

Twigs

March 2022

A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

Mary Sue's tapestry from last month continues. For the March 2 Branch meeting we have decided to attempt a Zoom in person hybrid meeting. Anne Hanley is happy to be present in person and the COVID numbers are going down, so it seemed the right time to try it. Cindy will be running the meeting after the Program Committee of Barb, Cindy, Peggy and Kathy, enlisted Anne's expertise as speaker. The Civic Center has no projector. The old Branch projector was found by Susie Gullickson, but is too old to use. Mary Mossman lent the Branch her projector and cord connections. Fran and her friend Milt volunteered to help set up the computer link to Zoom and the projector. Mary Sue and I scheduled a practice session at the Civic Center to see if the link up would work. I had to give a name for the meeting so we became the *AAUW Technology Committee*. Cindy, Kathy, Fran, Milt, Mary Sue and I worked out the Zoom set up, primarily Fran and Milt. We hope the tapestry will hold together. Sincere thanks to all involved!!

The first Branch members to help with the local school board disruptions were Marilyn Mauritz and Ewa Bacon. Three cheers to both of them!!! They attended the District 200 Board meeting on February 9. Ewa started out her description of the meeting with *I felt like the blind woman trying to figure out the elephant in the room* and ended with *And WOW am I glad I am not on the school board*. We need to continue to support our local school boards. If you can help, please let Mary Sue or me know. We can be helpful by attending meetings, speaking at the meeting in general support of the school board, speaking in response to the disinformation of the disruptors, or writing letters to the editor. The best way to have a letter published is to have many people send in letters at the same time on an issue. Mary Sue and I are committed to this issue, but many hands make light work. Public education is under attack and is a vital institution for our democracy to continue.

Try to make plans to attend the in person Spring AAUW-Illinois Convention on May 6 and 7, 2022 at the Lisle-Naperville Hilton Doubletree Hotel in nearby Lisle. More information about the agenda and speakers will be coming soon

Mary Sue & Carolyn

Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	TIME	INFORMATION
March 2	Branch Meeting	7:00 pm	Hybrid Format: Zoom & in person at Glen Ellyn Civic Center, 535 Duane St, Glen Ellyn.
March 4	AM Lit	9:30 am	Wheaton Public Library, 225 N Cross, Wheaton, lower level.
March 9	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Hybrid Format: Zoom & in person at Mary Sue Brown, 380 S. Milton Ave., Glen Ellyn
March 11	Film Group	7:00 pm	Anne Hanley, 679 Forest Ave., Glen Ellyn.
March 21	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Jean Lindsey, 1644 Orth Dr., Wheaton.
March 23	PM Non-Fiction	7:00 pm	Marilyn Wiedemann, 373 Oak St., Glen Ellyn.



Programs

Barbara Roos & Kathy Wessel

bamaroos@gmail.com kathywessel@gmail.com



March Branch Program

7:00 pm, Wednesday, March 2

Speaker: Dr. Anne Hanley

***Brazil: Why Does Your Country Get to Be So Rich
While Ours is So Poor?***

While studying economics in Brazil as a college student, Branch member Dr. Anne Hanley was asked by a Brazilian student, "Why does your country get to be so rich, while ours is so poor?" This was the first moment she realized that theoretical economics and real world economics might be very different, and that "doing the right thing" might not be enough to develop an economy. She has been investigating this question ever since, reading through the many theories on economic development and underdevelopment, and pursuing her own research in Brazilian history to try to figure out what makes the difference between the two. Along the way, Anne has had the opportunity to live in and travel around Brazil, talking to taxi drivers, Uber drivers, civil servants, teachers, students, artists and musicians to get their take on modern day life in their wonderful, and wonderfully complicated, country. These conversations have enriched her teaching at NIU, where she has been a faculty member in the History Department at NIU since 1999, and helped shape the ideas in her books and scholarly articles on Brazilian economic history.

Anne was recently named Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees Professor of the Year. She is the author of two books with a third in progress, and has been recognized as a leader for improving the climate for women on campus.

We are hopeful that the COVID positivity rates keep dropping in which case we will hold our first *HYBRID* meeting in what seems like forever! Hybrid means that if you are comfortable meeting in person, we will welcome you to the live meeting; meanwhile it will also be projected on ZOOM. We will require everyone who wishes to attend the live meeting at the Glen Ellyn Civic Center to be fully vaccinated and wear a mask. Those who wish to Zoom-in will be welcome to do so.

If you are planning to Zoom, we thought we would try attaching the meeting link here as well as sending it just before. As you may have noted last time, you will need to register as you enter the meeting with your name and email. If you wish to register now then you will get a reminder and link directly from the site.

Please See Next Page for Zoom Details.

Branch Meeting ZOOM Details

You are invited to a Zoom meeting:

When: March 2, 2022 , 6:30 pm Central Time (US and Canada).

Please log in prior to 7:00 pm meeting start time to resolve any potential Zoom issues.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrd-ivqD4rHNGktWTY6sKCnRCbgxNy8Lii>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



Membership

Jean Lindsey & Nancy Possinger

jeanlindsey15@comcast.net napolssinger@gmail.com

Nominating Committee

As Phyllis Fogel announced at the February Branch meeting, the nominating committee consisting of Co-Vice Presidents Nancy Possinger and Jean Lindsey, and Patricia Spence and Phyllis Fogel, are pleased to announce the following slate of Branch nominees:

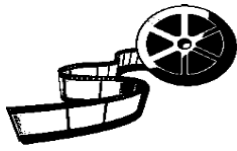
Membership:	Nancy Possinger
Treasurer:	Maureen Sheehan

We appreciate that both nominees were willing to continue in their current positions for another two years. Both have experience in these roles and will continue to do an excellent job.

The committee wants to thank Nancy Possinger for hosting and organizing our search.

The Branch will vote on the slate in March.

Our Branch Fundraising Activities



LUNAFEST

Laura Desmarais

lkdesmarais@gmail.com

Mark your calendars for LUNAFEST 2022. Plans are for an in person event on Saturday, October 8 at Center Stage in Naperville. At this time, they are limiting attendance to 100 patrons. Of course, this could change. We are also considering a virtual option like last year to expand viewing opportunities. There is no additional charge for this dual option. We will be able to open this fundraiser to all who are interested. Look for more details later.

Book Sale

Suzanne Gagner & Susie Gullickson

petalppower1@yahoo.com gullish.1955@gmail.com

This is it!

The 2022 Book Sale Challenge!

Our 2022 Book Sale has been redesigned to reduce heavy lifting, to eliminate sorting books in frigid conditions, and to provide an attendee-friendly sale site. We plan to collect books from the public in May at Health Track and Wheaton Sports Center. On June 1, we begin accepting donated books from the public at Briar Glen Elementary School in Wheaton. We would love to have 8,000 books on our sale tables.

Our Challenge is for Each Branch Member to Collect 50 Books. These books should be stored in paper grocery bags with handles. The 50 books will probably result in six to eight bags. The committee would love to have you store these bags in your home, basement or garage until June 1. At that time the bags can be brought to Briar Glen Elementary School. You will have over three months to collect books from your own library, from family and from friends.

Ongoing Inventory: It is important for us to keep an inventory so that we know how many books to anticipate at the sale. If our numbers are too low, we will have to expand our collection methods. Marilyn Wiedemann has taken on the task of maintaining our inventory. She will be sending emails regularly to get your book count. We recommend that you write the number of books on each bag. Please give Marilyn information on additional books each time and not the total you have accumulated.

Location: Briar Glen Elementary School, 1800 Briarcliffe Boulevard, Wheaton.

We Will Only Accept the Following Books:

Fiction: Popular Fiction, Science Fiction, Fantasy, Romance, Westerns, and Classics.

Non-fiction: Biographies, Autobiographies, History, Politics, and Current Events.

Mystery

Children and Young Adult

Collection and Sorting: June 1 to June 17, Monday to Friday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Sale Dates: Thursday and Friday, June 23 and 24 from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm.
Saturday, June 25 from 9:00 am to Noon (\$10/bag).



Springfield Update: The staff of Senator Suzy Gowiak's (IL24) office confirmed to me that she will support *The Family and Medical leave Insurance Act*. AAUW-IL strongly supports its passage.

Copy and paste the link below in your browser bar to see the new Illinois Senate District maps. For many Branch members, Senator Glowiak will be replaced by Senator Laura Ellman (IL 21).

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/2/viewer?mid=13Wihm7IY1g9OwCQhbQRJU4NVFGqv_2A4&ll=39.79510521942542%2C-89.50414500000001&z=6

DuPage County Update: Legislation passed in November 2021 reduced the number of DuPage County election precincts from 930 to 607. The DuPage County Board voted down a newly drawn precincts map for DuPage County, so for the foreseeable future, county precinct lines remain intact.

Branch Public Policy Interest Group: AAUW-IL Public Policy Chairs forward to me action alerts, which, in turn, I forward to the Branch Public Policy Interest group. These alerts consist of requests to contact state elected officials in support of or opposition to, most frequently, proposed state legislation. (Our national organization conveys action alerts for Congressional matters.) Please contact me if you want to be included in this group.

VOTE 2022: March 30 is the first day you can apply for a vote by mail ballot; **June 28 is Primary Day**. For a complete calendar of dates/deadlines in the 2022 primary voting cycle, go to <https://illinoisvoterguide.org>

**Save the Date
May Celebration Event
Saturday, May 21**



Traditionally, our Branch holds a dinner in May to recognize the year's achievements and the transition of officers. This spring we have arranged a luncheon event. Please plan to attend on Saturday, May 21.

We have reserved the open air pergola at Adelle's in Wheaton, but we will be accommodated inside if weather is nasty. If so, we will be in the room we have previously used for our evening dinners. They upgraded to a whole restaurant UV air filtration and sanitizing system for the entire restaurant in August 2020. All of the air (and surface particles) are filtered and sanitized.

Look for menu, time, and reservation information in the April issue of *Twigs*.

But mark your calendars NOW. May weekends get busy! We want to have a good turnout for this in person opportunity to celebrate AAUW.

Contact Karen Bondy at bondykj@aol.com if you have questions.



Do you love Facebook or hate it? It's your personal choice whether or not to join Facebook. Remember, it is easy to block content that you do not want like political posts and ads.

Why is AAUW on Facebook? Search for AAUW on Facebook. You will find pages for *AAUW.org*, *AAUW-Illinois* and two Branch pages (Branch & Book Sale) and pages for our neighboring branches and many others. All AAUW pages are open to public view, so you can check them out without joining Facebook. If AAUW did not have a social media presence, it might as well be a secret organization.

Why does the Branch have two Facebook pages? Our Branch page, **Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW**, is primarily used for news about Branch meetings, fundraisers, public policy updates and sharing news from other branches. These are usually posted by Patricia Spence. Our **Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW Used Book Sale** page is typically more active in the months before the Book Sale and it has a broader audience than the Branch page because it includes many people who follow book sales. Book Sale postings are usually made by Jane Palmer but can be made by any of you as a *visitor post*. So, if you see a post about books in your own newsfeed you can share it to our Book Sale page along with a comment to tie it in with the Book Sale. Try it!

Very important! If you do have a Facebook account, please *like* both of our AAUW Facebook pages. When you like the Branch pages, our posts appear in your newsfeed and, depending on your settings, your friends will likely see any post that you have *liked*. That's how we spread the word. Kind of like an old-fashioned pyramid-scheme. End result – more people will hear about AAUW and the Book Sale!

Contact Patricia at pspence101@aol.com with suggested Facebook postings and pictures of members enjoying Branch activities. Tracy Kline at trakli@msn.com continues to update the branch website with new pictures. Keep them coming! Contact me if you have suggestions of other ways we can promote the Branch online.





Our Branch Book Groups

A book is a dream you hold in your hands. Neil Gaiman

AM Lit

Jean Lindsey

jeanlindsey15@comcast.net

****Note Change of Location** On March 4, we will meet at the Wheaton Public Library, 225 North Cross, Wheaton, lower level.**

Our March choice, **Brightest Star in the Sky**, features the lives of 10 Dubliners and a sassy sprite. Author Marian Keyes writes a *wry and life-affirming tale which features her rollicking humor and her effervescent prose* which results in a captivating plot. At this time, we do not have a discussion leader, so it will be a group effort. Do come prepared to direct a question or two. We will meet at 9:30 am on Friday, March 4.

The Glen Ellyn Library is not available for the next three months, so I have Wheaton booked for the months of March and April. I will keep you posted on future locations.

Looking ahead: Our April selection is *The Cold Millions* by Jess Walter. Phyllis Fogel will lead the discussion.

PM Lit

Susie Gullickson

gullish.1955@gmail.com

March's PM Lit Selection brings us to a small, rural village in Nigeria. *The Girl with the Louding Voice* by Abi Dare is the story of a young girl, who longs to get an education so that she can find her *louding voice* and be heard. Instead, at age 14, she is forced into an arranged marriage, which she soon escapes, only to find herself working as a house maid to an abusive, rich woman in a far-away city. This story is a simultaneously heartbreaking and triumphant tale about power and fighting for your dreams.

We will meet at 7:00 pm on Monday, March 21 at Jean Lindsey's home, 1644 Orth Dr., Wheaton. Patty Mugavero will be the discussion leader.

PM Non-Fiction

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

We are meeting at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, March 23 at Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann's home to discuss Patrick Reddon Keefe's book *Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty*. Even during these difficult times for public health, it is sobering to read that we are losing 100,000 victims annually to the opioid crisis. The Sackler family is a major actor in this ongoing and intensifying crisis. Court decisions identifying the Sacklers are trying to provide relief for survivors, but what relief is there really for the loss of family members? Donna Staples will lead our discussion.

Our next book on May 25 is Walter Isaacson on the *Code Breaker*, Jennifer Douda's work on the gene editing technology known as CRISPR.

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

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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!