

Twigs

May 2022

A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

In addition to *Root Canal Awareness Week*, May 4 to 11, May is also the month of the *Full Flower Moon*. May's full moon, called the *Flower Moon* appears on the night of Sunday, May 15, reaching peak illumination at 12:15 am on Monday the 16th. It is our good fortune that we were introduced to the *Flower Moon* through one of our interest groups; either AM or PM Lit discussed *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann.

Our Interest Groups, AM and PM Lit, AM and PM Non-Fiction, Film Group and Spice Routes act as the hearths around which we gather (metaphorically during COVID-19). The leaders of these groups: Jean Lindsey, AM Lit; Susie Gullickson, PM Lit; Eva Bacon, PM Non-Fiction; Sue Herrmann, AM Non-Fiction; Anne Hanley, Film Group; and Peggy Connolly, Spice Routes keep us involved and, according to my informal survey, are one of the primary reasons that people join our Branch. This does not happen by magic; the leaders of the book discussion groups solicit recommendations, hold meetings to discuss recommendations, and tally votes. They also work with the Glen Ellyn Public Library to have the titles available for members. Anne Hanley's film suggestions have opened up a world of cinematography and spirited discussions. Spice Routes led by Peggy Connolly has expanded our knowledge of cuisines from around the world and moved us to create dishes well beyond our comfort zones.

We thank these hard-working members who kept us together during challenging times.

Mary Sue & Carolyn



Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	TIME	INFORMATION
May 6	AM Lit	9:30 am	Wheaton Public Library, Basement, Room C, 225 N Cross St., Wheaton.
May 6 May 7	AAUW-III Spring Conference	PM AM & PM	See details on AAUW-IL website for registration. Lisle-Naperville Hilton Doubletree Hotel, 3003 Corporate West Dr, Lisle.
Mays 11	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Mary Sue Brown, 380 S Milton Ave., Glen Ellyn.
May 13	Film Group	7:00 pm	Volunteer needed to host.
May 16	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Laura Desmarais, 1323 Shagbark Lane, Wheaton.
May 21	Spring Luncheon	12:00 pm	Adelle's, 535 W Liberty Drive, Wheaton. Reservation Deadline, May 13.
May 25	PM Non-Fiction	7:00 pm	Ewa Bacon, 405 W Front Street, Wheaton.
May 26	Spice Routes	6:00 pm	Peggy Connolly, 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton.



Membership

Jean Lindsey & Nancy Possinger

jeanlindsey15@comcast.net napossinger@gmail.com

The timing is perfect for friends and relatives to join the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch of AAUW. We are at that time of year when a new member can join our organization now, become a member immediately and through June 30, 2023, thus 15 months membership for the price of 12. Contact either Jean Lindsey or Nancy Possinger at the emails above for more information.

Directory Updates

- **Margaret McGrath:** Please add Margaret's cell phone number – 630.390.4442
- **Barbara Roos:** Address change:
1019 Fitzwilliam Way
North Aurora, IL 60542



Treasury

Maureen Sheehan

maureenjsheehan@aol.com

The process of paying dues for next year is delayed this Spring while National AAUW completes development of a new software system for dues collection. It is not ready yet so please do NOT go on the National AAUW website and attempt to submit a dues payment. Also, please do NOT send me any checks for dues right now. We will send an All-Branch email (from *Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW Branch*) as soon as National AAUW lets us know the new system is up and running. If you have any questions, please give me a call at 630.926.1147 and if you need to update your email address for Branch emails, please send the new address to me.

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**

***There will be plenty of Used Book Sale information, including an opportunity to sign up for work days.
Bring your June calendar!***

See the Reservation and Payment Form on Last Page

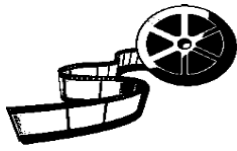
Mail entrée choice along with check to:

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 Fundraising Activities



Book Sale

Suzanne Gagner & Susie Gullickson

petalpower1@yahoo.com gullish.1955@gmail.com

The Home Stretch!

It is hard to believe that the Book Sale collection, sorting and sale event is just weeks away. Advertising materials are being printed and postings have been made on several social media sites.

Book Collection: Bravo to the 39 members who as of April 10, have collected 3,000 books! We encourage **all members** to donate, so we can hit our goal of 5,000 books. Continue to watch for Marilyn Wiedemann's All-Branch emails requesting book inventory additions.

We also ask that members promote our three book collection sites to their friends, neighbors and family. The following sites will be available during the month of May: **Health Track, Wheaton Sports Center and Wheaton Park District Community Center.**

Sign Up Genius: Watch for an All-Branch email in mid-May when **Sign Up Genius** will be available to members. We will also have shift sign-up available at the May 21 Branch Luncheon. **Please note that we will have seated positions available only during the actual Sale Days – June 23, 24 and 25.**

Sponsorship: We understand that not all members may be able to volunteer their time during this event and we welcome your sponsorship to help defray the costs of the sale and to add to the scholarship fund. Checks should be made out to AAUW Wheaton Glen Ellyn, NFP and show *AAUW Book Sale* on the Memo line of the check. Please mail checks to Maureen Sheehan, 227 Orchard Lane, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-6580.

REMINDERS:

All of the following activities will take place at the 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)

Types of books being collected:

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



Congressional District 3:

Delia Ramirez, Democratic Primary Candidate, held a meet and greet on March 27 at the Village of Glen Ellyn Civic Center. She has three opponents for the newly formed **Congressional District 3**. She is aligned with many AAUW Public Policy Priorities: women's reproductive rights; stricter gun laws as a route to improving public safety; humane immigration reform as a pathway to citizenship; reducing the cost of child care; and insuring long-term care for seniors. She will not take corporate donations as a source of campaign funding. I told her campaign manager, Levi, that many of our AAUW Branch members reside in District 3, so we want to know the dates and times of all District 3 candidate forums. I gave him the AAUW Public Policy Priorities and my contact information.

New Congressional District 3 Map:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1yDvYtY11vOJzmDaHq8LFDGs3_j-967AW&ll=41.95312374247799%2C-88.00039880368132&z=11&fbclid=IwAR082uyxtKRINC9K_R53-esK6S_cEAarXiLBrssFnJD80GPJt9nWbWUgtlo

DuPage County: New Voting Machines:

New election equipment will debut in the June 28 Primary. At the request of DuPage County, the League of Women Voters (LWV) Chapters will be demonstrating the machines in their respective communities. The LWV Glen Ellyn's demonstrations will be held at the Glen Ellyn Public Library, May 31 through June 6, as well as other potential locations. All DuPage County residents are welcome to attend or check with your local LWV chapter for its schedule.



Happy Spring! No matter the weather, there are buds on the trees and flowers in the gardens.

Film Group will meet next on Friday, May 13; the eve of my niece's graduation from college in California. Therefore, we need a volunteer to host the meeting. Please let me know if this is something you can do. Please also send me your suggestions for what to watch! The film selection will go out via email the weekend before.



The AAUW Online team has been busy this month. Patricia Spence continues to post Public Policy updates on the *Branch Facebook page*. Tracy Kline has recently made several updates to the website, including the following:

- The *Home Page* has been updated with Book Sale details.
- Pictures of our Program Planning meeting are on the *Branch Meetings Page*.
- February and March Board minutes and financial reports have been posted on the *Members Only Page*.
- A link to the Spring Luncheon reservation form is on the *Home Page*.
- For prospective members, the 2022-23 membership application form is now on the *Join Page*.

Looking ahead, the team will be supporting the upcoming Book Sale.

- Cannot remember the dates and locations for donating books? The Branch website features all you need to know.
- If someone asks you about the Book Sale and you do not have your flyer handy, just tell them to Google *Wheaton AAUW* or *Glen Ellyn AAUW*. This will take them directly to wheaton-glenellyn-il.aauw.net. The dates and locations for pre-sale donations and for the sale are prominently featured on the *Home Page*.
- The Branch's two *Facebook Pages* will be very active in May and June. We plan to frequently post pictures of books with details for donating, and later for the sale. Keep the buzz going with a *Reply*, such as, *I'll be there, Can't wait* or *Time to buy my beach books*. Better yet, post a picture of some books on your page (along with an attention-getter like your dog or cat or grandchild) and share it to the *AAUW Used Book Sale page*.

Closer to the Book Sale date, we will ask members to help in one or more ways.

- You can send an email to your friends and neighbors with the details of the sale. (Include the flyer sent with a recent All-Branch email.) Don't forget to mention *Proceeds Provide Scholarships*.
- If you are on Facebook, you can share with your friends one of our Book Sale posts.
- Use your yard sign! Take a picture, upload it to Facebook or Instagram with the comment, *Hope to see you at the AAUW Book Sale!*
- Try to use Facebook to reach friends of friends. For example, I plan to tag my daughter in a Facebook post, asking her to share the Book Sale information with her Wheaton & Glen Ellyn friends. Even though she moved away several years ago, she keeps in touch with many former classmates who are still in the area. Remember that despite being technologically savvy, many Millennials still love the smell and feel of a good book.

Do these efforts help? Yes, they do! In 2019 (our last Book Sale year), we received 170 Facebook *likes* within a few days after our first Book Sale Facebook posting. Since the Branch only had 130 members at that time (and less than half are on Facebook), we are definitely reaching an audience beyond our membership. Let us try to increase our *likes* and *shares* this year. We have a lot of books to sell! Our goal is to get more people into the building. Once inside, the books will sell themselves. Have you ever seen a Book Sale customer buy only one book?

Contact me by email if you have suggestions or questions about posting on the *Book Sale Facebook page*. Contact Patricia at pspence101@aol.com with pictures of members enjoying other Branch activities or Public Policy issues. Tracy Kline at trakli@msn.com continues to update the website with updates on Branch activities and new pictures. Keep them coming!



Our Branch Book Groups

AM Lit

Jean Lindsey

jeanlindsey15@comcast.net

Laura Miller states that *buying a book is not about obtaining a possession, but about securing a portal*. Our May 6 AM Lit selection, *Homeland Elegies* by Ayad Akhtar, opens many portals as it is *an unflinching honest self-portrait by a brilliant Muslim American writer* (Rushdie) and *an urgent, intimate hybrid of memoir and fiction* (Holmes). Others have described it as an *astonishing work, a triumph, a sensation of a book*. Nancy Possinger will lead the discussion at the **Wheaton Public Library, Basement Room C**, at 9:30 am. Arrive early and purchase a coffee and some nourishment at the library. Copies of the book are at the Glen Ellyn Public Library.

Book Selection Approaches. Please Read Carefully.

On Friday, June 3, we will hold our popular annual book selection and potluck at Phyllis Fogel's home at 9:30 am. Thank you, Phyllis! Its success depends on you recommending novels and your contribution of an appetizer, salad or dessert.

Once again, both Judy Sims and Jane Palmer have graciously agreed to coordinate the book selection process. Please email two to four recommendations to Judy at judsims@hotmail.com by May 20. Do include the book title, author, number of pages, whether you have personally read the book and a few (no more than two to three) sentences about the novel so the document is not too long. Briefly describe the book's topic and why you like it or why it lends itself to good discussion. Members can check Amazon for more book reviews and information. Our group thrives on diversity so consider recommending a popular title, a classic novel, historical fiction, mystery, science fiction or even a comedic novel. Remember, **May 20**, is the deadline for submissions.

PM Lit

Susie Gullickson

gullish.1955@gmail.com

The May selection is *The Other Black Girl* by Zakiya Dalila Harris. Goodreads says: *This electric debut novel is about the tension that unfurls when two Black women meet against the starkly white backdrop of New York City book publishing. This whip-smart and dynamic thriller and sly social commentary is perfect for anyone who has ever felt manipulated, threatened or overlooked in the workplace.*

Join us on Monday, May 16, 7:00 pm at the home of Laura Desmarais. Laura will also lead the book discussion.

PM Non-Fiction

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

At our May 25 meeting (7:00 pm at Ewa Bacon's home, 405 W Front Street, Wheaton), Carolyn Oesterle will lead our discussion of Walter Isaacson's book, *Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing and the Future of the Human Race*. It is hard to find any topic that is more timely, more important, and more significant for our future. The implication of gene editing involves our health, our diseases and our progeny. Jennifer Doudna, a Noble Prize Winner, is part of the revolution which began with Crick/Watson and the identification of the giant DNA molecule.

Book Sale Opportunity: We will have an *AAUW Reads* table at the June Book Sale. Consider donating books we have read in AM/PM Lit and AM/PM Non-Fiction to the sale. It is always a table our customers are happy to see.



History and Cuisine of the Spice Routes

Ewa Bacon, Peggy Connelly, Pat Kaczor

baconew@lewisu.edu connolly.peggy@gmail.com patk3872@gmail.com

A Spanish Tapas Fiesta on Thursday, May 26 at 6:00 pm, will herald the return of Spice Routes! We have been thinking of our Marco Polo Spice Routes dinner, not only because it was our May dinner theme 10 years ago (**10 years!!**), but because it *seems like we have also been gone from our feasting for 17 years!*

A little research on the origin of tapas turned up some fanciful explanations (king with a small appetite, concern for the health of poor people who could only afford wine or food so chose wine), but didn't make as much sense as the Barcelona bartender who admitted the name originated when plates were placed over wine glasses (tapa = lid, top) to keep flies from swimming in the Rioja.

As COVID-19 is still a concern, please attend only if you are vaccinated. Please let Peggy know if you plan to attend, and what you will contribute to the feast.

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



Please clip and mail with your check to: Laura Desmarais
 1323 Shagbark Lane
 Wheaton. IL 60187

Spring Luncheon Reservation Form Deadline May 13

Payable to: AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP

Name(s): _____

Number in Party @ \$38.00 = _____



Select one entrée choice

Oven Roasted Chicken Breast

or

Adelle's Risotto

Karen: Please contact me for special dietary need

*Please mail to
 Laura (info above)
 Reserve by **May 13.***

The Twigs Team

Editor:	Kathleen McCullough
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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.*

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