
A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

We want to thank Dr. Robert Bruno and Frank Manzo for a very enlightening presentation at our January Branch meeting regarding the State of Illinois: what it has done right, what it can do better and where it may go in 2025 and beyond. The program was well attended by members and non-members alike.

This month we want to give a shout out to more of our unsung heroes who do so much for our Branch. Our Interest and Study Group Leaders are to be commended and thanked.

Aging Information Resources (AIR) Study Group:

AM Lit:

PM Lit:

AM Non-Fiction:

PM Non-Fiction:

Film Group:

Spice Routes:

Great Decisions Interest Groups:

Ewa Bacon

Donna Staples

Susie Gullickson

Sue Herrmann

Ewa Bacon

Anne Hanley

Peggy Connolly

Peggy Connolly, Peggy McGrath,

Alison Hayes, Carol Ginger

AAUW National

We want to call attention to the email from Shannon Wolfe at AAUW National that you all should have received around January 8. National is asking for our feedback on:

1. Proposed dues changes
2. Proposed changes to the AAUW National Bylaws
3. Proposed changes to the Public Policy Priorities

Why it matters: The Board of Directors is considering a change to AAUW member dues to help meet rising costs. AAUW member dues have not kept pace with the cost of supporting AAUW's membership and the Board will consider a \$5 per year increase in dues from 2025-2029. This dues change supports AAUW's commitment to financial sustainability, the financial strength of the National office and our ability to support branches and states. Additionally, every AAUW member has the right to comment on proposed changes to the Bylaws and Public Policy Priorities before they are put to the membership for a vote this spring.

Comments can be submitted until Wednesday, January 29 at 5:00 pm ET.

[Click here](#) to review and comment on the proposed bylaws amendments.

[Click here](#) to review and comment on the proposed changes to the Public Policy Priorities.

[Click here](#) to review and comment on the proposed changes to membership dues.

Nominating Committee

The committee headed by the VPs for Membership, Marie Corcoran and Susan Hagerty, has begun its work to select candidates. The following positions are open for 2025-2027: President (or Co-Presidents). Vice President (or Co-Vice Presidents) for Programs and Secretary. The slate of candidates will be presented at the February Branch Meeting, and the vote will take place at the March or April Branch Meeting.

Nancy Possinger and Karen Schulz

Upcoming Events – February 2025



DATE	EVENT	TIME	INFORMATION
Jan 26	Cultural Event "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	Zoom
Jan 30	Great Decisions	1:00 pm	Peggy Connolly's Home 1445 Brentwood Lane Wheaton
Feb 4	Great Decisions	1:00 pm	Zoom
Feb 5	Branch Meeting	6:45 pm	Wheaton Library 225 N Cross Street Wheaton
Feb 6	Great Decisions	1:00 pm	Marie Corcoran's Home 31 Hawkins Circle Wheaton
Feb 7	AM Lit	9:30 am	Glen Ellyn Public Library 400 Duane Street Glen Ellyn
Feb 13	Buffalo Theater Ensemble "Native Gardens" & Pre-Show Gathering	5:30 pm	Peggy Connolly's Home 1445 Brentwood Lane Wheaton
Feb 14	Film Group	7:00 pm	Anne Hanley's Home 679 Forest Avenue Glen Ellyn
Feb 17	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Peggy Connolly's Home 1445 Brentwood Lane Wheaton
Feb 25	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Zoom
Feb 26	PM Non-Fiction	7:00 pm	Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann's Home 373 Oak Street Glen Ellyn



Programs

Jean Lindsey & Patty Mugavero

jeanlindsey15@comcast.net mugsfive2001@yahoo.com

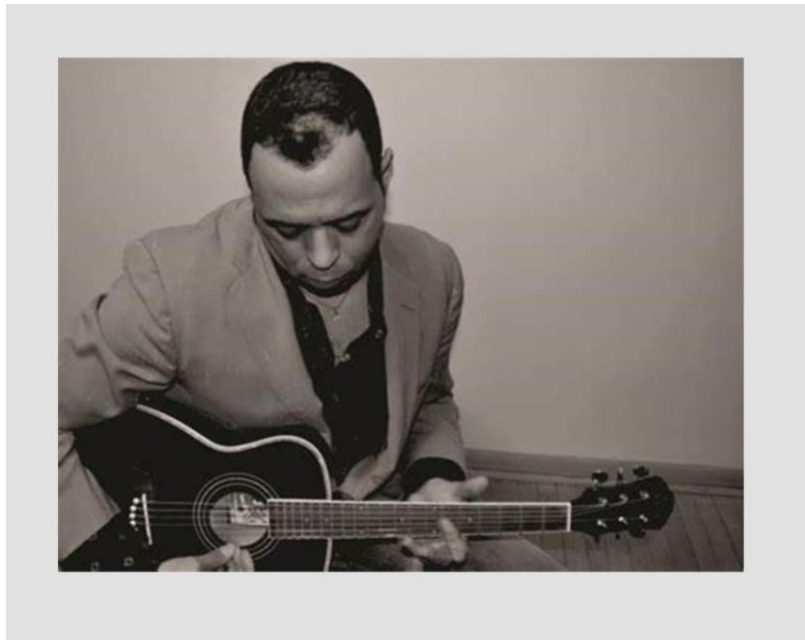
An Unfinished Journey: African American Music in its Pivotal Decades

Wheaton Public Library February 5 6:45 pm

Meeting Room "A" Lower Level

225 Cross Street

Speaker: Clarence Goodman



Join fellow Branch members in honoring Black History Month on February 5, 6:45 pm at the **Wheaton Public Library** where musician, historian and public speaker, Clarence Goodman will present a multi-media concert. Entitled "**African American Music in Pivotal Decades**", Mr. Goodman's informative and entertaining multi-media presentation promises to be an enlightening exploration of Black music and the Black experience. Clarence will perform key songs and share stories which have impacted not only Black history but American history as well. A well-known and respected speaker, Clarence Goodman's presentation is one you will not want to miss!

Our Branch is co-sponsoring this presentation with the Wheaton Public Library, and AAUW members (and friends!) need to preregister for the February 5 program. Here is the link:

<https://www.wheatonlibrary.org/event/african-american-music-pivotal-decades-86347>

Please mark your calendars and remember to register online using the Wheaton Public Library's link ASAP!

There will NOT be a Zoom option for this program.



Public Policy

Laurie Driscoll

laurdris@att.net

Members should have received an email from AAUW outlining proposed changes to National dues, Bylaws and Public Policy Priorities and Principles.

The proposed principle revisions continue to emphasize core values regarding education, economic security and social justice. The proposal removes issues that, while valuable and important components to equity, go beyond the scope of AAUW's focus on higher education and were so broad as to not provide guidance on the types of policy approaches that would be in line with AAUW's mission.

Below is a summary of proposed changes for 2025-2027:

- Specific endorsement of the 2024 Title IX regulations which provide increased support for student survivors of sexual harassment and assault and clarify Title IX protections for students who are LGBTQ+, pregnant, or parenting.
- Clear articulation of support for inclusion of LGBTQ+ individuals in policies around school and workplace protections.
- Emphasis on specific components important for women's economic security including education, pay equity, caregiving burdens, retirement safety nets, and access to contraception and abortion.
- Recognition that the Equal Rights Amendment has met the constitutional requirements for ratification as articulated in the U.S. Constitution.
- Removal of broad statements about poverty reduction, housing, health care for all, gun violence, immigration, and campaign finance reform.
- Clear articulation that AAUW's Public Policy focus is domestic.

The current AAUW Public Policy Priorities are available on the AAUW website (aauw.org). Members can submit comments on proposed changes to AAUW by 4:00 pm CT on Wednesday, January 29, 2025.

AAUW-Illinois

Illinois lawmakers have passed Karina's bill and sent it to Governor Pritzker for his signature.

The bill was drafted after Karina Gonzalez and her 15-year-old daughter, Daniela, were shot and killed by Gonzalez's husband in 2023, less than two weeks after Gonzalez obtained an order of protection against him.

Karina's Bill will give Illinois law enforcement the power to remove firearms from the homes of known domestic abusers after an order of protection is entered against them. Prior to this law, removing firearms from abusers was voluntary.



Opportunities Fund

Susan Levy-Creed & Karla Megow

susanlevycreed@gmail.com karla_megow@yahoo.com

Just to keep us all in the loop, counselors at our four local high schools received notification that our Branch will be giving a \$2500 scholarship to one young woman from each school, who will be attending College of DuPage (COD) in the fall of 2025. They will be forwarding me names, COD information, a picture and biographies in the early days of May, after final decisions are reached about school attendance.

We will be presenting these winners at the Spring Banquet and in a later edition of Twigs. All our hard work is greatly appreciated.



Membership

Marie Corcoran & Susan Hagerty

susanhagerty18@gmail.com mecorcoran31@gmail.com

We remain at 122 members. But remember, you can always bring a friend and prospective member to any of our events.

Membership Contact List Updates

Thank you to those who have let us know about changes to your contact information. Keeping our data accurate is so important.

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

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 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. If you have any trouble, just reach out to us and we will be glad to help.



Aging, Information and Resources (AIR)

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

Longevity. Have you noticed how many of us are living longer? We are living vigorously into our 80s and beyond. Does it make sense to continue dividing our life spans into categories of childhood-adulthood-old age as we did a century ago? We introduced terms like “teen-ager” and “middle aged” in the 1950s. But we seem to be stuck with labels of “old or elderly” for what are now ever longer spans of years. In the January 2025 issue of *Atlantic*, Jonathan Rauch states “America needs to rethink the meaning of school, work, and retirement---and what it even means to be old.”

Let’s create a new category: **LATE ADULTHOOD**. This is the reality of a new stage of life—neither fully retired or conventionally employed—we experience a phase of activity and growth, and it deserves a new title.

LATE ADULTHOOD. I think that this rings true! We experience greater equanimity, more emotional resilience and positivity in this stage. It deserves a name of its own.



Great Decisions

Peggy Connolly, Peggy McGrath, Carol Ginger, Alison Hayes

connolly.peggy@gmail.com cranston166@gmail.com anydots@aol.com sw1alihaz@comcast.net

Our February discussions of “**U.S. Changing Leadership of the World**” will be February 4 via Zoom, and February 6 at the home of Marie Corcoran.

Please email Peggy Connolly (connolly.peggy@gmail.com) and Alison Hayes (sw1alihaz@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.

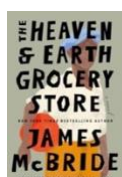
Our Branch Book Groups



AM Lit

Donna Staples

Mdstales1@yahoo.com



Please join us for our February 7 meeting at the Glen Ellyn Public Library. Laura Desmarais will lead our discussion of **“The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store”** by James McBride.

We will explore life in rural Chicken Hill and observe how this under-resourced area comes together to support one another.

March Selection: **“Open Secrets”** by Alice Munro

PM Lit

Susie Gullickson

gullish.1955@gmail.com



In February, we are venturing into a new genre with a graphic novel, **“Maus 1: A Survivor’s Tale: My Father Bleeds History”**. This is the first installment of the Pulitzer-Prize winning graphic novel acclaimed as “the most affective and successful narrative ever done about the Holocaust” (Wall Street Journal) and “the first masterpiece in comic book history” (The New Yorker).

Join us on Monday, February 17, 7:00 pm at Peggy Connolly’s home, 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton. Discussion Leader to be determined; Patty Mugavaro will be the co-host.

AM Non-Fiction

Sue Herrmann

sherrman710@gmail.com

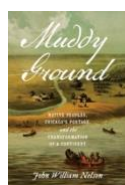
Our group decided to take a break over the winter months, so we will meet again on **April 23, 2025**. We will be reading **“Dirt”**, by Bill Buford. Susan Scown will be our discussion leader and hostess for the 10:00 am meeting.

So please reconnect with us April 23, 2025. I will send more information in the March Twigs.

PM Non-Fiction

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu



We are meeting on **February 26, at 7:00 pm**, in the home of Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann (373 Oak, GE) who will lead our discussion of John William Nelson’s **“MUDDY GROUND: Native People, Chicago Portage and the Transformation of a Continent”**. What makes Chicago and its location so exceptional? In early North America, carrying watercraft—usually canoes—connect bodies of water essential to the establishment of both Indigenous and European mobility across the continent’s interior. Nelson features the unique role of geography and the knowledge and experience of Indigenous people to explain the development of middle America. Chicago portage becomes the crossroad for the continent!!

Please remember to RSVP Marilyn if you are coming (Marilyn.mayer@gmail.com).



Film Group

Anne Hanley

ahanley@mindspring.com

February's Film Group will find us one step closer to the Academy Awards and falls on Valentine's Day! We will meet at my house on Friday, February 14 at 7:00 pm to discuss a film TBD. 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.



Cultural Arts

Laura Desmarais & Patricia Spence

lkdesmarais@gmail.com pspence101@aol.com

Please join us Thursday, February 13 for a **Buffalo Theater Ensemble (BTE)** pre-theatre gathering at the home of Peggy Connolly. We will enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 pm before going to the MAC to see the BTE performance of "**Native Gardens**".

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

Editor:	Susan Peters (Brugh)
Proofreaders:	Ruth Schumacher
	Kathy McCullough
AAUW Online:	Jane Palmer
Website Editor:	Tracy Kline