



Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP

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

# Twigs

May 2020

## A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

Last month seems like a year ago. So much has happened in a short amount of time, it is difficult to keep track. There is no question we are living in unprecedented times and planning has become difficult if not impossible as change occurs at warp speed. Hopefully, the shelter in place order is reducing the spread of the virus and keeping all of us safe. However, our daily activities have been upended in many ways.

With the closure of restaurants, it will not be possible for us to hold our May banquet and installation of our new officers. Our board of directors will meet via a Zoom conference at its regular time on May 13, and we will hold a remote installation of officers – the first of its kind in our history?

Hopefully in the fall the situation will be more conducive to a celebratory meeting for our new Co-Vice Presidents of Membership and our new Treasurer and their committees. We are grateful to Jean Lindsey, Nancy Possinger, and Maureen Sheehan for their interest in joining the executive team and board and are excited to add them to the team.

We are grateful to Karen Schulz for her leadership as Vice President of Membership and look forward to her contributions in other areas of our Branch. And of course, we mourn the passing of Elaine Nissen and her service to our Branch.

Some of our interest groups have found alternatives to their normal meetings and we encourage our interest group leaders to continue to coordinate with their members on how best to schedule or reschedule their upcoming meetings. We will continue to coordinate with the state and national directives on holding events like LunaFest and our Book Sale and participation in the Fourth of July parade. When those chairwomen have new information, we will update you.

Until we can safely meet in person, we send each and every one of you our thoughts and prayers for your health and safety and ask that you stay in touch with us and each other as our fellowship and mission is even more important at this moment.



*Donna Jean and Janet*

## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Information
May 1	AM Lit	9:30 am	Zoom meeting.
May 6-9	Book Sale		Postponed.
May 8	Film Group	7:00 pm	Cancelled.
May 11	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Cancelled, possible Zoom meeting.
May 13	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Zoom meeting.
May 27	PM Non Fiction	7:00 pm	Zoom meeting.



### Membership

**Karen Schulz**

*okschulz@aol.com*

With the statewide stay-at-home directive, it is a good time to reflect on our mission statement: *To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.* This gives us the opportunity to reach out to our family and friends and share our mission with them. When it is again safe to congregate, we could invite them to come and enjoy the warmth and special friendships we have developed within our Branch. Any new members joining at our next Branch meeting or at any other public event would qualify for the special discounted price of \$58.50, otherwise the yearly membership is \$88.00. Both are tax deductible. Current membership is 137.



### Treasury

**Maureen Sheehan**

*maureenjsheehan@aol.com*

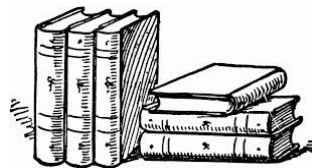
#### **DUES RENEWAL 2020**

***AAUW National has changed their dues processing policies/procedures and will no longer accept dues checks from the branches.*** Our Branch will still accept checks, but in such cases, we are expected to pay AAUW National their portion of the dues via debit card. ***We are asking you to pay your dues online, if at all possible, to expedite the process on our end.*** Please look for an All Branch email that will be coming to you soon with further details.

#### **REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS FOR 2019-20 EXPENSES**

The end of fiscal year 2019-20 is approaching. Please submit any check requests for expenses to me by June 10 at the latest. The 2019-20 revenue and expenses will be used to generate a preliminary 2020-2021 budget for the annual budget meeting. Reimbursement requests should be mailed or dropped off to me.

## Our Branch Fundraising Activities



### Book Sale

**Ewa Bacon**

*baconew@lewisu.edu*

We have a book sale-in-waiting! The locker is almost full. The book sale machinery is ready to start, but of course, we cannot hold our fundraiser in May. We are planning for events after the current lock down. It may be possible to re-schedule for October. We will only do so if it is safe for our book sale workers and customers.

Please note: we are NOT collecting books rights now. Both of our community collecting sites (the Glen Ellyn and Wheaton RE/MAX offices) are closed and not accepting books. We may start collecting again at the end of the summer. The uncertainty is galling, but so is the pandemic!

### LUNAFEST

**Suzanne Gagner**

*petalpower1@yahoo.com*

**SAVE OUR NEW DATE  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2020  
FILMS & FUN & FOOD**

**Saturday, 5:00 pm, September 12, The Center Stage Theater, 1665 Quincy Avenue, Suite 131, Naperville, IL**

**Tickets:** We will communicate with all ticket holders to determine if they would like their ticket to transfer to the September 12 date or if they would like a refund. Please check your calendar to see if this new date is convenient for you. We will continue to sell tickets for **LUNAFEST** for the September 12 date. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Suzanne at 630.877.5589 or Ruth 630.690.8758.

**Team LUNA:** We would like to thank the generous AAUW members who have provided sponsorship money and gift certificates to make **LUNAFEST 2020** an exciting evening. These certificates and sponsorship monies will be held for the September event.

**Note:** At our **2020 LUNAFEST** we will be accepting donations of feminine hygiene products for *Go With The Flow*, a local nonprofit that is dedicated to providing dignity to women and girls experiencing homelessness or living in financial crisis.

Stay Home and Stay Safe.



I hope everyone is remaining healthy, socially distanced, and keeping their sanity. EOF is pretty quiet right now, since the schools have been canceled for so long. I had contacted the counselors early in January, but have been unable to reach anyone or follow through. In spite of our fundraisers being postponed, we do have the money to offer scholarships this year, but it will depend on the counselors having access to student files, etc. Like the rest of us, I will await a possible reopening of school in Wheaton and Glen Ellyn and then see what we are able to do. Hopefully, the seniors are completing their coursework and finalizing college plans. Sorry to not have more specifics for you.

**Our Branch Scholarships at Work**  
**Donna Jean Simon**

Two of our scholarships helped fund an American Fellowship for Rosemary Guzman who spoke at one of our recent holiday banquets. You may remember how engaging her talk was on mathematical concepts that were way beyond many of us and yet she made her talk interesting, enlightening, and understandable despite her difficult field of study.



<b>Name:</b>	<b>Rosemary Guzman</b>
<b>Award Year:</b>	2017-18
<b>Award:</b>	American Fellowship
<b>Institution:</b>	University of Chicago
<b>Location:</b>	Chicago, Illinois
<b>Discipline:</b>	Mathematics
<b>Degree and Specialization:</b>	Postdoctoral, Low-dimensional topology, hyperbolic geometry, geometric group theory
<b>Project Name:</b>	<i>On Free Subgroups of Hyperbolic 3-Manifold Groups and the Quantitative Geometry of Hyperbolic 3-Manifolds</i>

Within the topology area of mathematics, Rosemary Guzman, Ph.D., focuses on hyperbolic 3-manifolds. Her work focuses on improving known volume bounds on a class of these mathematical objects and investigating further their geometric-topological interplay, especially on the level of geometric group theory. She also advocates for mentoring and more opportunities for underrepresented groups in STEM. She hopes to obtain a tenure-track position.

**Sponsors:**

1108 - May Harmon Rumney—Memorial  
1413 - Wheaton-Glen Ellyn (IL) Branch  
4067 - Jackie DeFazio



## Our Branch Book Groups

*Reading was my escape and my comfort, my consolation, my stimulant of choice and reading for the beautiful stillness that surrounds you when you hear an author's words reverberating in your head.*

Paul Auster, American writer and film director

### **AM Lit**

**Jean Lindsey**

*jeanlindsey15@comcast.net*

As we forge through the second month of our brave new world, the May AM Lit meeting will be another Zoom affair. We will discuss *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones, described as an *immensely readable novel, packed with ideas and emotion, which centers on an appalling miscarriage of justice.*

Karen Bondy will lead the discussion on May 1 at 9:30 am. If you would like to participate, please email me in advance and I will email the access code needed to join the Zoom group on May 1 at 9:15 am. It worked very well last month and 17 members participated in a good discussion of not only COVID-19, but *The Lake is on Fire*.

The book selection meeting is scheduled for June 5; please send your annotated novel suggestions to me by May 22. Please keep the description to a few sentences. We will discuss at the May meeting if we could do the selection in a Zoom meeting or by email or if we should wait and vote in September.

### **PM Lit**

**Phyllis Fogel**

*prfogel@live.com*

PM Lit was scheduled to meet on Monday, May 11 to discuss the book *Circe* by Madeline Miller but it is cancelled for now. This novel makes the gods, nymphs, and heroes of Ancient Greece come alive. It is the story of a famous goddess who had the magic of transformations. There is a possibility of using Zoom but that is yet to be determined. If it is a go, Jane Palmer will be the discussion leader.

One thing that is for certain, it is that time of year for our recommendations for next year's (which starts in July) book selections. Please send to Susie Gullickson at *gullicksonsusan@comcast.net*. It should include the title, author, date of publication, number of pages, and a few sentences to intrigue us enough into wanting to read it. Please no more than two or three suggestions. Deadline is June 1.

Upcoming is our Potluck and Book Selection Night on Monday, June 15. Hopefully it will occur!

### **AM Non-Fiction**

**Sue Herrmann**

*sherrmann710@gmail.com*

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 24 to discuss *The Pioneers* by David McCullough. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have not met since February 26. At this point, we do not have a site, host or discussion leader for *The Pioneers* book. I do not know when the Glen Ellyn Public Library will be open to check out books. My thought at this point is to see what happens in the next few weeks. If we cannot get together on June 24, but would like to discuss the book together, we can use the Zoom application as our mode of communication. Please watch for an email from me by late May for further information. Stay well and at home!

## Our Branch Book Groups continued

### PM Non Fiction

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

Fasten those seatbelts as we try to maneuver our way forward through our schedule of non-fiction books. Since we do not have access to the Glen Ellyn Library's excellent lending services for book clubs, our published book selections will be pushed into next year. Instead I have honed-in on one of our favorite authors, Erik Larson, and his new book *The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance during the Blitz*. There are a number of Branch members who saw Larson locally at a book talk and also got a copy of the book. It is readily available on Amazon as hard copy and Kindle. You might check if you could order it at The Book Store in Glen Ellyn.

This book is a nail-biter! We of course know how the story will end, but Larson shows us the tension, the decisions taken as the 1940 crisis takes place. We, the reader, forget we know the general outline of how it ends and, in this book, we live through the crisis and experience it day by day.

But how to meet? There are TWO options available to you:

1. We will have a ZOOM online, interactive meeting on our scheduled meeting date: May 27 at 7:00 pm. Jean Lindsey has kindly agreed to set up the Zoom meeting; in order to participate, please download the Zoom app. Please send Jean your email ([jeanlindsey15@comcast.net](mailto:jeanlindsey15@comcast.net)) so that she can send you an invitation to the Zoom meeting. AM-Lit tried this with good results!
2. If you do not wish to engage in an online discussion, are unavailable that day/hour, prefer not to download yet another application, I will host a PM-Non Fiction meeting at my home on July 22 at 7:00 pm to discuss the same book, Larson's *The Splendid and the Vile*. This is on the assumption that we are once again able to gather in small groups! Do both? Sure. There is plenty to talk about.

Please get in touch with me if you have further questions. Remember that in order to participate in the Zoom meeting, Jean Lindsey will need your email address. Be well!

**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.





**Vote by May 18 in the AAUW National Election:** We are being asked to vote on four candidates to join AAUW's 15-person board of directors. You can read more about them and the election on the *National Election* page: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/> of the newly redesigned website. All the information you need to cast your ballot has been provided in an email you were sent in early April (*mine arrived April 8*). Can't find yours? Ask questions at [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org).

**Vote in the AAUW-IL Election:** Your emailed April AAUW-IL newsletter contains *Illinois LINK*. It has vital information about voting (*mine arrived April 10*). After May 9, you will receive an emailed ballot. Cannot find your AAUW-IL April newsletter? Contact me. Our own Laura Desmarais is on the slate of officers. We deeply appreciate Laura for her willingness to serve as AAUW Funds Director. *Let's make some Branch noise with a 137 all members-strong vote!*

**Message from Tracey Sherman-Falcon, AAUW-IL Public Policy Co-Director:** I asked Tracey how far the Illinois State Legislature activity advanced on the current 2020 AAUW-IL Public Policy goals: (1) Repeal of the Parental Notification Act; (2) A comprehensive re-write of the Illinois Sex Education Law, and (3) Women's Equity Legislation.

Her reply: *Nothing happened before session ended on March 5. Maybe those bills will come up during veto...IF we have veto (session). Jenni Perdue (AAUW Lobbyist) does not think any of them will take place during whatever truncated session we will end up having to pass a budget before June 30 this year. So, legislation is frozen/stuck right now. Hopefully our legislative priorities will be addressed in 2021. Hopefully we will have session next year . . .*

## AAUW National Has a New Website

On April 10, AAUW-National introduced its' new website. The team spent a year analyzing how the website had been used by members and visitors, researching best practices, and developing innovations that would enhance the site and provide easy access. The website is AA rated ADA compliant and is visually appealing and easier to navigate.

The previous website was 12 years old and had 15,000 pages (*yes, that is the correct number*) of content, much of which had not been viewed in a long time. The current website has 250 well organized pages which highlight AAUW as a thought leader in women's issues through its reports, and leadership on fellowships and scholarships. The focus is on story-telling and graphics that show rather than tell about key concepts. The use of optimization has also been enhanced. The intent is to be relevant, inclusive, and high impact.

Through *Explore the Issues*, the three pillars are described and users are directed to updated research and resources for engaging with the issues. There is a specific section on *Fellowships and Grants* for those who are looking for this resource. And there is a section on *Governance*, which provides branch resources and tool kits, programming ideas, and the history of AAUW.

Check out the new website at [AAUW.org](http://AAUW.org) and see what new information you can find in this first phase. The second phase will happen in the fall and will include templates for branch websites, branding ideas, and how to link branches to the national website and vice versa.

## The Twigs Team

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

*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!*

