

A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

As the leaves are falling and the temperature is dropping, it is a time to reflect on the fall and begin to think about the upcoming winter. The speakers at our first three Branch meetings were exceptional! A big shout out of gratitude goes to our wonderful Vice Presidents for Programs – Jean Lindsey and Patty Mugavero for arranging such fascinating programs for us.

Nancy Possinger, Co-President, had the opportunity to attend the two and a half day AAUW Central States Regional Conference in October in St. Louis, along with Maureen Sheehan, Laura Desmarais, Lisa Cherry, and Donna Jean Simon. Major Keynote Speakers, such as Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO; Lisa Maatz, Gender Equity Specialist and Independent Consultant; Meghan Kissel, AAUW Senior Public Policy Director, brought their own perspectives through several presentations throughout the days of the conference.

Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO, spoke on a variety of topics and had a dedicated Q & A Town Hall session fielding questions submitted from the audience. She gave an AAUW National update about how AAUW is very involved in pushing forward with legislation imperative to membership. She also discussed the successes and challenges faced by nonprofits and their leaders within the current environment.

Lisa Maatz addressed challenges facing Member-Driven Organizations. The challenges are many, for example: member loyalty has softened across the board and organizations are competing for members' time. She spoke about new perspectives, how to identify the challenges, how to assess shifting values, and develop workable solutions. She also talked about strengthening advocacy by working across generational lines and to have generations work together to advance women's rights in these rapidly changing times.

Meghan Kissel believes that everyone should have a voice and thus she believes in grassroots advocacy work of AAUW's membership network. She is a strong proponent of *Two Minute Activist*, a vehicle for members to choose to get the information about pending legislation. To join *Two Minute Activist*, go to AAUW.org, click on *Take Action*, and then click on *Two Minute Activist*.

In subsequent issues of *Twigs*, we will include other topics of interest from the conference, such as, *AAUW Counterpart Sessions*, a forum that allowed members in various capacities to share their best practices; *Swap Sessions*; *Causes of Gender Wage Gap*; and what will AAUW look like in five or ten years.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our Holiday Open House on December 6th!

Please see the invitation for the Holiday Open House in this edition of *Twigs*.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS from Nancy Possinger and Karen Schulz

Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	TIME	INFORMATION
Dec. 1	AM Lit	9:30 am	Glen Ellyn Public Library, First Floor Meeting Rooms, 400 Duane Street, Glen Ellyn.
Dec. 6	Holiday Open House	4:00 pm to 8:00 pm	Deadline to Reserve: November 30. Nancy Possinger, 26W070 MacArthur Avenue, Carol Stream.
Dec. 7	Cultural Arts Buffalo Theater Ensemble	6:00 pm 8:00 pm	Pre-Theater: Peggy Connolly, 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton. Curtain: MacAninch Arts Center, College of DuPage 425 Fawell Boulevard, Glen Ellyn.
Dec. 8	Film Group	7:00 pm	Anne and Joe Hanley, 679 Forest Avenue, Glen Ellyn.
Dec. 13	PM Non-Fiction	7:00 pm	Ewa Bacon, 405 W Front Street, #305, Wheaton.
Dec 18	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Marie Corcoran, 31 Hawkins Circle, Wheaton.
Jan. 3, 2024	AM Non-Fiction	10:00 am	Sue Herrmann, 403 Wyndemere Circle, Wheaton.



Membership

Sarah Allen & Susan Hagerty

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

Membership currently stands at 114 members. Please consider bringing a friend to an upcoming Branch event. Personal invitations are always the best way to introduce someone to the unique opportunities and various activities of our Branch. Dedicated, active members are at the core of a successful organization. At this time of year, we especially want to thank ALL of our members for their engagement with AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch!

Member Contact List Update: Our Branch website membership list is current as of November 20, 2023. Please send any changes to your contact information to Sue Hagerty or Sarah Allen at above email addresses.

New Member Introduction: Kathy Wingle was a longtime Schaumburg resident having taught fifth and sixth grades in Palatine District 15 for many years. She received her degree in elementary education from Northern Illinois University. Kathy moved to Glen Ellyn four years ago and loves its sense of community. She loves to cook, travel and read and recently joined the AM Fiction Book Group, encouraged by Branch member Marilyn Mauritz. Kathy is also highly interested in joining the Non-Fiction Book Group as well.

Her extensive travels have taken her on a wonderful ancestry tour to Croatia and Slovenia where she discovered much about her family's history and an exciting three week trip to Australia this Spring. Kathy has an adult daughter and three grandchildren nearby that keep her engaged and active. We are pleased to have Kathy as a new member to our Branch. **Welcome Kathy!**

Kathy Wingle

477 Kenilworth
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Phone: 847.772.8052
Email: Kwingler17@gmail.com



Great news here! The Branch Board discussed and approved the funding for our local scholarship recipients at the October meeting. We will award four \$2500 scholarships to deserving senior girls from each of our feeder high schools: Glenbard South and Glenbard West and Wheaton North and Wheaton-Warrenville South. We have contacted the counselors in charge of local scholarships and they are all anxious to work with us to find the right young women.

We also approved funding to go to National AAUW – in the same amount as last year and to the same funds. All our hard work at the Used Book Sale is continuing our mission of encouraging further education for women.

Additionally, we will not have a December speaker representing a scholarship or grant recipient, but will instead have a speaker, to be determined, at our September kick-off meeting. We look forward to that opportunity.



Illinois General Assembly Fall Veto Session

The Illinois General Assembly ended the Fall 2023 veto session on November 9, 2023. There were two items on the agenda that have been supported by AAUW Public Policy Priorities.

SB 2633, also called Karina's bill, aimed to strengthen the current law requiring judges to issue a gun seizure order when an emergency order of protection is issued in a domestic violence case. According to an article in the *Chicago Sun-Times* on November 8, 2023, the bill was not called for a vote during the veto session because of unresolved questions of enforcement if this bill became law. Supporters of the bill expect to refile it in the next General Assembly session. I urge our members to continue contacting legislators in support of this bill.

Also not voted on was an extension of the *Invest in Kids Scholarship Tax Credit Program*. Lawmakers received many calls and visits, both for and against the program. However, it was not called for a vote and so the program sunsets at the end of 2023. AAUW has opposed this bill because it lessens tax dollars available for funding public schools.

Two bills that AAUW neither supported nor opposed passed in the veto session. One bill lifts the 36-year-old moratorium on building new nuclear power plants. The governor vetoed the version that passed in the spring session but is expected to sign this version of the bill. The legislators also passed a bill that would modernize the *Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR)*. This department has had a major backlog of licensing health professionals, especially since the end of the COVID pandemic.

The next session of the Illinois General Assembly convenes on January 16, 2024.



*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 by November 30* that you will attend 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!

AIR: Aging/Information & Resources
Ewa Bacon

The study group Aging/Information & Resources is working on finalizing a document on End-of-Life issues which will include the definition for a number of legal documents to protect your wishes and intentions.

FYI:

- DuPage County has an *Ombudsman* service which deals with the rights of residents in a long-term care facility. You can find consumer rights and constitutional and legal rights of persons living in nursing homes. For Ombudsman services in Long Term Care facilities, you can call 1.800.942.9412. You can call DuPage County Community Services at 630.407.6500 for more information about rights of persons living in nursing homes.
- Metropolitan Family Services DuPage provides services for Seniors and their Families caring for aging relatives, adults with disabilities and grandparents raising grandchildren. Contact www.metrofamily.org or 630.784.4802

Do not forget that you can get transportation help for medical procedures from *Traveling Teams* on our Branch website.



December Cultural Arts Event
Buffalo Theater Ensemble (BTE) Presents:
Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley
Thursday, December 7
College of DuPage MacAninch Arts Center (MAC),
425 Fawell Boulevard, Glen Ellyn
Peggy Connolly

Two years after their marriage, the Darcys host the Bennet sisters for Christmas. Mary, the wallflower among the vibrant Bennet sisters, is resigned to the life of a spinster, when an unexpected visitor arrives: Arthur de Bourgh, the bookish heir of Rosings. It seems a perfect match until Lydia - as determined a flirt as ever lived, and Anne de Bourgh – determined to lay claim to the nerdy Lord de Bourgh and hence to reclaim Rosings, arrive.

If you loved *Pride and Prejudice*, you'll want to see *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*. ***Please be sure to RSVP to Peggy Connolly at connolly.peggy@gmail.com if you plan to attend the preshow gathering.***

Tickets can be purchased online at atthemac.org or at the box office (no extra fees if purchased here). Check the website for box office hours.

BTE Preshow Gathering: 6:00 pm at 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton.
Hearty appetizers and wine to share are most welcome!

Curtain: 8:00 pm



AAUW Online Team: We are a team! Patricia Spence at pspence101@aol.com takes the lead on Facebook and Tracy Kline at trakli@msn.com keeps the website up to date. Jane Palmer is the Board Liaison and backs up Patricia and Tracy as needed.

This year we are also helping to publicize Branch meetings. For the November Meeting (*Who are the New Neighbors?*), We set the meeting up as a *Facebook* event and asked *Facebook* members to click *interested* and *going*. Next, we posted the meeting details on the *Branch Facebook* page and shared it with several community groups. In addition, meeting details were posted as a *Featured Event* on *Patch.com* for Wheaton and Glen Ellyn. Our report from *Patch*, tells us that over 62,000 readers were exposed to our event. This in itself was pretty impressive but I also heard that two *Glen Ellyn Patch* reporters attended the event! Even if only a few who saw the publicity actually came to the meeting, there are now many others out there who have heard of AAUW and are aware that we present great speakers at our meetings.

How can you help publicize Branch meetings? When you see our publicity on Facebook, please *Like* it and share with your friends and any groups that you are in. *Patch.com* operates the same way – you can click on *interested* or you can share with friends.

Finally, help us keep the website and our *Facebook* page fresh by taking photos at Branch events and forwarding to both Patricia and Tracy.

Reminder: The password for the website's *Members Only* page is *twigs*.

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



Our next gathering is on Friday, December 8, where we will discuss.....*something*. I have looked ahead at coming releases and think that *Napoleon* is a possibility. Other films out as I write this are *Priscilla* and *The Holdovers*. Let us see what comes out by the beginning of December. As always, film selection will go out via email the weekend before our meeting.

Looking ahead to the new year, I will host the January 2024 meeting but will be out of town in February. Please consider hosting!



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 Book Sale.

More pictures from last month



L to R: Linda Johansen, Marilyn Wiedemann, Patricia Walton



L to R: Judy Sims, Phyllis Fogel, Maureen Sheehan



Bottom to Top: Lindy Pond, Barb Isom, Sue Balk, Jane Palmer



L to R: Sue Langguth, Kathy Mccullough, Sue Herrmann, Kimberly Thacker, Karen Bondy, Sherry Yarema

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.





Our Branch Book Groups

AM Lit

Donna Staples

donnastaples5050@gmail.com

Friday, December 1 at 9:30 am, we meet at the Glen Ellyn Public Library to review *The Marriage Portrait* by Maggie O'Farrell. Jane Palmer will lead our discussion about the very brief marriage within 16th century Italian nobility.

January selection: *The Whalebone Theater* by Joanna Quinn

PM Lit

Susie Gullickson

gullish.1955@gmail.com

Our December selection is from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker*, Jennifer Chiaverini. *Resistance Women* is an enthralling historical saga that recreates the danger, romance, and sacrifice of an era and brings to life one courageous, passionate American, Mildred Fish Harmack, and her circle of women friends who waged a clandestine battle against Hitler in Nazi Berlin.

Join us on Monday, December 18, 7:00 pm at Marie Corcoran's home, 31 Hawkins Circle, Wheaton. Patricia Bernhold will be our discussion leader.

AM Non-Fiction

Sue Herrmann

sherrmann710@gmail.com

Important Note: Our next meeting of the 2023-24 year is **January 3, 2024 at 10:00 am. We usually meet on the 4th Wednesday of every other month. But due to the Holidays, we have moved our meeting to January 3, 2024.**

We will read *This is What it Sounds Like, What Music You Love Says About You* by Susan Rogers. Books will be available on December 1, 2023 at the Glen Ellyn Public Library on the second floor Book Groups section. Susan Scown is the discussion leader and I will host the meeting (403 Wyndemere Circle, Wheaton). Please contact me at 630.234.1941 if you plan to attend.

PM Non-Fiction

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

We are gathering at 7:00 pm on December 13 at the home of Ewa Bacon (405 West Front Street, #305, Wheaton) to have our *Book Selection Night for 2024*. No books to be read for this meeting! Bring a holiday treat to share! Libations will be provided.

But, Before We Meet: Send me your book candidates so that we can discuss the merits of the many fantastic books out there: biographies, travelogues, histories, science discoveries, war stories, pet stories; we cover the gamut of non-fiction books. We will take votes and relax with another glass of wine. Send your book candidates to baconew@lewisu.edu and please, RSVP, if you are attending.

Glennette Turner's 90th Birthday Celebration



Pictured are some of the twelve Branch members who attended the 90th Birthday Celebration for Glennette Turner on November 20 at the DuPage Historical Museum. Glennette, a Branch member since 1978, was awarded a lifetime achievement award by the Illinois State Historical Society for her work as an historian of the Underground Railroad in Illinois.



The Twigs Team

Editor:	Kathleen McCullough
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AAUW Online:	Jane Palmer
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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