

Twigs
February 2022

A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

Our January Branch program, *Clotilda* was like so many of our projects — a tapestry created by many hands. The Program Committee researched and selected *Clotilda* and *Africatown* for our January program. Barb Roos introduced the speaker, Joe Womack, and fielded the questions. Upon learning at 4:00 pm on the evening of the program that she would need to operate the PowerPoint component, Carolyn called Fran Kravitz and the show went on. Mary Sue Brown then ran the business meeting. In anticipation of increased attendance, Mary Sue submitted a grant request to AAUW-IL to fund our existing Zoom account at the next level which will allow us to have 200 participants.

The Book Sale is our largest tapestry. Co-Chairs Susie Gullickson and Suzanne Gagner have been meeting with their committee members to work out the details. BUT — we need the membership to complete this tapestry. Do not be shy, heed their call for volunteers. The space is enormous with great ventilation.

One of our loveliest tapestries, *Spice Routes* has been on hold but will return to an outdoor venue in May — a Tapas Bar on Peggy Connolly's spacious enclosed screened porch. This eleven year old elegant theme-based potluck was the brainchild of Peggy Connolly, Pat Kazor, and Ewa Bacon. Time to research some recipes.

There are so many more tapestries — our Facebook Page, *Twigs*, *Stem*, the Fall Fundraiser, Book and Film Discussions.

Take a look at AAUW National on Facebook which includes links to relevant articles and other information. One of these was *MS. Magazine*, 12/27/2021, '*You Have to See It to Be It*' (attributed to Billie Jean King): *Missing Female Role Models and What We Can Do About It* by Amy Diehl.

Dates for the AAUW- IL State Convention are May 6 and 7 at the Hilton Doubletree in Lisle.

Mary Sue and Carolyn

Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	TIME	INFORMATION
Feb. 2	Branch Meeting	7:00 pm	Zoom.
Feb. 4	AM Lit	9:30 am	Glen Ellyn Public Library, First Floor Meeting Rooms, 400 Duane St., Glen Ellyn.
Feb. 9	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	TBD.
Feb. 12	Film Group	7:00 pm	TBD.
Feb. 14	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Donna Jean Simon, 453 Raintree Dr., Unit 1F, Glen Ellyn.
Feb. 23	AM Non-Fiction	10:00 am	Laura Desmarais, 1323 Shagbark Lane, Wheaton.



Programs

Barbara Roos & Kathy Wessel

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February 2022 Branch Program
Wednesday, February 2
7:00 pm via Zoom

Dead Folks Do Tell Tales

Speaker: Dr. Anne Grauer, Forensic and Biological Anthropologist



Loyola University Chicago Professor Anne Grauer received her doctorate in biological anthropology from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Dr. Grauer's research interests include paleopathology (the study of ancient human disease) and bioarchaeology (the study of human remains from archaeological contexts), with particular focus on the impact of sex, gender, and social identity on disease in the past. She is currently analyzing skeletons from medieval England and from cemetery populations in 19th-century urban centers in the United States. Dr. Grauer is a Research Associate of the Field Museum, and a forensic consultant for the FBI's Evidence Response Team, the Cook County Sheriff's Police, and the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office. In 2020 she was elected a lifetime Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science *for distinguished contributions to the field of biological anthropology, particularly to the development of paleopathology as a*

means of understanding social life in the past. Dr. Grauer has authored scores of books, scholarly articles, and other publications, holds leadership roles in numerous professional organizations, and is the Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Paleopathology*.



As you all know, the Membership Co-Vice Presidents serve as chairs of the Nominating Committee. This year, in addition to Jean Lindsey and Nancy Possinger, we are fortunate to have Phyllis Fogel and Patricia Spence rounding out our committee.

Our committee has met twice and is preparing a slate of nominees to be presented at the February Branch Meeting and emailed via an All-Branch communication to all members before the March Branch Meeting. Elections will be held at the Annual Branch Meeting in March.

Help Wanted: Branch Directory Chair Patricia Spence

The Branch needs a Directory Chair for our prized annual Directory. The Board acknowledges that many organizations have moved membership contact information to online. Our members, though, prefer that tactilely satisfying, hard copy *sidekick* in their auto or on their desk. The streamlined 2022-2023 version will consist only of what is now, Part II, *Directory of Members*. Current Chair, Maureen Sheehan, and Jane Palmer can provide detailed information and guidance.

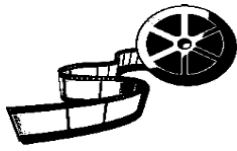


While we have ample social media online via our Branch website, Facebook, Twigs, AAUW-IL and AAUW.org, only you can ensure we keep our Directory in our hands. Please inform Mary Sue Brown at msbrown750@comcast.net or Carolyn Oesterle at csoesterle@gmail.com that you will volunteer for this vital role.

May Celebration Event Karen Bondy

Traditionally, our Branch holds a dinner in May to recognize the year's achievements and the transition of officers. Our Program Committee has saved a date for such an event, but as of this month, it is too early to know if such a gathering will be possible or prudent. The Board has brainstormed and has some ideas we will investigate. We will need an outdoor venue with catering (a restaurant patio, for example) that could be reserved for a group, and where we could all hear various speakers; or an outdoor venue where a caterer could serve a meal or we could have a food truck. Please let Carolyn or Mary Sue know or contact Karen Bondy at bondykj@aol.com directly. If we were going to plan an event for such a venue, of course we would have to have a contingency plan for bad weather. It is just a thought. *We may, once again, have to be creative.*

Our Branch Fundraising Activities



LUNAFEST

Suzanne Gagner

petalpower1@yahoo.com

Planning for the 2022 LUNAFEST Has Begun!

The 2022 LUNAFEST committee is being formed. I will work closely with the new chair and members to create an exciting 2022 event. Although we have not set a date, The Center Stage Theater in Naperville has reopened and has dates available in September and October. The March Twigs issue will include a *Save The Date* announcement for your calendars.

Committee members are needed for Publicity/Media, Ticketing/Accounting, Food, Decorations, and Sponsorship/Raffle. If you have an interest in joining the committee to create a fun-filled fundraising night, we would love to have your expertise and enthusiasm. Please contact me by email or phone at 630.877.5589.

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

Book Sale

Susie Gullickson

gullish.1955@gmail.com

We celebrate two of our great presidents this month, and to quote Abraham Lincoln, *A capacity, and taste, for reading, gives access to whatever has already been discovered by others. It is the key, or one of the keys, to the already solved problems.*

So, let us provide our community with lots of opportunities for reading by continuing to save books for our June, 2022 Book Sale. Book collection will take place, June 1-17; sale set up, June 20-22; and the actual sale is June 23-25.

As a reminder, we are looking to collect:

Fiction: including Science Fiction, Fantasy, Romance, Classics, Mysteries, Westerns.

Non-Fiction including History, Politics, Biographies, Autobiographies.

Children's and Young Adults



Do You Know Your New Congressional District?

Illinois completed its redistricting process per federal law (post every 10 years census) and created all new congressional districts. The title of the map accessed via the link below may say *draft*, but it is the final, Pritzker approved, map:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/viewer?mid=1qfnRiuOZ3yok6WGVvBHZ9P6u3EMy_LwRv&ll.

Note: the image is overlaid on Google Maps, so you can search any address, or just zoom in anywhere to find the exact boundaries of the districts.

On a Personal Note: Glen Ellyn Branch members now find ourselves in one of three districts: 3,6,8. Also, while my US House District, IL House District and DuPage County Board District have remained the same, in 2023 I will be in new IL State Senate District 21, not 24. In future Twigs, I will include links to additional redistricting changes that affect as many Branch members as possible. Please forward to me any other information you find useful.

Who is Knocking at Your Door?

Maybe a candidate or your political party precinct chair? January 13 to March 14, 2022 is the collection period for signatures to appear on the 2022 primary ballot.

Election Dates: 2022

The primary election date is June 28, 2022 (changed from March).

The general election date is November 8, 2022.

Candidates may run in any district in the state of Illinois, regardless of residency.

Non-Partisan But Always Political

How does AAUW walk this tightrope? For up-to-date answers see *Exploring Tough Issues through An AAUW Lens: Political and Non-Partisan*, December 15, 2021 <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/webinars/>

My review: This webinar is a *must-see* for new members. For all members, it is an efficient reacquaintance with the basis of our advocacy. Among other salient points, you will learn how our AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Corps (Washington D.C. area Branch members), as *citizen-activists*, interact with members of Congress.



Well, Omicron is in full bloom, dashing our plans to meet in person in January. Zoom is not the same as in person, but we had a highly engaging discussion of *The Power of the Dog*. Models predict Omicron will abate sometime in early-mid February, so we might be able to gather in person for our next meeting, but might be on Zoom again. I will let you know closer to the date. If in person, I will need someone to volunteer to host and moderate, as I will be out of town. Please let me know if you can do this.

We will meet on Saturday, February 12 at 7:00 pm. Given the slate of movies currently out and the tendency for very little to premiere in the month of January, we talked about *Don't Look Up* as our February film. It might change, but this is the likely pick. Please send in your suggestions for what to watch! Film selection/confirmation will go out the weekend before.



Our Branch Book Groups

**I've lived a 1000 lives and I've loved a 1000 loves. I've walked on distant worlds and seen the end of time.
Because I read. George Martin**

AM Lit

Jean Lindsey

jeanlindsey15@comcast.net

February's AM Lit novel, *This Is How It Always Is* by Laurie Frankel, will break new ground for many of us. Goodreads describes the novel as *heartfelt and magical; a fascinating story of a modern family who is raising a transgender child. It explores themes of protecting a child from harm and questioning what is right for the child.*

Join us on Friday, February 4, 9:30 am at the Glen Ellyn Public Library to join our discussion led by Laura Desmarais and Ruth Schumacher. There are multiple copies available at the library.

Looking ahead: The March 4 selection is *The Brightest Star in the Sky* by Marian Keyes.

PM Lit

Susie Gullickson

gullish.1955@gmail.com

Our February book selection is *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. *Between life and death there is a library, and within that library, the shelves go on forever. Every book provides a chance to try another life you could have lived. This is a dazzling novel about all the choices that go into a life well lived, from the internationally bestselling author of 'Reasons to Stay Alive' and 'How to Stop Time' (Goodreads).*

Donna Jean Simon will be both the hostess and the discussion leader. We will meet at 7:00 pm on Monday, February 14 at Donna Jean's home.

AM Non-Fiction

Sue Herrmann

sherrmann710@gmail.com

Welcome to 2021-22 AM Non-Fiction Book Group. We will meet at 10:00 am on Wednesday, February 23, at Laura Desmarais' home (1323 Shagbark Lane, Wheaton). Please text RSVP at 630.854.2730 if you plan to attend. We will welcome Lavonne Ruoff, who has expressed an interest in leading the discussion.

We will discuss *How We Go Home: Voices from Indigenous North America*, edited by Sara Sinclair. Goodreads says: *This is a powerful collection of oral histories from twelve Indigenous people from the US & Canada. Sara Sinclair, a Cree-Ojibwe oral historian, collected these stories with a broad focus on the ongoing effects of colonization on Native lands, lives, and cultures today.*

Due to the COVID-19 variant, we welcome vaccinated members only. We hope to see you at our February 23 meeting!

Note: Books available at the Glen Ellyn Public Library on the second floor Book Group section.

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
Proofreader:	Ruth Schumacher
AAUW Online:	Jane Palmer
Website Editor:	Tracy Kline

*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*