

A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

With smiles on our faces and a warmth in our hearts, we reminisce about the Holiday Open House. Thanks to almost 50 people, Nancy's lovely home was filled with holiday cheer and remembrance of the many wonderful events with our Branch during this past year. Speaking of this past year, we want to give a big shout out to our Vice Presidents for Membership, Sarah Allen and Susan Hagerty. They greeted us with smiles as we entered our Branch meetings along with welcoming in several new members.

Nominations are open for the 2024-2025 year for Treasurer and a replacement for one Co-Vice President of Membership. The Nominating Committee consists of Sarah Allen, Susan Hagerty, Sue Herrmann and Patricia Spence. Suggestions are welcome and can be sent to Sarah or Susan as long as you have permission from the person you are nominating. The committee will begin meeting at the beginning of January.

Wishing you and your families a Joyous Holiday Season and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Nancy Possinger and Karen Schulz

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**

Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	TIME	INFORMATION
Jan. 3	AM Non-Fiction	10:00 am	Sue Herrmann, 403 Wyndemere Circle, Wheaton.
Jan. 5	AM Lit	9:30 am	Glen Ellyn Public Library, First Floor Meeting Rooms, 400 Duane Street, Glen Ellyn.
Jan. 10	Branch Meeting	6:45 pm	ZOOM
Jan. 12	Film Group	7:00 pm	Anne and Joe Hanley, 679 Forest Avenue, Glen Ellyn.
Jan. 15	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Susie Gullickson, 1510 Paula Avenue, Wheaton.
Jan 17	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	ZOOM
Jan. 18	Spice Routes	6:00 pm	Peggy Connolly, 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton.
Jan. 24	PM Non-Fiction	7:00 pm	Peggy Connolly, 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton.



Programs

Jean Lindsey & Patty Mugavero

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January 2024 Branch Meeting
Wednesday, January 10, 6:45 pm
ZOOM only

Let's Hear It for the Ladies!
Dr. Alexis Culotta

To start the new year off to a fresh start, our January 10 ZOOM only program will focus on the female contributions to our local treasure, *The Art Institute of Chicago*. Our speaker, art historian and Art History Professor, Dr. Alexis Culotta, will focus on the female patronage and artistry that have contributed to the *Art Institute's* internationally renowned status today. There are many unheralded female artists and patrons that deserve our attention. In her Zoom presentation, Dr. Culotta will visually highlight some of these unheralded artists whose work is found in the museum's collection. Many scholars have noted that women artists throughout history have frequently not been given their due.

Indeed, Dr. Culotta is well qualified to do so. Today, she serves on the Art History Faculty at Tulane University. Prior to that, Alexis was on the faculty of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago where she also served as adjunct lecturer. She earned her Doctorate degree at the University of Washington, her Master's degree at the University of Massachusetts, and her Bachelor of Arts degree from Lawrence University.

Please join our ZOOM meeting on Wednesday, January 10, at 6:45 pm. A ZOOM invitation will be sent to all members a couple of days before the meeting. Do add a reminder to your calendar. It promises to be an illuminating evening. Our short Branch meeting will be held after the presentation.



Our Branch Book Groups

AM Lit

Donna Staples

donnastaples5050@gmail.com

Friday, January 5, we meet to discuss the book *The Whalebone Theater* by Joanna Quinn at the Glen Ellyn Public Library. Our discussion leader is Peggy Connolly. This warm hearted story should warm our souls, even if the weather does not!

February 2, 2024: *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver.

PM Lit

Susie Gullickson

gullish.1955@gmail.com

Our January selection is *The Dictionary of Lost Words* by Pip Williams. Set at the turn of the 20th century, this is the story of a team of lexicographers who are collecting words for the very first Oxford English Dictionary. The story is told by Esme, the motherless and irrepressibly curious daughter of one of the lexicographers. Esme's place is beneath the sorting table in the Scriptorium where the men work. Unseen and unheard, one day Esme rescues a slip that has fallen to the floor and begins collecting other misplaced or discarded slips; thus begins Esme's secret collections of words for another dictionary.

The Dictionary of Lost Words reveals a lost narrative, hidden between the lines of a history written by men. It is a delightful, lyrical and thought-provoking celebration of words, and the power of language to shape the world

Join us on Monday, January 15, 7:00 pm at Susie Gullickson's home, 1510 Paula Ave., Wheaton. Susie will also be our discussion leader.

AM Non-Fiction

Sue Herrmann

sherrmann710@gmail.com

NOTE: Our next meeting of the 2024 year is Wednesday, **January 3, 2024** at 10:00 am. We usually meet on the fourth Wednesday of every other month but due to the holidays, we have moved our meeting to January 3.

We will read *This is What it Sounds Like, What Music You Love Says About You* by Susan Rogers. Books are available at the Glen Ellyn Public Library. Susan Scown is the discussion leader and I will host the meeting at 403 Wyndemere Circle, Wheaton. Please RSVP if you plan to attend at 630.234.1941.

PM Non-Fiction

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

We are starting off the year with a tropical tale: Christina Thompson's *Sea People: The Puzzle of Polynesia*. Carolyn Oesterle will lead our discussion at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, January 24 at Peggy Connolly's home (1445 Brentwood, Wheaton.) Mary Sue Brown is our co-host. Please let Peggy know at *connolly.peggy@gmail.com* if you plan to attend.

Sea People is described as a thrilling intellectual detective story that looks deep into the past to uncover who first settled the islands of the remote Pacific, where they came from, how they got there, and how we know. Carolyn has returned from a trip to the Polynesian Pacific and will be our guide.



Historian

Marilyn Wiedemann

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**Happy Photos of Branch Members Celebrating our 50th Anniversary as a Branch
Glen Ellyn Boathouse, September 9, 2006**



1st Row: Sue Balk, Kay Storm, Peggy Connolly, Maureen Becker
2nd Row: Pat Walton, Jean Lindsey, Heidi Biederman, Sharon Kendall, Glenna Thompson



Marjorie Robinson Katherine Storm
50 Year Branch Members
Received Gold Pendants & Certificates

Editor's Note: *More photos to follow next month*



History and Cuisine of the Spice Routes

Peggy Connolly

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Spice Routes honors the *San Sebastian Street Food Festival* with a Puerto Rican feast. Fiestas de la Calle San Sebastián marks the end to the world's longest holiday season. During the day, San Juan's old walled city's plazas and streets become a teeming bazaar filled with local artists and artisans. At twilight, the scene turns into a joyous revel of music, dancing, and celebration that continues through the night.

Please let Peggy know by January 11 what delicious dish you will bring to share for our *Sebastian Street Food Festival* Thursday, January 18.



Film Group

Anne Hanley

ahanley@mindspring.com

It is the most wonderful time of the year...*Golden Globes* and *Oscar* season! *GG* nominations are out; *Oscar* nominations come on January 23. We have seen many of the nominees, including our most recent film, *Past Lives*, which is on everybody's list as one of the best films of the year. Our next gathering will be on Friday January 12, and our probable film pick will be *Maestro*. The previews look terrific. As always, I will confirm the film selection via email the weekend before our meeting. *Happy New Year!*

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'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!