



Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP

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

# Twigs

January 2020

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## *Season's Greetings to Everyone!!*

This is the time of year when we remember the old and anticipate the new. This year our Branch had much for which to be thankful.

We listened to interesting speakers – Representative Terra Costa Howard on what it is like to be a woman state legislator and Professor Pam Silas, who led us through her experiences as a native American woman who is trying to rebuild her community. We participated in a Branch strategic planning session, which will give us guidance for our next two years.

We hosted several fund raisers, including the first annual **LunaFest**, another successful Book Sale, and our annual walk to fund special projects, this year the Legal Advocacy Fund. Due to the success of our fundraisers, we doubled our contribution to our College of DuPage scholarship recipients and forged a closer relationship with representatives at College of DuPage to support those recipients. We sent over a \$1,000 to the Legal Advocacy Fund and contributed to the AAUW Most Needed Fund.

We read fascinating (and sometimes difficult) books in our book groups, saw thought provoking movies in film group, and shared the foods of other cultures in Spice Routes. Most importantly, we benefited from the research, ideas, perspectives and fellowship of each other. We shared the holiday spirit at our Annual Winter Banquet and saw how our contributions support young women of talent.

However, as is true of life, there was also sadness and health and family difficulties. Hopefully, for those who experienced these, you found solace, support, and love from the rest of us.

There is also much to anticipate in the New Year. 2020 represents the centennial of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment giving women the right to vote. We plan to celebrate this event in a variety of ways – more to come on that. We will host three women from very different backgrounds who will share their knowledge, experience, and expertise with us at our spring programs. We will host our second annual **LunaFest** on April 25. We will have our 59<sup>th</sup> annual Book Sale the first week in May. In mid-June, Illinois will be one of the leaders of the AAUW Regional Conference in Moline, Illinois, which will host more than a dozen states. Kim Churches, Kendra Davis, and other AAUW representatives will attend along with three days of speakers, networking opportunities, and fun activities.

We wish you every blessing in the New Year and look forward to seeing each and every one of you at our Branch meetings.

*Donna Jean & Janet*



## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Information
Jan. 3	AM Lit	9:30 am	LaVonne Ruoff's.
Jan. 8	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Elaine Nissen's.
Jan. 10	Film Group	7:00 pm	Anne Hanley's.
Jan. 16	Spice Routes	6:00 pm	Peggy Connolly's.
Jan. 20	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Susie Gullickson's.
Jan. 22	PM Non Fiction	7:00 pm	Marilyn Mayer-Wiedemann's.



### Membership

**Karen Schulz**

*okschulz@aol.com*

We have had the privilege of welcoming 16 new members into our Branch this past year bringing our current total to 137. Keep sharing the invitation to promote our mission with your family and friends. Membership is \$88.00 per year or new members can qualify for the special discounted price of \$58.50 when they join at any public AAUW event. Both are tax deductible.

Enjoy the brief biographies of our two newest members and look for them at an upcoming Branch event where you can offer them a warm welcome in person!

**Marcia Eubanks**, after growing up on the East Coast, has been a Wheaton resident for the past 20 years. After graduating from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Marcia worked in financial negotiations with Amtrak and the Airline Pilot Association. In her retirement, she enjoys volunteering with Instacart and DuPage County services, gardening, college basketball, travel, book groups and her puppy. Marcia expressed an interest in participating in book groups and helping out with public relations.

**Carole Yesensky**, originally from the Pittsburgh area, has lived in Glen Ellyn for over 40 years. After receiving a BS from Franciscan University and a MS from Louis University, she spent 25 years as a third grade teacher. Carole enjoys walking her dogs, traveling, reading and taking classes at HealthTrack, where she met Patricia Spence who recommended our organization. Carole expressed an interest in the book groups, film group, and theater show activities.

## Our Branch Fundraising Activities



LUNAFEST

**Suzanne Gagner**  
*petalpower1@yahoo.com*

**It is January 2020! The Second Annual LUNAFEST is Just Four Months Away!**



**Saturday, April 25 at 5:00 pm  
The Center Stage Theater  
1665 Quincy Avenue, Suite 131  
Naperville, IL 60540**

The reception at 5:00 pm will feature Chef Terrell's delicious hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. The films will begin at 5:45 pm and a gift card raffle will be held at the dessert intermission. We had 43 gift cards in 2019!

Tickets can be purchased through Eventbrite or by contacting Suzanne Gagner at 630.877.5589 or Ruth Schumacher 630-690.8758.

***<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lunafest-naperville-il-tickets-84074383745>***

To whet your appetite the film titles this year are:

**PURL, BALLET AFTER DARK, THERE YOU ARE,  
XMAS CAKE--THIS AMERICAN SHELF--LIFE,  
GAME, LADY PARTS, and HOW TO SWIM.**

The committee will be busy seeking sponsorship monies, gift card donations and ticket sales over the next four months. We look forward to our wonderful members supporting the event again this year. As you go to your favorite restaurant or hair salon, consider asking them to support our event with a gift certificate. If you have sponsorship ideas, please share them with Suzanne or Ruth by email or at the phone numbers above.

Funds from this event support AAUW's Strategic Plan and the Goal of Education and Training for women.



I hope many of you were able to attend the Winter Banquet and enjoy our speaker, Naeema Torres. I was personally heartbroken to miss it, but was stuck in the hospital. As we enter a new year, it is time to renew contact with our high school counselors, and get them thinking about worthy recipients for our College of DuPage scholarships. The Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch Leadership Board will meet soon to decide on any additional criteria that may be in play...are we looking for the next Greta Thunberg? As soon as the board meets and gives me guidance, I will be in touch with our four feeder high schools. We will learn more about our worthy recipients in Twigs and at our Spring Banquet. Hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season!



**Update Washington:** 2020 will be a very active election year. While AAUW is non-partisan and does not support candidates, our national organization wants us to examine and engage federal and state candidates about their positions especially on the AAUW **BIG FIVE**:

1. Equal Pay for Equal Work
2. Implementing Paid Leave (#1 and #2 also priorities for AAUW-IL)
3. Reducing Student Debt
4. Strengthening Social Security
5. Investing in Education-especially STEM Education Ensuring that Women and Girls are Equally Represented

**Update Springfield:** When the Illinois Legislature starts up in January, AAUW- IL Public Policy sources recommend referring to *Capitolfax.com* to keep up with the activity of our elected officials, especially in regard to *Fix the FOID*, the movement to pass bills that bring gun sense to gun ownership. The preamble to the list of 2019-21 Action Priorities states: *AAUW recognizes that gun violence is a public health crisis.*

Former Illinois-48 Representative, Peter Breen, will oppose Terra Costa Howard to retake his former seat.



Our AAUW-Illinois organization reaches out to us online via its website <https://aauw-il.aauw.net>; newsletters that focus on district and state meetings; and *AAUW Connection*, a monthly bulletin updating us about AAUW events of interest.

Our AAUW-IL President, Jennifer Urish, wants to know if you are not receiving your copy. In her own words:

*All AAUW-IL members with email addresses should be getting AAUW-Connection. I send out approximately 2000 emails and get about a 28% 'open rate.' I send Connection out every month on the 15th of the month. My goal is to connect with members and share ideas with everyone, not just branch presidents. I depend on branches to send me items that they would like circulated, and board members often put things in. I forward information from national, so it gets wider circulation. My assumption is that members might see things two or three times, but it is usually important that they see them.*

*If you are not receiving AAUW-Connection, please let me know; email [jenniferurish@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferurish@gmail.com). It sometimes goes into spam folders because it is coming from a third party and not my address.*



## **Community Relations**

**Mary Sue Brown**  
*msbrown750@comcast.net*

We were warmly received by the Lions Club of Glen Ellyn on November 5 (24 members) and the Kiwanis Club of Glen Ellyn on November 20 (20 members). Both groups will include information about our fundraising activities in their newsletters. Several members were aware of our Book Sale but not of Lunafest. Although we left some flyers for the Book Sale, we will send more information later.



## **Film Group**

**Anne Hanley**  
*ahanley@mindspring.com*

Happy New Year! We are deep into Oscar season by now, having viewed and discussed the lovely Tom Hanks film about Mr. Rogers at our December meeting and talked about all the other wonderful options out there. Thanks to Diane Serb for hosting. What will January bring? Who knows, but we will gather and talk and celebrate the continued creativity of filmmakers and the actors and musicians that bring their stories to life. We will meet next on Friday, January 10 at 7:00 pm at my home. I will send out the selection the weekend before. I hope you can join us.

### **Nominating Committee for 2020 Officers**

Karen Schulz, Vice President Membership, will chair the Nominating Committee, whose members are Jean Lindsey and Nancy Possinger. Two Executive Committee positions are open, Vice President Membership and Treasurer.

Karen Schulz has very capably served two terms as Vice President Membership and AAUW has term limits, so we are very sad to see her leave this position and know that she will be a wonderful mentor and coach to her successor.

Elaine Nissen has brought her financial expertise and experience to her role as Treasurer. She is looking forward to sharing that expertise with another Branch member who will take on the responsibilities of managing our finances in the next term.

Executive Committee positions are two year terms with the possibility of renewal for another term. Roles and responsibilities are defined in the Policies and Procedures Handbook on our website.

Nominations will be announced in February and we will vote on those nominations in March at our Annual Meeting.

**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.





## Our Branch Book Groups

*Reading is an act of civilization; it's one of the greatest acts of civilization because it takes the free raw material of the mind and builds castles of possibilities.*

Ben Okri

### **AM Lit**

**Jean Lindsey**

*jeanlindsey15@comcast.net*

AM Lit welcomes the new year by reading the classic, *The Daughter of Time* by Josephine Tey. We will meet at Lexington Square, 555 Foxworth Blvd., Lombard on January 3 at 9:30 am. LaVonne Ruoff will lead the book discussion and Barb Roos and Laura Desmarais will supply the hospitality.

Written by Tey in 1951, *The Daughter of Time* has been described by the New York Times as *one of the best mysteries of all time...her skills at character development and mood setting have earned her a vast audience.*

Please email LaVonne at *lruff@uic.edu* if you are planning to attend.

Looking ahead: On February 7, we will meet at Phyllis Fogel's home to discuss *Transcription* by Kate Atkinson. Kitty Johansson and Ruth Schumacher are the co-hostesses.

### **PM Lit**

**Phyllis Fogel**

*prfogel@live.com*

PM Lit meets Monday, January 20 at 7:00 pm to discuss *Educated, a Memoir* by Tara Westover. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara was 17 years old the first time she set foot in a classroom. We gather at the home of Susie Gullickson who is also the discussion leader. Please let Susie know if you are attending by email at *gullicksonsusan@comcast.net* or 630.480.8555.

Coming up are *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult in February and *Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver in March.

### **PM Non Fiction**

**Ewa Bacon**

*baconew@lewisu.edu*

We are meeting at 7:00 pm on January 22 at the home of Marilyn Mayer-Wiedemann who will lead our discussion of Russel Shorto's *Island at the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan*. Ewa will bring some treats for us to enjoy. Let us start the second decade of this century by traveling back in history to New Amsterdam and to the epic battle between two critical players in Dutch Manhattan whose conflict results in exceptional rights and freedoms for most of its citizens.

Please let Marilyn know by email at *Marilyn.mayer@gmail.com* or by phone at 630.858.2091 if you are planning to join us for the discussion.

**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.*



The tradition of smorgasbord started centuries ago, when Sweden's elite snacked for several hours before moving to the banquet hall for the feast. As time passed, and the enticements of sundry tasty little bites made dinner superfluous, the smorgasbord usurped the repast entirely. Sweden's neighbor, Denmark, has a tradition of hygge (HOO ga): creating joy and coziness through simple pleasures. January is perfect for indulging in an evening of hygge by sharing a delicious meal with friends. Continuing this year's theme of small plates, we will create our own hygge with a Swedish Smorgasbord. Please let Peggy know at least a week in advance what small bites you will bring to the smorgasbord.

### The Twigs Team

<b>Editor:</b>	<b>Kathleen McCullough</b>
<b>Proofreader:</b>	<b>Ruth Schumacher</b>
<b>AAUW Online:</b>	<b>Jane Palmer</b>

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

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

