



Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP

wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net

Twigs

February 2020

A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

With the New Year now in progress and dreary weather dragging our spirits down, we can look to our fellow Branch members to keep our spirits up.

Committees have swung into action. The Book Sale team is busy sorting books and seeking additional appropriate book donations. LunaFest is preparing for its April event and planning for publicity, sponsorships, and donations. Our Community Relations chair is meeting with local groups who introduce us to those in our community who don't know who we are. The Education Opportunity Fund chair is beginning to work with our local high schools to determine our scholarship recipients. Our STEM chair is preparing for sessions in the spring. Read more about these activities and make sure to contribute your time and energy to assist these members in their efforts.

Interest groups have organized meetings to discuss films and books of interest – a busy month as there are many interesting options to explore. Spice Routes meets to sample foods of different countries and in January it was a Swedish Smorgasbord. Look at the calendar to see which of these events interest you and plan to attend.

In the fall, we provided members with the *Ask Me About AAUW* buttons. We are interested to hear of your experiences in promoting AAUW and our strategic direction to support education and economic security for all women and girls and to provide leadership opportunities in all areas of the community and business, so that women's perspectives are represented and honored.

We are privileged this month to have a speaker at our Branch meeting, Kidada Robinson, Director of the Graduate Center at Aurora University, who will speak about empowerment of women throughout history. It should be a fascinating topic for all of us. Please make sure to mark your calendar and don't miss this presentation.

Donna Jean & Janet

February Branch Program

Celebrating
Black History and
Women's History Months



Women in History:
Hidden Figures

Speaker: Kidada Robinson

Wednesday, 7:00 pm
February 5

Glen Ellyn History Center
800 N Main Street
Glen Ellyn

Program Co-Vice Presidents:
Nancy Daly
Frankie Robinson

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Information
Feb. 5	Branch Meeting	7:00 pm	Glen Ellyn History Center, 800 N Main Street, Glen Ellyn.
Feb. 7	AM Lit	9:30 am	Phyllis Fogel's.
Feb. 8	Film Group	7:00 pm	Ewa Bacon's.
Feb. 12	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Janet Arden's.
Feb. 17	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Allene Harding's.
Feb. 26	AM Non Fiction	10:00 am	Peggy Connolly's.
Mar. 6	AM Lit	9:30 am	Eleanor Saliamonas's.



Programs

Nancy Daly & Frankie Robinson

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Women in History: Hidden Figures

Please join us at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, February 5, at the Glen Ellyn History Center for a look at Women's History and Black History Months. Our speaker will be Kidada Robinson, currently Senior Graduate Advising Manager and Director of the Graduate Center at Aurora University. She will speak on the empowerment of women as seen throughout history. You do not want to miss this one!



Membership

Karen Schulz

okschulz@aol.com

February is a wonderful time for visitors to come and experience the same warmth and united support we all feel through the friendships we have developed within our Branch. Any new members joining that night or at any public event qualify for the special discounted price of \$58.50, otherwise the yearly membership is \$88.00. Both are tax deductible.

Our Branch Fundraising Activities



Book Sale

Ewa Bacon

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Books! Books! Books! This is a very good time of the year to look through those shelves and bring us those mysteries you've read, those cookbooks you no longer use, the kids' books that your grandkids have outgrown, those serious tomes that you are not going to re-read! The book locker is in full operating order and you can bring them any time (instructions on the website). Alternatively, drop off your books at the two RE/MAX sites (441 Taft Street in Glen Ellyn, 1417 North Main in Wheaton). Too heavy? Hard to handle? Give me a call (630.251.6843) and I will come by and pick them up.

Can you spread the word at your school or your church or your apartment building or in your other groups? People are really grateful to have a good organization dealing with the books they no longer want to keep at home.

Heads Up! Our April 1 Branch meeting will be a *Book Sale Potluck Supper*. More details next month. Last year we had a great time to share food, conversation and sign-ups for work during the book sale. Let's do it again!

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



Suzanne Gagner

petalpower1@yahoo.com

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

The **LUNAFEST** committee is busily seeking sponsorships, soliciting gift certificates for another fun raffle, and promoting the sale of tickets to our **Second Annual LUNAFEST**. We hope you plan to buy tickets for you and your family, AND we hope that you will promote our film festival to your friends and colleagues. Please let me know if you would like to have 8 ½ inch by 11 inch colored posters to distribute at your local sites. These small posters feature information on each of the seven films in the 2020 festival and ticket information. Please contact Suzanne Gagner or Ruth Schumacher if you have potential sponsorship ideas.

Tickets:

- Can be purchased through Eventbrite or by contacting Suzanne at 630.877.5589 or Ruth 630.690.8758.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lunafest-naperville-il-tickets-84074383745>
- Will also be on sale at the February, March, and April Branch meetings. We will take cash or checks. Checks are payable to: **AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP**. Tickets purchased locally from Suzanne and Ruth do not include the Eventbrite service charge. Funds from this event support AAUW's Strategic Goal of Education and Training for Women.

LUNAFEST

We are extremely grateful to the following members who made 2019 an outstanding success!

2019 Sponsors

Center Stage Theater, Clingen Callow & McLean LLC, Kathy McCullough, Martha Parry, James & Susan Herrmann, Scheive Family Dental Care, Lisa Cherry, Mary Callow, Catherine Soohoo, Dennis & Susan Levy-Creed, Lorraine Ehlert, Thomas & Kathryn Koleski, Susan Tumpane, and Mark & Pamela Hamilton



2019 Raffle Prize Donors

Sandra Alexander, Artistri Nails, Brook's Kitchen & Tap, Buffalo Theater Ensemble, Mary Callow, Calm Comfort Company, Clara's Restaurant, Peggy Connolly, Dog Patch Pet & Feed, Fire & Wine, Suzanne Gagner, Greek Islands, Fran Kravitz, Kriser's Natural Pet, Jean Lindsey, Dennis & Susan Levy-Creed, Little Italian Pizza, Marquiz Salon & Spa, Ellen McGowan, Debbie Ness, Elaine Nissen, Carolyn Oesterle, Pinot's Palette, Reserve 22-Village Links, Ruth Schumacher, Donna Jean Simon, Patricia Spence, Surge Salon, Tavoos Skin Care, Amy Tufano-Moran, and Jennifer Werneke.



Our Community Action Grant and Scholarship Dollars at Work
Co-Presidents: Janet Arden & Donna Jean Simon

During the summer, we had questions about how our scholarship dollars were being used. As Co-Presidents, we researched this and found that the Katherine Storm and Marjorie Robinson Funds had been supporting grants, fellowships, and scholarships since 2015.

Information can be found on the AAUW website:
https://www.aauw.org/aauw_check/fellowships_directory/#fnd4318

We thought it would be interesting for Branch members to *meet* some of our recipients. For the next several months, we will highlight some of these grant, fellowship, and scholarship awardees.

This month, we introduce you to **Yemi Akande-Bartsch** from St. Louis, Missouri, who is using a Community Action Grant for Women in Leadership – STEM training.



Recipient: FOCUS St. Louis
Project Director: Yemi Akande-Bartsch
Award Year: 2019-2020
Award: Community Action Grant
Location: St. Louis, Missouri
Term: One-Year
Project Name: *FOCUS Women in Leadership STEM program*

FOCUS Women in Leadership STEM Program is designed to provide a peer network and leadership-training experience for emerging women leaders in STEM fields in the region. Operated through an inquiry methodology, participants spend each of four structured seminar days learning from leadership-development experts in emotional intelligence, diversity and inclusion, communication and negotiation. Participants also experience three field days, joining together at various locations in the region to meet with leaders.



January's film group was a lively discussion of a beautiful and thoughtful female-directed movie about women navigating their way in the world. *Little Women* received six Oscar nominations but NOT for the female director who created the beautiful and thoughtful movie. Argh! February's meeting might bring us together to discuss another nominated film, depending on what will be in the theaters, just in time for the Oscars (Sunday, February 9).

We will gather on Saturday, February 8, at 7:00 pm at the home of Ewa Bacon. I will send out the selection the weekend before. I hope you can join us. ****NOTE**** I am looking for someone to host our March meeting. It will be on Friday, March 13. Contact me if you can host!



Our Branch Book Groups

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.

Joseph Addison

AM Lit

Jean Lindsey

jeanlindsey15@comcast.net

AM Lit readers will meet on Friday, February 7, to discuss *Transcription* by Kate Atkinson. We will gather at 9:30 am at Phyllis Fogel's home. Patricia Spence is the discussion leader and Kitty Johansson and Ruth Schumacher will provide the hospitality.

Transcription is an exhilarating and ingenious story of WWII espionage, betrayal and loyalty. According to NPR, Atkinson is brilliant, her command of the back and forth narrative, the un-fixedness of memory, the weight of guilt accrues over time and how we carry it is remarkable.

Looking Ahead: March 6, *The Overstory* by Richard Powers at the home of Eleanor Saliamonas with Mary Sue Brown as our discussion leader. Please contact me if you can provide hospitality.

PM Lit

Phyllis Fogel

prfogel@live.com

PM Lit meets Monday, February 17, at 7:00 pm to discuss *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult. Based on a true-life story in Flint, Michigan, it tells the story of an African-American labor and delivery nurse and the racism surrounding her care of a white supremacist couple's newborn son. It is being made into a film starring Viola Davis and Julia Roberts.

Allene Harding is the discussion leader and also the hostess. Please let her know if you plan to attend by email at abharding@sbcglobal.net or by phone at 630.665.1123.

Looking Ahead: *Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver in March and *North of Dawn* by Nurddin Farah in April.

AM Non-Fiction

Sue Herrmann

sherrmann710@gmail.com

Our February 26 AM Non-Fiction book group meets at 10:00 am at the home of Peggy Connolly to discuss *The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women* by Kate Moore. Laura Desmarais will provide treats. I will be in Florida so I have asked Laura to run the meeting for us. Presently, I am in Mexico and forgot to bring my folder with the information on who is discussion leader. Please come prepared to help discuss the book. New members are welcome!

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.*

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.



NEVERTHELESS
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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 the other members of the team that make it all possible!*