

### A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

We were treated to tasty treats and tantalizing conversations at our Winter Gathering on December 4. Peggy Connolly opened her home and was her usual “hostess with the mostest.” The event was well attended with over 50 partakers all arriving in festive clothing and holiday dispositions. It was such a delight to catch up with friends we had not seen for a while and to meet new friends that joined our Branch recently.

This month we want to give a shout out to three more of our unsung heroes that do so much for our Branch.

**Jane Palmer** is our Online Chair and a person who can answer any question relating to our Branch or AAUW policies in general. As Online Chair, Jane is always looking for ways to showcase our Branch and make our website look the best it can be. Thanks, Jane, for all the help you have been to us as co-presidents and to everyone else!

We want to give a big shoutout and thanks to **Ewa Bacon** for all her many contributions to our Branch such as: Initiator and Chair of AIR, Chair of the PM Non-Fiction Book Group, Reporter of Wheaton School Board business for the board and all the other things she does behind the scenes. She has a wealth of AAUW information that she is ready to share at any time. Thanks, Ewa, for all you do for our Branch!

The third person we would like to thank this month is **Peggy Connolly**. Peggy gets the “reward” for hosting the most events, all of which she does graciously with a smile on her face. One always is made to feel right at home whether it is for a serious meeting or a social event. Peggy also has had experience in a lot of different roles within our Branch. Thanks, Peggy, for all you do for our Branch!

#### Reminders:

1. No Board Meeting in December.
2. Our January speakers will be presenting on January 8, and only on Zoom. Closer to the date the zoom link will be made available.
3. Nominating Committee will be announced in January to fill the following positions: President(s), VPs for Programs and Secretary

We wish everyone a festive holiday season! Enjoy your time with family and friends!

*Nancy Possinger and Karen Schulz*

## Upcoming Events – January 2025



DATE	EVENT	TIME	INFORMATION
Jan 3	AM Lit	9:30 am	Glen Ellyn Public Library 425 Duane St. Glen Ellyn
Jan 8	Branch Meeting	6:45 pm	Zoom
Jan 10	Film Group	7:00 pm	Marie Corcoran's Home 31 Hawkins Circle Wheaton
Jan 16	Spice Routes	6:00 pm	Peggy Connolly's Home 1445 Brentwood Lane Wheaton
Jan 20	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Marie Corcoran's Home 31 Hawkins Circle Wheaton
Jan 22	PM Non-Fiction	7:00 pm	Marie Corcoran's Home 31 Hawkins Circle Wheaton
Jan 26	Cultural Arts Event "The Elixir of Love"	3:00 pm	McAninch Arts Center 425 Fawell Blvd. Glen Ellyn
Jan 28	Great Decisions	1:00 pm	Zoom
Jan 28	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	TBD
Jan 30	Great Decisions	1:00 pm	Peggy Connolly's Home 1445 Brentwood Lane Wheaton



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## Programs

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Jean Lindsey & Patty Mugavero

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January 8: Branch **Zoom** Meeting 6:45 pm

### **A Resilient State: What Illinois is Doing Right and Why It's Better Than You Think**



Ready to start out 2025 on a positive note? Join us from the comfort of your warm home to hear from two experts, Dr. Robert Bruno and Frank Manzo, who will share good news about the state of Illinois. They have done much in-depth research (some just reported in the December 9 Chicago Tribune) and will relate that Illinois' population is stable, its workforce has grown, and it is a good place to earn a living as its economy has become more robust! They will dispel media reports and myths claiming otherwise. We are fortunate that the University of Illinois' Robert Bruno and Illinois Economic Policy Institute's Frank Manzo will lead the discussion of what Illinois has done right, what the state could be doing better, and where it may go in 2025 and beyond.

**Dr. Robert Bruno** is Director of the Labor Education Program and a Professor of Labor and Employment, as well as the director of the Project for Middle Class Renewal in the School of Labor and Employment Relations at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He has published numerous scholarly articles on a range of labor relations subjects, and he is also the author of five books on labor relations. He has given expert testimony to the U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce. Dr. Bruno is co-editor of Labor Studies Journal and is executive board member of the United Association for Labor Education. He earned a PhD from New York University, a MA from Bowling Green University and a BA from the University of Illinois. He is also currently serving as the president of Glen Ellyn's School Board, District #41.

**Frank Manzo** is an Economist at the Illinois Economic Policy Institute (ILEPI), a nonprofit research organization he cofounded in 2013 to promote economic growth for businesses and working families. In the last 11 years, Manzo has authored and co-authored more than 200 research reports, been published in four peer-reviewed academic journals and been cited by numerous government agencies-including the Biden White House. He authors a monthly column in the Daily Herald. He earned a Master of Public Policy from the University of Chicago and a BA in Economics from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.



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## Public Policy

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Laurie Driscoll

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Since there are many possible changes nationwide in the US public policies during the next Presidential term, I urge all members to regularly check the AAUW ([aauw.org](http://aauw.org)) and AAUW-Illinois ([aauw-il.aauw.net](http://aauw-il.aauw.net)) websites to stay informed and to act when needed.

The Illinois General Assembly has tentatively set dates for a veto session January 2-7. No information is available as of the writing of this article as to what, if any, actions will be taken. The new session of the 104<sup>th</sup> General Assembly will begin on January 8, 2025.

If you need to identify your elected officials there is a link on the AAUW Illinois website that connects to the Illinois State Board of Elections interactive page. If you enter your voting address, you will get a list of your national and state elected officials.

Please contact me if you have any questions about AAUW public policy issues ([laurdris@att.net](mailto:laurdris@att.net)).



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## AAUW Online

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Jane Palmer

[janefpalmer@icloud.com](mailto:janefpalmer@icloud.com)

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

**Website Changes are in the Works!** In 2020, AAUW National redesigned its logo to the current navy/red design. You may have noticed that up to now, our website was still sporting the old teal/blue logo and color scheme. Over the past few years, a team from National has been updating each Branch website and it is finally our turn. We have been told that this can be accomplished smoothly without any interruption of access (fingers crossed!). Please visit the website and check out the new look.

**Program Publicity:** The AAUW Online team also supports our Program VPs. Jane and Patricia create Facebook and Patch.com "Events" to publicize the Branch programs. 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). In addition, Jane submits the meeting details to AAUW-IL Connections to share the Zoom access with other Illinois branches and Tracy submits the meeting details to the Village of Glen Ellyn for their community newsletter. These ongoing publicity efforts have attracted many guests to our recent Branch meetings. And some of those guests have joined the Branch!



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## Membership

Marie Corcoran & Susan Hagerty

[susanhagerty18@gmail.com](mailto:susanhagerty18@gmail.com) [mecorcoran31@gmail.com](mailto:mecorcoran31@gmail.com)

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Our membership stands strong at **122 members**. Thank you to everyone, new and continuing, for your support. Please remember, you can always bring a friend and prospective member to any of our events.

### Membership Renewals

Please watch your emails for your renewal notice. Note, this notification comes not from our Branch but from AAUW National. It should arrive shortly before the anniversary of the date you joined. You will then go to [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) and the “log-in” icon is in the upper right corner of the home page. Once on your personal snapshot, scroll down to the red box labeled RENEW. You should be able to complete your renewal directly through the email notification from National as well.

### Membership Contact List Updates

If you have moved or changed either your phone or email - please send this new information to Sue Hagerty ([susanhagerty18@gmail.com](mailto:susanhagerty18@gmail.com)) or Marie Corcoran ([mecorcoran31@gmail.com](mailto:mecorcoran31@gmail.com)).



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## Opportunities Fund

Susan Levy-Creed & Karla Megow

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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 **Opportunity 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 COD and accomplished professionals like Jelena that we work so hard on our fund raising which supports the AAUW Mission Statement.



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## Spice Routes

Peggy Connolly

[connolly.peggy@gmail.com](mailto:connolly.peggy@gmail.com)

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In keeping with this year's Spice Routes theme, **“Fame! I’m Gonna Live Forever!”** our January 16 Spice Routes dinner is titled “Eminent Dishes Named for Famous People” (i.e. Caesar Salad, Beef Stroganoff, Peaches Melba...). Please let Peggy know what you will be bringing by January 9. If you are new to the Branch, please note that spaces are limited to 24 and fill very quickly, so if you plan to join us, RSVP now!



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## Great Decisions

**Peggy Connolly, Peggy McGrath, Carol Ginger, Alison Hayes**

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There are two Great Decision discussion groups: an in-person group that meets at 1:00 pm the first Thursday of the month; and a Zoom group that meets the preceding Tuesday, also at 1:00 pm. Due to the late mailing schedule for the Great Decisions policy booklet, our January discussion on “American Foreign Policy at a Crossroads” will be the last week of the month rather than the first: January 28 via Zoom, and January 30 at the home of Peggy Connolly. Our February discussion of “U.S. Changing Leadership of the World” will be the following week: February 4 via Zoom, and February 6 at the home of Marie Corcoran.

Please email Peggy Connolly ([connolly.peggy@gmail.com](mailto:connolly.peggy@gmail.com)) and Alison Hayes ([sw1alihay@comcast.net](mailto:sw1alihay@comcast.net)) if you’d like to join either or both groups. Alison will email the link to members of the Zoom group before the meeting, so be sure to email her *your* email if you wish to participate via Zoom. The booklet may be ordered from the Foreign Policy Association ([https://www.fpa.org/great\\_decisions/?act=gd\\_materials](https://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/?act=gd_materials)).



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## Cultural Arts

**Laura Desmarais & Patricia Spence**

[lkdsmarais@gmail.com](mailto:lkdsmarais@gmail.com) [pspence101@aol.com](mailto:pspence101@aol.com)

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The first event of our 2025 Cultural Arts season is on January 26, Sunday, 3:00 pm, “**The Elixir of Love**” a concert opera, by Gaetano Donizetti.

From the MAC New Philharmonic program: “Delight in this romantic comedy by Donizetti about a young villager who seeks a love potion from a traveling quack doctor to win the heart of the town’s wealthy owner. The opera is sung in Italian with English supertitles.” Tickets at the MAC are available now.

Dinner will follow (location to be determined) <https://atthemac.org/>

Please let Patricia and Laura know by Wednesday January, 22, if you bought tickets and are joining us for dinner including after dinner conversation about FDA approval of Love Potion No. 9.



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## Film Group

**Anne Hanley**

[ahanley@mindspring.com](mailto:ahanley@mindspring.com)

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Happy New Year! January is always a great time for Film Group because Golden Globes are awarded, and Academy Awards are announced. This month we will gather at the home of Marie and John Corcoran to discuss.... Who knows? All we know is the date, place, and time.

If you have a suggestion for a film, please send it to me. As always, film selection will go out via email the weekend before the meeting.

## Our Branch Book Groups



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### AM Lit

Donna Staples

[donnastaples5050@gmail.com](mailto:donnastaples5050@gmail.com)

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Our first meeting of the new year will find us back at the Glen Ellyn Public Library, main floor. We will discuss **"The Housekeeper and the Professor"** by Yoko Ogawa. Janet Miller will lead us through this novel of the tenderness that develops between the brilliant brain-injured professor and his caretaker.

Next Up Feb 7: **"The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store"** by James McBride

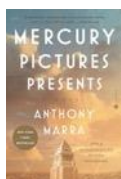
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### PM Lit

Susie Gullickson

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We will bring in the New Year with **"Mercury Pictures Presents"**, Anthony Marra's epic tale of a brilliant woman who must reinvent herself to survive, moving from Mussolini's Italy to 1940's Los Angeles. Like many before her, Maria Lagana has come to Hollywood to outrun her past.

Join us on Monday, January 20, 7:00 pm at Marie Corcoran's home, 31 Hawkins Circle, Wheaton. Discussion Leader to be determined. Kathy McCullough will be the co-host.

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### PM Non-Fiction

Ewa Bacon

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We are starting the new year with a meeting on **January 22, 7:00 pm at the home of Marie Corcoran** (31 Hawkins Circle, Wheaton). Please send an RSVP to [mecorcoran31@gmail.com](mailto:mecorcoran31@gmail.com). Carol Ginger is our co-host. Ewa Bacon will introduce the book and start the discussion.

We are reading Cat Bohannon's book **"EVE: How the Female Body Drove 200 million years of Human Evolution."** The title is no exaggeration! Starting with the ancestral mammal scurrying to avoid dinosaur feet, Bohannon tells the story how women's bodies came to be so different from men's, even deep in our cells, and why this still matters for the human species. She writes an urgent corrective for a world view that has focused primarily on the male body. The success of the *human species* can be found in the evolution of the female body. And Bohannon is witty! She is funny! She is droll! She tells an intricate story fluidly and with attention both to biology and human society.

**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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