



**Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP**

*wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net*

# Twigs

**February 2019**

## A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

Snowy greetings! Winter may keep some people down, but rest assured that your board of directors and many other Branch members are hard at work preparing for a very dynamic spring! Please let me update you on just some of our exciting plans.

Always first and foremost in our fundraising mission, Nancy Possinger and the Book Sale consulting committee have been relentless in not just book collection, but also in updating, revising where needed and making other changes to our *well-oiled machine*. It may not be broken, but they are fixing it anyway! Stay tuned for more details on how we can *ALL* participate.

One year ago, most of us had never heard of LUNAFEST, but we are now anxious with anticipation for our March 30 event. Suzanne Gagner and committee want to fill the theatre at Center Stage with members, family, friends and community. So please see the details for the event in this issue and purchase your tickets early. A reception with delicious hors d'oeuvres, a raffle and eight short films made by women is guaranteed to please all who attend!

Have you missed Fran Kravitz's wonderful STEM workshops for kids? The usual library venues have been under construction this past year, but Program VP Donna Jean Simon, has secured the community room of the new Glen Ellyn Police Station for workshops beginning this spring. We are all proud of Fran and her willingness to run these workshops, but she will need volunteers to assist, so please watch for details and step up to help.

Your board of directors has been looking for ways to increase our visibility in Wheaton and Glen Ellyn. We want the community to be aware of the wonderful work of AAUW, to publicize fundraising events and perhaps co-sponsor activities in which we share goals. We are so excited that Debbie Ness has agreed to be our community liaison. Deb has already begun meeting with community leaders. Thanks so much, Deb!

Our new national strategic plan has prompted many of us to ask for clarity on how we can support AAUW's missions with our Branch and individual donations. Included in this issue you will find a new funds diagram (see page 9). Your board of directors will use this diagram to identify the funds to which we want to donate. Please also use it for your individual donations and let me know if you have a question.

*Think Spring!*

*Lisa*

## February Branch Meeting



### The Challenges of Title IX

**A discussion as to what Title IX is, how it impacts us and our daughters and granddaughters, and how it is currently being threatened.**

**7:00 pm, Wednesday,  
February 6**

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

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

## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Information
Feb. 1	AM Lit	9:30 am	Eleanor Saliamonas's.
Feb. 6	Branch Meeting	7:00 pm	The Glen Ellyn History Center, 800 N Main St., Glen Ellyn.
Feb. 7	Cultural Arts Buffalo Theater Ensemble <i>Defiance</i>	6:00 pm 8:00 pm	Pre-show event at Peggy Connolly's. McAninch Arts Center, College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn.
Feb. 9	Film Group	7:00 pm	Kitty Johansson's.
Feb. 13	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Lisa Cherry's.
Feb. 18	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Bonnie Wheaton's.
Feb. 22	Book Sale Kick Off Meeting	9:30 am	Nancy Possinger's.
Feb. 27	AM Non-Fiction	10:00 am	Peggy Connolly's.



### Programs

**Janet Arden & Donna Jean Simon**

janarden@icloud.com djsimon@questillc.com

#### February 6 Branch Meeting The Challenges of Title IX

Challenges continue to impact the long-standing legislation that has done so much to protect the gender rights of women to be treated equally to men.

As the AAUW website points out, in September 2017, the US Department of Education *rescinded two important documents related to Title IX, the 2011 Dear Colleague Letter on Sexual Violence and a 2014 Q & A on Title IX and Sexual Violence*. The second document in particular offered important clarification regarding Title IX requirements to prevent and address sex discrimination in educational programs. These rollbacks reduce protections for women and girls by narrowing the definition of sexual harassment, limiting opportunities for reporting harassment, and making it more difficult for students to step forward to receive the support they deserve.

What can you do now?

We have until January 28 to comment on these proposed changes. You can do this on the AAUW website by clicking on *Take Action* at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) and following the prompts. You can easily join the AAUW petition protecting Title IX.

Join us on February 6, where you can learn more about Title IX. We will also discuss how to formulate an action plan to identify whether and how our school systems are protecting these rights and how to support or encourage them to take appropriate actions, as needed. We expect this to be an interactive session.



### Membership

**Karen Schulz**

okschulz@aol.com

We extend a hardy welcome to our newest member, Johanna Rebman, who just recently joined our Branch. Look for more information about her in the March Twigs. Along with Johanna, we are happy to welcome Roger Kotecki back and see our membership total at 132.

As we enter the new year let us all keep sharing the mission of AAUW to advance equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy with our friends and acquaintances by inviting them to a Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW Branch event.

## Our Branch Fundraising Activities



### LUNAFEST

**Suzanne Gagner**

*petalpower1@yahoo.com*

#### WHAT?



A traveling festival of films written and produced by women,  
*that tell stories that have to be told.*

#### WHEN?

5:00 pm, Saturday, March 30.

#### WHERE?

Center Stage Theater, 1665 Quincy Avenue, Naperville.

#### WHY?

To raise funds for scholarships for local girls.

#### DETAILS?

A reception with hors d'oeuvres, beverages, a cash bar and raffle ticket sales will be followed by eight documentary films.

#### TICKETS?

A link to ticket sales is located on the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW website and Facebook pages.

You can also go to this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lunafest-naperville-il-tickets-52068243518>

Paper tickets are also available for purchase. Email your request to Suzanne at address above.

Planning for this exciting new fundraiser is underway. The planning committee is busy looking for ways to increase **ticket sales, sponsorship dollars and gift certificates.**

Even if you cannot commit to helping on the committee:

- You **CAN** help by soliciting **OR** donating \$25 or \$50 gift certificate from some of your favorite hair stylists, nail salons, massage therapists, restaurants, stores, etc. All gift certificates will be hung on a Raffle Tree for selection by our raffle winners.
- You **CAN** buy tickets for your family.
- You **CAN** promote the event to friends and other organizations.



**LUNAFEST** is making a mark in the industry by creating a platform for women's untold stories and working to increase opportunity for women filmmakers. LUNAFEST creates a lineup of short films directed by women and provides a tool-kit for all event planning. A portion of the events' proceeds are also donated to Chicken & Egg Pictures. LUNAFEST is sponsored by Clif Bar and Company, makers of Luna and Clif bars.

**When we fill the 190 seats at Center Stage Theater we will be raising over \$3000 for our scholarship funds!**

We are now heading into full-swing preparation for this year's Used Book Sale.

As of this writing (mid-January), we are excited to have 316 boxes packed full of books from every genre. Again, this year, Marilyn Wiedemann is doing a great job managing the locker. And, as always, we are looking for all of you to donate the gently used books that you no longer need or want. And please pass the word along to your family and friends to donate their books. Also contact Marilyn Wiedemann if you are able to sort books or help with picking up books at estate sales. Finally, please consider helping us at the Book Sale which will run from May 1 to May 4 at our new location this year, the First United Methodist Church of Glen Ellyn, 424 Forest Avenue, Glen Ellyn. It is fun and you get to meet some really wonderful people. More about that in our next article.

### **Book Sale Hours**

**Wednesday, May 1, 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm**  
**Thursday and Friday, May 2 and 3, 9:00 am to 8:00 pm.**  
**Saturday, May 4, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm**

Below is a listing of the various Book Sale events that are planned for the next few months:

- On **Friday, February 22 at 9:30 am** at the home of Nancy Possinger, we will have our annual Used Book Sale kick off meeting where we want to hear all of your great ideas about how we can make this year's Book Sale the best ever. We will also be looking to fill certain leadership roles, such as overseeing the book drives in April at Health Track or the Wheaton Sport Center and overseeing distribution of the flyers to businesses in Wheaton and Glen Ellyn.
- On **Friday, March 15 at 9:30 am**, we will have our annual yard sale update party at my home followed by a pizza lunch. The yard signs that we put up throughout Wheaton and Glen Ellyn before the sale have shown to be the single biggest way that the community finds out about (or are reminded of) our annual Book Sale. Each year these signs need to be updated with the current information such as dates and location.
  - ***Also, I would ask any of you who have yard signs at your home to please bring them to the next Branch meeting on February 6, or to the kickoff meeting February 22, or contact Nancy.***
- On **Wednesday, April 3**, our Branch meeting time at the Glen Ellyn History Center will become a pot luck social designed for mingling and conversation interspersed with information about our Book Sale and how you can help. Throughout this AAUW year, our Program Vice Presidents have done a great job of surveying our membership for new ideas and ways that we can enhance the AAUW membership experience for each of you. One request that has come up repeatedly is a desire for more opportunities to get together in a more social atmosphere. We will have all materials--sign ups, yard signs, flyer/bookmark packets--in one location.

Please contact me with any questions you may have.

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



From Peggy:

**Buffalo Theater Ensemble, McAninch Arts Center, College of DuPage, *Defiance***

Join us for an evening of great camaraderie and outstanding theatre. We will meet at 6:00 pm on Thursday, February 7 at Peggy Connolly's home for wine, appetizers, and lively conversation before the evening performance. *Defiance*, based on John Patrick Shanley's time at Camp Lejeune when the military was running low on recruits to feed the Viet Nam War and racial tensions were high, examines the high cost of doing the right thing. (Yes, that John Patrick Shanley of *Doubt*, *Moonstruck* and *Outside Mullingar* fame.) After the soiree, we will head to the MAC for the 8:00 pm curtain. Please RSVP to Peggy Connolly. Tickets available at the MAC box office or online [atthamac.org](http://atthamac.org).

From Suzanne:

**Take 6**, Friday, March 22 at 7:30 pm, McAninch Arts Center, College of DuPage, \$56. An intoxicating brew of gospel, jazz, R&B and pop. Heralded by Quincy Jones as the *baddest vocal cats on the planet*.

April - **Newberry Research Library**, Arrangements are being made for a tour of the library with lunch at Bistro Zinc.

**Dee Dee Bridgewater and the Memphis Soulphony**, Friday, May 3 at 7:30 pm, McAninch Arts Center, College of DuPage, \$65, American jazz singer, three-time Grammy Winner and Tony Award winner for *The Wiz*. *I have 5 additional tickets available until March 3*.

**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.

**Buffalo Theatre Ensemble at the McAninch Arts Center, College of DuPage**

Tickets sold at the MAC Box Office, 630-942-4000 and [AtTheMAC.org](http://AtTheMAC.org)

Peggy Connolly will host a pre-show party at her home before each of these performances:

*Defiance*, Thursday, February 7.

*Miracle on South Division Street*, Thursday, May 23.

**Wheaton Drama**

Tickets at [www.wheatondrama.org](http://www.wheatondrama.org), 630-260-1820, 111 N Hale St. Wheaton.

*Wit*, January 18 to February 10.

*Murdered to Death*, March 22 to April 14.

*Sweeney Todd*, May 24 to June 16.

**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.





February is the month when EOF contacts our high school counselors about finding our high school scholarship recipients. We are seeking four young women who plan to begin their studies at College of DuPage. We love to find women who have succeeded in high school while often overcoming hardships. It is exciting to help give them a leg up on the educational ladder.



**Springfield:**

If you want to track the activity of the 101st Illinois State Legislature, both Senate and House, below are links to their session calendars, at least, as they start out:

- Senate: [http://ilga.gov/senate/schedules/2019\\_Session\\_Calendar.pdf](http://ilga.gov/senate/schedules/2019_Session_Calendar.pdf)
- House: [http://ilga.gov/house/schedules/2019\\_Session\\_Calendar.pdf](http://ilga.gov/house/schedules/2019_Session_Calendar.pdf)
- AAUW-Illinois will be advocating for pay advocacy on Tuesday, April 2, All Women's Equal Pay Day. Contact your legislators!
- On January 7, Terra Costa Howard, our new District 48 representative, held constituent meetings in Glen Ellyn and Lombard.

Highlights: She said the number one concern she heard while campaigning was keeping public schools well-funded. She is opposed to vouchers. She is opposed to *teaching to the test*, but recognizes that federal funding is tied to test results. Answers to *What does standard testing look like?* and *How much time does it take?* lay the ground work for changing current testing practices. Also, she assured listeners that no cleansing of voter rolls had occurred nor will occur in DuPage County. Terra wants to be on the Appropriations Committee; she wants a balanced budget supported by new revenue sources and controlled spending. She has no position, yet, on the graduated income tax or the expanded legalization of marijuana. Insufficient housing for low-income families is another key issue, which she has closely monitored from her earlier experiences as a public defender. Her new office location (shared with State Senator, District 24, Suzy Glowiak) is on the corner of St. Charles Road and Main Street, Lombard. *She confirmed constituent requests that she would give them frequent opportunities for review of and feedback to her decisions and actions.*

**Washington, D.C.**

- On January 10, Congressman Sean Casten (IL-6) signed on as a co-sponsor of HR-8, a bill to expand the background checks of gun purchasers. AAUW views gun violence as a public health crisis.
- At this writing, the AAUW national office has chosen not to sponsor the January 19 Women's March at the Capitol. Justification for whatever the final decision is regarding this event and like events around the U.S. can be directed to [advocacy@aauw.org](mailto:advocacy@aauw.org).

**DuPage County:**

- February 26, Consolidated Primary Election (if necessary) for the nomination of Municipal Officials.
- April 2, Consolidated Election for the election of Municipal, Park District, Library District, School District and Fire District officials.



## Our Branch Book Groups

*If I may not write beautiful books, I may at least read beautiful books;  
and what joy can be greater?* Oscar Wilde

### **AM Lit**

**Jean Lindsey**

*jeanlindsey15@comcast.net*

AM Lit's February 1 book selection, *Pachinko* by Min Lin Lee, is a *beautifully crafted story of love, loss, determination, luck and perseverance*. Lee's skillful development of her characters and story lines will draw you into the work. Those who enjoy historical fiction with strong characterizations will not be disappointed as they ride along the emotional journeys offered in this page turner (Library Journal).

The discussion will be led by Elaine Nissen at Eleanor Saliamonas's home. Do let Eleanor know if you will be attending. Her email: *ebsaliamonas@gmail.com*; her phone: 630-858-3486. Stephanie Zvirin and Jean Tufano are the co-hostesses. As usual, we will gather at 9:30 am.

Looking ahead to March 1 novel: *The House of Broken Angels* by Luis Alberto Urrea at Jean Lindsey's home with Suzanne Gagner and Ruth Schumacher supplying the hospitality.

### **PM Lit**

**Phyllis Fogel**

*prfogel@live.com*

What could be better than spending time under a Tuscan sun in a cold and snowy February? We will discuss *Women in Sunlight* by Frances Mayes, a story of four American strangers who bond in Italy and change their lives over the course of an exceptional year. We will meet at Bonnie Wheaton's home at 7:00 pm on Monday, February 18. Bonnie will also lead the discussion. Please let her know if you are coming. *bonwheaton@aol.com* or 630-665-5497.

### **AM Non-Fiction**

**Sue Herrmann**

*sherrmann710@gmail.com*

Please be sure to mark your calendars for our next meeting at 10:00 am, Wednesday, February 27. I will be sunning myself in Florida at that time, so I am leaving you in the capable hands of our discussion leader, Elaine Nissen. We will meet at the home of Peggy Connolly to discuss *The Road to Character* by David Brooks. Judy Sims will provide the treats.

Note: See you all on April 24 at our next book group meeting. We will read *Killers of the Flower Moon, the Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann. LaVonne Ruoff will be our discussion leader.

**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.**



Have you visited [aauw.org](https://www.aauw.org) recently? If not, do so soon. You will be impressed at AAUW's year in review, summarizing 2018 accomplishments and goals for 2019 and future years. In particular, AAUW plans to train 10 million women in salary negotiation by 2022. In addition to local Work Smart and Start Smart (for college students) workshops, AAUW is now offering a free online Work Smart option. Take the workshop yourself and spread the word to your friends and relatives. Direct them to <https://salary.aauw.org>. By investing an hour of her time, a woman can be better prepared for 2019 salary negotiations.

While browsing [aauw.org](https://www.aauw.org), we also noted that there is still time to enter the annual AAUW art contest. The 2019 AAUW Art Contest is designed to encourage members to use their creativity and promote women artists. The winning entries will be featured in a collection of note cards mailed to AAUW members in the spring. The notecards are mailed to all members as part of a fundraising appeal. Your artwork will be credited to you, with your name and the name of your Branch. It can be a photo or a picture of your artwork in another medium. This year, AAUW is giving special preference to submissions that reflect AAUW's mission and values. Entries will be accepted through February 7, 2019. Go to <https://www.aauw.org/contests> for further details.



**Film Group**

**Anne Hanley**

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

February's Film Group will meet on Saturday, February 9 at 7:00 pm at the home of Kitty Johansson. The Oscar contenders will be known (nominees announced on January 24) and the Oscars just a couple of weeks away (February 24). How exciting! Check your email for the film selection the weekend before the meeting. If you are not on the distribution list and would like to join us, please contact me.

Some important announcements:

- February is the last month for whom I have a host. Please consider hosting our March or April meeting!
- The January meeting was my last meeting until fall 2019, as I will be on sabbatical in Brazil. Ideally, I would like to find someone to chair the group in my absence. If no one steps forward, I can continue with the email/Twigs' tasks in my absence (yay, internet!) but I would love to have someone in town responsible for finding hosts and managing the film discussions.
- If you are interested in hosting or chairing the Film Group for the next few months, please let me know as soon as possible.

**The Twigs Team**

**Editor:** Kathleen McCullough  
**Proofreader:** Ruth Schumacher  
**Webmaster:** Jane Palmer

*A special thank you to the other members of the team from the Twigs editor.  
It takes a team effort to publish the issue each month!*



# How to Support AAUW's Mission

Thank you for promoting equity for women and girls by supporting AAUW's critical work! When supporting the following funds, you give AAUW the ability to carry out its bold, strategic vision for the future.



## AAUW Greatest Needs Fund (9110)

Allows AAUW the flexibility to respond rapidly to new and emerging challenges facing women and girls and to utilize your gift where it's needed most. This fund ensures the strength, relevance, and viability of AAUW into the future.



### Education and Training Fund (4450)

Addresses the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women by championing equal access to education and ensuring that education at every level is free from sex discrimination.

#### STEM Title IX Pathways to Jobs

*Examples of programs include:*  
Fellowships Alumnae Initiatives  
Fellowships and Grants  
Public Policy  
Research



### Economic Security Fund (4449)

Ensures livelihoods for women through achieving pay equity for women, providing training in salary negotiation, and deepening women's retirement security and quality of life.

#### Pay Equity Title VII Retirement Security

*Examples of programs include:*  
Start Smart  
Work Smart  
Work Smart Online  
Legal Advocacy Fund



### Leadership Fund (4452)

Supports the effort to close the gender gap in leadership opportunities by bolstering the participation of and increasing the number of girls and women in leadership roles, particularly in education and nonprofit organizations.

#### Career Workplace Training

*Examples of programs include:*  
Campus Action Projects  
Empower  
NCCWSL

Contributions to AAUW are fully tax-deductible and can be sent to the address below or made online at [www.aauw.org/contribute](http://www.aauw.org/contribute).

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