

A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

Delia Ramirez, the representative in the House of Representatives for Congressional District 3, celebrated our longtime member, **Glennette Turner**, during Black History Month. Rep. Ramirez honored Glennette as a lifelong teacher and local historian in DuPage County, and who bravely participated in multiracial coalitions struggling against injustice.

For decades, Glennette preserved stories of Black Resistance. Having moved to DuPage County in 1968, she published her first book, "**The Underground Railroad in DuPage County Illinois**", in 1978.

Rep. Ramirez commended Ms. Turner for her service as an educator, a powerful historian and a cultural steward for her contributions that have now been entered into the Congressional Record. "Congratulations, Glennette, for your many, many contributions throughout your life."

We are thrilled to invite everyone to our first collaborated community meeting with LWVGE (League of Women Voters of Glen Ellyn). We look forward to an enlightening evening meeting together!

Topic: Encouraging Civility: Effective Ways to Communicate through our Differences

Time and Date: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm **Thursday March 20**, workshop format

Location: Hadley Junior High Library, 240 Hawthorne Boulevard, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137. In Person, no Zoom.

Our nation is currently facing a large divide on many issues of importance. **The issue is not only that we disagree, but how we disagree.**

Join us for an informative workshop to learn communication techniques to help connect with those who hold a different viewpoint than you, with the goal of encouraging civility.

RSVP at www.lwvge.org/events

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next AAUW Branch meeting at Glen Ellyn Police Department on March 5. The topic of **Updates on Title IX** should be quite informative!

We will also be holding the vote on our slate of nominees for officers for 2025-2027.

Nancy Possinger and Karen Schulz

Upcoming Events – March 2025



DATE	EVENT	TIME	INFORMATION
February 25	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Zoom
March 1	Buffalo Theater Ensemble (BTE) "Native Gardens"	5:30 pm (Pre-Show)	Pre-Show Gathering: Peggy Connolly's Home 1445 Brentwood Lane Wheaton
March 4	Great Decisions	1:00 pm	Zoom
March 5	Branch Meeting	6:45 pm	Glen Ellyn Police Department 65 S. Park Boulevard Glen Ellyn
March 6	Spice Routes	6:00 pm	Peggy Connolly's Home 1445 Brentwood Lane Wheaton
March 7	AM Lit	9:30 am	Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann's Home 373 Oak Street Glen Ellyn
March 14	Film Group	7:00 pm	Jean Lindsey's Home 1644 Orth Drive Wheaton
March 17	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Jean Lindsey's Home 1644 Orth Drive Wheaton
March 20	Great Decisions	1:00 pm	Marie Corcoran's Home 31 Hawkins Circle Wheaton
March 20	Branch Meeting (With LWVGE)	7:00 pm	Hadley Junior High Library 240 Hawthorne Boulevard Glen Ellyn
March 25	Board Meeting	1:00 pm	Zoom
March 26	PM Non-Fiction	7:00 pm	Ewa Bacon's Home 405 Front Street, #305 Wheaton



Programs

Jean Lindsey & Patty Mugavero

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Branch Meeting, March 6 at 6:45 pm



Dr. Suzanne M. Chod
Professor of Political Science
Director, Center for Social Impact
Coordinator, Gender and Sexuality Studies
North Central College
Naperville, Illinois

Title IX in Transition: Understanding the New Landscape

Mindful of the recent changes in national leadership, the issues of gender equity and sexual misconduct in educational institutions is an issue for discussion and reexamination. This talk will provide an overview of the latest updates to Title IX regulations and focus on implications for schools, students, and educators. Exploring how these updates impact the broader landscape of and disagreement over gender equality in education will be explained during the presentation.

Meeting Reschedule Information: Because of the extreme wintery weather on February 5, our Branch meeting and program had to be cancelled. We had intended to celebrate Black History Month by featuring a program on the progression of music, by its African American roots.

Clarence Goodman has agreed to reschedule **An Unfinished Journey: African Music in its Pivotal Decades** and will be presented at the **Wheaton Public Library** on a special date of **Thursday, May 15**. We will gather by 6:45 pm and Mr. Goodman will perform at 7:00 pm with an opportunity for questions. Using a slide show of major events affecting the music, displayed in the background, Clarence Goodman accompanies classic songs on his guitar, sings, and plays harmonica.

He takes us on a musical journey from pre-Emancipation Proclamation days through the Great Migration and Jim Crow to the 1960s era Civil Rights and Vietnam protests most of us remember. It isn't an easy journey, but it is part of our history and Mr. Goodman uses his talent to guide us musically and help us understand the stories behind songs that have become familiar and artists whose works we already know well.

Spring Celebration Event - Saturday May 31, 2025

****SAVE THE DATE****

Traditionally, our Branch holds a meal event in the spring to recognize the year's achievements and the installation of officers. This spring we have arranged a luncheon event. Please plan to attend on **Saturday, May 31**.

We have reserved space at **Adelle's** in Wheaton and will plan to sit inside. Look for menu, time, and reservation information in the April issue of *Twigs*.

But mark your calendars NOW. Spring weekends get busy! We want to have a good turnout for this in-person opportunity to celebrate AAUW.

Contact Karen Bondy if you have questions. bondykj@aol.com or 630.436.0621



Public Policy

Laurie Driscoll

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The DuPage County Consolidated Elections will be held on **April 1, 2025**. Registered voters will be able to elect local government officials, school board members, library board members and township officials. I urge members to especially research school and library board candidates, to see if their views correspond to AAUW's mission and policies.

AAUW supports gender equity for all, protecting Title IX, protecting students from sexual misconduct in schools, and promoting STEM programs for all students.

Information on candidates and voting locations is available at the dupagecounty.gov website ([Voting Information](#)).

The League of Women Voters of Wheaton is holding candidate forums featuring local candidates on the ballot for the April 1, 2025, Consolidated Elections. Information is available at:

<https://my.lwv.org/illinois/wheaton/calendar/meet-greet>

Some of the forums that our members may be interested in attending are listed below.

- Thursday, February 27, 2025, 6:30-8:30 pm. **Wheaton Candidate Forum**
- Saturday, March 1, 2025, 10 am-1 pm. **Candidate Forum at Glenbard North High School**
- Thursday, March 20, 2025, 6:30-9 pm. **Districts 25 and 93 School Board candidates**

If any members have information about other candidate forums, please contact me (laurdis@att.net) so I can have the information sent to all our members.



Membership

Marie Corcoran & Susan Hagerty

susanahagerty18@gmail.com mecorcoran31@gmail.com

The AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch Nominating Committee consists of the Co-Vice Presidents of Membership and two members appointed by the Presidents. Susan Levy-Creed and Maureen Dabovich were appointed to join Susan Hagerty and Marie Corcoran. The categories to be elected for the 2025-2027 years are: (Co) President, (Co) Program Vice-President and Secretary.

We are pleased to announce the Nominating Committee's slate of officers for the 2025-2027 years.

Co-Presidents: Patricia Spence and Maureen Sheehan

Co-Program Vice Presidents: Sarah Allen and Karen Schulz

Secretary: Valli Schiller

Nominations may also be made from the floor provided that the written consent of the nominee(s) has been obtained in advance. This slate of nominees will also be published in an All-Branch email within at least 10 days before the March annual meeting when the election will be held.

Any questions regarding this process may be directed to either Susan Hagerty or Marie Corcoran.

I, personally, want to thank Susan Levy-Creed and Maureen Dabovich for their efforts and insights. Marie Corcoran



AAUW Online

Jane Palmer

jane Palmer@icloud.com

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. We also support our Program VPs by providing online publicity for our Branch meetings.

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** (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.

Finally, congratulations to our team member, **Patricia Spence**, who has been slated to serve the Branch as Co-President with **Maureen Sheehan** for 2025-27!



Great Decisions.

Peggy Connolly, Peggy McGrath, Alison Hayes

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

The March Great Decisions topic is U.S.-China Relations. The Zoom group will meet **March 4** at 1:00 pm. The in-person group will meet **March 20** at Marie Corcoran's home at 1:00 pm.

Please contact Alison Hayes for the Zoom link for **March 4**, and RSVP to Marie if you will attend **March 20**.



Aging, Information and Resources (AIR)

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu

Our PM Non-Fiction group just discussed Cat Bohannon's "**Eve**" which traces the evolutionary development of the human female. Bohannon devotes Chapter 8 to the topic of menopause. The human female is the only known land animal to develop menopause. (We share this feature with several whale's species.) Put simply, our life spans extend beyond our reproductive years and longevity is increasing the number of years women are in menopause.

In an article in the New York Times (January 28, 2025), Dr Lisa Mosconi points out that "**Menopause remains one of the most under-diagnosed, under-researched, under-treated, and underfunded fields in medicine. We owe women centuries of research.**" Until 1993 there were no laws requiring that women be included in clinical trials. The fluctuation of female hormones made women a complicated research subject—males were preferred.

If you need information or help with the symptoms of menopause, please check the AIR "Health and Resources" website list. There is a service listed under "Gynecology" that deals specifically with menopause issues: [MyMenopauseRX](#) which has recently opened an office in Wheaton under the Northwestern Medicine umbrella.



Historian

Marilyn Wiedemann

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Some Histories of Branch Interest Groups

FILM GROUP

Started by Board approval in 2000 by Anne Prichard, Cindy Trennert-Lukens, and Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann uniting members of our AAUW Branch and Citizens for Glen Ellyn Preservation.

The goal was not only to enjoy the cultural art of film and discussion, but to support **The GlenArt Theatre**, an at-risk architectural and cultural landmark of the Village of Glen Ellyn. From the beginning it included guys, because many of the CGEP members were guys, and, oh heck, guys are fun at some discussions, right?

Early on, **The GlenArt** always had one theatre devoted to foreign film and, of course, we always chose that. The seats were much worse than they are now!



MEMOIR CIRCLE (2001-2007)

Started by Board approval at the request of Janet Quish, a Branch member who had a side gig helping elderly patients and assisted living residents construct memoirs for their families.

No one was an official “writer.” About 10 joined the group. We enjoyed ourselves immensely with small work, often only paragraphs, never more than a page, revealing a moment in our past. Maybe just sitting on a stair at grandma’s or bringing home the classroom rabbit to our surprised mother for care.

An old photo looked at again more closely: what were we thinking back then? What are we thinking of now? Just a paragraph to read aloud to the group, ultimately helping us feel that our lives had mattered even in the small spaces and that writing let that out.

Laura Desmarais, leader at our most recent AM LIT discussion of “**The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store**” wisely noted that the author (James McBride) “had resolved some of his own angst by writing about characters, starting with his mother.” That’s what memoirs do.

That’s why **Memoir Circle** was such a great Branch activity. We introduced ourselves to others—and even to ourselves—in delightfully small ways.

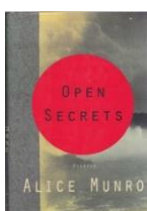
Our Branch Book Groups



AM Lit

Donna Staples

donnastaples5050@gmail.com



Please join us for a rousing discussion of Canadian author Alice Munro's book of short stories entitled "**Open Secrets**".

Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann has graciously offered her home for our meeting on **March 7**. Marilyn will also lead our discussion. Her address is 373 Oak St. Glen Ellyn.

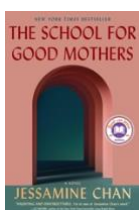
Thank you, Marilyn. We will meet at 9:30 am on **Friday, March 7**.

April read: "**James**" by Percival Everett

PM Lit

Susie Gullickson

gullich.1955@gmail.com



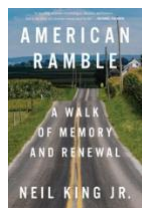
Our March selection is "**The School for Good Mothers**" by Jessamine Chan. In this taut and explosive debut novel, one lapse in judgment lands a young mother in a government reform program where custody of her child hangs in balance. Frida Liu finds that she must prove that she can live up to the "standards" set for mothers. This propulsive, witty page-turner explores the perils of "perfect" upper middle-class parenting.

Join us Monday, **March 17, 7:00 pm** at Jean Lindsey's home, 1644 Orth Drive, Wheaton. Discussion Leader to be determined; Linda Parduhn will be the co-host.

PM Non-Fiction

Ewa Bacon

baconew@lewisu.edu



Our next PM Non-Fiction meeting is on Wednesday, **March 26 at 7:00 pm** at the home of Ewa Bacon (405 W Front, #305). Please RSVP (baconew@lewisu.edu).

Valli Schiller will lead our discussion of Neil King's "**American Rambles: A Walk of Memory and Renewal.**"

King's desire to walk 330 miles in 26 days from Washington DC to New York City in 2021 was to rediscover what matters in life and to see our national history with new eyes. Nathaniel Philbrick writes: "[This] is a dazzling mixture of travelogue, memoir and history. At times profound, funny, and heartbreaking, this is the story of a traveler intoxicated by life."



Spice Routes

Peggy Connolly

connolly.peggy@gmail.com

Continuing this year's Spice Routes theme ([Fame! I Wanna Live Forever](#)), our **March 6** dinner will feature **Epochal Dishes from Famous Movies**. Would you prefer a culinary challenge (such as [Babette's Feast](#), [Julie & Julia](#), [Marie Antoinette](#)); something simple like hard boiled eggs from [Cool Hand Luke](#), spaghetti from [Lady & the Tramp](#), toast from [Five Easy Pieces](#), fava beans and a nice chianti from [Silence of the Lambs](#). Or something with a title related to food like [Ratatouille](#), [With Six You Get Eggroll](#), [Chocolat](#), [Mystic Pizza](#)? Please let Peggy know what you will be bringing by March 1. 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!



Film Group

Anne Hanley

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We have had quite a run of watching and discussing Oscar-nominated film discussions since the fall: [Conclave](#), [Wicked](#), [A Complete Unknown](#), [The Brutalist](#). Ones we did not get to include [Sing Sing](#), [A Real Pain](#), [Anora](#), [Dune Part Two](#), [Emilia Perez](#), [Nickel Boys](#), [The Substance](#), and [I'm Still Here](#). Perhaps one of them will be our March selection! By then, of course, we will know the outcome.

As always, the film selection will go out via email the weekend before our meeting. Feel free to send me your suggestions! **Our meeting will be at the home of Jean Lindsey on Friday March 14 at 7:00 pm.** I hope you will join us.

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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