

### A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

We have had a very mild winter season, so it feels like it has been spring since the beginning of this year! But now with the actual spring season upon us, we hope you all will take the time to enjoy this beautiful re-awakening of the flowers and the mild air and everything ahead that spring brings!

We have another very special program scheduled for April 3, presented by our speaker, Jacquelyn Casazza. The topic is *Plastic Pollution and Community Solutions*.

### 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 article in this edition of Twigs written by Lisa Cherry, and Donna Jean Simon entitled *Break Our Own Barrier: Open Up AAUW*. Donna Jean will give us more information at our April 3 Branch Meeting.

### Illinois State Convention 2024

Join us in Celebrating 100 Years of Empowering Women at the AAUW-IL, INC. 99th State Convention. Some highlights for April 19 & 20 at the Elgin Community College Business Center include:

- Celebrate 100 years of Branch and member accomplishments.
- *Truth, Trust, and Turnout: Navigating Elections, Civic Engagement, and Disinformation*. **Dr. Suzanne Chod**, Professor of Political Science at North Central College, will explore those relationships.
- **The Next 100 years for AAUW-IL** includes dialoging in affinity groups and giving voice to the work of AAUW-IL ahead.

Final registration must be submitted or postmarked by April 8. Use a credit card and register online at [AAUW-IL.net](http://AAUW-IL.net) or download the paper registration form and mail a check to Sue Stauffer, 1031 Seaview Court, Schaumburg, IL 60193. Room reservations at **Holiday Inn**, \$109 + tax. Call the hotel at 847.488.9000 and use the code AUW (this is correct, 3-digit code) for the discounted group rate.

**A very special thanks to Kathy McCullough who has been our Editor in Chief of TWIGS for seven years!** Kathy has resigned the position effective the end of FY 2023-24. We cannot thank her enough for her many years at the helm of Twigs! We are pleased to announce that Susan Peters, a new member, has agreed to step into the position starting with the September edition of Twigs.

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

## Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	TIME	INFORMATION
April 2	Great Decisions Group #3	1:00 pm	ZOOM
April 2	Great Decisions Group #2	7:00 pm	Carol Ginger, 44 Tanglewood Dr., Glen Ellyn.
April 3	Branch Meeting	6:45 pm	Glen Ellyn Police Department, 65 S Park Blvd, Glen Ellyn.
April 4	Great Decisions Group #1	1:00 pm	Peggy Connolly, 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton.
April 5	AM Lit	9:30 am	Glen Ellyn Public Library, First Floor Meeting Rooms, 400 Duane St., Glen Ellyn.
April 10	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	ZOOM
April 12	Film Group	7:00 pm	Location TBD (please volunteer).
April 15	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Laura Desmarais, 1323 Shagbark Lane, Wheaton.
April 24	AM Non-Fiction	10:00 am	Laura Desmarais, 1323 Shagbark Lane, Wheaton.
June 1	Spring Luncheon & Installation of Officers	12:00 Noon	Adelle's Fine American Fare, 535 W. Liberty Dr., Wheaton.



### Programs

**Jean Lindsey & Patty Mugavero**

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



**April Branch Meeting**  
**6:45 pm, Wednesday, April 3**  
**Glen Ellyn Police Department**  
*Plastic Pollution and Community Solutions*  
**Speaker: Jacquelyn Casazza**

It happened so slowly we became used to plastic. Most of us remember a time when it wasn't so, when groceries were simply carried home in paper sacks or baskets from home were carried to neighborhood stores. But plastic is now common - and what to do with all of the containers, bags, etc. after a single use, has become a problem our next speaker will address at the Glen Ellyn Police Department. Jacquelyn Casazza will explain to the Wheaton-Glen

Ellyn AAUW Branch members and guests how we as a community can gain environmental awareness, learn which materials have single stream recycling benefits, and educate ourselves to be more thoughtful consumers.

President and co-founder of *Go Green Glen Ellyn*, Jacquelyn Casazza is on the Glen Ellyn Environmental Commission and is a member of the National Volunteer Speakers Bureau and the only Midwest speaker for Beyond Plastics.

She holds a BS from Vanderbilt University in Human and Organizational Development, was Senior Manager for Deloitte Tax LLP, and is an IRS Enrolled Agent. Jacquelyn Casazza also works with the Glen Ellyn Park District and last year, she and Karin Daly were named Volunteer of the Year, for events such as *Oaktoberfest* and the sport swap, sponsored by Go Green Glen Ellyn.

Plan to come early, mingle with members, enjoy refreshments, and then get ready to learn how we can more easily become greener. After the presentation there will be time for Q & A. It is a program not to be missed.

## **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!

### **Here Is How Voting Will Work**

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

- Confirm that you are currently receiving emails from AAUW National. If not, please work with Branch leadership to ensure that this is enabled.
- An email (along with email reminders) will be sent to you. It will include a link that allows you to vote.
- Paper ballots with instructions will be sent to those without email addresses.
- If you need help casting your vote online, please let Branch leadership know.

**As a Member of AAUW, Your Voice and Your Vote Count! Thank you!**

***The Inside Scoop***  
**Donna Jean Simon**  
**AAUW Illinois State President**

The Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch is again a leader on our Illinois State Board. Another member of our Branch is being nominated for State President: Laura Desmarais. I hope that as many of you as possible will attend her installation at the State Convention on April 19 to 20. In addition, this year celebrates the 100th Anniversary of AAUW-IL. If you have not yet registered, an All Branch email recently provides you with all the information you need to do so. Each branch has been offered a display table at the convention to highlight and promote successes, best practices, and activities that they want to share with their sister branches. This also includes historical highlights over their branch's lifetime.

In 1924, when AAUW-IL was founded, women were required to have advanced degrees from a small list of accredited schools in specific accredited fields. Prospective members had to be recommended by current members and voted upon for membership. Often home visits were required prior to being allowed to join.

During World War II, a change in the bylaws permitted women from all accredited schools to be admitted. In 1963, membership was opened to women who had degrees in education, nursing, and home economics, which had not previously been approved areas of study. Interestingly, many of the branches that predate AAUW-IL were established in college towns or in cities with universities. Membership requirements for women in AAUW have evolved over the 140+ year history of AAUW.

Today, about 40% of women have college degrees. That means that we are eliminating a great many women who may in fact support our mission and would be excellent advocates for what AAUW stands for. Accounting firms and law offices and businesses who once required college degrees are now preferring certificates in specialty areas and bringing in many successful women who advance into leadership positions without college degrees per se.

If we stand for gender equity, why are we discriminating against non-degreed women? I recently heard the story of a woman who began college when she was in her twenties, but had to drop out because of family responsibilities and financial difficulties when becoming a single mom. She returned to school in her 50's when her children were grown, and she was able to devote time to herself. As a straight A student, she was able to complete her education and get a well-paying job in the area in which she had originally wanted to work.

Our own Branch considered having a scholarship for a woman returning to school not so long ago. These are important considerations if we want to support education, and economic security and leadership for all women.

AAUW stands for values that are intersectional, inclusive, intergenerational, and empowering. While we are non-partisan, we are not values neutral. This means we fight to remove barriers and biases that stand in the way of gender equity. We train women to negotiate for pay and benefits and to pursue leadership roles. And we advocate for federal, state, and local laws and policies to ensure equity and end discrimination. We support *Get Out the Vote* efforts. There is much work remaining to be done and we need every woman who wants to support our mission and our efforts to be admitted to membership.

**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.





## Book Sale

**Karla Bullett & Carolyn Oesterle**

wikabull2@gmail.com csoesterle@gmail.com

### Dates:

- Sorting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 11 through Tuesday, June 18, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.
  - Sale dates and times:
    - Thursday, June 20, 8:00 am to 8:00 pm
    - Friday, June 21, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
    - Saturday, June 22, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, with cleanup 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.
- (Wednesday, June 19 is Juneteenth Day, a holiday. The school will be closed on that day.)

**Location:** District 89 Westfield Elementary School, 2 S 125 Mayfield Lane, Glen Ellyn. *Westfield is located in the Butterfield West subdivision, which is on Route 53 one mile north of Butterfield Road. The Branch website includes a map of the subdivision highlighting the school.*

**Go for a walk on a Spring afternoon...Lilac Parade participants needed:** 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 Used 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. **Contact Karla Bullett if you want to participate in the parade.**

### Book Collection Categories:

- **Nonfiction**, including current events, history, nature, biography, etc.
- **Fiction**, including sci-fi, romance, mysteries, etc.
- **Young Adult and Children's**
- **Better Books**, which are individually priced.
- **We do NOT accept reference books, textbooks, or spirituality books!**
- At last year's sale, **cook books and gardening books** which were in excellent shape sold well, so do not toss those out!

*To get to my personal 50 book goal, I have a bag next to my desk which I am adding books to, and should have 50 books by mid-May. I hope we are all doing this at a slow and steady pace, not a race, as we clean closets, move furniture, etc , around the house.*

### Collection Sites have been secured in Wheaton, Glen Ellyn, Lombard, and Villa Park:

\*HealthTrack, \*Wheaton Sports Center, \*Sunset Knoll Rec Center, \*Cornerstone Used Books, \*Main Street Rec Center, \*Spring Avenue Rec Center

We are working on adding more collection sites, so please see the Branch website for the most current information <https://wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net/welcome/books/>

### Sign Up Genius

*We will have only six days to set-up, unload, and sort thousands of books, so managing these efforts to ensure we always have help will be critical. We will use a web-based signup site to streamline our efforts to involve every member in the set-up and sale process. You will receive an All-Branch email with a link to the Sign-Up Genius Website where you can volunteer to work during the set-up and sale.*



## **AAUW Webinars – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881**

As a member of AAUW, you have access to informative webinars to keep you up to date on AAUW.

### ***AAUW's History and Evolution: A Journey Through Time***

Watch this insightful webinar on AAUW's history. Here, we highlight pivotal points in AAUW's history that turned us into the organization we are today. Our featured speaker is Jessica Miller, AAUW Archivist, as she discusses both larger organizational changes and individual trailblazers who shaped our current structure.

### ***School Boards: The Battleground for the Education Culture Wars***

Across the country, we have seen school boards, and candidates for school boards, taking up controversial policies that have led to banning books from school libraries; the censorship of curriculum in school classrooms due to individuals finding content "objectionable"; and policies leading to the prevention of safe school climates for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities. View the AAUW National Public Policy Committee's webinar to learn how one AAUW state board is fighting back and what you can do locally.

### ***Inclusion in Practice: How AAUW's Policies and Practices Promote Inclusion***

The webinar is designed to aid local branches and states as they explore various national policies and bylaws of AAUW national, featuring the resources available in AAUW's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Toolkit. The webinar provides an informative look at several national policies and practices, including the member responsibilities and civility policy.

Go to [aauw.org](http://aauw.org), then click on the *Get Empowered* tab and you will see the link for the webinars.



Happy April! It was a good Oscars season and a great conversation about contenders at Jean Lindsey's home last month. Now we look forward to the spring and summer season of movie going. No telling what is coming our way just yet, but we will surely find something worthy of discussion. Our next gathering will be on Friday April 12. I will be out of town, so we need a member to volunteer to host this meeting. If you can do so, please send me an email. Details of what we will watch and where we will meet will go out the weekend before our meeting.



The AAUW Online team has been busy this month. Patricia Spence continues to post photos of Branch activities on the Branch Facebook page. Great pictures from recent Branch programs and discussion groups! Tracy Kline has recently made several updates to the website, including the following:

- The home page and the Used Book Sale page have been updated with some of the 2024 Book Sale details, such as the sale dates and a map of the location of Westfield School. More details will be added in April.
- For prospective members, an updated *Spring New Member Brochure* is now on the *Join*” page.
- New lists are available on the *AIR* page.
- The *Great Decisions* page has been updated to include more topic details.
- *Members Only* page (password is *twigs*) is up to date with current financial reports, board and Branch minutes and much more.
- Also, thanks to our Branch Historian/Archivist, Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann, past Branch activities are now summarized on the *About Us* page. Our Branch history is amazing!

The *Member Contact Listing* is also on the Members Only page. We have two member lists: the Primary Listing with members’ addresses, phone numbers and emails and the Supplemental Listing with members’ degrees and *special* details, such as, past president (this Branch or another branch), *lifetime member* or *dual branch member*. Please take a few minutes to review your listing and send any corrections or additions to me at [janefpalmer@icloud.com](mailto:janefpalmer@icloud.com).

Finally, you may have noticed that we have recently been setting up our Branch programs as *Facebook Events* and sharing with other community groups. This outreach has been a success. Many guests have attended recent Branch Program Meetings to hear our speakers and learn about AAUW. We also set up the programs on both the Glen Ellyn and Wheaton *Patch.com* sites. Whenever you see our Branch events on *Facebook* or on *Patch*, please click on *interested* or *attending*.

Contact me at [janefpalmer@icloud.com](mailto:janefpalmer@icloud.com) if you have suggestions or pictures to help keep the Branch’s Book Sale *Facebook* page fresh. Last year, we used a series of photos of my cat, Dinah, posing with books and donation bags to try to keep the buzz going. If you have a pet who loves books, take some photos and send them to me. Pets are always attention-getters.

Continue to keep Patricia ([pspence101@aol.com](mailto:pspence101@aol.com)) and Tracy Kline ([trakli@msn.com](mailto:trakli@msn.com)) updated with pictures of members enjoying Branch activities.



***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 April will be *Sino-American Rivalry*.

- Group #3 will meet April 2 at 1:00 via ZOOM. Contact Alison Hayes for code.
- Group #2 will meet April 2 at 7:00 pm at the home of Carol Ginger.
- Group #1 will meet April 4 at 1:00 pm at the home of Peggy Connolly.

***Please Be Sure to RSVP so the hosts know how many to expect.***



## 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 April 5 selection is *What's Left of Me Is Yours* by Stephanie Scott. We will meet at the Glen Ellyn Public Library at 9:30 am in the first floor meeting room. Discussion leaders are Julia Husen and Susan Levy-Creed. New members are always welcome.

### PM Lit

**Susie Gullickson**

*gullish.1955@gmail.com*

Our April selection is *Less* by Andrew Sean Greer. This satirical comedy was the 2018 winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

*When his partner leaves him to marry another man, writer Arthur Less avoids the wedding by accepting a series of second-rate overseas invitations to speak, teach, and attend writers' award ceremonies. Embarking on a round-the-world sojourn to Mexico, Italy, Germany, Morocco, India, and Japan, Less stumbles from one memorable character and hilarious misadventure to another. The descriptions of characters and settings are vivid and insightful.*

Join us on Monday, April 15, 7:00 pm at Laura Desmarais' home, 1323 Shagbark Lane, Wheaton. Laura is also the discussion leader and Patty Mugavero is the co-host.

### AM Non-Fiction

**Sue Herrmann**

*sherrmann710@gmail.com*

We meet on April 24 at Laura Desmarais' home at 10:00 am. We will read *A Woman of No Importance* by Sonia Purnell. Laura will lead us in the discussion. Books will be available from the Glen Ellyn Public Library. Please let Laura know if you plan to attend at [lkdesmarias@gmail.com](mailto:lkdesmarias@gmail.com) or her cell phone at 630.854.2730.





**Spring Luncheon and Installation of Officers  
Adelle's Fine American Fare  
535 W Liberty Drive, Wheaton  
Saturday, June 1, 12 Noon  
Karen Bondy**

Please plan to join your fellow Branch members at a celebration of the past year's achievements and installation of Branch officers at Adelle's in Wheaton. Adelle's has won many awards, including Zagat's, OpenTable Diner's Choice Award, and others. The restaurant is open that afternoon for private events only. Adelle's upgraded to a whole restaurant UV air filtration and sanitizing system for the entire restaurant in 2020. All of the air (and surface particles) are filtered and sanitized.

Menu includes first course, entrée, dessert, coffee, tea, or soda and tax and gratuity. A cash bar will be available. Save the date, talk to your friends and make this special end-of-the-year celebration, a perfect afternoon out. Contact Karen at [bondyki@aol.com](mailto:bondyki@aol.com) **Before May 20** if you have questions or dietary needs, and we will make certain that you are accommodated.

**MENU**

*First Course*

*Tomato Bisque*



*Choice Of Entree*

*(Choice Of Entree Must Be Pre-Ordered When You Send Your Check)*

◆ *Quiche Lorraine plated with a side salad*

OR

◆ *Oven baked chicken breast, jasmine rice, vegetable sautee, lemon beurre blanc*



*Dessert*

*Snickerdoodle Cookie*

*Coffee, Soda, Iced tea*

**Reservation Due: May 24, 2024**

- **Cost: \$38.00 per person**
- **Social Hour, Cash Bar: 12:00 to 12:30 pm (wine \$10/glass, includes tax and gratuity)**
- **Lunch: 12:30 pm**

Mail entrée choice along with check to:

Laura Desmarais, 1323 Shagbark Lane, Wheaton. IL 60187

Check payable to: **AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP.**

**See the Reservation and Payment Form at End of this Newsletter**

## 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!***

### ***Spring Luncheon Reservation Form: Deadline May 24***

To reserve your place, make sure your check and selection is received by May 24.  
Allow plenty of time for USPS mail, please!



\*\*\*\*\*

Please clip and mail with your check to: Laura Desmarais  
1323 Shagbark Lane  
Wheaton. IL 60187

### ***Spring Luncheon Reservation Form: Deadline May 24***

- ***Luncheon date: Saturday June 1 at Adelle's in Wheaton***
- ***12:00 pm Social and Lunch at 12:30 pm. Program will follow.***

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Number in Party \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$38.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Select one entrée choice:

Quiche Lorraine plated with a side salad

OR

Oven Baked chicken breast, jasmine rice, vegetable saute, lemon beurre blanc

Karen: Please contact me by May 20 for special dietary need.

**Checks Payable to AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP**