



Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP

wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net

Twigs

February 2021

A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

From Sue Herrmann, Co-President, 2017-2019

When Janet asked me to write my reflections on what AAUW means to me, I told her I love AAUW but hate to write. So here goes!

My history with AAUW began when I was in college at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. My aunt was a long time AAUW member, and she told me that when I graduated, I needed to join this great organization of educated women. I never forgot her advice even after marriage and three babies. My first branch membership was with the Deerfield, Illinois Branch in 1968. I was sold on the idea that women could really change the world if they organized and supported one another. Our branch was in the 4th of July Parade and our float, which was a 1968 Caddy convertible, had a huge sign that read 'We've Come a Long Way, Baby.'

After moving several times and several states later, we moved to Wheaton in 1971. My newly found Wheaton/Glen Ellyn friends, Anna Marie Nelson, Sue Balk, and Maureen Becker, suggested that I join their AAUW Branch. I learned very quickly how much enthusiasm and talent were in this Branch. I also observed that this Branch is very serious about making a difference in women's lives. We are a fun social group of smart ladies who enjoy having coffee, discussing fine literature, listening to interesting speakers once a month and giving financial scholarships. We also are open to new ideas and put events in place to help women achieve their new dreams.

When I was honored to be asked to be Co-President with Lisa Cherry in 2017, I quickly learned how much growth this Branch had achieved since 1971, and what plans were in place to grow into the future. Our Branch Leadership team over the years has streamlined and refocused Book Sale, brought in new money through LunaFest, simplified distribution of our newsletter, and updated our website. Some of you train women on salary and contract negotiation strategies, teach young women STEM projects, and keep our members up to date on public policy while carefully maintaining AAUW's non-partisan stance.

I am very honored to have been your president and salute all of you for helping us 'Come a Long Way, Baby!'

Sue

A few notes from Donna Jean and Janet:

1. Maximum kudos to Program Vice-President Frankie Robinson for managing the "registration" process for non-members attending the January Branch Meeting featuring Linda Hirschman. We had 99 attendees at that Zoom meeting!
2. More maximum kudos to Carolyn Oesterle for arranging for Ms Hirschman's presentation and facilitating the evening.
3. Despite the loss of our Book Sale but thanks to Ewa Bacon's successful sale of our book inventory and the subsequent generosity of our membership at year end, we are on track to awarding our customary scholarships to four high school seniors this spring. Keep up the good work!
4. Feeling a little "hemmed in" by the pandemic and winter? Please consider jumping into one of our book groups or the film group. New participants are always welcome, meeting details are elsewhere in this newsletter and Zoom links are an email away.

Donna Jean & Janet

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Information
Feb. 3	Branch Meeting	7:00 pm	Zoom
Feb. 5	AM Lit	9:30 am	Zoom
Feb. 10	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Zoom
Feb. 13	Film Group	7:00 pm	Zoom. Anne will send a link to all in the group on Saturday.
Feb. 15	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Zoom
Feb. 24	AM Non Fiction	10:00 am	Zoom
Feb. 24	PM Non Fiction Book Selection	7:00 pm	Zoom



Programs

Frankie Robinson

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February Branch Meeting
Wednesday, February 3
7:00 pm via Zoom

Speaker Leslie Goddard Presents:
Votes for Women: The 72 Year Struggle for Women's Rights

Leslie Goddard is an award-winning actress and scholar who has been presenting history programs for more than 15 years. She holds a Ph.D. from Northwestern University specializing in American Studies and U.S. History as well as a Master's Degree in theater.

A former museum director, she is the author of two books on history and currently works full-time as an author and public speaker. Her programs have included memorable women from the past and tell historical stories so that lessons from the past are more entertaining and educational. Leslie has presented her programs to hundreds of museums, libraries, senior centers, clubs, and other organizations around the country.

She will share with us an illustrated slide lecture exploring the long struggle women endured as they worked toward suffrage. In the 72 year struggle to gain the right to vote, women worked tirelessly and persevered in the face of strident opposition.



Membership

Jean Lindsey & Nancy Possinger

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Currently the Nominating Committee, comprised of Membership Co-Vice Presidents Jean Lindsey and Nancy Possinger, Patricia Spence and Kitty Johansson, are in the process of finalizing our slate of nominees for the coming two years. This year we will be electing Branch officers in the following positions: Co-Presidents and Secretary. In addition, we will also be appointing a Program Committee for the coming two-year term.

We will announce the slate of nominees at our Branch meeting on February 3. The slate will also be noted in next month's edition of Twigs. The election will be held at our annual Branch meeting on Saturday morning, March 6.

We also wanted to let you know that since we have now reached the half-way point in our AAUW year, new members joining our chapter will receive a reduced rate in membership dues. So it is a good time for any friends or family who would like to join, to do it now! For more information, prospective members can contact either Jean Lindsey at 630-665-5849 or Nancy Possinger at 630-800-0611 or emails listed above.



Treasury

Maureen Sheehan

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I am happy to report that over all the Branch is doing well financially despite the COVID-19 pandemic requiring changes in our operations. A total of 22 Branch members responded to the December 2020 Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) drive. Contributions received totaled \$2825 and the Branch thanks each contributor for their generous support. As you know the Branch EOF annually funds four Higher Education Incentive Awards for women from Wheaton and Glen Ellyn high schools who are matriculating to College of DuPage. The Board has already set aside funds to make these awards for the 2021-2022 school year. This generous response to the EOF fundraising drive will ensure the Branch is able to continue these awards into the future.

Recent Branch expenses included \$150 for the Zoom account used to host program and board meetings, as well as the annual \$15 fee to the Attorney General of IL Charitable Trust Bureau to maintain the Branch's registration as a 501(c)(3) organization.

Branch members may request a copy of the full budget report by email listed above.

Our Branch Fundraising Activities



LUNAFEST

Suzanne Gagner
petalpower1@yahoo.com

SAVE OUR POTENTIAL NEW DATE!!
LUNAFEST 2021 – Saturday, May 1

As I posted events in my pretty yellow planner for 2021, I ambitiously added **LUNAFEST** to May 1. The status of COVID-19 makes it difficult to know what will be permitted at that time, but with May comes lovely weather. The committee plans to research alternative settings for our **2021 LUNAFEST**.

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

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.





Our Branch Book Groups

Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are.

Mason Cooley

AM Lit

Jean Lindsey

jeanlindsey15@comcast.net

AM Lit has provided a wide range of places to be while we've been quarantined. In just the last four months our novels have taken us to Austria, Russia, Italy, and Mexico. This month, Louise Erdrich's celebrated novel, *The Night Watchman*, takes us to the Turtle Mountain Reservation in rural North Dakota in the 1950's. The Zoom discussion led by Barb Roos will take place on Friday, February 5 at 9:30 am. The *Book Reporter* describes the novel as a "clever, artful and compelling novel which tells an important story, one to open our hearts and minds. If you are looking for a book that is smart and discussable, tender and painful, riveting and elegant, you will find it in *The Night Watchman*." Sounds like a perfect description for an AAUW book discussion.

Up Next: March 5, we will read the delightful *Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk* by Kathleen Rooney. Patricia Spence has volunteered to be the discussion leader.

PM Lit

Susie Gullickson

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Thanks to everyone who provided book suggestions and participated in the January 18 Zoom meeting. The following books were selected for the first part of this year:

- February 15: *The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates. Bonnie Wheaton will lead the discussion.
- March 15: *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate. Peggy Connolly will lead the discussion.
- April 19: *Cher Ami and Major Whittlesey* by Kathleen Rooney. Phyllis Fogel will lead the discussion.
- May 17: *Heartland, A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth* by Sara Smarsh. Susie Gullickson and Lisa Cherry will lead the discussion.

Our next Zoom meeting will be Monday, February 15, 7:00 pm. An email will be sent when our selection is available from the Glen Ellyn Public Library for pick up from my front porch.

AM Non-Fiction

Sue Herrmann

sherrmann710@gmail.com

Our next Zoom meeting will be on February 24. We will discuss *How to be an Antiracist* by Ibram Kendi. I will be our discussion leader. I will ask Janet Arden to send the Zoom link out to you. Copies of our book will be picked up at the Glen Ellyn Public Library by Marilyn Wiedemann and will be on her front porch in early February.

Please note that we need to select a book for our April meeting since we discussed *Sisters In Law* at our very successful Branch meeting in January! Carolyn Oesterle did a fantastic job leading the discussion with our guest speaker, author Linda Hirschman. Ninety-nine people joined the Zoom meeting! Kudos to Carolyn!!

PM Non Fiction

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

Please send me your book nominations for our next year. Email me up to three book recommendations before a special book selection Zoom meeting on February 24. I will email a "ballot" before the meeting and you can speak in support of your recommendation on February 24. Next: Please send me your VOTE by March 1st and I will tabulate our choices. We need to select five books (March 24, May 26, July 28, September 22, and November 24, 2021).

Remember: I need to have your book recommendations (author, title, length and short description) before our February 24 meeting. THANKS.



Washington, D.C. Update: Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)

Democrats are now in control of the House and the Senate. ERA advocates believe this creates a favorable situation for the passage of the ERA.

- **Past Actions:** On Feb. 13, 2020, **House Joint Resolution 79** passed, revoking the current deadline for amendment passage. Unfortunately, **Senate Joint Resolution 6** (the Senate version of **HJR 79**) never even got out of the Judiciary Committee. Both **HJR 79** and **SJR 6** will need to be re-introduced for a new vote in the 117th Congress. At that time, they may be identified by different numbers.
- **Future Actions:** Senator Dick Durbin will become the head of the Senate Judiciary Committee, where **SJR 6** “died” before, and the Senate Whip. As the latter Durbin controls what bills appears on the Senate calendar and when. Senator Durbin and Representative Casten (IL-6) are enthusiastic supporters of the ERA.
- **Hurdles:** The ERA will face competition to get a priority position on Durbin’s agenda. Even if both bodies remove the deadline preventing ERA passage, the ERA perhaps could face litigation. Also, the amendment would not take effect until two years after its passage providing time for laws impacted by it to be reviewed and revised.
- **Hopes:** The deadline is revoked; little or no litigation occurs; we toast the 27th Amendment to the Constitution.

Springfield Update: Illinois House Bill 2818

Effective January 1, 2021, **Domestic Violence Survivors Can Keep Addresses Confidential** allows survivors of sexual assault and stalking to keep their home addresses confidential to reduce the risk that their attacker may locate them. The measure enables people to list the Illinois attorney general's office as their contact address in some circumstances through the address confidentiality program already established for domestic violence survivors.

Note that AAUW-IL did **NOT** support this bill. According to Tracey Sherman Falcon, AAUW-IL Public Policy Chair, *some of the legislation around stalking/criminal codes/domestic violence can get murky and other groups, like the IL Coalition Against Domestic Violence are better suited to supporting such legislation.*



Happy New Year! Here’s to a better year than 2020.

Well, that was quick. My wish for the New Year lasted all of six days. A lively discussion of *First Cow*, our January selection, was reflective of our national mood—quite divided and even heated at times—but being film fans, I think we came to accept that not all movies have to be liked by all audiences. The value I get from our group is watching the selections and talking about what we each got out of them. Even movies we do not personally like can be meaningful when viewed through the perspectives of others. I appreciate hearing the many perspectives, and always come away from our discussions with a deeper appreciation of the films and of our members. So, if we no longer can toast to a better year, let us recommit to open minds and respect for each other’s perspectives as we approach the films, and to lively discussions that celebrate what each of us brings to the table.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, February 13 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. 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!



Changes are coming to the Branch website!

The Board recently discussed privacy issues related to the website. For years, we have published Twigs on the home page of our website. When the website was established about 15 years ago, this was a convenience to our members who mostly received the newsletter through the mail. Now all but a few of our members receive Twigs by email.

Beginning with this issue, Twigs will move from the *Home* page to the *Members Only* page which requires a password. (The password is *twigs*, all lower case.) Past newsletters will also be moved to the *Members Only* page. To serve prospective members who might look to our newsletter to see what is going on in the Branch, our *Home* page will now include *From the Newsletter* paragraph that mentions current topics from Twigs. This will supplement the *Upcoming Events* paragraph currently on the *Home* page.

The second change involves members' email addresses. On every page of the website, we have an email link for the Branch officer or chair in charge of the topic under discussion. To protect our members from possible scam or phishing emails, all links will now go to a Branch email address. I will then forward it to the member or members who can respond to the inquiry. We only occasionally receive email inquiries through the website and we know of only two phishing emails, neither recent. This is a proactive step to protect our members' email addresses from public distribution.

If you have any questions or concerns about these changes, contact Jane Palmer at email listed above.

Zoom Tip

Tired of Zooming from the kitchen table, fearing that the icemaker will do its thing while you are speaking? Find your ironing board (last used in the 20th century), take it to the bedroom and use it as your height-adjustable Zoom table in front of a comfy chair.

Shared by Jane Palmer from local newspaper.

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!

