

A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

Your Vote Counts in the April 4, 2023 Consolidated Election

Important elections are upon us. The April 4 Consolidated Elections are for local governance roles, among them, village positions, school board candidates and library board candidates. We have two candidates from our Branch—Donna Jean Simon for Glen Ellyn Village Trustee and Mary Sue Brown for Glen Ellyn Library Board. The school board elections are highly contested and important this year—so important that AAUW had a forum about school board election issues last year. Please research and vote in the school board election in your district.

AAUW cannot endorse candidates. In a nonpartisan election, we can only identify which candidates align with the mission of AAUW. Mary Sue, Patricia and I have written three questions that reflect those values. Mary Sue and I emailed the questions to the candidates. The deadline for a reply is February 20. We hope to be able to inform the membership which candidates align with AAUW values by March 1. Our findings will appear in a special election page in the *Member Only* section of our website. Early voting at DuPage County Fairgrounds starts February 23 and at multiple sites starting March 20. Election day is April 4.

We have acquired information on some of the candidates based on our personal research, consistent with our intent to be fully informed voters, not necessarily to help in the formulation of candidate questions. As individuals, not as AAUW Board members, we can share this information with you. Please contact one of us if you have questions about the election that we can help with. Always do as much of your own research as you can. Share your information with us. Turnout is crucial for this election. Talk with your neighbors and encourage them to research the election and vote.

Most Importantly---PLEASE VOTE APRIL 4!

Carolyn & Mary Sue

Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	TIME	INFORMATION
March 1	Branch Meeting	7:00 pm	Glen Ellyn Police Station, Community Meeting Room, 65 S. Park Boulevard, Glen Ellyn.
March 3	AM Lit	9:30 am	Glen Ellyn Public Library, First Floor Meeting Room, 400 Duane Street, Glen Ellyn.
March 8	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Patricia Spence, 192 East Road, Glen Ellyn.
March 11	Film Group	7:00 pm	Jean Lindsey, 1644 Orth Drive, Wheaton
March 20	PM Lit	7:00 pm	TBD
March 22	PM Non-Fiction	7:00 pm	Marilyn Wiedemann, 373 Oak Street, Glen Ellyn.
April 4	Consolidated Election Day		Local voting sites.
April 6	AAUW National Election		Vote online beginning April 6.
April 18	Andy Warhol Lecture	7:00 pm	Glen Ellyn Public Library, First Floor Meeting Room, 400 Duane Street, Glen Ellyn.
May 5-6	AAUW IL State Convention	Friday evening Saturday	East Peoria Riverfront Hotel & Conference Center, 100 Conference Center Drive, East Peoria, IL 61611. See details in article.



Programs

Carolyn Oesterle
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March Branch Program and Business Meeting
7:00 pm, Wednesday March 1, 2023
Glen Ellyn Police Station Community Room
65 South Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn and ZOOM

How to Create Resilient, Equitable Communities in a COVID World
Speaker: Kelwin Harris



Kelwin Harris is a city planner and public engagement professional with more than 15 years of experience working to dismantle inequality in Chicago communities and empower people that have historically been excluded from connectivity. He has worked as a senior planner providing technical assistance to cities and organizations and led grassroots neighborhood organizations on the South Side of Chicago.

Kelwin holds a Bachelor's Degree in City & Regional Planning from Cornell University, a Master's Degree in Urban Planning from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design and a Professional Certificate in Municipal Finance from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy.

The Chicago region faces serious threats; growth is uneven; neighborhoods are struggling; and streets are erupting in protest as COVID-19 has made existing inequalities worse. Now more than ever, Chicago must address racial equity and provide strategies for prosperity for the good of everyone. Drawing from his experience as a community leader on the South Side of Chicago and as an urban planner, Kelwin Harris uses an equity lens to discuss multiple facets of systemic racism that persists and offers strategies and interventions for the road ahead.

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 Drive, 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 in between. 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.

You can reserve your room today at the following link: *Reserve Room Now* or you may call: *1-800-EMBASSY* and use the code *AUW (this is correct, 3-digit code)*. Please reserve your room and watch for meeting registration and agenda details coming later in the *Connection* newsletter and on the AAUW-IL website. 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 Programs at aauwilprograms@gmail.com for questions.



Membership

Nancy Possinger
napossinger@gmail.com

Just a reminder to all members, please remember to send any changes to home address, email or telephone information to Nancy Possinger, Membership Vice President.

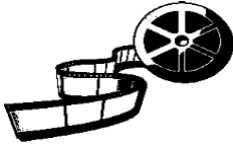
Also, a reminder that the March Branch meeting is our annual meeting where we will vote on the Nominating Committee Slate for the coming two years. Nominations for Branch Officers may also be made from the floor, provided that the written consent of the nominee has been obtained in advance.

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

The Study Group on Aging—Information & Resources is now *live* and posting information on the Branch website under the *Members* tag, accessible with our password. The AIR site has two of our topics under construction. The first report is on Housing Issues with contacts both for retirement or for senior care. The second report is one we have been working on very hard: Local Service Providers. You can find local electricians, plumbers, remodelers, garden services, roofers, floor installers and many more listed with their location, phone numbers and the name of the Branch member making a recommendation. Our study group is continuing to meet and is working on both medical and legal services in the coming months.

Please note that several Medicare reforms are coming in 2023 via the Federal Inflation Reduction Act. There is a new monthly cap on insulin costs and there are plans for no-cost adult vaccinations (including shingles vaccine). The long-term plans are to protect seniors from the high prices of newer drugs. You can read further details in the *January 17, 2023 New York Times column The New Old Age*.

Our Branch Fundraising Activities



Book Sale _____

Marilyn Mauritz

marilynmauritz@gmail.com

2023 AAUW Used Book Sale June 22 to 24

Just a reminder to start the collection of books for the June 22 to 24 Used Book Sale.

NOTE: *There was an inadvertent error in the All Branch email with the wrong date for the sale.*

Books to collect include:

- Fiction/Mystery
- Non Fiction/Biography
- Young Adult/Children
- Better Books

Please collect books in double paper bags with handles. This is the easiest way to transport the books. Call Carolyn Oesterle, Mary Sue Brown or Marilyn Mauritz to store the books if you do not have space. We can start to use Forest Glen Elementary School in Glen Ellyn for sorting on June 7. Marilyn Wiedemann will be keeping track of the number of books collected as she did last year. Thanks to everyone for helping.

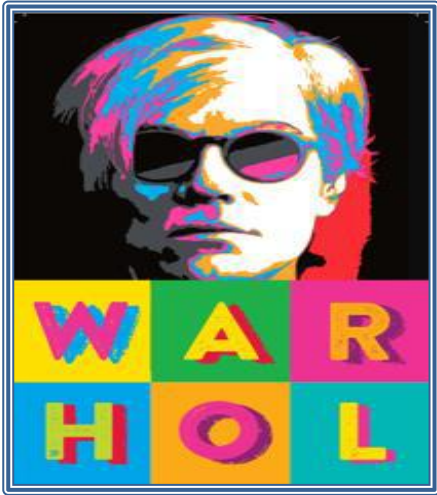
Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Vision: Equity for all.

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



Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW Cultural Arts Special Event
Andy Warhol Lecture by Diana Martinez
Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 7:00 pm
Glen Ellyn Public Library First Floor Conference Room
400 Duane Street, Glen Ellyn
Peggy Connolly



In anticipation of the upcoming *The 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, 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.





Please Take Every Opportunity to be an Informed Voter in the Consolidated Election, April 4

<https://www.dupagecounty.gov/election/>

Attend the Consolidated Election Candidate Forums hosted by the League of Women Voters (LWV)

- **Wheaton LWV**, Thursday, March 2, Wheaton City Council Chambers,
Wheaton City Hall 303 W Wesley, Wheaton

Community Unit School District 200 School Board Candidate Forum, 6:00 pm

Wheaton City Council Candidate Forum, 7:10 pm

Local access television will be broadcasting and recording the event.

- **Glen Ellyn LWV**, Saturday, March 4, Hadley Junior High, 240 Hawthorne Boulevard., Glen Ellyn.

School Board Candidate Forums, 8:30 am to 1:30 pm

District 41, 8:30 am to 9:20 am

District 89, 9:30 am to 11:00 am

District 87, 11:10 am to 12 Noon

Candidate Meet and Greet, Noon to 1:30 pm

Village Trustee, Library Trustee, Park District Commissioner and College of DuPage Board of Trustees



Thank you to Peggy Connolly for hosting our February discussion of the Oscar Best Picture nominee, *Women Talking*. We had a really thoughtful and wide-ranging discussion of faith, violence against women, the difference between forgiveness and redemption, and other big themes. My own sense is that it will not win the award, but I am glad it was nominated. Perhaps that will encourage people to see it.

Our March meeting will take place on the eve of the Academy Awards (Sunday March 12), so I expect we will continue to view and discuss Best Picture Nominees. Our meeting will be at the home of Jean Lindsey on Saturday, March 11 at 7:00 pm. I hope you will join us.



Highlights of the Branch from the 1990's

- 1990:** *Economic Diversity Fund* established to assist with cost of dues membership.
- 1992:** Branch leads successful campaign to retain the *Impressions Reading Series* in Wheaton Elementary Schools (opposed by the religious right of the area).
- 1993:** Branch newsletter name changed to *TWIGS*, which was former Branch President Sue Balk's submission to a Branch contest.
Editor's Note: There are many twigs to our local branch as evidenced by your many contributions to our newsletter!
- 1993:** Non-Fiction Book Group formed. First book discussed: *Culture of Complaint; the Fraying of America* by Robert Hughes.
- 1993:** Jackie DeFazio, Branch leader, elected Association President for two terms.
- 1993:** *Edith Back Research and Project Grant Endowment* started to honor Branch's second president and 50 year AAUW Life Member (funded by book sales).
- 1993:** Branch joins the *Educational Equity Round Table for Women and Girls*
- 1994:** Jackie DeFazio appears on *Oprah Winfrey Show* to highlight AAUW.
- 1994:** Branch Directory is professionally printed for the first time.
- 1994:** *Distinguished Service Award* presented to Branch by Wheaton Chamber of Commerce for Learning Respect Day.
- 1996:** *Reality Store Project* for middle school girls initiated with PTA/BPW. Members meet with students to present realistic data on salaries, advancement, and living costs in various work fields.
- 1996:** *75th Anniversary Women's Suffrage Movement Program* and resource kit developed for local schools.
- 1998:** Workshop, *in Her Glory*, focusing on girls in sports with Wheaton Park District.
- 1998:** Helen Westlake presented with *AAUW-IL Public Policy Award* for her leadership in *DuPage Coalition for Public Schools* and a *Rally in Support of Public Schools*.



Our Branch Book Groups

AM Lit

Jean Lindsey

jeanlindsey15@comcast.net

On Friday, March 3, Nancy Possinger will lead the AM Lit group discussion of *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict. We will once again meet at the Glen Ellyn Public Library, first floor conference room, at 9:30 am. This historical fiction novel is *both a stunning tribute to an amazingly courageous woman and a searing timely exploration of race relations in American. The Personal Librarian is an extraordinary novel that will have you frantically googling the key figures to learn more...*" (Bookreporter.com). It should generate a good discussion. Do plan on joining us and please let me know if you plan on attending. Unfortunately, the library does not have any more of this title available. You may find some electronic copies available on your library's website. Of course, local bookstores may have copies available too.

Do start thinking and/or reading novels for the June selection meeting! We selected many discussable novels this year and would like to select another list of 11 novels of the same caliber. If everyone had one or two novels that they deem worthy of selection, we would be in good shape. Please consider researching a novel or two before mid-May when you will recommend your choices.

Looking Ahead

We will meet on the **second Friday, April 14** to discuss *Big Lies in a Small Town* by Diane Chamberlain.

PM Lit

Susie Gullickson

gullish.1955@gmail.com

Our March book selection is *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. Towles is the bestselling author of *A Gentleman in Moscow* which our group read several years ago. This novel is set in 1950's America and spans just ten days. It is told from multiple points of view with an array of new and richly imagined settings, characters and themes.

Phyllis Fogel will be our discussion leader. Meeting host and location to be determined.

PM Non-Fiction

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

We are meeting at 7:00 pm on March 22 at Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann's home to discuss Bessel van der Kolk's book *The Body Keeps Score*. This book deals with the long-term impact of trauma on the body and the mind and has been on the *New York Times Best Seller* list for TWO years! I am sure we can all bring our own experiences to bear and to determine whether van der Kolk's advice helps us deal with trauma. Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann will be our discussion leader. Please RSVP Marilyn at *Marilyn.mayer@gmail.com* if you plan to attend.

You can find the list of upcoming books for all of our book groups on the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW website. As a heads-up, we will read a book about pandemics (*Breathless* by Quammen) on May 24; a history of modern Ireland (*We don't know ourselves* by O'Toole) on July 26; the world as perceived by animals (*An Immense World* by Yong) on September 27; American history circa 1776 (*Samuel Adams* by Schiff) on November 15; and ancient Polynesians (*Sea People* by Thompson) to start 2024 on January 24, 2024.



**May Celebration Event
Save the Date of Saturday, May 20
Karen Bondy**

Traditionally, our Branch holds a meal event in May to recognize the year's achievements and the installation of officers. This spring we have arranged a luncheon event. **Please plan to attend on Saturday, May 20.**

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 events. Adelle's upgraded to a whole restaurant UV air filtration and sanitizing system for the entire restaurant in August 2020. So, 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.

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!

