



Ode to Spring by Mary Robinson

*Welcome, sweet season of delight,
What beauties charm the wond'ring sight
In thy enchanting reign!
How fresh descend the morning dew,
Whilst op'ning flow'rs of various hue
Bedeck the sprightly plain.
The artless warblers of the grove
Again unite in songs of love,
To bless thy kind return:
But first the lark, who roaring seems
To hail the orb of day, whose beams
With fresh refulgence burn.*

*Of human life an emblem true,
The early morn of youth we view,
In spring's delightful face;
Meridian life's a Summer's day,
With Autumn fades; its quick decay,
In winter's blast we trace.
Then let us prize each fleeting hour,
Improve the moments in our pow'r,
E'er time shall cease to be;
Then shall our spirits, taking wing,
Be crown'd with an eternal Spring,
From Wint'ry storms set free.*

Let us all rejoice in spring and relief from the worst of the pandemic (I hope). It has been wonderful to have actual in person Branch meetings again! We hope to keep meeting in person and to continue offering Zoom to other branches and our members far away or unable to come in person.

Hip Hip Hooray! We are planning an in person Spring Luncheon, May 21 at Adelle's in Wheaton. Thank you, Karen Bondy, for all the work on this. See Karen's article in this issue for details.

There has been interest in a Branch project—especially by the membership chairs. Jean mentioned the *Divorce Handbook* that was created by the Branch in 1983. It was well done and went through two more editions in 1990 and 1995. Ewa Bacon has suggested a possibility for a similar project. She has had discussions with friends about how to handle end of life issues. There are many considerations and problems that affect family and friends as the end of life draws near for themselves or a loved one. Mary Sue and I think it could be a great project for the Branch and useful for friends and family members of the Branch. The project would have several different sections. A list of some areas that have occurred to me would be: (1) Hospice care—what to look for; (2) End of life costs—should you have insurance; (3) Medical care—how to discuss with your doctor having aggressive treatment vs palliative care; (4) Estate planning and charity gifts; (5) Burial vs cremation vs composting; and (6) Assisted death issues. I am sure there are more. I think forming a committee would be the best way to proceed. I have two members interested in helping so far. Please let me know if you are interested.

Books--Books --Books--Save and Collect Your Used Books. We are closing in on the return of the Used Book Sale June 23 to 25. All members can help. No heavy lifting required. See the Twigs article for details. Thank you, Susie and Suzanne for all your energy.

Carolyn & Mary Sue

Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	TIME	INFORMATION
April 1	AM Lit	9:30 am	Wheaton Public Library, Room C, Basement, 225 N Cross St. Wheaton.
April 6	Branch Meeting	7:00 pm	Hybrid Zoom at Glen Ellyn Civic Center, 535 Duane St., Glen Ellyn.
April 9	Film Group	7:00 pm	Marilyn Wiedemann, 373 Oak St., Glen Ellyn.
April 11	Program Planning Meeting 2022-2023	7:00 pm	Peggy Connolly, 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton.
April 13	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Maureen Sheehan, 227 Orchard Lane, Glen Ellyn.
April 18	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Susie Gullickson, 1510 Paula Ave., Wheaton.
April 20	PM Non-Fiction	7:00 pm	Marilyn Wiedemann, 373 Oak St., Glen Ellyn.
April 27	AM Non-Fiction	10:00 am	Carolyn Oesterle, 645 Lake Rd., Glen Ellyn.
May 6 May 7	AAUW-IL Spring Conference	Evening AM & PM	Lisle-Naperville Hilton Doubletree Hotel, 3003 Corporate West Dr, Lisle.



Programs

Barbara Roos & Kathy Wessel

bamaroos@gmail.com kathywessel@gmail.com

April Branch Meeting Wednesday, April 6 7:00 pm via Zoom and Glen Ellyn Civic Center



Our speaker for the April 6 Branch Meeting will be Tabassum Haleem. Tabassum leads operations and programs as the Executive Director of the Islamic Networks Group (ING). Previously, she has held various executive positions including Executive Director of Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC), Director of Government Relations at PolyBrite International, and Regional Controller of BMW North America.

Tabassum holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Illinois at Chicago, Master of Public Policy and Master of Arts from the University of Chicago, and is a licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA). She serves on the United States Commission on Civil Rights and the board of LGC's Leadership Fellowship Association (formerly the Laboratory of the Government Chemist in the UK). Tabassum is a recipient of the Minorities in Public Policy Studies Alumni Award from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy, a Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow, and a McCormick Tribune Urban Policy Leadership Fellow. Tabassum has served on the Naperville Education Foundation (NEF) Board of Trustees and as a co-chair for DuPage United, a community organizing group, and on the Advisory Committee for the Naperville Chamber of Commerce-Green Leadership Council.

Tabassum and her family reside in Naperville.

You can attend this program at 7:00 pm on April 6 at the Glen Ellyn Civic Center or view the program on Zoom at home. Tabassum will present her program on Zoom.

2022-2023 Program Planning Meeting
Peggy Connolly

What ideas do you have for Branch programs in the coming year? The Program Committee invites you to a planning meeting on Monday, April 11 at 7:00 pm at the home of Peggy Connolly. The final topics and schedule will *not* be determined at the planning meeting, as these will depend on speaker availability and program balance. The planning meeting will identify topics of interest to members so the committee will be able to confirm speakers for inclusion in the 2022-2023 directory. Please send suggestions, including contact information for the speaker, by April 2 to Peggy Connolly at connolly.peggy@gmail.com. Additional recommendations may be made at the meeting, but it will be helpful to have most suggestions beforehand. The Program Co-Vice Presidents (Kathy Wessel and Barb Roos) and their committee (Cindy Trennert-Lukens and Peggy Connolly) are eager to hear your ideas.



Membership

Jean Lindsey & Nancy Possinger

jeanlindsey15@comcast.net napossinger@gmail.com

In early February our Branch was pleased to add another new member, **Heidi Fraser**.

Heidi Fraser joins as a dual member of AAUW with the Lombard branch, which she joined in 1992. Last year she finished a four-year stint as Branch Treasurer, and she was active with the branch book sale, coordinating the evening and weekend book drop offs. She really enjoys the *Mystery Buffs*, a special interest group.

Heidi is a chemical engineer at UOP, a company that develops and licenses the processes that oil refineries use to make gasoline. As a technical service specialist, she assists customers with all aspects of their process. In her position, Heidi has had the opportunity to travel all over the world.

Heidi is married, has two adult children, and a grandson who will be two in April. Her husband is a retired chemical engineer; her son is a computer scientist who lives in Seattle with his family; her daughter is a materials science engineer working at a Naval air station in southern Maryland. Yes, they are all engineers.

Do introduce yourself to Heidi and our other new members when you see them at the next Branch or literature meetings.

Branch Directory Information:

Heidi Fraser
21W131 Flamingo Lane
Lombard, IL 60148
312.401.2541 (cell)
email: heidi.fraser@honeywell.com

Degree: BS Chemical Engineering
Washington University St. Louis, 1981

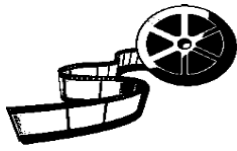
Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Vision: Equity for all.

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



Our Branch Fundraising Activities



Book Sale

Suzanne Gagner & Susie Gullickson

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

Members *Spring* into Action!

WOW!!! In February we challenged each of our members to collect 50 books for the upcoming June Book Sale. Through March 9, almost 900 books have been collected by 20 members. This is a great start toward our goal! Please continue to solicit book donations from family, friends and neighbors. We will have a flyer available shortly for you to use in this endeavor. Bi-weekly All-Branch Emails will continue through June 1, asking for your **additional** book inventory numbers.

Book Collection Locations:

- May 1 to 31: Wheaton Sports Center, Health Track in Glen Ellyn and Wheaton Park District Community Center on Blanchard St.– any time during open hours.
- June 1 to 17: Briar Glen Elementary School in Wheaton, Monday to Friday, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Sign Up Genius: This on-line tool will be used again this year for members to sign up for work shifts during book sorting and sale days (June 1 to 25). Watch for an *All Branch email* in mid-May, when *Sign Up Genius* will be available. We will also have sign-up available at the May 21 Branch Luncheon. Please note that we will have *Seated* positions available only on sale days.

Handled Paper Bags: We have asked that you store collected books in handled paper grocery bags; additionally, please save these bags for use during the sale.

Sponsorship: In addition to helping with Book Collection, Sorting and the Book Sale, we welcome your sponsorship to help defray the costs of the sale. Checks should be made out to: **AAUW Wheaton Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP** and show **AAUW Book Sale** in the memo line of the check. Please mail checks to: Maureen Sheehan, 227 Orchard Lane, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-6580.

A Few Reminders:

All of the following activities will take place at Briar Glen Elementary School:

- June 1 to 17: Book Collection and Sorting
- June 20 to 22: Final Sale Set Up
- June 23, 24, 25: Book Sale (Take Down afternoon of June 25)

We want the following types of books:

- Fiction – including Popular Fiction, Science Fiction, Fantasy, Romance, Westerns and Classics
- Non-Fiction – including Biographies, Autobiographies, History, Politics and Current Events
- Mystery
- Children and Young Adult



February Zoom Meeting with AAUW-IL and Branch Public Policy Chairs -Three Issues:

- **Status of Legislation:** Paula Purdue and Tracey Sherman-Falcon reflected on the success of last year's passage of the Health Care Reform Bill. AAUW-IL had supported the bill which centers around eliminating race-based and other inequities in the state's health care system and includes provisions to expand medical services available to low-income residents and residents of color.

Unfortunately, this year's vigorously supported *Family Medical Leave Insurance Act (SB 835/HB 5029)* will have to be reintroduced next legislative session. Paula and Tracey advised Branch Chairs to (1) find out what reservations their representatives and senators express about this bill; (2) ask for a meeting; (3) research pertinent points that counter the reservations; (4) present these points in the best format that can be arranged. *Ask: What do you need to support this bill?* Current research about FMLA shows paid leave will reduce the gender pay gap and modify the downward wage trajectory for women.

- **Impact of Date Changes:** Paula stated that the April 8 end date of the legislative session can be extended, but she doubted legislators would do so. Too many of them are in newly structured districts, so are eager to campaign. The June 28 Primary Election date moves primary outcomes closer to the November 8 Election. Candidates will not lose the campaign momentum they sacrificed with the former Spring Primary Election date.
- **Reproductive Health Bills:** A final comment from Paula: All passed legislation is under attack. In other words, passed but always in play.

Springfield Update:

- **HB 1722**, which diverts funds for public schools to private schools, has been recently opposed via witness slips by several Branch members. Currently, it has been referred to the Rules Committee. Note: a co-sponsor of **HB 1722** is Representative Amy Grant (IL-42), Wheaton. Jenni Purdue, AAUW-IL Lobbyist, encourages Branch members in IL-42 to have a conversation with Representative Grant. Jenni has found her to be approachable and this a good topic to discuss with her.
- **Where's Waldo? Where is My District?** Some days it seems easier for us to look for the fictional character in the distinctive blue cap than it is to know our state and congressional legislative districts. As Twigs goes to press, you can go to the following website to look up a sample ballot for your address, but candidates are not available, yet. <https://www.dupageco.org/voterlookup>
- **FOID Modernization Act:** In effect as of January 1, **HB 562** offers automatic gun license renewals for applicants who submit fingerprints; allows state agencies to share existing fingerprint databases; increases background check requirements for private gun transfers; allows for the development of future electronic gun license; establishes a stolen gun database and a new state police FOID revocation enforcement fund, among other things. Note: AAUW Public Policy views gun violence as a public health crisis as does the American Medical Association.

Spring Luncheon
12:00 pm, Saturday, May 21
Adelle's, 535 W. Liberty Dr., Wheaton
Karen Bondy



Please plan to join your fellow Branch members *back in person* at a celebration of the past year's achievements and installation of Branch officers at Adelle's, an award-winning restaurant in Wheaton. We will be seated on the patio under the pergola, weather permitting, or in the dining room if weather is bad. The restaurant is open that day for private events only. Adelle's upgraded to a whole restaurant UV air filtration and sanitizing system for the entire restaurant in 2020. All of the air (and surface particles) are filtered and sanitized. Menu includes salad, entrée, dessert, coffee, tea, or soda and tax and gratuity. A cash bar will be available. Save the date, talk to your friends and make this special end-of-the-year celebration, a perfect afternoon out. Contact Karen at bondykj@aol.com if you have dietary concerns and we will make certain that you are accommodated.

MENU

Salad

Mesculun Greens Salad

Fresh strawberries, orange supremes, feta, balsamic raspberry vinaigrette, toasted almonds

Choice of Entrée

(Entrees Must Be Pre-Ordered)

- *Oven Roasted Chicken Breast, Yukon Gold potato mash, garlicky green beans, lemon butter sauce*

or

- *Adelle's Risotto, seasonal vegetables, fresh herbs, mascarpone, cream, Grana Padano*

Dessert

TBD

Coffee, Soda, Iced Tea

Social Hour: 12:00 to 12:30 pm
Cash Bar: Wine, \$9.00 per glass, includes tax and gratuity
Lunch: 12:30 pm

Cost: \$38.00 per person, **Reservation due: May 13, 2022**

See the Reservation and Payment Form on Last Page

Mail entrée choice along with check to:

Laura Desmarais, 1323 Shagbark Lane, Wheaton. IL 60187

Make check out to: AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP.

To reserve your place, make sure your check and selection is received by **May 13.**



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

On Friday, April 1 at 9:30 am, AM Lit members will meet at the Wheaton Public Library, Room C in the basement to discuss *The Cold Millions* by Jess Walter. Phyllis Fogel will lead the discussion of the novel described as “a richly entertaining novel about two brothers swept up in the turbulent class warfare of the early twentieth century. It’s one of the most captivating novels of the year. There were many copies of the novel available at the Glen Ellyn Library in mid-March.

Looking ahead: We will again meet at the Wheaton Public Library, May 6, to discuss *Homeland Elegies* by Ayad Akhtar. Nancy Possinger is the discussion leader.

Looking a bit farther ahead: Our book selection for 2022-23 will be held on June 3. Jane Palmer and Judy Sims have once again volunteered to handle it. Submissions will be due May 19. Please email your submissions to Judy Sims at judsims@hotmail.com.

PM Lit

Susie Gullickson

gullish.1955@gmail.com

Our April selection brings us the story of *May Dodd and a colorful assembly of pioneer women who, under the auspices of the U.S. government, travel to the western prairies in 1875 to intermarry among the Cheyenne Indians. The covert and controversial ‘Brides for Indians’ program launched by the administration of Ulysses S. Grant, is intended to help assimilate the Indians into the white man’s world.* (Goodreads). This story is told through the diaries kept by May Dodd.

Join us on Monday, April 18, 7:00 pm at the home of Susie Gullickson as we discuss *One Thousand White Women* by Jim Fergus. Susie Gullickson will also be the discussion leader.

AM Non-Fiction

Sue Herrmann

sherrmann710@gmail.com

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27 at 10:00 am at Carolyn Oesterle’s home. Peggy Connolly will lead the discussion of *The Mutual Admiration Society: How Dorothy Sayers and Her Oxford Circle Remade the World for Women* by Mo Moulton. Please RSVP Carolyn if you plan to attend.

Books available at the Glen Ellyn Public Library by approximately April 1. We welcome fully vaccinated members only.

PM Non-Fiction

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

**ALERT: The PM Non-Fiction group is unusually meeting in an off-month, on a third Wednesday ,
before we resume our normal schedule in May.**

We are meeting on **April 20** at 7:00 pm at Marilyn Wiedemann’s home, 373 Oak Street, GE. Our book is Patrick Reddon Keefe’s *Empire of Pain, The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty*. Copies of the book will be available for you to pick up at the Glen Ellyn Public Library around March 23. Donna Staples will lead our discussion. The Sackler story of greed and malfeasance appears constantly in papers as trials are being held in many states to hold the Sacklers responsible for the explosion of opioid abuse.

Looking ahead to our May 25 meeting: Carolyn Oesterle will lead our discussion of Walter Isaacson’s book *Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing and the Future of the Human Race*.

Science Girls on the Go Success
Peggy Connolly

My neighbors, Adalyn and Isabel, are enthusiastic *Girls on the Go* scientists. They do every experiment and eagerly await the next one. From their mom, Beth:

We would like to thank you and AAUW for providing the science kits, which sparked Adi's interest in science experiments! We did our first science experiment, which was extracting DNA from the strawberry. She was so fascinated by the process but was also concerned that we did not have safety goggles. For Christmas, she asked Santa for a science kit with safety goggles. Thank you for helping to foster a love of science in our youngest learners!

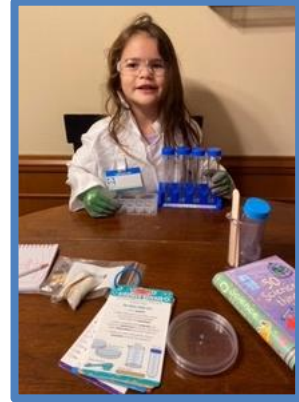
Adi was so excited to run over to tell me that Santa had brought her a science lab – and safety goggles!



Adi & Electrostatic Charges



Adalyn & Isabel, Scientists



Adi in Her Lab



Film Group

Anne Hanley

ahanley@mindspring.com

We watched the Brazilian film *Four Days In September* in my home for our March gathering. I enjoyed sharing some Brazilian history and culture with the group, albeit through a film about a very dark time and great (and in some ways futile) suffering. We will return to the movies for next month's selection. We will meet on Saturday April 9 at 7:00 pm at the home of Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann. There is no way to know what will be in the theaters yet, so look for the selection to go out the weekend before. Please send in your suggestions for what to watch!

Thank You Doesn't Say It All!

To all of you who called, texted, emailed, or came to that wonderful Open House at Donna Jean's, thank you doesn't begin to say how much I appreciated your good wishes and fond memories. We may have joined AAUW to support the important work it does, but the friendships it fostered over my 40 years in Wheaton are truly the gift of a lifetime. Please stay in touch and I will too. My email and cell number will not change (the wonder of moving in the modern age).

My best and my thanks to all of you!

Fondly
Janet Arden

