org*. She is knowledgeable and helpful.



Springfield Update on Gun Control—latest information: **SB 3256** requiring a 72-hour waiting period for gun purchases was signed into law by Governor Rauner. **SB 337** combating illegal gun trafficking remains on the Senate floor. (See November Twigs for a listing of additional gun control bills.)

Washington Update Bump Stocks: Congress did not pass a bill banning bump stocks. It created, instead, a resolution *recommending* that each state address the issue. The *non-binding* resolution was attached to an omnibus budget bill, which passed.

AAUW National: Do you believe that gun violence is a public health crisis? The AAUW does. Every two years, AAUW members vote on revisions to our public policy priorities. Now through January 11, 2019, you can comment on the changes recommended by the AAUW Public Policy Committee, and propose revisions to the ballot in the AAUW national election next spring or to the AAUW bylaws. Go to <https://www.aauw.org/resource/national-election/>

Take Part in Your Local Elections. Attend the Glen Ellyn Civic Betterment Party Meet the Candidates for Village Trustees and Library Trustees Forum and hear candidate speeches on December 1 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am at the First United Methodist Church, Forest and Duane. For more information visit www.GlenEllynCivicBetterment.com (Wheaton Branch members: Please inform Patricia Spence of upcoming Wheaton elections/referenda related events for posting in Twigs or on the Branch FaceBook page.)

Save the Date!

Women's March Chicago

January 19, 2019

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

<https://www.womensmarch.com/2019>



What's new on the website? First, the home page now has a *Looking Ahead* section which describes the LUNAFEST fundraiser planned for March 30, 2019. We also added a new menu item to the home page for *Fundraisers* which soon will include a link for you to purchase your LUNAFEST tickets.

Second, the *Members Only* page () has been expanding with Book Sale details, Branch forms and documents. Look here to read about the Book Sale team's *Estate Sale Initiative*, how to bring books to the warehouse and how you can help with book sale activities. Next, two treasurer forms have been added: The Check Request Form and the Branch Donation Form. Finally, this is where you can follow Board activities by reviewing monthly minutes and financial reports.

Third, in the near future, we hope to freshen up the pictures in the banners and on the *Interest Group* pages. If you are a leader of a book group or interest group, send pictures to Jane Palmer so that I can keep your pages up to date.



Film Group

Anne Hanley

ahanley@mindspring.com

December's Film Group meeting will be at 6:30 pm on Saturday, December 8 at the home of Jean Lindsey. **Note the earlier start time.** The cold fall-turning-into-winter weather makes the warm dark movie theater especially inviting. And Jean says *there might be chili!* Check your email for the film selection the weekend before the meeting. If you are not on the email distribution list and would like to join us, please contact me.

Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Vision: Equity for all.

Values: Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality.



***Volunteers are seldom paid; not because they are worthless,
but because they are PRICELESS!***



Our Branch Book Groups

Books are the plane, and the train, and the road. They are the destination and the journey. They are home.

AM Lit

Jean Lindsey

jeanlindsey15@comcast.net

On Friday, December 7, AM Lit participants will meet to discuss Yaa Gyasi's debut novel, *Homecoming*. Kitty Johansson will host the meeting which will commence at 9:30 am. Kathy McCullough and Patricia Spence will provide the hospitality. Laura Desmarais will lead the discussion of the novel described by *Oprah.com* as *Luminous...the author thrillingly depicts her characters' migrations from mud-hut villages to Harlem's jazz clubs to Ghana's silvered beaches, celebrating how place and fate shape us all.*

Do email, text or phone Kitty if you plan on attending, email: *kathryn@herpersgmbh.com*, phone: 815.919.7968.

Looking ahead: AM Lit will meet January 4, 2019 at Janet Arden's home to discuss *Rules of Civility* by Amor Towles. Diane Serb and Susan Levy-Creed are the co-hostesses and Phyllis Fogel will lead the discussion.

PM Lit

Phyllis Fogel

prfogel@live.com

PM Lit takes December off as we all seem to have many other things to do. We will resume on January 21, 2019, to discuss *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate. Susan Levy-Creed is the discussion leader and the hostess. May your holidays be merry and bright and the world filled with PEACE.

AM Non-Fiction

Sue Hermann

sherrmann710@gmail.com

We will meet at 10:00 am on December 19 at my house. We will be discussing *Hip Hop Genius*, by Sam Seidel. Cynthia Chand will be our discussion leader. I am asking everyone to bring an appetizer to share for a winter celebration. I will provide the coffee and punch. Hope to see everyone on December 19!

Please Note: The Glen Ellyn Public Library reserves multiple copies of our books on the second floor. Those who hold a current library card from another local library are also eligible to check out the books.

The Twigs Team

Editor: Kathleen McCullough
Proofreader: Ruth Schumacher
Sponsors: Mary Sue Brown
Webmaster: Jane Palmer

It takes a team to get Twigs to you. Thank you to all who assist this Editor and a special thank you to Ruth Schumacher who has been responsible for the USPS mailed issues for the past two years!

Support Our Branch in a Way that is Important to You with a Tax-Deductible Donation



AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP

I would like to support the work of our Branch with a tax-deductible donation.

My name: _____ Donation Amount: \$ _____
 Address: _____

Please make my donation in memory of in honor of: _____
 (circle one)

Honoree's address is: _____

Please indicate how you would like your donation to be used:

	Unrestricted Funds	For general operations for the AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP.
	Educational Opportunities Fund	The Branch's main fund for providing money locally for scholarships and nationally for fellowships, grants, and research.
	Convention and Leadership Fund	Provides assistance to Branch members for leadership training at National and local AAUW conventions. Allows our President to represent us at AAUW National convention.
	Community Action Fund	Provides funding for local community programs for women's education and empowerment. Presently includes Branch STEM, Tech Savvy and Start Smart initiatives.
	Dues Assistance Fund	Assists members who temporarily need help paying dues.

Note: For AAUW National funds like the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund (9170) or the Legal Advocacy Fund (3999) and others, you can give to AAUW National directly at aauw.org

Make your check payable to AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP and mail to the address below.
 A tax receipt will be provided.

Elaine Nissen

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