



Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP

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

# Twigs

September 2020

## A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

Hello!

After a program meeting on Monday and a board meeting on Wednesday, one thing is clear; a pandemic will not stop the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch of AAUW from pursuing its mission. Here's a quick look at where we are as we welcome the 2020-21 program year.

Based on your responses to the summer survey and the recommendations of AAUW national and AAUW-IL leadership, our meetings will be virtual (aka Zoom) events. Some interest groups have met successfully outside and we hope to do the same, in a small group format at various locations, as a follow-up to Branch presentations. Our first Branch Zoom meeting features Gwen Henry, DuPage County Treasurer and a member of this Branch, talking about women and power. On Friday, September 11, you are invited to our Annual Fundraising Walk (formerly the Eleanor Roosevelt Walk). Bring a chair and enjoy some outdoor social distancing after the walk. Most of you are anxious to hear plans for the postponed Book Sale. The Branch Board has decided to make a definitive decision no later than October 1.

The headlines of the last several months remind all of us of the work ahead to make this world equitable for everyone. AAUW offers specific steps to take and programs to support. The economic fall-out of the pandemic underscores AAUW's commitment to pay equity. August 13 marked the day when Black women finally equaled the pay earned last year by white, Non-Hispanic men. That is seven months without a pandemic or 62 cents per dollar. AAUW's *Work Smart and Start Smart* salary negotiation programs are key. This is the year we need to find a way to tackle the gender wage gap.

In a letter to all state and branch presidents, Julia T. Brown, Esq., AAUW Board Chair, and Malinda Gaul, AAUW Board Vice Chair, addressed racial equity. Sixty-six percent of 2019-20 AAUW Fellows and grantees are women of color. The association's largest and oldest program has funded more than 13,000 women, many of whom are luminaries in studies of gender, race and intersectionality. AAUW's partners and programs include a robust career initiative with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) students, faculty and alumni. AAUW's elected national board includes three women of color.

However, Brown and Gaul point out, there is more we must do: "I'm challenging you to reflect on what you can do as AAUW members — individually and collectively — to make a difference. For example, you have the power to reimagine what it means to be an AAUW member, beginning with our educational degree requirement. As we strive to be inclusive of all women's lives and experiences, the time has more than come to let go of this unnecessary prerequisite while continuing to embrace education as a central and lasting part of our mission.

*It's not enough for AAUW to denounce racism; we must take real, sustained and measurable actions to be the change we want to see in the world. And I know we all want a world where every voice is heard and every person is valued" (our italics).*

I hope you will give this serious thought and share those thoughts with us.

*Donna Jean & Janet*

## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Information
Sept. 2	Branch Meeting	7:00 pm	Zoom
Sept. 4	AM Lit	9:30 am	Zoom
Sept. 9	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Zoom
Sept. 11	Branch Fundraising Walk	9:00 am	Hidden Lake Forest Preserve on Route 53, Downers Grove.
Sept. 12	Film Group	6:00 pm	Patio between the Wheaton Public Library and Adams Park, Wheaton.
Sept. 21	PM Lit	5:00 pm	Bonnie Wheaton's backyard. Zoom if weather inclement.
Sept 23	PM Non Fiction	6:00 pm	Peggy Connolly's. Site may change to outdoor venue.



### Programs

**Frankie Robinson**

*frankiel62@yahoo.com*

### September Branch Program 7:00 pm, Wednesday, September 2 *Women in Leadership via Zoom*



Gwen Henry, CPA, DuPage County Treasurer since 2006, presents *Women in Leadership*. She is on the board of Inland Real Estate Income Trust, Inc., Central DuPage Hospital Foundation and Partner at Dugan and Lopatka. She is a Certified Public Accountant, a Certified Public Funds Investment Manager and a Certified Public Finance Administrator.

Gwen previously held the position of chairperson of Central DuPage Hospital Association and treasurer for Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital. Ms. Henry among other accomplishments, served as Mayor of Wheaton from March 1990 to December 2002.

*Editor's Note: Please see instructions for Zoom in Jane Palmer's AAUW Online article as well as this link from the Jane Addams Virtual Branch newsletter: [https://janeaddams-](https://janeaddams-il.aauw.net/files/2020/05/Tips-to-Use-Zoom-for-AAUW-Meetings.pdf)*

*il.aauw.net/files/2020/05/Tips-to-Use-Zoom-for-AAUW-Meetings.pdf*

**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.





As a reminder, if you have not yet renewed your membership, please consider doing so by September 10, since the Member Directory will be printed soon thereafter. Total annual dues are \$88 (\$59 National + \$10 State + \$19 Branch) of which \$75 (\$56 National + \$19 Branch) may be tax deductible depending on your tax situation. There are two ways to renew:

1. Request that we send you a personalized email from [memberinfo@aauw.org](mailto:memberinfo@aauw.org) containing a ***link for on-line payment by credit card. To pay on-line use this link. Do not go thru the AAUW.org site.*** To request the link be sent please email [maurensheehan@aol.com](mailto:maurensheehan@aol.com) **OR**
2. If you prefer to **pay by check**, make your check payable to **AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP** and mail it to: **Maureen Sheehan.**

Many thanks to the 100 plus members who have already rejoined our Branch. The pandemic will not stop AAUW's and our Branch's efforts in *advancing gender equity for women through research, education and advocacy*. You belong to a national, reputable organization which excels at promoting women's rights. You belong to a branch of women not only committed to the same goals, but eager to engage in activities which support them. New this year, the Branch's *Science on the Go* program initiated by Fran Kravitz, is an innovative and accessible way to make STEM activities available to girls. With so many students dependent on distance learning, *Science Girls on the Go* will be a creative resource in boosting students' knowledge.

In addition to our support of women's issues, our Branch excels at providing forums for like-minded women to share thoughts and ideas. Many participate in our Branch programs, popular fiction and nonfiction literature groups, film groups and social groups like Spice Routes; all of which have expanded our horizons on many levels and provided avenues for fostering life-long friendships.

Yes, this year many of these functions will look different and some will be curtailed, but our membership will still provide many valuable experiences and growth opportunities.

Do share with us names of people you know who may be interested in joining our vibrant community.

**The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg  
Special Exhibition  
July 7, 2020 to January 3, 2021**



The wife, mother, and judicial icon, Ruth Bader Ginsburg.  
Artifacts, photos, and videos of her life. Don't miss this blockbuster exhibit.

Illinois Holocaust Museum  
9603 Woods Drive  
Skokie, IL 60077  
847 967-4800  
Get tickets online: [ILHOLOCAUSTMUSEUM.ORG/Tickets](http://ILHOLOCAUSTMUSEUM.ORG/Tickets)

## Our Branch Fundraising Activities



### Fundraising Walks

**Carolyn Oesterle**

*Csoesterle@gmail.com*

### SAVE THE DATE!!! A RARE CHANCE FOR FUN, FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP!!!

Join us Friday, September 11, 2020, for the Branch Fundraising Walk. This year we will have a completely outdoor event at Hidden Lake Forest Preserve on Route 53 just south of Butterfield Road in Downers Grove. The walk will be about 2 ½ miles around two scenic small lakes. Masks are required. Coffee and donuts will be served after the walk. We will gather at 9:00 am in the parking lot area to the left as you enter the park. Please bring a folding chair to help with social distancing while we eat our donuts.

This year our Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Board has decided to use the funds from the walk for the Branch Educational Opportunities Fund because other fundraisers could not be held. We will also be honoring the 100 year anniversary of women's right to vote. Last year, the walk raised more than \$1000. It will be a fun walk and a safe way to get together in this difficult time.

Please contact me to register for the event or call 630-469-9382 if you have questions. If you cannot make the walk, but would like to contribute, please send a check to my home. Tax deductible donations should be payable to **AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP.**

### Book Sale

**Ewa Bacon**

*baconew@lewisu.edu*

It seemed reasonable to reschedule our 2020 May Book Sale to October 28, since the pandemic was waning in Illinois. As we have all noted with great concern, the summer brought nothing but bad news. While our local infection rate is low compared to our southern states, nonetheless it is again rising. What to do? We will decide on October 1 about rescheduling our sale.

IF the positivity rate is again at 3% or lower, we will hold the sale on October 28. However, if we are still dealing with high rates of infection, the sale will move into late spring 2021.

### LUNAFEST

**Suzanne Gagner**

*petalpower1@yahoo.com*

### SAVE OUR NEW DATE!! LUNAFEST 2021 - May 1, 2021

As we continue *to Stay Home and Stay Safe* this fall, our planning has begun for 2021. Both LUNA Corporation and Center Stage Theater have been extremely willing to reschedule and to hold **LUNAFEST 2021** on May 1, 2021. We are hopeful that 2021 will find our nation healing and businesses able to resume their routine.

May **LUNAFEST** give us all an opportunity to celebrate our health with an evening of FILMS, FUN and FOOD!



## Our Branch Book Groups

### AM Lit

Jean Lindsey

[jeanlindsey15@comcast.net](mailto:jeanlindsey15@comcast.net)

Anais Nin once described reading *as the alarm to awaken us from the slumber of almost living*. Our 2020-21 list boasts novels which should keep us aware of our world and its challenges. We will start on Friday, September 4, with a Zoom discussion of *The Great Believers* by Rebecca Makkai. The discussion of this complex novel begins at 9:30 am; and I was informed that Jean Lindsey will lead the discussion.

Looking ahead, our October selection, *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins, exposes us to a Mexico not discovered while vacationing in Mexico. The New York Times describes the novel as a *heart stopping story of survival, danger and love*, while the Chicago Tribune review states simply, *it's pulse-pounding*. The novel has also been a source of controversy. Our discussion promises to be thought provoking.

Once again, it is a Zoom affair. We will *see* each other, October 2 at 9:30 am. No one has volunteered to lead the discussion at the time of newsletter deadline. We will see, if at our September 4 meeting, a member offers to lead the discussion. The library at this time thinks there will be no problem with making many copies of the book available. I will inform you if there is a change.

We have had a wonderful spring/summer selection of novels which have provided us with much material to discuss and ponder. They have also provided us a way to interact in the time of COVID-19. Our Zoom discussion leaders since April faced a new challenge and have done an impressive job of enriching and engaging us. Many thanks to Susan Levy Creed (2x!), Karen Bondy, and Kitty Johansson.

Looking further ahead: November 3 meeting – *Beautiful Ruins* by Jess Walter; discussion leader, Jane Palmer.

Two quick reminders: 1) Branch website lists all book club meetings and dates, it's a very useful resource.  
2) Copies of the novels provided by the Glen Ellyn Public Library will usually be available at Marilyn Wiedemann's front porch shortly after the previous month's discussion. Please sign it out.

### PM Lit

Susie Gullickson

[gullish.1955@gmail.com](mailto:gullish.1955@gmail.com)

PM Lit was excited to reconvene on August 17, for our second gathering since COVID-19 reared its' head. Fifteen of us gathered in Bonnie Wheaton's beautiful yard, while socially distancing, and discussed *A Tale for the Time Being* by Ruth Ozeki. Weather permitting, the same approach is planned for our September meeting.

After receiving feedback from the group, we agreed to discuss our missed selections from earlier in the year, so following is our schedule for the remainder of 2020. Meeting format will likely be via Zoom, but an email will be sent prior to each monthly meeting with applicable details.

- September 21 *Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk*, by Kathleen Rooney. Bonnie Wheaton, discussion leader.
- October 19 *Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver. Lisa Cherry, discussion leader.
- November 16 *North of Dawn* by Nuruddin Farah. Laura Desmarais, discussion leader.
- December 14 *Circe* by Madeline Miller. Jane Palmer, discussion leader.
- Book Selection for the first half of 2021 will take place in January, 2021; more details to follow.

**The Glen Ellyn Public Library is again able to put together *Book Bundles* for PM Lit. *Bundles* are picked up from the delivery window by the PM Lit Leader (me). The September selection should be available after 8/31. The books will be in a bin with a sign- up sheet on Susan Levy-Creed's front porch on a first come, first serve basis. An email will be sent when the September book selection is available.**

## **Branch Book Groups continue . . . .**

### **AM Non-Fiction**

**Sue Herrmann**

*sherrmann710@gmail.com*

I have planned a Zoom meeting on August 26, to select books for 2020-21. We had originally planned to Zoom on August 19, but unfortunately, I have a golf outing on that day. I have sent the nine books that have been nominated for 2020-21 by email. Please be sure to look them over. On August 26, we will discuss the nominations and will choose six for the 2020-21 season.

Please put October 28 on your calendars for our next meeting to discuss *The Pioneers* by David McCullough. Hopefully, we will be able to meet in person. Otherwise, plan a Zoom meeting. Stay well and be safe! This too shall pass!

### **PM Non-Fiction**

**Ewa Bacon**

*baconew@lewisu.edu*

Our book selection for September 23 is Jason Fagone's *The Woman Who Smashed Codes: A True Story of Love, Spies, and the Unlikely Heroine Who Outwitted America's Enemies*. This is the tale of Elizebeth Smith, a young Quaker schoolteacher, who was hired in 1916 to find the secret messages embedded in Shakespeare's plays. The story begins locally here in DuPage County and ends up in Washington D.C. as Elizebeth's talents are useful to decode spy messages. Our discussion leader is Karen Schulz and we will be meeting at Peggy Connolly's home.

But this is the pandemic year: the site may change to an outdoors venue if the DuPage County positivity rate is still above 3%. I will email on September 16 with updates.

I have just heard from the Glen Ellyn Library that the book club service is once again in operation! Give them a call to make sure that the Fagone book has arrived.

Since we have books queued and unread from 2019-2020, we will not be choosing 2021 books until December.

**From Brenna Murphy, Readers' Advisory Librarian, Glen Ellyn Public Library**

***Starting August 31, we will be mostly back to the regular procedure, since we'll be able to get books from other libraries again. The main difference is that we will distribute books through our drive-up window, with the entire set being checked out to the group leader. Then you can distribute them to your members however you'd like. I'll be sending an official email out to all book groups soon with more details.***



**Lombard: Representative Terra Costa Howard (IL-48):**

In a July phone interview, I asked the representative what she believed were key legislative actions taken during the Spring phase of the 101<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Illinois State Legislature. She acknowledged that efforts were primarily directed at responding to the COVID-19 crisis, especially omnibus bills, i.e., bills like the budget, about a specific topic, but having many layers. Protection for front-line workers and reducing or eliminating charges for telehealth interactions were among the COVID-19 driven issues that got priority attention. Addressed also were expanded gaming legislation, property tax relief and education funding.

Costa-Howard believes Illinois election mechanisms are secure. She is on a committee, which includes county clerks, to insure optimum performance. Costa-Howard predicts that late fall veto session activity will be determined by November election results. She also feels confident that conversations about remediating racial injustices will continue at that time.

Lastly, Representative Costa-Howard is disappointed that the virus prevents her from her usual *live* interactions with constituents. She urges you to email or call her with any questions, concerns, feedback. Note: When I called her Lombard office, she picked up the phone.

**Springfield:**

The Illinois General Assembly passed **SB 1863** in May to expand vote by mail as a voting method during the ongoing pandemic. In June, Governor Pritzker signed the bill into law to ensure safe and active participation in the 2020 General Election. The DuPage County Clerk's office is using funds made available this year through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) for the mailing of applications and ballots.

**Fall 2020 Candidate Forums:**

No matter what kind of communication venue will be available for us to ask questions to candidates, we will be prepared by using the questions AAUW has already prepared for us in this PDF:

<https://www.aauwaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/AAUW-2020-Voter-Issue-Guide.pdf?emci=55d9cae6-9db6-ea11-9b05-00155d039e74&emdi=70557f2d-e4c1-ea11-9b05-00155d03bda0&ceid=950389>

**Washington, DC:**

From recent AAUW *My Every Voice + Every Vote Pledge mailing*:

***Let me be clear: AAUW is fiercely non-partisan, but we are not values-neutral.  
And the values of democracy, equity and inclusion are woven into our DNA.***

Kimberly Churches, CEO



We have been busy in August, on Facebook and the website. Recent updates to the website, include this year's list of all books selected for our four book groups. *From the Main Menu, click on Book Groups. Scroll down to Click here for an integrated list.* The new list is a PDF which you can save or print.

On Facebook, in the last month, we posted or shared about 15 items and averaged about 30 *likes* or *click* for each. As noted in the STEM article elsewhere in this issue, the postings for our two *Science Girls on the Go* boxes resulted in not just *likes* but also *shares*. Why is this important? Facebook statistics show that our July 27 picture of the Wheaton box reached nearly 1,000 people and the August 9 Glen Ellyn picture has reached over 200 people. Here is why sharing is better than liking. If Jane has 150 Facebook friends and shares a post, it reaches 150 people. If Patricia has 100 friends (10 are also Jane's friends), her share reaches another 90 people. And so on. Please keep on sharing the news of our Branch's activities!

**Since March, our Branch has been able to continue with our regular book discussions, board meetings and committee meetings by using Zoom. This year, our September 3 Branch program will be on Zoom. Here are some tips for those of you who have not yet tried it.**

### ZOOM Instructions

1. A couple days before the meeting, download Zoom to the device you plan on using. A computer monitor or laptop screen is best, size-wise, for a large meeting. (You can also do it on a Wifi TV but I haven't tried it - just Google it.)
2. If you are using a PC or laptop, turn it on about a half-hour prior to the meeting time. After it is powered up, open your email and find the link. (My PC takes an annoying 15+ minutes to power up and open email.)
3. Write down the meeting number and password in case you are disconnected and need to sign in again. Then you won't need to find the email again. To reconnect, just click on the Zoom app, click on Join Meeting, then enter the meeting number and password.
4. You can open Zoom prior to the meeting to check the audio and video. By doing this, you can adjust your seat-height or the angle of your monitor so that you will be fully in the camera's range. Also think about your background and lighting. Setting up in front of a window is not a good idea due to the back-lighting effect. (There's a reason why all those TV people working from home are in front of a bookcase.)
5. Some of our members have had problems with the audio on older computers. If you have such a problem but want to use your computer monitor for its larger screen, you can also simultaneously sign into Zoom on your phone or tablet for the audio.
6. Once you are in the meeting room and the meeting begins, it is polite to click on the mute button so that background noises at your house (a ringing phone, etc.) will not disrupt the meeting. It is easy to unmute when it is your turn to speak.
7. For the upcoming Branch meeting, you may wish to use the *speaker view* button. In this mode, the speaker will be larger and the rest of the attendees will be smaller. This will make it easier for you to focus on the speaker.
8. Wait for the question period, just as we would at an in-person Branch meeting. Raise your hand and wait to be acknowledged by the speaker or the meeting host before you pose your question.

**We look forward to seeing you at the September meeting!**



### Science Girls on the Go



The STEM committee is happy to report that *Science Girls on the Go* is up and operating at two locations within our Branch. *Science Girls on the Go* is a science enrichment program for K-12 girls in the community delivered in kits using the idea of little science houses (similar to little free libraries) to distribute them. The first little science house went up in Peggy Connolly's front yard in Wheaton on July 10 and the second little science house was recently installed in Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann's front yard in Glen Ellyn on August 8. The first kit demonstrated the principles of pressure and density using an experiment designed by Rene Descartes called a Cartesian Diver. Each kit is in a ziploc bag containing the necessary components to do one experiment along with instructions on how to do it and the principle behind the science. The instructions include additional experiments which can be done to increase the difficulty for older girls.

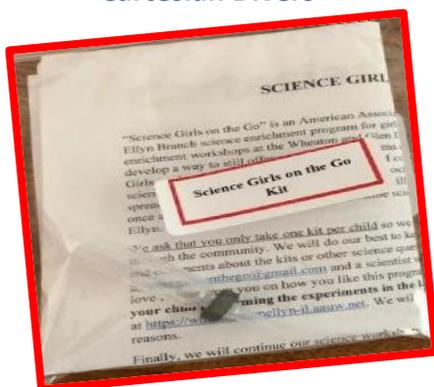
Initially, community members began to fill our little science houses with books. We have been removing the books and trying to train the public that these boxes are for science kits only. The location of the little science houses has been put on our Facebook page. The Wheaton box has garnered an audience of 963 people since it has been up, and our Glen Ellyn box has attracted 174 people. We have also submitted an article to the Illinois AAUW newsletter this month to spread the word of *Science Girls on the Go* hoping other branches will follow our lead. We are currently working on publicizing our little science boxes to local schools, community newsletters, libraries, local organizations, and other local avenues.

A project like this takes a village to make it work. Our thanks to Bob Lindsey for building, painting, and installing our little science houses; Peggy Connolly and Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann for allowing the little science houses to be in their front yards; Patricia Spence for publicizing this project on Facebook; Amanda Borneman for helping with publicity to the community; Jean Lindsey for picking up and distributing the science kits; and Donna Jean Simon, Janet Arden, Lisa Cherry and the board for their approval and support of this project.



Please contact Fran Kravitz at [fk1456@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fk1456@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested in helping with this project, have ideas for new kits or have questions.

### Cartesian Divers



## Branch Programs 2020-2021

The Branch generally meets each month, September through April, excluding January. All meetings are open to the public. For further information, contact Frankie Robinson, Vice President, Programs. Please note: Programs may vary from our proposed program outline.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Women in Leadership</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">September 2, 2020 Wednesday, 7:00 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speaker: Gwen Henry DuPage County Treasurer &amp; former Wheaton Mayor</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Zoom meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Diversity and Inclusion</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">October 10, 2020 Saturday, TBD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Viewing of AAUW National webinars on diversity and Inclusion, then small group discussions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Details TBD</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wine, Whine &amp; Win</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">November 7, 2020, Saturday, TBD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Small group discussions &amp; gatherings after November 3 election to discuss results.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Details TBD</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AAUW Issues of Importance</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">December 2020 Date/Time TBD</p> <p>Discussion with Wheaton or Glen Ellyn civic representatives on influencing them on AAUW issues of importance.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Details TBD</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>January 2021</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">TBD</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Black History/Women's History &amp; Suffragettes</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">February 3, 2021 Wednesday, 7:00 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A discussion of Black History &amp; Women's History with an emphasis on African American women's support of the right for women to vote.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Zoom meeting</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Critical Conversations: Engaging with Social Justice</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">March 3 or 6, 2021 Wednesday, 7:00 pm or Saturday, 9:30 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speaker: Jennifer Kelley, College of DuPage Reference Librarian &amp; Faculty Professional Development Coordinator AND Annual Meeting Election of Officers</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Details TBD</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>10 Easy Ways to be LGBTQ Friendly</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">April 7, 2021 Wednesday, 7:00 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Speaker: Katie Slivovsky, Chicago Children's Museum Exhibit Development Director and LGBTQ Access and Inclusion Chair</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Meeting format TBD</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>LunaFest</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">May 1, 2021 Saturday, 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This second annual cultural/fundraiser event features award-winning documentaries by women filmmakers.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Center Stage Theate 1665 Quincy Ave., Naperville</p>

## Branch Board Members & Chairs 2020-21

<b>Officers</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>E-Mail Address</b>
Co-Presidents	Janet Arden	<i>janarden@icloud.com</i>
	Donna Jean Simon	<i>djsimon@questillc.com</i>
Program Vice-President	Frankie Robinson	<i>frankieL62@yahoo.com</i>
Membership Co-Vice Presidents	Jean Lindsey	<i>jeanlindsey15@comcast.net</i>
	Nancy Possinger	<i>nap101547@ameritech.net</i>
Secretary	Tracy Kline	<i>trakli@msn.com</i>
Treasurer	Maureen Sheehan	<i>maureenjsheehan@aol.com</i>
<b>Committee Chairs</b>		
Book Sale	Ewa Bacon	<i>baconew@lewisu.edu.</i>
Community Relations	Mary Sue Brown	<i>msbrown750@comcast.net</i>
Cultural Arts	OPEN	
Educational Opportunity Fund	Susan Levy-Creed	<i>susanlevycreed@gmail.com</i>
Historian	Phyllis Fogel	<i>prfogel@live.com</i>
Fund Raising Walks	Carolyn Oesterle	<i>csoesterle@gmail.com</i>
LunaFest	Suzanne Gagner	<i>petalpower1@yahoo.com</i>
Member at Large	Patricia Bernhold	<i>pbernhold@hotmail.com</i>
Publicity	OPEN	
Public Policy	Patricia Spence	<i>pspence101@aol.com</i>
STEM	Fran Kravitz	<i>fk1456@sbcgobal.net</i>
Twigs Newsletter Editor	Kathy McCullough	<i>kathymccull@gmail.com</i>
Website & Social Media	Jane Palmer	<i>jfpalmer@comcast.net</i>
	Patricia Spence	<i>pspence101@aol.com</i>
<b>Non-Board Chairs</b>		
Directory	Maureen Sheehan	<i>maureenjsheehan@aol.com</i>
Branch Buddy	Donna Jennings	<i>drjennin@att.net</i>
Spring Banquet	Karen Bondy	<i>bondykj@aol.com</i>
Winter Banquet	Carolyn Oesterle	<i>csoesterle@gmail.com</i>
	Karen Schulz	<i>okschulz@aol.com</i>
<b>Interest Group Chairs</b>		
AM Lit	Jean Lindsey	<i>jeanlindsey15@comcast.net</i>
PM Lit	Susan Gullickson	<i>gullish.1955@gmail.com</i>
PM Non-Fiction	Ewa Bacon	<i>baconew@lewis.edu</i>
AM Non-Fiction	Sue Herrmann	<i>sherrmann710@gmail.com</i>
Film Group	Anne Hanley	<i>ahanley@mindspring.com</i>
Spice Routes	Ewa Bacon	<i>baconew@lewisu.edu</i>
	Peggy Connolly	<i>connolly.peggy@gmail.com</i>
	Pat Kaczor	<i>patk3872@gmail.com</i>

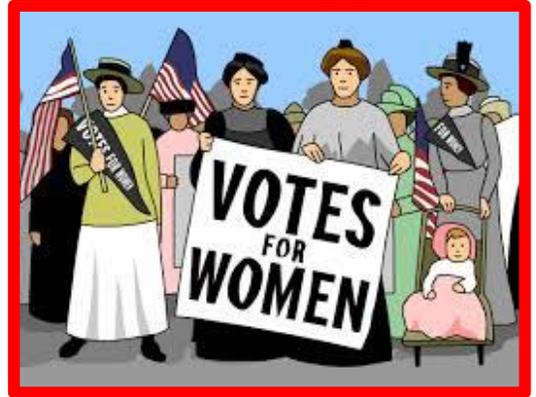
## August is an Auspicious Month for Heroines

Co-President, Donna Jean Simon

We frequently hear that women were *given* the right to vote – a statement totally untrue. They fought for that right for more than 70 years, until they finally resorted to picketing the White House and going to jail in horrific conditions, and even being force fed while on hunger strikes in jail because of those conditions.

On August 18, 1920, Harry Burns, the youngest member of the Tennessee State Legislature, following advice from his mother, in a letter he received that morning, voted *AYE* and thus Tennessee became the 36<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the *19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution: The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any other state on account of sex.*

Thirty-six states were 75% of the 48 states required to ratify and thus the amendment passed. The *Susan B. Anthony Amendment* came before the United States Senate on June 4, 1919, for the fifth time and passed 58 to 25. (The House of Representatives had already approved the amendment four months earlier.)



Actually, in 1797, some 75 women turned out to vote in Essex County, NJ. Even more voted again in 1800, but by 1806, the New Jersey Legislature voted to limit the franchise to *free, white, male citizens* and women lost their voice in American politics for the next century. The next state to enfranchise women was Wyoming in 1869, because the numbers were needed to support statehood. In 1896, Idaho, Utah, and Colorado, women were also voters. By 1919, women in many of the states west of the Mississippi had some form of voting rights. These statewide suffrage measures were successful in 27 states along with the Alaska Territory before the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment passed.

In the summer of 1919, the ratification process began with Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin on June 10. Many states followed suit. However, in July of 1919, Georgia voted *NO* as did five other southern and mid-Atlantic states over the course of the year. By 1920, 35 states had voted to approve the amendment and six had voted *NO*. In July, 1920, two other states voted *NO* (Mississippi did not approve the amendment until 1984). Tennessee had passed a limited suffrage amendment previously, and the Senate had already voted *AYE*, so this House vote was critical and the sides were evenly divided. It had been assumed Harry would vote *NO* and said so in other votes that day. But, that letter from his mother weighed heavily, and he voted *AYE*. On August 26, 1920, the Secretary of State certified the amendment's ratification and it became part of the constitution.

However, women of color did not really receive the right to vote until the Civil Rights Act of 1965 intervened to prevent states from putting up barriers that disenfranchised women of color for even more years.

Who are some of the women who worked so hard to make sure we have the right to vote? Some names are well known – Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Alice Paul, Susan B. Anthony. However, many others worked over the years to fight for this right: Sojourner Truth, Ida B. Wells, Frederick Douglass, Harriett Tubman. We need to remember these valiant women (and men) who fought to secure the right for women to vote. And we need to make sure that our right to vote is not damaged in any way through various means that suppress votes.

For more information on this historical moment, the *New York Times* has a section in its August 16, 2020 edition providing a historical perspective. *The Woman's Hour* by Elaine Weiss is a recent book that describes the suffrage movement and *the great fight to win the vote* and is just one of many books on the subject.

There are many issues of importance to us as members of AAUW that will be impacted by this year's election. The AAUW National website has public policy information that may be of value to you as you decide on which candidates to support. AAUW is a political organization. We are NOT a partisan organization. We need to be engaged and exercise our right to vote – and honor those who fought so hard to make sure each one of us has this right. It is one of the privileges of living in a democracy.



Hello! Welcome to Fall Film Group. We have been meeting in the space between Adams Park and the Wheaton Public Library all summer, and have had some wonderful conversations about film, social justice, coping, friendship, and the state of the nation. We watched and discussed a film about alien invaders, movies about racism, and documentaries about resistance and resilience. All available on Netflix, Amazon Prime, and other streaming services.

We will continue to meet in the open air for as long as Illinois fall weather allows, certainly in September and hopefully in October and even into November. We bring our lawn chairs and our own snacks, and sit in a big circle to maintain physical distance.

Once the weather chases us indoors, we will have a conversation about how to proceed. We will always meet, whether in person or virtually, on the second Saturday of the month. The film selection, meeting place, and time will go out a week in advance. Join us!



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

**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 that make it all possible!***