

A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

The enthusiasm in the room at our 1st Branch Meeting of the year on September 4th could be heard and felt! With a nice large crowd, one could just feel the energy and joy of gathering in person. The speaker, Dr. Jelena Radovic-Fanta, spoke about Migration, Gender and Belonging in Chile's Grape Export Industry. Her talk was so engaging that we had to politely cut off the questions that could have gone on for a long time.

Our intrepid Gelato servers, Christine Carter, Pamela Johnson, and Margaret McGrath provided delicious treats for all members. Overall, it was such a delightful evening, we had to rush to "usher" people out and clean up because no one wanted the evening to end.

We want to give a special shout out to Susan Levy-Creed and Karla Megow, our Opportunity Fund Co-Chairs for finding and inviting, Dr. Radovic-Fanta. They spent a lot of time and effort researching a speaker of such special interest to our AAUW Branch.

Our Membership Co-chairs, Sue Hagerty and Marie Corcoran graciously welcomed all our members and guests. We have had 2 new members join our Branch already this fall. Remember to keep sharing the opportunity to support our mission with your friends, family, and coworkers. Sue and Marie will be hosting a New Member Orientation to be held on October 9 at Marie Corcoran's house.

Heidi Fraser, our Treasurer, presented the first pass of the 2024-25 budget. The proposed budget will be presented in full at the October Branch meeting and voted on at the November Branch meeting.

The preview of next month's program with Joel Jara, Community Relations Coordinator for DuPage Health Coalition. was presented by Patty Mugavero and Jean Lindsey.

The Showcase speakers for some of our many different special interest groups were highlighted by Patricia Spence for Cultural Arts, Peggy Connolly for Spice Routes, Buffalo Theater Ensemble and Great Decisions, and Fran Kravitz shared the opportunity to volunteer with the STEM program for grade school students. Carolyn Oesterle gave a brief 2024 Book Sale Wrap Up. Carolyn also reminded members of this year's Fall Fundraising Walk. A special thanks to one of our former Branch presidents and a former IL AAUW president Lisa Cherry who presented us with an opportunity to consider joining the Legacy Circle group. Lastly, thanks to all the others who worked behind the scenes to make the event such a success! The energy in the room was electrifying and gave us such a positive start to our new 2024-25 year for Branch activities!

Looking forward to seeing you all throughout the year and especially at our next Branch meeting on October 2 at the Glen Ellyn Police Department at 6:45 pm. Look for more details of the event in the report by the VPs for Programs. And don't forget - bring a friend and introduce them to AAUW!

In Service with you,

Nancy Possinger and Karen Schulz

Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	TIME	INFORMATION
Sept. 24	Board Meeting	7 pm	Ewa Bacon's Home 405 Front St. Apt. 305. Wheaton, IL
Sept. 25	PM Nonfiction	7 pm	Donna Jean Simon's Home 453 Raintree Drive, Unit 1F Glen Ellyn
Oct. 1	Great Decisions Group #3	1 pm	Zoom
Oct. 2	Branch Meeting	6 pm	Glen Ellyn Police Station 65 S. Park Blvd. Glen Ellyn
Oct. 3	Great Decisions Group #1	1 pm	Nancy Possinger's Home 26 W 070 MacArthur Av. Carol Stream
Oct. 4	AM Lit	9:30 am	Wheaton Public Library, 25 N. Cross Street, Wheaton
Oct 8	<i>DuPage County Elections</i>	<i>Last day for voter registration by deputy registers</i>	
Oct. 9	New Member Orientation	7 pm	Marie Corcoran's Home 31 Hawkins Circle Wheaton
Oct. 10	Spice Routes	6 pm	Peggy Connolly's Home 445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton
Oct 11	Film Group	7 pm	Ewa Bacon's Home 405 W Front Street, #305 Wheaton
Oct. 20	<i>DuPage County Elections</i>	<i>Last day to register to vote online</i>	
Oct 21	PM Lit	7 pm	Marie Corcoran's Home 31 Hawkins Circle Wheaton
Oct. 21	<i>DuPage County Elections</i>	<i>Expanded early voting opens across DuPage County</i>	
Oct. 23	AM Nonfiction	10 am	Peggy Connolly's Home 1445 Brentwood Lane Wheaton
<i>Oct. 31</i>	<i>DuPage County Elections</i>	<i>Last day to apply for Vote by Mail ballot.</i>	

Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW Branch Meeting

October 2 at 6:45 pm

Glen Ellyn Police Department

65 S. Park Blvd. Glen Ellyn



Healthcare Programs for DuPage County Families
Joel Jarra, Community Relationships Coordinator

For many of us living in DuPage County, our lives are lived comfortably. We own our homes, have enough extra income to allow travel, benefit from thorough health insurance, and can afford to fill up our grocery carts and our vehicle's tanks whenever they need filling. Not everyone living among us in this county is as fortunate. Joel Jara, Community Relationships Coordinator for the DuPage Health Coalition, will explain how **DuPage Health Coalition** serves low-income families in DuPage County.

The **DuPage Health Coalition**, as a non-profit organization, operates several programs that help keep residents healthy, regardless of their ability to pay. It is guided by the belief that everyone deserves equitable and generous access to healthcare. It is a partnership of hospitals, doctors and community organizations working together to offer efficient and effective healthcare. Thus, making it easier for low-income families in DuPage County to receive high quality healthcare. There is more information available at accessdupage.org.

The Coalition offers programs such as Medical Debt Care which helps relieve any medical bills, past, or present, including those in collections. Access DuPage is a health program for the uninsured, while DuPage Dispensary of Hope helps clients secure prescription medications. Silver Access aids qualified persons to gain access to affordable healthcare insurance.

The **DuPage Health Coalition** office is open to the public Monday – Thursday (no appointments necessary) 8 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 4 pm. at 511 Thornhill Dr, Suite C , Carol Stream, IL 60188.

Our speaker, Mr. Jara, has served in the nonprofit sector for over fifteen years. Fluent in both English and Spanish, Joel, attended Wheaton College, and feels he is energized when his work aids and helps low-income residents.

Do join us on October 2, at 6:45 pm at the Glen Ellyn Police Department. After a brief time for refreshments and socialization, Joel Jara will speak about how he and his staff provide equitable access to healthcare throughout DuPage County. All are welcome to attend.



AAUW Voter Guide

AAUW is a nonpartisan organization which encourages members to learn about key issues related to gender equity. When you familiarize yourself with this Information, you can cast your ballot for candidates at the national, state and local level, who share your values.

The issues included in the guide are:

- When women vote
- Sex and gender-based discrimination in schools
- Diversity and inclusion in higher education
- College affordability and student debt
- Pay equity
- Paid family and sick leave
- Reproductive rights and abortion access
- Voting rights
- Equal Rights Amendment

The complete guide is available on the AAUW website – aauw.org.

"When women vote, we change the conversation."

Gloria Blackwell, AAUW Chief Executive Office



Membership

Marie Corcoran & Susan Hagerty

susanhagerty18@gmail.com mecorcoran31@gmail.com

Our membership continues to grow - we are now 124 members strong. Thank you to all our members, new and continuing, for your support. Please remember, you can always bring a friend and perspective member to any of our meetings.

Membership Renewals

AAUW National has recently instituted a rolling basis for renewals. Your dues are due on the anniversary of your enrollment. For most of us this is in June, but for some of our recent joiners, it could be this Fall or Winter. Please watch your emails for your renewal notice.

Membership Contact List Update

If you have moved, changed your email or phone contacts - please send this new information to **Sue Hagerty or Marie Corcoran**. Please note the following members have updates to their contact information:

Claudia Finley has a new email: claudden52@yahoo.com

Leslie Sulla has a preferred email: sulla.leslie@gmail.com

New Member Orientation

Recent Members --Please mark your calendars for **October 9 at 7 pm** at Marie Corcoran's home **31 Hawkins Circle, Wheaton**. If you have joined our Branch within the last 12 months, we invite you to a wonderful opportunity to meet other recently joined members, hear from our leaders about our mission, vision and our various events, activities and interest groups that meet throughout the year!

New Member Introductions

Connie Canaday Howard just joined us in August. She's lived in Chicagoland since 1988, and in Downers Grove for 33 years. Connie grew up in Iowa and left to study dance in NYC as a teen. Though back and forth, she did finish high school in Iowa and then graduated from Simpson College, Indianola IA, with a BA in Theatre and Public Relations. She also had minors in English and Speech and was certified to teach all four disciplines in 7-12.

She studied and toured in both dance and theatre – but also has an MFA in Directing from the University of Pittsburgh.

She's taught classes in professional studios, community centers as well as at university level, including our own College of DuPage.

These days, Connie is a retired chair/professor of theatre from College of DuPage (34 years), and emerita Managing Artistic Director of Buffalo Theatre Ensemble (BTE) for 36+ years. Always the dedicated Ensemble and Board member for BTE, she is currently directing The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley, which opens in November. She is also a Jeff Artistic Team judge. (the Joseph Jefferson Committee's "Jeff" is Chicago's version of the Tony).

She and her husband Rex (Howard), have two adult daughters, four grandchildren (one on the way in February) and two dogs. Like many of our members, Connie loves reading, and outdoor pursuits like walking, hiking, biking and gardening (primarily perennials).

Welcome Connie!

Primary phone: (630) 835-8799
Personal email: conniech22@gmail.com

Valli Schiller, a native New Yorker, Valli earned her BA in Rhetoric and Communications from the University at Albany followed by an MBA from the University of Colorado at Boulder. During her 18 years living in Colorado, Valli worked as a CPA for Ernst & Young and later as Controller for the Boulder Municipal Employees Federal Credit Union.

After moving to Naperville in 2003, Valli focused on her creative side. She is an award-winning quilt artist whose work has been exhibited internationally and who has taught and lectured widely. Early in the pandemic, Valli collaborated with renowned quilter Ami Simms to design and publish an innovative, free cloth face mask pattern that was downloaded over 50,000 times.

For several years, Valli worked in fund development at People's Resource Center, which is where she first became aware of AAUW—Wheaton/Glen Ellyn through the annual book sale. Valli is an adventurous home cook and one of her favorite cookbooks in an ever-growing collection came from the first AAUW sale she attended.

Valli and her husband are currently enjoying an active retirement. They are avid bicyclists who have pedaled their way throughout the USA and in Europe. They have a grown son and daughter who have fledged the nest and a pampered cat who rules the roost at home.

Welcome Valli!

Mobile phone: (630) 788-1837
Email: Valli.Schiller@gmail.com



STEM Volunteers Needed

The STEM committee is looking for members who are interested in carrying out STEM activities for the AAUW Wheaton Glen Ellyn Branch. No science experience needed, just a willingness to have fun making science accessible for young girls and other children in the community. Members who have participated will tell you that it is fun and rewarding when you see the face of a child light up with excitement as they understand the topic and succeed in the experiment

Our Branch has two main STEM projects. The first began in 2020 during COVID with the development of “Little Science Houses”. **Science Girls on the Go™** was a novel approach to continuing to encourage and inspire STEM projects with girls while maintaining social distancing and lowering the risk of spreading the COVID virus. Free science enrichment kits for K-12 girls are placed into little science houses (like little free libraries). Currently the Branch has three science houses, two in Wheaton (1445 Brentwood Lane and 1516 Paula Avenue) and one in Glen Ellyn (373 Oak Street). Each science house contains about 20 kits and is refilled as needed. Once a month, a new science kit is added. Each kit comes with instructions and an introduction to the science behind the activity, along with further experiments using the science principles of the kit.

Our second program is a **STEM workshop** once a month with the Glen Ellyn Public Library. We present a different experiment each month, along with explaining the scientific concept behind the experiment. All workshops are on Mondays from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Our upcoming dates and topics are:

Monday, December 9, 2024 Glowing Reactions

Description: Learn what is chemiluminescence and how temperature affects the movement of molecules using glo-sticks

Monday, January 13, 2025 Twinkle, Twinkle Little Orb

Description: Learn about static electricity and what are some of its uses in this workshop. We will construct an electroscope out of common materials to detect static electricity and then use this information to make a Mylar ball float.

Monday, February 10, 2025 Ready, Aim, Energize!

Description: Learn about potential and kinetic energy using a homemade cotton ball launcher that students will make out of simple materials.

Interested individuals in joining the STEM committee to help at a **STEM workshop** at the Glen Ellyn Public Library or assemble kits for **Science Girls on the Go™** should contact Fran Kravitz at fk1456@sbcglobal.net



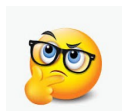
Opportunities Fund

Susan Levy-Creed & Karla Megow

susanlevycreed@gmail.com karla_megow@yahoo.com

Those of you who attended in person or on Zoom undoubtedly enjoyed our speaker, **Jelena Radivic-Fanta**. She attended as a recipient of a grant from AAUW National which helped her publish her first academic paper – now she has published many.

The **Opportunities Fund** enjoys bringing the Branch a speaker each year to help us remember how very important and interesting our grant and scholarship recipients are. We hope you enjoyed her as much as we did, and remember, it is for young women just starting at College of DuPage and accomplished professionals like Jelena that we work so hard on our fund raising which supports the AAUW mission statement.



AIR (Aging, Information and Resources)

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

When you check out the “Home Services Providers” on our Branch AAUW website under AIR, you can find plumbers, electricians, house painters, remodelers, ramp installers and garage door fixers. But what if you have only a s-m-a-l-l issue? Or perhaps a set of small issues like a door that’s sticking, a misaligned window—something that just needs to be fixed (if only you knew how to use a drill or a hammer)?

Lillian Sorensen has used and suggests the following resource: **HANDYMAN CONNECTION OF WHEATON**. They have an office at 800 Roosevelt Rd, Building B, Suite 420. Their phone number is 630-315-2900. The email address is handymanconnection.com/Wheaton.



Great Decisions

Peggy Connolly, Peggy McGrath, Carol Ginger, Alison Hayes

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

Invisible Indonesia is October’s topic for Great Decisions. Group #3 will meet Tuesday October 1 at 1 pm via Zoom. Group #1 will meet Thursday October 3 at 1 pm at the home of Nancy and Frank Possinger.

If you are interested in joining Great Decisions, please let Alison Hayes (Group #3, zoom) and Peggy Connolly (Group #1, in-person) know. Emails are in the Members Only section of the website.



Cultural Arts

Laura Desmarais & Patricia Spence

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Cultural Arts invites you to three October events.

On **Sunday, Oct. 6**, we will see the Wheaton Drama matinee performance of “**Moon Over Buffalo**” and, post-performance, dine “under the tent” (For details, see September Twigs or the August 9 email sent to all Cultural Arts members.)

Please RSVP to Laura and Patricia if you are joining this theatre and supper event.

On **Friday, October 11**, we will walk the St. James Forest Preserve Farm Loop (1.6- 2 miles) to view the six Olmec sculptures situated on or near this trail. St. James is located at 2S541 Winfield Rd, Warrenville. The entrance to the parking lot is on Winfield Road just north of Butterfield.

Specific details and a request for an RSVP will be emailed Oct. 1 to all Cultural Arts members.

On **Friday, October 25**, we will lunch at Rosemary and Jean’s (Lombard) at noon. At 2 pm we will enjoy private tours of the Lombard Historical Society Victorian Cottage, and the Little Orphan “Annie”-Versary display at the Carriage House.

Specific details for the R&J lunch and LHS tours will be emailed on Oct. 10 to all Branch members on the Cultural Arts group email list. RSVP will be required.



Film Group

Anne Hanley

ahanley@mindspring.com

September’s film group meeting was a real pleasure as we explored the film “**Perfect Days**,” about the contemplative life of a quiet man who works as a toilet cleaner in Tokyo. It was the kind of meeting where we all left with a deeper and richer appreciation of the film, its characters, its symbols, its meanings, its art.

Next month’s meeting will be quite different! Not the talking or exploring or appreciating part. That is our constant. I mean the selection: we will discuss the new AND the original versions of “**Beetlejuice**”. Watch the new one, revisit the original, and come ready to talk about both!

October’s meeting is hosted by Ewa Bacon on Friday October 11, 2024. We will gather at 7 pm for some socializing and will begin our film discussion immediately following.



Our Branch Book Groups

AM Lit

Donna Staples

donnastaples5050@gmail.com

Our October read will be **"Tom Lake"** by Ann Patchett. Maureen Dabovich will lead our discussion of this novel which features a troupe of actors performing the play "Our Town" and the relationships they form. We will meet on Friday, October 4, at 9:30 am at the Wheaton Public Library, 225 N. Cross Street, Wheaton.

November Selection— THE MAID by Nita Prose

PM Lit

Susie Gullickson

gullish.1955@gmail.com

Our October selection is **"Good Night Irene"** by Luis Alberto Urrea. Inspired by the author's mother's time as a "Dolly" during WWII, Urrea is on a quest, a decades-long journey to fill in the blanks of a period in his family history that his mother, struggling with undiagnosed PTSD, did not want to revisit.

For soldiers mired in despair and scarred, both emotionally and physically, the sounds of these "Dollies" voices, the silly talent shows they sometimes held and the casual conversations they initiated lent a sense of normalcy and brief respite from the surreal nightmare they were living. Urrea beautifully captures the magic of these brief encounters and the tenacity of these dedicated women.

Join us on Monday, October 21, 7 pm at Marie Corcoran's home, 31 Hawkins Circle, Wheaton, IL.

Donna Staples will be our Discussion Leader. We need a co-host, so please let Susie know if you are interested

AM Non-Fiction

Sue Herrmann

sherrman710@gmail.com

We will meet on October 23 at the home of Peggy Connolly at 10 am, to discuss **"Our Secret Society: Mollie Moon and the Glamour, Money and Power Behind the Civil Rights Movement"**, by Tanisha C. Ford.

Please contact Peggy Connolly at 630-605-8857. Her address is 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton. I will be providing light snacks,

No election is trivial, but this 2024 presidential election is momentous. There are two visions of our country at play which are as dissimilar as believing that the earth rotates around the sun (Copernicus) or that the sun revolves about the earth (Ptolemy). Our fall book selections look at the political and international scene.

On September 25, we will discuss Heather Cox Richardson's "[Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America](#)". Richardson is a respected historian and newsletter author. From the blurb: "In her trademark calm prose, she is realistic and optimistic about the future of democracy."

Donna Jean Simon will lead our discussion at 7 pm on September 25 at her home 453 Raintree Drive Unit 1F. Please RSVP djsimon@questill.com.

Looking ahead to our post-election book: we will discuss Mikhail Zygar's book, "[War and Punishment: Putin, Zelensky and the path to Russia's invasion of Ukraine](#)", on November 20 at 7 pm at Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann's home. This readable, often humorous story contrasts the two Vladimirs: the leaders of autocratic Russia and democratic Ukraine.

Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Vision: Equity for all.

Values: Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and Intersectionality.



The Twigs Team

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