



Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP

wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net

Twigs

April 2020

A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

This issue of Twigs was delayed in order for us to catch up to the quickly changing current events. As we noted in our All-Branch email, in compliance with AAUW-IL directives, all of our meetings in the near future have been cancelled. However, plans are under consideration to reschedule them to a time when life is more normal. Thanks to the committee chairs and interest group chairs for their communications to members and willingness to adapt their plans to the ongoing situation.

This current health crisis reinforces how important the AAUW mission is to women and girls in our society. Safety nets are not as strong as they need to be for working mothers and women in the work place. It is clear that we need to continue our support for economic security (to achieve pay equity by 2030), education & training (to ensure that education at every level is free from discrimination), and leadership advancement for women in all aspects of society. March 30 is Equal Pay Day, when white women catch up to the pay that men have earned in the past year. For every dollar men earn in our country, women earn about 80 cents. For our sisters of color, the catch up time is even greater – not until summer (see the accompanying article).

All of our programs, fund raising, and mission activities are enhanced by our commitments to each other and the community that we create among each other. During this challenging time, it is wonderful to know that we have so many friends, sisters, and colleagues on whom we can depend for support, encouragement, and love.

Stay Well and Stay Safe!

Donna Jean & Janet



Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Information
April 1	Branch Meeting Book Sale Potluck Dinner	6:30 pm	CANCELLED
April 2	Spice Routes	6 :00 pm	CANCELLED
April 3	AM Lit	9:30 am	CANCELLED
April 8	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	CANCELLED
April 11	Film Group	7:00 pm	CANCELLED
April 20	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Laura Desmarais, TO BE DETERMINED
April 25	LunaFest	5:00pm	RESCHEDULED TO SEPTEMBER
May 18	Spring Banquet	5:30 pm	Adelle's in Wheaton. TO BE DETERMINED

All Branch Emails Karen Bondy

During this time, just as in the world at large, Branch activities, postponements and cancellations are fluid. Please check your email for Branch updates. They will be sent by Karen Bondy; the email address is: whgeAAUW@aol.com

Please make certain this email address is in your contacts folder so that emails do not go to spam. We will do our best to communicate effectively and efficiently with our membership. Thanks for your understanding.



Membership

Karen Schulz

okschulz@aol.com

Election of Officers

Congratulations to our new officers who were elected unanimously via email vote in lieu of our April meeting. We appreciate them taking on this new responsibility and look forward to working with them.

2020-2022 Elected Officers

Co-Vice Presidents,

Membership: Jean Lindsey
Nancy Possinger

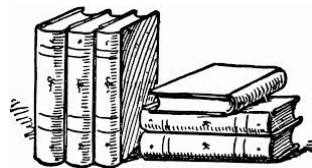
Treasurer: Maureen Sheehan

A big thanks goes out to the committee members, Jean Lindsey and Nancy Possinger, who worked along with me on developing the slate of candidates. Also, thanks to the people who have volunteered to serve on the committees to assist the elected officers (see the committees listed next month).

Directory Update:

Anne Kryger's phone number is: 630.533.1959

Our Branch Fundraising Activities



Book Sale

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

Not only will there not be a May running of the Kentucky Derby, there will NOT be a May AAUW Book Sale, either! We are, of course, responding to the overwhelming wave of the pandemic. Since we are not having the Book Sale, we are also not having one of those wonderful potlucks either (April 1). Perhaps one shouldn't schedule on April Fools' Day?

What is next? We are talking about it. We have the many thousands of books, of course, and more are trickling in. We certainly do not need to request book drives, but in a normal year, donations accumulate through April. So be it.

Stay tuned: A Fall Book Sale? It is possible. Now we get to deal with strategy, logistics, and tactics. Sounds like a war...we will certainly look for a best possible outcome.

LUNAFEST

Suzanne Gagner

petalpower1@yahoo.com

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

To protect our **LUNAFEST** guests, AAUW is honoring the CDC recommendation that events in excess of 50 people be postponed for eight weeks. We are fortunate that Center Stage Theater and LUNA Corporation have worked with us to create a new date of Saturday, September 12, 2020 for **LUNAFEST**.

Saturday, September 12 * 5:00 pm * The Center Stage Theater * 1665 Quincy Avenue, Suite 131 * Naperville, IL 60540

Tickets: We will be communicating 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 accept donations of feminine hygiene products for *Go With The Flow!* - a local not-for-profit that is dedicated to providing dignity to women and girls experiencing homelessness or living in financial crisis.



Public Policy

Patricia Spence

pspence101@aol.com

Springfield Update: AAUW-IL Public Policy leaders and lobbyist, Jenni Purdue, are monitoring the progress of 59 bills, in particular, before the Illinois State Legislature. Currently, AAUW-IL supports 50 and opposes nine. Please email me if you want to receive a copy of the list.

ERA Update: *You can play a part in moving the ERA to a vote in the United States Senate.* According to AJ Conroy (ERA Illinois and AAUW Chicago, Inc.) the next step to pass the ERA is to make sure that the ERA comes to a vote in the Senate. Competitive races that will determine the control of the Senate exist in Arizona, Colorado, Maine, North Carolina, Georgia, Missouri, Kentucky and Iowa. If allowing a vote on the ERA becomes a campaign issue in these eight states, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and current party leadership may feel compelled to allow a vote to remove the time limit on ERA passage. AJ asks all of us to reach out to family and friends in these states. Encourage them to advocate for the ERA via candidate forums, phone calls to Senators, letters to the editor, etc. Details and more ideas are located at www.eraillinois.org/resources.



AAUW Online

Jane Palmer & Patricia Spence

jfpalmer@comcast.net pspence101@aol.com

The AAUW Online team has been busy this month with several postings on the Facebook page. Also, January and February AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Board minutes and financial reports were recently posted on the *Members Only* page of the website.

The coming months will be quiet for our normally busy AAUW members. The good thing is that we have so much technology to get us through this. I imagine we will all be spending time streaming movies and TV shows and downloading movies. But we should also think about reaching out to each other more frequently. Yes – post pictures and comments on Facebook. But also use your phone to check in with friends and families. Better yet, use the Facetime and Skype features to actually see them. Personally, I often avoid Facetime because *I look so old* but we used it last night to call our granddaughter and it warmed my heart so much to see her *in person*.

Finally, go old school – start a journal to chronicle life in isolation (brief, I hope). Maybe no one will ever read it but you – but if you are writing down your daily thoughts and activities, you may be prompted to be more productive.



Film Group

Anne Hanley

ahanley@mindspring.com

In this age of COVID-19, we cannot meet for our next planned Film Group gathering, Saturday, April 11. Thank you to Kitty for volunteering to host the April meeting and to all the wonderful, gracious, welcoming hosts this year: Jean Lindsey, Barb Roos, Susie Gullickson, Diane Serb, Ewa Bacon, and Peggy Connolly. I look forward to getting our group back together when it is safe to go back to the movies. Stay safe, be well.



Our Branch Book Groups

*One glance at a book and you hear the voice of another person, perhaps someone dead for 1,000 years.
To read is to voyage through time. Carl Sagan*

AM Lit

Jean Lindsey

jeanlindsey15@comcast.net

Obviously, there is no upside to a pandemic, but is not reading one remedy which helps? Now more than ever, that stack of books next to my bed will be my antidote to the real world. I am ready to escape, and it is only week one. Perhaps we could share titles; I am currently reading *The Giver of Stars* and would recommend it.

Unfortunately, on April 3, AM Lit will **NOT** meet to discuss Rosellen Brown's *The Lake on Fire*. Described as a *remarkable feat of imagination, recreation and literary craft*, this superb novel is set in turn-of-the-century Chicago, this novel is both *compulsively readable and entirely free of the taint of sentimentality*. Perhaps we will schedule it for next year.

Looking Ahead: On May 1, we are supposed to discuss *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones. It doesn't look promising at this time.

Looking Even Further Ahead: June 5 is the scheduled date for our annual book selection potluck. This too is in limbo, but now we have ample opportunity to start reading novels which could be recommended for next year's slate. Start a list as the more novels we have to choose from, the stronger our selections will be. Book suggestion deadline will be May 21. More information in next month's newsletter.

PM Lit

Phyllis Fogel

prfogel@live.com

PM Lit meets Monday, April 20 at 7:00 pm to discuss *North of Dawn* by Nurddin Farah. For decades, Gacalo and Mugdi have lived in Oslo where they have led a peaceful life and raised two children. But that peace is shattered when their son returns to Somalia to become a suicide bomber who kills many people. A haven is offered to his family, but their daughter-in-law becomes more religious and the grandchildren hunger for the freedoms of their new homeland.

Susie Gullickson will lead the discussion of this provocative and nuanced novel. We gather at the home of Laura Desmarais. Please do let Laura know if you are attending by email at lkdesmarais@gmail.com or by phone at 630.854.2730.

Looking Ahead: May 11, *Circe* by Madeline Miller, discussion leader is Jane Palmer and hostess is Susie Gullickson.

AM Non-Fiction

Sue Herrmann

sherrmann710@gmail.com

Our next meeting on April 22 at 10:00 am, is cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We can decide if we wish to discuss *Influenza* by Dr. Jeremy Brown at a later time or next year. Thus, we will not be meeting at Carolyn Oesterle's home. Stay well and see you all on June 24!

Spring Banquet Karen Bondy



The AAUW spring celebration dinner was scheduled to be held Monday, May 18, at Adelle's in Wheaton. Price for dinner was being negotiated at around \$41 a person to include salad, entrée and dessert. A cash bar was planned to begin at 5:30 pm followed by dinner at 6:15 pm.

At press time for this issue of *Twigs*, none of this is confirmed. Many group gatherings, particularly food gatherings, are being postponed. Restaurants are closed.

Watch your email for updates on the Spring Banquet and for All AAUW Branch news bulletins.

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.



Cultural Arts Frida Kahlo Tour College of DuPage Janet Arden



The College of DuPage is hosting an extraordinary collection of 26 pieces of artist Frida Kahlo's work this summer (June 1 to August 31) and the Branch has arranged for a docent-led tour of the exhibit on Wednesday morning, June 10 at 10:00 am. We have a total of 40 tickets. Cost is \$25.00 per ticket for adults; \$23.00 for seniors.

Many of you signed up at the March Branch meeting, however there is still room for more. Please email Janet Arden, janarden@icloud.com to reserve your space. To learn more about the exhibit, please go to <https://theccma.org/frida-kahlo>

Results from our Last Survey

Janet Arden

Thirty-eight members responded to our last survey. Statistically this is an excellent response rate, so many thanks to all of you who took the time to answer our questions. Here's a summary of your responses:

1. How often do you attend AAUW monthly Branch meetings?
 - 41% attend most meetings;
 - 34% attend 2-4 meetings and
 - 21% do not attend Branch meetings.
2. Which AAUW interest groups do you regularly attend,
 - 20% indicated they attend AM Lit,
 - 20% indicated Film Group.
 - Attendance in other groups was fairly evenly distributed, however a number of respondents noted in comments that they do not attend any interest groups. Regrettably, the format of this question did not allow for multiple responses from one person, but those were captured in comments and in a second survey question asked later.
3. Do you plan to attend LUNAFEST?
 - 58% said yes;
 - 42% said no.
4. Do you plan to volunteer for the Book Sale?
 - 62% said they planned to volunteer at the sale;
 - 13% said they would not participate in the sale;
 - 3% would pick up donations and
 - 2% would sort books at the locker.
5. What is your ideal Branch meeting time?
 - 59% indicated a preference for Wednesday evenings;
 - 10% preferred Saturday mornings and
 - 29% indicated other, often defined in comments as a mix of times.
6. What is your ideal Branch program?
 - 68% overwhelmingly described as educational, although
 - 13% indicated interactive or a workshop and
 - 8% preferred a mostly social event with short programming such as the Winter Banquet.
7. A number of you indicated an interest in participating in the Branch in a particular area. To the extent that this is possible, leadership will be reaching out to you in the next few months.
8. We asked for additional comments, the majority of which were complimentary to current leadership. We are grateful for your thoughts and clarifications and look forward to incorporating them into future planning.

**Glen Ellyn Fourth of July Parade
Save the Date!
Nancy Daly**

I am woman, hear me roar

In numbers too big to ignore

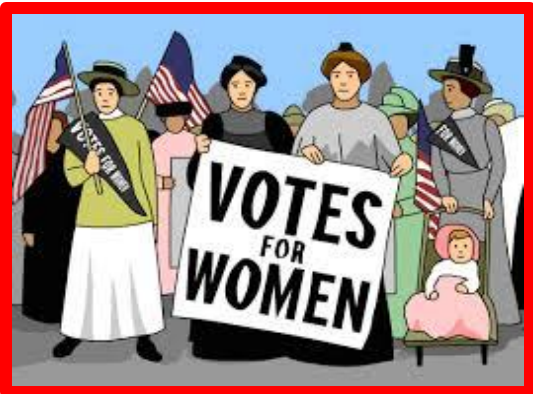
And I know too much to go back an' pretend

Cause I've heard it all before

And I've been down there on the floor

No one's ever gonna keep me down again

Helen Reddy said it well in 1971!



To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Women's right to vote we are planning to march in the Glen Ellyn July 4 parade. We are planning to wear white clothes with lavender sashes as our foremothers did. Given that July 4 is usually hot and sunny, we are going to have umbrellas available for sale. These will have the AAUW name on them to further our recognition in the community. We will coordinate with our sisters in the League of Women Voters. Further information will be made available in Twigs. Please save the date!

Let's make the words of Helen Reddy's song a reality. She sang

I am woman watch me grow

See me standing toe to toe

As I spread my lovin' arms across the land!

Equal Pay Day

Donna Jean Simon

Equal Pay Day was started in order to highlight that there is a gap between what women earn and what men earn in our society. This year it is March 30; an improvement from previous years when it was April 5.

This gap occurs immediately after college. Studies have shown that a male college graduate in comparison with a woman college graduate from the same program with the same degree in the same job in the same company will likely earn 20 to 25% more than she will from the first day they start working. Since raises are based on percentages, this means that on a yearly basis, she will never catch up. Over a life time, this can result in a loss of earnings from \$500,000 to more than a \$1,000,000. This impacts a woman's ability to support her family, her ability to repay college debt, her social security and retirement benefits, and her ability to support herself in old age when she is likely to outlive her male counterpart.

In addition, women still have the burden by and large of family caregiving which impacts their ability to take on challenging assignments or travel that their male counterparts may not have. Studies have shown that men receive a benefit as a parent and yet for women, parenthood is seen as a deficit.

Many women take jobs in the service industries which, also in large part, pay less than jobs in the corporate world. While there has been some advancement in the last several years, the pay gap still exists. AAUW's Work Smart and Start Smart programs are designed to help women negotiate for better pay and benefits which will also help alleviate the pay gap. That is why one of the missions is to eliminate the pay gap by 2030.

Branch Scholarships

Donna Jean Simon

This month we highlight one of our scholarships which has been providing support to deserving women since 1987. See her resume below.

Wheaton-Glen Ellyn American Fellowship



Name:	Jelena Radovic-Fanta
Award Year:	2018-19
Award:	American Fellowship
Institution:	Governors State University
Location:	Chicago, Illinois
Discipline:	Anthropology and Archaeology
Degree and Specialization:	Publication Grant, Cultural Anthropology
Project Name:	Turning the Year Around: Uncertainty and Motherhood in Chile's Fruit Export Industry

Jelena Radovic-Fanta's work with Chilean women grape pickers examines how women navigate hazardous labor and seasonal unemployment in the agribusiness. Her work examines the role of motherhood and social relations as forms of endurance.

Sponsors:

1413 - Wheaton-Glen Ellyn, IL Branch
1001 - AAUW Bicentennial
4191 - Hinsdale, IL Branch

*I would like to acknowledge and thank
the other members of this team that make it all possible!*

The Twigs Team

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

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

