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Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP

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Twigs

Summer 2019

A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

THANK YOU!

This Leaf is being written prior to our Spring Banquet at which time Sue and I will be able to express our sincere thanks for a wonderful two years. We feel so grateful to the outstanding group of officers and board chairs with whom we have been privileged to work. We are proud of all that has been accomplished and confident that our new board will continue forward guided by Janet Arden and Donna Jean Simon.

We celebrate two years of mission-based programming including dynamic roundtable discussions of initiatives from the AAUW Strategic Plan. We have stepped up our fundraising with The Eleanor Roosevelt Walk, Used Book Sale and for the first time, LUNAFEST. These events fuel our effort nationally and locally to empower women and girls and flourished under Margaret McGrath, Nancy Possinger and Suzanne Gagner. We are enhancing our visibility and working on community partnerships.

Four of us have just returned from the AAUW-IL Convention and are still overwhelmed by the quality of the event. A fabulous roster of speakers, including AAUW CEO Kim Churches who informed and inspired us. Stay tuned next year for the details of a Midwest regional convention to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment. This will be an event not to be missed!

Now for one last pitch! Please don't forget to be an ambassador for our new AAUW Work Smart Free Online Course. AAUW is asking us all to go online and register for the course. Then, ask family and friends to register. Major additional corporate funding awaits us if we are successful with launching this course. We need 100,000 people (open to all) to register (free) for the module by the end of August.

Editor's Note: Please see online course information at end of this issue.

Enjoy summer and see you at the September Kick Off!

Lisa

Congratulations!

Our very own outgoing Madame President, Wheaton/Glen Ellyn Branch, Lisa Cherry, was installed as President-Elect at the AAUW-IL convention in early May. We are so very proud of you!



L to R: L. Cherry, K. Schulz, L. Desmarais, Kim Churches (CEO AAUW), D.J. Simon

Lisa will serve one year as President-Elect, then the next two years as President.



Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Information
June 7	AM Lit Book Selection & Potluck Luncheon	9:30 am	Janet Arden's.
June 12	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Donna Jean Simon's.
June 15	Film Group	7:00 pm	Kitty Johansson's.
June 17	PM Lit Book Selection & Potluck Dinner	6:00 pm	Bonnie Wheaton's.
June 26	AM Non Fiction	10:00 am	Sue Herrmann's. *Note location change*
July 12	AM Lit	9:30 am	Mary Sue Brown's.
July 15	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Phyllis Fogel's.
July 24	PM Non Fiction	7:00 pm	Ewa Bacon's.
August 2	AM Lit	9:30 am	Gail Davis'.
August 14	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	TBD
August 19	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Jean Lindsey's.
August 28	PM Non Fiction Book Selection	7:00 pm	Ewa Bacon's.



Membership

Karen Schulz

okschulz@aol.com

On April 15 we enjoyed our first Book Sale potluck dinner and along with having a lovely evening with our friends, we had the pleasure of welcoming two new members to our Branch. Then we were happy to welcome back Lindy Pond, a former member. At our recent Used Book Sale, we had the privilege of welcoming three more members to our Branch bringing our membership up to 143. That's 12 new members and two returning members that were added this year! Enjoy reading the brief biographies for Lillian and Ingrid below. In the next issue of Twigs, look for the biographies of Julie, Christine and Mary. Please be on the lookout for all six of the ladies at one of the upcoming events so you can greet and welcome them in person.

Lillian was born in Argentina and raised in Buenos Aires. Her grandparents and great grandparents were originally from Denmark and Switzerland. Lillian attended a British school and graduated with certifications in English and Spanish. She taught English and received her bachelor's degree in psychology from the National University of Buenos Aires. Lillian worked as a translator and as a psychologist in the community before moving to the US in 1990, where she worked as a therapist for an agency of Children's Home & Aid Society in Chicago, serving the Spanish speaking community. After about seven years, she entered graduate school at the University of Chicago and received her master's degree in social work. After that she worked as a school social worker in District 46 in Elgin for 17 years until retiring in 2016. Having met and talked with Karen Schulz at HealthTrack, she became interested in AAUW. You may have seen or met Lillian as she was busy volunteering at the recent Book Sale. Because Lillian loves to read she is looking forward to participating in a book group.

Ingrid has lived in DuPage County all of her life. She has always liked to travel and has visited 49 of the 50 states and has been on several cruises. She obtained her associate degree in travel and tourism, later obtaining her bachelor's degree in business administration from Elmhurst College. Ingrid worked for Orbitz and also for United Airlines. When things changed in her tourism jobs, she decided to explore culinary arts. She is currently enrolled in the culinary arts program at College of DuPage and is looking forward to new and creative opportunities in this field. Ingrid's love for visiting zoos has brought her to more than 75 zoos. Ingrid learned about AAUW from her mother who has been a member since the mid 1970's. She has been helping the Branch even before she formally joined by collecting books and passing out flyers about the Book Sale at the train station. Ingrid strongly supports the mission of AAUW and is hoping to join Spice Routes and possibly other groups in our Branch.

Please add the following updates to your directories:



Treasury

Elaine Nissen

nissen.elaine@comcast.net

DUES RENEWAL 2019

*Thanks to everyone who paid their dues online or sent me a check!! We are making very good progress. For others, please take a moment to get current. **Reminder:** AAUW at the national level has changed their dues processing policies/procedures beginning in April 2019. AAUW will no longer accept dues checks from the branches. *Our AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP will still accept checks but in such cases, we are expected to pay AAUW their portion of the dues via debit card. **We are asking you to pay your dues online, if at all possible, to expedite the process on our end.****

Editor's Note: You will have received an email in mid-April with subject line, AAUW Membership Renewal for Fiscal Year 2020 from memberinfo@aauw.org that contains your personalized information for renewal online.

2018-19 EXPENSES

The end of fiscal year 2018-19 is approaching. Please submit any check requests for expenses to me by June 10 at the latest. The 2018-19 revenue and expenses will be used to generate a preliminary 2019-20 budget for the annual budget meeting.

Our Branch Fundraising Activities



Book Sale

Nancy Possinger

nap101547@ameritech.net

What an amazing event our Book Sale was, marked by completion of our many usual tasks but also challenged by a number of key changes to which we needed to adapt.

A change in venue seemed necessary right from the beginning in September when it became apparent that the Civic Center would not be available to us due to their construction project. The Civic Center was so sure that we should look elsewhere that it presented me with a list of other possible sites to consider! It seemed that we should quickly line up an alternative site for the sale, so we contacted the First United Methodist Church, the Civic Center's next door neighbor! A group of us that included Lisa Cherry, Sue Herrmann, Marilyn Wiedemann, Judy Sims and Karen Bondy met with Mary Jane Chapman at the church and came away with a sense that this could be our site.

By October we gathered a consulting committee of members experienced in running the Book Sale, available to me as advisers and sounding boards. This stellar group was made up of Ewa Bacon, Karen Bondy, Karen Schultz, Marilyn Weidemann, Judy Sims, Elaine Nissen, Carolyn Oesterle, Jane Palmer and Deb Ness. The first order of business was to present the pros and cons of the use of the church to the committee, which after some discussion and questioning, they approved. Their approval was presented to the board who unanimously ratified our ability to move forward.

While this activity was going on, our intrepid locker manager, Marilyn Wiedemann, set about the collection and sorting of a remarkable range of books. With the help of Ewa Bacon at the locker and Jan Radil and Carolyn Oesterle spearheading collections at the RE/MAXES and from various donors, they and other members who helped this effort ultimately ended up with more than 720 boxes of sorted books.

Another change developed for our use by Karen Bondy, was the use of an online mechanism called *SignUpGenius* for our members to sign up to work during Book Sale week. In addition to working on our online sign up system, Karen also wrote long-form and short-form copy for our publicity outlets, updated our flyers and bookmarks, composed and sent many all-branch emails. In fact, although she was physically three quarters of a country away from me most of the time, we worked together as though she was in the next room.

Our publicity endeavor was truly a team effort. Jane Palmer and Patricia Spence did a masterful job of handling social media, Deb Ness did community outreach and made first contact to many of our print outlets. Ilze levans and her daughter handed out bookmarks at the Wheaton train station. A stalwart group updated and distributed our yard signs and flyers.

Susan Levy-Creed did an amazing job contacting the various high schools and Jane Chapman, from the church, retained the local Boy Scout troop to assist us throughout the week. The high school students and the Boy Scouts helped make relatively short work of our Sunday evening table set up at the church and the Saturday clean up. And the high school students came each day after school to help with table consolidation, provide help to our patrons, and other tasks. The assistance of those young people cannot be overstated.

It is no secret that the Book Sale is labor intensive and task heavy. It would not have been possible without the help provided by all of you. My heartfelt thanks to everyone mentioned above who stepped up and all those many other members who lent their time and talents (and husbands) to this all hands on deck endeavor.



Our Branch Book Groups

*I had found my religion; nothing seemed more important to me than a book.
I saw the library as a temple.* Jean-Paul Sartre

AM Lit

Jean Lindsey

jeanlindsey15@comcast.net

Our annual book selection and luncheon will be held, June 7 at Janet Arden's home. Please bring one of the following: a salad, an appetizer or a dessert. Your choice, it is always fun to see what members share.

Looking ahead, we will meet July 12 (a week later to avoid July 4 holiday weekend) at Mary Sue Brown's home to discuss *Lincoln in the Bardo* by George Saunders. Donna Staples will provide the refreshments and Patricia Spence will lead the discussion. *Lincoln in the Bardo* is a challenging, highly acclaimed novel which should generate a lively discussion. As usual, we will gather at 9:30 am.

Gail Davis will host our August 2 meeting. The book and discussion leader will be selected in June (or at the July meeting) and an informative email will be sent to you in July.

PM Lit

Phyllis Fogel

prfogel@live.com

PM Lit meets on Monday, June 17, 6:00 pm at the home of Bonnie Wheaton for our annual potluck and book selection. Weather permitting, we will be eating outside on Bonnie's deck. Whatever dish you wish to bring will be welcomed. We will choose eleven books for the coming year (no meeting in December). Please let Bonnie know if you will be attending at *bonwheaton@aol.com* or 630.665.5497. Please note the early start at 6:00 pm. Try to have your book suggestions to me by June 1.

In July we will discuss *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield. It is a story within a story beautifully written with a swift plot and witty dialogue. Susie Gullickson is the discussion leader and Phyllis Fogel will be the hostess. In August, it is *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean. There was a disastrous fire in the Los Angeles Public Library in 1986 consuming 400,000 books and damaging many more. The mystery remains: Did someone purposefully set fire to the library – and if so, who? Phyllis Fogel will be the discussion leader and Jean Lindsey is the hostess.

AM Non-Fiction

Sue Herrmann

sherrmann710@gmail.com

Our next meeting is June 26 at 10:00 am at Sue Herrmann's home. We will discuss *The Dictator's Handbook* by Bruce de Mesqueta and Alastair Smith. Judy Sims will provide treats and Carolyn Oesterle will be our discussion leader.

Note: Location change.

PM Non Fiction

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

The summer reading choice this year falls on Terese Mailhot's *Heart Berries*. We are meeting on July 24 at Ewa Bacon's home at 7:00 pm and Laura Desmarais will lead our discussion. A New York Times reviewer states: *A sledgehammer...Her experiments with structure and language...are in the service of trying to find new ways to think about the past, trauma, repetition and reconciliation, which might be a way of saying a new model for the memoir.* As always, this book will be available at the Glen Ellyn Public Library's book group shelves.

The book selection meeting will be held on August 28 at 7:00 pm at Ewa Bacon's home.



Buffalo Theater Ensemble (BTE) 2019-20
From Peggy Connolly

Buffalo Theatre Ensemble has announced its new season and it is going to be a lot of fun. Added to all that great theatre, until June 14, subscriptions are 25% off and the processing fee is waived, if you order by phone or in person at the box office.

We will meet before the play at Peggy Connolly's home at 6:00 pm for wine and appetizers before heading to the MAC for the performance.

Holmes and Watson, Thursday, September 12

Three years after Sherlock Holmes' death at Reichenbach Falls, Dr. Watson receives a telegram from an asylum doctor, stating that three patients in his care each claim to be Sherlock Holmes. Watson journeys to Scotland to discover if Holmes is still alive. Clever, suspenseful, full of twists and turns.

The Cake, Thursday, February 27

New Yorker Jen wanted to get married in her southern hometown, and asked her mom's best friend, Della, to make her wedding cake. Della had the best bakery in town, even earning a spot on the *Great American Baking Show*. Della was thrilled to make Jen's cake, until she learned that Jen's betrothed was a woman, forcing Della to choose between Jen and Jesus. *The Cake* offers a witty and provocative insight into a contemporary issue.

Naperville, Thursday, May 21

After Candace is blinded in an accident, Howard moves back home to Naperville to help her adjust. He takes her to her favorite coffee shop, where patrons are creating a podcast about Joseph Naper, the city's founder. The comedy about the relationship between an overprotective son and independent mother plays out against the backdrop of the interwoven stories of the other patrons.



From Marilyn Wiedemann filling in for Anne Hanley:

Last month we saw the movie *Long Shot*, probably about many long shots including a female President, dating your baby sitter, role reversal, stereotypes of gender, political party, age, drug use, language. Definitely *R rated* for strong language, but probably not for sex. A comedy for sure, but not everyone's cup of tea. We debated a lot, but at the conclusion of our lively discussion we all agreed that coming to Film Group gives us enjoyment, insight, fine fellowship, and fine wine (and food). Nice evening for sure.

On that high note, we decided to continue into the summer. Who knows what movies will come? What words? What plots? What laughs? We know this group can manage to talk about all of it.

Next meeting: June 15, Saturday, 7:00 pm, Kitty and Tomas Johansson's home. Please join us if you can. Bring a treat, wine or just yourselves and RSVP Kitty or me.



This is a busy time of year for EOF. It is time to award our College of DuPage scholarships to young women from our feeder high schools. And this year we have four worthy candidates. There will be pictures and details at the Spring Banquet, but here are summaries if you can't be there:

From Glenbard West, we have **Desiree Gawle**. She describes herself as someone who has learned good time management skills. She is working on being less hard on herself and reminding herself she is doing well. As of now, I do not have information on her long-term goals.

From Wheaton-Warrenville South, we have **Natalie Martinez**. She plans on studying elementary education and Spanish for her next four years. She hopes to be an ESL teacher because she wants to help first generation students embrace the English language and American culture while still appreciating their native roots. She has older siblings who greatly benefitted from these programs and wants to help children whose life experiences are not that different than hers.

From Wheaton North, we have **Si Si**, born and raised in a refugee camp in Thailand, who came to the United States in 2014. She was placed in grade eight, speaking no English, struggling with both language and social cues. She felt *invisible* and had a tough first year. At year's end, she made her first American friend before high school and signed up for volleyball camp which changed her life. She felt a part of the team, eventually joined badminton, where she played all four years of high school. She is described as one of the most genuine, social, and kind-hearted students. She attempts to connect with and help others. She has interests in both health science and business fields as she approaches college. Her English skills, acculturation, and energetic personable nature will help her be a success in any career.

From Glenbard South, we have **Bianca Lupa**. Bianca is attending College of DuPage with plans to transfer to University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, majoring in civil engineering. She participated in gymnastics all four years of high school and plays piano with the Wheaton College School of Arts. Additionally, she is fluent in Polish and is one of three siblings.

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.





Washington Update: Senator Dick Durbin co-sponsored **S. J. Res. 15**, a joint Senate resolution proposing the ERA Amendment be added to the Constitution to guarantee equal rights under the law for Americans regardless of their sex. **S..J. Res. 15** has been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee, of which Durbin is a member.

The ERA was agreed to by Congress in 1972, but it must be ratified by at least three-fourths of the states to become a new constitutional amendment. Congress placed a seven-year time limit on the ratification process. During that seven-year period, 35 states ratified the ERA, three short of the 38 needed. This resolution would remove the seven-year time limit and preserve these 35 ratifications. As of May 30, 2018, Illinois became the 37th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment *Please contact ASAP Senator Durbin's office and thank him for his support and Senator Duckworth's office to request her support.*

Springfield Update: As Twigs goes to press, Jenni Perdue, AAUW-IL lobbyist, is closely following the activity of four bills, which AAUW-IL supports. (*Thanks to Laura Desmarais for reporting to Public Policy the highlights of Jenni's presentation at AAUW-IL Convention.*)

- **SB 1594**, *Parent Notice of Abortions* which repeals parental notification for abortions. It is likely to pass the Senate.
- **HB 2495**, *Reproductive Health Act* which modernizes the existing bill that was passed in 1975. The goal is to maintain the same access and remove items in the current bill that are no longer pertinent. An updated Reproductive Health bill in Illinois will supersede a federal bill if Roe vs. Wade is overturned.
- **HB 834**, *Equal Pay Act-Wage History*, Employers are not allowed to ask information regarding salary information during the hiring process. Now being presented to Senate (**SB 1707**), this bill has passed the House. Our Branch Public Policy group was asked to submit witness slips to express support.
- **SB 449**, *Ensuring Success in School* passed the Senate. By allowing them to attend class safely, this bill supports students who have potential for discrimination, i.e., students who are pregnant, already parents and/or victims of gender based violence. Also, **SB 449** allows for excused absences, confidentiality, school transfers without court involvement.

AAUW-IL requests that you contact House and Senate members to express your constituent support of these bills. If needed, office staff will be able to provide updated bill numbers. Have handy existing numbers and/or bill titles.

The Twigs Team

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

*Editor's Note: It takes a team to get Twigs out to all of you.
I would like to acknowledge and thank these members that make it all possible!*

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

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