



Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP

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

# Twigs

April 2021

## Notes from the Co-Presidents

As always, we are grateful to our past presidents for sharing their memories of past administrations and projects conducted by the Branch over the years. This month Kitty Johansson shares a memory of an ongoing project started by Karen Bondy.

Elections for a new administration were held at our March annual meeting. We adapted to our new world and held our meeting and vote via our usual Zoom platform. Congratulations to Mary Sue Brown and Carolyn Oesterle, Co-Presidents, to Barbara Roos and Kathy Wessel, Co-Vice Presidents of Programs, and Lillian Sorensen, Secretary. They will be installed in June at what we hope will be an opportunity for all of us to get together perhaps at a picnic or other outdoor gathering (and hopefully with everyone vaccinated) to celebrate them.

We have alternatives to our normal May fundraisers in the interest of caution and compliance with national and state guidelines. Please see more about this in other articles.

It is lovely to hear and see that many of us are getting our vaccinations and that will permit us to meet in person soon. Stay well and safe. This, too, shall pass.

*Donna Jean & Janet*

## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Information
April 6	2021-2022 Program Planning Meeting	7:00 pm	Zoom.
April 7	Branch Meeting	7:00 pm	Zoom.
April 9	AM Lit	9:30 am	Zoom.
April 10	Film Group	7:00 pm	Most likely via Zoom (Anne will send a link to all in the group).
April 14	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Zoom.
April 19	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Zoom.
April 28	AM Non Fiction	10:00 am	Zoom.

Past President Karen Bondy, (1989-1991)  
Kitty Johansson

This month Past President Kitty Johansson focused her letter on one member's contribution to an AAUW Branch program that epitomizes our values and program goals and illustrates the commitment members make to these efforts. Do you remember this program?

Still a vital and steady source of nutrients for the Branch, Karen Bondy is one of the main anchors who customized an existing life planning program for middle school girls attending Edison and Hadley Middle Schools in Wheaton and Glen Ellyn. Over several years, as Branch members tweaked and updated the program, it gained momentum and popularity, eventually including boys as well, before the Branch transitioned the running of the event over to teachers and parent volunteers as part of the curriculum. Many girls (and boys) were better able in a real way to envision choices for their future careers.

REALITY STORE began as a one-day event, issued a calculation list (eventually a debit card) for each girl to use to first choose a career, then rotate through a series of stations where advisors helped her formulate what her career would entail. Each student was issued an appropriate salary from which she constructed a budget encompassing the cost of renting or owning a house, utilities, owning a car or train fare, food, clothing, children including day care and basic medical care. The student would deduct these costs from the salary and decide whether she could accommodate the budget and live within the remainder if she made those choices, starting with the career. The Branch provided the counselors and the research and, in the end, the students learned whether their selected occupation would provide the financial resources needed for the lifestyle choices they may make. Financial planning, career choice, reasons for staying in school were all topics that were covered – and the students had fun!

Karen is still giving her time and talent to Branch projects and we are enriched by her knowledge and organizational abilities.

**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.





## Programs

---

**Frankie Robinson**  
frankiel62@yahoo.com



**April Branch Meeting**  
**Via Zoom**  
**Wednesday, April 7, 7:00 pm**

***10 Easy Ways to be More LGBTQ Friendly and Why It Matters***  
**Presented by Katie Slivovsky**

Come explore how to be a better ally for the LGBTQ+ community. We will look at research, work on new vocabulary, discuss concrete examples and engage in lively discussion as we build awareness, empathy, and understanding. We can all learn and do more to insure our LGBTQ+ family, friends, and community members are actively welcomed and included throughout our communities.

Our presenter, Katie Slivovsky, is a professional trainer, science writer, and exhibit developer. She was the former Exhibit Development Director and Co-Chair LGBTQ Inclusion at Chicago Children's Museum. She also cofounded the Chicagoland Alliance of Museums with Pride (CAMP). Katie developed the workshop, ***10 Easy Ways to be more LGBTQ-Friendly and Why It Matters*** in 2012 and has delivered it around Chicago and across the country. Katie has also published multiple articles about LGBTQ inclusion, age-appropriate nature education, and parenting for early childhood.

Though the topic of LGBTQ inclusion can feel heavy, Katie's approach includes a combination of humor, large group activities, and small group reflection. Her goal is for participants to leave the session feeling inspired and empowered to take a few steps toward ensuring all children and adults feel their support.



## Membership

---

**Jean Lindsey & Nancy Possinger**  
Jeanlindsey15@comcast.net nap101547@ameritech.net

Just a reminder that now is a perfect time for your friends to join AAUW because we started our fiscal year on March 15. For new members joining our organization at this point in the year we offer a *Shape the Future* discount so that they would pay only half the National AAUW dues and in addition membership would extend for 15 months until June 30, 2022. For more information, contact Jean or Nancy at the emails above.

## Directory Update

### **LaVonne Brown Ruoff**

\*\*Landline number change: 630.613.8163 (preferred number)

\*\*Mobile: 331.613.8163 (rarely used)

## Book Sale Update Ewa Bacon

The AAUW Book Sale has been supporting our Branch's scholarships for many decades. We had to cancel our 2019 Book Sale and have no regular Book Sale planned for 2020. In an effort to collect at least a moderate sum of scholarship money, we are planning a two-pronged effort. In May we hope to launch an email appeal to our regular customers for donations to **Pretend It's a Book Sale**, a kind of virtual Book Sale. No real books are involved. The format is still under development.

Both Glen Ellyn and Wheaton have some kind of short term (three to five days) summer street event. We hope to be able to secure a table and sell actual books, donated by the Branch members. This would entail the AAUW banner, information about our Branch and membership information. We could sell books-by-bag, individually priced better books or assemble sets of gift books. This would be a mini Book Sale, very small scale, involving actual books. Significantly this type of fundraiser would keep our name in front of our communities. We are still developing this format! Suggestions welcome!



## 2021-2022 Program Planning Meeting Peggy Connolly

What suggestions do you have for Branch programs in the coming year? The 2021-2022 Program Committee invites you to a Zoom planning meeting on Tuesday, April 6 at 7:00 pm. The final topics and schedule will *not* be determined at the planning meeting, as these will depend on speaker availability and program balance. The planning meeting will identify topics of interest to members so the committee will be able to confirm speakers for inclusion in the 2021-2022 directory.

Please send suggestions, including contact information for the speaker, by April 2 to Peggy Connolly. Additional recommendations may be made at the meeting, but it will be helpful to have most suggestions beforehand. The Program Vice Presidents (Kathy Wessel and Barb Roos) and their committee (Cindy Trennert-Lukens and Peggy Connolly) are eager to hear your ideas.



## Our Branch Book Groups

*She read books as one would breathe air, to fill up and live.*

Annie Dillard

### **AM Lit**

**Jean Lindsey**

*jeanlindsey15@comcast.net*

**Please note that AM Lit meets on the second Friday in April, April 9, to avoid conflict with Good Friday.** Join us for a 9:30 am Zoom discussion of *Yellow Bird* by Sierra Crane Murdoch. Caroline Oesterle is our discussion leader.

Ted Conover states that “In *Yellow Bird*, oilfield meets reservation, and readers meet a true-to-life Native sleuth unlike any in literature. Sierra Crane Murdoch takes a modest, ignored sort of American life and renders it large, with a murder mystery driving the action. It’s an empathetic, attentive account by a talented writer and listener.” *LA Times* describes it as a “Great true crime story.”

**Looking Ahead:** May 7, *The Dutch House*. Discussion Leader: Nancy Possinger.

It is also time to start thinking about 2021-2022 book selection. It will be held on June 4, and the novel suggestion deadline is May 21. So, start your list now! More specifics next month.

### **PM Lit**

**Susie Gullickson**

*gullish.1955@gmail.com*

Our next Zoom meeting will be Monday, April 19 at 7:00 pm. We will discuss *Cher Ami and Major Whittlesey* by Kathleen Rooney. This book was suggested by Phyllis Fogel, who will lead our discussion.

From *Goodreads*: “From the green countryside of England and the gray canyons of Wall Street come two unlikely heroes: one a pigeon and the other a soldier. Answering the call to serve in the war to end all wars, neither Cher Ami, the messenger bird, nor Charles Whittlesey, the army officer, can anticipate how their lives will briefly intersect in a chaotic battle in the forests of France, where their wills will be tested, their fates will be shaped and their lives will emerge forever altered.”

Watch for an email which will advise when copies of *Cher Ami and Major Whittlesey* are available for pick up on my front porch.

### **AM Non-Fiction**

**Sue Herrmann**

*sherrmann710@gmail.com*

Our next Zoom meeting will be on April 28 at 10:00 am. We will discuss *The Story of More: How We Got to Climate Change and Where to We Go from There* by H. Jahren. Jane Palmer will lead our discussion. Books will be available on Marilyn Wiedemann’s front porch starting April 1. Hope you can join us!



**Washington Update: Vote**

The AAUW national election is April 7 to May 17. Each member with an email on file will receive a personalized email with online voting instructions. If you do not have an email on file, you can request a paper ballot until April 16.

On the ballot: the proposed change in membership requirements and other modifications to Bylaws and Public Policy Priorities.

Go to the AAUW website <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/2021-comment-bylaws/> to see the proposed changes **in red**. They are directed toward ending systemic racism, achieving equity, and improved and focused data collecting to *inform policy decisions and the apportionment of political representation*.

Do you want to learn more about proposed membership changes? See two Town Halls, the first hosted by Lisa Cherry, President, AAUW-II, and the second by AAUW CEO, Kimberly Churches.

Go to <https://janeaddams-il.aauw.net/> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MReyVQOfrRY>

Also, informative in learning current directions of AAUW National efforts is the letter by Kate Nielson, AAUW Director of Public Policy & Advocacy to the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress . <https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2021/01/AAUW-PRIORITIES-FOR-THE-117TH-CONGRESS.pdf>

**Correction to February Twigs:** When the ERA passes it will be the **28<sup>th</sup> Amendment**, not 27<sup>th</sup>. Passage of the ERA remains a 2021-2023 Public Policy Priority.



For the last year, our Branch has truly been *AAUW Online*. Kudos to all who figured out how to safely continue getting together for Branch meetings, book groups and film group through our Zoom software. It was great to be able to see you all at the monthly meetings when we were staying home. Although we hope to be phasing out Zoom meetings over the next few months, that software may still come in handy. Blizzard interferes with a planned meeting? Flooding drowns out our anticipated venue? No problem – we can Zoom!

The AAUW Online team has been busy this month with several new updates. The integrated book list now includes recently selected books from the PM Lit, AM Non-Fiction and PM Non-Fiction groups. It is in PDF format available to you from the **Book Group** page.

**For Members Only:** A new link will allow you to look over presentation materials used by our **March 6 Branch Speaker, Jennifer Kelley**, which described recent College of DuPage anti-racist initiatives. Also on the **Members Only** page, you can find the February Board minutes and the February 28 financial report. Look for them under *Board Activities*. (The password for the *Members Only* page is twigs.)



Well, it turns out we have good taste! In February we watched *Mank*; in March we chose *Nomadland*, and both are nominated for Best Picture for the Academy Awards. Our November pick, *The Trial of the Chicago 7*, was also nominated. Let's watch another nominee in April! The remaining five Best Picture nominees are *The Father*, *Judas and the Black Messiah*, *Minari*, *Promising Young Woman*, and *Sound of Metal*.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, April 10 at 7:00 pm, most likely via Zoom. (If the weather is warm and the days are long, we might meet outdoors at an earlier time. I will poll you well in advance.) Send in your vote by April 1. Selection will be announced in time for weekend in-theater viewing for those of you who are so inclined.



### 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!***