

A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

We are still grinning from ear to ear after two extremely exciting events!

On August 30, we had a fun and very productive wrap up for our Used Book Sale, complete with pizza and some delectable desserts, hosted at Nancy Possinger's house! With the opportunity to meet in person (22 people in attendance) it provided for enchanting conversations, a delicious dinner and included an interesting report on the Book Sale Survey Monkey results by Suzanne Gagner.

On September 6, we had an amazing first Branch meeting! They say it takes a village and that event was a perfect example of that! Sincerely, we want to say a big thank you to all of you who came out to help us have such a spectacular evening! All 50 of you in person and five on Zoom! Special thanks to the gelato and beverage servers: Margaret McGrath, Christine Carter, and Pamela Johnson. Providing cheerful greetings were the Membership Co-chairs Sarah Allen and Sue Hagerty. The Treasurer's report by Maureen Sheehan was highly informative as usual. As part of our Showcase, Patricia Spence gave an invitation for Cultural Arts, Peggy Connolly for Spice Routes and Travel Team, Carolyn Oesterle for our Fall Fundraising Walk on September 22 and a special thanks to Lisa Cherry who presented us with an opportunity to consider joining the *Legacy Circle* group. Lastly, a hearty thanks to Ewa Bacon for suggesting our speaker and to our Program Co-Chairs Jean Lindsey and Patty Mugavero for arranging Jason Spencer to speak on AI. What a fascinating and intriguing talk, followed by a very lively Q & A period! Thanks to all the others who contributed behind the scenes. The energy in the room was electrifying and gave us such a positive start to our new 2023-24 year for Branch activities! Let us keep this ball rolling!

We have had three new members join our Branch already this fall. Membership Vice Presidents – Sarah Allen and Susan Hagerty are hosting a New Member Orientation on September 26 at Sarah Allen's house.

Looking forward to seeing you all throughout the year and especially at our next Branch meeting on October 4 at the Glen Ellyn Police Station Community Room at 6:45 pm where Dr Sam Mitrani will speak on the *History of Policing in Chicago*. And do not forget, bring a friend and introduce them to AAUW!

Please consider attending the AAUW Central States Regional Conference, emphasizing Public Policy:
October 19 - 21, 2023 in St. Louis, MO at Drury Plaza Hotel, St. Louis at the Arch. 314.231.3003.
Conference Registration - Early bird - \$200/person before September 16 (\$225 after)
Registration fee includes conference meals.

In service with you,

Nancy Possinger and Karen Schulz

Upcoming Events

| DATE | EVENT | TIME | INFORMATION |
|---------|----------------|-----------------------|---|
| Oct. 4 | Branch Meeting | 6:45 pm | Glen Ellyn Police Department Community Room 65 S. Park Boulevard, Glen Ellyn. |
| Oct. 6 | AM Lit | 9:30 am | Glen Ellyn Public Library, First Floor Meeting Rooms, 400 Duane St., Glen Ellyn. |
| Oct 11 | Board Meeting | 7:00 pm | Jean Lindsey, 1644 Orth Drive, Wheaton. |
| Oct. 13 | Film Group | 6:00 pm or 7:00 pm | TBD. Time dependent on location. See article. |
| Oct. 16 | PM Lit | 7:00 pm | Jean Lindsey, 1644 Orth Drive, Wheaton. |
| Oct. 25 | AM Non-Fiction | 10:00 am | Peggy Connolly, 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton. |



Exciting News of Our Members

Branch Member and Wheaton resident **Judge Bonnie Wheaton** was appointed Chief Judge of the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit Court! Bonnie was appointed associate judge in 1988 and was elected a circuit judge in 1992. We heartily congratulate her on this momentous achievement!

Branch Member and Wheaton Resident **Glennette Tilley Turner** was recently recognized for her work as a historian by the Illinois State Historical Society, with a *2023 Lifetime Achievement Award*. Turner, 90, has devoted much of her life to researching the history of the Underground Railroad which the National Park Service defines as *the resistance to enslavement through escape and flight, through the end of the Civil War*. We heartily congratulate her on this award!



October Branch Program
6:45 pm, Wednesday, October 4
Glen Ellyn Police Department Community Room
65 S. Park Boulevard

Presenter: Sam Mitrani, PhD
From Hearth to Shield



Chicago's new mayor has recently selected the city's latest *top cop* as Superintendent of Police. Looking back, there was a time when this city had no such system as today, but rather a practice of private policing with neighborhoods simply kept orderly by their residents. Our October 4 speaker, Dr. Sam Mitrani, a history professor at the College of DuPage, is the author of *The Rise of the Chicago Police Department: Class and Conflict, 1850-1894*. An expert on the history of policing, Mitrani will explain how the economics of a growing and changing city led to a business endeavor to protect capitalism in a city, by the late 1800s, described as *one of the most violent in America*.

As the medicalization of pregnancy and childbirth changed, over time, from the practice of female midwives to male doctors, private matters became public; and, this effect, particularly upon female residents, will be highlighted. In a manner both entertaining and informative, AAUW members will learn what is behind the title of Dr. Mitrani's presentation.

Believing that history, when studied, *constantly unfolds the past into the future*, Dr. Mitrani teaches a variety of courses at College of DuPage and adds new ones, such as *WWII and the Holocaust* and the *History of Work in the U.S.* Students give rave reviews of his classes. *Get ready to read* is one student's comment, referring to the class requirement of numerous novels, rather than textbooks. Dr. Mitrani is described as someone who *tackles the material with truth and grit* and as an instructor, who causes his students to *look deeper*.

Dr. Mitrani grew up in Vermont and New York before moving to the Midwest. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Tutorial Studies and a Master of Arts in Social Sciences, both from the University of Chicago. Dr. Mitrani completed his PhD at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He has been teaching at the College of DuPage since 2011.

Arrive by 6:45 pm to meet and mingle and get ready for a 7:00 pm program to hear our past unfold as revealed by Dr. Mitrani. *From Hearth to Shield* promises to be an enlightening image.



New Member Introductions

Nancy Bell

Nancy has been a lifelong Illinois resident, living in Glen Ellyn since 1996. She was encouraged to join AAUW by none other than our AAUW-IL President Donna Jean Simon! Nancy's career for 32 years has been in the investment business and wealth management, where she still actively works with clients to secure their financial futures.

Nancy is certified in Illinois as a Master Gardener and volunteers many hours at the *Garden Works Project*, an organization that works to reduce food insecurity by helping people grow their own food in DuPage County and surrounding areas. The organization collaborates heavily with College of DuPage and Bridge Communities.

Nancy is an avid gardener herself. She and her husband have a grown daughter who lives in Chicago. Welcome Nancy!

Nancy's Contact Information:

244 North Main Street Primary phone: 630.363.6389
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 Email: *nbra6ge@sbcglobal.net*

Karin Daly

While Karin has been calling Glen Ellyn home since 2012; she also has lived in Spain; The Netherlands; Boca Raton, FL and Winchester, MA. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Benedictine University and Master of Science from Boston University in Healthcare Communications.

Karin's career has been mostly in advertising and healthcare marketing; with positions at the University of Chicago Medicine, Philips Healthcare and Cancer Treatment Centers of America. But after the pandemic, she decided to switch to education and worked as a pre-school teacher, early childhood substitute teacher, nature camp instructor, and at Glenbard West in AP Student Services. There she focuses on supporting students taking college-credit *Advanced Placement* courses to help them with their college readiness.

Also in 2021, Karin co-founded the grassroots environmental nonprofit *Go Green Glen Ellyn* which helps Glen Ellyn businesses and residents make more sustainable choices. *Go Green Glen Ellyn* runs the twice annual *SportSwap* which helps residents swap gently used sports equipment and *OAKtoberfest*, a celebration of Illinois oaks on October 14.

Currently Karin is serving as an Environmental Commissioner for the Village of Glen Ellyn; is Vice President of Communications for the Glen Ellyn League of Women Voters, and is on the East Branch DuPage River Trail Advisory Board.

Karin's husband John, works in marketing as a creative consultant and they have a daughter who is a senior at Glenbard West
Welcome, Karin!

Karin's Contact Information:

532 Anthony Street Primary phone: 978.760.0603
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 Email: *karin.daly@gmail.com*

Membership continued

Linda Parduhn

Linda moved to Glen Ellyn in 2014 from Palos Hills to be closer to family. After getting her Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy from Northwestern University, Linda worked as a physical therapist at numerous hospitals (her first job was at Cook County Hospital in Chicago) and later did physical therapy home care and at nursing homes. Once retired, she volunteered heavily with her children’s schools, sports teams, and musical endeavors. She carries on that volunteer service currently at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church working at the Saturday soup kitchen and with *Lasagna Love*, an on-line organization started during the pandemic that delivers home cooked lasagna meals to those in need.

Linda was encouraged to join AAUW by Susie Gullickson, who also is an avid reader like Linda. Linda also loves to knit and keeps busy with her son and daughter’s families and four grandchildren who also live in Glen Ellyn. Welcome Linda!

Linda’s contact information:

664 Western Avenue Primary phone: 708.744.0208
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 Email: *mrsduhn@gmail.com*



Treasury

Maureen Sheehan

maureenjsheehan@aol.com

At the October 4 Branch Meeting, we will conduct a Branch vote regarding *Approval of the Proposed Branch Budget for Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024)*. An overview of the Proposed Budget FY24 was presented to the Branch at the September 6 Branch Meeting. This Proposed Budget was developed by the Board and Chairpersons after careful consideration of recent experience and is very similar to last year’s Budget which overall met expectations for performance. After the September Branch meeting the Proposed Budget FY24 was posted on the Members only section of the Branch website and is available for all members to review at their leisure.

Please call me at 630.926.1147 or email me prior to the October 4 meeting if you have any questions or comments regarding the Proposed Budget FY24.



Secretary

Janet Miller

janetmiller800@yahoo.com

The Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW Board met on September 13. After the minutes are approved by the Board at the September 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.

The Board was pleased by the number of members attending the September General Meeting. Fifty members and guests who were in attendance enjoyed a gelato treat and listened to the speaker.

The proposed budget for 2023-2024 was approved by the Board. It was presented at the September Branch Meeting and will be voted on at the October meeting.

The Board discussed a proposal from Peggy Connolly for a *Great Decisions* Interest Group. A motion was made by Laurie Driscoll and seconded by Maureen Sheehan. MOTION: *I move we initiate an interest group called Great Decisions as proposed by Peggy Connolly to begin in January 2024 and to be reevaluated twelve months later.* After further discussion the motion passed unanimously.



Opportunities Fund

Susan Levy-Creed & Karla Megow

susanlevycreed@gmail.com karla_megow@yahoo.com

Not too much to report, except to say that our very successful Used Book Sale has made it certain that our Branch will be able to fund our scholarships to high school seniors going to College of DuPage. This enables four young women to get a good start on their educational journeys. I hope you all have attended the Fall Run Walk which, through our donations, helps fund our Opportunities Fund.



Film Group

Anne Hanley

ahanley@mindspring.com

We kicked off the fall discussing the surprising feminist film, *Barbie*, in our September meeting held at my home. Please begin to think of films you might want to discuss in October! Options include films in theaters and films via streaming. Send in your suggestions for what to watch! The film selection will go out the weekend before.

We will meet on Friday October 13 (!) either at 6:00 pm at Adams Park or at 7:00 pm in a member's home. I will be out of town that weekend, so cannot host. If a group member can host, you will meet at their home at 7:00 pm. If no one can, you will meet outdoors at 6:00 pm (the setting sun being the reason for the earlier start time). Let me know if you can host.



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

Donna Staples

donnastaples5050@gmail.com

Our October 6 book selection is *Fellowship Point* by Alice Elliott Dark, now available at the Glen Ellyn Public Library. Jean Lindsey will lead our discussion at 9:30 am at the library.

November Selection: *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano.

PM Lit

Susie Gullickson

gullish.1955@gmail.com

Our October book selection is *America for Beginners* by Leah Franqui. *This is a funny, poignant and insightful debut novel that explores the complexities of family, immigration, prejudice and the American dream. Pival Sengupta, a recent widow from Kolkota, India, has booked a trip to the United States in search of her estranged son. Along the way Pival and her unlikely travel companions forge an unusual bond which allows them to see America and themselves in different and profound new ways. America for Beginners is a bittersweet and bighearted tale of forgiveness, hope and acceptance* (Goodreads).

Join us on Monday, October 16, 7:00 pm at Jean Lindsey's home. The discussion leader is Peggy Connolly.

AM Non-Fiction

Sue Herrmann

sherrmann710@gmail.com

Our first meeting of the 2023-24 year is October 25, 2023 at 10:00 am. We will read *The Diamond Eye* by Kate Quinn. Books will be available on October 1, 2023, at the Glen Ellyn Public Library on the second floor with the other AAUW book groups. Peggy Connolly is our discussion leader and will host the October 25 meeting. Hope to see you there.

Please contact Peggy at connolly.peggy@gmail.com to let her know that you are attending. Please text me at 630.234.1941 for any questions or concerns.



AAUW Branch Stars from the Past.

Hope you enjoy the faces behind the names we reference from the past!



Jackie DeFazio—Branch President, 1971-73; Illinois State President; AAUW Association President



1977-78 Branch Officers (L to R):
Deirdre Cleary, President; Jane Palmer, Treasurer;
Glenna Thompson, Recording Secretary;
Suzanne Balk, 2nd Vice President & Membership Chair



1981-83 Branch Officers:
Top, L to R: Ewa Bacon, Treasurer; Sarah Kress; Jane Kram.
Bottom, L to R: Marcia Jett; Suzanne Balk, President;
Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann, Program Vice President

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.



The Twigs Team

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|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Editor: | Kathleen McCullough |
| Proofreader: | Ruth Schumacher |
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| 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!