

### A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

What a lovely start to fall with all the warm weather and sunshine! Just like that lovely start our Branch has had a wonderful start for this 2023-2024 term with a couple of interesting and entertaining Branch Meetings. Our September 6 speaker, Jasen Spencer's talk on AI was highly informative and the October 4 speaker, Dr. Sam Mitrani's talk on the rise of the Chicago Police Department in the 1890's was fascinating. With great attendance and so much positive energy at both events, it was such a joy to gather and converse in person again!! Remember to share this opportunity with your family and friends. Our mission to advance equity for girls and women through research, education, and advocacy is too important to be kept to ourselves!

Looking forward to seeing you all throughout the year! Besides attending a book group, study group or any other interest group, we will look for you at our next Branch meeting on November 1. Gathering at 6:45 pm at the Wheaton Public Library will give us time to catch up with our friends and hopefully meet a new friend or two. Candace M. King will be our speaker. Her topic is: *Who Are the New Neighbors?* It will be interesting to hear her speak on the effects of the changing demographics of DuPage County. Do not forget to bring a friend and introduce them to AAUW!

In case you have not heard, we are so pleased to announce that we will be hosting a Holiday Open House at Nancy Possinger's house from 4:00 to 8:00 pm on Wednesday, December 6. Going along with our goal to provide more opportunities for social interactions, we feel this event will be a lovely way to visit with friends, enjoy some delectable food and refreshments and reflect on the AAUW events of 2023. Please see the invitation for the Holiday Open House in this edition of Twigs.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our next Branch Meeting on November 1 and at our Holiday Open House on December 6!

*Nancy Possinger and Karen Schulz*



## Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	TIME	INFORMATION
Nov. 1	Branch Meeting	6:45 pm	Wheaton Public Library, Room A, Lower Level, 225 N. Cross Street, Wheaton.
Nov. 3	AM Lit	9:30 am	Glen Ellyn Public Library, First Floor Meeting Rooms, 400 Duane Street, Glen Ellyn.
Nov. 8	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Ewa Bacon, 405 W. Front Street, Apt 305, Wheaton.
Nov. 9	Spice Routes	6:00 pm	Peggy Connolly, 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton.
Nov. 10	Film Group	7:00 pm	Anne and Joe Hanley, 679 Forest Avenue, Glen Ellyn.
Nov. 15	PM Non-Fiction	7:00 pm	Marilyn Wiedemann, 373 Oak Street, Glen Ellyn.
Nov. 20	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Laura Desmarais, 1323 Shagbark Lane, Wheaton.
Dec. 6	Holiday Open House	4:00 pm to 8:00 pm	Nancy Possinger, 26W070 MacArthur Avenue, Carol Stream.



### Programs

**Jean Lindsey & Patty Mugavero**

*jeanlindsey15@comcast.net mugsfive2001@yahoo.com*

**November Branch Program  
6:45 pm, Wednesday, November 1  
Wheaton Public Library, Room A, Lower Level  
225 N. Cross Street, Wheaton**

**Speaker: Candace McCarthy King  
*Who Are the New Neighbors?***

Konrad Alexander said, *When the world seems large and complex, we need to remember that great world ideals all begin in some neighborhood.* Many of us have lived in DuPage County for years, often in the same neighborhood. Candace McCarthy King will help us update our knowledge of DuPage County. We know the county's population has burgeoned. Candace will examine how this growth has impacted the demographic makeup of the county and its effect on the economy, job growth and real estate. She will discuss how the population has aged and become more diverse. The cost of living and taxes have also increased to the point that some people are financially struggling to live here. How have women fared overall as the county has grown in the past decades? Is DuPage County on the right track, have our ideals been incorporated into the county plans and objectives?

Candace is very well qualified to discuss how DuPage County has evolved. She holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Arizona, and a Bachelor of Arts from Barat College in sociology and political science. For over 23 years, Candace worked as an Executive Director of the DuPage Federation on Human Services and since her retirement she has been a part time Volunteer Committee member for the DuPage Foundation, a member of the DuPage Housing Authority Board, and a volunteer consultant for the Executive Service Corps.

Do join us on November 1 for this informative talk about our neighborhoods and our new challenges.



## Membership

**Sarah Allen & Susan Hagerty**

*Sarah.cleland.allen@gmail.com susanhagerty18@gmail.com*

Membership held a *New Member Gathering* on Tuesday, October 26 at the home of Co-Vice President Membership, Sarah Allen. Five new members : Nancy Bell, Karla Bullett, Lisa Capps, Karin Daly and Linda Parduhn listened to AAUW-IL President Donna Jean Simon speak on AAUW history, its vision, and mission. Branch Co-Presidents, Nancy Possinger and Karen Schulz, gave a wonderful introduction to the many opportunities, activities and interest groups of AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn. Make sure to offer a warm welcome to these new members if you see them at any upcoming events.

Thank you to everyone who renewed their membership for 2023-2024. Last year, the Branch added many new members and we hope to continue that trend. Please consider bringing a friend to an upcoming AAUW event. Personal invitations are always the best way to introduce someone to the unique opportunities and wonderful activities of AAUW. We have much to offer!

**Member Contact List Update:** Is on our Branch website and current as of October 20, 2023. Please send any changes in your contact information to Sue Hagerty or Sarah Allen at above email addresses.



## Secretary

**Janet Miller**

*janetmiller800@yahoo.com*

**October 4 Branch Meeting:** Donna Jean Simon, IL AAUW-IL President, spoke to the attendees about the contributions of AAUW- Illinois members. These include leadership at the state and national level, participation in promoting AAUW goals, and the philanthropic support of branches in the state. As she said, *we can be proud members of AAUW-Illinois.*

A motion for passage of the proposed Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW 2023-2024 Budget was made by Laura Desmarais and seconded by Susan Levy Creed. The budget was approved by a majority vote.

**October 11 Board Meeting:** After the minutes are approved by the Board at the October 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 again by the number of members attending the October Branch Meeting. Everyone is encouraged to attend Branch meetings and bring a friend.

Details of the Holiday Open House on December 6 were discussed. Sign- ups for food contributions will continue to be available at the next Branch meeting. See the newsletter for more information.

The Great Decisions Interest group has been added to the List of Officers committee chairs. The group will begin meeting in January.

The next Board meeting is November 8 at 7:00 pm, hosted by Ewa Bacon, 405 W. Front Street, Apt 305, Wheaton.

***The Inside Scoop - News from AAUW-IL***  
**Donna Jean Simon**  
**AAUW-IL President, Branch Member & former Branch Co-President**

**AAUW National Public Policy Priorities**

- ✚ High quality education is the foundation of a democratic society
  - ❖ Equitable access to education and a climate free of harassment, bullying, and sexual assault
- ✚ Support academic freedom, civic education, protection from censorship, bias-free education, and responsible funding for all levels of education, including early childhood education and programs for students with disabilities
  - ❖ Close the opportunities gap
- ✚ Support the economic, social and physical well-being of all persons
  - ❖ Equitable employment opportunities
  - ❖ Quality dependent care
  - ❖ Safe, affordable housing
  - ❖ Accessible, quality healthcare
  - ❖ Clean, healthy sustainable environment
  - ❖ Protect Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid
- ✚ Gun violence is a public health and safety crisis – all people should have a right to privacy and freedom from violence
- ✚ End racial, ethnic and gender injustice
- ✚ End human trafficking and provide mutual security for all

**Biennial Action Priorities**

**To support a strong system of public education** that supports gender fairness, equity, diversity and inclusion and addresses barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women and girls, AAUW supports the following actions:

- Strengthening and enforcing Title IX
- Providing adequate and equitable education funding
- Encouraging STEM education
- Reducing the education debt burden

**To achieve economic security** for all women, AAUW supports the following actions:

- Providing pay equity and fairness in compensation and benefits
- Providing equitable access to advancement in employment
- Closing the gender and race gaps in leadership opportunities
- Increasing the number of quality jobs that pay a living wage
- Providing access for all women to a full range of health care services to ensure economic security
- Strengthening retirement benefits and programs
- Strengthening support programs, including welfare and career and technical education
- Providing workforce training, education, and support (including non-traditional occupations and women's entrepreneurship)

***Continued on next page . . . . .***

*The Inside Scoop continued . . . . .*

**To guarantee equality**, including rights and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society, AAUW supports the following actions:

- Enforcement and full access to civil and constitutional rights, including affirmative action and expanding voting rights
- Complete, accurate, and timely collection of data to inform policy decisions
- Self-determination of one's reproductive health decisions
- Universal access to quality, affordable health care
- Freedom from violence and fear of violence
- Freedom in the definition of self and family
- Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment
- Support for UN programs that address human rights and the concerns of women and girls



**Public Policy**

**Laurie Driscoll**

*laurdris@att.net*

Advocacy is important to AAUW. Two issues that AAUW strongly supports are the Equal Rights Amendment and the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. The following information is from the AAUW website (aauw.org).

**Affirm the Equal Rights Amendment**

It has been a century since the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was introduced, and despite some progress, women's equality is still at risk due to fluctuating legislative decisions. You can take action now by sending a message urging your Congress members to support ERA Now (H.J. Res. 82) for certifying the ERA as the 28th Amendment, ensuring women's rights are fully codified.

**John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 14)**

With so much at stake each time we head to the ballot box, it is crucial that everyone can make their voice heard. The *John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 14)* responds to the wave of voter suppression tactics enacted over the past decade with critical protections to ensure the freedom to vote for all.

The easiest way to contact your legislators can be by using the *AAUW Two-Minute Activist*. To sign up for that, go to the *Advocacy* page of aauw.org.



**History and Cuisine of the Spice Routes**

**Peggy Connolly**

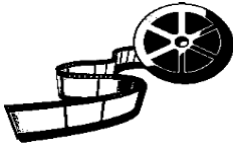
*connolly.peggy@gmail.com*



Every November since 1984, Cuba has celebrated the Havana Art Biennial. With every nook and cranny of Havana's walls & streets filled with installations, the city becomes one rambunctious art gallery. In addition to art, the Biennial features film, master artist workshops, and academic presentations. On Thursday, November 9 at 6:00 pm, Spice Routes honors the Biennial with a Cuban feast.

Please let Peggy Connolly know by November 2 what exotic dish you will bring to share

## Our Branch Fundraising Activities



### Fundraising Walks

**Carolyn Oesterle**

*csoesterle@gmail.com*

The September 22, 2023 Fundraising Walk was a huge success. Thanks to all who participated and contributed!! The weather was good, the treats were fine, the fellowship was wonderful, and *Trivia* by Patricia was outstanding. Thanks to our generous Branch members, we collected \$2375.00. After subtracting coffee and donuts, we netted \$2286.75. This will go into our Opportunities Fund to contribute to local scholarships and AAUW National initiatives. Cannot wait until next year. Three Cheers for the Walk!!!

### Book Sale

**Karla Bullett**

*wikabull2@gmail.com*

**Used Book Donation:** Marcia Hulan, a Naperville resident, has offered us her book collection. Ewa Bacon and I visited Marcia on Thursday, September 28, to see the 2,000 books she has; the exact number she plans to donate is unknown because she and her husband have not gone through all of them yet. Ewa can tell you it is a wonderful collection.

I have agreed with Marcia Hulan to pick up the books on Saturday, December 2, exact time to be determined. She will have them boxed up for us, no packing required. The boxes Marcia is using are considerably smaller than a Banker's box; when filled, they are about the same weight as the shopping bags we used last year.

Your assistance is needed to both store the books until next year's sale and to transport these books to the homes of members who can store them. To lighten the load, invite your grandchildren to spend some quality time with you while lifting boxes. And if you know of any teenagers who need some community service hours, please let them know of this opportunity. ***Please contact me if you can assist with transporting books and/or storing books.***

**Book Sale location:** The site and dates for the 2024 sale have not been finalized. Because of construction projects scheduled for next summer, no school buildings are available for us to rent in districts 41, 89, or 44. We are currently negotiating with two churches in Glen Ellyn and with Community Unit School District (CUSD) 200, which includes Wheaton and Warrenville.



**AAUW Online Team:** We are a team! Patricia Spence at [pspence101@aol.com](mailto:pspence101@aol.com) takes the lead on *Facebook* and Tracy Kline [trakli@msn.com](mailto:trakli@msn.com) keeps the website up to date. Jane Palmer is the Board Liaison and backs up Patricia and Tracy as needed. Please take photos at Branch events and send them to both Patricia and Tracy.

**What's New on the Website?** In recent weeks, we have been reviewing several pages and making updates, as needed.

- Book groups are up to date.
- Branch meeting dates and speakers for the year are described on the *Branch Meetings* page.
- The *Fall Fundraiser* page has new pictures, including several from past years.
- On the *Public Policy* page, you can find an updated *Contact Your Legislators* chart.
- The *Join* page includes the updated *Branch Brochure* and a *Membership Application*.
- The *About Us* page includes a history of the Branch, including pictures.

Soon, we will have a page dedicated to our new *Great Decisions Interest Group*. We have also been promised more recent photos for our *Film Group* page.

**What Else is on the Website?** The website's primary purpose is to provide information for the public. We hope that prospective members will find our website and after reviewing our mission and our activities, will contact us and join. And, we also have a *Members Only* page. (It is password protected. Just enter *twigs* and you are there.)

Here is a list of what you can find by clicking around on the *Members Only* page:

- The AIR Study Group (Aging – Information and Resources) has prepared lists of *member recommendations* in several areas which are available to members.
- Twigs Newsletters, current and archived.
- Branch Online Directory
  - Member Contact Listing
  - Other Member Information (Degrees, etc.)
- General Information about the Branch (formerly included in the Directory)
  - Branch Leadership: Names and Email addresses of Officers and Chairs
  - Past Branch Presidents and Liaisons: List of the Branch's Past Presidents and Liaisons since 1956.
  - How to Contact AAUW: Contact information for National AAUW, AAUW of Illinois and the Branch.
- Branch Documents (including Bylaws and Policy Handbook) and forms
- Board Meeting Minutes and Financial Reports

If you have any questions or suggestions about our online presence, please contact Jane Palmer ().



Fall is here! That means that award contenders are coming to theaters. One movie I am really looking forward to is *Killers of the Flower Moon*, which was released in late October. It will be our selection for discussion at my home on Friday, November 10. Please join us!

## AIR: Aging/Information & Resources

Our Study Group posts information about Health Care Resources, Home Services Providers, Housing Information for Seniors as well as Specialized Care Centers. You can access this information in the password protected AAUW website under the *Members Only* segments.

We are adding a new list this month: **Transportation**. AIR Study Group member, Peggy Connolly, has organized the **Traveling Teams**. You can contact a listed Branch member to arrange trips to medical providers who require that you be accompanied to an appointment or procedure. We hope this will prove helpful!

### FYI:

- Suzanne Gagner informs us that **Relocation Services in St. Charles/Caring Transitions** can provide help and information for downsizing and relocation. Contact Victoria Spirizzi at 630.313.2356.
- Pamela Johnson notes that the **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau** has an active webinar series on **Combatting Elder Financial Exploitation (CFPB)**. The CFPB offers many services and among them is the office for older Americans at [olderamericans@cfpb.gov](mailto:olderamericans@cfpb.gov).
- Please let the **AIR Study Group** know about services and issues of concern to older adults. For instance, a new women's health clinic has opened its doors in Wheaton: **MyMenopauseRx**. If you have contact with these physicians and wish to have them listed among our resources, please drop me a note.



### Cultural Arts

**Laura Desmarais & Patricia Spence**

[lkdesmarais@gmail.com](mailto:lkdesmarais@gmail.com) [pspence101@aol.com](mailto:pspence101@aol.com)

The Cultural Arts committee is coordinating and sharing a variety of events this year. Remember to contact one of us to join our group email list. This will ensure that you receive all up to date information. We are asking everyone to purchase their own event tickets. We will coordinate group gatherings before or after the event.

### Upcoming Cultural Arts Events

#### ❖ **All Things Equal-The Life and Trials of Ruth Bader Ginsburg:**

Sunday, March 3, 4:00 pm

McAninch Arts Center, College of DuPage, 425 Fawell Boulevard, Glen Ellyn

This is a heads up. Even though the event is in March, tickets are going fast. Cultural Arts is coordinating dinner afterwards. Purchase your own ticket. Let us know you plan to attend so that you will receive information about the after event dinner gathering.

#### ❖ **David Saliamonas will Perform Two Concerts at the Piano:**

Friday, December 1 and Saturday, December 2, 7:00 pm

626 Newton Ave, Glen Ellyn

Performance Fee: \$50.00, includes intermission with light eats and time to mingle

Contact Eleanor at 630.858.3486 or [esaliamonas@gmail.com](mailto:esaliamonas@gmail.com) to purchase a ticket. Space is limited. Make reservations early!

Many of us have been fortunate to hear David perform. We know him as Eleanor's son! David will perform works by Liszt, Chopin, Bach and others. David plays with great intensity and feeling. He speaks about the music that he performs in an informal yet informative way. He explains various aspect of the music – not hesitating to recount an amusing anecdote or to demonstrate a compositional technique at the keyboard





*Wheaton - Glen Ellyn AAUW  
Holiday Open House*

*Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm*

*Nancy Possinger's home  
26 Wo70 MacArthur Avenue  
Carol Stream, IL 60188*

*Come one, come all to enjoy some holiday cheer with your friends while munching on some delectable delights and reflecting on all the great AAUW happenings from the past year. This event is no charge; all we ask is for a donation of your choice from the following:*

*(FYI: your contributions do not need to be homemade; store bought is perfectly fine!!)*

- Appetizer*
- Dessert*
- Beverage*

*Please RSVP that you will be attending and what item(s) you would like to donate to:*

*Karen Schulz at karenjschulz@gmail.com*

*If you have already signed up to bring something, then you do not need to contact us again. Thanks!*

*Regarding hearing from our Opportunities Fund speaker, as we have done at our December event in the past, we are saving a special spot to highlight them as our speaker for the Showcase Branch Meeting next September. What better way to show off the benefits of our AAUW contributions!*



## 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 November 3 book selection will be *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano. It is a quick-moving story featuring a family of four Italian sisters from Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood and a love interest who attends Northwestern University. Discussion leader will be Suzanne Gagner. We will meet at the Glen Ellyn Public Library at 9:30 am in the North Meeting Room. Bring a treat to share if you so desire.

December 1 Selection: *The Marriage Portrait* by Maggie O'Farrell

### PM Lit

**Susie Gullickson**

*gullish.1955@gmail.com*

In the spirit of Veteran's Day, our November selection is *We Had Wings* by Ariel Lawhon, a story about a trio of nurses stationed in the South Pacific during World War II. Caught in the crosshairs of a fight between the U.S military and Japanese Army for control of the Philippine Islands, the nurses are forced to serve under combat conditions and, ultimately, endure captivity as the first female prisoners of the Second World War. This is a story of resiliency and hope based on the true experiences of the nurses dubbed *The Angels of Bataan*.

Join us on Monday, November 20, 7:00 pm at Laura Desmarais' home (1323 Shagbark Lane, Wheaton). Phyllis Fogel will be the discussion leader.

### PM Non-Fiction

**Ewa Bacon**

*baconew@lewisu.edu*

We are meeting on Wednesday, November 15 at 7:00 pm in the home of Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann, 373 Oak Street, Glen Ellyn. Please note that this is a change from our previously announced site. Patty Mugavero will cohost. Please RSVP at [Marilyn.mayer@gmail.com](mailto:Marilyn.mayer@gmail.com).

Sheila Perry will lead our discussion of Stacy Schiff's *The Revolutionary Samuel Adams*. A reviewer writes: *Schiff narrates the birth of the American Revolution in Boston and the artful, elusive magician who made it all happen: Samuel Adams. For too long, Adams, hiding behind his many masks and stratagems, has evaded historians.* If you think you know the main players of the revolution well, think again! John Adams greatly admired his cousin's tactics and insights. Stacy Schiff, a Pulitzer Prize winner, writes a fast moving, well researched story with her usual verve and skill.

Our upcoming meeting on December 13, is devoted solely to choosing books for 2024 and enjoying a lot of cookies. Send me your nominations for next year's books. We need to choose six titles.



**Joint Board Meeting—Happy 50th Booksale Year—June 10, 2011**

A happy meeting of two Branch boards exchanging files, sharing information, and enjoying the celebration of the 50th Branch Used Book Sale.



L to R: Laura Desmarais, Jan Radil



L to R: J. Radil, S. Garney, S. Langguth, K. Thatcher, K. McCullough, S. Yarema, S. Herrmann, L. Johansen.

**Editor's Note:** *More photos to come in next issue. File was too large to email with additional photos in this issue.*

**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

<b>Editor:</b>	<b>Kathleen McCullough</b>
<b>Proofreader:</b>	<b>Ruth Schumacher</b>
<b>AAUW Online:</b>	<b>Jane Palmer</b>
<b>Website Editor:</b>	<b>Tracy Kline</b>

*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!***