

A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

We invite everyone to stop by at Peggy Connolly's home on **December 4** sometime between 4-8:00 pm when we will have our **Winter Gathering** in place of our Branch meeting. This affair will offer a chance for our members to roam around and mingle with longtime friends, get to know our new members and enjoy some cheer as we welcome in the holiday season. ***See the attached invitation for more details regarding this special get-together.***

Hearing from a couple of speakers discussing the benefits of having Community Mental Health Boards at our recent Branch meeting was very illuminating and seemed to come at an especially suitable time, the day after the national election. Mike Murray and Hugh Brady, volunteers who have been instrumental in establishing several 708 Community Mental Health Boards in DuPage and neighboring locales were informative.

Thanks to Jean Lindsey and Patty Mugavero for arranging such an enlightening program.

A big shoutout to and thanks goes to our Treasurer, Heidi Fraser, for her work involved with the preparation, presentation, and successful vote of the 2024-2025 Annual Budget for our Branch. Having been a treasurer for the Lombard Branch was helpful. When she became our "new" Treasurer, she stepped in to help with the preparation of the annual budget. Along with that she keeps us up to date with all the financial duties.

Another valuable member of the board we would like to recognize and thank is Janet Miller. In her second year she has become invaluable to us! Her detailed minutes at our board meetings each month have been so beneficial. With her previous experience with the Lombard Branch, she has been quick to answer our questions with her wealth of knowledge pertaining to AAUW.

With grateful hearts we wish everyone a wonderful time spent with family and friends during Thanksgiving and the Holiday season.

Nancy Possinger and Karen Schulz



Upcoming Events



December 2024

DATE	EVENT	TIME	INFORMATION
Nov 26	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Nancy Possinger's Home 26W070 MacArthur Carol Stream
Dec 3	Great Decisions Group #3	1:00 pm	Zoom
Dec 4	Winter Gathering	4:00 pm	Peggy Connolly's Home 1445 Brentwood Lane Wheaton
Dec 5	Great Decisions Group #1	1:00 pm	Marie Corcoran's Home 31 Hawkins Circle Wheaton
Dec 6	AM Lit	9:30 am	Wheaton Public library 425 Cross St., Lower-Level Room C Wheaton
Dec 13	Film Group	7:00 pm	TBD
Dec 18	PM Non-Fiction	7:00 pm	Ewa Bacon's Home 405 W Front, #305 Wheaton
Dec 16	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Susie Gullickson's Home 1510 Paula Ave Wheaton



Wheaton - Glen Ellyn AAUW Winter Gathering
Wednesday, December 4, 2024, 4-8:00 pm
At Peggy Connolly's house 1445 Brentwood Lane,
Wheaton, IL 60189

All are invited to an open house where you can visit with your friends while enjoying some delicious goodies!

This will be a great time to reflect on all the spectacular AAUW events from the past year.

New members are guests of the branch, but others are encouraged to bring a dish or beverage to share:

Hot Appetizer

Cold Appetizer

Wine

Sparkling Waters

Dessert

Please RSVP if you will be attending and what goodies you will bring to share

Peggy Connolly at connolly.peggy@gmail.com

***If you have already signed up to bring something, then you do not need to contact us again. Thanks!**



As we reflect on the results of the November 5 election and how we, as AAUW members, can continue to fight for equity for women, I thought it would be good to reprint here the message sent by **Gloria L. Blackwell**, AAUW Chief Executive Officer.

“As you know by now, the 2024 presidential race has been called — and for the second time, our country has decided it wasn’t ready to have a highly-qualified woman hold our nation’s highest office.

The election results are extremely sobering, especially after such a long and hard-fought election season.

We did see some wins on state ballot measures that I’m glad to share. Of the 10 states that had abortion measures on the ballot, seven chose to defend women’s reproductive health last night. Thank YOU for your advocacy. That is progress, but it’s not enough. This is a time where we must persist together and continue advocating for women’s rights in this way.

Trump being back in office may set us back, and it will require a defensive strategy of advocacy from us like never before. We will not back down from our belief that women’s work should be valued, our bodies should be respected, and that our education and workspaces should be inclusive and free from violence, harassment, discrimination, and bias.

It is our commitment to gender equity that allows me to write to you today with a clear-eyed promise: We will persist.”

AAUW is hosting a webinar, “Securing the Future: A Post-Election Conversation on Women’s Economic Security”, on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 2:00 pm Central Time. To register go to aauw.org.

More advocacy steps will be available in the following months with ways to work on the important AAUW Public Policy priorities.

And finally, this quote was shared by Janet Avila, owner of String Theory Yarn Shop in Glen Ellyn:

Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them and it will change your life.

Amy Poehler



AIR (Aging, Information and Resources)

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

The Branch Study Group **“Aging/Information and Resources”** has a robust presence on the Wheaton-Glen Ellyn AAUW website. You can find information submitted by our Branch members on issues such as health care options, home services, housing for seniors, transportation options as well as End-of-Life issues. Twigs articles will provide updates and new concerns. But occasionally we might be looking for a solution to a small issue, not covered in our lists. For instance, yes, we know about electricians, but one of us is looking for the solution for a lighting issue in a dim room. An architect? A designer? Have you solved such a problem? Drop me a line if you can help.

The New York Times column **“The New Old Age”** (Oct 1, 2024) presents an unfamiliar issue: **“Who Cares for the Dog After the Owner Dies.”** Our relationship to our pets, our animals, can be emotionally significant and the issue of a pet’s care after we pass can be problematic. “Every state has a statute permitting trust for pets.” This type of trust will provide for the care and well-being after the owner’s death and provides more details and protection than a will or verbal agreements. And yes: you will need a lawyer to form this kind of trust.



AAUW Online Team: We are a team! Patricia Spence (pspence101@aol.com) takes the lead on Facebook and Tracy Kline (trakli@msn.com) keeps the website up to date. Jane Palmer (jane Palmer@icloud.com) is the Board Liaison and backs up Patricia and Tracy as needed.

Program Publicity: Patricia and Jane also support our Program VPs by creating Facebook and Patch.com “Events” to publicize our Branch programs. This initiative has been successful in attracting guests to our Branch meetings. And some of those guests have joined the Branch. When you see Branch publicity for our programs on Facebook or on Patch.com, please click “interested” and share with your friends or your groups (such as, What’s Happening in Wheaton, Glen Ellyn or Lombard).

Member Contact Listing: AAUW assists the Membership VPs by converting the Branch’s member database into a printable format and posting it on the Branch website. This month’s updated Member Contact Listing and the Supplemental Listing with degrees (as of 11/15/2024) have been posted on the Members Only page of the Branch website. They are both in PDF format. This means that if you click on the listing, you can download it to your computer and save it. You should also be able to print it if you have a home printer. If you have the Kindle App on your phone or tablet, you can download it to your Kindle library and later access it without going to the Branch website. Of course, since it is updated monthly on the website, you can just refer to it there anytime you need to check on a member’s address, phone number or email. *Please note that we maintain this data solely for the use of our members and it may not be shared with others or used to distribute non-AAUW information or solicitations.*

Member Database: Another recent sideline of the AAUW Online team relates to helping the Membership VPs maintain our Member Database. It is a good thing to have the same data in our Branch database as is in the national AAUW roster. The good news is that as of this month, our member database and the AAUW roster agree with respect to all our member names and addresses. But we have noted that there are a couple dozen members with email addresses and telephone numbers in the national roster that are different from the data in our Member Database. There can be several explanations for this.

- A member paid dues online and updated their information but forgot to notify the Branch of the changes.
- A member may have notified the Branch of changes, but the Branch did not notify National to make the change.
- Some members may purposely use a secondary email or telephone number for National to reduce the number of solicitations arriving in their primary inbox.

Please check your data! Help us out by looking at your data on the 11/15/2024 Branch contact listing. Notify Sue Hagerty (susan hagerty18@gmail.com) or Marie Corcoran (mecorcoran31@gmail.com) of any needed changes. Let them know if the changes should also be made on the national roster.

Reminders:

- The Member Contact List and other Branch information can be found on the **Members Only** page. (Password is *twigs*.)
- Contact Patricia Spence at pspence101@aol.com to share pictures of members enjoying Branch activities.
- Send interest group updates to Tracy Kline at trakli@msn.com. She continues to keep our website home page fresh with news of upcoming Branch activities.
- Contact Jane Palmer at jane Palmer@icloud.com if you have questions about website content or if you have any ideas for enhancing the Branch’s online presence.



Our membership is currently 122. It may seem down from last month, but we are holding steady even after some late in the month corrections to the roster. 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)

New Member Introductions

We have two new members to meet this month: **Sandra Karas** and **Gail Kramer**.

Sandra grew up in the southwest suburbs and is a true Illinoisan. She earned both her BS and MS degrees in Speech Disorders at Governors State University. She spent the first nine years of her career in the Orland Park School District before moving to Indian Prairie School District #204 (Naperville) where she worked for 25 years.

Along the way she supplemented her speech pathology skills with a master's degree in Reading from Concordia University. After raising her three children in Plainfield, she and her husband relocated to the Glen Ellyn area. Sandra is an avid quilter in her free time. She has made her children promise that none of her quilts will spend their final days at Goodwill. She also embroiders and does cross-stitching. To stay active, Sandra enjoys walking, gardening, exercising and bird watching.

Contact information:

815-992-9228

22W504 Lakeside Drive, Glen Ellyn 60137

Sandyslprdq@gmail.com

Welcome Sandra!

Let's also welcome **Gail Kramer**. She teaches multi-lingual learners at Emerson School in Wheaton and plans to retire next year. She followed her husband to DuPage County 43 years ago.

Originally from Glenview, IL until age 12, she then moved to Ohio. After graduating from Bowling Green University with a degree in journalism, she pursued a career in advertising. After her move to Illinois, she stayed home to raise her three children. She then returned to National Louis University and earned a master's degree in education. She describes her life as ⅓ advertising, ⅓ child rearing and ⅓ educator.

Gail is good at maintaining friendships. She has maintained correspondence with a pen pal in England since she was 13 years old. Last year she went on a Caribbean cruise with 30 of her college sorority sisters and they are planning a repeat cruise next year! In her free time, Gail enjoys reading, going to movies and plays and taking architectural tours.

Welcome Gail!

Membership Renewals Please look at your emails for your renewal notice.

We mention this because AAUW National has instituted a rolling basis for renewals. Now your dues are due on the anniversary of your enrollment. For most of us this is in June, but some of you will be up for renewal at the end of this year or early 2025.

Membership Contact List Update

Please note the following updates to contact information:

- Maureen Dabovich's zip code is changed to 60189
- Pamela Johnson has a new telephone number: (630) 715-0716
- Anne Kryger's address is changed to 170 Foxborough Place, Burr Ridge 60627
- Jean Lindsey's email changed to jeanlindsey15@gmail.com
- Stephanie Zvirin's address changed to 200 Wyndemere Circle, E328, Wheaton, 60189
- Jean Tufano has moved to 3271 Lincoln Prairie Blvd., Aurora, IL 60503; tel. (630) 337-7280.

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



Laura, Sue, JoEllen, Pam, Marilyn



SUE ELGER MARGARET McGRATH SANDY LOPATA SHARON GARNEY



Winifred Creamer & Cindy Trennert-Luken





Branch Minutes

Janet Miller

Janetmiller800@yahoo.com

Minutes of the AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch Meeting

November 6, 2024

Location: Glen Ellyn Police Department and Zoom

November Branch Meeting

The requirement of 20% of the membership met the quorum requirements for a valid vote on the proposed budget for 2024-2025. Treasurer, Heidi Fraser, presented the proposed budget at the October Branch meeting which allowed the membership time to review the document before voting this evening. There were no further questions about the proposed budget. A motion to accept the proposed 2024-2025 budget was made by Laura Desmarais and seconded by Carolyn Oesterle. The budget was accepted with a unanimous vote.

The branch has 122 members.

January Program (Zoom) – Growth Patterns in Illinois.

December Gathering, Wednesday, December 4, 4-8:00 pm at the home of Peggy Connolly. An announcement will be sent to the membership. Sign-up sheets for food and assistance are available at the meeting tonight.

Announcements:

Great Decision Groups – Peggy Connolly reviewed information about the three Great Decision groups. The guides for the next year are available in January on the Foreign Policy Council's website. There are eight topics covered each year. Information about the meetings is on the Twigs monthly calendar.

Buffalo Theater Ensemble Group – Peggy Connolly gave the details for the next group outing for the Play "**The Wickhams**" performed by the Buffalo Theater Ensemble. The group will attend the performance at the College of DuPage on November 21, at 7:30 pm. A gathering for wine and appetizers will be held at Peggy Connolly's home at 5:30 before the play.



Great Decisions

Peggy Connolly, Peggy McGrath, Carol Ginger, Alison Hayes

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

The December Great Decisions topic is **Pandemic Preparedness**. Group #1 will meet December 5 at Marie Corcoran's home at 1:00 pm. Group #3 will meet December 3 at 1:00 pm via Zoom. Please RSVP to Marie if you will attend Group 1 and contact Alison Hayes for the Zoom link for Group 3.

Briefing books for 2025 may be ordered at: https://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/?act=gd_materials

Our Branch Book Groups



AM Lit

Donna Staples

donnastaples5050@gmail.com



Please join us for our final meeting of 2024. We meet at the Wheaton Public Library (room C) at 9:30 am on Friday, December 6. Our novel will be **"The Red Island House"** by Andrea Lee.

As the weather turns cooler, we may appreciate reading about island life in remote Madagascar.

The protagonist is a young black, American woman who marries a wealthy, older, Italian businessman - each of them having a different vision for their life together. Donna Staples will lead the discussion.

PM Lit

Susie Gullickson

gullish.1955@gmail.com



Our December selection is **"The Maid"** by Nina Prose.

Molly Gray is naïve, charming, quirky, intelligent and somewhere on the Autism spectrum. Molly's obsessive cleaning disorder and inability to decipher social interactions makes her the perfect hotel maid and a convenient suspect to frame when she discovers a murdered guest while cleaning his room at the Grand Regency Hotel. This delightful murder mystery lets us inhabit the mind of someone who perceives the world and thinks very differently than we do.

Join us on Monday, December 16, 7:00 pm at Susie Gullickson's home, 1510 Paula Ave, Wheaton, IL.

PM Non-Fiction

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

It is time to think about our reading choices for 2025. We will meet on December 18, 7:00 pm, at my home (405 West Front Street, Apt 305) to select our book for the coming year. PLEASE send me the titles of books you would like to have considered. I will prepare a "ballot" of all suggested books, and we will spend the evening munching on Christmas cookies while we each present our books to the group. Since we meet every other month, we need to decide on six titles. The votes will be tallied, and I'll prepare a schedule starting with March 2025 through January 2026.

We have already picked our first book for 2025: we meet on January 22 to discuss Cat Bohannon's book **"Eve: How the Female Body Drove 200 million Years of Human Evolution"**, a well written story of the evolutionary history of the human female.

Please email me (baconew@lewisu.edu) titles and a sentence or two review of the book. If you've read it, please also bring a copy to our December meeting. You can present more than one book suggestion. I've gotten four titles so far (thank you Peggy and Janet.)

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

The Twigs Team

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