



Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP

wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net

Twigs

March 2021

Highlights from Past Presidents

Jackie DeFazio, Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW Branch President (1971-1973)

Dear Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW Sisters,

When I received the request from Janet Arden that I, as a Past Branch President, write an opening letter for one of the Branch newsletters this year, I had three immediate reactions:

- Of course, I will! (Almost always my response when AAUW comes knocking.)
- How long ago was that? (1971-1973, fifty years ago!)
- Yikes, I better see what I have in my files! (No small task since I had in our storage room at least a dozen large boxes of AAUW materials unopened since our move to Washington State 20 years ago.)

And so the journey to memories from times past began.

I joined AAUW in 1968 because of the Book Sale. An inveterate book lover and at that time, a stay-at-home mom, I decided I wanted to join whatever group this was. I immediately signed up to work on the Book Sale, chaired it a year later, and then was recruited as Branch President for the 1971-73 biennium. Talk about taking on a job with little preparation! The only AAUW policy I knew about was Book Sale policy, but members of the Branch offered me help and support. They began by sponsoring a fund raiser to enable me to attend the Association convention in Dallas.

What a convention that was! There, AAUW took two steps which changed it forever: it endorsed the Equal Rights Amendment, and it recognized a woman's right to control her reproductive destiny. My consciousness was raised (to use the jargon of the day), and I came back fired with enthusiasm. When Heidi Biederman said she wanted to start a women's studies group called *Herstory*, I was ready, and our Branch made AAUW history, I believe, by anticipating the AAUW focus on women, which would not emerge officially for another two years.

The *Herstory* group was, in Heidi's word, *basically a study and exploration of the 20th-century woman and thus, the name Herstory as opposed to history*. The group was a great success with 30 members faithfully attending monthly meetings and others dropping in sporadically. Word of the group spread, and it was the featured front-page article in the September 1972 Illinois State AAUW newsletter, *The University Woman*.

In addition to charting new territory for women, Branch members focused on national AAUW study topics by acting locally—the *Crisis in Public Education* group produced a position paper calling for an elected state board of education; the *This Beleaguered Earth* group's study of environmental concerns led to the founding of the *DuPage Environmental Council*, and the *We the People* group published *Nuts and Bolts: A Citizens' Guide to Local Government*. The *Herstory* group spawned two projects that would come to fruition during the 1973-74 program year—a *Speakers' Bureau for ERA* in cooperation with the Glen Ellyn League of Women Voters and DuPage NOW and a study of sexism in elementary school textbooks being used in Wheaton and Glen Ellyn schools. At the same time, it spurred the board to discard the policy of referring to women by marital status in the Branch directory and in news articles for local papers.

Those first four years of my membership in the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch formed the basis of what would become my second *career*—AAUW. The Branch provided a safe environment in which to hone my own leadership skills, mentored by Branch leaders like Kay Storm, Marilyn Sanders, and Betsey Eben, who willingly shared their expertise and encouraged me to keep growing.

Venturing outside the Branch, I worked at the state and then the national levels of AAUW, twice running in contested elections for national office—first for Director of Public Policy (1985-89) and then for AAUW President (1993-97). At every level of this organization, I encountered leaders and members who clearly articulated AAUW’s values, motivated me to take action and stretched the boundaries of my experience. But none of this would have happened without the bedrock support of members of the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, who helped plan and staff my campaigns, raised funds, traveled to national conventions where they *worked* the floor for me, and did whatever else was asked of them. I am indebted to them to this day.

I joined AAUW because of a Book Sale, but I have remained a member because of this organization’s commitment to education and equity for all women and girls and because of the amazing women I have been privileged to work with at every level of AAUW. Working with them, I have learned the inextricable link between excellence and equity, the power of extraordinary dreams, the wonder of friendships forged in common efforts, the inspiration of the past and the promise of the future—if we have the courage and the foresight to work together to create that future.

I have every confidence in the abilities of Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW members to do just that.

Thanks for sending me on this journey into my AAUW past—filled with lots of good memories of shared efforts and wonderful friends and colleagues.

Happy 65th Branch Birthday, Sisters!
Jackie

Addendum from Jackie

This request for the letter sent me on a search of long unlooked-at AAUW files from the distant past—which in turn triggered a search of a good dozen or so unopened boxes moved to Washington from Glen Ellyn and never opened since. I’ve spent the last three weeks going through them (high time, I would say) and miracle of miracles—I found a folder of stuff from my term as W-GE President together with copies of the various publications produced as part of Branch projects over the years.

Editor’s Note: Please see *Trivia Found in DeFazio Files* at the end this issue. As I had joined the Branch in the mid-1980’s, I remember when she served as AAUW President and found this information interesting. And we were all so proud! Hope you find it of interest as well.

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.



A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

Writing this message on a cold and snowy day and wishing for spring, we are reminded that friendships warm the heart and provide us with memories of happy times. Jackie DeFazio has shared memories from her many years of Branch and national membership and leadership, for which we are immensely grateful.

AAUW is at a crossroads. Since its inception in 1881, it has been a refuge and support for women who needed fellowship when there were few women with university degrees. Its mission has always been to provide educational assistance in the form of scholarships and fellowships, to invest in women who go on to change the world and advance their lives and those of their families. Indeed, AAUW is known as one of the primary and largest funders of scholarships for women, worldwide. Over the years, contributions have created a large endowment, which supports over \$4 million+ in these awards annually.

As times have changed, AAUW has endeavored to change as well. It has become a source of outstanding research and scholarship in women's issues. It has become a lobbying force on Capitol Hill and in state legislatures across the nation, advocating for issues of importance to women, especially, equity in educational opportunity, pay equity, Title IX, and leadership opportunities in government, business, and the sciences.

Now, more than ever, with society recognizing anew that diversity and inclusion are critical to a well-functioning society, AAUW has looked inward and seen that some of the successful policies of the past have resulted in exclusionary practices in this current environment. Specifically, this is the educational requirement of a university or associate degree. As the organization has evolved, it has become international, not just American. It has permitted the membership of men, not only women. What has always been of critical importance, is that members support the mission -- *To advance gender equity for women and girls through education, research and advocacy.*

It is on this basis, that the National AAUW Board is proposing a change to the By-Laws to eliminate the degree requirement for membership. This change will come before the membership for a vote. Voting will open on April 7 and close on May 17, 2021 at 5:00 pm ET.

As your Co-Presidents, we urge you to support this measure and vote to approve this change for the future of AAUW, so that as an organization and Branch, we may walk the walk on our mission and continue to support the advancement of women and girls in education, equity, and inclusion.

Donna Jean & Janet

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Information
March 5	AM Lit	9:30 am	Zoom
March 6	Branch Meeting Note: Day Change to Saturday	9:30 am	Zoom
March 10	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Zoom
March 13	Film Group	7:00 pm	Zoom. Anne will send a link to all in the group.
March 15	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Zoom
March 24	PM Non Fiction	7:00 pm	Zoom



All-Branch Program
Saturday, March 6, 2021, 9:30 am via Zoom

Jennifer Kelley, Professor and Reference Librarian, College of DuPage will discuss:
How to Improve Conversations on Race and Racism



Since last summer, sparked by the killing of George Floyd in Minnesota, the topic of race and racism has been front and center in the news. Countless incidents of disparity in the treatment of brown and black people have been highlighted over and over again. Protests around the country have occurred to encourage legislators to act and change some current policies. **Jennifer Kelley**, Professor and Reference Librarian at the College of DuPage (COD) in Glen Ellyn will present: **How to Improve Conversations on Race and Racism**. As part of this topic, she will discuss how COD is addressing many of the hot topics of today through conversations on race and racism in classrooms and across the campus.

In her role as Faculty Chair of Professional Development, Jennifer co-created the **College of DuPage Anti-Racism Action Initiative**, a college-wide community for COD employees seeking to improve conversations about race, racism, and oppression in the classroom and across campus. She also teaches a popular series of workshops on inclusive teaching and has led reading seminars on the books: *Teaching Race: How to Help Students Unmask and Challenge Racism* by Stephen Brookfield; *From Equity Talk to Equity Walk* by Tia Brown McNair, Estela Mara Bensimon and Lindsey Malcom-Piqueux; and *Race Talk and the Conspiracy of Silence* by Derald Wing Sue, PhD.

Guests are welcome. All Branch members will receive the Zoom link by email a few days prior to March 6. For further information and the Zoom link, contact wge-aauw@comcast.net.

LUNAFEST 2021 Update

SAVE OUR POTENTIAL NEW DATE
Saturday, May 1, 2021

The LUNAFEST format for 2021 is a virtual format. On February 11, Suzanne Gagner attended a *Lunch and Learn* webinar for potential hosts. The committee will study this to see how that can work for us. Many groups used this format in 2020 with great success.

Stay tuned...



The members of the Nominating Committee—Nancy Possinger, Kitty Johansson, Patricia Spence and Jean Lindsey are pleased to announce the 2021-2023 slate of prospective Branch officers.

Co-Presidents: Carolyn Oesterle and Mary Sue Brown

Co-Program Vice Presidents: Kathy Wessel and Barbara Roos

Committee Members: Peggy Connolly and Cindy Trennert-Lukens

Secretary: Lillian Sorensen

This slate of officers will be voted on at the Saturday, March 6 Branch Zoom Meeting. According to our bylaws, nominations from the floor may be presented if the candidate has agreed to have her name entered into nomination.

To learn more about the candidates, we asked the slate of nominees to write a short biography.

Mary Sue Brown

Wheaton Glen Ellyn AAUW has been an ongoing gift to me. From the hearty welcome, the warmth, and topical programs to the fun of Spice Routes, book discussions, and fund raising walks, I have enjoyed the bounty of our extraordinary group. While not doing AAUW, I spend time with my daughter, a high school English teacher in Albuquerque and my son, a college professor and his family in Winfield, Kansas. I do Botanical Illustration, most recently Moku Hanga-Japanese woodcuts. Next month I'll be taking an online class from Hirohito Morinque, a teacher at the Donkey Mill Center in Hawaii. And then there is my dog, Ella.

Carolyn Oesterle

I still remember the Friday morning ten years ago when I walked into AM Lit not knowing anyone there. I received a very warm welcome and immediately felt like a part of this wonderful group of women. I was equally happy when I read the AAUW Mission Statement and found it matched my own value system perfectly. It has been a great ten years for me.

My other interests include a love for science and working with and training animals. I shared a love of horseback riding with my daughter as we went to horse shows together. My son followed my love of science and medicine to become a cardiologist. My husband and I enjoy travelling. My current activities include dog agility in which I compete with my two poodles, Winston and Glenn, and duplicate bridge, which I play with Laura. Thank you to all the members of the Branch. I am excited to be your Co-President.

Barbara Roos

I spent most of my professional career as a clinical social worker in mental health settings. My last job was on the inpatient psychiatric unit of Hines VA Hospital where I worked with veterans of all ages and backgrounds. I found the work intense and generally satisfying.

Since retiring in 2016, I have kept very busy. I speak Spanish and continue to participate in a weekly Spanish conversation group, now via Zoom of course. Although raised as a Catholic, I am currently a member of the DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church where I have found a thoughtful, open and inclusive community. I participate in several Zoom church groups now. I love to exercise and have done a lot of hiking in the days of COVID-19. I enjoy reading and especially enjoy my three grandchildren 6 1/2 years, 2 years and 1 month! My two older grandchildren live in North Carolina but little Joan who is 1 month, lives nearby which is wonderful!

I have so enjoyed being a part of AAUW and am looking forward to being part of the Program committee.

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

Kathy Wessel

After retiring in 2001 from 33 years of teaching in Wheaton-Warrenville CUSD200, I have spent a great deal of time doing volunteer work as an elected trustee at the College of DuPage, as a leader of DuPage United, as a member of my condo board, and as a board member of the Buffalo Theatre Ensemble. I also have been able to travel, with favorites being Mallorca and a road trip through France. When not traveling I attend as many live theatre performances as possible. I will be so happy when we can travel again and see live theatre! My passions are public education, social justice, the arts and travel.

Peggy Connolly

Peggy Connolly has served in a number of Branch positions, including Book Sale Chair, Program Vice President, Facilities Coordinator, and President. She retired after serving 15 years as the Director of Student Research at the Illinois Math and Science Academy. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a past president of the National Association of Academies of Science. She is the author of a textbook on ethics, a contributor to three volumes of the NATO Science Series, and a published poet. Peggy loves gardening, traveling, cooking, reading, and spending time with family and friends, but has given up skydiving.

Cindy Trennert-Lukens

I am always amazed and humbled by the outstanding caliber of members in our Branch. When I attended a *get to know us tea* in 1977, a few months after graduation, at Sue Balk's home I was hooked (I still don't know who sent the invite). I never feel on par with all of you, but I forge on trying to up my game with your help. My best employee, Karen Bondy, came from our ranks! I've jumped in to support roles from time to time, knowing that every organization needs members to pitch in. I've chaired various committees such as Hospitality, Eleanor Roosevelt Walk, Film Group, Membership, Educational Opportunity, Public Policy and Banquets. I will cheerily dig into Program committee with the fine folks who have also raised their hands. Cheers to all!

Lillian Sorensen

I arrived in Glen Ellyn in 1990 with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology (University of Buenos Aires, Argentina) to work in a Chicago social service agency serving Spanish speaking families. I was born and raised in Buenos Aires. Our family heritage is Danish/Swiss. I am fully bilingual in English/Spanish. In 2000 I graduated from the University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration with a Master's Degree in school social work. I provided school social work services in a west suburban school district until my recent retirement.

My Passions: social work, psychology, sociology, literature, music, art, outdoor and indoor recreational sports, and socializing with friends and family.

Directory Update

Fink-Winter, Ruth (recent renewal)

630.847.4711

ruth.finkwinter@gmail.com

1635 Harwarden Street

Wheaton, IL 60187-5821.

BS Engineering

BS Chemical Engineering

ME Chemical Engineering

Harvey Mudd College

University of Nebraska

Iowa State University

AAUW Mar. Date 9/21/2013



Our Branch Book Groups

A good book makes you want to live in the story. A great book gives you no choice.

Anonymous

AM Lit

Jean Lindsey

jeanlindsey15@comcast.net

On Friday, March 5, AM Lit will meet at 9:30 am via Zoom to discuss *Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk*. This delightful novel, written by Kathleen Rooney, takes the reader on a journey through New York City and her experiences as a trailblazing advertising executive. Much is revealed as Lillian meanders. Patricia Spence will lead us as we process her struggles, achievements and personal challenges.

Looking Ahead: April 9 novel, *Yellow Bird* written by Sierra Crane Murdoch. We need a discussion leader. Please email me if you are willing to do so.

PM Lit

Susie Gullickson

gullish.1955@gmail.com

Our next Zoom meeting will be Monday, March 15 at 7:00 pm. We will discuss *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate. Peggy Connolly will be the discussion leader.

From Goodreads: *This novel was inspired by historical events: a story of three young women on a journey in search of family amidst the destruction of the post-Civil War South, and of a modern-day teacher who rediscovers their story and its connection to her own students' lives. Wingate brings to life stories from actual 'Lost Friends' advertisements that appeared in Southern newspapers after the Civil War, as freed slaves searched for loved ones who had been sold off.*

An email will be sent when *The Book of Lost Friends* 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 Non-Fiction discussion via Zoom will be on Wednesday, April 28 at 10:00 am. Please note that we will discuss *The Story of More: How We Got Climate Change and Where do we go from There* by H. Jahren. Jane Palmer will be our discussion leader. Please send me suggestions for our June 23 meeting as soon as possible.

PM Non-Fiction

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

We are meeting via Zoom at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, March 24. In a perfect world (pre-pandemic), I would be able to announce the title of our upcoming book. However, our book selection meeting is taking place after the Twigs deadline. A quandary! In the most ideal situation, the Glen Ellyn Public Library will be able to supply us with our first choice the first week of March and we will not have a problem with getting time to read it. But we should be prepared for an alternative.

In case we do not have a timely fresh book available, we will be discussing a book which is now familiar to us from Branch meetings: Linda Hirshman's *Sisters In Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World*. I will send out an email as soon as the situation becomes clearer.



Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF)

Susan Levy-Creed

susanlevycreed@gmail.com

I am thrilled to let the membership know that we are still, absent our fundraisers, able to fund our local scholarships for high school senior women from each of our feeder high schools. We will donate \$2000 for each young woman chosen by their high schools to attend College of DuPage. I have been in touch with all four counselor-coordinators. They are most appreciative of our ability to continue this tradition even during these unusual times. We will be duly noted in their Senior Honor's Programs, also affording us publicity.

In addition, I received a thank you letter from Kimberly Churches, the Chief Executive Officer of AAUW, thanking our Branch for our contribution to the Greatest Needs Fund at National. We should all feel proud of our ability to contribute to the support of our mission to encourage the education of women and girls.



Public Policy

Patricia Spence

pspence101@aol.com

The AAUW National Board of Directors strongly supports elimination of the degree requirement for membership. Only your affirmative vote affecting bylaws can make this happen.

Accordingly, **ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES, Section 2, *The Basis of Membership*** will change to:
An individual who supports the AAUW mission and pays annual AAUW dues shall be eligible to be an individual member with all rights and responsibilities of AAUW membership.

All voting will take place online. **Voting will open on April 7 and close May 17, 2021, 5:00 p.m. ET.** All members without an email address on file with AAUW National will receive notification of the vote by mail. A member may contact AAUW for a paper ballot. AAUW, 1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005, 202-785-7700.

The AAUW Bylaws require that submitted ballots equal in number to at least five percent (5%) of the votes entitled to be cast by members is the quorum required for a vote to be counted. The AAUW Bylaws require that the affirmative (Yes) vote of two-thirds of the votes cast are required to amend the bylaws. For more information go to:
<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/2021-comment-bylaws/>

Annual AAUW Art Contest: Voting period, **February 10 to March 3.** Our AAUW greeting cards, a national fundraiser, display the winners of this contest. Choose what our brand looks like when it arrives in the mailboxes of the world at large. <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/art-contest/>

DuPage County Update: April 6, Consolidated Election.

Springfield Update: Representative Deb Conroy, IL. 46, will be part of Majority Speaker Welch's leadership team of caucus whips representing the women's caucus. See future *Twigs* issue for the name of the women's caucus whip on the Minority Leader's team.



SCIENCE GIRLS ON THE GO

On February 14, the STEM committee released the fourth *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 non-Newtonian properties using Oobleck. Oobleck is a form of slime made with cornstarch which is the safest form of slime. There are no irritants used in this experiment. Oobleck was chosen for February because of our cold weather in Chicago. Experiment kits placed in the little science houses must survive freezing. Hopefully, next month will be warmer.

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 by email listed above, if you are interested in helping with this project, have ideas for new kits or have questions.



In February, we voted on a list of films to determine what to watch. We decided on *Mank*, but any of these could have been a good selection (*Ma Rainey*, *Memento*, *News of the World*, *Sir*, *The Dig*, *White Tiger*). Consider watching them! And think about what you want to watch in March, for we will be voting again.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday March 13 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Send in your nominations by March 5, and I will gather them into a ballot for your vote. Selection will be announced the first weekend of the month.





AAUW-IL District 5
Educational Opportunities Fund
14th Annual Fellows Presentation



Saturday, April 17, 2021
1:00 p.m.

Please plan to join a ZOOM presentation with some of the 2020-21 AAUW Fellows and Grantees.

- **Marquitta Dorsey, American Fellowship, Loyola University, Social Work, a Publication Grant focusing on elevating the voices of Black adolescent females about sexual health and sexual activity.**
- **Kate Brunk, Director, YWCA McLean County, Community Action Grant: YW Strive Program for women who have experienced incarceration, providing skills and education to reduce barriers to gainful employment**
- **Kelly Fair, Director, Reflections Foundation. Community Action Grant: Pink Hard Hats. Mentoring program for low-income African-American and Latina girls.**
- **Michelle Friedner, American Fellowship, U of Chicago, Anthropology and Archaeology. Postdoctoral program. Project focusing on Becoming Normal: Deafness, Cochlear Implants, and Sensory infrastructures in India.**

Please mark your calendars and watch for further information.

The AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund is one of the world's largest sources of funding exclusively for graduate women. For 2020-21, \$3.5 million dollars were awarded to more than 200 women. These exceptional recipients are pursuing academic work and leading innovative community projects to empower women and girls.

Trivia Found in the DeFazio Files

- In 1968, the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch had 125 members, my files tell me: 7% aged 29 or younger, 40% aged 30-39, 32% aged 40-49; 14% aged 50-59, 7% aged 60 or above. Only 23% of members were employed full-time, and 15% held part-time jobs. Babysitting was provided (for a slight fee) for attendees of study groups. The September 1971 Branch Newsletter invited members *to join us in pursuit of intellectual challenge and directed social action.*

Conclusion: Branch members, while diverse in age, were younger than AAUW members today. Many were stay-at-home moms who joined to enjoy intellectual pursuits with like-minded women. Not so today with a majority of women working outside the home with less time to devote to volunteerism.

- That same September newsletter announced the purchase of a new A.B. Dick hand-operated mimeograph machine for \$485 with funds borrowed from the Branch savings account and scheduled to be paid back over the succeeding five years. The same article announced deficits in funds for programs and for convention attendance, stating, Realistic assessment of Branch goals seems necessary to determine our priorities.

Conclusion: Money for branch operating funds has been a consistent challenge for branches (and states).

- Seven Branch members attended the 1973 Association Convention in Washington, DC, where, according to the Glen Ellyn News, they *considered the future role of AAUW and heard speakers on issues relating to the media, women, education, and U.S.-East Asian relationships.* (Great picture of delegates—all identified by their own names! How young we all were!)

Conclusion: Great representation increase in convention attendees—from one in 1971 to seven in 1973—perhaps indicative of increasing involvement in local Branch projects. Obviously, some considerable self-funding was also involved.

- From the speech I evidently delivered during the celebration of the Branch's 30th Anniversary: *We know that getting older as a Branch will require integrating the experiences of the past with the changes required by the changing nature of women's lives in the 1980's. How fortunate we are to have in our membership a wide variety of experience and fresh perspectives that can help us all to forge an even more dynamic Branch as we work together to assure the continued longevity of Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW.*

Conclusion: The more things change, the more we need to change—as individuals and as an organization. Think about this as you ponder the proposed 2021 bylaw on the membership requirement.

The Twigs Team

Editor:	Kathleen McCullough
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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!***

