

A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

Happy Spring!! Spring seems to be coming early this year. The snow drops and crocuses have been in full bloom for weeks and the daffodils are getting ready to bloom. The cherry trees cannot be far behind. Speaking of Spring—take a look at the pedestrian tunnel on Taylor Avenue just south and east of downtown Glen Ellyn. There is a special new mural covering the entire tunnel with a *four seasons* theme. I watched them paint it last fall.

Spring is also election season and a big thank you to Patricia Spence and Jane Palmer for all their work on the local election for school boards. We have a great website section with the school board candidate's answers to questions and-- in the *Member's Only* section--a chart that shows which candidates align with our AAUW values. Well done Patricia and Jane! Marilyn Mauritz had an excellent letter published in the Daily Herald on the Community Unit School District (CUSD) 200 school board candidates. Please be sure to vote in the election April 4. Early voting has started and mail in ballots are being accepted. Donna Jean Simon is running for Glen Ellyn Trustee and Mary Sue Brown is running for Glen Ellyn Library Board. Way to go Donna Jean and Mary Sue!

Speaking of elections—the AAUW National Bylaws voting runs April 6 until May 16. You will receive an email from National with a personal voter number which you will need to vote. AAUW-IL voting for bylaw changes and officers starts April 1st. Voting instructions will be sent that day in a special Connections issue. Our very own Danielle Byron is nominated for AAUW-IL Co-Vice President of Membership. Well done, Danielle!

And last, but far from least, a big thank you to our own new officers: Nancy Possinger and Karen Schulz as Co-Presidents, Jean Lindsey and Patty Mugavero as Co-Vice Presidents of Programs, and Janet Miller as Secretary. In addition, Sue Hagerty and Sarah Allen have agreed to finish Nancy's term as Co-Vice Presidents of Membership. Congratulations and three cheers to all!!

Do not forget the AAUW-IL 98th Convention, May 5 to 6 in Peoria. For details, see article in this issue.

Carolyn & Mary Sue

Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	TIME	INFORMATION
April 1	AAUW-IL Voting Begins	Online	Voting information sent via <i>Connections</i> by email.
April 4	Local Candidates Election	6:00 am	Regular voting sites open. Close at 7:00 pm.
April 5	Branch Meeting	7:00 pm	Glen Ellyn Police Station Community Room and Zoom 65 South Park Boulevard, Glen Ellyn.
April 6	AAUW National Bylaws Vote	Online	Closes May 16. Requires password provided by AAUW National via email.
April 12	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Maureen Sheehan, 200 Wyndemere Circle, W126, Wheaton and Zoom.
April 14	AM Lit	9:30 am	Glen Ellyn Public Library, First Floor Meeting Rooms, 400 Duane Street, Glen Ellyn.
April 17	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Jean Lindsey, 1644 Orth Drive, Wheaton.
April 18	Andy Warhol Lecture (No registration or fee)	7:00 pm	Glen Ellyn Public Library 400 Duane Street, Glen Ellyn.
May 5 to 6	2023 AAUW-IL 98 th State Convention	Begins 5:00 pm May 5	Early Bird rates until April 15. See article in this issue.
May 20	Spring Luncheon and Installation of Officers	Noon	Adelle's Fine American Fare, 535 W Liberty Drive, Wheaton.



Programs

Carolyn Oesterle
csoesterle@gmail.com

April Branch Program and Business Meeting
7:00 pm, Wednesday, April 5, 2023
Glen Ellyn Police Station Community Room and Zoom
65 South Park Boulevard, Glen Ellyn

Topic: *Climate Change and You*
Speakers: Dorelle Ackermann and Sharon White

Dorelle Ackermann is a retired high school science teacher. Since retiring she has been actively advocating for a more sustainable and equitable future. She has educated herself through coursework and workshops from the Pachamama Alliance, Sierra Club, Coursera and Climate Reality Project. As a cofounder of the Pachamama Alliance: Chicagoland Co-hearts, she has given workshops, tabled and lobbied state and local governments on solutions to climate disruption.

Sharon White is a retired science teacher and member of Pachamama Alliance: Chicagoland Co-Hearts and Sierra Club. She is a Master Gardener and Master Naturalist. She cares very much about the earth and hoping to save it for her ten grandchildren.

Please note that we had to make a speaker change as the previously scheduled speaker was no longer available.



The Board met on March 8. After the minutes of that meeting are approved by the Board at the April 12 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 were no motions approved at that meeting other than to approve the February 8 minutes.

Next Board Meeting: 7:00 pm, April 12, 2023 at Maureen Sheehan's home and also via Zoom.
Board meetings are open to all members.

2023-2024 Programming Planning Meeting
Jean Lindsey and Patty Mugavero
7:00 pm, Tuesday, April 25
1644 Orth Drive, Wheaton

We need your input! Patty Mugavero and Jean Lindsey, your newly elected Programming Chairs, are charged with scheduling programs for next year's monthly Branch meetings. It is no small task, and we need to hear what topics and speakers would interest you. If possible, come with ideas for programs and possible speakers. This is an idea sharing meeting and all are welcome to attend at Jean's home. Please mark your calendars and attend this important meeting. Do let Jean know if you will attend at *jeanlindsey15@gmail.com*. The more ideas we generate, the better the selection! We hope to see many of you on April 25. If you are unable to attend, please email Patty or me any ideas and/or names for next year's programs.

2023 AAUW-IL 98th State Convention
Friday evening thru Saturday May 5 to 6, 2023
Embassy Suites by Hilton East Peoria Riverfront Hotel & Conference Center
100 Conference Center Dr, East Peoria, IL 61611

Following on the heels of our very successful face to face AAUW-IL convention in 2022, plan to join AAUW friends and colleagues from around the state at the 2023 AAUW-IL Convention in East Peoria.

The rooms at the Embassy Suites are truly a suite with a separate bedroom, a foldout sofa in the front room, and a shared bath between rooms. Very conducive to bringing a friend to the conference! We are lucky enough to have secured 2022 prices which include access to meeting rooms and other support for the convention.

Call to reserve your room today as you do not want to miss the full event. Please call the hotel directly at 309.427.2424 and ask for Kathryn to assist you (tell her you are with AAUW). Please call today as rooms are limited. Room rate is \$149.00 plus tax.

Watch for meeting registration and agenda details in the *Connections* newsletter and on the AAUW-IL website at *aauw-il.aauw.net*. Early Bird Registration ends on April 15! You do not want to miss this annual meeting where together we advance the AAUW mission.

Reach out to Becky Glimco or Peg Gallagher AAUW-IL Program, *aauwilprograms@gmail.com* for questions.

AIR: Aging—Information/Resources

Ewa Bacon

The Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch website now has three categories of information for our members under the tab **AIR: Aging—Information/Resources**. Go to *Members Only*, and use our password.

- In January, we published housing information and listed eight organizations that provide housing at various levels of care, as well as other important resources for choosing senior care.
- The February posting provides a listing of 34 home services resources with everything from plumbers, electricians, flooring, ramp installers, roofing, chimney repair to car services and yard services.
- In March we have now added 22 medical providers: primary care, orthopedic practices, vision, dentistry, nephrology, gynecology, dermatology, nephrology and Parkinson's clinic information. With each listing, you will find the Branch members who have used the service.

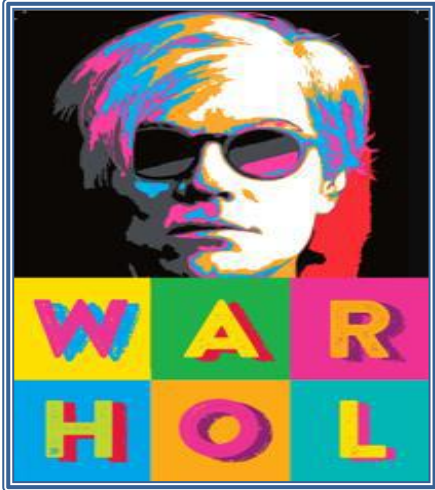
Additional Information:

- Medicare will now provide the important shingles vaccines free of charge.
- The Illinois Department on Aging's Senior Helpline is 1.800.8966.
- Oak Trace Senior Living Community's Health and Wellness Center in Downers Grove has been named among the best in the US News and World Report for 2022-2023.
- Senior Daycare Option: The *ESSE Center* of the St. Paul Lutheran Church, 515 S Wheaton Avenue, Wheaton, phone 630.260.3773, is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm.

As our work on compiling these resources continues, we depend on *YOU* to give us feedback if you contact a service so that we can maintain a current and active list. The *AIR* committee meets monthly and is continuing to work on other issues such as legal matters and end-of-life concerns. Please contact us if you would like to add/alter/delete information. The *AIR* committee consists of Ewa Bacon, Peggy Connolly, Pamela Johnson, Marilyn Mauritz, Nancy Possinger, Cindy Trennert-Lukens, Donna Staples, Bonnie Wheaton and Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann.



Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW Cultural Arts Special Event
Andy Warhol Lecture by Diana Martinez
Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 7:00 pm
(No Fee or Registration Required)
Glen Ellyn Public Library First Floor Conference Room
400 Duane Street, Glen Ellyn
Peggy Connolly



In anticipation of the upcoming *Andy Warhol Exhibition* at the McAninch Arts Center at College of DuPage, the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW will host a lecture by the Executive Director of the exhibit, Diana Martinez.

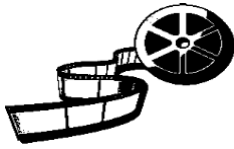
The exhibit includes 94 works from *Andy Warhol Portfolios: A Life in Pop/Works* from the Bank of America Collection on loan through Bank of America's *Art in our Communities* program. Also included are over 11,000 square feet of interactive experiences including a Biographical exhibit, video installation, 150+ photos taken by Warhol, Children's Print Factory, Studio 54 experience, and a Central Park-inspired outdoor space. It will run June 3 to September 10, 2023.

Diana Martinez will share the background of Andy Warhol and his journey as a first-generation immigrant from Carpatho-Rusyn roots, to living in industrial tenements in the outskirts of Pittsburgh, to an Iconic Superstar in New York City. Martinez will explain his prolific journey and how he manifested into the American Dream. In addition, she will give you an inside sneak peek into the blockbuster Warhol exhibition coming this summer to the McAninch Arts Center and Cleve Carney Museum of Art.

Diana Martinez is the Director of the McAninch Arts Center at College of DuPage, with over 25 years in the entertainment industry. She has directed over 40 musical theatre productions and has been at the helm of iconic Chicago area entertainment organizations like Pheasant Run Theatre, the Paramount Theatre in Aurora, and The Second City in Chicago. Diana served on the board for the Chicago Cultural Council for two terms and has her Bachelor's Degree of Fine Arts from the University of Illinois. Currently she serves on the Board of the DuPage Convention and Visitors Bureau and is Chair of Arts DuPage.



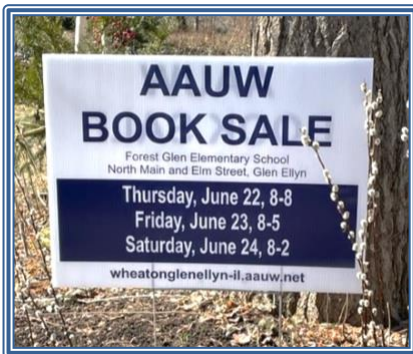
Our Branch Fundraising Activities



Book Sale

Marilyn Mauritz

marilynmauritz@gmail.com



Book collection is underway. We have several large donations from members. Christine Carter donated 300 books and Sandy Lopata donated 700 books from the remainder of a church sale. For large donations, we can do a pickup now (contact Marilyn Mauritz, Carolyn or Mary Sue). For members, it would be nice for you to store them in your house if you have room.

Marilyn Wiedemann has ordered our yard signs (designed by her daughter Hillary). Publicity is ongoing. Please continue to collect books. Marilyn Wiedemann will contact members to keep count of our collected books. Starting in May, we will have collection boxes at Wheaton Sports

Center and Health Track in Glen Ellyn.

Karen Bondy will send out a *Sign-Up Genius* email to sign up for the sorting and sale dates. Sorting starts June 7. We will need lots of help, June 7 and 8 for the set up and book deliveries. The sale is June 22 to 24 at Forest Glen Elementary School, 561 Elm Street, Glen Ellyn.

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

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.





Voting And the Beat Goes On

April 4 Consolidated Election: It is still time to learn all you can about the candidates. Our Branch has done its own local school board candidate *Question and Answer*, available to all at <https://wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net/>. Mary Sue Brown, Carolyn Oesterle and Patricia Spence thank members Sandy Alexander, Ewa Bacon, Marilyn Mauritz, Jane Palmer and Leslie Sulla for their assistance on this project.

AAUW-Illinois: Voting begins **April 1** for candidates for Secretary and Co-Vice President's Membership. We are Branch proud! Member, Danielle Byron, is a candidate for AAUW-IL Co-Vice President of Membership. See your March 1 *Connection*.

AAUW National: **Key Dates for 2023 By-Laws and Public Policy Priorities Vote**

- **April 5:** Voting opens (online voting is encouraged)
- **May 15:** Online voting ends at 5:00 pm, ET
- **May 17:** Vote results announced online

Springfield Update from AAUW-IL Public Policy Chairs, Paula Purdue and Tracey Sherman-Falcon

The 103rd General Assembly is attempting to get back to pre-pandemic schedules, but they are not there yet. For the next three years, the Senate is meeting in the Secretary of State's building while the north side of the Capitol is being renovated like the house was some years ago. Additionally, this session is starting later than others and ending earlier! The ending date is May 19, 2023.

There have been over 2500 bills and resolutions introduced in the Senate and over 4000 bills and resolutions introduced in the House. Normally there are three to four weeks of committees, but this year there are two to three weeks of committee hearings.

That being said...as a fully in-person session is underway, it is taking some time to get the housekeeping back in place to pre-pandemic routines. Because of this, there are likely to be many bills that do not make it through committee.

Via our lobbyist, Jenni Purdue, we are tracking bills related to:

- Reproductive health and justice
- Paid family medical leave
- Supporting public school funding
- Opposing vouchers for private schools

We support *ERA Resolution HJR 94, Affirming Equal Rights Amendment HJ 1* and sunsetting the *Invest in Kids Act* that supports vouchers. There have been several bills introduced regarding the *Invest in Kids Act* (both to reinstate and to remove). We are watching them closely. Our lobbyist is in contact with several coalitions to keep on top of bills that your AAUW-IL Public Policy Chairs are watching.



Do you love Facebook or hate it? Those who love Facebook, appreciate the opportunity to connect with distant friends and family whom we otherwise might only hear from at Christmas, if that. Those who hate Facebook, may say that they do not want to deal with political posts or be lured by ads, although it is pretty easy to block that kind of content. In any event, it is your personal choice whether or not to join Facebook.

Why is AAUW on Facebook? Accessibility and outreach. In today's online world, if AAUW did not have a social media presence, it might as well be a secret organization. If you search for AAUW on Facebook, you will find pages for AAUW.org, AAUW of Illinois and our two Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch pages (Branch & Book Sale). There are also pages for our neighboring branches. All AAUW pages are open to public view so please check them out. We hope that, in addition to serving our members, we can reach prospective new members and Book Sale customers.

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 AAUW National and 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. It has a broader audience than the Branch page because many people who attend book sales *follow* our *Book Sale Facebook* page. 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 that ties it in with the Book Sale. Try it!

Very important! If you do have a Facebook account, please *like* or *follow* both of our *AAUW Facebook* pages. When you like the Branch pages, our posts will appear in your newsfeed. 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 news, announcements and pictures. The website's home page currently features candidate information for the upcoming local elections, including a *Yes/No Guide* to help you see if a candidate's positions are aligned with AAUW's Public Policy Positions. Also, thanks to our Branch Historian/Archivist, Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann, past Branch activities are now summarized on the *About Us* page. *Our Branch history is amazing!*

Please contact Jane Palmer if you have other suggestions for promoting the Branch through Facebook or our website. Mary Mossman is coordinating online publicity for the Book Sale. Let her know if you see one of her postings or have any suggestions.

Reminder: The password for the *Members Only* page is *twigs*. That is where you will find the *Member Contact List*. Any changes in your email address, telephone number or address should go to Nancy Possinger at napossinger@gmail.com.



Highlights of Branch History—2000-2005

The Millennium came. No computers crashed. The World Did Not End! School board observers attended elementary, high school, and College of DuPage Board meetings. Book Sale continued with proceeds going to the Education Foundation of AAUW for fellowships, scholarships, and grants. The Branch also funded a Return to Learning Scholar at College of DuPage.

2000-2001: Branch Program Topics

- Community Connections. Introduction to three community groups also supporting equity for women.
- Voter Education with Branch member Helen Westlake filling us in on the history of the two major parties and the voting records of our Senators and Representatives.
- Internet Workshop-How to surf it. How to use the information. Hands on workshop.
- Clinical Depression in Women, and Current Treatments (Dr. Delisi, psychiatrist).
- Journaling—What It Is. How to Do It. How it May Help Your Health.

2001-2002: Branch Program Topics

- Dr. Winifred Creamer (Branch member) presents her archeological dig in Peru.
- Barbara Brotner, Chicago Tribune Columnist, shares her humor and insights about women today.
- Musicologist Mary Ekstam presents research on the healing powers of music.
- Local activist Jan Csarnik, Director of People for the American Way, discusses their commitment to strong public schools protecting freedom to learn, and preventing religious coercion in public schools.
- Donna Kotecki (spouse of member) speaks on local gangs and community responses.
- Dr. Stephanie Downs Hughs, consultant on diversity, speaks on East Meets West.

2002-2003 Branch Program Topics

- Kick off meeting designed as *conversation circles* each led by a Past Branch President.
- ERA, only three states to go. Laura Prussing, AAUW-IL Public Policy Chair leads discussion.
- Opera-Who Wears the Pants: The History and Importance of Castrati in Opera. Singers perform excerpts.
- Buffalo Theatre Ensemble Director at College of DuPage discusses the play *Middle Ages* about marriage.
- DuPage County—Past, Present, Future, Mary Therriault, DuPage County Museum.

2003-2004: Branch Administrative Changes and Program Topics.

- In response to declining membership and volunteerism, a new Branch structure was initiated. Instead of a President, a Liaison officer supervises Branch activities. Board Members and Interest Group Chairs are tapped to plan the monthly programs.
- First Liaison Officer, Pat Walton
- Film Group initiated, partnering with Citizens for Glen Ellyn Preservation (CGEP) to encourage preservation of the Glen Art Theatre and the continuation of one foreign language film per week. Also includes admission of men in this group as members of CGEP or spouses/partners of Branch members.
- Author Sheila Seclearr reads from and discusses her book, *A Tree on Turtle Island*, set in the Pennsylvania frontier and influenced by Benjamin Franklin's Indian Treaty reports.
- Hats off to the Twentieth Century and Beyond. Performance by Susan Kohl-Jankowski at Terrace Restaurant at Noon as an experiment with different Branch formats and program times.

2004-2005 Program topics are not listed in Directory and are only in *Twigs* as monthly chairs plan them.

- Kick off meeting in September at Glen Ellyn Boathouse includes conversation, brunch and a string quartet.



Our Branch Book Group

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

Join us Friday, April 14, to discuss *Big Lies in a Small Town* by Diane Chamberlain. We will meet at the Glen Ellyn Public Library at 9:30 am and Patricia Spence will lead the discussion. *Big Lies* is described by *Kirkus* as *an engaging, well-researched, and a thought-provoking art mystery*. The *Princeton Review* states that this story *has threads of abuse, racism, justice gone wrong, prejudice, redemption and is emotionally charged*. It sounds like a good read, tailored for our group.

Looking ahead to May 5, we will discuss *Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud, and the Last Trial of Harper Lee* by Casey Cep.

PM Lit

Susie Gullickson

gullish.1955@gmail.com

Our April book selection is *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. This charming, witty and compulsively readable book is an exploration of friendship, reckoning and hope, tracing a widow's unlikely connection with a giant Pacific octopus. This is a debut novel by a local author, who took her first creative writing class at College of DuPage.

We will meet at Jean Lindsey's home, 1644 Orth Drive, Wheaton at 7:00 pm on Monday, April 17. Susan Levy Creed will lead the discussion.

AM Non-Fiction

Sue Herrmann

sherrmann710@gmail.com

We meet on April 26 at the home of Sue Herrmann, 403 Wyndemere Circle, Wheaton at 10:00 am. We will read *Balkan Ghosts* by Robert Kaplan. Mary Sue Brown will lead us in the discussion. Books will be available from the Glen Ellyn Public Library. Hope to see you then. Please email me to let me know you are coming.



Spring Luncheon and Installation of Officers
Saturday, May 20, Noon
Adelle's Fine American Fare
535 W Liberty Drive, Wheaton
Karen Bondy

Please plan to join your fellow Branch members *in person* at a celebration of the past year's achievements and installation of Branch officers at Adelle's in Wheaton. Adelle's has won many awards and mentions, including Zagat's, OpenTable's Diner's Choice Award, and others. 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 afternoon for private events only. Adelle's upgraded to a whole restaurant UV air filtration and sanitizing system for the entire restaurant in 2020, so 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 (bondykj@aol.com) if you have questions or dietary concerns and we will make certain that you are accommodated.

MENU

SALAD

Mesculun Greens Salad, fresh strawberries, orange supremes, balsamic raspberry vinaigrette, toasted almonds



CHOICE OF ENTRÉE

(Entrees Must Be Pre-Ordered When You Send Your Check)

❖ ***Parmesan Crusted Chicken Breast, grilled asparagus, roasted potatoes, onion strings, tomato cream sauce***

OR

❖ ***Adelle's Risotto, seasonal roasted vegetables, fresh herbs, Grana Padano***



DESSERT

Coffee, soda, iced tea

Cost: \$37.00 per person

Reservation Due: May 13, 2023

12:00 pm: Social Hour, Cash Bar (wine \$10/glass, includes tax and gratuity)

12:30 pm: Lunch

******See the Reservation and Payment Form on Following 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.

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.*



Spring Luncheon Reservation Form **Deadline May 13**

Luncheon Date/Time: *Saturday May 20 at Adelle's in Wheaton
12 pm social and lunch at 12:30 pm. Program will follow.*



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

Checks Payable to AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP, Must be Received by May 13

Name(s): _____ Number in Party @ \$37.00 = _____



Select one Entrée choice

- Parmesan Crusted Chicken Breast, grilled asparagus, roasted potatoes, onion strings, tomato cream sauce
OR
 - Adelle's Risotto with seasonal roasted vegetables, fresh herbs, Grana Padano
 - Karen: Please contact me by May 13 for special dietary need.
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