

### A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

Deanie Brown's excellent talk at the Fall Leadership Conference about implicit bias and our upcoming trip to the dedication in Milwaukee honoring Alonzo Robinson lead me to think about the history of civil rights in our country. We all know that the modern civil rights era started with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 during the Johnson administration after years of protest marches led by Dr. Martin Luther King. Initially, the Civil Rights Act was used primarily to defend the rights of Black Americans.

The protections given by the Civil Rights Act have expanded due to multiple Supreme Court rulings and now cover discrimination against all minorities and women. Citizen protests were responsible for much of this expansion. LGBTQ rights were finally protected in the Supreme Court rulings in Obergefell (2015) giving them the right to marry and Bostock (2020) protecting members of the LGBTQ community from discrimination in the workplace. These rulings followed years of protests by the LGBTQ community.

Protests have been dominant in protecting the rights of many classes of Americans and are one of the hallmarks of our country's belief system. In the entryway to my daughter's dorm (Mead Hall) at Mt. Holyoke College was this quote by Margaret Mead, *Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*

*Carolyn & Mary Sue*



## Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	TIME	INFORMATION
Dec. 1	Winter Gatherings (In lieu of Winter Banquet)	7:00 pm Speaker	Contact Karen Schulz at <a href="mailto:okschulz@aol.com">okschulz@aol.com</a> .
Dec. 2	Post Zoom Viewing of Speaker Monica Reyes Lunch Discussion	12:30 pm	Reserve 22 at Village Links, 485 Winchell Way, Glen Ellyn. Reservation required. Contact Patricia Spence.
Dec. 3	AM Lit	9:30 am	Glen Ellyn Public Library, 400 Duane St., Glen Ellyn.
Dec. 11	Film Group	6:00 pm	Anne Hanley, 679 Forest Ave, Glen Ellyn.
Dec. 15	AM Non-Fiction	10:00 am	Sue Herrmann, 403 Wyndemere Circle, Wheaton.
Dec 20	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Phyllis Fogel, 1126 S Edgewood Ave., Lombard.
Dec. 22	PM Non-Fiction	7:00 pm	Ewa Bacon, 405 W Front St., Unit 305, Wheaton.

### Winter Gatherings Karen Schulz Carole Yesensky

It is not too late to sign up for our **WINTER GATHERINGS on December 1, 2021**. In the past we have gone to Reserve 22 for a Winter Banquet, but this year, with the threat of the COVID-19 delta variant, we are excited to offer two options for alternative gatherings.

#### Option # 1

**When:** **Wednesday, December 1.** Like LUNAFEST, we are offering the opportunity for people to gather in small groups in homes for a catered meal, hors d'oeuvres or dessert while listening to our speaker over Zoom. Regarding catering, Karen is in contact with a caterer and is available to help make the arrangements.

**Speaker:** Begins at 7:00 pm via Zoom. The link will be sent out to the membership in an All Branch email prior to the event.  
**Our speaker, Monica Reyes**, will talk about her studies along the United States and Mexico border with people seeking asylum and about their rhetorical efforts to gain safety through the United States immigration system.

**Deadline:** Tuesday, November 23. Email Karen Schulz at [okschulz@aol.com](mailto:okschulz@aol.com) if you are interested in hosting or participating in this event. We have four groups set up so far with a fifth host available for more guests.

#### Option #2

**When:** **Thursday, December 2, 12:30 pm. Post Zoom Viewing Lunch Discussion**

**Where:** Reserve 22 at Village Links, 485 Winchell Way, Glen Ellyn.

**Coordinator** Patricia Spence, [pspence101@aol.com](mailto:pspence101@aol.com)

**Requests:** COVID-19 vaccine booster required. Bring your *take-aways* from the Monica Reyes' presentation.

**Deadline:** RSVP by email to Patricia Spence by Tuesday, November 23. She needs to request the right number of tables to accommodate no more than five or six per table.



## **Membership**

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**Jean Lindsey & Nancy Possinger**

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

This is a friendly reminder to encourage your friends and family to join the Wheaton Glen Ellyn Branch of AAUW. If any of you would like us to reach out to a potential member, we are more than happy to do so. Just send either of the Co-Vice Presidents of Membership the name and email address or phone number for the person to be contacted. Please also remember that friends who are not yet members of AAUW are welcome to attend our Zoom or in person meetings. Just share the Zoom invitation with them, or share the date and time of the in person meeting, inform the host, and encourage your friend to join or simply view the discussion.

Also, our Membership Brochure has recently been updated, with information about our Branch and specific events and speakers for the current AAUW year. You can get a copy at various in person events, or call to have us send a brochure to anyone interested in joining. Another option: pick up a copy of the brochure (and a science kit) from the two *Science Girls on the Go* © boxes, outside the homes of either Peggy Connolly, 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton, or Marilyn Wiedemann, 373 Oak Street, Glen Ellyn.



## **Treasury**

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**Maureen Sheehan**

*maureenjsheehan@aol.com*

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Branch in 2021 either directly, by contributing to LUNAFEST or the Fall Fundraising Walk, or by sponsoring LUNAFEST. Both LUNAFEST, chaired by Suzanne Gagner, and the Fall Fundraising Walk, chaired by Patricia Spence, received contributions from members that exceeded budgeted expectations and we are grateful.

This is a friendly reminder that if you would like to make an additional contribution in 2021, you should submit it to me no later than Monday, December 27, to ensure processing can be completed in 2021. If it is mid to late December, I recommend bringing it directly to my home at 227 Orchard Lane, Glen Ellyn IL 60137. Anything sent by mail arriving late will be a Calendar Year 2022 contribution. Thanks for your continued support of the AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch.





## Our Branch Book Groups

### AM Lit

**Jean Lindsey**

*jeanlindsey15@comcast.net*

Author Sharon Creech said *I love the way that each book -any book- is its own journey. You open it, and off you go.* AM Lit's December 3 novel, *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman, takes us to a British retirement home and introduces us to a group of septuagenarians who meet to investigate cold cases. *Kirkus Reviews* states the novel is a *top-class cozy mystery infused with dry wit and charming characters who draw you in.* When we meet at 9:30 am, Jane Palmer will lead the discussion. Do come and join our always lively discussion. We meet at the Glen Ellyn Public Library.

Looking ahead: On January 7, 2022, we will discuss the highly regarded *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride. We still need a discussion leader, so contact me if you will lead the group.

### PM Lit

**Susie Gullickson**

*gullish.1955@gmail.com*

We will meet on Monday, December 20 at 7:00 pm at the home of Phyllis Fogel to discuss *Winter Garden* by Kristin Hannah. Patricia Bernhold will be the discussion leader and Patty Mugavero will co-host. We have read works by Kristin Hannah in the past, and this selection should prove to trigger lots of good conversation.

From BookBrowse: *Meredith and Nina Whitson are as different as sisters can be. When their father falls ill, they find themselves reunited alongside their cold, disapproving mother, Anya, who even now, offers no comfort to her daughters. It is through a Russian fairy tale that the unexpected journey of Anya's life in war-torn Leningrad, more than five decades ago, unfolds. Alternating between the past and present, the sisters will finally hear the harrowing story of their mother's life, and a secret so terrifying that it will shake the very foundation of their family and change who they believe they are.*

### AM Non-Fiction

**Sue Herrmann**

*sherrmann710@gmail.com*

On December 15 at 10:00 am, we will discuss *Bag Man: The Wild Crimes, Audacious Cover-Up and Spectacular Downfall of a Brazen Crook in the White House* by Rachel Maddow. Jane Palmer will lead the discussion at my home, 403 Wyndemere Circle, Wheaton. Park in the small parking space across from our home and look for a large evergreen in front of the house. I will provide a light breakfast of coffee, donuts, and fruit. If you wish to bring something to share, please have it in individual servings.

Please email or text me at 630-234-1941, if you are able to attend. We welcome COVID-19 vaccinated members only.

### PM Non-Fiction

**Ewa Bacon**

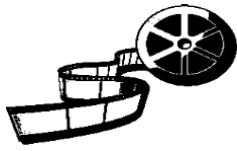
*baconew@lewisu.edu*

It is that time! Pull out all the fantastic book reviews you have collected this past year, and **MAKE A LIST!** Our December 22 meeting will be devoted to choosing books for 2022. 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.

We will meet in person at my home, 405 W Front St., Unit 305, Wheaton at 7:00 pm to chat about our choices and to vote. However, if you cannot make the meeting in person, you can also vote by email. I will send out the list before our meeting.

***Editor's Note: Going forward, all book selections will be available at the Glen Ellyn Public Library as we did pre-pandemic.***

## Our Branch Fundraising Activities



### Fundraising Walks

**Patricia Spence**

*pspence101@aol.com*

All donation acknowledgement letters were mailed by November 11 to Branch members who generously gave to the Fall Fundraising Walk. If you have not received yours, please let me know ASAP.

### Book Sale

**Susie Gullickson**

*gullish.1955@gmail.com*

### Happy Holidays from the Book Sale Committee!

We hope your holiday gifts include many wonderful books to keep you company during the chilly months ahead. Remember to save those books (and others) for the book sale in June, 2022.

**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.



Empowering Women Since 1881



### Springfield Update

In recognition of the Illinois State Legislature passing the *Youth Health and Safety Act (Repeal of the Parental Notification Act)*, AAUW-IL Public Policy Chairs, Paula Purdue and Tracey Sherman-Falcon, solicited the support of Branch affiliates to write thank you notecards to 100 State Senators and Representatives. Members of our Branch Public Policy Interest Group volunteered to be part of this effort.

The message, as follows, has an easily replicable structure for our correspondence for future bills. Let us make a habit of reaching out as constituents and AAUW-IL members.

Dear Representative/Senator \_\_\_\_\_,

*On behalf of AAUW IL, we want to heartily thank you for supporting the Youth Health and Safety Act (Repeal of PNA). This bill will support youth by letting them know they can be trusted with their healthcare decisions. We know this may have been a difficult vote to make, so the members of AAUW-IL are especially appreciative of your affirmation of this bill.*

Sincerely,  
Your Name and Branch



### SCIENCE GIRLS ON THE GO

The STEM committee has released the sixth *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 is Part II of DNA and you will be learning about mutations using a game which friends and family can play together as a group. It is based off the old telephone game in which one person will whisper an 18 letter DNA code down a chain of people. The last person will transcribe it and convert it to an RNA code and then the process is repeated whispering it down the line again. The group will work as a team to translate it into codons and finally proteins which will decide what traits your fish will have. The only question is how well you can do this in two minutes without making a mistake or a mutation. Will your fish have gills and fins or have none? This is a game for all ages.

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 by email, if you are interested in helping with this project, have ideas for new kits or have questions.



Wow, it is the end of the year already, our second of figuring out how to meet in COVID-19 times. Given the availability of the booster, I will be hosting our December meeting at my home. Please have your booster shot before attending. If you are unvaccinated or do not have a booster by then, I respectfully ask that you not attend.

**We will meet on Saturday December 11 at 6:00 pm. Note the earlier start time!** Film selection will go out the weekend before. Feel free to send in your suggestions for what to watch.

### **The Twigs Team**

<b>Editor:</b>	<b>Kathleen McCullough</b>
<b>Proofreader:</b>	<b>Ruth Schumacher</b>
<b>AAUW Online:</b>	<b>Jane Palmer</b>
<b>Website Editor:</b>	<b>Tracy Kline</b>

*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!***