



Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP

wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net

Twigs

Summer 2020

A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

A Pandemic Cannot Stop Us!

How lucky we are to have members who think outside the box and are willing to improvise! On May 13, eighteen AAUW members participated in our first Zoom Board Meeting. Here are some key highlights:

- Maureen Sheehan has made the transition to Treasurer appear seamless. Losing Elaine Nissen when we did, eliminated any opportunity for a transition, but Maureen has graciously stepped in, coordinated all the appropriate changes with the bank and has our financial house in order. And if you have outstanding expenses, please turn them in to her.
- Ewa Bacon and Nancy Possinger have patiently rescheduled our Branch Used Book Sale for move-in on October 26. Our October Branch meeting will be the Book Sale Potluck Kickoff. Special thanks to Program Co-Vice President Frankie Robinson's help in coordinating this. See Ewa's additional Book Sale notes in this newsletter.
- Suzanne Gagner has been working with the LUNA company and Eventbrite to develop options for our postponed LUNAFEST. The Board voted unanimously to investigate a *Virtual LUNAFEST* on VIMEO (which is like YouTube). This option would eliminate concerns about social distancing and the availability of Center Stage Theater. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for more details from Suzanne.
- Susan Levy-Creed announced we have four College of DuPage scholarship winners! It turns out we have trained the schools well. They took the lead in contacting Susan!
- Just when you thought we could not do any more, we voted to pursue a new STEM program *Science on the Go* using *Little Labs* a.k.a. the *Free Little Libraries* in front yards in our communities. Credit goes to STEM Coordinator Fran Kravitz for finding a socially distant way for students to enjoy science. See Fran's article for more details and how you can help.

Congratulations! The Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch has been recognized by AAUW-Illinois as being Number Two in the state for Total Giving in 2019 and Number Ten in the state for Per Capita Giving in 2019. We look forward to celebrating these awards when we can once again meet in person.

As you know from earlier All-Branch emails, this has been a season of loss for AAUW. Elaine Nissen died in mid-March and Gail Davis died the first week in May. They leave a hole in our hearts as well as the Branch. We have included brief remembrances from friends in this Twigs. As is customary in the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, a \$50 gift in honor of each of them will be made to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund. We will notify their families of these gifts.

Finally, despite Zoom meetings, personal texts, emails and phone calls, the pandemic has interrupted the flow of conversation, support and affection we all get from AAUW. If you or someone you know needs a little extra support, please speak up. Quietly nudge another member or two to make a phone call or send an email. We really are all in this together!

Stay Safe & Stay Healthy!

Janet & Donna Jean

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Information
May 27	PM Non Fiction	7:00 pm	Zoom meeting (Jean Lindsey).
June	Cultural Arts Event Frida Kahlo Exhibit	Morning	Rescheduled to June 9, 2021 at College of DuPage.
June 5	AM Lit Book Selection	9:30 am	Zoom Meeting (Jean Lindsey).
June 10	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Zoom meeting.
June 24	AM Non Fiction	10:00 am	TBD.
July 10	AM Lit	9:30 am	Zoom meeting (Jean Lindsey).
July 22	PM Non Fiction	7:00 pm	Ewa Bacon's home.
Aug. 7	AM Lit	9:30 am	TBD.
Aug. 19	AM Non Fiction Book Selection	10:00 am	TBD.
Aug. 26	PM Non Fiction Book Selection	7:00 pm	Ewa Bacon's home.



Membership

Karen Schulz

okschulz@aol.com

While we are quarantined at home during the Covid-19 pandemic, we have plenty of time to think about the importance of the mission of AAUW. Although we are all looking forward to getting out and reuniting with others face to face, we can still share the pertinent vision with our family and friends. Any new members joining at our next Branch meeting or at any other public event will qualify for the special discounted price of \$58.50. Otherwise, the yearly membership is \$88.00. Both are tax deductible. Current membership is 135.

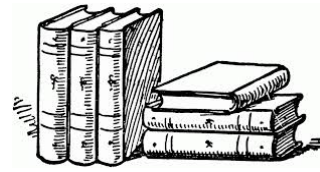
It has been my pleasure to serve as Membership Vice President of the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch for the past five years. As my term on the AAUW Branch Board draws to the end, the membership will continue to be well taken care of by two very friendly and gifted women:

Jean Lindsey: *jeanlindsey15@comcast.net*

Nancy Possinger: *nap101547@ameritech.net*

Please feel free to reach out to them with any membership concerns going forward. Thank You!

Our Branch Fundraising Activities



Book Sale

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

Just like the rest of you, I am scrambling to read a crystal ball to figure out what the next months will bring. The 2020 Book Sale may well be our first ever Fall event. Due to the popularity of our church venue, we have finally gotten a slot for the week of October 25, 2020. We have a locker full of pre-pandemic lock-down books which are ample for a robust sale though certainly smaller than 2019. As we get closer to the date, I will keep the Branch informed of developments.

LUNAFEST

Suzanne Gagner

petalpower1@yahoo.com

LUNAFEST 2020 - September 12, 2020

The uncertainty of the Covid-19 pandemic makes it difficult for all of us to plan for our future events. Both locally and nationally many major events for this fall are being cancelled. In light of this, the future of the 2020 LUNAFEST event is being evaluated.

Additional information will be provided by an AAUW All-Branch email.

Please Stay Home and Stay Safe.

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.





Dues Renewal 2020

You will be receiving an email soon regarding membership renewal and dues for the coming year. Using the link in this email simplifies the membership renewal process. 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.**

2019-20 Expenses

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

AAUW Illinois Recognizes the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch

***Number Two in the State for Total Giving in 2019**
***Number Ten in the State for Per Capita Giving in 2019**

Congratulations to Us!

Please see certificates at end of newsletter.



Cultural Arts Event
Frida Kahlo in 2021
Janet Arden

The College of DuPage has efficiently rescheduled the Frida Kahlo exhibit from June to August 2021. Our planned tour has been scheduled for Wednesday morning, June 9, 2021. (Additional details to follow in 2021.)



Well, Covid-19 Or Not, We Have Scholarship Winners!

I have heard from each of the four high schools and they have all had virtual meetings with the counseling department. They have contacted me with four deserving young women, complete with their plans for when they can resume their studies at College of DuPage.

From Glenbard West, Erma Obic:

In her own words, I will be attending College of DuPage as a first generation college student. My background impacts my daily life majorly. Both my parents came to the United States as refugees from war and have worked non-stop to provide me with the life I have today. My father has worked mainly in back-breaking construction while my mom worked night shifts at O'Hare. My parents have taught me to work hard and stay determined throughout life. I will be majoring in nursing because I have a passion for taking care of others. Currently I am in the process of obtaining my Certified Nursing Assistant certificate at the Technology Center of DuPage where I received an award for my academic achievements. I also have maintained honor roll throughout my entire four years of high school. I spend my mornings and afternoons at high school and my nights working in a hot kitchen at Olive Garden about five days a week. During my free time, I usually take the time to stay connected with my family and friends because the relationships I have with others is what I value the most in life. Sometimes the many responsibilities in my life can be straining. I look forward to being on a college campus in the Fall and fully investing my boundless energy into becoming a nurse and partaking in several courses College of DuPage has to offer me.

From Wheaton North, Katya Lira:

From her counselor, Katya has always been a mature and independent young lady. Due to significant family hardships, Katya had to give up her athletic involvement in soccer during her sophomore year to begin working. She started working at the age of 15 at Acres Group, a landscaping company, doing filing and computer work. This experience allowed her to begin building an employment resume and in August of 2018, she was hired as a hostess at Gia Mia, which allowed for after-school hours. Katya, always being a strong and dependable student, needed employment that would not conflict with school hours. For the past year and a half, Katya has been a valued member of the Gia Mia staff, working 20 or more hours a week. Although having to focus mainly on work to help her family and save money for her own post-secondary education, Katya has tried to stay involved in youth group and was a member of the National Art Honor Society her junior year. She is incredibly proud to have worked for and purchased her own car while continuing to contribute assistance to her family, save for college and maintain a strong high school GPA.

From Glenbard South, Colleen Rogala:

From her counselor, Colleen is a first generation student who is pursuing a career in early childhood education. She is from a single parent household and is in financial need. Colleen is a warm and compassionate young lady who has had to overcome much family adversity. She is well respected by her peers as well as by staff.

From Wheaton-Warrenville South, Catheren Sanchez:

From her counselor, Cat Sanchez is a dedicated, second year student at the Technology Center of DuPage. She prides herself on her school work, and is passionate about helping others. She looks forward to working in the medical field and attending College of DuPage in the Fall.



STEM REIMAGINED

Our Science Girls on the Go!

The STEM committee has reimagined how we will present science to the community. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the Branch in many ways including our STEM workshops. There is little hope of holding workshops until 2021 due to the restrictions on venues, group size and finding volunteers willing to meet in person. Children, especially young girls, need and want to participate in STEM activities.

The STEM Committee has come up with a new and novel approach to solve this issue. The idea is based on Little Free Libraries which have been popping up in every community throughout the country. Little Free Libraries are small wooden, metal or composite boxes with a clear window on a post in the front yard of people's homes which contain books that anyone can take or donate a book. Lately, they have also been used for nonperishable food. In our case, we would use them for disposable science kits.

The project and the name we would use on these boxes is called *Science Girls on the Go*. Initially, we would start with two boxes, one in Glen Ellyn and the second in Wheaton. These two boxes would be placed on a Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW member's front yard with their permission. Each box would be stocked with 10 science kits and restocked weekly. During the pandemic, the science kit topic would change every two weeks. Later in the year, the science kit topic would change every month. Each kit would be a Ziploc bag containing the necessary components to do one experiment along with instruction on how to do it and the principle behind the science. The initial topics of the kits are Cartesian Divers, Diffraction of Light, DNA from Strawberries, Squishy Circuits, and Density Tower. Each kit has been designed for youth safety and will have a statement on the bag that these projects should be done under adult supervision. The number of box locations will increase with the success of the first two boxes and then finally, we would ask other AAUW branches to join in the program. In addition, these boxes will also contain AAUW membership brochures, upcoming Branch events and other Branch related material.

We will continue to present our STEM workshops in 2021. Our *Science Girls on the Go* project will be in addition to our workshops and used as another method of reaching out to the community.

The STEM committee needs your help:

1. We are looking for two Branch members, one each in Wheaton and Glen Ellyn to give us permission to place these boxes in their front yards.
2. We are looking for individuals who can build these little boxes. The blueprint has been downloaded.
3. We need help with advertising once we have the boxes and locations.
4. We are always looking for new committee members to come up with other additional ideas for inexpensive science kits. Timing is important since we would like to have these two boxes complete and placed in someone's front yard by mid-June (before kids go back to school and become too busy).

Please contact Fran Kravitz if you are interested in helping with this project or have questions. We will not be meeting as a group in person but virtually either by computer or telephone.



Our Branch Book Groups

*No matter who you are, no matter where you live, and no matter how many people are chasing you,
what you don't read is often as important as what you do read.*

Lemony Snicket, pseudonym of Daniel Harder,
author of notable A Series of Unfortunate Events

AM Lit

Jean Lindsey

jeanlindsey15@comcast.net

The fun continues in June with AM Lit's Zoom meeting #3. On Friday, June 5, we will hold our first virtual book selection...should be fun! You have received a couple of lengthy email detailing the process which I will not repeat, just email me if you plan on participating and I will send you the link to our private Zoom room. Kathy McCullough will compile the list of novels and construct the voting guide; Jane Palmer and Judy Sims will conduct the selection process and count the ballots. We will begin as usual at 9:30 am, it is BYOC (bring your own coffee). More than ever, come and see fellow AAUW members, which is the real bonus in attending.

At the July 10, more than likely Zoom #4 meeting, we will discuss the highly regarded *A Woman is No Man* by Etaf Rum. It is the final choice of the 2019-2020 book selection meeting. Patricia Spence will lead the discussion of three generations of women who weigh family duty and desire in a conservative Palestinian community in Brooklyn. Look for an email with more Zoom instruction closer to the date.

We will choose the August 7 book at the June meeting. Again, an informative email will be sent to you. Looking forward to seeing you in the upcoming months.

PM Lit

Phyllis Fogel

prfogel@live.com

Covid-19 came uninvited and has turned our world and our book groups upside down. Carefully laid plans have been tossed out the window. However, together, it can be defeated as we stay strong and flexible.

Our June 15 Potluck and Book Selection meeting has been postponed. There are still six books remaining that have not been discussed from 2019-2020 book selections so there is no rush to choose any books soon. Therefore, the June 1 deadline for book suggestions has been lifted. We will get this all sorted out as time goes by. The original schedule was as follows:

Month	Title	Author
March	<i>Unsheltered</i>	Barbara Kingsolver
April	<i>North of Dawn</i>	Nuruddin Farah
May	<i>Circe</i>	Madeline Miller
July	<i>The Great Believers</i>	Rebecca Makkai
August	<i>A Tale for the Time Being</i>	Ruth Ozeki
September	<i>Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk</i>	Kathleen Rooney

When Twigs resumes publication in September, I am pleased to announce that Susie Gullickson will be the new chair of PM Lit! She is a careful and thoughtful reader, energetic and positive, and bakes delicious cookies! It has been a privilege to have been your chair for the past four years. Thanks for all your support, viewpoints, and insights into the wonderful books we have shared.

Branch Book Groups continued

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 any 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 app as our mode of communication. Please watch for an email from me by late May for further information.

We plan to meet on August 19 to select books for 2020-2021. I would love some help with this process. If one of you could volunteer to collect book suggestions via email and prepare a summary sheet with all of the nominations, I could send the voting sheet and the nomination summary in August.

Stay well and at home!

PM Non Fiction

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

It feels odd in this timeless space of quarantine to make plans for future events, but let us keep on trying!

Our first summer event is on May 27, and, in honor of the times, will be a Zoom meeting at 7:00 pm hosted by Jean Lindsey. We will consider the merits of Erik Larson's book, *The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill Family, and Defiance During the Blitz*. Lest you think you know what actually happened, Erik Larson will show you the virtues of a micro-history. The details of this period are engrossing. If you wish to participate, please contact Jean Lindsey at *jeanlindsey15@comcast.net*.

If the time or the hour or the format do not work for you, I am planning a second in-person meeting on Larson's book on July 22 at 7:00 pm at my home. This is on the hope that groups of ten or so are again seen as safe. I am also thinking about having this meeting at a picnic table in Northside Park in Wheaton where the dulcet breezes will keep us safe. Stay tuned.

Our book selection night is currently scheduled for August 26 at my home. Stay tuned as to the format. However, we do have the choice of skipping this meeting until the winter since we have Jason Fagone's, *The Woman Who Smashed Codes* ready for September 23 and Charles King's *Gods of the Upper Air* for November 18. Nonetheless, do keep track of interesting titles for 2021.



Remembering Gail Davis & Elaine Nissen



As most of you know from earlier All-Branch emails, this has been a season of loss for our AAUW Branch. Elaine Nissen passed away on March 17 and Gail Davis passed away on May 5. They leave a hole in our hearts as well as in the Branch. The following are brief remembrances shared by AAUW members. As is customary in the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, a \$50 gift in honor of each of them will be made to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund, and we will notify their families of these gifts.

Remembering Gail Sept 13, 1948-May 5, 2020

Gail Davis died early on May 5, of acute myeloid leukemia. A celebration of life will be scheduled when restrictions are relaxed. In lieu of flowers, please direct contributions to MPN Research Foundation, 180 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1870, Chicago IL 60601, or their online site:

<https://www.mpnresearchfoundation.org/Donate-to-MPN-Research>.

From Phyllis Fogel: *I got to know Gail well through bridge. She enrolled in the bridge classes my husband and I taught for the Wheaton Park District at the Mary Lubko Center (next to the band shelter). In fact, she took nine of them from 2014 to 2020. She was even in the last class on March 12 of this year before all park district classes were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. She was a great student of the game and took it seriously. She progressed quickly and enjoyed playing it outside of class with Jean Tufano and Stephanie Zvirin and others. I remember when one of her daughters was married in Italy in 2015.*

Gail was the Branch Legal Advocacy Fund Chair from 2015 to 2018 and did a fine job of keeping us updated about the latest court cases.

Bridge players all have a bond which connect us together. I will miss Gail's beautiful smile, happy laugh, and her many kindnesses. 'May all your Three No Trump games make.' Rest in Peace, dear friend.

From Jean Lindsey: *Too sad, she will be missed by so many...her daughters were so devoted to her, I can't imagine how sad they are, of course, Ken...45 years is such a success story. Her grandchildren here and in London...what a loss...I'm happy that she and Ken had some great travels in the past years...loved that they took trips with foreign companies, know that they thoroughly enjoyed Greece...Ken is probably numb. Our church group will miss her quiet but supportive input, her willingness to meet with needy clients...her nonjudgmental attitude. She and I volunteered at a West Chicago resale shop for awhile, and although her leg challenges restrained her mobility, Gail persisted. She was the catalyst for our volunteer sessions. I will miss her, and am at a loss...too young, too good, too kind to leave us.*

From Steff Zvirin and Jean Tufano: *We were shocked and saddened by the sudden death of our dear friend Gail Davis. Gail was a devoted member of our Branch, over the years, giving her time and energy on the board and as co-chair of the annual holiday banquet. With a background in education, she was a devoted reader, a regular at AM Lit discussions, and she gave of her time to help with the Book Sale. She had a wide circle of friends outside of AAUW, loved to play bridge and travel and worked diligently for her church. A loving wife, mother, and grandmother with a wry sense of humor and a generous spirit, she will be missed.*

Remembering Elaine

March 18, 1942-March 17, 2020

Elaine died one day before her 78th birthday of ovarian cancer surrounded by her family. Services for Elaine will be held in May or as soon as possible. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be sent to the Northwestern Memorial Foundation in Chicago or to Wellness House in Hinsdale.

From Carolyn Oesterle: *I first remember Elaine when she raised her hand at AM Lit book group and said, 'I'll do it.' I had been AAUW Treasurer for four years, needed a replacement, and had asked for suggestions. I think this is a good way to remember Elaine. She was always ready to help any way she could. And being treasurer was a big commitment for Elaine as she had recently recovered from lymphoma. Another descriptor for Elaine is 'and she persisted.' Elaine remained treasurer even though she developed ovarian cancer, requiring multiple treatments and chemotherapies. She wanted to continue to contribute as long as possible. She was also a steadfast friend, always concerned with others. She hosted many AAUW meetings, get-togethers with her neighbors and a yearly sisters' weekend for her siblings.*

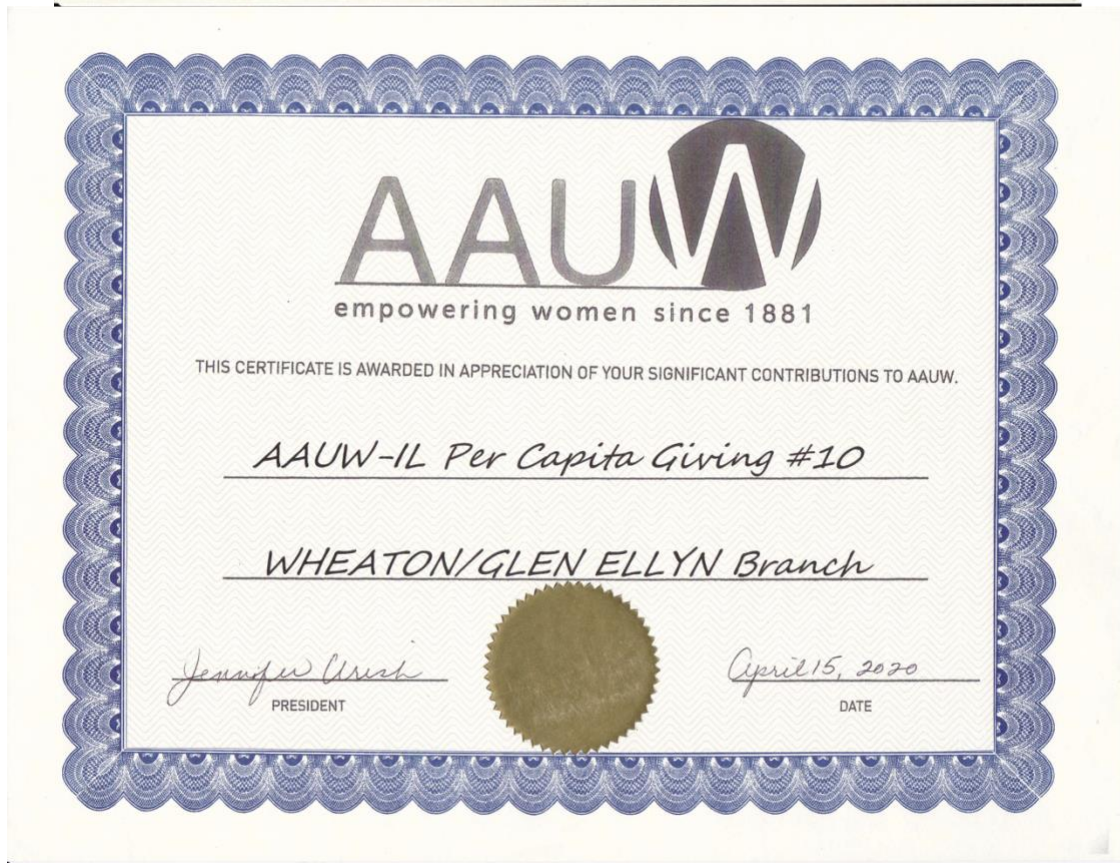
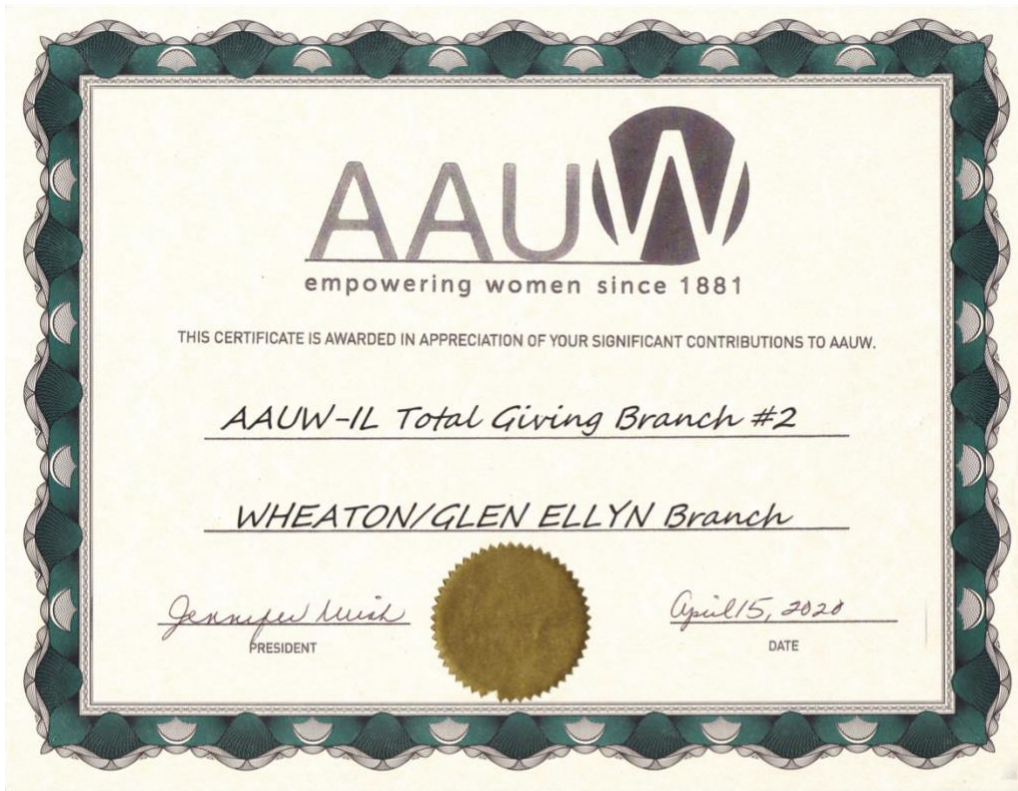
Elaine was very accomplished especially considering she had little help. Her family was not wealthy and she had to work her way through college. She became a respected CPA running the financial divisions for several companies.

I last spent time with Elaine the Friday before she found out she should enter hospice. She did not dwell on her problems. She told a funny story about a care worker who came to her house the day before and in two hours, knocked out one of the lights over her kitchen table, broke the strings for a window shade, and knocked a closet door off the hinges. Elaine laughed and said how she enjoyed talking with the home helpers. Elaine always looked for the bright side of things and the goodness in others. I will miss her.

From Lisa Cherry: *I was Membership Vice President for the Branch when I learned that Elaine had been an AAUW National member for years and wanted to join our Branch. She said she was especially interested in our book groups and other social events. Elaine was also a neighbor and we had served together as board members for our community association. I knew she was a CPA, so I responded to her as a typically aggressive Membership VP. I said 'that was fine, but she really needed to prepare to serve in the future as treasurer.' Without hesitation, she said 'okay.' That was Elaine. I do not remember a time when she declined to serve or help when needed. Even when going through periods of treatment, she did not want to give up on her duties. She said she would feel better soon and sure enough I would see her walking in the neighborhood, perhaps with a cane and later with a walker. I believe her positive attitude and sheer determination provided all of us with a lesson we will not forget and I am grateful.*



AAUW-Illinois Award Certificates



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!



*This is the final issue for the 2019-2020 year. Next issue for 2020-2021 is September, 2020.
Enjoy the summer as best you can during the pandemic.
Stay Safe! Stay Healthy! Protect the Healthcare Professionals!*