

A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

Spring has sprung, the flowers are blooming, and the birds are singing!

We had another informative Branch meeting on April 3, presented by our speaker, Jacquelyn Casazza. The topic was *Plastic Pollution and Community Solutions*. The lively talk was well received, and the question-and-answer period could have gone on forever! Due to time constraints, an All Branch email was sent out with additional information from Jacquelyn for questions remaining.

Open Membership

We are in the midst of an AAUW National vote on eliminating the degree requirement for membership in AAUW. The voting period will last until May 15. Our hope is that most of you have already voted.

If you have not voted here is how the voting works:

- 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 was sent to you from AAUW National. It includes 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!

*In Service With You,
Nancy Possinger and Karen Schulz*



Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	TIME	INFORMATION
May 3	AM Lit	9:30 am	Glen Ellyn Public Library, First Floor Meeting Rooms, 400 Duane Street, Glen Ellyn.
May 7	2024-2025 Branch Programming Meeting	7:00 pm	Jean Lindsey, 1644 Orth Drive, Wheaton.
May 10	Film Group	7:00 pm	Anne Hanley, 679 Forest Avenue, Glen Ellyn.
May 15	Board Transition Meeting	7:00 pm	Nancy Possinger, 26W070 MacArthur Avenue, Carol Stream.
May 20	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Marie Corcoran, 31 Hawkins Circle, Wheaton.
May 22	PM Non-Fiction	7:00 pm	Peggy Connolly, 1445 Brentwood Lane Wheaton.
June 1	Spring Luncheon	12 Noon	Adelle's Fine American Fare, 535 W Liberty Drive, Wheaton.
June 6	Spice Routes (Sicily)	6:00pm	Peggy Connolly, 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton.



Programs

Jean Lindsey & Patty Mugavero

jeanlindsey15@comcast.net mugsfive2001@yahoo.com

We need your input again! Patty Mugavero and Jean Lindsey, Co-Vice Presidents Programs, are starting to work on scheduling Branch programs for next year. We also will review last year's programs. Our primary goal is to generate topics and speakers which would interest you. If possible, come with ideas for programs and possible speakers. This is an idea sharing meeting and all are welcome to attend on Tuesday, May 7 at 7:00 pm at Jean's home, 1644 Orth Drive, Wheaton. Please mark your calendars and attend this important meeting. Do let Jean know at Jeanlindsey15@comcast.net if you plan to attend. The more ideas we generate, the better the selection! We hope to see many of you on May 7. If you are unable to attend, please contact Patty at mugsfive2001@yahoo.com or Jean with any ideas and/or names for next year's programs.



Membership

Sarah Allen & Susan Hagerty

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

Membership currently stands at 118. It has been an exciting year welcoming many new members. As always, the best way to grow membership in AAUW is to invite a friend to a meeting or bring a guest to one of the many wonderful activities our Branch offers. The personal touch is always best.

New Member Correction:

Ruth Sweetser's contact information was incorrect in the March *Twigs*.
Ruth's **CORRECT** contact information.

Ruth Sweetser Phone: 630-291-5929
431 W. Eugenia Street Email: ruthsweetser1@gmail.com
Lombard, IL 60148

Dues Renewal:

We have received questions about dues renewal from some members. We want to let you know that we anticipate receiving final direction regarding dues renewal from AAUW National very soon. Renewal information will be sent to the Branch members via email.



Secretary

Janet Miller

janetmiller800@yahoo.com

April Branch Meeting

The requirement of 20% of the membership met the quorum requirements for a valid election of Branch officers. Sarah Allen, Nominating Committee Chair, introduced the candidates to be nominated for Co-Membership Vice President and Treasurer. The membership was asked for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Co-Vice President candidates, Marie Corcoran and Susan Hagerty were nominated and elected by a unanimous vote. The candidate for Treasurer, Heidi Fraser was nominated and elected by a unanimous vote. The candidates will be installed at the June luncheon and take office on July 1, 2024.

Donna Jean Simon, President of AAUW Illinois, encouraged all Branch members to vote in the election of AAUW National Association officers and the question of open membership in the organization. She gave an overview of changes made to membership qualifications over the years. Allowing membership to anyone interested in the mission of AAUW is consistent with the rationale of other changes made in the past.

- Book Sale information is included in the April and May Twigs issues.
- Spring Luncheon details and reservation form are also in the April and May Twigs issues.



Opportunities Fund

Susan Levy-Creed & Karla Megow

susanlevycreed@gmail.com karla_megow@yahoo.com

How exciting!! It is almost time to meet our scholarship recipients; they will be presented to membership at our Spring Luncheon. I have heard from all the counselors, so they are *on the hunt* for worthy candidates. I actually have two young women already chosen by the committees at Glenbard South and Wheaton Warrenville South High Schools. Their biographies show them to be busy, ambitious and creative young women. Sign up for the Spring Luncheon so you can hear more about them!



Public Policy

Laurie Driscoll

laurdris@att.net

The Glenbard High School District 87 referendum that was on the March 19 primary ballot passed by a slim margin. According to an article in the Daily Herald newspaper on April 11, 2004, the ballot measure received 12,491 *YES* votes (50.82%) and 12,087 *NO* votes, a difference of only 404 votes. The district plans to borrow \$183 million by issuing bonds for building repairs and improvements at all four Glenbard High Schools. Plans include upgrading safety and security; improving classrooms; repairing and renovating building infrastructure; and eliminating overcrowded conditions. Bonds will be issued between spring 2025 and 2027. Planned projects vary by high school based on building age and condition.

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 and May, 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!

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 Fundraising Activities



Book Sale

Karla Bullett & Carolyn Oesterle

wikabull2@gmail.com csoesterle@gmail.com

We are closing in on the sale dates. Now is the time to put in your best effort on book collection. Please collect books in double grocery bags with handles and sort into the categories below before you bring them to the sale. Please weed out books that are unlikely to sell or are not in good condition. If you need help with this, please contact Carolyn. Marilyn Wiedemann will be keeping track of the collection numbers. Please respond when she emails you. We can use Mary Sue's garage for some sorting and storage. Please contact Carolyn or Marilyn Mauritz for access. Sign-Up Genius will be emailed in mid-May for you to sign up for sorting times. We only have six sorting days so we will need lots of help on those days.

- **Location:** Westfield Elementary School at 2S125 Mayfield Lane, Glen Ellyn.
- **Sorting Dates/Time:**
 - Sorting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 11 through Tuesday, June 18 from 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, clean up 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- **Book Collection Categories:**
 - **Nonfiction**, including current events, history, science, nature, biography, politics, etc.
 - **Fiction**, including mysteries, sci-fi, romance, etc.
 - **Young Adult and Children's.**
 - **Better Books**, individually priced.
 - **Gardening, How-to, and Cookbooks**, accepted if in good condition.

We do NOT accept Reference Books, Textbooks, or Books on Spirituality.

- **Book Sale Collection Sites** will be open the month of May at Health Track, Wheaton Sport Center, Sunset Knoll Rec Center, Main Street Rec Center, and Spring Avenue Rec Center. There will be a collection bin at Westfield Elementary School from June 3 until June 14.
- **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.**



Here's a Tip: Don't overlook the discounts and perks available from your AAUW membership. Just go to aauw.org and search for discounts. Among other things, you will find up to 50% savings on UPS shipping costs and a 35% discount on Avis or Budget Car Rentals.

Now, let us look ahead to the Book Sale. The Branch Online team will be busy in May and June supporting the upcoming Book Sale.

- Cannot remember the dates and locations for donating books? The Branch website features all you need to know. Two flyers are available on the website for you to click and print. One focuses on the Sale and the other on Book Donations. Keep some in your car in case you spot a community bulletin board that needs a flyer or a garage/estate sale that may need to dispose of unsold books.
- Spread the word: Anyone who googles *Wheaton AAUW* or *Glen Ellyn AAUW* will go directly to wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net. The dates and locations for pre-sale book donations and for the Book Sale are prominently featured on the home page.
- When you see one of our *Facebook* posts, keep the buzz going with a *Like* or *Share* or with a *Comment*, such as, *I'll be there* or *Can't wait!* or *Time to buy my beach books!* Better yet, post a picture of some books on your own *Facebook* page (along with an attention-getter like your dog or cat or grandchild), share it with your friends and to the *AAUW Used Book Sale* page.
- We used to send postcards to former Book Sale customers. This year we will send two or three email *blasts* to our friends from our prior Book Sales. This year, will also include emails to friends of past Lombard Book Sales.

Closer to the Book Sale dates, we will ask members to help in other ways.

- Please send an email to your friends and neighbors with the details of the sale by attaching a Book Sale flyer that you can download from the website. Don't forget to mention: *proceeds primarily fund local scholarships*.
- Use your yard sign! Take a picture, upload it to *Facebook* or *Instagram* with the comment, *Hope to see you at the AAUW Used Book Sale*.
- Try to use *Facebook* to reach friends of friends. For example, I plan to tag my daughter in a *Facebook* post, asking her to share the Book Sale information with her Wheaton friends. Even though she moved away several years ago, she is *Friends* with many former classmates who are still in the area. Remember that despite being technologically savvy, many Millennials still love the smell and feel of a good book.
- Are you in a neighborhood *Facebook* Group or *Next Door* neighborhood group? In May, ask the group for book donations and in June, publicize the sale dates.

Do these efforts help? Yes, they do! Currently, we have 224 followers of our *Book Sale Facebook* page and 289 followers of our Branch page. Since the Branch only has 118 members (and not all are on *Facebook*), we are definitely reaching an audience beyond our membership. Let us try to increase our likes and shares this year. We have a lot of books to sell! Our goal is to get more people into the building. Once inside, the books will sell themselves. Have you ever seen a Book Sale customer buy only one book?

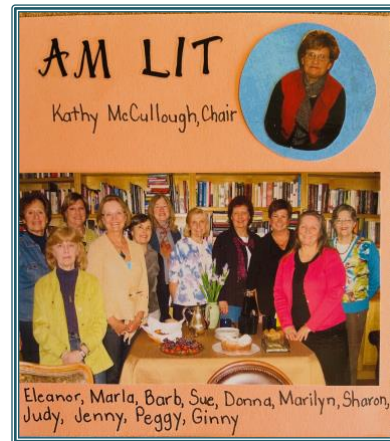
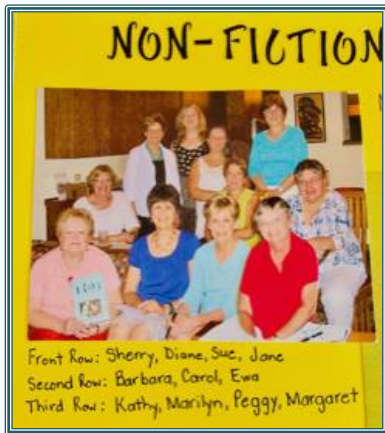
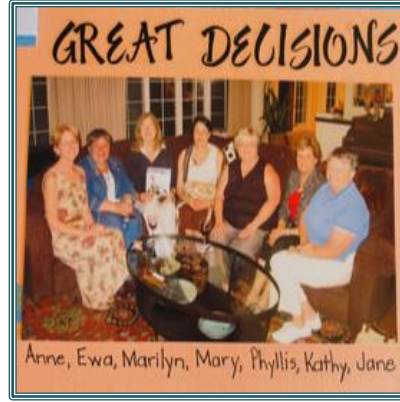
Contact Jane Palmer at jane Palmer@icloud.com if you have suggestions or pictures to help us keep the *Branch's Book Sale Facebook Page* fresh. Continue to keep Patricia at pspence101@aol.com and Tracy Kline at trakli@msn.com updated with pictures of members enjoying Branch activities.



Historian

Marilyn Wiedemann
marilyn.mayer@gmail.com

**Memories from our 50th Branch Book Sale Year 2010-2011
and
Interest Groups**



Cultural Arts

Laura Desmarais & Patricia Spence
lkdesmarais@gmail.com pspence101@aol.com

**Buffalo Theater Ensemble (BTE)
College of DuPage McAninch Arts Center (MAC)
Thursday, May 9
Peggy Connolly**

Our next BTE gathering will be Thursday, May 9. Following wine and hors d'oeuvres at Peggy Connolly's home starting at 6:00 pm, we will proceed to the MAC to see the World Premiere of *Into the Earth with You*. Curtain is at 8:00 pm. *Granddad is gone. No elegies. No dirges. No dowries. It all goes in the grave. But an impossible discovery gets three sisters asking: 'who among us has been digging?'* This play has everything – it's a family drama, comedy, and thriller, with lots of laughs, secrets, scares, and a ghost! (The title is catchy: I find myself saying that to the potatoes as I plant them.)



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 May book places us in the Chicago high-rise public housing projects as we explore institutional poverty in Toya Wolfe's novel, *Last Summer on State Street*. We will meet on Friday, May 3 at 9:30 am at the Glen Ellyn Public Library.

Please submit novel choices for the 2024-2025 Book Selection Meeting no later than Wednesday, May 29 to Judy Sims at judsims@hotmail.com. Please include a short description of the novel (a few sentences), the author, number of pages and if you have read the novel. You do not need to have read the novel, but it is a positive if you have! We select 11 novels, so we need you to recommend one or two novels.

PM Lit

Susie Gullickson

gullish.1955@gmail.com

Our May selection is *We Were the Lucky Ones* by Georgia Hunter. Inspired by the incredible true story of one Jewish family separated at the start of World War II, determined to survive—and to reunite—*We Were the Lucky Ones* is a tribute to the triumph of hope and love against all odds.

Join us on Monday, May 20, 7:00 pm at Marie Corcoran's home, 31 Hawkins Circle, Wheaton. Bonnie Wheaton recommended this book and will be our discussion leader. We are in need of a co-host, so please let Susie know if you are interested.

PM Non-Fiction

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

We are meeting at 7:00 pm on May 22 at the home of Peggy Connolly (1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton) to discuss the Pitman/Ryan book *Noah's Flood: New Scientific Discoveries*. Judge Bonnie Wheaton has visited these sites and is our discussion leader.

The story of Noah in the Old Testament and the Epic of Gilgamesh from ancient Mesopotamia both reference the legend of a great deluge. Was this a common cultural myth? However, scientists trace the story to an event 7600 years ago. What happened? The evidence shows that the impact of *the flood* was immense.

Please let Peggy know if you are going to attend at Connolly.peggy@gmail.com.

AIR: Aging/Information and Resources Study Group
Ewa Bacon

The study group Aging/Information and Resources has created resources on the AAUW Branch website with information on housing options, medical specialties, home repair services, and end-of-life information. There is a new category that we would like to add: personal home services when you are house-bound. We are looking for your experiences. Do you know of a hair-dresser, a massage therapist, a manicurist who can come to your home to provide these services? Other grooming services?

Have you used anyone for house calls for computer repair? There are times when it is not convenient or possible to drag your computer or desktop to a store. Please help out by providing contact information on any of these services that you have used. Send it to baconew@lewisu.edu.

Looking for information about aging? Lisa Capps recommends Frank Wittington's *Global Aging: A Comparative Perspective on Aging and Life Course*. You may also be interested in the World Happiness Report from the Center of Well Being at the Oxford University [<https://worldhappiness.report/>] Pamela Johnson provides information about financial costs of aging: *Wisewoman.org* is the contact for the *National Resource Center on Women and Retirement*.



History and Cuisine of the Spice Routes

Peggy Connolly
connolly.peggy@gmail.com

On June 6, Spice Routes will evoke Italy, celebrating *Sicily's Ritual of the Light: The Magical Wait for The Summer Solstice*. Join us with your favorite Italian delicacy in joyous anticipation of summer. Please let Peggy know by May 30 what you will bring to the feast.



Film Group

Anne Hanley
ahanley@mindspring.com

Happy May! We wrapped up Oscars' season with a discussion of *Zone of Interest* at Marie Corcoran's home. Thank you, Marie, for hosting. In May we will be back at my home for whatever the cinema universe brings us. I will send out the selection the weekend before our meeting. I will need a volunteer to host for June 14, so please email me if you can host.



**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 bondykj@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