



Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net

# Celebrating 65 Years of Empowering Women & Girls! (Established 1956)

# A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

Happy Birthday Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW Branch NFP! This Year We Celebrate 65 Years as a Branch!

Our tagline for the year will be *Celebrating 65 Years of Empowering Women and Girls.* You will see this on most of our communications. Our first event to celebrate our 65 years was the Glen Ellyn July Fourth Parade. We had a sign party to make 14 colorful signs and 11 members participated in the parade. Nancy Possinger drove her white convertible adorned with red-white-and-blue bunting. Thank you to all the sign makers, parade walkers and Nancy and her husband Frank for the use of their car. It was a smashing success, we all had a great time, and the parade watchers were very appreciative and cheered us throughout. *GO AAUW!!* 

As the beautiful (especially this year) summer flowers fade, we can look forward to the start of more AAUW activities. The Program Committee (Barb Roos, Kathy Wessel, Peggy Connolly and Cindy Trennert-Lukens) has been busy planning the speakers for the year. The first Branch meeting on September 1 will feature Michele Bacon speaking about writing. See more about the exciting line-up under Programs. We also will have our usual September Showcase with interest group and fundraising chairs giving presentations. Due to rising COVID-19 levels, the September 1 Branch Meeting will be on ZOOM only.

Suzanne Gagner has been working hard on our first virtual LUNAFEST, which starts September 10. LUNAFEST features an exciting lineup of seven films about women. We hope to have a great turnout with local parties (complete with door prizes) planned for group viewing. You, too, can host a party. Just contact Suzanne.

Mary Sue Brown and Susie Gullickson (Book Sale Chair) are busy organizing a return of the Book Sale—but downsized with much less lifting. It is still in the planning stages, but will take place at the end of June at Briar Glen Elementary School in Wheaton. More to follow.

As Co-Presidents, Mary Sue and I look forward to engaging members in as many activities as possible. We hope to have several more events to *Celebrate our 65 Years of Empowering Women and Girls* and you, too, can join in both the fun and the service. Thanks to all members.

Carolyn & Mary Sue

# **Upcoming Events**

Date	Event	Time	Information
Sept. 1	Branch Meeting	7:00 pm	Zoom.
Sept. 3	AM Lit	9:30 am	Glen Ellyn Public Library, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor, 400 Duane St., Glen Ellyn.
Sept. 8	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Ellen McGowan's, 529 Hevern Dr., Wheaton.
Sept. 10-12	LUNAFEST Virtual Film Festival	7:00 pm	Virtual viewing over 48-hour period. See more details page 4.
Sept. 17	Film Group	7:00 pm	Patio between Wheaton Public Library & Adams Park, Wheaton.
Sept. 20	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Carole Yesensky's, 756 Lenox Rd., Glen Ellyn.
Sept. 22	PM Non Fiction	7:00 pm	Phyllis Fogel's, 1126 S Edgewood Dr., Lombard.



#### Programs

#### **Barbara Roos & Kathy Wessel**

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# September Branch Program 7:00 pm, Wednesday, September 1 Imagining a Different Life: The Power of Young Adult Novels via Zoom

Former Branch member Michele Bacon's first Young Adult novel, *Life Before*, was inspired by her own daunting experiences growing up. *Life Before* began as ideas scribbled on scraps of paper that incubated for years in a drawer while Michele earned her B.A. in English Theory and Creative Writing from The Ohio State University. After working for the State of Ohio in Public Relations and as a legislative liaison, then for Celerant Consulting, the Museum of Science and Industry, and heading her own consulting company, Michele crafted her incubated ideas into her first novel, *Life Before*. Her second novel, *Antipodes*, reflects her great love for New Zealand, where she lived with her young family for a year.

Michele now focuses primarily on helping other writers free their creativity, find their voice, and hone their skills. She loves school visits and library visits, and especially enjoys coaching teen writers through writing workshops, encouraging them to use writing to understand and move beyond their own challenges.



Michele is an adventurer who loves nothing more than traveling the world, observing, listening, and collecting stories. Wherever she roams, she loves returning home to Seattle where she lives with her beloved partner, Charles, and their three extraordinary children.

Michele will discuss how literature helps kids imagine lives different from the future their circumstances seem to dictate. And for all you secret writers, Michele will offer insights into writing and getting published. Many thanks to all our wonderful members who have rejoined the Branch in 2021. It was (and still is) a challenging time and we so appreciate members who once again see the value of belonging to AAUW and supporting its efforts in advancing gender equity for women through research, education and advocacy.

It is not too late to rejoin! Please call, email or text Nancy Possinger or Jean Lindsey and we will be happy to help you with the process. You can also simply send Maureen Sheehan a check for \$91.00; made out to AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP. Maureen's address is 227 Orchard Lane, Glen Ellyn, 60137.

On Thursday, October 7, we will host an evening New Member Gathering at Nancy Possinger's home. Members who have joined in the last couple of years will be invited to learn more about the Branch's activities and more about the national scope of AAUW. We welcome referrals to friends who may be interested in joining the Branch too. Bring them to a meeting or call one of us with their contact information and they will be invited.

We would like to welcome Patty Mugavero who joined our Branch late last Spring. Barbara Roos encouraged Patty to join and Patty has already participated in a PM Lit meeting and is hoping to attend Film Group before summer is over. Patty used her BA in Creative Writing when she worked as a newspaper columnist for the Glen Ellyn Sun and other local papers before working for the YMCA and Advocate Health. Patty is a mother of three children, two daughters who live in the local area and one son who lives in California. Recently retired, Patty enjoys being an active grandmother of one very cute 14-month-old boy. She also enjoys time outdoors. Patty was hiking at the Morton Arboretum when I reached her by phone, and yes, she enjoys hiking, deep water aerobics and gardening. She has a special affinity for native plants. She is looking forward to participating in Branch activities.

#### Patty Mugavero

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#### <u>Treasury</u>

Maureen Sheehan

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We would like to thank Audit Committee members Phyllis and Chip Goodman and Cathy Soohoo for reviewing Branch financial activity for the most recent two years, FY20 (2019-2020) and FY21 (2020-2021). The Audit Committee met on July 12 and everything was found to be in good order for both years. The Budget Committee met on July 21 and drafted a proposed Budget for FY22 (2021-2022) which was unanimously approved by the Branch Board at their August 11 meeting. The proposed budget and monthly financial statements are posted on the Branch website in the *Members Only* section. Please contact me if you have any questions.



<u>Historian</u>

Pat Kazcor

PatK3872@gmail.com

I would like to capture our Branch's activities in photos this year. If you are at a function and see a photo opportunity, please snap a picture and send it to me via email or text (708.533.5394). It looks like an exciting year and it would be great to capture it in pictures.

# **Our Branch Fundraising Activities**





LUNAFEST

Suzanne Gagner petalpower1@yahoo.com

## LUNAFEST 2021

September 10, 7:00 pm

In less than a month the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW Branch is holding its Second LUNAFEST Fundraising Film Festival.

The virtual **LUNAFEST** will be available to you from Friday, September 10 at 7:00 pm for a 48-hour period ending Sunday, September 12 at 7:00 pm. Tickets for this event are \$23.00 and can be ordered at: Ticket link: *http://watch.eventive.org/lunafest/play/60e4ae3c765e600029e3e29b* 

This year's virtual format makes **LUNAFEST** available to every AAUW member and their family and friends to watch online or stream to your big screen using Apple TV, Firestick, Roku or Chromecast. Some members are hosting viewing parties to watch the films, discuss women's issues, and enjoy refreshments. If you would like to host a viewing party, please contact Suzanne at 630.877.5589.

This year's film festival features seven 10 to 15 minute documentaries by lauded women filmmakers who have earned Emmy nominations, Peabody awards, and recognition at the Manhattan Film Festival, Sundance and more. Films range from animation to documentary to fictional drama and cover topics such as women's health, body image, relationships, cultural diversity and breaking barriers.

Fall Fundraising Walk

Patricia Spence

gullish.1955@gmail.com

### Fun, Food and Conversation! Join us Friday, October 8, 2021, for our Fall Fundraising Walk!

**Where:** Hidden Lake Forest Preserve on Route 53 just south of Butterfield Road in Downers Grove. The walk will be about 2 ½ miles around two scenic small lakes. At this writing, masks are optional, but have one handy. Always safety conscious, we are walking trails when they are least populated, unlike weekends. Restrooms will be open.

**Parking:** We will gather at 9:00 am in the parking lot area to the left as you enter the park. See map for parking and trail route. *https://www.dupageforest.org/hubfs/Places-to-Go/Documents/Forest-Preserves/Hidden-Lake-map-2020.pdf* 

**Why**: This is your chance to contribute to our scholarship funds and to your wellness, at the same time! Tax deductible donations, at any amount you choose, should be payable to **AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP**. Please email me to register for the event or call 972.754.6998. You can bring your check to the event or mail it to me ahead of time. If you cannot walk and would like to contribute, please send a check to my home, 192 East Road, Glen Ellyn, 60137.

**Post Walk Festivities**: Coffee and *Dunkin' Donuts* will be served after the walk. Donuts will be a random assortment; if you have a special request, let me know the day before. Please bring a folding chair to help with social distancing while we eat and chat. *We will clink our coffee cups in a toast to our 65<sup>th</sup> Branch Anniversary!* 

**More:** Customize this event to your liking. Walk only one of the two lakes (see map). If you just want to start your day with us on a beautiful autumn morning, just walk from parking to our gathering place. Bring your chair and your drink of choice, and let me know you are coming, so I can have a donut for you.

Fundraising continued next page .....

Book Sale

Susie Gullickson

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Yes, there will be a new and improved **AAUW Used Book Sale** in late June, 2022! Our sale will be smaller in size, shorter in duration and with less physical book handling. We will streamline our book collection and sorting by consolidating the process over the course of three to four weeks, followed by the sale, all at one location. One of our major goals with our new format is to eliminate costly overhead and we have been fortunate to have secured the use of the gymnasium at Briar Glen Elementary School in Wheaton for our event.

Book Donations will be in the following categories: Contemporary Fiction (including Science Fiction, Fantasy, Romance, Westerns, Classics), Contemporary Non-Fiction (including History, Politics, Biographies, Autobiographies), Mysteries and Children's. NO Self-Help, Cookbooks, Textbooks, Reference or Religious.

Additional details will follow, but for now, start saving your books in double paper grocery bags (lighter and easier to handle). We will need many hands to ensure the success of this important branch fund raising activity so please plan on participating.



Public Policy

Patricia Spence

The Election Division of DuPage County invites AAUW members to support their efforts to make the public aware that 2022 election dates have changed. The Primary Election will be June 28, and the General Election will be November 8. Also, the Election Division wants us to consider becoming Election Judges as well as helping in the recruitment of judges. If you can assist in this request, I can forward attachments to you for newsletter, electronic sign board and/or social media postings. Please email me.

For more information, go to https://www.dupageco.org/election/Get\_Involved/37071



AAUW Online

Tracy Kline, Jane Palmer & Patricia Spence trakli@msn.com jfpalmer@comcast.net pspence101@aol.com

We have a new member on the AAUW Online team. Tracy Kline will be doing the monthly website updates. Patricia Spence will continue with Facebook updates. Jane will continue as Board Liaison and also hope to explore other online options that will help us promote our fundraisers and raise our visibility in the community.

We will be hosting a free *Facebook* Event during LUNAFEST weekend, available to Branch members and guests only. After each movie, you will be able to comment and discuss your reactions to each film. More details will be provided by email. Contact Patricia Spence or Jane Palmer if you need help setting up a *Facebook* account.

Recent website additions included updates to the *Book Group* pages with books from recent book selection meetings. Also, some of you may remember that in 2013, we sent our Branch files to Northern Illinois University for their Regional History Archive. The detailed index for our files recently became electronically available and now resides on the *Members Only* page. When you have time, browse through it. The file headings provide an overview of our Branch's many accomplishments over our 65 years of service.



## A great book should leave you with many experiences, and slightly exhausted at the end. You live several lives while reading. William Styron (author, Sophie's Choice, The Confessions of Nat Turner)

#### AM Lit

Jean Lindsey

jeanlindsey15@comcast.net

Indeed, the September 3 AM Lit choice, *Valentine*, will expose you to several lives that will exhaust you. Written by Elizabeth Wetmore, this is a story of women's lives *in a backwater oil town in the mid-1970s, which Wetmore seems to know with empathy so deep it aches...she has written something thrilling and thoughtful*. The novels are available on Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann's front porch. Janet Arden has volunteered to be our discussion leader.

**Please Note:** On Friday, September 3, we will meet at 9:30 am at the **Glen Ellyn Public Library**, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor North and **South meeting rooms.** You may purchase coffee and a pastry at the library's Café prior to our discussion.

**Looking Ahead**: Our October selection is *Stories from Suffragette City*, M.J. Rose and Fiona Davis (editors). Patricia Spence and Susan Levy-Creed are discussion leaders.

**Two Quick Reminders**: 1) Our Branch website lists all book group choices and meeting dates. It is a wonderful resource. Do bookmark it for easy reference. 2) Until we hear otherwise, copies of the novels provided by the Glen Ellyn Public Library will be available (first come, first serve) on Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann's front porch. Please sign the novel out, and return it promptly after the discussion date at the library. We depend on the library to provide us with our choices, and we want to be courteous and return books on time.

#### PM Lit

Susie Gullickson

gullish.1955@gmail.com

How wonderful it has been to be able to meet, *in person*, these past several months! The 2021-22 PM Lit season is underway. Book selections were made in June, and we have already read and discussed our first two selections. A complete book list is located on the Branch website.

We will meet Monday, September 20, 7:00 pm, at Carole Yesenky's home, to discuss *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. Susan Levy-Creed will lead the discussion.

From Goodreads: The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical, but after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it is not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it is everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Many years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters' story line intersect?

An email will be sent when *The Vanishing Half* is available from the Glen Ellyn Public Library.

#### **PM Non-Fiction**

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

The PM Non-FictionReaders group is meeting on September 22 at 7:00 pm, at Phyllis Fogel's home (1126 South Edgewood Avenue, Lombard). We will discuss Robin Wall Kimmerer's *Braiding Sweetgrass*, ably led by Kitty Johansson. Laura Desmarais has agreed to be our co-hostess. Please go to the wonderful front porch book depository at Marilyn Meyer Wiedemann's home to collect a copy of our book.

Braiding Sweetgrass promises to deliver indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge and teachings of plants from botanist and indigenous scientist Kimmerer.



Film Group

Anne Hanley

ahanley@mindspring.com

Hello! Welcome to Fall Film Group. Ever since the pandemic shut down indoor gatherings in March 2020, we have met via Zoom when the weather is cold and in person outdoors in the space between Adams Park and the Wheaton Public Library when it is warm. We watched amazing, moving, and thought/discussion provoking films about (in)justice, inequality, faith, ambition, creativity, resilience, family, and music. Those films, those discussions, kept us connected and engaged during a very difficult year. Our return to outdoor in person meetings since May has been wonderful.

We will continue to meet in the open air for as long as the Illinois Fall allows, certainly in September and hopefully in October and even into November. Whether we will be able to meet indoors once the weather cools will depend on the state of COVID-19. Whether we watch films in theaters or streaming services like *Netflix* and *Hulu* will also depend. We will figure it out. We usually gather on the second weekend of the month, alternating between Fridays and Saturdays (Fridays in September, November, January, March, and May; Saturdays in October, December, February, and April). The one exception is September. Because of LUNAFEST (see elsewhere in this newsletter) we will meet on the **THIRD Friday of the month (September 17)**.

The film selection, meeting place, and time will go out a week in advance. Join us!



<u>Cultural Arts</u>

Laura Desmarais Ikdesmarais@gmail.com

There will not be any planned activity for Cultural Arts until we see what the COVID-19 Delta variant will bring. In general, we are experiencing some venues opening and trying to return to normal. Hopefully this variant will behave and we will once again feel freer to explore.

I thought it would be fun to establish a list of activities Branch members have enjoyed and would like to recommend to the rest of us. These activities could be in person or Zoom. What TV show are you streaming and have fallen in love with? What about a great movie, a music venue, or theatre production you would like to recommend. What about a favorite restaurant? Have you found a new place to walk? We are all tired of doing the same old, same old and are looking for new experiences. Let us see what we can conjure among ourselves.

Let me know you are interested in participating in this alternative form of Cultural Arts by sending an email to me. I will compile a mailing list and send out recommendations.

# **2021 FILMS**



LUNA FEST

OVEREXPOSED (12:00) A behind-the-scenes lock at the film team that captured the daring story of the Women's Euro-Arabian North Pole Expedition, Filmmaker: Holly Mortis (Santa Fe, NM) Go-Produced by 10MP and Cincker & Egg Pertures



KNOCKING DOWN THE FENCES (12-00) AJ Andrews, the first woman to win a Rawlings Bold Glove Award, struggles to make it as one of the best professional softball players in the world.

Filmmakers: Meg Shutzer (Oakland, CA)



20 YEARS # PROGRESS

A LINE BIRDS CANNOT SEE (9:00) Separated at the border, a 12 year old sets out on a harrowing journey to the U.S. to find her mother. Filmmaker: Amy Bench (Austin, TX)



#### THE SCIENTISTS VERSUS DARTMOUTH (14:00)

A young neuroscientist and her colleagues make a life-changing decision to speak up for women in science everywhere.

Filmmaker: Sharon Shattuck (Brooklyn, NY)

Co Produced by LUNA\* and Chicken & Egg Pictures



BETYE SAAR: TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS (8:00) At 93, there's no stopping when it comes to this legendary artist. Himmaker: Christine Turner (Brooklyn, NY)





UNTIL SHE IS FREE (14-00) Mixed media artist Sophia Wallace imagines a culturally cilterate world, where all people are equal and able to live with rich possibility and purpose. Filmmaker: Maria Finitzo (Chicago, IL)

Co-Produced by LUNOP and Chicken & Egg Parlum

#### WHEATON-GLEN ELLYN AAUW Presents

LUNAFEST 2021 A Traveling Film Festival available on-line and dedicated to promoting awareness about women's issues. This Virtual Screening can be viewed on-line or streamed to your big screen.



CONNECTION (8:00) A lifelong angler, Autumn Harry had never fished beyond the waters of her reservation—until she picked up a fly rod, Filmmakers: Ciara Lacy (Honolulu, HI and Portland, OR) and Tracy Nguyen-Chung (Los Angeles, CA)

The Festival is available from Friday, September 10 at 7:00 PM through Sunday, September 12 at 7:00 PM Tickets \$23 Purchase tickets at <u>lunafest.org/screenings</u> or wheatonolenellyn-il.aauw.net

For addition information call: Suzanne at 630-877-5589

# Branch Programs 2021-2022

The Branch generally meets each month, September through April. All meetings are open to the public. For further information, contact Co-Vice Presidents Programs, Barb Roos or Kathy Wessel.

Imagining a Different Life: The Power of Young Adult Novels Wednesday, September 1, 7:00 pm Presenter: Michele Bacon Author Young Adults & Children Zoom	The Equal Rights Amendment Wednesday, October 6, 7:00 pm Presenter: Paula Johnson Purdue Teacher, Lobbyist, Activist Location: Zoom or Hybrid Zoom at Glen Ellyn Civic Center 535 Duane St., Glen Ellyn	How We Left It All Behind: A Traveling Retirement Wednesday, November 3, 7:00 pm Presenter: Dr. Winifred Creamer Archeology Professor Emeritus Northern Illinois University Location: TBD
December Winter Banquet Wednesday, December 1 Time TBD Reserve 22 Restaurant 485 Winchell Way Village Links, Glen Ellyn	Africatown/Clotilda Wednesday, January 5, 7:00 pm Presenter: Anderson Flen Native of Africatown, Alabama Zoom	Dead Folks Do Tell Tales Wednesday, February 2, 7:00 pm Presenter: Dr. Anne Grauer Professor, Anthropology Loyola University,Chicago Location TBD
Brazil: Why Does Your Country Get to Be So Rich, While Ours Is So Poor? Wednesday, March 2, 7:00 pm Presenter: Dr. Anne G. Hanley Professor, History Northern Illinois History Location: TBD	Interfaith Tolerance & Education Wednesday, April 6, 7:00 pm Presenter: Tabassum Haleem CEO Islamic Networks Group Location: TBD	May Banquet TBD AAUW Regional Conference: TBD AAUW State Conference: TBD

# Branch Board Members & Chairs 2021-2022

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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.



The Twigs Team		
Editor:	Kathleen McCullough	
AAUW Online:	Jane Palmer	
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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!

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