



Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP

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

# Twigs

May 2021

## A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

What a difference a year makes (or does it?). As we have met with other Branch presidents earlier this spring (virtually, of course), we realize how fortunate we are to have an engaged, enthusiastic membership that supported our September Fundraising Walk in honor of 100 years of women’s suffrage, attended backyard, small group seminars in October, then switched to the ever-present Zoom meeting for the last several months. Our STEM project, *Science Girls on the Go*, is a reality. We turned our canceled Winter Banquet into a handsome EOC fundraiser and our book and film groups continued to nurture both our minds and our friendships.

Who else but AAUW could accomplish all this in a pandemic?

Now the Branch is poised for new leadership as Carolyn Oesterle and Mary Sue Brown assume the office of co-presidents, Barbara Roos and Kathy Wessel take over as co-vice presidents for programming, and Lillian Sorensen assumes the office of secretary. We look forward to an outdoor, in-person swearing-in next month (Details to follow separately).

If you have not yet voted on national’s proposed elimination of the degree requirement for membership, please scour your inbox, spam and junk folders for the message from Shannon Wolfe and cast your ballot. Supporters agree eliminating the degree requirement will bring AAUW membership criteria in line with its mission – to advance gender equity. This may represent a significant change in thinking for some members, but the flip side of that argument argues that greater diversity can only strengthen AAUW and our ability to advance equity. If the last year has taught us anything, it is that times and society have changed. AAUW’s goal is to meet its mission and society’s needs today.

Thank you for your continuing support. The last year has challenged us more than we ever expected. The happy circumstances in which the Branch now finds itself are a reflection of your willingness to “go with the flow” and accept new opportunities.

Looking forward to seeing you in-person soon.

*Donna Jean & Janet*

## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Information
May 7	AM Lit	9:30 am	Zoom.
May 8	Film Group	TBD	Either 5:30 pm in person at Adams Park, Wheaton, or 7:00 pm via Zoom. Confirmation will be sent via email closer to the date.
May 12	Cultural Arts Event <i>Frida Kahlo: Timeless</i>	7:00 pm	Zoom link sent about a week before via All Branch email.
May 17	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Format TBD.
May 26	PM Non-Fiction	7:00 pm	Format TBD.



## Membership

**Jean Lindsey & Nancy Possinger**

*Jeanlindsey15@comcast.net napossinger@gmail.com*

### AAUW Opportunities Beyond the Branch: Increasing Your Influence in AAUW

AAUW offers many ways its members can impact the organization on the state or national level. A number of Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch members are making significant contributions as AAUW-IL officers and board members. **Lisa Cherry**, a former Branch President, now serves as the AAUW-IL President. **Donna Jean Simon** is currently the Northern District Director. Donna Jean will succeed Lisa when her term ends as AAUW-IL President. **Laura Desmarais** was the AAUW-IL Program Vice President for the past two years, and now is the AAUW-IL Funds Director. Both Laura and Donna Jean have also been Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch Presidents. If you are interested in pursuing a state position, contact one of them. They will be happy to talk to you about what it entails.

### Branch Directory Update

**Please update your Directory and email data bases for:**

**Nancy Possinger**

New email: *napossinger@gmail.com*



## Treasury

**Maureen Sheehan**

*maureenjsheehan@aol.com*

### DUES RENEWAL 2021-2022

Dues renewal time is here again. After much consideration, the AAUW National Board of Directors approved a \$3 increase in National dues this year so the total will be \$91. The process is the same as last year:

1. On about May 4, I will initiate an invoice to be sent to the email account that we have on record for you.  
**NOTE: If your email address has changed recently, please send your new email address as soon as possible to [maureenjsheehan@aol.com](mailto:maureenjsheehan@aol.com)**
2. Sometime between May 4 and May 7, you will receive a personalized *e-renewal letter* from [memberinfo@aauw.org](mailto:memberinfo@aauw.org). Do not forward this to anyone else as it is specific to you.
3. To complete your renewal, click on the secured personalized link in the message. You have a choice to either (a) pay online with a credit or debit card, or (b) print the form and mail a check to Maureen Sheehan, 227 Orchard Lane, Glen Ellyn IL 60137.

Please use whichever method you prefer. I have already renewed using the link to pay by credit card and it took less than a minute, but a check sent to me also works. Please call (630.926.1147) or email me if you have not received the [memberinfo@aauw.org](mailto:memberinfo@aauw.org) message by May 10 or if you have trouble renewing online.

### REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS FOR 2020-2021 EXPENSES

The end of fiscal year 2020-21 is approaching. Please submit any check requests for expenses to me by June 10 at the latest. The 2020-21 revenue and expenses will be used to generate a preliminary 2021-2022 budget for the annual budget meeting. Reimbursement requests should be mailed or dropped off to Maureen Sheehan, 227 Orchard Lane, Glen Ellyn IL 60137.

**CHECK OUT OUR NEW DATE!**  
**LUNAFEST 2021**  
**September 10, 7:00 pm**  
**Suzanne Gagner**



The **2021 LUNAFEST Traveling Film Festival** is scheduled for Friday, September 10, 2021 at 7:00 pm. This will be a virtual event and will be available to you for a 48 hour period ending on Sunday, September 12 at 7:00 pm.

LUNA Corporation offered the 2020 LUNAFEST in a virtual format. This was successful for many not-for-profit organizations, and LUNA decided to use this format again in 2021. The virtual film festival will be available to you to watch on your computer like a webinar. If you have Apple TV, AirPlay, Roku, or Chromecast, you can stream the festival onto your television.

The LUNAFEST committee is discussing ways to retain the raffle prizes and refreshments that made our 2019 event such fun. For people in the area, this could include small viewing parties. We will also encourage people to host a LUNAFEST viewing for family and friends.

Please watch Twigs for more information as our planning continues. We will also be using All-Branch emails, Facebook, and our website to promote this major fundraiser.



**Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF)**

**Susan Levy-Creed**

*susanlevycreed@gmail.com*

The high school counselors are hard at work choosing our scholarship recipients for 2021-2022. I should have names and brief biographies for us all to share by next month. Although I will have some names by the end of April, I prefer early May, to be sure that these young women will be attending College of DuPage. May 1 is traditionally decision day, so I will not be giving information on the wrong young scholar! So, we wait, and realize how fortunate we are to be able to give young women a head start on their post-high school academic journey. The \$2000 scholarship goes a long way in helping fund this first step in their journey. Thanks to all our members!

**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.



**Cultural Arts Events**  
**Frida Kahlo: Timeless**  
**Exhibition at College of DuPage**



**Zoom meeting with Lombard/Villa Park AAUW Branch**  
**Diana Martinez, Director of the McAninch Art Center**  
**May 12, 2021**  
**Peggy Connolly**

On May 12 at 7:00 pm, we will have the opportunity to experience **Frida Kahlo: Timeless Exhibition**. This special cultural arts program, highlighting paintings from one of the largest private collections of her work, will be hosted via Zoom by the Lombard/Villa Park Branch and presented by Diana Martinez, Director of the McAninch Art Center (MAC) at the College of DuPage. The presentation will be 35-40 minutes, followed by time for questions. The Downers Grove Branch will also participate. Lombard/Villa Park Branch will send the Zoom link about a week before the program date, which will be passed on via an All-Branch email. The Frida Kahlo exhibit will open June 5 and run through September 6 at the MAC.

**Exhibition Docent-Led Tour**  
**Cleve Carney Museum of Art**  
**June 9, 2021**  
**Janet Arden**

The Frida Kahlo exhibit at College of DuPage's Cleve Carney Museum of Art opens on June 5, after a year-long delay due to COVID-19. Last year we reserved 40 tickets for a docent-led tour of the exhibit the first week it opened. I am happy to share with you that we have been offered essentially the same reservation, for Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at 10:00 am. Admission is \$24.00 per ticket. This price includes the \$5.00 docent fee and a \$2.00 technology fee for each ticket.

If you would like to participate, please email [janarden@icloud.com](mailto:janarden@icloud.com) with your ticket request as soon as possible. I will respond with an email confirming your attendance. Tickets will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Once your ticket is confirmed, please forward a check for payment, made out to **AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP** to treasurer Maureen Sheehan, 227 Orchard Lane., Glen Ellyn, IL 60137.

If you have any questions, please email me or call me at 630.665.7952.

**Please note the following COVID-19 precautions followed by the MAC and CCMA:**

*Following guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and state and local health departments, the MAC and CCMA established COVID-19 Precautions to keep patrons, staff and volunteers safe. Protocols include mandatory mask wearing and social distancing, temperature checks, digital programming, touchless ticket-taking, lucite barriers at the box office, one-way traffic, as well as HEPA filters and hand-sanitizing stations installed throughout the space. In addition, all attendees will be ticketed in 15-minute increments to ensure no more than 50 people are in the space at one time.*



## Our Branch Book Groups

**“We don’t need a list of rights and wrongs, tables of dos and don’ts: we need books, time, and silence. *Thou shalt not* is soon forgotten, but *Once upon a time* lasts forever.” Phillip Pullman**

### **AM Lit**

**Jean Lindsey**

*jeanlindsey15@comcast.net*

Join us on May 7 at 9:30 am for (maybe) our last Zoom Am Lit meeting. We will discuss *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett with Nancy Possinger as our discussion leader. Reviewers have described this best seller as “*Paradise Lost*, dusted with fairy tale...that digs deeply into questions of inheritance, love and forgiveness and a past that will not let them go.” It is as they say, *a good read*.

It is that time again! As previewed last month, June 4, is the date for our annual book selection. Peggy Connolly has graciously offered to host the selection. Jane Palmer and Judy Sims have once again agreed to run the selection process which begins with members submitting novel titles on or before **May 21** to Judith Sims by email: [judsims@hotmail.com](mailto:judsims@hotmail.com). We ask that you include **title, author, number of pages, a short summary (3-4 sentences) and whether you have read it or not**. Given that there are two non-fiction groups, I think we should limit our choices to fiction. Some years we have included a classic novel, a short story collection, science fiction, historical fiction and multicultural novels. All suggestions will be considered. We ask that you limit your recommendations to no more than three titles. We will choose 11 titles. The group depends on its members to recommend discussion worthy titles!

### **PM Lit**

**Susie Gullickson**

*gullish.1955@gmail.com*

PM Lit will meet on Monday, May 17 at 7:00 pm. Meeting format will be determined closer to the date and communicated via email. I am hoping we are able to meet in person for the first time in over a year! We will discuss *Heartland – A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth* by Sarah Smarsh. Lisa Cherry and Susie Gullickson will lead the discussion. Twelve copies of *Heartland* are available on Susie Gullickson’s porch.

From *Goodreads*: “During Sarah Smarsh’s turbulent childhood in Kansas in the 1980’s and 1990’s, the forces of cyclical poverty and the country’s changing economic policies solidified her family’s place among the working poor. By telling the story of her life and the lives of the people she loves, Smarsh challenges us to look more closely at the class divide in our country and examine the myths about people who are thought to be less because they earn less.”

Also, on June 21, we will meet to make our book selections for the 2021-2022 year, so please start sending Susie your suggestions no later than June 10.

### **AM Non-Fiction**

**Sue Herrmann**

*sherrmann710@gmail.com*

No meeting in May, however please send me your nominations for the books you would like to read for 2021-22. We will select them at our June 23 meeting at Peggy Connolly’s home at 10:00 am.

*Please see PM Non-Fiction on next page.*

At our May meeting, we will discuss Fareed Zakaria's short and timely book about the topic foremost on our minds: *Ten Lessons for a Post-Pandemic World*. Ewa Bacon will start our discussion at 7:00 pm on May 26. We will have either the pandemic-Zoom **OR** we will actually meet—still socially distanced with your own wine and treats—in Peggy Connolly's luscious garden (1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton). I will email the actual format closer to the date.

Fareed Zakaria is a well-known public intellectual whose sane voice can be heard on the *GPS Podcast* and read in the *Washington Post*. Fundamentally he is asking if the pandemic is a historical hinge event (history has changed direction), an acceleration of our current history or will produce little/no change. He has short chapters on governments, on markets, on the use of experts, on our digital life, social inequalities and globalization. We have choices to make; we should be aware of what they are.



### Springfield Update:

AAUW-IL supports the passage of HB 1797/ SB 2190, **Repeal of Parental Notice of Abortion (PNA)** and HB 1736/ SB 647 **REACH Act (Responsible Education for Adolescent and Children Health Act)**.

AAUW-IL considers **PNA** to be an unnecessary law that puts young people in danger and interferes with their access to time-sensitive health care. When passed, the **REACH Act** will require that comprehensive, inclusive, and age-appropriate personal health and safety education is taught in grades K-12 in public schools, including charter schools, statewide.

At the request of our AAUW-IL Public Policy Chairs, I submitted a witness slip in favor of the **REACH Act**. As a follow up, I contacted both Illinois State Senator Suzy Glowiak (SD 24) and Illinois State Representative Terra Costa Howard (HD 48) asking if they supported the legislation. Senator Glowiak did not respond. I received the following response from Representative Costa Howard:

*Thank you for your email. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate your support of these life- saving bills for women and children. The REACH Act bill was heard (and passed) out of committee last week. We are very excited.*

Representative Costa Howard is also a co-sponsor of **REACH**. To date, **REACH** has made the most progress of the four bills in its advancement to a vote in the Illinois House.

Please note that when I submit a witness slip, I submit as an individual not as a representative of the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch. While our state organization may submit with an AAUW-IL identifier, I respect that our individual Branch members may not share the same position that AAUW-IL takes on any legislation.



Happy Spring! By the time you read this, we will probably know the winner of the Academy Awards. I am going to guess *Nomadland* won Best Picture (that is what the critics are saying, anyway).

We now enter summer viewing season, which either can be the doldrums or can be fresh and surprising. One thing will (probably) be certain: we will be able to gather in person once again.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, May 8, the time TBD. If the weather is warm enough, we will meet outdoors at the Wheaton Public Library as we did last year. In that case, we will gather in the late afternoon (5:30 pm) rather than at night. If the weather is chilly or rainy, we will meet on Zoom. I will send out the film selection a week before our meeting. Feel free to send me your picks!



### 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!***