



Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP

[wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net](http://wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net)

# Twigs

September 2019

## A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

### Branching Out

Like the start of a school year with newly sharpened pencils and clean, blank notebooks, we are poised to begin a new program year for AAUW.

Donna Jean and I have attended our own version of *AAUW Summer School* to get ready, spending one-on-one time with Elaine Nissen to learn about Branch finances, Karen Schultz to understand the membership process, and former presidents to better understand our new roles. We have poured over the *Policy Handbook* and proposed some changes/updates to the Board for their approval. And we have talked, coffee-d and listened to you and your ideas.

We held two *Book Sale conversations* attended by almost 60 members. And, yes, some of you are ready to walk away from the sale. Some of you are willing to continue tweaking it to make it more manageable, and many of you are questioning where we stand between philanthropy and advocacy and wondering just how much fundraising we need to do. These are all good questions and we will be working on that in the next weeks and months.

Ewa Bacon has graciously offered to coordinate the sale, taking the question of personnel off the table while we wrestle with the larger picture. She has also suggested it become a *voluntary* event, rather than a *requirement*, removing much of the angst. Can we do this? Donna Jean and I, along with the board, believe we should survey the Branch (just as we have been doing after regular meetings and events). We will be doing this as soon as possible, so we have results before the September meeting. This is NOT a VOTE. There are no winners and losers here. We simply want to know if you are willing to go forward with a sale (and therefore will commit some time to it) or if you would prefer to back off.

And, as a preview, you should know that on October 5, we are bringing back our Saturday round table discussions. We look forward to seeing you at Branch events!

*Janet*

## September Branch Meeting



**Speaker: Representative  
Terra Costa Howard  
Illinois General Assembly  
House of Representatives  
District 48**

**Wednesday, September 4  
7:00 pm**

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

---

**Program Vice Presidents:**

**Nancy Daly  
Frankie Robinson**

## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Information
Sept. 4	Branch Meeting	7:00 pm	Glen Ellyn History Center, 800 N Main St., Glen Ellyn.
Sept. 6	AM Lit	9:30 am	Peggy Connolly's .
Sept. 11	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Janet Arden's.
Sept. 12	Cultural Arts Buffalo Theater Ensemble	6:00 pm	Pre-theater reception at Peggy Connolly's. 8:00 pm curtain at the MAC, College of DuPage.
Sept. 13	Film Group	7:00 pm	Jean Lindsey's.
Sept. 16	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Phyllis Fogel's.
Sept. 25	PM Non Fiction	7:00 pm	Margaret McGrath's.
Oct. 3	Spice Routes	6:00 pm	Peggy Connolly's.
Oct. 4	AM Lit	9:30 am	Kitty Johannson's.



### Programs

**Nancy Daly & Frankie Robinson**

*nancydaly@gmail.com frankieL62@yahoo.com*



Terra Costa Howard is a Democratic member of the Illinois House of Representatives for District 48. The district, located in DuPage County, includes all or parts of Glen Ellyn, Lisle, Lombard, Wheaton, and Villa Park.

We have an exciting opening program this fall. Illinois State Representative Terra Costa Howard will be joining us at the Glen Ellyn History Center on Wednesday, September 4 at 7:00 pm. Representative Costa Howard is a dynamic personality and we cannot wait for you to meet her. If you have not yet joined us at the History Center, you are in for a treat. There is ample, easy parking, the comfortable meeting room is on the first floor and they make great coffee.

The focus of her presentation will be about how it was to run for elected office, how it is to be a freshman female representative, and then discuss several bills that she will be deliberating in the fall session of the House. Not so much if she will vote one way or another, but rather how she evaluates the problem the bill addresses, the proposal, the funding and problems with its implementation. We will also ask her to speak about the ways that we, as her constituents, can give her our ideas and opinions on bills.



## Branch Programs 2019-2020

The Branch generally meets each month, September through April, excluding January. All meetings are open to the public. For further information, contact Frankie Robinson, Co-Vice President, Programs.

<p><b>The New Civic Responsibilities</b></p> <p>September 4, 2019 Wednesday, 7:00 pm</p> <p>Speaker: Representative Terra Costa Howard Illinois General Assembly House of Representatives District 48</p> <p>Glen Ellyn History Center 800 N Main St, Glen Ellyn</p>	<p><b>Where Do We Go from Here?</b></p> <p>October 5, 2019 Saturday, 9:00 am</p> <p>AAUW 101 Round Table Discussions National &amp; Branch Priorities Update</p> <p>Glen Ellyn History Center 800 N Main St., Glen Ellyn</p>	<p><b>A Native American Woman: Experiences in Leadership</b></p> <p>November 6, 2019 Wednesday, 7:00 pm</p> <p>Speaker: Pam Silas Associate Director for Community Outreach and Engagement at the Center for Native American and Indigenous Research at Northwestern University</p> <p>Glen Ellyn History Center 800 N Main St., Glen Ellyn</p>
<p><b>Winter Banquet</b></p> <p>December 4, 2019 Wednesday, 6:00 pm.</p> <p>Join us for this lovely event to hear our speaker, a recent recipient of an AAUW Fellowship or Research Grant.</p> <p>Reserve 22 Restaurant Glen Ellyn Village Links 485 Winchell Way, Glen Ellyn</p>	<p><b>Women: Hidden Figures?</b></p> <p>February 5, 2020 Wednesday, 7:00 pm</p> <p>Speaker: Kidada Robinson Senior Graduate Advising Manager and Director of the Graduate Center, Aurora University</p> <p>Glen Ellyn History Center 800 N Main St, Glen Ellyn</p>	<p><b>Women &amp; STEM</b></p> <p>March 4, 2020 Wednesday, 7:00 pm</p> <p>Speaker: Dr. Silvia Alvarez-Clare Morton Arboretum, Tree Conservation Ecologist</p> <p>Glen Ellyn History Center 800 N Main St, Glen Ellyn</p>
<p><b>Branch Program TBD</b> April 1, 2020</p> <p><b>LunaFest</b></p> <p>April 25, 2020 Saturday, 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm</p> <p>This second annual cultural/fundraiser event features award-winning documentaries by women filmmakers.</p> <p>Center Stage Theater 1665 Quincy Ave., Naperville</p>	<p><b>Spring Banquet</b></p> <p>May 18, 2020 Monday, 5:30 pm</p> <p>Join us for this fun event when we celebrate our achievements for the year and install new officers. The 2020 College of DuPage scholarship recipients will also be announced.</p> <p>Adelle's 535 W. Liberty Dr., Wheaton</p>	<p><b>Conferences and Conventions</b></p> <p><b>AAUW-IL Northern Districts 4 &amp; 5 Fall Conference</b> October 19, 2019, Saturday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Illinois Institute of Technology, Rice Campus 201 E Loop Rd., Wheaton</p> <p><b>AAUW Regional Convention</b> June 18 to 20, 2020 Thursday to Saturday Hyatt Place, East Moline/Quad Cities</p>

## Branch Leadership 2019-2020

<b>Officers</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>E-Mail Address</b>
Co-Presidents	Janet Arden	<i>janarden@icloud.com</i>
	Donna Jean Simon	<i>djsimon@questillc.com</i>
Program Co-Vice-Presidents	Nancy Daly	<i>nancydaly@gmail.com</i>
	Frankie Robinson	<i>frankieL62@yahoo.com</i>
Membership Vice President	Karen Schulz	<i>okschulz@aol.com</i>
Secretary	Tracy Kline	<i>trakli@msn.com</i>
Treasurer	Elaine Nissen	<i>nissen.elaine@comcast.net</i>
<b>Committee Chairs</b>		
Book Sale	Ewa Bacon	<i>baconew@lewisu.edu.</i>
Community Relations	Mary Sue Brown	<i>msbrown750@comcast.net</i>
	Debbie Ness	<i>debbie.ness49@gmail.com</i>
Cultural Arts	OPEN	
Educational Opportunity Fund	Susan Levy-Creed	<i>susanlevycreed@gmail.com</i>
Historian	Phyllis Fogel	<i>prfogel@live.com</i>
Legal Advocacy Fund	Carolyn Oesterle	<i>csoesterle@gmail.com</i>
LunaFest	Suzanne Gagner	<i>petalpower1@yahoo.com</i>
Member at Large	Patricia Bernhold	<i>pbernhold@hotmail.com</i>
Publicity	OPEN	
Public Policy	Patricia Spence	<i>pspence101@aol.com</i>
STEM	Fran Kravitz	<i>fk1456@sbcgobal.net</i>
Twigs Newsletter Editor	Kathy McCullough	<i>kathymccull@gmail.com</i>
Website & Social Media	Jane Palmer	<i>jfpalmer@comcast.net</i>
	Patricia Spence	<i>pspence101@aol.com</i>
<b>Non-Board Chairs</b>		
Directory	Maureen Sheehan	<i>maureenjsheehan@aol.com</i>
Branch Buddy	Donna Jennings	<i>drjennin@att.net</i>
Spring Banquet	Karen Bondy	<i>bondykj@aol.com</i>
Winter Banquet	Debbie Ness	<i>debbie.ness49@gmail.com</i>
	Frankie Robinson	<i>frankieL62@yahoo.com</i>
<b>Interest Group Chairs</b>		
AM Lit	Jean Lindsey	<i>jeanlindsey15@comcast.net</i>
PM Lit	Phyllis Fogel	<i>prfogel@live.com</i>
PM Non-Fiction	Ewa Bacon	<i>baconew@lewisu.edu</i>
AM Non-Fiction	Sue Herrmann	<i>sherrmann710@gmail.com</i>
Film Group	Anne Hanley	<i>ahanley@mindspring.com</i>
Spice Routes	Ewa Bacon	<i>baconew@lewisu.edu</i>
	Peggy Connolly	<i>connolly.peggy@gmail.com</i>
	Pat Kaczor	<i>patk3872@gmail.com</i>



## **Membership**

**Karen Schulz**

*okschulz@aol.com*

What better way to start off the fall then to invite a group of your friends for a night out? Come and enjoy hearing Representative Terra Costa Howard at our September Branch meeting. Membership dues will be discounted to a special rate of \$58.50, which is a superb value for all we have to offer!

Please offer a warm welcome to our new and returning members. Watch for their contact information in our directory to be distributed in September.

**Christine Edison**

**Lynda Pratscher**

**Jule Bishop**

**Mary Vanco**



## ***Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF)***

**Susan Levy-Creed**

*susanlevycreed@gmail.com*

After a lot of communication with our scholarship recipients this spring/early summer, the check for College of DuPage was finally delivered. Thanks to Elaine Nissen and Lisa Cherry for helping me out! The exciting news is that, due to Board action, and successful fundraisers this year, the awards were increased to \$2000 for each young woman. So thrilling! Expenses at College of DuPage have gone up greatly over the years and this should help our recipients get a good start. They were quite grateful, and the College of DuPage Financial Aid Coordinator was also pleasantly appreciative. We should be proud!



## **Legal Advocacy Fund**

**Carolyn Oesterle**

*csoesterle@gmail.com*

**EXCITING NEWS**—The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund has been fully endowed so we are no longer planning to send donations to this fund. However, we have decided to continue the walk and send donations to the AAUW Legal Defense Fund. This important fund helps in litigation cases supporting women and gender rights. This vital area needs as much assistance as possible in our present political environment. The walk this year is scheduled for October 26, and will leave from the Glen Ellyn Public Library parking lot at 9:00 am and end in Wheaton at Shane's Deli for coffee and fellowship via the Illinois Prairie Path. Hope to see you there.

## Our Branch Fundraising Activities



### LUNAFEST

**Suzanne Gagner**

*petalpower1@yahoo.com*



**SAVE THE DATE!!** On Saturday, April 25, 2020, we will hold our Second Annual **LUNAFEST**, a traveling festival of films written and produced by women. Planning has begun and we are happy to announce that the Center Stage Theater will host our event again in 2020. The Center Stage Theater's enthusiastic staff, Chef Terrell's delicious cuisine and beverages, and ample parking make this an ideal event location.

Our 2019 **LUNAFEST** netted \$5,200.00 for our scholarship fund. We look forward to an equally successful 2020 event. The post event survey indicated that attendees had a good time. If you would like to share a comment or suggestion regarding our 2020 **LUNAFEST**, please contact me.

The planning committee is busy organizing sponsorship opportunities, promotion/publicity venues and seeking gift certificates for the raffle. Once again you can help by soliciting or donating \$25 or \$50 gift certificates from some of your favorite hair stylists, nail salons, massage therapists, restaurants, stores, etc.

We will post additional **LUNAFEST** information in future Twigs issues. Stay Tuned!

**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.





### Buffalo Theater Ensemble from Peggy Connolly

If you like live professional theatre, and especially enjoy theatre evenings with friends, join the AAUW Buffalo Theatre Ensemble interest group. Especially if you are a new member, this is a nice way to feel at home immediately with a group of interesting and engaging friends. We meet before the play at Peggy Connolly's home at 6:00 pm for wine and appetizers before heading to the College of DuPage McAninch Arts Center for the 8:00 pm performance.

Please join us for *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 of his patients claim to be Sherlock Holmes. Watson journeys to Scotland to see if Holmes is still alive. Clever, suspenseful, full of twists and turns.

**Future performances** (If you get a subscription, be sure to ask for the *Friends and Family* discount!):

*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 has 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* is witty, provocative, and insightful.

*Naperville*, **Thursday, May 21**. After Candace is blinded in an accident, her son 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.

## Save the Date for Annual Winter Banquet

Wednesday, December 4, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Reserve 22 Restaurant at Village Links  
485 Winchell Way, Glen Ellyn

Please contact Deb Ness at (734) 604-3878 with questions.



**Medicare Update:** If you are receiving Medicare, nearly ready for Medicare, or caring for a loved one who receives Medicare, join Sue Davison, Senior Health Insurance Program Coordinator and Glen Ellyn Senior Center Coordinator, who will share key information about **Medicare Parts A, B, C, and D** and discuss common situations affecting beneficiaries that will help them avoid additional out-of-pocket expenses.

*\*This is a non-partisan, educational event, sponsored by West Indivisible Suburban Engagement (WISE) Note: An AAUW "Public Policy Principle for Action" is the support of quality, affordable and accessible health care.*

**Date/Time:** Thursday, October 3, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

**Registration:** Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-a-b-c-and-d-of-medicare-tickets-63722355280>  
The program is free; registration is recommended but not required.

**Location:** Glen Ellyn Police Department, Community Room, 65 S. Park Blvd, Glen Ellyn.

**Springfield Update:** Two AAUW supported bills that directly relate to women's financial security were passed by the 101<sup>st</sup> State Legislature and signed by Governor Pritzker.

- **SB 0001:** Increases the minimum wage to \$9.25 per hour beginning January 1, 2020. The bill also provides for annual increases in the minimum wage culminating in a minimum wage of \$15 per hour beginning on January 1, 2025. Tax credit allowances are permitted for employers with fewer than 50 workers.
- **HB 834 (SB 1707):** *Equal Pay Act-Wage History*, prevents potential employers from requiring information about interviewees' former wages in hiring negotiations.

Also, aligned with AAUW 2017-2019 Action Priority, *Self-determination of one's reproductive health decisions:*

- **HB 2495 (SB 25):** the *Reproductive Health Act* passed and was signed into law.
- **SB 1594:** *Parent Notice of Abortions*, which repeals parental notification for abortions, stayed in committee. It is not likely to be re-introduced in 2020.

Two additional bills aligned with AAUW Public Policy Principles for Action:

- **SB 449:** *Ensuring Success in School* and
- **SB 1966:** *Fix the FOID*, tightening loopholes in gun laws, are not *dead*. Rep. Kathleen Willis (D-Northlake) predicts **SB 1966** will be re-introduced in January, 2020.

**DuPage County Needs YOU:** The revelations of the past year have demonstrated to us the critical importance of doing our part to ensure that our voting system is not compromised. Our county is struggling to find judges. A sufficient number of judges can help to ensure an election that runs smoothly and fairly in DuPage County. For more information go to [https://www.dupageco.org/Election/Get\\_Involved/37071/](https://www.dupageco.org/Election/Get_Involved/37071/)





## Our Branch Book Groups

*Some books should be tasted, some devoured, but only a few should be chewed and digested thoroughly.*

Sir Francis Bacon

### **AM Lit**

**Jean Lindsey**

*jeanlindsey15@comcast.net*

AM Lit will meet Friday, September 6 at 9:30 am to discuss *one of the most vital works of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Swann's Way*. It is the first tome of seven which comprise Marcel Proust's sprawling masterpiece, *Remembrance of Things Past*. *Swann's Way* is a journey through memory and time and is itself comprised of four parts centered on the narrator's boyhood and an influential family friend, Charles Swann. In looking back at his life, the narrator confronts the question of what exactly an individual's identity consists of. *Swann's Way* is 444 pages long, so don't delay!

Peg Connolly has graciously offered to host the meeting and to lead the discussion. Please email her if you are attending at *connolly.peggy@gmail.com*. Kathy McCullough and Judy Sims are the co-hostesses.

Looking ahead: Friday, October 4's choice is *One Amazing Thing* by Chita Divakarunis.

### **PM Lit**

**Phyllis Fogel**

*prfogel@live.com*

PM Lit has a great selection of books for the 2019-20 season! On Monday, September 16, 7:00 pm, we will discuss *Paris in the Present Tense* by Mark Helprin. It is set in modern day Paris with flashbacks to days in the past. A reviewer said of it, *I didn't want it to end*. We meet at the home of Phyllis Fogel who will lead the discussion and provide the refreshments. Please let her know if you plan to attend.

Looking ahead to October, we are reading and discussing *Becoming* by Michelle Obama. Laura Desmarais will lead the discussion and host the meeting.

### **AM Non-Fiction**

**Sue Herrmann**

*sherrmann710@gmail.com*

Welcome back to all new and faithful non-fiction readers! We will meet every other month beginning Wednesday, October 23 at 10:00 am. *Note that we do not meet in September*. We will discuss *Final Exit* by Derek Humphry at my home. Peggy Connolly will be our discussion leader and the co-hostess will be determined later. We have chosen our 2019-20 reading list and will be available at the October meeting.

### **PM Non Fiction**

**Ewa Bacon**

*baconew@lewisu.edu*

We will start our fall meetings at the home of Margaret McGrath on Wednesday, September 25 at 7:00 pm, to discuss John Meacham's *Soul of America: The Battle for our Better Angels*. Donna Jean Simon will lead our discussion and Karen Schulz will provide delicious nibbles.

From a review: *This call to our 'better angels' is not just a plea to our collective morality; it's also an appeal to our collective political equanimity, to our rationality over our passion.*

**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.**



In August, Film Group enjoyed *sailing* together as we met to discuss the movie *Maiden* about a remarkable sailing adventure. The first all-female crew in the grueling but thrilling around the world Whitbread yacht race of 1989, 167 days, 32,000 nautical miles. Highly recommended to the Branch.

September will be another great film discussion at 7:00 pm on Friday, September 13 at Jean Lindsey's home. The title will be chosen closer to the date. Join us, and bring your spouse if you wish. Discussion is always fun.



**History and Cuisine of the Spice Routes**

**Ewa Bacon, Peggy Connelly & Pat Kaczor**

*baconew@lewisu.edu connolly.peggy@gmail.com PatK3872@gmail.com*

Dear Spice Girls,

The Spice Routes dinner theme this year is **small dish cuisine**. Many countries have a tradition of small plates that invite leisurely indulgence and lingering conversations. That sounds like us! Dinners will be at Peggy Connelly's home Thursday evenings at 6:00 pm. An email will be sent to interested members a few weeks prior to the dinner. Please let Peggy know at least a week in advance what you will bring to the feast and the menu will develop accordingly. If you are new to AAUW, this is a welcoming, comfortable, and very fun way to get to know your new friends.

- |            |                            |
|------------|----------------------------|
| October 3  | German Mowenpick           |
| January 16 | Swedish Smorgasbord        |
| April 2    | Dutch/Indonesian Rijstafel |
| May 28     | Spanish Tapas              |

Our April 2, 2020 dinner will be a special commemorative celebration. It is the birthday of Cornelis de Houtman (April 2, 1565 to September 1, 1599), a Dutch explorer who discovered a new sea route from Europe to Indonesia, thus beginning the Dutch spice trade. Well done, Cornelis!

**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!***