



Twigs

November 2021

A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

The gift of friendship is an intangible but powerful benefit of membership. Through our interest groups which include four Book Groups, Film Group, Cultural Arts, and Spice Routes, you will find it easy to make friends and share ideas. Our members sometimes face a variety of emotional, informational, and/or physical challenges. These may include the need to celebrate but not to do it alone. We know that the Branch community is a spontaneous while discreet, if needed, source of support. Proof? When COVID-19 forced us to substitute our *actual* for our *virtual*, our ongoing *community* thrived. So...never hesitate to reach out; we will reach back.

Mark your calendar, October 30, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm for the AAUW-IL Fall Leadership Conference. Google *AAUW Illinois* and click *FALL LINK* which is highlighted on the first page. More from Carolyn Oesterle in this issue of Twigs.

Our lovely scarecrow creation, *Cat*, is part of Glen Ellyn's *Scarecrow Rows* on display, October 16 to 31 in front of Linea Spa at 518 North Main. More from Carolyn in this issue of Twigs.

Mary Sue & Carolyn



Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	TIME	INFORMATION
Oct. 30	AAUW-IL Fall Conference	10 am-1 pm	Zoom. See page 11.
Nov. 3	Branch Meeting	7:00 pm	TBD.
Nov. 5	AM Lit	9:30 am	Glen Ellyn Public Library, First Floor Meeting Rooms, 400 Duane St., Glen Ellyn.
Nov. 10	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Jean Lindsey, 1644 Orth Dr., Wheaton.
Nov. 12	Film Group	7:00 pm	Zoom.
Nov. 15	PM Lit	7:00 pm	TBD.
Nov. 17	PM Non-Fiction	7:00 pm	Jean Lindsey, 1644 Orth Dr., Wheaton
Dec. 1	Winter Gathering (In lieu of Winter Banquet)	TBD	See page 11.



Programs

Barbara Roos & Kathy Wessel

bamaroos@gmail.com kathywessel@gmail.com

**November Branch Meeting
Wednesday, November 3,
7:00 pm, Location TBD**

***How We Left It All Behind: A Traveling Retirement*
Dr. Winifred Creamer**



A crossword clue in both the Wall Street Journal and New York Times was *Site of the ancient Norte Chico civilization*. You know your work is significant when both the WSJ and NYT crosswords use it as a clue*.

Dr. Winifred Creamer and her husband, Dr. Jonathan Haas, discovered Norte Chico, the oldest known urban complex in the Americas. One of the country's outstanding archaeologists, Branch member Winifred Creamer has excavated archaeological sites in Central America (Costa Rica, Panama, Honduras, Belize), the American Southwest (New Mexico, Arizona), and Peru.

Winifred retired from Northern Illinois University as Distinguished Research Professor, and as associate faculty at Cayetano Heredia University, Lima, Peru. Since retiring, Winifred and Jonathan are halfway through their plan to travel the world for ten years, staying in Airbnb's for a few weeks or a month at a time. Winifred will share her exotic travel experiences and her insight into downsizing from a large house in Wheaton to living out of one suitcase for 10 years!

**(The crossword answer is PERU.)*



We welcomed two new members this month, Maureen Shekleton and Mary Kelly, who provided us with a summary of their work and personal experiences.

Maureen Shekleton worked for many years as an ICU staff nurse, later a faculty member, clinical manager and educational administrator. She held faculty positions at the University of Illinois College of Nursing and at Lewis University. Maureen combined faculty and service positions at Rush University Medical Center. She holds a BS in Nursing from the College of Mount Saint Joseph, a MS in Nursing from Case Western Reserve University and a PhD in Nursing from Rush University. Prior to her retirement, she also served in a variety of positions in the American Nurses Association, Illinois Nurses Association and Illinois Nurse Foundation. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, the international nursing honor society. She is the co-author of two nursing textbooks and has published several book chapters, and clinical and research articles.

In addition, she has earned the rank of second degree black belt in karate. Maureen and her husband, Jerry, are volunteer puppy raisers for Canine Companions for Independence. She also serves as a board member for Ecumenical Support Services for the Elderly, works as an election judge, and volunteers at the Glen Ellyn Historical Society. She is also a member of the Christian Services Commission and Parish Council of St. Petronille Catholic Church. Maureen and Jerry have one son, a daughter-in-law and two beautiful granddaughters.

Mary Kelly first became aware of AAUW when her children attended Buttons and Bows, a day care center run by AAUW in Elmhurst. Mary, born in Pennsylvania, moved to Lombard at the age of ten. She earned a BS in Business Administration from Marquette University. She married Kevin and had four children. Later she earned a BS in Nursing from Northern Illinois University and an MBA in Health Administration from Saint Xavier University.

Mary started her career as a tax auditor for the Illinois Department of Revenue. Then armed with her nursing degree, Mary has held positions from bedside clinical nurse to large system stroke director in the Chicago Metro area. She has been a Disease Specific Care Reviewer (Stroke) for The Joint Commission since 2009 to the present. She is a Certified Neuroscience Registered Nurse (CNRN), a Fellow of the American Heart/American Stroke Association; and a member of the American Association of Neurological Nurses, the Neurocritical Care Society, and the American Association of Critical Nurses. Her publications include *A Comprehensive Review for Stroke Nursing*, 2014, as a co-contributing author.

Mary and her husband, Kevin, live in Lombard. Her off-duty activities include spending time with each of her five grandchildren and cooking.

Directory Information

Maureen Shekleton

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630 858-0014 (h)
630 508-0015 (c)

Mount St. Joseph University, BS Nursing, 1969
Case Western Reserve University, MS Nursing 1973
Rush University, PhD, Nursing, 1982

Mary Kelly

1376 S. Elizabeth St.
Lombard, IL 60148
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630 290-1031 (c)

Marquette University, BS, Business Administration, 1981
College of DuPage, Associate Degree Nursing, 1993
Northern Illinois University, BS Nursing, 2003
St. Xavier University, MBA, Health Administration, 2009



Treasurer

Maureen Sheehan

maureenjsheehan@aol.com

At the October 6 Branch meeting, the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022) was amended to:

- (a) Decrease the amount of each of the four Educational Opportunity Fund scholarships to \$1500 instead of \$2000.
- (b) Allocate \$1000 for a contribution to the national *AAUW Greatest Needs Fund*.

The quorum of members at the Zoom meeting then approved the amended budget. The approved budget is the first column of numbers on the Branch Financial Report for September 30 posted on the Branch website .

www.wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net.



Directory

Maureen Sheehan

maureenjsheehan@aol.com

Directory Distribution Update

The Branch Membership Directory for 2021-2022 has been circulating at all October meetings. Directories not picked up at a meeting by the end of October will be mailed in November. If you have any questions, please contact Jean Lindsey at *jeanlindsey15@comcast.net* or Nancy Possinger at *napossinger@gmail.com*.



Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF)

Ellen McGowan

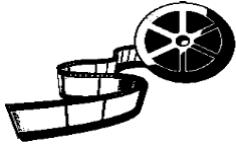
emcgowan123@sbcglobal.net

At the October Branch meeting, membership voted to amend and approve the scholarship budget to \$6000. We will award scholarships of \$1500 each to our College of DuPage scholarship recipients in Spring, 2022.

The December 1 Winter Gathering event presenter via Zoom is Dr. Monica Reyes, a national AAUW Fellow recipient. Dr. Reyes is an Assistant Professor in the Writing, Rhetoric & Discourse Department, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at DePaul University.

Monica will discuss her project, *Shelter Rhetorics: Understanding Narrative Pathways & Assemblages of the United States Asylum Process*. Her book follows her research at an emergency homeless shelter for displaced people on the United States-Mexico border. She explores how a person is eligible to apply for asylum in the U.S. if they are able to effectively persuade the United States— in writing— about the circumstances surrounding their escape from persecution in their home country. These narratives are vital as they open opportunities for work, education and a pathway to resettlement in the United States. However, composing these stories is challenging because of cultural, linguistic and economic barriers, which disproportionately affect women and families. *Shelter Rhetorics* analyzes how people who seek asylum and those who work with them at the shelter navigate the rhetorical pressures of having to write compelling asylum narratives.

Our Branch Fundraising Activities



Book Sale

Susie Gullickson

gullish.1955@gmail.com

Key Dates - Mark Your Calendars!

We will need many hands to ensure the success of our sale. Key Dates:

- Book Collection and Sorting: June 1 to 17, Monday to Friday, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm.
- Sale Set-Up: June 20 to 22, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.
- Book Sale: Thursday and Friday, June 23 and 24, 9:00 am to 8:00 pm; Saturday, June 25, 9:00 am to Noon.
- Take Down/Clean Up: Saturday, June 25, Noon to 5:00 pm.

All activities will take place at the Briar Glen School Gymnasium, 1800 Briarcliff Boulevard, Wheaton. Amenities of this space include:

- All one level – no stairs! Brightly lit, air conditioned.
- Parking adjacent to gymnasium, with access to the building right from the parking lot.
- Small kitchen for water, coffee, etc.

Continue to save your books and gather books from family, friends and neighbors. As a reminder, we want the following types of books for the sale:

- **Fiction** : Including Science Fiction, Fantasy, Romance, Westerns, Classics.
- **Non-Fiction**: Including History, Politics, Biographies, Autobiographies.
- **Mysteries**
- **Children's and Young Adults**
- **NO:** Self-Help, Cookbooks, Textbooks, Reference or Religion.

Fundraising Walks

Patricia Spence

pspence101@aol.com

If you want to walk fast, walk alone; if you want to walk far, walk together.

Ratan Tata



On Friday, October 8, under an autumnal, sunny sky, our Branch Fall Fundraising Walk was held at Hidden Lake Forest Preserve in Downer's Grove.

The total raised for EOF was **\$1905**. Walkers, thank you for the generosity, the *just-being togetherness*, and enthusiasm for the first ever, *Branch Trivia Contest*. Thank you, too, to those who walked with us in donation, spirit and purpose if not in presence.

Sixty Five and Still Alive

by Our Very Own Branch Poet, Carolyn Oesterle

*AAUW is now sixty-five
And as Patricia says, we're very alive.
We had our fall walk on October eight
And what luck we had—the weather was great.
A bit cloudy at first, then the sun came out
As we walked the two loops and looked all about.*

*We had members both new and old—with 25 of us all told.
And Maureen with her dog made happiness unfold.
The leaves were tinged with a bit of red
With the fall wild flowers coming to a bright head
And a Great Blue Heron could even be seen
From the bridge across the babbling stream.*

*Then coffee and donuts completed the picture
While we played Branch Trivia
Vying for bags with prize mixtures.
The answers showed Patricia's clever intent
The first one was Sally Dow, our first President
Included were Jane Palmer, Treasurer excellent
And Justice Kagen, our hope for future precedent.*

*The end came too quickly and we said our good byes
"Thank you, Patricia" we all said with some sighs.
Our walks are so very friendly and fun
We should not wait a full year for another one.*



Springfield Update: Family Medical Leave Insurance Act (SB835)

AAUW-IL is urging our support for SB835, which our state legislators will be considering in their next session, commencing January 2022.

The Family and Medical Leave Insurance Act creates a state-run insurance program that allows Illinois workers to use up to 26 weeks of job-protected leave a year:

- To welcome a new child into the home.
- To maintain a healthy pregnancy.
- For their own or a family member's illness.
- For reasons related to domestic or sexual violence.
- For reasons related to military service.
- Due to a public health emergency or disaster.
- Due to school or child care closures.

If you have an opportunity to talk to your state senator about this upcoming legislation, I can provide a helpful fact sheet provided by Women Employed. I will report back to the Branch about my contact with Senator Suzi Glowiak-Hilton (IL 24).



Research continues to explore the breadth of what diversity means. A New York Times' article reflecting on 20 years after 9/11, found a Muslim mother remembering how she and her girls were mistreated just after and yet today there are books for her teen girls about what it is like to grow up being Muslim. Today St. Paul/Minneapolis has one of the first Muslim Congressmen, Keith Ellison, an African-American convert as well as their Representative, Ilhan Omar.

A brainstorming session was held we may decide to work closely with local organizations of diversity to do some shared programming. Short-term study groups can help further define diversity. Join us.

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.





I am sure you all are familiar with the Branch website and visit regularly to check on book group selections and upcoming events. But, have you recently visited AAUW.org?

The other day, I was trying to track down which office supply store offers the AAUW discount (OfficeMax/Office Depot). But I found out that there is so much more! On aauw.org, search for *Discounts & Perks* or copy and paste this link into your browser: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/why-join/discounts-and-perks/>.

Here is a brief list of the discounts that looked most interesting to me.

- Dollar and Thrifty Car Rentals – For 7% off base rates, use discount code CD# 3063922 for Dollar or use CDP# 3063921 for Thrifty.
- Prescription Discounts for the entire household, including pets. Call 1-800-931-8872 or copy and paste this link into your browser: <https://www.uspharmacycard.com/aauw/>
- OfficeMax/Office Depot – go to: <https://officediscounts.org/aauw/> to either print a discount card or shop online.

In addition, there are insurance discounts with Geico, LTC Global (long-term care) and Nationwide Pet Insurance. If you are ready to travel again, check out the discounts for Hotel Engine, Collette Tours, Cruises Only and TNT Vacations. Who knew we could promote gender equity and save money too?

Contact **Patricia Spence** at pspence101@aol.com with suggested Facebook postings. And if you are in Glen Ellyn at *the Scarecrow Rows*, take a selfie and email it to her.

Tracy Kline at trakli@msn.com continues to update the Branch website with new pictures. Visit our home page to see the new masthead picture (the group photo from the Fall Fundraising Walk). Now look closely at the bottom row of members and you will see that Karen Schulz is sporting a really cool AAUW T-shirt. Although Karen tells me she bought her shirt at a conference, there are many other AAUW items available on aauw.org at *ShopAAUW*. Here is the link: <https://aauw.source4.com/b2c/Sites/AAUWMember/Home.asp>. You can buy something for yourself or send the link to someone who may be looking for holiday gift suggestions for you.

Holiday Shopping Alert

**Support the Branch & Shop with Amazon Smile.
Log into Amazon account from smile.amazon.com.
Amazon donates 0.5% of price of eligible purchases to our Branch.
It is a small amount, but if we all do it, it will add up!**



Our Branch Book Groups

The beauty of life is to read a book and to share that treasure with others. Anonymous

AM Lit

Jean Lindsey

jeanlindsey15@comcast.net

Do join us on Friday, November 5, when AM Lit will gather at the Glen Ellyn Public Library to discuss *The One-in-a-Million Boy* by Monica Woods. Suzanne Gagner will lead the discussion which will commence at 9:30 am. Christine Kline (*The Orphan Train*) recommends the novel *because it's a beautifully written story about the healing power of friendship, music...this novel hums with energy, warmth, wisdom, humor and soul*. You can usually check out the novel at the Glen Ellyn Public Library, second floor, book group area.

Often our discussions help us discover the treasures found in our book choices. Do mark your calendars and come join us in our hunt. As usual, wear a mask, bring a drink or purchase one at the library.

For information on future book choices, check out the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW website. It contains a wealth of information including the lists of all four Branch book groups. It also features some wonderful Branch photos.

PM Lit

Susie Gullickson

gullish.1955@gmail.com

Our next meeting is Monday, November 15 at 7:00 pm when we will discuss *Men We Reaped* by Jesmyn Ward. We have previously read other works by Ms. Ward and have found them to be insightful and thought-provoking. Books will be available at the Glen Ellyn Library, second floor, book group area.

From Goodreads: *In five years, Jesmyn Ward lost five men in her life, to drugs, accidents, suicide and the bad luck that can follow people who live in poverty, particularly black men. Dealing with these losses, one after another, made Jesmyn ask the question: why? Jesmyn grew up in poverty in rural Mississippi. She writes powerfully about the pressures this brings, on the men who can do no right and the women who stand in for family in a society where the men are often absent. She bravely tells her story, revisiting the agonized losses of her only brother and her friends.*

PM Non-Fiction

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

We will meet at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, November 17 (a week earlier than usual) for a discussion of the dual biography *The Doctors Blackwell: How Two Pioneering Sisters Brought Medicine to Women and Women to Medicine* by Janice Nimura. Phyllis Fogel will lead our discussion at Jean Lindsey's home (1644 Orth, Wheaton) and Karen Schulz will be our co-hostess. The books will be available on Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann's porch repository (373 Oak, Glen Ellyn).

Do let Jean know at *jeanlindsey15@comcast.net* if you are planning to come. New members: please join us! Now that we are post-Zoom and meeting at home, we get to review some terms. The hostess provides our meeting place and beverages, the co-hostess tempts us with nibbles, and the discussion leader provides the background of the author and some thoughts on the book. Please remember as we meet in person to keep your phones and your search engines off for the duration so that we can all participate in lively conversation.

Our December 22 meeting will be devoted to choosing books for 2022. Collect your ideas! Send me a three-line (or so) summary of a book (or two) and we will vote for six or seven choices for the coming year.



SCIENCE GIRLS ON THE GO

The STEM committee has released the fifth *Science Girls on the Go* ©kit to the little science houses in Wheaton (1445 Brentwood Lane) and Glen Ellyn (373 Oak Street). *Science Girls on the Go* is a science enrichment program for K-12 girls in the community. This month, you will be learning about the building blocks of life, DNA. The kits will allow you to extract DNA from a strawberry. In the process you will learn about the structure, where it is found and its importance in deciding everything from eye color to how a cell will function in the human body.

We need your help in spreading the word about *Science Girls on the Go* and our two little science houses. Please tell your neighbors, friends, schoolteachers, and your extended families about this program. The kits are free, and anyone is welcome to take a kit no matter where they live. Someday we will see a little science house pop up in every community.

Please contact Fran Kravitz if you are interested in helping with this project, have ideas for new kits or have questions.



I hear there were mixed feelings about *The Many Saints of Newark*, in part depending on one's familiarity with *The Sopranos*. I cannot address those, but I can solve a mystery. Joe tells me there was a vibrant discussion about the meaning of the title. Just who were these many saints? The title refers to Dickie Moltisanti—*Many Saints*. If we use our old math techniques and substitute one part of the equation, we get the title: *The Moltisantis of Newark*.

In November, we will gather again, this time indoors from the comfort of our own home via Zoom. I am happy to return to in-person meeting in December or January once we have had our boosters, but our November meeting is too close to Thanksgiving travel season to risk it. We will meet on Friday November 12 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Film selection will go out the weekend before. Feel free to send in your suggestions for what to watch.

Winter Gathering (formerly Winter Banquet) Karen Schulz & Carole Yesensky

We have a new event coming up: Winter Gathering on December 1, 2021. In the past we have gone to Reserve 22 for a Winter Banquet, but this year, with the threat of COVID-19 and the delta variant still around, we are excited to offer a new alternative gathering. Like LUNAFEST, we are offering the opportunity for people to gather in small groups in homes for a meal or dessert while listening to our speaker, Monica Reyes, speak on a very relevant topic over Zoom. Monica will speak about her studies along the United States-Mexico border with people seeking asylum and about their rhetorical efforts to gain safety through the United States immigration system. We are exploring some catering options that may be available for the evening.

If you are interested in hosting or participating in this event, please RSVP to Karen Schulz at okschulz@aol.com and let us know whether you want to host or attend the Winter Gathering. We will set up groups where we will welcome our newest members. Along with getting a chance to get to know them better, we are offering a time to catch up with our *old* friends as well. Watch your emails for further information.

Celebrating 65 Years
Glen Ellyn Scarecrow Rows
Carolyn Oesterle

The Branch scarecrow for the Glen Ellyn Scarecrow Rows is the second of our Celebrate 65 projects. It was erected, October 13, on Main Street and will be taken down on November 3. Our lamppost is located two blocks north of the tracks just across from Linea Hair Salon.

It was a hoot to shop for and build. The clothes came from Goodwill, but include a classy Ann Taylor jacket. The hat was chosen by Mary Sue at Treasure House in Glen Ellyn and modified to give our scarecrow that final elegant touch. Mary Sue created our celebratory cake. The scarecrow survived a soaking rain with only a few runs noted.

Many thanks to Susie Gullickson, Carole Yesensky and Marilyn Mauritz for their able assistance. Please stop by and have your picture taken to send to Patricia for Facebook.



AAUW Fall Leadership Conference
Saturday, October 30 via Zoom
Carolyn Oesterle

The Fall Leadership Conference is scheduled for October 30 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Zoom. There will be two interesting speakers:

- **Deanie Brown**
Diversity Officer for the Illinois Court System: Embracing Diversity and Inclusion by Uncovering and Overcoming Unconscious Assumptions

- **Kristin Olson**
Grant Writing Specialist and Workshop Facilitator: Fundraising for Scholarships

Attendees will then move into breakout groups to share and discuss best practices, ideas, and changes within AAUW. State Board members will lead the breakout groups on topics related to branch leadership positions. You will be asked to choose one when you register.

These will include Branch Presidents; Membership Vice-Presidents; Program Vice-Presidents; Finance; Public Policy; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; and an Open Forum. Board members in these chairs are especially encouraged to attend, but all Branch members will benefit from the meeting. And it is FREE!!

To sign up, go to the AAUW-IL, website, <https://aauw-il.aauw.net>. Click on **FALL LINK** icon and scroll to the Fall Conference section. Click on link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkdeisqjkjGNBLFIKuVGDTrtorPnSoutkf>

Any problems, contact Carolyn Oesterle.

The Twigs Team

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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!