

**Twigs**  
October 2021

### A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

#### EXTRA! EXTRA!

The public Launch of Glennette Turner's new book, *A Man Called Horse* is October 21 at 7:00 pm from the Wheaton Public Library via ZOOM. It will be an *in conversation* event with Glennette Turner and LaVonne Ruoff, best known for her work collecting and analyzing literature of Native American writers. The Book Store in Glen Ellyn, a co-sponsor, will have copies of the book available for purchase starting September 21. See details in Laura Desmarais' Cultural Arts article.

Thanks to Fran Kravitz, our Branch meeting was Zoomed to 35 members including some members from other branches. Our program speaker, Michele Bacon (daughter-in-law of Ewa Bacon), author of two well-received Young Adult (YA) novels, engaged us with a timely discussion on writing and the underrepresentation of minorities in children's and YA books.

Virtual **LUNAFEST** was a success due to the extraordinary organization and promotion by Suzanne Gagner. See more in Suzanne's article.

An AAUW scarecrow on display from October 16 to 31, is part of our *Celebrate 65 Initiative*. Other events include traveling panels with AAUW lore and perhaps a proclamation from our mayor. Needed: volunteers to help make the scarecrow from September 27 to October 15.

See you at the *Fun* Fundraising Walk, Friday, October 8, 2021 at 9:00 am at Hidden Lake Forest Preserve in Downers Grove.

As co-presidents we want your engagement. Please, please send us your ideas. It is your organization.

*Carolyn & Mary Sue*

**Editor's Note:** A special thank you to Karen Bondy and Jane Palmer for the new masthead that updates the AAUW logo and includes the 65 years celebration graphic! It was way above my abilities!

## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Information
Oct. 1	AM Lit	9:30 am	Glen Ellyn Public Library, First floor meeting rooms, 400 Duane St., Glen Ellyn.
Oct. 6	Branch Meeting	7:00 pm	Zoom. Link sent several days in advance via email.
Oct. 7	New Member Gathering (since 2018)	6:00 pm	Nancy Possinger, 26W070 MacArthur Avenue, Carol Stream.
Oct. 8	Fund Raising Walk	9:00 am	Hidden Lake Forest Preserve on Route 53 in Downers Grove.
Oct. 9	Film Group	6:00 pm	Patio between Wheaton Public Library & Adams Park, Wheaton.
Oct. 13	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	TBD.
Oct. 18	PM Fiction	7:00 pm	Susan Levy-Creed, 907 Eddy Ct., Wheaton.
Oct. 21	Cultural Arts Event Glennette Turner's Book Launch	7:00 pm	Zoom via Wheaton Public Library. Details in Cultural Arts article.
Oct. 27	AM Non Fiction	10:00 am	Laura Desmarais, 1323 Shagbark Lane, Wheaton.



### Programs

**Barbara Roos & Kathy Wessel**

*bamaroos@gmail.com kathywessel@gmail.com*

### October Branch Program 7:00 pm, Wednesday, October 6 via Zoom The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)



Paula Johnson Purdue escaped her impoverished Illinois farm background when her mother made a bargain with her father after receiving an inheritance: if Paula could use part for college, he could use the rest for a tractor. After college and teaching in the southern Illinois suburbs for several years, Paula interviewed for a position with the Illinois Education Association (IEA). She was hired as a lobbyist—the woman of IEA did not think the three male lobbyists were as committed to the ERA as a woman might be—and immediately began to lobby for ERA.

Paula spent many years lobbying for ERA as well as teachers' rights in the Illinois State Legislature. She spent a great deal of time working with educational employees in the western suburbs until her retirement, and for a while after retiring from IEA was a lobbyist for the College of DuPage, working alongside the late former State Representative Vince Persico, who she helped get elected to several terms in the state legislature. But she never lost her passion for ERA.

Involved in several nonprofit organizations, Paula also serves as a Co-Director of Public Policy for AAUW-ILLINOIS. Since 1976 she has been committed to passing ERA. She will share her frustrations, triumphs, and hopes for the future with us.

The October 6 Branch meeting will be on Zoom. You will receive an invitation to join a few days before the meeting.



## Membership

**Jean Lindsey & Nancy Possinger**

*jeanlindsey15@comcast.net napossinger@gmail.com*

Members who have joined AAUW since 2018 are invited to join us at 6:00 pm on Thursday, October 7, for an evening of fun and camaraderie, with our leadership providing information about this wonderful organization that you have joined. You will learn about the opportunities you have to participate in everything we offer: book groups, both fiction and non-fiction; film group; helping with our fundraising initiatives; committee membership and leadership roles in our various activities through the year.

Our gathering will be held at Nancy Possinger's home at 26W070 MacArthur Avenue, Carol Stream. We are hoping that the weather will allow us to spend much of the time on my screened and heated (if needed) back porch. We hope that all of you are vaccinated and, of course, if there is need to spend time inside the house, we will always have our masks. Please respond by October 2 to the invitation you received via email.

### Welcome to Laurie Driscoll

We are pleased to welcome Laurie Driscoll to the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch of AAUW! Laurie Driscoll is a dual member of AAUW, since she is also a member of the Lombard Area Branch. Laurie lives in Carol Stream and is a graduate of National College of Education with a Bachelor of Arts in Education and a Master in Education in Reading.

#### Laurie's contact information:

1350 Ridgefield Circle  
Carol Stream, IL 60188  
Cell phone: 630.624.7657  
Email: laurdris@att.net

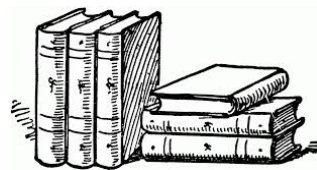
**Mission:** To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

**Vision:** Equity for all.

**Values:** Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality.



## Our Branch Fundraising Activities



LUNAFEST

Suzanne Gagner

*petalpower1@yahoo.com*

### It's A Wrap !!

**LUNAFEST 2021** was a great success thanks to the incredibly generous donations from our AAUW Branch members and their friends and the enthusiastic support of film lovers.

#### By the Numbers :

- Profit of \$3,317.76
- 83 tickets sold.
- Six viewing parties with 39 attendees.
- Donations in excess of \$1,500

**Team LUNA** thanks all of you for conquering the virtual format and enjoying the show.

Fundraising Walks

Patricia Spence

*pspence101@aol.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, any amount you choose, should be payable to **AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP**. Please email Patricia 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 have a donut for you.***

*Fund Raising Activities continues next page . . . .*

**Save The Date! Save Your Books!**

Start saving your books now! Book collection will take place June 1 to 17, 2022 at the Briar Glen School in Wheaton. Our 2022 Used Book Sale is planned for June 23 to 25, 2022, also at Briar Glen School.

As previously communicated, we want the following types of books for the sale: 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 Religion.



Our Branch website ([wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net](http://wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net)) is looking very festive these days with a slide show of pictures from the Fourth of July parade in the header and new group pictures on the book group pages. Our website editor, Tracy Kline, asks that you keep the pictures coming. Please whip out your cell phone at any Branch activity and send a picture to Tracy at [trakli@msn.com](mailto:trakli@msn.com).

As for social media, in support of **LUNAFEST**, we established a private Facebook Group called **LUNAFEST Conversations** that allowed Branch members to comment on the films while watching and afterwards. It was fun! Meanwhile Patricia Spence was very busy last month with Public Policy postings and other postings that helped spread the word about **LUNAFEST** to a broader audience. You can help by *liking* and *sharing* our Facebook postings. If you have ideas for future Facebook postings or special groups, contact Patricia at [pspence101@aol.com](mailto:pspence101@aol.com).

**Members Only Page:** Our September Branch speaker, Michele Bacon, described how important it is for each young reader (and adult) who is *other* to visualize a new life for themselves. Part of this journey is to see people like themselves in books. On the *Members Only* page of our website, under the heading *Special Resources*, a new link will allow you to look over supplemental material provided by Michele that lists many of her favorite books by BIPOC authors (BIPOC = Black, Indigenous and other Persons of Color).

Also on the *Members Only* page, you can find the August 11 Board minutes and the August 31 financial report. Look for them under *Your Board at Work*. (The password for the *Members Only* page is twigs.)





## Our Branch Book Groups

*Reading is the key that opens doors to many good things in life. Reading shaped my dreams,  
and more reading helped me make my dreams come true.*

**Ruth Bader Ginsburg**

### **AM Lit**

**Jean Lindsey**

*jeanlindsey15@comcast.net*

*I love short stories because I think they are the way we live. They are what our friends tell us, in their pain and joy, their passion and rage, their yearning and their cry against injustice.* Andre Debus

Indeed, AM Lit's October 1 book selection, *Stories from Suffragette City* edited by M. J. Rose and *Fiona Davis*, recounts the injustice that American women had to confront for decades. All thirteen stories take place on October 23, 1915, the day tens of thousands of women marched up Fifth Avenue, demanding the right to vote. The stories are about women of all ages, who come from different backgrounds, who are from different races, but who are all united in their resolve to pass the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. When we gather at the Glen Ellyn Public library, first floor meeting rooms at 9:30 am on October 1, Patricia Spence and Susan Levy-Creed will lead the discussion of the individual stories. Bring your own coffee and snack or purchase them at the library's convenient café. The rooms allow for social distancing and can safely handle our group.

As of this month, AM Lit books are available at the Glen Ellyn Public library on the second floor. If you have a library card from a local DuPage County library, Glen Ellyn will allow you to check out books. They will confirm your card and set up an account for you. The Glen Ellyn Public Library is to be commended for all they do to support local book clubs!

### **PM Lit**

**Susie Gullickson**

*gullish.1955@gmail.com*

We will meet on Monday, October 18 at 7:00 pm, to discuss *The Mystery of Mrs. Christie* by Marie Benedict. The meeting will take place at Susan Levy-Creed's home, and Susan will also lead the discussion. Books can be picked up at the Glen Ellyn Public Library second floor book group section. Look for the name of our group for a copy of the selection.

From Goodreads: *This is the untold story of Agatha Christie's mysterious eleven day disappearance in December, 1926. Investigators find her empty car on the edge of a deep, gloomy pond, the only clues some tire tracks nearby and a fur coat left in the car – strange for a frigid night. An unprecedented manhunt to find the up-and-coming author ensues. Eleven days later, she reappears, claiming amnesia and providing no explanations for her time away. The puzzle of those missing days has persisted and Marie Benedict brings us into the world of Agatha Christie and this murky story.*

### **AM Non-Fiction**

**Sue Herrmann**

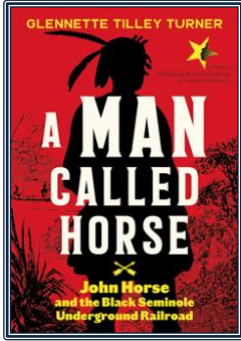
*sherrmann710@gmail.com*

Welcome to 2021-22 AM Non-Fiction Book Group. We will discuss *The God Equation: The Quest for the Theory of Everything* by Michio Kaku at Laura Desmarais' home at 10:00 am on October 27. The discussion of this very interesting book about string theory, black holes, etc., will be led by Sue Herrmann. Books will be available at the Glen Ellyn Public Library in the second floor book group section.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we welcome vaccinated members only and that you provide your own refreshments.



Glennette Turner's Book Launch  
*A Man Called Horse*  
Thursday, October 21 at 7:00 pm via Zoom



The Book Store of Glen Ellyn is having a virtual public launch for Glennette Turner's latest book, *A Man Called Horse*. Better yet, Lavonne Ruoff is going to lead the conversation with Glennette. It is going to be great fun to see these accomplished Branch members together on Zoom!!

Glennette taught elementary school for over 25 years and has been a member of our Branch since 1978. She is a prolific writer and has addressed her writing to this group. She has become nationally known for her research and writing on Black American history and the Underground Railroad. She researches little known events and brings them to life. *A Man Called Horse* reveals the life of John Horse, a Black Seminole Indian, who influenced the lives of the Black Seminoles for over half a century.

Lavonne has been a member of our Branch since 2012. She has been instrumental in introducing Native American literature to our Branch. She is known for her work collecting and analyzing literature of Native American writers.

The Book Store of Glen Ellyn is partnering with the Wheaton Public Library, who is hosting this Zoom event. Sign up for this event is via the library's website:

<https://wheaton.librarycalendar.com/events/author-visit-glennette-tilley-turner>.

After you sign up for this event, you will receive a Zoom link in your email and a reminder 24 to 48 hours prior to the event. There is no charge.

You can also pre-order Glennette's book through The Book Store of Glen Ellyn's website:

<https://bookstoreofge.com/r/tu/bj>



We kicked off the fall with the Aretha Franklin biopic, *Respect*, for our September meeting, supplemented by a discussion of the LUNAFEST shorts. By October, the slate of new films will be rolling out so we should have a rich set of offerings to watch and discuss. **We will meet on Saturday October 9 at 6:00 pm**, most likely in person outdoors in the space between Adams Park and the Wheaton Public Library provided the evening is warm (warm enough, anyway). If the weather is inclement, we can discuss whether we will a) move the meeting to Sunday, b) meet indoors at a member's home, or c) meet on Zoom. We will have a clearer picture of the COVID-19 delta variant spike closer to the date.

Important note: I will be out of town for the October meeting (visiting favorite daughter in NYC for her birthday) so I need someone to volunteer to host/lead the discussion. I will coordinate the film selection and communications with the group, but I will not be present at the meeting. Let me know if you would like to take the lead. And, as always, feel free to send in your suggestions for what to watch!



**Glen Ellyn Fourth of July Parade, 2021**

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



***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!***

### **The Twigs Team**

<b>Editor:</b>	<b>Kathleen McCullough</b>
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