

## Branch Focus Areas



### Educational Opportunity Fund

Since its founding in 1961, the Branch's primary fundraising efforts have supported education for women. In Spring 2021, we expect to award Higher Education Incentive Awards to four local high school students who will continue their education at the College of DuPage. We will also support national AAUW's Education and Training Fund which awards fellowships and research grants to women at the graduate and post-graduate level. In the past, our major fundraiser was an annual **Used Book Sale**. Due to coronavirus concerns, there will be no book sale in 2020 or 2021. Other fundraisers will replace that initiative.



### LUNAFEST Film Festival

LUNAFEST is a cultural event and fundraiser that features award-winning short films made by, for and about women. The selected films mirror AAUW's mission to promote and empower women. Proceeds from the LUNAFEST fundraiser support the Branch's Educational Opportunities Fund. The next LUNAFEST Film Festival will be virtual and is scheduled for **September 10-11, 2021**.



### Special Projects

In Summer 2020, the Branch initiated "**Science Girls on the Go**" to provide parents easy access to at-home science-based projects. Two kiosks, each with a supply of science projects, are available. One is at 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton and the other is at 373 Oak Street, Glen Ellyn. This initiative is one of the Branch's ongoing STEM initiatives, designed to encourage girls to pursue studies in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. In 2021, the Branch hopes to resume its regular **STEM Outreach Workshops** at local libraries which provide youth with hands-on, scientific experiences.



## AAUW Value Promise

*By joining AAUW, you belong to a national community that breaks through educational and economic barriers for all women. Locally, our Branch offers lifelong learning, service to the community, personal growth and friendship.*

### 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.

## Public Policy



AAUW is non-partisan but takes a stand on crucial public policy issues affecting women, such as, equity in education and the workplace, civil rights, and health care reform. AAUW acts on legislative programs at the national, state, and local levels. We get involved!

## Interest Groups

In 2020 and 2021, groups are meeting via Zoom or meeting outside with masks and social distancing.



**AM and PM Non-Fiction, AM and PM Fiction** book discussion groups meet year-round. For reading lists, visit: [wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net/](http://wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net/) and click on "Book Groups".

**Film Group.** "Film Night Out" is a monthly gathering of film fans who enjoy viewing and discussing the latest movies. The gatherings are open to members, who may attend with spouses or friends. Film group meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month, September through April.



**Spice Routes.** Research and dine on authentic cuisine of the Silk Road and Spice Route, and beyond. Members meet about four times a year for pot luck dinner and discussion. (Currently on hiatus due to coronavirus concerns.)



**Cultural Arts.** Participate in a variety of group outings to theater, fine arts venues, museums, restaurants and more throughout Chicagoland.

**To attend an Interest Group meeting as a guest,** look for contact information on the website. Any questions, please call one of our co-VPs-Membership, **Jean Lindsey at (630) 803-7464** or **Nancy Possinger at (630) 800-0611**.

## Programs

### **2020-2021 Branch Meetings**

Monthly Branch Meetings are generally held on the first Wednesday evening of September, October, November, February, March and April at 7:00 PM. Each meeting includes a topic of interest followed by a short business meeting. Our usual meeting place is the Glen Ellyn Historical Society at Forest and Main in Glen Ellyn. This year some of our branch meetings will be virtual. We hope to return to in-person meetings in early 2021. **All meetings are open to visitors.**

The dates, location, times and topics of upcoming Branch programs will be listed in the TWIGS newsletter which is available on the Branch website.

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### **Other Planned Activities**

Friday, September 11, 2020

#### **Annual Walk/Run Fundraiser**

We will wear masks and socially distance while walking 2-1/2 miles around two scenic hidden lakes. Proceeds will support the Branch's Educational Opportunities Fund. Meet at 9:00 AM at the **Hidden Lake Forest Preserve**, Route 53 just south of Butterfield Rd., **Lombard**.

May 2021

#### **Spring Meeting**

Each Spring, we get together to celebrate a successful year. Our Higher Education Incentive Award recipients will be announced, proceeds of our 2020-21 fundraisers will be reviewed and we will install new officers for the upcoming year.

## Membership

Membership is open to anyone with an associate, bachelor's or equivalent degree or higher from an accredited university or college. In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. Dues are \$91 per year, of which \$78 is tax deductible.

By joining the *AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP*, you also join a national organization of more than 170,000 members and supporters across the United States, as well as 1,000 local branches and more than 800 college and university members. AAUW (American Association of University Women) uses its influential network to disseminate information, raise awareness and effect change on women's issues.

For further information and to join, contact one of our Co-Vice Presidents, Membership:

**Jean Lindsey (630) 803-7464**

[jeanlindsey15@comcast.net](mailto:jeanlindsey15@comcast.net)

**Nancy Possinger (630) 800-0611**

[napossinger@gmail.com](mailto:napossinger@gmail.com)

Visit the Branch website to learn more about AAUW and print a membership application:  
[wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net/join/](http://wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net/join/)



# Join AAUW

**AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn  
Branch, NFP**

*A 501(c)(3) non-profit affiliate of the national  
AAUW organization. ([www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org))*

