

A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

With this Summer edition, we are looking back over this past year and are so pleased with the increase in our participation at the Branch meetings, membership, and cultural arts events, just to name a few areas. It has been great to have more opportunities for socializing, given more time for catching up with our friends and for meeting new friends. As we are in planning for the upcoming year, we will continue providing an increased social time prior to the start of each Branch meeting and are encouraging our Branch Board to keep providing social times throughout their events.

During April we were able to attend the AAUW-IL convention in Elgin celebrating 100 years of empowering women. It was a wonderful time of immersing ourselves in AAUW and its mission. To keep our report brief, we are including just a few points of interest.

- 1) Donna Jean Simon, President of AAUW-IL opened the convention indicating the importance of our mission and the current social environment in which women's rights seem to be moving backwards. She reminded us that we cannot assume that our fight is over, despite whatever progress we have made.
 - a. As of February 1, 2024, there were 28 AAUW branches in IL with 1,492 members.
 - b. Wheaton-Glen Ellyn is one of 17 of the 28 branches who maintained or increased their membership. Our current membership is 120 members.
 - c. Wheaton-Glen Ellyn was in the top five for giving to National; We gave \$6,119.
- 2) Meghan Kissell, Senior Director of Policy, and Membership Advocacy gave an inspiring talk asking us to think about what we care about and why we vote
 - a. AAUW National provided \$6 million in funding for 285 fellows and grantees awarded in the 2023-2024 year
 - b. AAUW is the largest donor for Women's Education Fund.

Enjoy your summer! Looking forward to seeing you all at the Showcase Branch meeting on Wednesday, September 4, 2024.

In service with you,
Nancy Possinger and Karen Schultz

Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	TIME	INFORMATION
June 1	Spring Luncheon	12 Noon	Reservations were due May 24 for this event. Please contact Karen Bondy (bondykj@aol.com) for questions or dietary requirements.
June 5	Buffalo Theater Tickets Deadline		Deadline to buy BTE Tickets at the MAC box office for maximum discount.
June 6	Spice Routes	6:00 pm	Peggy Connolly, 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton.
June 7	AM Lit Book Selection & Lunch	9:30 am	Marilyn Wiedemann, 373 Oak Street, Glen Ellyn.
June 12	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	ZOOM
June 14	Film Group	6: 00 pm	The patio between Wheaton Public Library and Adams Park.
June 17	PM Lit Book Selection & Pot Luck	6:00 pm	Bonnie Wheaton, 1203 East Harrison Street, Wheaton.
June 26	AM Non-Fiction	10:00 am	Sue Herrmann, 403 Wyndemere Circle, Wheaton.
July 12	AM Lit	9:30 am	Wheaton Public Library, Room 2B ,Upper level, 225 North Cross Street, Wheaton.
July 12	Film Group	6:00 pm	The patio between Wheaton Public Library and Adams Park.
July 15	PM Lit	7:00 pm	TBD
July 24	PM Non-Fiction	7:00 pm	Ewa Bacon, 405 West Front St., #305, Wheaton.
Aug. 2	AM Lit	9:30 am	TBD
Aug. 9	Film Group	6:00 pm	The patio between Wheaton Public Library and Adams Park.
Aug. 19	PM Lit	7:00 pm	TBD
Aug. 28	AM Non-Fiction	10:00 am	Jane Palmer, 1017 Wheaton Oaks Drive, Wheaton.

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.





Please note: Members are encouraged to renew online, but our Treasurer will still accept a check for your dues, if you are having trouble renewing online. The vast majority of you should have received a renewal request by email titled *AAUW: It's Time to Renew Your Membership* during the week of April 20. If you missed it, you should get a second reminder the week of May 20. Newer members will be notified around the anniversary of your join date. Questions or problems: Email sarah.cleland.allen@gmail.com for help.

Membership stands at 120 members as of May 15, 2024. We want to thank everyone who encouraged our 12 new members to join our Branch this past year! 2023-2024 new members are: Lisa Capps, Julia Husen, Sylvia Washington, Nancy Bell, Karin Daly, Linda Parduhn, Kathy Wingler, Maria Hatton, Susan Peters, Ruth Sweetser, Mary Morrissy and Sally Fairbank. Be sure to be especially welcoming to them at the Spring Lunch on June 1, at Adelle's.

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

New Member Introductions

Mary Morrissy has spent most of her career as an attorney. First, as a Personal Injury attorney in her earlier days but largely as a residential real estate lawyer. Mary received her undergraduate degree in history at Webster College in 1973, a MA in History at St. Louis University in 1974 and a JD at Washington University, Saint Louis in 1977. A fun fact, she and Sally Fairbank (see her bio below) graduated law school together in 1977 and are good friends!

Mary is enjoying retirement along with her husband Gene, a retired clinical psychologist. She enjoys travel, having taken many Ric Steves trips to London, France, Iceland and other places. She is an avid reader and looks forward to joining a book discussion group.

Mary grew up in Beverly, Illinois and has lived in Glen Ellyn for over 40 years. She has two adult daughters (both teachers) and one adult son in the area, as well as two grandsons, in sixth and fourth grades, who also live nearby. We are very pleased to welcome Mary as a new member to our Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch. Welcome Mary!

Mary's contact information:

228 North Park Blvd Phone: 630-464-4631
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 Email: mcmorrissy@gmail.com

Sally Fairbank has spent most of her career starting and coordinating paralegal studies programs. She was Coordinator and Professor of Legal Studies at College of DuPage for the past 16 years before her retirement. Prior to COD she worked as an Assistant Public Defender for DuPage County. Sally received her BA in English at Northwestern University in 1973 and her JD from Washington University in St. Louis in 1977. She and Mary Morrissy (see her bio above) graduated law school in the same class of 1977!

Sally and her husband Bill love to travel and are looking forward to a Danube cruise this fall. She loves art history and art appreciation and belongs to three different art groups. She recently joined her church choir and is enjoying having the time to pursue new interests such as AAUW.

Sally has called Glen Ellyn home for over 40 years. She has three adult children and three grandkids that keep her busy as well. We are pleased to have Sally as a new member in our Branch. Welcome Sally!

Sally's contact information:

254 Regent Street Phone: 630-212-8682
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 Email: sallyfairbank@gmail.com



Membership Renewal for Fiscal Year 2025

To start the renewal process National AAUW sent each Branch member an email with a link to renew membership for Fiscal Year 2025. The email was sent to you about April 25 from infosf@aauw.org with the subject line **AAUW: It's Time to Renew Your Membership!** Renewal through the website is paid using a **Credit** or **Debit** card using the link found in the email.

Renewing online is an easy and convenient process, however if you prefer to renew by check you may do so by mailing a **check** made out to **AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn NFP** for \$101 (National \$72 + AAUW IL \$10 + Branch \$19) to **my new home address:** Maureen Sheehan, 200 Wyndemere Circle, Apt W126, Wheaton IL 60187. Please give me a call at 630.926.1147 if you have any questions or would like help renewing your membership.

Last Call for Fiscal Year 2024 Reimbursement Requests

Our Branch has had a successful year, and we are looking forward to Fiscal Year 2025 so it is time to submit any remaining requests for reimbursements that have been incurred in Fiscal Year 2024. Fiscal Year 2024 ends on June 30 so please submit any remaining request no later than **June 20, 2024. The only exception to this will be Book Sale expenses. ALL BOOK SALE EXPENSES need to be RECEIVED by me no later than Thursday, June 27.** I will be at the Book Sale most of the hours it is open so you may bring your receipts to the sale, complete a Reimbursement Request Form and sign it at that time. Please let me know if you have any questions, 630.926.1147.

The Inside Scoop Donna Jean Simon, AAUW-IL President

On June 30, I will pass the gavel, so to speak, to Laura Desmarais, who will begin her term as State President on July 1. This will be the third administration in a row that has been led by a Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch member, following in the footsteps of Lisa Cherry and myself.

As a Branch, we should be very proud of our contributions to AAUW at both the state and national level. We have contributed to many offices on the state board, including a number of State Presidents and even National Presidents.

I hope that all of you will continue to support AAUW, not only as members, but also as Branch officers, state officers, and even on national committees. Participating in leadership is a wonderful opportunity to meet with and work with many talented women and make long lasting friendships to a cause which we support and that is always under attack, no matter how much progress we make.

For those who voted to amend the Bylaws, thank you. As one of the largest branches in the state, we have much to offer our colleagues statewide.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as an officer of this Branch and on the state board on your behalf. I look forward to continuing to work for gender and pay equity, and leadership opportunities for women.



Good News from the Opportunity Fund. We have four very deserving young women from our local high schools who will be receiving scholarship money from our Branch to attend College of DuPage in the fall. They have been chosen by a committee at their high school. I am detailing a small bit of their biographies and plans for their future. More information and cute pictures will be available at the Spring Banquet. Hope to see you all there!



From Glenbard South, we have Elaina Blaim who, according to her counselor, has been an exemplary student throughout high school. She has been an integral part of concert and marching band, and has been on the track and field and cross-country teams. Outside of school, she has been an important volunteer for Boy Scouts. She has a passion for making jewelry and has gifted many items to school staff. She is a very compassionate school leader. She plans to begin at COD, transfer to a four year university and will combine her love of creation into the field of marketing.



From Wheaton-Warrenville South, we have Jacqueline Gallagher who has been active in high school in lacrosse for three years, fashion show planning and has been a member of Key Club. Outside of school, she has worked at Danada Veterinary Hospital, cleaning up and taking care of animals, enjoying time with friends and family, reading or walking in the neighborhood. She plans on pursuing a four year, degree after deciding to start at COD, hoping to major in forensic science or a related field as she continues her education.



From Wheaton North, we have Sarah Matthews who has combined her life in high school with volunteering in the community and working outside of school. She spent her sophomore year helping at her local church, working with kindergartners, in music and encouraging them to share and play games. She worked at Culver's for a full year, saving money for college. As a senior, she joined the crew at TJ Maxx. She plans to continue both work and volunteerism during her time at COD. Her long-term plans include finishing her Bachelor's degree in Sonography at Southern Illinois University.



From Glenbard West, we have Amelia Dabros, who is the oldest in her family. She has had to mature quickly as she had a lot of responsibility at a young age. Her father was working out-of-state much of the time, and then her mother became very ill when Amelia was in eighth grade. Her father returned home, but still this was a time of quickly needing to grow up, and she credits this with her level of maturity and responsibility throughout high school. She is sure this will help her at College of DuPage and beyond. She wants to enter a program to become an Ultrasound technician.

Our Branch Fundraising Activities



Book Sale

Karla Bullett & Carolyn Oesterle

wikabull2@gmail.com csoesterle@gmail.com

Used Book Sale Countdown

Calling all Members!! The used book sale is just days away. That is **days**, not weeks, not months. We have had great success with book collection—thousands of books have already been collected and sorted. Each member should be collecting from friends and neighbors. Our collection bins are up at Health Track, Wheaton Sport Center, Sunset Knoll Rec Center, Main Street Rec Center, Cornerstone Used Books, and Spring Avenue Rec Center. There will be a collection bin at Westfield Elementary School from June 3 until June 14. Contact Karla or Carolyn if you need to arrange a large pickup.

Book Categories: Please put the books into handled grocery bags for easiest carrying. Only books in good condition should be kept. Please collect and sort books into the following categories and throw out the *dogs*.

- Nonfiction, including current events, history, science, nature, biography, politics, etc.
- Fiction, including mysteries, sci-fi, romance, etc.
- Young Adult
- Children's
- Better Books, individually priced.
- Gardening, How-to, and Cookbooks, accepted if in good condition.

Sign Up Genius:

- E-mailed on May 15 from whgeaauw@aol.com
- Please sign up for as many shifts as possible. Sorting is only 6 days; much assistance needed for first day of sorting, June 11.
- **Please HELP. If you need the link, contact Karen Bondy at bondykj@aol.com and she will send the link.**

Sorting:

- Weekdays beginning Tuesday, June 11 through Tuesday, June 18, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm daily.
- Please bring the books you have collected for the sale to Westfield Elementary School by **June 14** .

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

Updates: <https://wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net/welcome/books/>

Branch Fundraising continued

Fall Fundraising Walk

Carolyn Oesterle & Patricia Spence

csoesterle@gmail.com pspence101@aol.com

Come to the Fall Fundraising Walk where we combine fun, friendship, and fundraising. This year the walk will be Friday, September 20 at 9:00 am at Hidden Lake Park which is just south of Butterfield Road on Route 53 in Downers Grove. Following the walk, we will have coffee and treats with an exciting game of *Trivia by Patricia*—complete with prizes. Be sure to save the date—details in the fall.



Public Policy

Laurie Driscoll

laurdris@att.net

On April 19, the U.S. Department of Education issued strong and comprehensive protections against discrimination in school through their final Title IX rules. The new regulations clarify that student survivors of sexual harassment, pregnant and parenting students, and LGBTQ+ students have equal educational opportunities free from sex discrimination. The new rules take effect on August 1, 2024.

The new rules have not yet been posted on the AAUW website (aauw.org). Hopefully that will occur soon. I suggest members check the website throughout the summer for any updates. In the meantime, the new rules are available on the US Department of Education website. **The link to the FACT SHEET: U.S. Department of Education's 2024 Title IX Final Rule Overview** is at: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/t9-final-rule-factsheet.pdf>.

Paula Johnson, AAUW-IL Public Policy Co-Chair, summarized the new guidelines for Title IX and provided updates on other important policies that affect women and girls:

- The new guidelines are 80% better than they were. Major change in protecting students dealing with sexual harassment. Before students were required to face their harassers, now that is removed.
- The new guidelines protect the student not just in the building or the classroom but the total school grounds including housing. If there is a school tour, that is part of the education process and included.
- Pregnant students and new mothers are totally supported.
- All LGBTQ+ students are protected in these guidelines.
- The following states are stating that they will not follow these new guidelines: Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana and Idaho. Texas is filing a lawsuit to fight the new guidelines.
- The previous Title IX Guidelines were written by Betsy DeVos along with the group *Defense of Freedom Institute*.
- Additional rules are coming for student debt around May 15.
- The U.S. Census is going to ask the gender of each citizen. We have never known this statistic in the past.
- Overtime rules have been changed to protect everyone, especially women.
- And finally, non-compete agreements are being removed from low and middle income individuals. It does not make sense that someone from Mc Donald's should not be able to work at a different fast food restaurant if they can make more money OR get a better position.



May was a busy month for the AAUW Online team. Our *Facebook* posts highlighting book donations reached over 5,300 users just in the first two weeks. This publicity resulted in several big donations and increased drop-offs at our seven locations. Now we turn to promoting the sale. How can you help?

- The Branch's two *Facebook* pages will continue to be very active in June. We plan to frequently post pictures of books with details of the sale's location and offerings. Keep the buzz going with a reply, such as, *I'll be there* or *Can't wait* or *Time to buy my beach books!*
- If you are a member of a *Facebook Group*, such as, *What's Happening in Glen Ellyn* or *Wheaton or Lombard*, share our post to increase our reach. Add a comment, such as, *I look forward to this event each year*. Posts mean more if they are personally recommended, not just an ad.
- Flyers are available on the Branch website. Download a flyer and attach to an email that goes out to your book-loving friends.
- Are you a member of a non-AAUW book group? Be sure to let them know about the Book Sale.

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 me at jfpalmer@comcast.net if you have suggestions or questions about posting on the *Book Sale Facebook* page. Contact Patricia at pspence101@aol.com with pictures of members enjoying other Branch activities. Tracy Kline at trakli@msn.com continues to update the website with photos of Branch activities. Keep them coming!

**Buffalo Theater Ensemble (BTE)
2024-2025 Season
Peggy Connolly**

Buffalo Theatre Ensemble's 2024-2025 season promises a year of witty and delightful theatre. If you like great live professional theatre, preceded by wine and hors d'oeuvres and great conversation, please join us for the coming year's BTE performances. We socialize at 5:30 pm at Chez Peggy before heading to the College of DuPage MacAninch Arts Center (MAC) for the 7:30 performance. ALERT! This year, the plays will begin half an hour earlier, at 7:30, so our pre-theatre soiree will also begin half an hour earlier, at 5:30. The dates for our pre-theater gathering are:

- Thursday, September 12, 5:30 pm
- Thursday, November 21, 5:30 pm
- Thursday, February 13, 5:30 pm

If you purchase your season tickets by June 5, you will receive a 25% discount. The \$7.00 Order Fee will be waived if you stop by the box office to order your tickets. With the discount and fee waiver, the senior subscription costs \$100.50, a great price for three professional shows, minutes from home, with free parking and a party before the play!

Please email Peggy if you would like to be added to the BTE list: connolly.peggy@gmail.com



Our Branch Book Groups

AM Lit

Donna Staples

donnastaples5050@gmail.com

Our Book Selection meeting for the coming year will take place at the home of Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann on Friday, June 7 at 9:30 am. The address is 373 Oak Street, Glen Ellyn. Please bring a dish to share for lunch. All are welcome.

- July 12: *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese. **NOTE:** This meeting will be held at the Wheaton Public Library, Room 2B ,Upper level, 225 N Cross Street, Wheaton at 9:30 am.
- August 2: Selection and venue TBD.

PM Lit

Susie Gullickson

gullish.1955@gmail.com

There is a lot happening with PM Lit over the summer months!

June is our Book Selection Potluck event for the 2024-25 year. We will meet on June 17 at 6:00 pm at Bonnie Wheaton's home, 1203 Harrison Street, Wheaton. Bring a dish to share.

We need your book selection ideas, with a short description of the book; preferably, this will be a book that you have read or heavily vetted. I would like to suggest that we avoid very lengthy books. Consider selections that will spur a lively discussion, have a complex plot or characters or a controversial subject matter. Please get your suggestions to me by Monday, June 10, so I have adequate time to compile the list. It will be emailed to you in advance of our meeting, to allow you time to review the options. We will vote for eleven books during the meeting.

We will continue to meet during the summer months. In July, we will discuss the *banned book*, *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. Meeting details will be sent by email closer to the date. Our August book has not yet been selected.

AM Non-Fiction

Sue Herrmann

sherrmann710@gmail.com

We meet on June 26 at the home of Sue Herrmann, 403 Wyndemere Circle, Wheaton at 10:00 am. We will select five books to read for the 2024-25 season. Our meeting will be a Potluck Lunch so please call or text (630.234.1941) or email Sue if you plan to attend along with your contribution to the potluck.

Our next meeting is on August 28 at Jane Palmer's home and we will read *Remembering America, A Voice from the Sixties* by Dick Goodman. Happy summer reading!

PM Non-Fiction

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

Our summer meeting is on July 24 at 7:00 pm at the home of Ewa Bacon (405 W. Front St., #305, Wheaton). Jane Palmer will lead the discussion of *Last Call at the Hotel Imperial: The Reporters Who Took on a World at War*. It is both surprising and depressing that in 2024 we are again facing a world at war. Deborah Cohen's book focuses on a close-knit band of wildly famous American reporters who took on dictators and rewrote the rules of modern journalism in the 20th Century. Does this give us a rule book for the 21st Century?



Film Group

Anne Hanley

ahanley@mindspring.com

Welcome summer! We will meet outdoors this summer, cicadas permitting! The dates are: June 14, July 12, and August 9. Film selections will go out the weekend before our meetings on the second Friday of each month. Please feel free to send your suggestions for what to watch and discuss to me via email.



Great Decisions

Peggy Connolly, Peggy McGrath, Carol Ginger, Alison Hayes

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

Great Decisions Groups #1 and #3 will meet the first week of September to discuss NATO's Future. Group #3 will meet Tuesday, September 3 at 1:00 pm. Group #1 will meet Thursday, September 5 at 1:00 pm.



History and Cuisine of the Spice Routes

Peggy Connolly

connolly.peggy@gmail.com

Dates and dinner themes will be chosen for the coming year in the next few weeks and you will be notified by email. If you are not already on the email list and would like to be added, please email Peggy Connolly.

The Twigs Team

Editor:	Kathleen McCullough
Proofreader:	Ruth Schumacher
AAUW Online:	Jane Palmer
Website Editor:	Tracy Kline

Editor's Note: It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your Twigs Editor these past years. This Branch has always held a special place in my heart. Twigs will be in great hands with our new member Susan Peters. I want to thank the above Twigs Team for their assistance and all the contributors that made the newsletter our main source of communication for the Branch.