

A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

We had a wonderful and informative time at our recent Branch Meeting on October 2.

The speaker Joel Jara, Community Relations Coordinator, DuPage Health Coalition, works with a partnership of physicians, hospitals, and community organizations to aid those in need. He enlightened us with information regarding providing medical services for those less fortunate people in DuPage County. Thanks to Patty Mugavero and Jean Lindsey for arranging such a relevant program.

Engaging and socializing with other members of our Branch has been a goal of ours. So far this fall we have had several delightful events available to us: Showcase Kick Off meeting, Fall Fundraising Walk, Branch Meeting, Cultural Arts Events, Book Groups, a New Member Orientation, Great Decisions Discussion Groups, Film Group and a Spice Routes Dinner.

We have these events in some cases to fund raise for our Branch and in all cases to provide opportunities to come together and get to know each other better.

Voting has begun in our service area. We hope that all of you are registered to vote and will vote. Voting is our voice as citizens!

Looking forward to seeing you all at our next Branch meeting on November 6 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.

Remember that guests are always welcome. Plan to invite a friend or two.

Nancy Possinger and Karen Schulz

Upcoming Events - November 2024

VOTE!



DATE	EVENT	TIME	INFORMATION
Oct 23	AM Non-Fiction	10:00 am	Peggy Connolly's Home 1445 Brentwood Lane Wheaton
Oct 25	Cultural Event	12:30 pm	Rosemary + Jeans 116 S. Main St. Lombard
Oct 29	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Marie Corcoran's Home 31 Hawkins Circle Wheaton
Nov 1	AM Lit	9:30 am	Wheaton Public library 425 Cross St., Lower-Level Room C Wheaton
Nov 3	Daylight Savings Time Begins		Set Clocks back
Nov 4	Last Day for Early Voting		VOTE!!!
Nov 5	ELECTION DAY		VOTE!!!
Nov 5	Great Decisions Group #3	1:00 pm	Zoom
Nov 6	Branch Meeting	6:45 pm	Glen Ellyn Police Department 65 S. Park Blvd Glen Ellyn
Nov 7	Great Decisions Group #1	1:00 pm	Ewa Bacon's Home 405 W. Front Street, Apt. 305 Wheaton
Nov 8	Film Group	7:00 pm	Anne Hanley's Home 679 Forest Ave, Glen Ellyn
Nov 18	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Peggy Connolly's Home 1445 Brentwood Lane Wheaton
Nov 20	PM Non-Fiction	7:00 pm	Marilynn Wiedemann's Home 373 Oak St. Glen Ellyn
Nov 21	Buffalo Theater Ensemble Pre-show Gathering	5:30 pm	Peggy Connolly's Home 1445 Brentwood Lane Wheaton

**Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch Meeting: November 6****Community Mental Health Boards: Needed or Not?**

Speakers: Hugh Brady and Mike Murray

Please join us on November 6 at 6:45 pm at the Glen Ellyn Police Station; 65 S. Park Blvd to learn more about how DuPage County is tackling the mental health needs of its population. According to CDC, 1 out of 5 people live with a mental health condition. The statistics are staggering; approximately 1 in 3 young adults (ages 18-25) in the U.S. experienced a mental illness in the last year. For adults, 1 out of 5 have experienced mental health illness. It may have been a silent illness, but now public awareness has burgeoned. Many people have been frustrated with finding effective treatment and have demanded more resources.

In 2021, Milton Township recognized the need for a more comprehensive approach to the township's mental health services. Our speakers, **Mike Murray and Hugh Brady**, have both been instrumental in establishing several 708 Community Mental Health Boards in DuPage and neighboring townships. They will address the need for the boards, the history of the boards, their objectives, their impact and their services. The scope of the 708 Board includes the needs of people living with mental illness, substance abuse and developmental disabilities. Both of our speakers have been instrumental in establishing 708 boards which aim to improve the services of those who suffer from such illnesses.

Mike Murray and Hugh Brady are retired educators who have impressive and impactful community service backgrounds. Mike has been a dedicated community organizer since 2013. As member of the League of Women Voters, the committee he led published "Would a 708 Mental Board Improve Mental Health in Bloomindale Townships?" That was the start of his numerous collaborations with multiple townships. He has also been an active volunteer in many related programs.

Hugh was an active union member and the president of his local for many years. When he retired, he became involved with NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness and with the Alliance to End Homelessness in Cook County. He joined with other volunteers to create a Housing Task Force, which served many homeless people and/or those living with mental illness. For the past four years he has also helped create many 708 boards.



VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

Important DuPage County Election 2024 Dates (www.dupagecounty.gov/election)

October 31 - Last day to apply for a Vote by Mail ballot.

November 4 - Last day of Early Voting.

November 5 – Election day. Be sure to vote!

Illinois General Assembly

The Illinois General Assembly is scheduled to meet for the 2024 Veto session on November 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, and 21. At this time there are no specific bills scheduled for a vote. This may change after the November 5 election.



Great Decisions

Peggy Connolly, Peggy McGrath, Carol Ginger, Alison Hayes

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

The November Great Decisions topic is **The High Seas Treaty**.

Group #1 will meet November 7 at Ewa Bacon's home at 1:00 pm.

Group #3 will meet November 5 at 1:00 pm via Zoom.

Please RSVP to Ewa if you will attend Group 1 and contact Alison Hayes for the Zoom link for Group 3.



Fundraising Walk

Carolyn Oesterle

coesterle@gmail.com

The Fall Fundraising Walk was a BIG SUCCESS!! Thank you to all who participated and contributed. The weather was good, the treats were fine, the fellowship was wonderful, and Trivia by Patricia was outstanding. Thanks to our generous Branch members, we collected \$2,018.00. This will go into the Opportunities Fund to contribute to local scholarships and AAUW National initiatives. We all look forward to next year. THANKS AGAIN!!





Membership

Marie Corcoran & Susan Hagerty

susanhagerty18@gmail.com mecorcoran31@gmail.com

It's been a big month for new members -- we are now 127 members strong. Thank you everyone, new and continuing, for your support. Don't forget you can always bring a friend and perspective member to any of our meetings. (seems to be working quite well)

2024 New Member Orientation



On October 9, 17 members, including seven new members (from the last year), gathered at the home of Marie Corcoran to learn all about the Wheaton Glen Ellyn Branch of AAUW. Our officers as well as our Illinois State President and leaders of our interest groups gave short presentations highlighting all AAUW has to offer! L-R the group is Susan Stack, Susan Peters, Mary Morrissey, Heidi Koberstein, Tracy Miller, Maureen Dabovich, Valli Schiller

New Member Introductions

Meet one of our newest members and look to future TWIGS issues for more introductions.

Tracy Miller

Please welcome one of our newest members, Tracy Miller. She grew up in Iowa, the child of two schoolteachers. After graduating from the University of Iowa, her new job with Marriott brought her to Illinois (the first time). She had a long career in Human Resources and earned an MBA from UIC along the way. She then decided to make a career adjustment and worked in IT. During all of this, she raised three children. When her last child left home, Tracy decided to fulfill a lifelong dream of living in Colorado, so she moved her empty nest west. Alas, the siren call of grandchildren outweighed the call of her beloved mountains and she moved back to Illinois, this time Wheaton. She enjoys the outdoors, especially hiking and would like to restart fostering dogs in her home. Unfortunately, her current lease prohibits this, but if anyone knows of other options - please let her know.

Contact Info: Tracytmiller@gmail.com

45 Kensington Circle #308

Wheaton 60189

847-363-0017

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 look at 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 -- susanhagerty18@gmail.com or Marie Corcoran-- mecorcoran31@gmail.com



Historian

Marilyn Wiedemann

Marilyn.mayer@gmail.com

10 Years Ago



Kitty Johanson, Laura Desmarais, Karen Bondy

20 Years Ago



Maureen Sheehan, Barb Isom, Sue Langguth, Marla Felsten

10 Years Ago



L to R: Kimberly Thacker, Bonnie Wheaton, Allene Harding, Rosemary Hahn, Phyllis Fogel, Sue Balk, Kathy McCullough, Marilyn Wiedemann

20 Years Ago



L to R: Mary Landeros, Winifred Creamer, Cindy Trennert-Lukens, Pam Starr, Carolyn Oesterle

30 Years ago



Back Row (L to R): Pat Walton, Jean Lindsay, Heidi Biedemann, Sharon Kendall, Glenna Thompson
Front Row (L to R): Sue Balk, Kay Storm, Peggy Connolly, Maureen Becker

30 Years Ago



Past Presidents Kathy Bubinas & Peggy Connolly



Cultural Arts

Laura Desmarais & Patricia Spence

lkdesmarais@gmail.com pspence101@aol.com

While enjoying Christmas at Pemberley, in the drawing room upstairs, the family is unaware of a scandal brewing downstairs. George Wickham has snuck into the servant's quarters, and no good can come of a stealth visit by Mr. Darcy's nefarious arch enemy (and Lydia's wayward husband). Whose Christmas goose will be cooked...Wickham's or...? Before the Thursday, November 21 Buffalo Theater Ensemble production of **"The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley"**, we will meet at the home of Peggy Connolly for appetizers, wine, and conversation, before heading to the MAC for the 7:30 pm curtain.

Please RSVP to Peggy if you plan to join us and email Peggy if you'd like to be added to the Buffalo Theater Ensemble list.

Update to October Cultural Arts Event (since construction closed the Victorian House):

Cultural Arts invites you to lunch at Rosemary+Jeans (116 S. Main St., Lombard) on **Friday, October 25**, at 12:30 pm. After lunch, we encourage you to take a self-guided tour of the nearby Lombard Historical Society Little Orphan "Annie"-Versary exhibit at the LHS Carriage House. <https://www.lombardhistory.org/>

Please **RSVP by Oct 22** to pspence101@aol.com, so accurate dining arrangements can be made.



Film Group

Anne Hanley

ahanley@mindspring.com

Fall Film Group has gotten off to a rousing start. First, **"Perfect Days"** in September. Then all the Beetlejuices in October. What will November bring? Hopefully, we will be in the days of Academy Award contenders. The reports I read out of the Toronto Film Festival suggest we might have some good options.

Feel free to send me your suggestions. I will send out the selection the weekend before our meeting.

November's meeting will be at my home on Friday, November 8, 2024. We will gather at 7:00 pm for some socializing and will begin our film discussion immediately following.

A head's up: I need someone to volunteer to host the December meeting (Friday Dec 13).

Our Branch Book Groups

AM Lit

Donna Staples

donnastaples5050@gmail.com



Our October 1 selection will be **“The Maid”** by Nita Prose. Did you ever wonder what goes on behind the scenes at a hotel? You may find some of the answers within this novel. The main character is the hotel’s most efficient and competent member of all the staff member in her hotel. She is on the autism spectrum and has some peculiar ways about her.

Peggy Connolly will lead our discussion at the Wheaton Public Library, Room C on the lower level.

Upcoming, December 6 selection, is **“Red Island House”** by Andrea Lee.

PM Lit

Susie Gullickson

gullish.1955@gmail.com



Our November selection is **“The Women”** by Kristin Hannah.

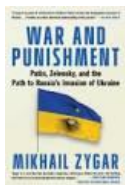
In her latest novel, Hannah tackles one of the most cruel and despicable wars of the last century, the Vietnam War. **“The Women”** reveals the powerful contributions and horrific sacrifices of the American military nurses who served in the war. No words can bring closure to a nation still ashamed of booing our returning heroes, but the heroine Frances McGrath, stirs a deep, overdue compassion and tears for every soldier and the forgotten women who sacrificed so much.

Join us on Monday, November 18, 7:00 pm at Peggy Connolly’s home, 1445 Bentwood Lane, Wheaton. Kathy McCullough will be the discussion leader and Patricia Bernhold will be the co-host.

PM Non-Fiction

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu



The evening non-fiction readers are meeting at 7:00 pm on November 20 at the home of Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann, who will lead our discussion of Mikhail Zygar’s book, **“Putin, Zelensky and the Path to Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine”**. Zygar is a Russian born journalist, writer and filmmaker active both in Germany and the United States. Since he is comparing two Vladimirs, one of whom is an autocrat and the other a former comic, his rendition of the Russo-Ukrainian conflict is both serious and funny. Our cohost is Karen Schulz. Please RSVP (Marilyn.mayer@gmail.com).

Our December 18 meeting will be for the book choices for 2025. Please send me (baconew@lewisu.edu) your recommendations for books you have read or seen reviewed. We will vote for six books. Bring the book or a review and tell us why you are recommending it. I would like your recommendations ahead of time so that I can prepare a “ballot.” Christmas cookies will make it all go easier!

A note: There is a podcast available of the book we read a few years ago. I discuss the research that was necessary to write my book about the Polish resistance to the Nazis and the creation of a prisoner run hospital in Auschwitz. <https://newbooksnetwork.com/saving-lives-in-auschwitz>.

Our group decided to take a break over the winter months, so we will meet again on April 23, 2025. So many of us go south for the winter or need a few months to catch up on their reading for the other AAUW book clubs. Please reconnect with us April 23, 2025. It will be here before you know it!

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.



Empowering Women Since 1881

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