



Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP

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

# Twigs

March 2020

## A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

As I write this note, we are experiencing another snowfall and the first below zero temperatures in quite a while. It seems like a good time to think about spring and the many interesting events that are coming up in our Branch.

Our March meeting speaker will be Dr. Silvia Alvarez-Clare, a Tree Conservation Ecologist, from the Morton Arboretum, who will speak on women and STEM. This meeting will also be important as we elect Branch officers – Vice President of Membership and Treasurer.

April 1 is our second annual Book Sale Pot Luck Supper at the Glen Ellyn History Center. This will be an opportunity to network with fellow members as well as get information on how you can contribute to make the Book Sale another great success.

On April 25, we hold our second annual LunaFest. If you were not able to attend last year, plan to do so this year. The films are well worth your time and you might win a fabulous prize in the raffle. If you did attend last year, then you want to get your ticket soon, so you do not miss your chance to participate (as last year's event sold out).

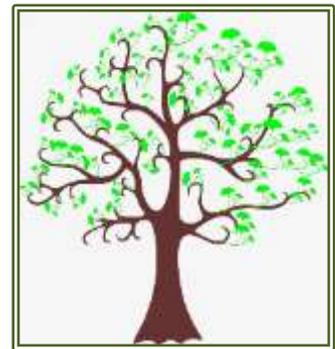
May, of course, brings our Spring Banquet when we celebrate our accomplishments and enjoy each other's company.

June 18 to 20 is the Regional Conference in Moline, Illinois, with members from thirteen states planning to attend.

And, of course, there will be book discussions, film reviews, and Spice Routes dinners. Lots to keep our minds engaged and our hearts full.

*Donna Jean & Janet*

## March Branch Meeting STEM and Its Impact



Speaker:

Dr. Silvia Alvarez-Clare, PhD

Tree Conservation Ecologist,  
Global Tree Conservation  
Program at  
The Morton Arboretum

Wednesday, 7:00 pm  
March 4

Glen Ellyn History Center  
800 N Main Street  
Glen Ellyn

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Program Co-Vice Presidents:

Nancy Daly  
Frankie Robinson

## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Information
March 4	Branch Meeting	7:00 pm	Glen Ellyn History Center, 800 N Main St., Glen Ellyn.
March 6	AM Lit	9:30 am	Eleanor Saliamonas.'
March 11	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Patricia Spence's.
March 13	Film Group	7:00 pm	Peggy Connolly's.
March 16	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Allene Harding's.
March 19	Springfield Day	10:00 am	Details not available at publication date of this issue.
March 25	PM Non Fiction	7:00 pm	Margaret McGrath's.
April 1	Branch Meeting Book Sale Potluck	7:00 pm	Glen Ellyn History Center, 800 N Main St., Glen Ellyn.
April 25	LunaFest	5:30 pm	Center Stage Theater, 1665 Quincy Avenue, Ste 131., Naperville.
May 18	Spring Banquet	5:30 pm	Adelle's Fine American Fare, 535 W Liberty Dr., Wheaton,



### Programs

**Nancy Daly & Frankie Robinson**

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

### March Branch Program STEM and Its Impact 7:00 pm, Wednesday, March 4



Dr. Silvia Alvarez-Claire uses long-term monitoring, manipulative experiments, and conservation-driven research to understand how environmental changes such as changes in soil nutrients and climatic conditions affect plant communities, mainly in tropical biodiversity hotspots. At the Morton Arboretum, she serves as the academic mentor for the Center for Tree Science, where she is a Co-Principal Investigator in their Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program.

She is also the co-leader of the Chicago Pod of 500 Women Scientists, a non-profit group that supports women in science and is dedicated to making science open, inclusive, and accessible.

Her presentation will focus on career choices in STEM and how she has incorporated STEM throughout her career as a biologist. Please join us at the Glen Ellyn History Center as we learn how STEM impacts us all.



## Membership

**Karen Schulz**

*okschulz@aol.com*

March is a wonderful time to invite your friends and family to come in out of the cold and snow to experience the same warmth and special friendships we have developed through our shared mission and vision within our AAUW Branch. Any new members joining at our next Branch meeting or at any other public event qualify for the special discounted price of \$58.50, otherwise the yearly membership is \$88.00. Both are tax deductible. Current membership is 137.

Be sure to come to our March Branch meeting to enjoy a very interesting speaker from the Morton Arboretum and participate in the election of officers.

### **Nominating Committee Report:**

A big thanks goes out to the committee members Jean Lindsey and Nancy Possinger who worked along with myself on developing the slate of candidates.

**Co-Vice Presidents Membership:** Jean Lindsey and Nancy Possinger.  
**Treasurer:** TBA (Watch for future updates via email).

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



## Public Policy

**Patricia Spence**

*pspence101@aol.com*

The Chicago Branch of the AAUW invites you to their Sunday, March 8, 1:00 to 3:30 pm program, *Recognition Delayed: The Contributions of African American Suffragists and Why Their Stories Matter*. The event is wheelchair accessible, free, but with limited seating. Registration is required: <https://recognitiondelayed.eventbrite.com>

**Update: Springfield** By the time this issue of Twigs is distributed, the Illinois State Legislature should be past its February 14 deadline to introduce new bills and in the process of deciding which bills move forward. Branch Public Policy Committee Chairs look forward to making available to members the AAUW-Illinois list of bills that our organization is supporting, opposing or just *watching*. Repeal of the Parental Notification Act, a comprehensive re-write of the Illinois sex education law and women's equity legislation are the current 2020 Public Policy goals.

**Update: Equal Rights Amendment** The two resolutions pending in Congress to extend deadline for ERA passage are House Joint Resolution 79 and Senate Joint Resolution 6. If you go to *Congress.gov* and subscribe to *Get Alerts*, you can track the legislative activity related to the ERA.

**Vote:** Primary Election Day, March 17.

**Save the Date:** AAUW Regional Convention, Moline, IL, June 18 to 20. More information will be forthcoming. In the meantime, interested individuals should speak to Laura Desmarais for all the exciting details.

## Our Branch Fundraising Activities



### Book Sale

**Ewa Bacon**

*baconew@lewisu.edu*

Put it on your calendar: the April 1 Branch meeting will be our **BOOK SALE POTLUCK!** We will gather at 7:00 pm at our regular site, the Glen Ellyn History Center and enjoy the company of our friends to celebrate our upcoming Book Sale. Nancy Possinger is our coordinator. Please let her know what delicacies you will bring to the potluck. Drop her a line at *nap101547@ameritech.net* or call 630.682.4003. We will also have laptops available to set up your times to work at the Book Sale, Sunday evening, May 3 through Saturday May 9.

Do you remember Edith Back? Jackie DeFazio? Helen Westlake? Maureen Becker? Marjorie Robinson? Katharine Storm? These members of our Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch all have had fellowships and research & project grants named after them and funded by our Book Sale. Along with local scholarships and returning-to-learning grants, we have raised about \$500,000 via our Book Sales over the last four decades! Let's celebrate!

### LUNAFEST

**Suzanne Gagner**

*petalpower1@yahoo.com*

**FILMS!...FOOD!...FUN! at LUNAFEST**  
**Saturday, April 25, 5:00 pm**  
**The Center Stage Theater**  
**1665 Quincy Avenue, Suite 131, Naperville, IL 60540**

We are very excited about the growth of our **LUNAFEST 2020**. Throughout January and February our list of local gift cards for the raffle has grown. In addition, our generous Branch members and local businesses have already begun to provide sponsorship funds in the amount of \$1300. Please consider contributing a gift card to make this an even more exciting raffle than 2019.

In March we are beginning our major publicity efforts: print media, Patch, Spingo, Facebook, our AAUW Branch website, the AAUW-IL calendar, and Arts DuPage. We will also be sending out all-branch emails to our Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch members to provide event and ticketing information. Please forward these emails to friends and family who you think would love to join us on April 25 for films, food, and fun. Please contact us if you would like a 5" x 7" or 8 1/2" x 11" poster.

### Tickets

- \$35. Due to all this publicity, tickets will begin to sell quickly. We urge you to buy your tickets early so you do not hear the sad refrain, *We are all sold out.*
- Sold at the March and April Branch meetings, *Eventbrite* or by contacting Suzanne at 630.877.5589 or Ruth 630.690.8758. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lunafest-naperville-il-tickets-84074383745>

***At the 2020 LUNAFEST, we will be accepting donations of feminine hygiene products that will be distributed to PADS and local women's shelters.***

## 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 Branch Book Groups

*She read books as one would breathe air, to fill up and live.*

Annie Dillard

### AM Lit

**Jean Lindsey**

*jeanlindsey15@comcast.net*

Join us on March 6, to discuss Richard Power's highly acclaimed novel, *The Overstory*. We will meet at the home of Eleanor Saliamonas. Members will gather at 9:30 am to enjoy the discussion led by Mary Sue Brown and the refreshments supplied by Janet Arden and Carolyn Oesterle.

*The Overstory* won the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction and was chosen the Amazon Book of the Year in Literature and Fiction. The Guardian described it as *an extraordinary novel...and astonishing performance. It's exhilarating to read a novel whose context is wider than human life*

Please let Eleanor know if you plan to attend. Her email: *ebsaliamonas@gmail.com*, her phone, 630.858.3486.

Looking Ahead: In April we will discuss *The Lake is on Fire* by Rosellen Brown at Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann's home. Susan Levy-Creed is our discussion leader as well as a co-hostess along with Suzanne Gagner.

### PM Lit

**Phyllis Fogel**

*prfogel@live.com*

PM Lit meets Monday, March 16 at 7:00 pm to discuss *Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver. It follows two families living in the same house at two separate time periods in Vineland New Jersey. The novel alternates between the 21<sup>st</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries' stories using the last words of one chapter as the title of the next one.

Lisa Cherry is our discussion leader. We meet at the home of Allene Harding who will also provide the refreshments. Please let Allene know if you are attending by email at *abharding@sbcglobal.net* or by phone at 630.665.1123.

Looking ahead: April 20, *North of Dawn* by Nurddin Farah. Discussion leader and hostess TBD.

### PM Non Fiction

**Ewa Bacon**

*baconew@lewisu.edu*

We are meeting on March 25 at 7:00 pm at Margaret McGrath's to discuss Jason Fagone's lively tale of *The Woman Who Smashed Codes: A True Story of Love, Spies, and the Unlikely Heroine Who Outwitted America's Enemies*. Karen Schultz will lead us in examining the improbable history of Colonel Fabyan's research lab in Geneva, Illinois, devoted in part to finding the secret code in a Shakespeare Folio which would reveal its true author. Young Elizebeth Smith wanders into this improbable scenario in 1916 and learns how to break codes. With paper and pencil as well as an aptitude for the work, Elizebeth engages in work against smugglers, gangsters, organized crime, foreign armies and fascism. Over a 30 year career, adventures ensue!

Please let Margaret know if you plan to come.

**\*\*\*\*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.\*\*\*\***



A quick note from me, letting you know that the four high school counselors will be notified of our scholarship opportunity. They will be able to choose a worthy recipient who has had financial need, perhaps considerable family issues, and who is planning to attend a four year college after College of DuPage. Our Branch board leadership approved scholarships in the amount of \$2000 for each recipient. Good for us!

### **Branch Scholarships at Work**

Over the years, the Wheaton -Glen Ellyn Branch has contributed nearly \$500,000 to scholarships and fellowships. This is something for which we can feel great pride.

If you would like to know how these funds are being distributed and to whom, you can go to the AAUW website – [https://www.aauw.org/aauw\\_check/fellowships\\_directory/#fndXXXX](https://www.aauw.org/aauw_check/fellowships_directory/#fndXXXX), Insert in place of XXXX, the number of one of the funds below, and you will see the recipients and projects for which these funds were used. Each year, a committee at AAUW reviews applications for assistance and recommends recipients for AAUW Board of Directors approval.

These funds become active upon completion, meaning there are no payouts prior to becoming active (although interest does accrue).

#### **AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch Funds:**

- 1413—Wheaton Glen Ellyn American Fellowship      \$100,000 level, completed 1987.
- 1704—Wheaton Glen Ellyn Research and Projects Grant      \$35,000 level, completed 1992.
- 1814—Edith Back Research & Projects Grant      \$35,000 level, completed 2008.
- 4067—Jackie DeFazio American Fellowship      \$100,000 level, completed 2002.
- 4193—Helen Westlake Research & Projects Grant      \$35,000 level.
- 4317—Maureen E. Becker Research & Projects Grant      \$90,000, completed April 2008.
- 4318—Marjorie Robinson/Katharine Storm Research & Projects Grant      \$75,000, completed 2014.

***Thanks to Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann for her research assistance.***

### **Save the Date for the Spring Banquet**

**Monday, May 18  
Adelle's in Wheaton**

**Social time with cash bar: 5:30 pm  
Dinner: 6:15 pm**

**Complete details with menu choices and reservation information  
will be in the April issue of *Twigs*.**



February 5, 2020

AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn (IL) Branch  
c/o Elaine Nissen  
2S763 Lakeside Dr  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-7904

Dear AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn (IL) Branch Members,

Thank you for your contribution to AAUW. Your support will help us to create a future where all women have access to bias-free educations, fair pay and the careers of their dreams.

Because of you, we've made steady strides toward equity. In the past year alone, AAUW has trained more than 102,000 women to negotiate for the salaries they deserve, helped 11 states pass fair-pay laws, and expanded our Empower leadership workshops to Atlanta, Chicago, San Francisco and other cities.

But as long as one woman is denied equal pay or opportunities because of her gender, our work isn't done. At this critical time for women, we'll keep pushing for stronger equity laws and fight to protect women through Title IX from harassment and unequal educations. We'll act to get more women into the high-paying STEM jobs of the future, while lightening the crushing burden of student loan debt. And we'll train millions more women to be their own strongest advocates at the negotiating table.

Your investment will enable us to build on the progress we've made to realize a fairer future for the next generation. Together, we are making a real difference in the lives of women and girls.

Again, thank you very much for your generous gift. We cannot do this important work without you.

Most sincerely,

Kendra L. Davis  
Senior Vice President, Advancement and Partnerships

*AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn  
Members ~*

*Thank you so much for  
this lovely gift to our  
greatest needs fund. This  
generous contribution helps us  
respond rapidly & effectively  
to emerging gender equity  
issues & 2020 will present  
many, I am certain! We are so  
grateful that you stand with  
us as we fight for equity  
for all! THANK YOU AGAIN!*

Your branch gift of \$2,500.00 on 12/16/2019 supported:

\$2,500.00 to 9110-AAUW Greatest Needs Fund

Questions or concerns? Please email [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org).



As an organization, AAUW has a strong online presence with national, state and branch web pages, Facebook pages, and a national Twitter account. But did you know that some of our Branch members are bloggers?

What is a blog? The term *blog* is short for *weblog*, which refers to an online journal. People use blogs to record their opinions, stories, and other writings as well as photos and videos. Some blogs are private (no ads) and others are sponsored. The writer of a blog with sponsors gets paid per impression or per click. Paid per impression means that the blogger receives income from posting the ad on the blog and the viewer does not have to click on the ad in order for the blogger to receive an income.

Private blogs are typically those used by people to record and remember their lives. They share their thoughts with extended family and friends. There are also marketing blogs where business owners offer ideas that may engage their audience in the services or products they are selling.

We are aware of three blogging Branch members – details follow. If there are others out there, let us know and post a link to your blog on the Branch Facebook page. We'd love to hear from you!

Many of you know **Winifred Creamer**, retired NIU archaeologist. Since retirement, she and her husband have been traveling the world and Winifred shares her experiences through her travel blog. When we asked Winifred if we could mention her blog in Twigs, she said, *Absolutely! I am always happy to share, and I think that writing a blog is a great way to remember experiences big and small. My blog should be accessible as llywindatravels.com without any signup, though it's possible to subscribe. (I know some people don't like to provide personal information in order to see a website.)*. You can also find her blog through Facebook by friending her or searching for: *Llywinda Treasures*.

Co-President **Janet Arden's** blog, *Ivy and Ironstone* is a friendly, personal journal touching on thoughts and themes from daily life. It has *tags* for topics such as books, cooking, family, politics. Here is a link to her most recent posting: *ivyandironstone* (January 30, 2020).

We also have a member with a marketing blog. **Laurie Swanson Oberhelman** is a business owner specializing in career counseling and job placement in tech industries. Her most recent blog encourages women to think about their career identity. Here is the link: <https://inspihertech.com/what-is-your-career-identity/>. You can subscribe to the *InspireHERtech* blog on the website [www.inspiHERtech.com](http://www.inspiHERtech.com).

Finally, Facebook offers informal opportunities for mini-blogs since you can easily post thoughts and ask for comments. You can also blog by posting travel photos. A few months ago, member **Jan Radil** posted pictures and commentary from her tour of the *Seven Stans* (those former Soviet countries whose names all end in *stan*). Fascinating! She is now touring Antarctica and we hope she will share her photos and thoughts when she returns.

Don't forget to visit the AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch Facebook page and the AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Used Book Sale page. Please *Like Us!*

# Regional Convention



**The 2020 AAUW 13-State Regional Convention!**  
**June 18-20, 2020**  
**At Hyatt House Hotel in East Moline**

## REGISTRATION

**On-line registration:**      **Opens February 15 at [aauw-il.net](http://aauw-il.net)**

**Early Bird Registration** (before May 15):      **\$175**

**Regular Registration** after May 15):      **\$225**

*\*Registration includes lunches on Thursday & Friday, and dinner on Thursday.*

**Optional Riverboat Cruise Dinner:**      **\$50.95**

Friday evening aboard the Celebration Belle

## HOTEL RESERVATIONS

### **The Hyatt House Hotel in East Moline**

Hotel rooms are \$127. Reserve rooms with either two queens or one king, both include a sofa sleeper; rate includes taxes and full breakfast.

*\*Use link on registration form to make hotel reservation.*

## SPEAKERS

[Kim Churches](#)

CEO of AAUW

[Kendra Davis](#)

Senior Vice President Advancement & Partnerships, AAUW

[Lisa Maatz](#)

Former VP Government Relations, AAUW

[Denise Lieberman](#)

Director, Advancement Project's Power and Democracy Program

[Dr. Angie Maxwell](#)

Director of the Diane Blair Center of Southern Politics and Society, University of Arkansas

[Michelle Duster](#)

Award-winning author and great-granddaughter of Ida B. Wells

**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.



### The Twigs Team

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

*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!*