



Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP

wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net

Twigs

November 2019

A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

Read on!

How do you read *Twigs*? Do you skim through checking for news from the interest groups in which you participate or do you start on page one and read all the way through? Or — horrors! — do you tell yourself *I'll get to it later* and then let it slip down further (and further and further) into the depths of your inbox?

This month, you need to read ALL OF TWIGS, including:

- An explanation of our 501(c)3 tax designation. This puts us in line with AAUW National; it also prohibits us from promoting other fundraising events.
- Details on our restricted fellowship funds, how they are paid, and how unrestricted funds also play a role in AAUW.
- A brief explanation of the three pillars of AAUW's Strategic Plan.
- All notes from our discussions of the strengths and weaknesses of our Branch and the three pillars (Education, Economic Security, and Leadership) of the AAUW Strategic Plan.

We hope you will carefully review the comments and, perhaps, email your own to Donna Jean and/or Janet. Our next step is to convene separate task forces to address the three pillars and think about the directions our Branch could take in the next three to five years. Watch your inbox for more information to come!

Looking ahead, please consider joining other members on the Legal Advocacy Fund Walk (formerly the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund event). LAF supports important, ongoing work in support of women who are fighting for their legal rights.

Finally, mark your calendar now to attend the November Branch meeting. Pamala Silas's presentation speaks directly to our strategic planning topics.

Donna Jean & Janet



November Branch Meeting

**A Native American Woman:
Experiences in Leadership**

Speaker: Pamala M. Silas

Associate Director, Community
Outreach and Engagement,
Center for Native American &
Indigenous Research,
Northwestern University

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

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

Program Co-Vice Presidents

**Nancy Daly
Frankie Robinson**

Upcoming Events

| Date | Event | Time | Information |
|---------|-------------------------------------|---------|---|
| Nov. 1 | AM Lit | 9:30 am | LaVonne Ruoff's. |
| Nov. 6 | Branch Meeting | 7:00 pm | Glen Ellyn History Center, 800 N Main St., Glen Ellyn. |
| Nov. 8 | Film Group | 7:00 pm | Susie Gullickson's. |
| Nov. 13 | Board Meeting | 7:00 pm | Mary Sue Brown's |
| Nov. 18 | PM Lit | 7:00 pm | Bonnie Wheaton's. |
| Nov. 20 | PM Non Fiction *Note Date Change | 7:00 pm | Donna Jean Simon's. |
| Nov. 22 | Banquet Reservation Deadline | | See reservation form on last page of issue. |
| Dec. 4 | Winter Banquet | 6:00 pm | Reserve 22 Restaurant, Village Links, 485 Winchell Way, Glen Ellyn. |



Programs

Nancy Daly & Frankie Robinson

nancydaly@gmail.com frankieL62@yahoo.com



A Native American Woman: Experiences in Leadership is the topic for the November 6 Branch meeting. Pamala Silas has a B.S. in Economics from DePaul University and is a Certified Association Executive (CAE). She is an enrolled member of the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin and is a descendant of the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin. She has been a leader in issues of equity, leadership, community development, housing and education in underrepresented communities. She also plans to share her ideas on how elders pass their wisdom on to the next generations.

Ewa Bacon, who has been a colleague of Ms. Silas for 30 years, recommended her. We are delighted to host her at the Glen Ellyn History Center during Native American Heritage Month.



Membership

Karen Schulz

okschulz@aol.com

The weather may be turning cold outside, but there is plenty of warmth being spread around at our Branch events. We are very excited to see so many of our newer members find a place to use their time and talents. Please continue to invite your friends and interested women to experience all we have to offer. Remember that our special discounted dues rate of \$53.50 is available to all who join at any one of our public events!

Please welcome our newest member, Marcia Eubanks, and look for her biography and address information in our next edition of Twigs.

Please Note: *If you have not received your directory, please plan to pick it up at the Branch meeting on November 6 or contact Karen Schulz to arrange for pick up. Thanks!*

Summary of October Branch Goal Setting Session Co-Presidents Janet Arden & Donna Jean Simon

We were very pleased with the turn out for our Book Sale meetings over the summer. Out of those came a series of questions about scholarships, AAUW and Branch finances, fund raising in general and did we have explicit goals for what we wanted to support financially and with our efforts.

Janet and Donna Jean followed up with Tom Chappell at AAUW National in Washington, DC for financial guidance and this information is provided separately. We also looked at the fellowships we fund and this information is also provided separately. *The Marjorie Robinson and Katherine Storm Research and Projects Grant Fund* was fully endowed in 2014 as number 4318 and has been contributing to fellowships and community grants since then. For recipient details, go to https://www.aauw.org/aauw_check/fellowships_directory/3fnd4318.

The Branch meeting on October 5 was designed to provide the requested information to Branch members and to discuss the AAUW Strategic Plan and how we can align our Branch to the AAUW Mission, *To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy*. Three pillars support this mission: Education / Economic Security / Leadership. (See the *How to Support AAUW's Mission* document in this Twigs issue). Table teams were asked to answer questions related to the mission and the three pillars. You are being provided with their responses. As mentioned in the Presidents' message, we will be organizing task forces to address opportunities that the Branch can undertake.

Also, part of the Saturday meeting was a quick **SWOT Analysis** of our Branch. **Strengths / Weaknesses / Opportunities / Threats**. You see those results as well.

Results of October 2019 Branch Goal Setting Session

Why Are You Here Today? What Does AAUW mean to you?

- ❖ Interested in direction
- ❖ Here to be polite – social
- ❖ Here to hear how Branch will proceed
- ❖ AAUW supported civil rights and funded a project in interview with Harriet Tubman
- ❖ Unified way to support women
- ❖ Support our leadership
- ❖ Friendship
- ❖ Loyalty
- ❖ Found last year's round tables very productive
- ❖ Empowering women to make change through education
- ❖ Excited about getting involved in impactful activities
- ❖ More clarity regarding mission locally and nationally
- ❖ Interesting meeting topic
- ❖ Interested in knowing more about purpose

SWOT Analysis

Strengths of our Branch

- ❖ Strong structure
 - Focus is flexible, for example, can add new interest group
 - Is reliable
 - Each role is defined
 - Positions of leadership rotate
 - Rich sources of information, for example, Twigs, website

- Excellent communication
- ❖ Membership – dedicated and reliable, talented, friendly and welcoming, that is *big brains and big hearts*
- ❖ Multifaceted
 - Programs and interesting speakers
 - Interest groups
 - Roles – different skill sets so people can participate
 - Group support – friendships and relationships
- ❖ Ability to recruit
- ❖ Financially strong

Weaknesses of our Branch – What do we need to improve upon as a Branch?

- ❖ Engaging new members to work on things they enjoy or be invested in other members and mission
- ❖ Attending activities – diversity in priorities
- ❖ Recruiting younger members – may have less time because of raising families or be mission oriented, so may only attend what they are interested in or what they want to spend time and money on
- ❖ Helping people understand our mission – not being focused on mission
- ❖ Addressing space challenges for social group meetings, *we need younger people with big houses*

External Opportunities that can lead to increased engagement and success

- ❖ Increased involvement of women in politics
- ❖ Women’s perspectives enhance operations in all facets of society
- ❖ More women are being listened to
- ❖ Increased attention to topic of equal pay – Inequality is at its highest level since the 1950s
- ❖ More jobs even though lower pay – misleading in terms of progress
 - For example, fewer women professors are getting tenure, encouraging more women to become professors used to be a core mission
- ❖ Impact of ageism and sexism

Three Pillars of AAUW Strategic Plan



Education and Training Pillar

How can we address the barriers in education to girls and women in our community?

- ❖ Strengthen connection with College of DuPage
- ❖ Establish programs to reach out to students and activities
- ❖ Ask College of DuPage what we can do
- ❖ Encourage *Start Smart*
- ❖ Create interest in political process through partnerships with League of Women Voters or other branches
- ❖ Work with other branches or organizations on programs
- ❖ Support Title IX – equal disbursement of funds to women and men
- ❖ Continue the emphasis on STEM programs and offering of scholarships
- ❖ Address the psychological changes for girls on their studies between middle school and high school
- ❖ Make sure Title IX coordinators are identified and supported
- ❖ Clarify use of funds given to College of DuPage
- ❖ Use College of DuPage students to help with Book Sale
- ❖ Support AAUW leadership organizations, for example, AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)
- ❖ Increase networking with College of DuPage via Branch membership
- ❖ Represent AAUW and our Branch at activities fairs

- ❖ Raise our profile at College of DuPage – letter of introduction to women faculty at College of DuPage, distribution of AAUW information
- ❖ Represent AAUW in local parades

What can we do to enhance the impact of our scholarships?

- ❖ Recipient night with families invited (would have to move in calendar and do as a Saturday event)
- ❖ Provide opportunity for recipients to share experience with each other
- ❖ Have previous year's recipient present award to current year's recipient
- ❖ Create cohort of scholarship recipients
- ❖ Increase student sharing through public speaking on the impact of the scholarship
- ❖ Need to appreciate cultural shift among recipients
- ❖ Bilingual members can facilitate involvement of more recipients
- ❖ Continue to increase the amount and number of scholarships
- ❖ Offer membership to recipients
- ❖ Ask recipients to come to meetings and present to us
- ❖ Create and enhance the pipeline between us and College of DuPage
- ❖ Give demonstrations to high schools and social groups
- ❖ Speak to women's studies groups and classes
- ❖ Create virtual meet ups on topics of interest



Economic Security Pillar

What community connections can we make to increase the economic security of women?

- ❖ Support *Start Smart* and *Work Smart* at the local level
- ❖ Evaluate local government and pay equity
- ❖ Encourage women to become members of boards
- ❖ Mentor others (Linda Davenport)
- ❖ Legal Advocacy Fund opportunities – if we are aware of discrimination we should encourage women to apply
- ❖ Pursue programming funding from AAUW State and National
- ❖ Initiate programs to support high school students lacking resources for testing and college awareness
- ❖ Increase workshops on salary negotiation skills (go to churches, libraries, women's professional organizations)
- ❖ Promote online negotiations workshops
- ❖ Address post-retirement economic concerns
- ❖ Invite a speaker to update on the status of women's studies now
- ❖ Promote changing laws at the state and federal level on educational leave – work with representatives and senators



Leadership Pillar

How can we position ourselves as leaders in our community?

- ❖ Website, social media presence
- ❖ Attend expositions, for example, College of DuPage presence, Chamber of Commerce, Newcomers Clubs, Taste of Glen Ellyn
- ❖ Regarding struggle with attracting new members: identify our target audience and survey to find out what would attract them. How can we be relevant to them?

Editor's Note: Please see the *How to Support AAUW's Mission* document at end of this issue.

Our Branch Fundraising Activities



Book Sale

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

Book Sale 2020

The great AAUW Used Book Sale engine is starting up again getting ready for our sale week, May 3 to 9, 2020 at our lovely facility, the First United Methodist Church on Forest Avenue in Glen Ellyn. Lockers have been rented to store our books and both RE/MAX locations at 441 Taft Avenue, Glen Ellyn and 1417 N Main, Wheaton are active collection sites. Please remember to spread the word: Donate Books! This, our 59th Book Sale, has always been a way to recycle a precious resource, wonderful books for all ages and all tastes.

LUNAFEST

Suzanne Gagner

petalpower1@yahoo.com

SAVE THE DATE!!
Saturday, April 25, 2020
Center Stage Theater
1665 Quincy Avenue
Naperville, IL

Our AAUW Branch will be holding our Second Annual **LUNAFEST Traveling Festival of Films**. If you would like to share a comment or suggestion regarding our **2020 LUNAFEST**, please email me.

women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Vision: Equity for all.

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



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.



Washington Update:

Via our national organization website, encourage deserving individuals to apply for AAUW scholarships, grants and much more. Go to <https://www.aauw.org/what-w.../educational-funding-and-awards/>

Springfield Update:

As Twigs goes to press, AAUW-Illinois is helping AAUW-Virginia in its **Get-Out-the-Vote** effort for the November general election. Virginia is in position to be the next state to pass the ERA and, thus, the last state needed to ratify the ERA. AAUW-Illinois branch members are writing postcards to Virginia voters encouraging them to vote for candidates who support the ERA. Postcard writing opportunities were available at the Illinois Fall Northern District Conference. Check out other ways to help. Go to VARatifyERA.org

Civic Education:

Elections 101: How Campaigns Decide Their Voter Outreach.

Attend this free program, co- sponsored by the Cantigny Civic Awareness Series and the Wheaton League of Women Voters to learn how campaigns make decisions on voter outreach and advocacy.

Date: Thursday, November 21, 2019, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm CST

Location: Cantigny Park, McCormick House, 1S151 Winfield Road, Wheaton, IL 60189

Registration: Go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/elections-101-learn-how-campaigns-decide-their-voter-outreach-tickets-66736419427>

AAUW Action Fund Slogan: *It's My Vote; I Will Be Heard.*



The purpose of this new initiative is to increase the visibility of the AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch in the area. To this end we will meet with a variety of organizations to tell them about the mission, programs, and activities of both the national organization and our Branch.



November's Film Group will meet on Friday, November 8 at 7:00 pm at the home of Susie Gullickson. Thanks to Barb Roos for hosting October's meeting, where the group saw the Judy Garland biopic *Judy*. The reports from Barb were that it was a great discussion! Both Marilyn and I missed it because we were at the Chicago Humanities Festival to hear Rachel Maddow speak. It was a lively and engaging presentation, but we were sorry to miss you all. Come join us in November for another great evening.

Note: We need hosts, especially for our Saturday, December 14 meeting! 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.

Future 2020 dates are Friday, January 10; Saturday, February 8; Friday, March 13, and Saturday, April 11.



Our Branch Book Groups

To acquire the habit of reading is to construct for yourself a refuge from almost all the miseries of life.

W. Somerset Maugham

AM Lit

Jean Lindsey

jeanlindsey15@comcast.net

AM Lit's November 1 novel selection, *There There*, by Tommy Orange is a gripping, deep dive into the urban indigenous community in California...it is an urgent, invigorating, vital book. Selected as one of the *New York Times* Top Ten Novels of 2018, *There There* features 12 characters who are traveling to the Oakland Pow Wow, each for a different reason.

LaVonne Ruoff will lead the discussion at Lexington Square Retirement Community, 555 Foxworth Blvd., Lombard. We will gather at 9:30 am to enjoy the treats provided by Suzanne Gagner and Janet Arden.

Looking ahead: On Friday, December 6, the group will meet at Mary Mossman's home to discuss *White Chrysanthemum*. Laura Desmarais is the discussion leader and Kathy McCullough and (TBA?) will be supplying the treats.

PM Lit

Phyllis Fogel

prfogel@live.com

PM Lit gathers on Monday, November 18, 7:00 pm to discuss the novel *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris. It tells the story of a prisoner who was forced to tattoo the arms of thousands of other prisoners, falls in love, and becomes a testament to the endurance of love and humanity. We meet at the home of Bonnie Wheaton who is also the discussion leader. Please let her know if you can attend at *bonwheaton@aol.com* or 630-665-5497.

In September, we read *Paris in the Present Tense* by Mark Helprin which was highly discussable and very much enjoyed. In October we read *Becoming* by Michelle Obama. As we do not meet in busy December our next book in January 2020, is *Educated* by Tara Westover and in February it is *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult.

AM Non-Fiction

Sue Herrmann

sherrmann710@gmail.com

Since we skip November, our next meeting will be December 18 at 10:00 am. We will discuss *Henry Ford and the Jews* by Neil Baldwin. No site has been chosen, so please notify me if you are able to host the group. We also will need a discussion leader. We have chosen our 2019-2020 reading list, so be sure to check our website for the list.

PM Non Fiction

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

We will meet at Donna Jean Simon's home at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, **November 20** (Please note that this is a change from our announced schedule due to Thanksgiving). Carolyn Oesterle will lead us in a discussion of Andrew Pham's 1999 book *Catfish and Mandala*. Karen Schulz will be our co-hostess.

Andrew Pham is a Vietnamese-American engineer who quit his job to embark on a 4000 mile bike ride along the Pacific Rim, ending in Vietnam. He came to the United States at age ten with the *boat people*. He has written numerous other books including a cook book on Vietnamese cuisine.

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.

Summary of Conversation with Thomas Chappell AAUW Chief Financial Officer Co-Presidents Janet Arden and Donna Jean Simon

At the Book Sale meetings this summer, a number of questions arose with respect to AAUW National finances and funding. In response, Janet and Donna Jean contacted AAUW National and were put in touch with Thomas Chappell, CFO, who was very gracious, forthcoming, and clear in his explanations. Below, we recount our conversation and key take-aways from that conversation.

Background on AAUW Finances:

In 2010, AAUW National expanded many programs, but without having the necessary funding, such as *Work Smart*, STEM and others. Most AAUW National funds are designated for restricted giving to the educational endowment. The result was a \$16 million deficit that Kim Churches has been working on reducing. Overall, the association is trying to change members' mindsets to contribute to unrestricted funds such as the Greatest Needs Fund or support for one of the three pillars of the AAUW Strategic Plan. Without this unrestricted funding, the association will not be able to continue and will only become a grantor of scholarships. At the same time, more than \$4 million in scholarships are awarded each year. There are over \$120 million in restricted funds which support scholarships. AAUW National finances are audited annually.

In Answer to Our Specific Concerns:

- **We asked directly about moving restricted funds to unrestricted funds.** The answer was an unequivocal **NO** – this does not happen. This misconception may be due to a misunderstanding of what are called *Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* (which are detailed in standard financial reports). These require the transfer of funds from restricted to unrestricted accounts in order to fund the scholarship award checks, which honor donors' intents.
- **The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund is not closed.** It exists to fund research projects which may run over more than one year. In the case of a multiyear project, additional funds are not awarded until the current project is completed. However, there are sufficient resources in this fund to continue indefinitely. Therefore, the preference is that other non-restricted programs be supported.
- **AAUW National supports over 800 branches.** Individual programs per branch have the potential to detract from AAUW common goals by fragmenting program support. Therefore, the national association encourages branches to contribute to the funding of the three pillars of the strategic plan, thereby achieving the greatest impact.
- **We asked how scholarships are awarded.** Applicants go through a vetting process. There is an overabundance of applicants. Despite fluctuations in the economy and the stock market, the association attempts to keep the total amount of scholarships granted to a range of \$4 to \$4.2 million annually. This determines the final dollar amount awarded for budgeting purposes. Fellowship payments are paid out in January and July. The process and awards are proposed by a committee and then approved by the Board of Directors before there is any payout.



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.

P.O. Box 98045
Washington, DC 20090-8045
800.326.2289 | connect@aauw.org
www.aauw.org



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:

Any questions, please contact Debbie Ness at 734-604-3878 or Debbie.ness49@gmail.com

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

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

The Twigs Team

| | |
|--------------|---------------------|
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*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!*