



Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP

wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net

# Twigs

October 2019

## Notes from Donna Jean & Janet . . . . .

If you were among the more than 50 members who attended our September Branch meeting, you know what a positive and energetic start we got to this year. Many thanks to Representative Terra Costa Howard for an eye-opening look at the Illinois Legislature, the complex issues that impact every proposed piece of legislation, and the importance of communicating with elected officials. Want to get more involved with this message? Start with Patricia Spence’s informative article in this issue of Twigs and sign up to become a *Two-Minute Activist*.

Although the Book Sale survey was not an up-or-down vote, the 74% of respondents who supported going ahead with a 2020 sale gave us the clear direction we needed. Ewa Bacon is the Coordinator in Chief and is lining up a steering committee as well as details like space and timing. Many, many thanks to Ewa for stepping up to accept this responsibility.

There has been a hiccup with our directory and a page of names was omitted. We are having that page reprinted, along with another page that lists four new AAUW members. If you picked up your directory at the September meeting, please add the directory addendum attachment included in the email with the Twigs issue from the editor. We are adding these new pages to the remaining directories. If you haven’t already done so, please pick yours up at the next meeting.

October is a great month to fall into step with AAUW. Our former Eleanor Roosevelt Walk has now become the Legal Advocacy Fund Walk. A great cause and a great opportunity to join other members for an autumnal walk on the Prairie Path on Saturday, October 26. See details elsewhere in this newsletter.

Finally, can we just plug the Saturday, October 5 Branch meeting one more time? We hope you will join us for *Roundtables in Two Parts*. We are eager to share some information, answer your questions and talk more about *where we go from here*. See you in October!

*Donna Jean & Janet*



## October Branch Meeting

### Roundtables in Two Parts

Part 1: AAUW 101

Part 2: Strategy

Saturday, October 5  
9:00 am

Glen Ellyn History Center  
800 N Main St.  
Glen Ellyn

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Program Vice Presidents:

Nancy Daly

Frankie Robinson

## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Information
Oct. 3	Spice Routes	6:00 pm	Peggy Connolly's.
Oct. 4	AM Lit	9:30 am	Kitty Johansson's.
Oct. 5	Branch Meeting	9:00 am	Glen Ellyn History Center, 800 N Main St., Glen Ellyn.
Oct. 9	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Donna Jean Simon's.
Oct. 12	Film Group	7:00 pm	Barb Roos's.
Oct. 19	Northern Fall Conference	9:00 am	IIT, Rice Campus, 201 E Loop Rd., Wheaton.
Oct. 21	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Laura Desmarais's.
Oct. 23	AM Non-fiction	10:00 am	Laura Desmarais's.
Oct. 26	LAF Walk	9:00 am	Walk on Prairie Path from Glen Ellyn to Wheaton.



### Programs

**Nancy Daly & Frankie Robinson**

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

### **October Branch Meeting Roundtables in Two Parts presented by**

**Co-Presidents Janet Arden and Donna Jean Simon**

Join us on Saturday morning, October 5 at 9:00 am at the Glen Ellyn History Center where we will once again take our places at *AAUW Roundtables*, this time in two parts.

Part 1 is AAUW 101, an update on new national priorities and a refresher course on our own Branch: how and why we raise and spend money and our fellowship history. We will try to answer some of the questions we raised at the *Book Sale Conversations* about fellowships and funding.

Part 2 is a strategy session on where we go from here. Are we philanthropists, activists or advocates? Here's the good news. We get to choose. And we can choose more than one of the above. Let us decide how the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch fits into the national AAUW mission of Education and Training, Economic Security, and Leadership.

Our roundtable meeting last fall was a resounding success. We are counting on you to make this one even better.



### Directory

**Maureen Sheehan**

*maureenjsheehan@aol.com*

### Branch Directory Update

There was an error of omission when putting the directory together this year. Regrettably, the entries for continuing members Cheryl Temple, Glenna Thompson, Cindy Trennert-Lukens and Jean Tufano were missed. To correct this an addendum has been developed which includes this group as well as four new members. The addendum is a second attachment to the October Twigs email. If you would like to update your directory immediately you may print both pages of the addendum (double sided & flipped on the short end) or, more easily, just page two of the addendum, then fold and add it to your directory. Also, if you prefer not to print it, copies of the addendum will be available at the October meeting. If you have not picked up your directory yet, this addendum will be included with it.



Welcoming four new members has gotten our Branch off to a wonderful start! For those of you who did not get to invite a guest, the October 5 Branch meeting will provide another great opportunity. Membership dues will be discounted to a special rate of \$58.50, which is always a superb value for all we have to offer!

Please offer a warm greeting to our newest members. Their contact information is in our directory addendum attached to the email with the Twigs attachment and also will be available at our October Branch meeting.

**Christine Carter** was born in Minnesota, has lived in Kansas and Wheaton and now lives in Glen Ellyn with her husband. She has two sons and four grandchildren. She obtained a BS in Spanish and music education from Mankato State University, now known as the University of Southern Minnesota. She later obtained a MAEd in curriculum and instruction from Aurora University and a MAEd in administration from National Louis University. Chris taught middle school for 32 years and later worked in school administration. Chris loves to read and cook and is an avid exerciser. She learned about AAUW from friends at HealthTrack and decided to join our Branch. She highly supports the mission and goals of AAUW and hopes to join a book group and participate in theater outings.

**Janice Reimer** originally from Austin, Texas has lived in Illinois since 1994. She is the proud mom of three young adult children. She earned a BS from Texas A & M in wildlife science/education, a MS in biology from Texas A & M (Kingsville) and an AD in nursing from College of DuPage. Currently Janice is program nurse for the special education life skills students at Glenbard East High School and is a gynecological teaching assistant. In her very limited spare time, Janice enjoys knitting, crafting and natural history. Janice loves dogs, fosters Chesapeake Bay retrievers and would love to contribute to our Branch in reminding all to reduce, reuse and recycle. As a fun fact, Janice has said *No to Facebook and No to giving up her flip phone!*

**Elizabeth (Liz) Schlembach** is originally from Racine, Wisconsin and also lived in Woodstock, Illinois. She and her husband Dave lived in Quincy, Illinois from 1984 until they moved to Glen Ellyn in August 2019. Liz received her BA in social studies education from the University of Illinois in Champaign/Urbana and later obtained an AD in nursing. Liz worked in emergency departments for years which she greatly enjoyed. For the last 20 years she has worked indexing books which provided her with the flexibility to care for elderly relatives. Liz went on four medical mission trips to Haiti and the Dominican Republic and found the experiences both overwhelming and life changing. Liz was a member of AAUW in Quincy was encouraged by her daughter to join our Branch. She loves to learn especially about current events. She also enjoys playing bridge and may be interested in starting a bridge group.

**David Schlembach's** father was in the Navy when David was born at Great Lakes Naval Base, Illinois. David lived in Taiwan for two and a half years and later in Springfield, Illinois. He obtained his BA in architecture at the University of Illinois in Urbana and later received an MBA from University of Illinois in Springfield. He and his wife Liz lived in Quincy where he worked as an architect before moving to Glen Ellyn in August, 2019 to be near one of their two daughters and two grandchildren, whom they love spending time with. David enjoys walking, bike riding and yoga. He is currently on the B. R. Ryall YMCA Building and Grounds Committee in Glen Ellyn. He is also interested in genealogy, speaks German and has spent time in Germany. David strongly supports the goals of AAUW and enjoys the intellectual stimulation of the organization.

## Our Branch Fundraising Activities



### LUNAFEST

**Suzanne Gagner**

*petalpower1@yahoo.com*

**SAVE THE DATE!! Saturday, April 25, 2020**



Our AAUW Branch will be holding our **Second Annual LUNAFEST Traveling Festival of Films**. These films are written and produced by women. 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 \$5200.00 for our scholarship fund. We look forward to an equally successful 2020 event. If you would like to share a comment or suggestion regarding our **2020 LUNAFEST**, please email me: *petalpower1@yahoo.com*.

The planning committee will be soliciting sponsorships for this event. If you have a sponsor to suggest, please contact me. 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.





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

**Susan Levy-Creed**  
*susanlevycreed@gmail.com*

I can report that our Branch board did approve a change in our College of DuPage scholarships going forward. We will award scholarships of \$2,000 each to our fortunate young women. We should all be proud of ourselves!

We have a speaker for our December Winter Banquet. After last year's dinner, I was asked if we could have Naeema return to let hear more about her finished project. I was hesitant to do this as we have not, in my tenure, had someone come a second time, but our Branch Board, in its wisdom, has requested this. Naeema Torres will be rejoining us in December. She has finished her MFA, her film is employed in the area, and is most excited to share her current life. We look forward to hearing from such an accomplished and creative young woman. I hope to see many of you at our December meeting.



## **AAUW Online**

**Jane Palmer & Patricia Spence**  
*jfpalmer@comcast.net pspence101@aol.com*

AAUW has a strong online presence nationally on *AAUW.org*. It is an up-to date resource of everything that your organization is doing to advance gender equity for women and girls. As a member, you have probably used *AAUW.org* to pay your dues or make a tax-deductible gift. But did you know that if you log in, you can access our member roster? If you are on the go, need a member's address but don't have your directory, go to *AAUW.org* and log in with your AAUW member number (available in your Branch directory). If you don't have your member number handy, just provide some identifying information and click *remember me* so that you can easily return.

AAUW of Illinois also has its own web page at *aauw-il.aauw.net*. Without signing in, you can read the most recent Illinois Link newsletter, review grants available for branch activities and check out upcoming conferences and conventions. State Board documents are available on the members only page with a password (see below).

Our Branch has an active website at *wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net*. It is a quick and accessible resource for information on upcoming Branch meetings, books chosen by our four book groups, dates and topics of upcoming Branch meetings and planned fundraising events. Branch documents such as board minutes, financial reports and bylaws are available with a password (see below).



## **Legal Advocacy Fund**

**Carolyn Oesterle**  
*csoesterle@gmail.com*

### **SAVE THE DATE!!! FUN, FELLOWSHIP AND FUNDRAISING IN ONE EXCITING VENUE!!!**

The Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) walk will occur on Saturday, October 26, starting at 9:00 am from the Glen Ellyn Public Library parking lot and ending at Shane's Deli in Wheaton for coffee and treats. This replaces the Eleanor Roosevelt walk.

Donations can be brought to the walk or mailed directly to me and are tax-deductible. You do not need to walk to donate. The LAF offers support against sexual discrimination and harassment in higher education and the workplace. This includes personal support during a trial, community outreach and funding amicus briefs to support a case. Please contact me by email to sign up for the walk.



**Five take-aways from Representative Terra Costa Howard's presentation at our September 4 Branch meeting:**

1. Mental health issues tend to lead to bi-partisan efforts.
2. The Reproductive Health Act passed because Democratic women stood together; women controlled the health decision.
3. Legislators will acknowledge witness slips but, most likely, refer only to the aggregate submitted, not the content specifics.
4. The most effective way to follow a bill is to find out its status from its co-sponsors and the chairs of the legislative committee that will review it. See *ILGA.gov*.
5. The most effective way to support or to oppose a bill is to let the co-sponsors, legislative committee chair, and your State Senator and State Representative know your position.

**Springfield Update:**

*(Note AAUW 2019-2021 Public Policy: AAUW supports a clean, healthy and sustainable environment)*

Reserve space for a free bus ride to Springfield on Tuesday, October 29, to participate in a veto session, *Lobby Day for the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA)* sponsored by the Illinois Environmental Council. Buses will be provided at no charge to Springfield leaving from locations across the state. Sign up now! **Cannot attend? Contact your State Senator and Representative about this legislation.**

CEJA addresses climate change by leading Illinois to 100% renewable energy by 2050, decarbonizing our power sector by 2030, reducing gas and diesel vehicles from the transportation sector, and providing economic development and job opportunities.



October's Film Group will meet on Saturday, October 12 at 7:00 pm at the home of Barb Roos. We had a bit of a tough time finding a film to view and discuss in September because the fall awards season was not yet up and running, but there is always something out there of interest. We chose *The Farewell*, a story of cross-cultural ideas about how to handle illness and end of life issues. It was a touching, thought provoking, and gently funny movie that generated a great discussion at the home of Jean Lindsey. Come join us in October for another great evening!

**Note: We need hosts!** If you are interested in hosting Film Group please send me an email. We meet on the second Friday or Saturday of the month at 7:00 pm. Upcoming meetings are Friday November 8 and Saturday December 14.





## Our Branch Book Groups

***A great book should leave you with many experiences, and slightly exhausted at the end.  
You live several lives while reading.*** William Styron

### **AM Lit**

**Jean Lindsey**

*jeanlindsey15@comcast.net*

*One Amazing Thing*, the October 4 AM Lit book choice, opens with a group of nine people who are stuck together after a massive earthquake. As they wait *to be rescued or die*, they each share one amazing thing about their life. Author Chita Banerjee Divakaruni writes tales of heartbreak and revelation which are nuanced and riveting and should provide good material for discussion.

Suzanne Gagner will lead the discussion at Kitty Johansson's home. Eleanor Saliamonas and Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann will provide the hospitality. As usual, we will gather at 9:30 am.

### **PM Lit**

**Phyllis Fogel**

*prfogel@live.com*

PM Lit meets Monday, October 21, 7:00 pm, when we will discuss *Becoming* by Michelle Obama. Described by the author as a deeply personal experience, the book talks about her roots and how she found her voice, as well as her time in the White House, and her role as a mother. We meet at the home of Laura Desmarais who will lead the discussion. Please let her know if you plan to attend at *lkdesmarais@gmail.com* or 630-871-1564.

Looking ahead to November we're reading *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris. A Slovakian Jew is forced to tattoo numbers onto thousands of incoming prisoners. He meets a Slovakian girl and they fall in love. This story is mostly true.

Over the summer we read *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield and *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean. Both books were greatly enjoyed.

### **AM Non-Fiction**

**Sue Herrmann**

*sherrmann710@gmail.com*

We will meet at the home of Laura Desmarais (**Note the change in site**) on October 23 at 10:00 am and will discuss *Final Exit* by Derek Humphry. Peggy Connolly will be our discussion leader and I will bring treats. We have chosen our 2019-20 reading list and I will have copies of our list at our meeting.

***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.***

**Fall Northern District Leadership Conference  
Illinois Institute Technology (IIT) Rice Campus  
201 E Loop Rd, Wheaton IL  
Saturday, October 19, 2019**

Please plan to attend this annual conference which is right in our back yard. You will have an opportunity to meet branch members in the Northern District as well as hear from interesting speakers and learn about national initiatives from two members who were recently appointed to national AAUW boards – Legal Advocacy Fund and Governance. We will also get an update on College / University Relations. Finally, you can congratulate branches who are celebrating major branch anniversaries: Chicago, Inc., 130 years; Aurora, 100 years; Rockford, 90 years; Downers Grove, 70 years; and Lombard and Arlington Heights, 60 years.

**Our featured speakers are:**

- **Kendra Davis**, Senior VP of Advancement and Partnerships from the national AAUW office
- **Dr. Elizabeth Hopwood**, Acting Director of Loyola University, Chicago, Center for Textual Studies and Digital Humanities is one of our recent Community Action Grant recipients (funded by D4/D5 branches to support Loyola's Girls Who Code Chapter).
- **Ruth Holst**, College/University Relations Chair, and member of the Governance Board.
- **AJ Conroy**, member of the LAF Board.
- **Jennifer Urish**, AAUW-IL President.

**Conference hours:** 9:00 am to 1:00 pm .  
Doors open at 8.30 am with a program start of 9.30 am, so there will be an opportunity to network and meet and greet other branch members.

**Fee:** \$25.00, includes a buffet breakfast with protein and fruit as well as coffee, tea and juices.

**Registration:** Mail registration form and a check **payable to AAUW-IL by October 12** to  
Sue Stauffer (847-985-5560)  
1031 Seaview Court, Schaumburg, IL 60193  
**OR**  
Email form to [staufferrw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:staufferrw@sbcglobal.net)  
Then go to <https://aauw-il.aauw.net/district-conferences>, click on the PayPal button for your conference and pay online. *Note: PayPal allows you to use a credit card if you do not have a PayPal account.*

If you have any questions, feel free to contact:

Donna Jean at [djsimon@questillc.com](mailto:djsimon@questillc.com) (630-248-2213)

or

Jo-An at [jtakamoto@gmail.com](mailto:jtakamoto@gmail.com) (847-727-5158).

**Note: Please see registration form on last page of issue**



## Annual Winter Banquet



**Co-Chairs: Debbie Ness and Frankie Robinson**

**Wednesday, December 4, 2019  
Reserve 22 Restaurant  
Village Links of Glen Ellyn  
485 Winchell Way, Glen Ellyn**

Enjoy the holiday season with your fellow Branch members. This evening is always an AAUW highlight!

**Conversation/Cocktails:** 6:00 pm (cocktail server available to take cash order for all spirits).  
**Buffet Dinner:** 6:45 pm (followed by speaker, Naeema Torres).  
**Cost:** \$42.00 (includes tax & gratuity)

### **Buffet Dinner Service to include:**

*Sesame Ginger Salmon  
Chicken Piccata with Lemon Butter Caper Sauce  
Penne Pasta with Marinara Sauce*

*Seasonal Grilled Italian Style Vegetables  
Antipasto & Caesar Salads  
Freshly Baked Bread*

*Ice Cream Sundae Bar  
Coffee/Tea*

**Reservation and Payment due by Friday, November 22.  
NOTE: No extension to this deadline.**

**Note: Please see reservation form on last page of issue.**

REGISTRATION FOR NORTHERN FALL CONFERENCE  
October 19, 2019

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Branch \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_



**December 4 Annual Winter Banquet Reservation Form**  
**Deadline Date: Friday, November 22**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \$42.00 (includes tax & gratuity).

Please return this reservation form and check made payable to:  
AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP  
to:  
Debbie Ness, 917 Webster Ave., Wheaton, IL 60187

Any questions, please contact Debbie Ness at 734-604-3878 or [Debbie.ness49@gmail.com](mailto:Debbie.ness49@gmail.com)

**PLEASE NOTE: NO RESERVATIONS AND CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22.**

**The Twigs Team**

Kathleen McCullough :	Editor
Jane Palmer:	AAUW Online
Ruth Schumacher:	Proofreader

*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!*