



Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP

wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net

Twigs

December 2020

A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

Four things you need to know now about AAUW:

1. As members of the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch of AAUW, we are a cog in a much larger organization advocating for women since 1881. The webinars we used to start our October conversations are part of a larger body of resources, including Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s legacy, Ida B Wells, Education and Equity, Technology, and more. Find them here, <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/2020-convening/>. I encourage you to leverage these webinars and papers during this COVID-19 down time.
2. The election may be behind us, but you can continue to flex your political muscle and make your voice heard by signing up for AAUW’s Two-Minute Activist here, <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/> and easily send emails and texts to the leaders who need to hear from us when they need to hear from us.
3. While we are talking about the national association, please note that the National AAUW Board of Directors voted an increase in individual dues by \$3.00 in 2021, and \$5.00 in both 2022 and 2023. While many of us initially frowned at any increase at this particular time, it is reassuring that the increases are small, about the same as a pumpkin spiced latte. As Julia Brown, Board Chair wrote in her announcement: *Simply put, this measure is essential for AAUW to continue our mission to achieve gender equity* and noted that *the first year’s increase is only 25-cents per month*.
4. Finally, Giving Tuesday is just around the corner. This is the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving (and after Black Friday and Cyber Monday). Traditionally it’s a time when we are reminded to open our wallets or checkbooks to the causes nearest and dearest to our hearts. Please consider including AAUW in your 2020 giving.

Actually, we have two more things you need to know. First, kudos to Kathy McCullough for staying on top of this newsletter despite her cataract surgery. She never fails us! Second, in a season of thankfulness, we are so thankful for the company of all of you. Have a wonderful holiday, but please be careful — keep your distance, wear a mask, wash your hands. We have a lot to look forward to.

Janet & Donna Jean

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Information
Dec. 2	Branch Meeting	7:00 pm	Zoom.
Dec. 4	AM Lit	9:30 am	Zoom.
Dec. 12	Film Group	7:00 pm	Zoom (Anne will send Zoom link Saturday morning).
Dec. 14	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Zoom.
Dec. 16	AM Non-Fiction	10:00 am	Zoom.

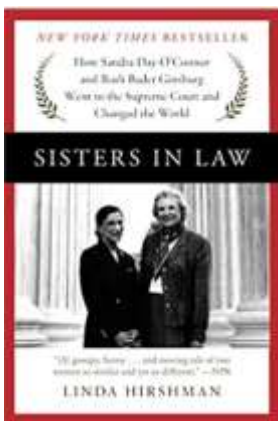


**December Branch Meeting
AAUW Issues of Importance
Wednesday, December 2
7:00 pm via ZOOM**

Representative Terra Costa Howard, lawyer, small business owner, teacher, wife, and State Representative for Illinois District 48 (includes Glen Ellyn, Lombard, and parts of Wheaton and Lisle), will speak to us again as she did in September, 2019. Representative Howard has served on many committees, such as Judiciary-Civil, Mental Health, Veterans' Affairs, etc. since taking office in January, 2019. We anticipate learning how the current legislative body is working towards helping in the fight against COVID-19, rising unemployment, small businesses closing, Black Lives Matter, and other hot topics of today. Please join us and hear Representative Howard speak to us as a returning legislator. Q & A will follow this presentation.



**January 2021 Branch Meeting
Here Come the Judges!
The Addition of Women to the Supreme Court
Wednesday, January 6
7:00 pm via ZOOM**



Please join us for our January 6, 2021 Branch meeting. Linda Hirshman, author of **Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World** will be our speaker. She reveals *stories of how these two trailblazing women fought for recognition in a male-dominated profession; battles that would ultimately affect every American woman. These women who were from opposite political parties, practiced different religions, cultures, and were from different regions of the country, yet they became friends as they listened to controversial court cases and helped create change in America making women more equal under the law. Ms. Hirshman also shows how these two justices shaped the legal framework of modern feminism, setting precedent in cases dealing with employment discrimination, abortion, affirmative action, sexual harassment, and many other issues crucial to women's lives. The lives of men were changed as well.*

You may want to read *Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World* and familiarize yourself with the struggles these women faced and how they overcame them prior to our Branch meeting. Feel free to invite a relative, friend, neighbor, or co-worker to join us for what promises to be a very enlightening and informative evening.



This month we have the pleasure of adding a new member to our Branch: Tziporah Ladin-Gross. We thank Fran Kravitz for introducing Tziporah to us.

Tziporah is a delightful young woman whose world is wrapped with few restraints. She was attracted by the challenge of immigrating to Israel from an early age and earned two degrees at Indiana University (Jewish Studies and a Certificate in Underwater Resource Management, 2016, 2017) in preparation to move there. From 2017-2020 she earned her MA in Maritime Civilizations and Coastal Archaeology at the University of Haifa in Israel. At home now in the USA, she works with children at Soaring Eagle Academy in Lombard as a teacher's assistant and is a Registered Behavior Technician at Nexus Solutions for Autism. She hopes to include some teaching sometime in the future at Shedd Aquarium. We look forward to meeting Tziporah in person. Please see Tziporah's contact information below and add it to your directory.

Directory Updates

Suzanne Balk

Correction to her email: *suzannejbalk@gmail.com*

Karen Bondy

Use only mobile phone number 630.436.0621

Mary Callow

Change email to *callowme@gmail.com*

Phyllis Fogel

Change mobile phone to 630.414.4841

Susie Gullickson

Change email to *gullish.1955@gmail.com*

Anne Hanley

Remove landline and use only new mobile phone: 630.989.0890

Tziporah Ladin-Gross *tziporahladingross@gmail.com*

Phone: 224.612.3306

LaVonne Ruoff

Use phone number 630.613.8163





On August 31, Branch assets came to \$25,259 and as of October 30, assets had increased to \$29,666. The increase included annual late dues renewals and two successful Branch fundraising events: (1) sale of the Book Sale inventory and (2) October Fundraising Walk contributions.

On September 30, the Branch sold the Book Sale inventory for \$2000 thanks to the efforts of Book Sale Chair, Ewa Bacon. This was a difficult decision but with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic it was determined to be the best option available. The agreement negotiated with the buyer may result in additional revenue in the next few months and the Branch will save over \$1000 in storage locker rental fees. Ewa also received a refund of the \$350 deposit made for rental of the church hall.

In October the Fundraising Walk Chair, Carolyn Oesterle, received \$1710 in contributions from Branch members. As Carolyn reported last month this exceeded our budgeted expectations.

The most significant expenses during this time were related to the annual Membership Directory: printing came to \$232 and mailing was \$84.

Branch members may request a copy of the full budget report by sending an email to me



Terra Costa Howard

In anticipation of our December Branch meeting featuring Terra Costa Howard (Representative IL-48), please consider revisiting the Public Policy article in the September 2020 Twigs. A section of the article covers what the Representative believed were key legislative actions taken during the Spring 2020 phase of the 101st meeting of the Illinois State Legislature as well as an overview of future activity. Such content might assist you in devising nonpartisan natured questions for Representative Howard.

**DuPage County's Founding Mothers:
Half a Century Fighting for Reproductive Freedom
Bonnie Wheaton**

In the early '70's, a group of young DuPage women who were interested in women's reproductive rights joined together to start a family planning clinic in Wheaton. I was privileged to be a part of the group and the experience changed my life. We were too naive to think that we could not succeed, and we, volunteers, provided quality health care for DuPage women for several years. Now, we are a group of older women. Representative Sean Casten took an interest in our story and his office produced this video. The production could not be more timely now that women's control of their bodies is in danger of being taken away. This is our *HERstory*.



Please see the video at this link: https://youtu.be/1_nQRh_IsEI

OR

Go to [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search *DuPage Founding Mothers*



Our Branch Book Groups

Reading is the key that opens doors to many good things in life. Reading shaped my dreams, and more reading helped me make my dreams come true.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

AM Lit

Jean Lindsey

jeanlindsey15@comcast.net

On Friday, December 4, AM Lit will meet to discuss *The Master and Margarita* by Mikhail Bulgakov. The Zoom discussion led by Peggy Connolly will start at 9:30 am. At the time I am writing this, there are copies of the novel available on Marilyn's porch.

Often listed as one of the best novels of the 20th century, *The Master and Margarita*, according to the NY Times is a *soaring, dazzling novel; an extraordinary fusion of wildly disparate parts*. The Chicago Tribune describes the book as *hilarious, mysterious, contemplative and poignant...a great work*. Others describe it as an *essential classic of Russian literature. It combines supernatural elements with satirical dark comedy*.

Looking ahead: January 8, 2021, *The Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict, Diane Serb, discussion leader.

PM Lit

Susie Gullickson

gullish.1955@gmail.com

PM Lit will be meeting via Zoom on December 14 at 7:00 pm to discuss *Circe* by Madeline Miller. Jane Palmer will be the discussion leader. Copies of the library book will again be available on Susie Gullickson's porch before the end of November. Watch for an email notification.

From The New York Times : *Circe is a bold and subversive retelling of the goddess's story. This #1 New York Times bestseller is both epic and intimate in its scope, recasting the most infamous female figure from the Odyssey as a hero in her own right. With unforgettably vivid characters, mesmerizing language, and page-turning suspense, Circe is a triumph of storytelling, an intoxicating epic of family rivalry, palace intrigue, love and loss, as well as a celebration of indomitable female strength in a man's world.*

AM Non-Fiction

Sue Herrmann

sherrmann710@gmail.com

Our next Zoom meeting will be on December 16. We will discuss *Justinian's Flea* by Rosen. Peggy Connolly will be our discussion leader. I will send the Zoom link to those who request an invitation.

Copies of our December book are available on Marilyn Wiedemann's front porch. All future book discussion meetings will be via Zoom.

PM Non-Fiction

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

We will not be meeting (i.e. Zooming) again until January 27, 2021, when we will discuss Tony Horwitz's *Spying on the South*, but we have an important task ahead of us. Please collect your recommendations for books for the 2021 reading season for PM Non-Fiction. Send me your recommendations with a short description of the book. Consider January 1, 2021 as the submission date. I will compile a list and send it to you for a vote before our January 27 meeting. I hope that we can choose our books for all of 2021: that is, we are looking for March, May, July, September and November 2021.



SCIENCE GIRLS ON THE GO



On November 3, the STEM committee released the third *Science Girls on the Go* ©kit to the little science houses in Wheaton (1445 Brentwood Lane) and Glen Ellyn (373 Oak Street). *Science Girls on the Go* is a science enrichment program for K-12 girls in the community. This month, the kits demonstrate properties of density and buoyancy. In this kit, girls will be building a density tower out of common kitchen liquids. Each kit contains a specialized centrifuge tube for preparing the four-layer density tower.

Sadly, this experiment is a substitute for the one the STEM committee was working on for the holidays. As scientists, we know not everything works and some things need tweaking. The STEM committee has gone back to the drawing board to try to make this a successful and safe experiment by changing the parameters of the experiment. Fingers crossed that the next kit is a crystalline delight.

We have also been busy working on making the project name, *Science Girls on the Go* and the idea of the little science houses and kits, copyright safe. This program and materials now belong to the AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP. All rights are reserved and the use of the name of *Science Girls on the Go* or the program may not be used without written permission from the Branch.

We need your help in spreading the word about *Science Girls on the Go* and our two little science houses. Please tell your neighbors, friends, schoolteachers, and your extended families about this program. The kits are free, and anyone is welcome to take a kit no matter where they live. Someday we will see a little science house pop up in every community. Please contact Fran Kravitz if you are interested in helping with this project, have ideas for new kits or have questions.



Film Group held its first Zoom meeting in November, where we discussed *The Trial of the Chicago 7*. It was an engaging mixture of recollections and experiences in addition to discussion of how the riots and trial were handled in the film. If you are interested in joining us in December, we will meet via Zoom on Saturday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m. We will watch and discuss a movie or documentary available on a streaming service, preferably Netflix. Selection will be announced one week in advance. Feel free to contact me with suggestions!

Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Vision: Equity for all.

Values: Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality.



The Twigs Team

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 the other members that make it all possible!*

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

