

A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

During this month of love as we are preparing this report, we want to show our love and appreciation for the Branch Chairs and assistants along with the Interest Group Chairs. Our Branch could not function without their contributions! Because we only have one page to write this letter, we are including the names and not all their special titles. We apologize in advance for any names accidentally left off. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all the hard workers: Jane Palmer, Tracy Kline, Karla Bullett, Carolyn Oesterle, Donna Jennings, Laura Desmarais, Patricia Spence, Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann, Susan Levy-Creed, Karla Megow, Laurie Driscoll, Karen Bondy, Fran Kravitz, Kathy McCullough, Ewa Bacon, Donna Staples, Sue Herrmann, Susie Gullickson, Anne Hanley, Peggy Connolly, Peggy McGrath, Alison Hays, and Carol Ginger.

Open Membership

As many of you already know, there will be an AAUW National vote on eliminating the degree requirement for membership in AAUW. The voting period will last from April 3 to May 15. Please read the letter in this edition of Twigs, written by Lisa Cherry, and Donna Jean Simon, entitled *Break Our Own Barrier: Open Up AAUW!*

Lisa is former Illinois State President and former Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch Co-President and now a member of the AAUW National Advancement Committee. Donna Jean is a former Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch Co-President and is now our Illinois State President.

Illinois State Convention 2024

We want to announce that the AAUW-Illinois State Convention will be celebrating 100 Years of empowering women. This milestone convention will be held April 19 and 20 at Elgin Community College in Elgin, IL. And since the convention is being held relatively close to our home base, we hope that not only our Executive Committee but also our vast membership will consider joining us. Committees are currently working to identify critical topics for discussion, suggest speakers, create networking opportunities, utilize hotel resources, plan activities, and support effective scheduling/agendas. We can vouch that these conventions are full of new and exciting information about AAUW goings on at the Local, State and National levels.

You may make reservations by calling the hotel at 847.488.9000, but you must tell them you are part of AAUW-IL Room Block to receive the discounted rate. Registration for the conference will be coming soon.

In Service with You

Nancy Possinger and Karen Schulz

Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	TIME	INFORMATION
Mar. 1	AM Lit	9:30 am	Glen Ellyn Public Library, First Floor Meeting Rooms, 400 Duane St., Glen Ellyn.
Mar. 5	Great Decisions Group #3	1:00 pm	Alison Hayes, 23W255 St. James Court, Glen Ellyn.
Mar. 6	Mary Sue Brown Open House	5:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Peggy Connolly, 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton.
Mar. 7	Great Decisions Group #1	1:00 pm	Marie Corcoran, 31 Hawkins Circle, Wheaton.
Mar. 7	Great Decisions Group #2	7:00 pm	Carol Ginger, 44 Tanglewood Dr., Glen Ellyn.
Mar. 8	Film Group	7:00 pm	Jean Lindsey, 1644 Orth Drive, Wheaton.
Mar. 9	Branch Meeting	<i>Saturday</i> 10:00 am	Wheaton Public Library, 225 N. Cross St., Wheaton & ZOOM
Mar. 13	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	ZOOM
Mar. 14	Spice Routes	6:00 pm	Peggy Connolly, 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton.
Mar. 18	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Peggy Connolly, 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton.
Mar. 19	Illinois Primary Election		https://www.dupagecounty.gov/election/
Mar. 27	PM Non-Fiction	7:00 pm	Peggy Connolly, 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton.

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

Our beloved friend, Mary Sue Brown, is moving at the end of March to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to live near her daughter. Please join us for an open house to celebrate the joy and inspiration Mary Sue's friendship brings us.



Open House to Honor Mary Sue Brown

Wednesday, March 6

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton (Peggy Connolly's home)

Please RSVP to Peggy Connolly
connolly.peggy@gmail.com



**Women's History Month Branch Program Co-Sponsored with Wheaton Public Library
10:00 am, Saturday, March 9
Wheaton Public Library and Zoom**

Speaker: Chief Judge of the 18th Judicial Circuit Court, the Honorable Bonnie Wheaton
Topic: *To Achieve Justice, We Need More Women in Justice!*

****Preregistration Required! Please Use the Following Library Link:**

<https://www.wheatonlibrary.org/event/women-judges-wheaton-70574>

Judge Wheaton, recently elected Chief Judge of the 18th Circuit Court of DuPage County and Branch member since 1989, will be our featured speaker at the March 9 Branch meeting. Judge Wheaton will highlight the increasing impact women judges have on the international front, on the national level, and in our own state and county courthouses. An experienced jurist, Bonnie will focus on what a different perspective a woman judge might bring to a case, and why more females should be elected. Judge Wheaton has mentored many female judges and has actively supported their election bids. Bonnie will share some of her unique cases which have generated the most media attention.

Our co-sponsor, the Wheaton Public Library, is very enthusiastic about hosting this esteemed DuPage County public figure, who is known for her intelligence, integrity, and legal expertise. Some of us who attend PM Lit, also appreciate Bonnie's sense of humor.

Come meet and greet fellow members and enjoy a light continental breakfast starting at 10:00 am, March 9. You are welcome to invite other interested parties to this event. (***They Also Need to Register***)

Remember to Register Online Using the Library's Link ASAP!

Nominating Committee: Slate of Nominees
Susan Hagerty and Sarah Allen, Co-Chairs 2024 Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee finalized its Slate of Nominees. The following members have been nominated:

- Heidi Fraser for Treasurer, two-year term.
- Susan Hagerty and Marie Corcoran, Co-Vice-Presidents Membership, two-year term.

An announcement of this slate was made at the February 7, 2024 Branch Meeting at the Wheaton Public Library. No nominations were presented from the floor. Election for this slate of Branch officers will be held at the Annual Branch Meeting on April 3, 2024. As Co-Chairs of the Nominating Committee, we wish to thank nominating committee members at large, Patricia Spence and Sue Herrmann for their dedication and hard work this year.



Membership

Sarah Allen & Susan Hagerty

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

Membership currently stands at 118 members, the most since pre-COVID! Please consider inviting a friend to our upcoming March 9, 2024 meeting with Judge Bonnie Wheaton, one of our very own Branch members. Personal invitations are always the best way to introduce someone to the unique opportunities and various activities of AAUW.

Member Contact List Update: Our Branch website membership list is current as of February 15, 2024. Please send any changes in your contact information to Susan Hagerty or Sarah Allen at the above email addresses.

New Member Introductions

Susan Peters has worked most of her career in technical male-dominated fields, working in commercial air conditioning sales and customer service. She received her degree in Business Administration at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1977, when only 10% of her colleagues were female. She strongly supports AAUW's mission and especially their support of STEM careers for women. Although her career occupies much of her time, she is hoping to join one of the Branch's many book groups.

Susan lives in Glen Ellyn and has two adult sons who live in the Chicago area, one of whom is an electrical engineer. We are very pleased to welcome Susan as a new member to our Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch. Welcome Susan!

Susan's contact information:

Susan Peters
541 Park Row Phone: 630.469.9033
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 Email: *BruPete75@gmail.com*

Ruth Sweetser comes to us from the recently dissolved AAUW Lombard Branch. AAUW and its mission have been a lifetime passion. Ruth served as National AAUW President in the late 80's and early 90's. This was preceded by two terms as President of AAUW IL and before that AAUW Lombard Branch President. She is a Lifetime AAUW member and we are thrilled to have her join our ranks!

Ruth received a BA in German Languages & Literature from Hope College in 1967 and a MA in German Languages & Literature in 1971. She and husband Steve are truly world travelers. Some of her favorite places have been New Zealand, Iceland, and Tanzania.

She has two sons and five grandsons living in the Chicago area that keep her busy staying up to date in all their activities. We are excited to have such a longtime AAUW member join our Branch. Welcome Ruth!

Ruth's contact information:

Ruth Sweetser
431 Eugenia Street Phone: 630.291.5929
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 Email: *ruthsweetser1@gmail.com*

Break Our Own Barrier: Open Up AAUW!

Lisa Cherry
AAUW National Advancement Committee

Donna Jean Simon
AAUW Illinois State President

We are approaching a monumental decision. This April, we will have the opportunity to vote to open AAUW to those who do not hold degrees. We encourage you to vote *YES* on dropping the degree mandate. Voting *YES* is practicing the inclusion we as AAUW members believe. AAUW's National Board of Directors, Governance Committee, Advancement Committee, Inclusion and Equity Committee and our Illinois State Board of Directors all support this change.

Removing the degree requirement is not meant to take anything away from current member accomplishments or AAUW's commitment to education. Our endowment of well over a \$100 million will continue to grow and award fellowships and grants in increasing amounts each year (\$6.1 million last year). AAUW's membership requirements have changed many times over our long history to become more inclusive. This next step is a way to celebrate all that makes us extraordinary with a larger pool of driven individuals. Treating each other fairly, with respect and compassion, is the foundation of AAUW and serves as the catalyst of our current and future efforts.

What is our biggest challenge to breaking our own barrier? You may be surprised to learn that we believe it is voter turnout. While this is not the first time we have voted on this, we have never had more than 25% of our membership actually cast a vote. In 2021, a clear majority of those voting were in favor of the change (63%), but it takes a 2/3 vote to change a bylaw and we fell short of that bar.

Please vote and let us finally open up AAUW. There is so much work to do to accomplish our goals. Let us welcome all who share our values and believe in our mission to stand with us!

******Voting Begins begin on April 3 and Closes on May 15******



Opportunities Fund

Susan Levy-Creed & Karla Megow

susanlevycreed@gmail.com karla_megow@yahoo.com

We are awaiting the names of our 2024 recipients from the high school scholarship committees. Their names, pictures and biographies will be presented at our Spring Banquet. We look forward to an exciting group of young women representing our feeder high schools.

We are also hard at work securing an interesting speaker for our September Branch Meeting who will represent someone whose career path was impacted by an AAUW grant administered by AAUW National. More details to come.



The Illinois primary election is on Tuesday, March 19. AAUW does not endorse candidates in partisan elections, but we do support and encourage voters to be educated about candidates and issues.

Here are the Illinois Bar ratings on the DuPage judges:

Two judges on the Republican ballot are not recommended (Costello and Helland).

All the judges on the Democratic ballot are recommended. <https://www.isba.org/judicial-elections/counties/dupage>

Pete DiCianni (long-time Elmhurst Republican Mayor) is running on the Democratic ballot for DuPage County Recorder (against two women candidates) and does not seem to have ever voted in a Democratic primary.

A Republican woman running for County Board District #2 is affiliated with *Awake Illinois*, a very conservative organization which has a chapter in Naperville. One of their first causes was to oppose children wearing masks during the pandemic. Many of you are not in District 2, but I thought this information was important to share. This is from her website: *LAURA HOIS, candidate for DuPage County Board, is honest, experienced, fiscally responsible, pro-freedom, anti-woke, pro-family and pro-law and order.*

Early voting is available at five locations in DuPage County. More locations county-wide will be open from March 4 to March 18. Information on locations and times is available at DuPageCounty.gov/election.



Great Decisions

Peggy Connolly, Peggy McGrath, Carol Ginger, Alison Hayes

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

The ***Great Decisions Groups*** discussion topic for March will be *Risky Science across Borders*.

- Group #3 will meet March 5 at 1:00 pm at the home of Alison Hayes.
- Group #2 will meet March 5 at 7:00 pm at the home of Carol Ginger.
- Group #1 will meet March 7 at 1:00 pm at the home of Marie Corcoran.

PLEASE BE SURE TO RSVP so the hosts know how many to expect.



History and Cuisine of the Spice Routes

Peggy Connolly

connolly.peggy@gmail.com

This is *not* the winter of our discontent because we have Spice Routes to look forward to! What better way to chase away the doldrums than to celebrate Hawaii's *Merrie Monarch Festival*, held each spring to promote traditional Hawaiian culture, and highlighted by the International Hula Competition. We will hold our own Merrie Monarch Festival March 14 at 6:00 pm. The first 24 to respond will be accommodated for dinner. Please let Peggy know by March 7 what food or beverage you will bring to the feast. As we are not a rivalrous group, we will not engage in a hula competition: however, along with delicious Hawaiian fare, there will be a hula lesson on offer.

Our Branch Fundraising Activities



Book Sale 2024

Karla Bullett & Carolyn Oesterle

wikabull2@gmail.com Csoesterle@gmail.com

Book Collection:

At the Branch meeting on February 7, the brown paper two-handled bags we use to save and transport our book donations were distributed. If you did not receive a bag at the meeting, you can use one of your own from Mariano's or Trader Joe's. These two-handled paper bags are sturdier and easier to lift than other bags and lessen the chance of straining your back when lifting them. Contact Carolyn Oesterle if you are unable to store the books you collect for the sale and she will find a place to store your books.

Collection Sites :

Will be finalized soon. We are working on adding collection sites in Lombard and Villa Park.

Committee Meeting:

The second official 2024 Book Sale committee meeting was held on Friday, February 2, at the Glen Ellyn Public Library. Everyone in attendance agreed it was a very productive meeting. Some of our Branch members have asked about having committee meetings in the evenings and possibly on ZOOM to make it easier for members who have commitments during the day to attend. We are planning to have the next committee meeting, which has not yet been scheduled, in the evening.

Location:

Westfield Elementary School, 25125 Mayfield Lane, Glen Ellyn, is the location of the sale. This is in School District 89, the same school district as Briar Glen Elementary, the location of the 2022 used Book Sale. Westfield is located in the Butterfield West subdivision, which is on Route 53 one mile north of Butterfield Road.

Dates/Sign Up:

The sale will take place June 20, 21 and 22. We will again be using *Sign Up Genius* to schedule your participation in the sorting and sale days.
Sorting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 11 through Tuesday, June 18.
(Wednesday, June 19, is Juneteenth Day, a holiday. The school will be closed on that day)

Potential Parade Participation

Karla Bullett has submitted our Branch's name to participate in Lombard's Lilac Parade on Sunday, May 19. This is a great opportunity to increase the visibility of our Branch and our Book Sale. Our participation would be similar to what we have done in the past for the Glen Ellyn Independence Day parade...walk the parade route while we carry signs advertising the collection sites and sale details.

Check out the Branch Website for Updates: <https://wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net/welcome/books/>

AIR: Aging/Information & Resources
Ewa Bacon

Are you looking for someone to install a ramp into your home? Issues with flooring, electricity or a water emergency? Car repairs? Computer repairs? Perhaps you need to remodel? The AIR website lists 36 local professionals we have used in **Home Services Providers**.

Are you facing a health problem? Need help navigating Medicare? Repair a knee, a hip, a hand? Facing cardiac issues, cancer, arthritis? Vision or hearing problems? The AIR website lists 40 medical services providers in **Health and Care Resources**.

Looking for a memory care facility? A retirement community? Trying to determine what levels of care are available? A temporary day care facility? The AIR website has this information in **Housing Information and Services for Seniors**.

Are there end-of-life issues that you need to prepare? Legal terms that you need to define? What is hospice care or palliative care? Local funeral homes, burial services, cremation services? We have compiled definitions and resources in the **End-of-Life** AIR section.

Check out the **Transportation** list for help getting around.

Please let the AIR Study Group know if you can add references to other local resources you have used.

FYI: From the Fairport Report, Winter 2023: The RAND Study broke down spending (of retirees) by category and found that trips and leisure expenditures fell the farthest as people aged. *Healthcare expenditures were surprisingly stable. In all age categories of retirees, housing was the biggest expense (23%-25%) of the total budget, followed by food (16%-19%) and utilities (12%-17%).*



Film Group

Anne Hanley

ahanley@mindspring.com

March! The month of St. Patrick's Day, the spring solstice, Easter, and hopefully new leaves. It is also the month of the Academy Awards this year. We will gather at the home of Jean and Bob Lindsey (thank you to Jean and Bob for volunteering!) on Friday, March 8, two days before the Oscars. That will give us the opportunity to see one more Oscar contender before the winners are revealed. As always, I will confirm the film selection via email the weekend before our meeting.

Spring Celebration Event – Save the Date of Saturday, June 1

Traditionally, our Branch holds a meal event in the spring to recognize the year's achievements and the installation of officers. This spring we have arranged a luncheon event. Please plan to attend on Saturday, June 1.

We have reserved space at Adelle's in Wheaton, and will plan to sit inside. Look for menu, time, and reservation information in the April issue of *Twigs*.

But mark your calendars NOW. Spring weekends get busy! We want to have a good turnout for this in-person opportunity to celebrate AAUW.

Contact Karen Bondy if you have questions at *bondykj@aol.com*



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 meets at the Glen Ellyn Public Library on Friday, March 1 at 9:30 am. Janet Miller will lead our discussion of *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. This book narrates the journey of a pair of magnificent animals waylaid by a 1930's hurricane as they are transported across the country to their new home at the San Diego Zoo, influencing the lives of their human escorts.

April Selection: *What's Left of Me is Yours* by Stephanie Scott.

PM Lit

Susie Gullickson

gullish.1955@gmail.com

Our March selection is *Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng. This beautifully written book is the story of a mother's unbreakable love in a world consumed by fear. In this story, the current world is governed by laws written to preserve *American Culture (PACT)* in the wake of years of economic instability and violence. Authorities are allowed to relocate children of dissidents, especially those of Asian origin. Books are removed from libraries if deemed *un-patriotic*.

This is a dystopian tale, but feasible when the current political/economic environment is considered.

Join us on Monday, March 18th, 7:00 pm at Peggy Connolly's home, 1445 Bentwood Lane, Wheaton. Carol Ginger and Bonnie Wheaton will co-host the event. We are still in need of a discussion leader, so let Susie know if you are interested in facilitating the discussion. Please RSVP to Connolly.peggy@gmail.com.

PM Non-Fiction

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

We are meeting at 7:00 pm on March 27 at the home of Peggy Connolly who will lead our discussion of Jimmy Carter's 2006 book *Palestine Peace Not Apartheid*. We are living through a period of appalling violence as once again the Middle East has erupted into chaos. What is the solution?

Please RSVP to Connolly.peggy@gmail.com.

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

Editor:	Kathleen McCullough
Proofreader:	Ruth Schumacher
AAUW Online:	Jane Palmer
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!

Open Position: Twigs Editor

I am retiring from this position effective the end of FY 2023-2024. I am honored to have been the Twigs Editor, however it has been seven years and it is time for someone else to take over the position. Please contact me if you have an interest in this position.

Kathy McCullough at kathymccull@gmail.com or either of our two presidents:

Nancy Possinger at napossinger@gmail.com

Karen Schulz at karenjschulz@gmail.com