

### A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

*A Terrific Bipartisan Experience*--November 8, I (Carolyn) had a new experience-I was an election judge. Many of you have done this important job, but I had no idea what it would involve. There were ups and downs, especially at the Monday set-up when we realized our experienced election judge was sick and we were like the *Keystone Kops* without him. But a call to the election head brought a Field judge to help us set up on Tuesday at 5:00 am. After that, it was a great experience. Our pick-up judge, Bill, had a cheerful demeanor and helped us all work together. We needed to have one Democrat and one Republican work together for many tasks, so we quickly valued each other. Bill sent us off for breaks as Dem-Rep pairs. By the end of the day, we were a unified group working together for a common purpose. It was actually kind of addictive and I would recommend being a judge to others. Maybe working together at elections could be used as a way to heal our divided country!!

We were privileged to have Deanie Brown as our speaker at the November Branch meeting. Her talk, *Implicit Bias and how it affects Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*, used easily understandable illustrations to explain systemic racism. To me, the most important part of the talk was the video on implicit bias. If you would like to see the video, google *Deshaw Hockett TED talk*. Implicit bias is created by repeated associations that become subconscious. We are not aware of this happening even though implicit bias can cause us to act opposite to our conscious beliefs. The takeaway I have from this talk is that while implicit bias is the most important cause of prejudice, most of our societal actions try to stop explicit prejudice. This will not cause the change we need. We need to treat the implicit bias that is the root cause of the problem. Implicit bias can be treated by understanding that we have it, that it is not our fault, but that with conscious effort, we can change it.

Our Branch remains a beacon of hope. Our scholarships made possible by *LUNAFEST*, our Used Book Sale, the Fall Fundraising Walk and many quiet donations from generous members sent another generation of young women to college, as well as supported the work done by our State and National AAUW. It is also a beacon for our members who gather to discuss books and films; listen to and view provocative, relevant programs; and assemble *Science Girls on the Go* kits under the direction of our *Chemist in Residence*, Fran Kravitz.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the Winter Luncheon on Saturday, December 10 at Reserve 22. Have a wonderful December and Holiday Season!!

*Mary Sue and Carolyn*



## Upcoming Events

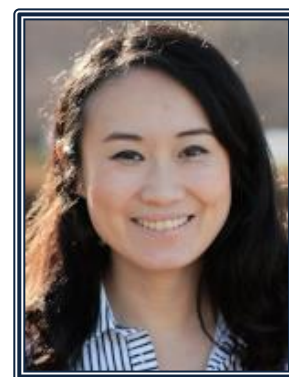
DATE	EVENT	TIME	INFORMATION
Dec. 1	Cultural Arts Buffalo Theater Ensemble <i>Season's Greetings</i>	6:00 pm 8:00 pm	Pre-Theater: Peggy Connolly, 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton. Curtain: McAninch Arts Center, College of DuPage, 425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn.
Dec. 2	AM Lit	9:30 am	Glen Ellyn Public Library, First Floor Meeting Rooms, 400 Duane St., Glen Ellyn.
Dec. 8	Spice Routes	6:00 pm	Peggy Connolly, 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton.
Dec. 9	Film Group	7:00 pm	Ewa Bacon, 405 W Front St., #305, Wheaton.
Dec. 10	Winter Luncheon <i>(Reservations Only)</i>	11:30 am	Reserve 22, Glen Ellyn Village Links, 485 Winchell Way, Glen Ellyn.
Dec. 16	Aging Study Group	1:00 pm	Next to Altiro Café at Wheaton Public Library, 225 N Cross St., Wheaton.
Dec. 19	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Peggy Connolly, 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton.
Dec. 28	PM Non-Fiction Book Selection 2023	7:00 pm	Ewa Bacon, 405 W Front St., #305, Wheaton.
Jan. 4, 2023	AM Non-Fiction <i>Note: New Date</i>	10:00 am	Peggy Connolly, 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton.



**Winter Luncheon**  
**11:30 am, Saturday, December 10**  
**Reserve 22, Glen Ellyn Village Links**  
**485 Winchell Way, Glen Ellyn**  
**Ellen McGowan**

The Winter Luncheon on December 10 is just around the corner for those who have made a reservation. Our in person featured speaker is Xiao (Angel) Bohannon, a National AAUW Fellow studying at Northwestern University. Angel's research examines how school leaders in urban schools experience and respond to the multiple, simultaneous demands on their limited attention during the COVID-19 crisis. Prior to pursuing a doctorate, she worked at a research-practice partnership on community-college mathematics.

While it appears less focus on Covid-19 exists this fall in the media, school administrators must continue providing a safe environment along with so many other challenges at the forefront. We look forward to Angel's project presentation: *Attending to Leadership Attention: School Leadership during COVID.*





### **New Member: Deborah Grobe**

This month we are very pleased to welcome Deborah Grobe to our membership. Deborah was introduced to us by Jean Lindsey who brought her to AM Lit this October. Deborah and Jean have been friends since they met as roommates at Central DuPage Hospital when their eldest sons were born! We thank Jean for bringing her friend to us.

Deborah is a 1977 graduate of Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Master of Science in Bionucleonics/Health Physics/Radiation Safety, also from Purdue in 1978. Deborah worked at Fermi Lab for 23 years in Radiation Safety, and later as the Head of the Environmental Protection Group, with responsibility for protection of the air, water and soil from radioactivity and chemical hazards.

Deborah retired from Fermi Lab when her husband, Jack, took a job in Washington, DC in 2001. Because she was known to the Goodman Theater through her young son's work as an actor, she had an offer to work as an assistant to the Executive Director at the Goodman, eventually transitioning to the Business Office where she worked in finance and ticket pricing.

Deborah and Jack have three sons, all of whom graduated from Wheaton North. Her eldest son lives in Switzerland with his family that includes two grandchildren. Her other sons are twins, one who lives locally, the other who divides his time between Massachusetts and California. Her pastimes include reading, studying French, biking and knitting. She and her husband enjoy international travel and theatre. We heartily welcome Deborah to our Branch!

### **New Member: Winelle (Winnie) Glaser**

We are very happy to welcome Winnie to our membership! I hope to have a bio in the next issue of Twigs.

#### **Contact information for Deborah:**

1N550 Golf View Lane  
Winfield, IL 60190-1450  
E-mail: [debgrobe@gmail.com](mailto:debgrobe@gmail.com)  
Phone: 240.813.5415 (cell)

#### **Contact information for Winnie:**

1 Wheaton Center, Apt 411  
Wheaton, IL 60187  
E-mail: [wsgpsych@hotmail.com](mailto:wsgpsych@hotmail.com)  
Phone: 630.640.3827 (Cell)



## Secretary

**Jane Palmer**

[jfpalmer@comcast.net](mailto:jfpalmer@comcast.net)

The Board met on November 9. After the minutes of that meeting are approved by the Board at the January 11, 2023 Board Meeting, they will be available on the Branch Website (*Members Only*) web page. Details of topics discussed are described in the reports from officers and chairs elsewhere in this newsletter.

There was one motion approved at that meeting:

Chair McGowan reported that the Branch has budgeted a \$3,000 contribution to national AAUW Funds. She asked for suggestions as to where to direct our contribution. After discussion of the available AAUW funds, Member Bacon moved that we direct \$1,000 to each of three Funds: Education and Training Fund (#4450), Economic Security Fund (#4449) and the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) Scholarship Fund (#2504). Historian/Archivist seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Next Board Meeting:** 7:00 pm, January 11, 2023. Location to be determined.



At the November Branch Board meeting, we discussed allocation options for the \$3000 which our Branch will send in support of National AAUW. The results of our selection are as follows:

**Education and Training Fund: \$1000**

This fund addresses the barriers that prevent women from thriving in school and pursuing the careers of their dreams. That means championing equal access to education and ensuring women can learn in environments free from harassment and discrimination.

**Economic Security Fund: \$1000**

This fund promotes women's livelihoods through advocacy for fair-pay, legislation, researching the pay gap, training women to negotiate for the salaries they deserve, and advising employers on fostering fair cultures.

**National Conference for College Women Student Leaders Scholarships: \$1000**

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) Scholarship Fund provides access for a broader and more diverse audience to be a part of the leadership training, inspiration and networking opportunities provided during this event. For 2022 scholarships are \$195 per attendee so every contribution can make a difference and the more donations received, the more students are able to attend the conference.

**Aging—Information Resources (AIR) Study Group Meeting**  
**Ewa Bacon**

The newly formed study group on *Aging—Information Resources (AIR)* will meet at 1:00 pm, Friday, December 16, in the Wheaton Public Library next to the Altiro Café. Please consider bringing your ideas/experiences dealing with aging issues (health, legal, housing, services and the like) to the meeting. Alternatively, please send me an email at [baconew@lewisu.edu](mailto:baconew@lewisu.edu) with issues or experiences that you would like to share. This is a work in progress! You are not necessarily *joining* a working committee, but I hope you can contribute your specific information for us to organize.

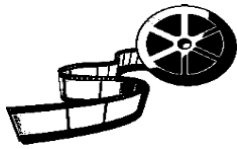


**From Peggy Connolly**

**Buffalo Theater Ensemble**  
**Season's Greetings**  
**Thursday, December 1**  
**McAninch Arts Center (MAC)**

What better way to kick off the holiday season than gathering with friends to witness a dysfunctional family ploughing through a Christmas celebration. Family and friends join Neville and Belinda to celebrate the holidays, but chaos and hilarity erupt from all directions. Pre-theatre wine and hors d'oeuvres, 6:00 pm, Thursday, December 1 at Peggy's home, then to the MAC for the 8:00 pm curtain for *Season's Greetings*. Please RSVP to Peggy at [connolly.peggy@gmail.com](mailto:connolly.peggy@gmail.com) if you plan to attend the pre-theater gathering.

## Our Branch Fundraising Activities



### LUNAFEST

Laura Desmarais

lkdesmarais@gmail.com

**LUNAFEST 2022** was a Branch party! Thanks to everyone who worked to make it happen. A Special thanks to all our members who were able to attend and bring family and friends! The films this year were excellent. Each one made me stop and ponder. The fundraiser was a great success. *LUNAFEST* netted \$5,131. Pat yourselves on the back! You made this happen!! This goes a long way toward supporting our Opportunities Fund.

Ticket sales were slow at the beginning. I have to admit that I was just a little worried! I am sure I expressed this. We sold 86 tickets! In addition, there were donations from Branch members to support the Opportunities Fund. Many of these donors were not able to attend in person. Thanks for supporting the event through your donations.

The raffle brought in \$1025. I want to acknowledge the local businesses who contributed a total of \$700 to the raffle. When you plan to eat out, please consider supporting them. Many knew about AAUW; all were eager to support an organization that provided scholarships to local high school seniors at College of DuPage. A special donation was from Winifred Creamer, Branch member, who donated a unique *Sea Glass* necklace.

Wheaton: *Adelle's Fine American Fare; Gia Mia; Tasting deVine; Hale Street Cantina; Hen House; Burger Social; Suzette's Creperie; Yia Mas-A Taste of Greece; Egg Harbor; Graham's Fine Chocolates and Ice Cream; and Ivy.*

Glen Ellyn: *Marcel's Culinary Experience; Thipi Thai; Main Street Pub; Fire + Wine; and Maize + Mash.*

Carol Stream: *Manhattan's American Bar & Grill.*

**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.





### Save the Dates

**December 3:** The *Glen Ellyn Civic Betterment Party (CBP)* is holding a Town Meeting at the Civic Center to slate Village Trustee and Library Board candidates. Final CBP candidates for the **Spring 2023 DuPage Consolidated General Election** will be determined at the Town Meeting on Saturday, December 3. Please attend to meet and listen to all candidates. Early voting times and location to be announced soon. Go <http://civibetterment.com/> for more information.

**Note:** *AAUW-IL President, Donna Jean Simon, is a candidate for Village Trustee (three open positions) and Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW Co-President, Mary Sue Brown, is a candidate for Library Trustee (four open positions)'*

*Kudos to our AAUW members for seeking these important leadership roles in our community!*

**April 4 2023:** **Spring 2023 DuPage County Consolidated Election.** Please note: Many Local elected officials are determined via the Consolidated Election. Please email me with the particulars of any candidate forums to be held in your area. I will share this information in the timeliest manner via all the Branch media available to me. AAUW Public Policy Priorities apply to national, state and local levels of governance.



**Reminder:** The Member Contact List is available on the **Members Only** page. You can click on it for printing or downloading. Both the *Member Contact List* and the *Supplemental Member List* (Degrees) are updated monthly with new members' data and any changes in addresses, telephone numbers or emails. Please send changes in your contact information to our Membership Vice President, Nancy Possinger at [npossinger@gmail.com](mailto:npossinger@gmail.com).

**Note:** The **Members Only** page is password protected and only available to members. The password for the page is *twigs*.

**AAUW Online Team:** Contact Patricia Spence at [pspence101@aol.com](mailto:pspence101@aol.com) to share pictures of members enjoying Branch activities. She will also use the Facebook page to keep us posted on Public Policy issues. Tracy Kline at [trakli@msn.com](mailto:trakli@msn.com) continues to keep our website up to date with news of upcoming Branch activities. Contact Jane Palmer if you have questions about our Member Contact Listings.



Following the last splendid Spice Routes dinner – *Favorite Chicago Area Chefs and Restaurants* – will be another *Favorite Dinner: Childhood and Family Favorites*. Bring a dish that is one of your family favorites, but also bring a favorite memory to share that this dish brings back. We will gather at 6:00 pm, Thursday, December 8 at Peggy's home. Please let Peggy know by December 1 what you will bring to the feast. Regretfully there are places only for the first 22 respondents.



### Highlights of the Branch from the 1970s

**1972:** *We the People Study Group* (In those days AAUW had study groups in which the first year was study; the second year an action project). The Branch compiled *Nuts and Bolts; A Citizens Guide to Local Government* for distribution to Branch members and area residents.

**1973-74:** Developed a Speakers' Bureau for ERA with Glen Ellyn League of Women Voters and DuPage NOW. Volunteers made presentations at organizations throughout the community.

**1973:** *Crisis in Education* study led to Branch members volunteering as school board observers at elementary, high school, and College of DuPage; community coffees held with school board members; Branch position papers on school consolidation and appointed State Boards of Education. Branch initiates mentoring and tutoring programs.

**1973:** *60 Seconds with a Sister*, a one minute profile designed to acquaint Branch members with notable women is presented at each Branch meeting.

**1974-75:** *Sex Role Stereotyping Study Group*, a study of local elementary readers and an action project: textbook selection guides prepared for school districts.

**1975-76:** *Bicentennial Project*: compiled achievements of women of DuPage County. Action: Provided curriculum units for all local elementary schools.

**1977:** *Branch Membership Directory* lists members under their own names instead of that of their husbands (Mrs. Tom Balk became Sue Balk).

**1979:** Politics of Food Study Group compiles and distributes 1400 pamphlets on preschool nutrition and snack/treats in Wheaton and Glen Ellyn.

**1979-80:** *At Ease with ERA* program presented by Branch members to local community groups. The Branch participated in the *Mother's Day March for ERA* in Chicago on May 12, taking the Northwestern commuter train, dressing in white, and picking up other AAUW members at each train station. 90,000 women dressed in white marched down Michigan Avenue, and in Grant Park heard Betty Friedan, Gloria Steinem, Bella Abzug, Jean Stapleton, Chicago Mayor Jane Byrne, and Mary Grefe, President of AAUW who described herself as a *mother, grandmother, and traditional Republican*. Speaking for members from *California to Massachusetts, from Minnesota to Louisiana* she told the cheering crowd that *we brought peanut butter sandwiches to Chicago because we are not going to spend any money in Illinois until Illinois ratifies ERA!*

***On May 10, the IL GOP voted down supporting ERA and sent Phyllis Schlafly as an alternate to the Republican National Convention.***



## Our Branch Book Groups

### AM Lit

Jean Lindsey

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On Friday, 9:30 am, December 2, AM Lit will meet to discuss *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin at the Glen Ellyn Public Library, first floor, meeting room. The novel is a tribute to the joys of reading, and is a book group favorite. *Each chapter begins with the title of a short story or a book, and a note from Fikry describing what he likes about it.*

A big thank you to Carolyn Oesterle for staying up until midnight to reserve the room for three months! Thank you also to Karen Bondy who will lead the discussion.

**Looking ahead:** On January 6, 2023, we will meet to discuss *Home Waters: A Chronicle of Family and a River* by John Maclean. Phyllis Fogel will lead the discussion.

### PM Lit

Susie Gullickson

gullish.1955@gmail.com

Due to the unavailability of our scheduled December book selection, we will read and discuss *The Guest List* by Lucy Folely at our December meeting. *On an island off the coast of Ireland, guests gather to celebrate two people joining their lives together as one. The groom: handsome and charming, a rising television star. The bride: smart and ambitious, a magazine publisher. It's a wedding for a magazine, or for a celebrity. But perfection is for plans, and people are all too human. When someone tuns up dead, all are wondering who didn't wish the happy couple well and perhaps more important, why? (Goodreads).*

Join us, Monday, December 19, 7:00 pm at Peggy Connolly's home, as we discuss this *Goodreads 2020 Choice Award for Mystery and Thriller*. Patty Mugavero will be the discussion leader.

### AM Non-Fiction

Sue Herrmann

sherrmann710@gmail.com

***Please Note Change of Date Due to the Christmas Holiday!***

We meet on, **Wednesday, January 4, 2023 at Peggy Connolly's home at 10:00 am.** We will discuss *The Man Who Loved China* by Simon Winchester. Peggy will lead us in the discussion. Books will be available at the Glen Ellyn Public Library.

### PM Non-Fiction

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

We meet on Wednesday, December 28, 7:00 pm at Ewa Bacon's home for the all-important **2023 Book Selection Meeting**. Please send me your suggestions for a slate of new books to read! I will compile the list for us to vote on at our December meeting. You will be asked to say a few words about the books you are suggesting. Since we are meeting after Christmas, save a cookie or two to share with the group!

Our last book in the current set is Reza Aslan's *God: A Human History* which we will discuss on January 25, 2023. Peggy Connolly will be our discussion leader.





## SCIENCE GIRLS ON THE GO



Thanks to ( L-R) Heidi Fraser, Laura Desmarais, Marilyn Mauritz, Nancy Possinger, Mary Sue Brown, Carolyn Oesterle, Sue Hagerty and Pamela Johnson for our *STEMtastic Science Girls on the Go Kit maker party* .Kudos to our kit creator, Fran Kravitz. Thanks to other *makers*, not pictured.

The STEM committee had a *STEMtastic Pizza Party* on Saturday, November 12 at Nancy Possinger's house. The group spent a couple of hours assembling three new *Science Girls on the Go @*

kits followed by scrumptious pizza from Maciano's. A huge thank you goes out to Mary Sue Brown, Laura Desmarais, Heidi Fraser, Suzanne Gagner, Carol Ginger, Sue Hagerty, Pamela Johnson, Sandy Lopata, Marilyn Mauritz, Carolyn Oesterle, Nancy Possinger, Patricia Spence, Donna Staples, and Marilyn Wiedemann for assembling a total of 366 kits.

*Science Girls on the Go @kits* can be picked up free of charge each month from our little science houses located in Wheaton (1445 Brentwood Lane and 1516 Paula Ave.) and Glen Ellyn (373 Oak Street). *Science Girls on the Go* is a science enrichment program for K-12 girls in the community. The three new kits for November, December and January will be available the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. In November, we will present *Chromatography: Discover the Rainbow*. This will be followed by *Acids and Bases: What's the pH?* in December. Finally in January, we will present *Secret Message: Now You See It, Now You Don't*.

We need your help in spreading the word about *Science Girls on the Go @* and our three 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 if you are interested in helping with this project, have ideas for new kits or have questions. Our next stuffing party will be in January where we will assemble three more science kits.



In November we met at my home to discuss *The Banshees of Inisherin*, which, as always, led to a lively discussion of a difficult movie with lots of opinions across the spectrum. It is what I love about Film Group. Our next meeting is on **Friday, December 9. NOTE THE DATE CHANGE!** We had planned to meet on Saturday but made an executive decision to change to Friday night because our Winter Holiday luncheon is on Saturday. Too much excitement for a single day! 😊

We will meet at Ewa Bacon's home on Friday, December 9 at 7:00 pm. I will host our meeting on Saturday, January 14, but cannot host other dates in the spring. Please volunteer to host one of the following meetings: Friday February 10, Saturday March 11, and Friday April 14. Thank you in advance!

## 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.*

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

