

### A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

Winter is here! We have been blanketed by a soft layer of snow. As we are staying warm inside, we are still basking in the glow from the recent Branch meeting with Dr. Alexis Culotta discussing women artists and women patrons of the arts. What a fascinating talk! Thanks to modern technology, we could all enjoy it from the comfort of our homes.

As our new year begins, we want to give a big shout out to our Secretary, Janet Miller, who came over from the Lombard Branch and has done a wonderful job keeping our Branch organized and informed. Another person who needs to be thanked is Maureen Sheehan. As our treasurer for the past (about) four years, and with a flair for numbers, we have had our finances well cared for. Thanks to you both for contributing to our Branch, your service has been invaluable!

As we promised in a previous Twigs article, we would like to share some thoughts and ideas to ponder that we picked up from the AAUW Regional Conference in October. One of the *Swap Sessions* at the conference was entitled *We Love Our Yard Signs*. Our immediate reaction when we saw that title was *Yes, we have our Book Sale, and we love our yard signs too because the yard signs always shine as one of the major ways in which our public finds out about our Book Sale*. With the Book Sale itself, we get a month-long advertisement about our Branch, considering we have about 100 yard signs that are pervasive throughout our catchment area and the Book Sale itself is a walking-talking promotion of our group. This session, presented by the Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch in Missouri, talked about the idea of using vehicles throughout the year as non-partisan tools to introduce the AAUW name to people who are still not familiar with the organization. That got us thinking about what opportunities we have initiated or expanded to broaden our footprint. Our AAUW Online team has expanded its reach with their magnificent advertisements for our Branch presentations, books groups, etc. This has been a good tool to invite the public to attend an event and want to join our Branch. Our website and *Facebook* team have done a stupendous job including write ups and pictures of our events to attract new members at every opportunity. We also have a prominent place in the Glen Ellyn July 4th Parade where our members march; our signs and our banners are on display for the entire community to see.

As we have begun 2024, let us think about what else we can be doing throughout the year to reach out to our communities to share our mission of gender equity and economic security and to continue to welcome our friends and neighbors into our membership. Let us make it our goal to enhance our visibility and effectiveness even further in this new year.

*In service with you,  
Nancy Possinger and Karen Schulz*

## Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	TIME	INFORMATION
Jan. 30	Great Decisions Grp #2	7:00 pm	Carol Ginger, 44 Tanglewood Dr., Glen Ellyn
Jan. 30	Great Decisions Grp. #3	1:00 pm	Alison Hayes, 23W255 St. James Court, Wheaton.
Feb. 1	Great Decisions Grp. #1	1:00 pm	Peggy Connolly, 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton.
Feb. 2	AM Lit	9:30 am	Glen Ellyn Public Library, First Floor Meeting Rooms, 400 Duane St., Glen Ellyn.
Feb. 2	Book Sale Committee	1:30 pm	Glen Ellyn Public Library, 400 Duane St., Glen Ellyn.
Feb. 7	Branch Meeting	7:00 pm	Wheaton Public Library, 225 N. Cross St., Wheaton & ZOOM.
Feb. 9	Film Group	7:00 pm	Eleanor Saliamonas, 626 Newton Ave., Glen Ellyn.
Feb. 14	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	ZOOM
Feb. 15	Buffalo Theater Ensemble <i>The Outgoing Tide</i>	6:00 pm 8:00 pm	Pre-Theater Gathering: Peggy Connolly, 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton. Curtain: 8:00 pm, MAC, College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn.
Feb. 19	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Marie Corcoran, 31 Hawkins Circle, Wheaton.
Feb. 28	AM Non-Fiction	10:00 am	Laura Desmarais, 1323 Shagbark Lane, Wheaton.



### Programs

**Jean Lindsey & Patty Mugavero**

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

### February Branch Program

***Free People Read Freely: Advocate for the Freedom to Read!***

**Speaker: Joyce McIntosh**

**Wheaton Public Library**

**6:45 pm, Wednesday, February 7**



Plan on attending our stimulating February 7 Branch Program, *Free People Read Freely: Advocate for the Freedom to Read!* We will meet at 6:45 pm at the Wheaton Public Library. Our speaker, Joyce McIntosh, will discuss many relevant aspects of book banning including the current state of challenges to library materials that is taking place throughout the United States. Joyce will also explore how the First Amendment is related to our public and school libraries and she will share ways for AAUW members to advocate on behalf of intellectual freedom in our community.

Indeed, Joyce McIntosh knows firsthand the danger facing many libraries and readers. She is currently the *Assistant Director for the Freedom to Read Foundation*, an organization dedicated to First Amendment education, litigation, and advocacy. Her background and education in journalism and library and information science have led her to work for newspapers, non-profits, and for two decades in libraries.

The Wheaton Public Library will display some of the books which have been banned. They will be available for you to check out. This will be a program worthy of fighting the elements of nature!



## **New Member Introductions**

### **Maria Hatton**

We are very happy to introduce Maria Hatton to our Branch!

Maria grew up in Milwaukee, lived in Albuquerque, New Mexico briefly but settled back in the Chicago area in the late 1980's. Doing the classic balancing act of attending school part-time and taking care of family, Maria attended College of DuPage and finished at Elmhurst College, where she graduated with a BA in English. Teaching was her first love, and she was a substitute teacher in the Glenbard District for a few years. She eventually transitioned to the business world, moving up the ranks in the field of accounting, where she continues her 26+ years in the construction industry.

With a sweet spot for Women's issues, STEM and of course, reading, Maria is looking forward to participating in our numerous AAUW groups. She was a member for one day and was already on Zoom enjoying our January program *Let's Hear it for the Ladies!*

Maria recently moved to Wheaton where she is often found chasing her two grandchildren. Welcome Maria!

Maria's contact information:

Maria Hatton	Primary phone: 630-247-7047
1242 Folkstone Court	Email: <a href="mailto:maria.hatton@gmail.com">maria.hatton@gmail.com</a>
Wheaton, IL 60189	

## **AIR: Aging/Information and Resources Ewa Bacon**

### **Why do we have a Branch Study Group called Aging/Information and Resources?**

We are responding to statistics which impact us all. The Washington Post (December 8, 2023): *Roughly half of the 5.9 million American age 85 and older are living with family, including spouses and adult children, while more than 40 percent live alone, including in independent living or assistant-living facilities. A quarter live in multigenerational households, with people of two more generations under the same roof, and about 8 percent live in nursing homes or memory care facilities.*

Please check our Branch AIR website for local retirement homes, reliable services for your home, health care options, and transportation options. These are services which we have used and can attest to. Call the person listed for more information.

**FYI:** AARP-IL is offering two virtual programs via *Facebook* and *YouTube*:

- Feb 9, (10:00 am to 10:30 am) *Estate Planning for Seniors*
- March 22 (10:00 am to 10:30 am) *Elder Law Bootcamp: Legal Strategies for Seniors*

## Our Branch Fundraising Activities



Book Sale

Karla Bullett

wikabull2@gmail.com

### 2024 Used Book Sale

I have not provided an update since November, and there has been a lot happening!

**Donation:** On Saturday, December 2, a group of us transported books from the home of David and Marcia Hulan in Naperville to a storage unit located in Wheaton which is rented by Nancy and Frank Possinger. This was an awesome adventure and gives us a great start on book collection for this year's sale.

Photos are posted on the Branch *Facebook* page:

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=wheaton-glen%20ellyn%20aauw%20>

**Committee Meeting:** We will meet at 1:30 pm on Friday, February 2, at the Glen Ellyn Public Library, 440 Duane Street. The AM Lit group will be meeting at the library that morning, so the location and timing are perfect!

Whether you have an *official* role on the committee or not, every member is a Book Sale committee member, and all of us can provide valuable insight and knowledge to this effort, so please join us! OR...if you are not a *committee* person but have an idea, a suggestion, a question, PLEASE speak up! I can assure you that all of us who have worked on multiple book sales over many years can tell you there is no *right* way, and some of the best ideas come out of brainstorming and sharing ideas.

**Book Sale Location:** The site and dates for the 2024 sale have not been finalized, but we are very close. The location search has been an epic endeavor, and many people have worked on this challenge, including myself, Carolyn Oesterle, Nancy Possinger, Ewa Bacon, Karen Schulz and Maureen Sheehan.

**Dates:** Barring some incredible unforeseen event, the dates of the 2024 Book Sale will be June 20 to 22, the same weekend as the 2023 sale.



## **Great Decisions**

**Peggy Connolly, Peggy McGrath, Carol Ginger, Alison Hayes**

*connolly.peggy@gmail.com, anydots@aol.com, cranston166@gmail.com, sw1alihay@comcast.net*

What excellent and pithy analyses the timely Great Decisions topics provide. The topic for the second discussion will be ***Global Trade and Green Energy***.

- Group #1 will meet at Peggy Connolly's home at 1:00 pm February 1.
- The February meeting for Groups #2 and #3 will actually be January 30:
  - Group #2 will meet at Carol Ginger's home at 7:00 pm,
  - Group #3 will meet at Alison Hayes' home at 1:00 pm.

The March topic will be ***Risky Science across Borders***:

- Group #1 will meet March 7.
- Groups #2 & #3 will meet March 5.

This is a bit complex due to the high level of interest and late delivery date for the briefing book. It should be smooth sailing from here, and what stimulating discussions we will have! **PLEASE BE SURE TO RSVP** so the hosts know how many to expect.



## **Historian**

**Marilyn Wiedemann**

*marilyn.mayer@gmail.com*

### **More Photos From the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**



Jane Palmer, Maureen Becker, Deanna Pandolfi, Pat Kaczor



#### **The HealthTrack Connection**

Front Row: Sherry Yarema, Sue Langguth

Second Row: Maureen Sheehan, Susan Flater, Sharon Garney, Phyllis Fogel, Donna Jennings, Arlene Coles

Third Row: Joanne Rowland, Judy Sims, Margaret McGrath



The AAUW Online team undertook a new initiative last month. The Branch's Program VPs, Jean Lindsey and Patty Mugavero, asked us to use our *Facebook* presence to publicize the January all-zoom Branch Meeting, *Let's Hear it for the Ladies*. This is what we did.

On Facebook, we first set it up as a Facebook Event and shared this event in the usual way with those who follow our Branch Facebook page. Last year, to help publicize the Book Sale, Patricia Spence and I had joined many *Facebook* groups that share community information. These groups include *What's Happening in Wheaton, IL*, *Glen Ellyn-Wheaton Neighbors*, *What's Happening in DuPage County*, *What's Going on in Wheaton*, *Wheaton Moms*, *What's Happening in GE 2*, and *What's Happening in Wheaton, Glen Ellyn, Winfield and Warrenville*. Patricia and I have joined as individuals. (Patricia joined Glen Ellyn groups and I joined Wheaton groups.) As a member of a group, we can share our AAUW events with a personal comment, such as, *This sounds like a great program*. This *Facebook* initiative, along with publicizing the Branch Meeting on the Wheaton and Glen Ellyn Patch websites, proved very successful. Seven guests registered to join the Zoom meeting. We will do this again for the February hybrid meeting and hope to have similar success.

We are looking for help from Branch members from Lombard or communities other than Wheaton and Glen Ellyn who are willing to join their community's *Facebook what's happening* group and share information about our Branch activities. Currently, this means the Branch Meetings but in a couple of months, it will include the Book Sale. I will continue to set up the details as a *Facebook* event. All you will have to do is share it with your group. Please contact Jane or Patricia, if you are interested in helping.

#### Reminders:

- The Member Contact List and other Branch information can be found on the **Members Only** page. (Password is *twigs*.)
- Contact Patricia Spence at [pspence101@aol.com](mailto:pspence101@aol.com) to share pictures of members enjoying Branch activities.
- Send interest group updates to Tracy Kline at [trakli@msn.com](mailto:trakli@msn.com). She continues to keep our website home page fresh with news of upcoming Branch activities.
- Contact Jane Palmer at [jane Palmer@icloud.com](mailto:jane Palmer@icloud.com) if you have questions about website content or if you have any ideas for enhancing the Branch's online presence.



Our January meeting was small because of snow—lots and lots of it—on our planned Friday date, and a deep cold—very, very cold—on our rescheduled Saturday date. Here's to better weather in February! We will gather at the home of Eleanor Saliamonas and Mike Church (thank you to Eleanor and Mike for volunteering!) on Friday, February 9 to discuss...TBD. There are several films vying for an Oscar that we have not yet seen as a group, including *Poor Things*, *Anatomy of a Fall*, *American Fiction*, and *The Zone of Interest*.

Feel free to email your suggestions to me. As always, I will confirm the film selection via email the weekend before our meeting.



## 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*

AM Lit will meet at 9:30 am on Friday, February 2, to discuss *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver at the Glen Ellyn Public Library. Marilyn Mayer Weidemann will lead our group discussion. Though this book is lengthy, it is so well written that you will hardly notice. It discusses the failed foster system, drug addiction, and repetitive life cycles in the contemporary American south.

**March Selection:** *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge.

### PM Lit

**Susie Gullickson**

*gullish.1955@gmail.com*

*Horse* by Geraldine Page is our February selection. Told from the perspective of six characters, *Horse* interweaves the story of the black equestrians who made their white masters fabulously wealthy with those of contemporary young professionals struggling to form relationships despite racial microaggressions and misunderstandings. This is not simply a story of the great racehorse *Lexington*; Brooks' multilayered writing is a powerful history of race relations in the United States.

Join us on Monday, February 19, 7:00 pm at Marie Corcoran's home, 31 Hawkins Circle, Wheaton. Lisa Cherry is the discussion leader and Susan Scown will co-host.

### AM Non-Fiction

**Sue Herrmann**

*sherrmann710@gmail.com*

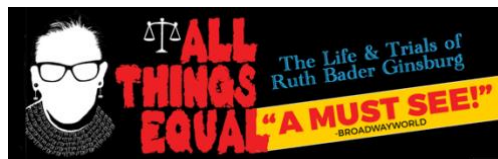
Our next meeting of the 2024 year is Wednesday, February 28 at 10:00 am. We will read *Below the Edge of Darkness: A Memoir of Exploring Light and Life in the Deep Sea* by Edith Widder. Books will be available on February 1 at the Glen Ellyn Public Library.

Carolyn Oesterle is the discussion leader and Laura Desmarais will host the meeting. Please RSVP to Laura at *lkdesmarais@gmail.com*



## Cultural Arts Updates

### All Things Equal: The Life and Trials of Ruth Bader Ginsburg The MAC, College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn Sunday, March 3, 4:00 pm



This one-woman performance stars Michelle Azar as Ruth Bader Ginsburg and is directed by Laley Lippard. Tony Award-winning playwright Rupert Holmes brings the strength, tenacity, sly wit and compassion of the late Supreme Court Justice to the stage in this heartwarming and inspiring production. Celebrate an RBG who is not only *notorious* but victorious as she takes a stand. This is going to be a sold out event. Purchase your tickets today if you have not done so!

If you haven't already, RSVP to the Cultural Arts team if you would like to join us for dinner at Reserve 22 after the show. We will communicate details mid-February.



### Buffalo Theater Ensemble (BTE) Presents: *The Outgoing Tide* MacAninch Art Center (MAC), College of DuPage Thursday, 8:00 pm Performance, February 15 Pre-Theater Gathering, 6:00 pm Peggy Connolly

Jack, new to the Chesapeake coast, asks old-timer Gunner about the neighborhood. Gunner's wife, Peg, can stand it no longer and explains that the young man is not a newcomer, but their son. Gunner is humiliated by his advancing Alzheimer's, Peg is fearful that he will wander off in the night, and although Peg and Jack agree that she can no longer care for him at home, Gunner refuses to go to assisted living. But Gunner has a plan to save both himself and his family. *The Outgoing Tide* takes on the difficult topic of Alzheimer's with humor and dignity. We are so fortunate to have such excellent professional theatre here in our community, and if you have never seen a Buffalo Theatre Ensemble performance, you are in for a treat.

We will meet at Peggy Connolly's home at 6:00 pm on Thursday, February 15 for wine, hors d'oeuvres, and conversation before the 8:00 pm performance at the MAC. Please let Peggy know at [connolly.peggy@gmail.com](mailto:connolly.peggy@gmail.com), if you plan to attend. Contributions of wine and/or hors d'oeuvres are always welcome.



**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!*