

A Leaf from the Co-Presidents

This month we want to honor and acknowledge **Fran Kravitz**. Our Branch is so fortunate to have her! Very few Branches have any type of **STEM** program and certainly not of the caliber as ours! In fact when speaking with other Branch presidents, we haven't heard of any other Branches who offer **STEM classes** for grade school students, **Science on the Go kits** and have a talented scientist who makes herself available to volunteer at other events, such as a recent event at Lincoln Elementary School in Glen Ellyn where she and a couple of great assistants led over 200 students in one or two science experiments.

If you have never had the delightful experience of assisting Fran at the Glen Ellyn Library when she hosts a class for grade school children, you are really missing out!

Watch for the announcements and sign up to lend a hand, there is no such thing as too much assistance. Besides being helpful, you will leave with a smile on your face.

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We are so excited to be gearing up for the **2025 Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Used Book Sale!** This event is the primary fundraiser for the four scholarships we give out - One to a female student from each of our local public high schools.

June 9 - 13, and 16 - 18 9:00 am - 5:00 pm: Drop off, Set up and Sorting Books

June 19 from 8:00 am - 8:00 pm: BOOK SALE

June 20 from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm: BOOK SALE

June 21 from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm: BOOK SALE

Location:

Park View Elementary School, 250 South Park Boulevard, Glen Ellyn, next door to Reserve 22 Restaurant and the Village Links Golf Course on Park Boulevard. It is a fantastic location, with high visibility!

Looking forward to collaborating with you at the Book Sale!

Nancy Possinger and Karen Schulz

AAUW

Wheaton - Glen Ellyn

Upcoming Events – April 2025



DATE	EVENT	TIME	INFORMATION
March 25	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Ewa Bacon's Home 405 W Front Street #305 Wheaton
March 26	PM Non-Fiction	7:00 pm	Ewa Bacon's Home 405 W Front Street #305 Wheaton
April 1	Local Elections	** Please Vote ** Please Vote ** Please Vote **	
April 2	Branch Meeting	6:45 pm	Glen Ellyn Police Department 65 South Park Boulevard Glen Ellyn
April 3	Great Decisions	1:00 pm	Carol Ginger's Home 44 Tanglewood Drive Glen Ellyn
April 4	AM Lit	9:30 am	Glen Ellyn Public Library 400 Duane Street Glen Ellyn
April 8	Great Decisions	1:30 pm	Zoom
April 11	Film Group	7:00 pm	To Be Announced
April 21	PM Lit	7:00 pm	Sandy Karas' Home 22W504 Lakeside Drive Glen Ellyn
April 23	AM Non-Fiction	10:00 am	Carolyn Oesterle's Home 645 Lake Road Glen Ellyn
April 29	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	Patricia Spence's Home 192 East Road Glen Ellyn



Programs

Jean Lindsey & Patty Mugavero

jeanlindsey15@comcast.net mugsfive2001@yahoo.com

AAUW Presents: Save Our Night Skies
April 2, 2025, 6:45 pm
Glen Ellyn Police Department Community Room
65 South Park Boulevard
Glen Ellyn



Remember when you could see with your naked eye thousands of stars, the Milky Way, our galaxy, planets and the man in the moon? On April 2, at 6:45 pm. the **AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch** will host **Save Our Night Skies** at its April Branch Meeting. After a brief social time with refreshments, the presentation will begin. Guests are welcome to join us.

Our speaker will be **Adam Kreuzer**, lawyer, Board Delegate, and member of the International Dark Sky Association. Artificial light at night has revolutionized the way we live and work outdoors, but it has come at a price. When used indiscriminately, outdoor lighting has had devastating effects by disrupting wildlife, impacting human health, wasting money and energy, and contributing to climate change. Join Adam Kreuzer as he discusses the consequences of outdoor light pollution and what we can do to preserve our natural night skies. This program will focus on how light pollution adversely affects migrating birds, our other wildlife friends and what we can do to help save them from the consequences of light pollution. Light pollution may also affect our personal health.

Guests are welcome, in person or via Zoom. **To attend the meeting via Zoom**, please send an email to wge-aauw@comcast.net. Include your full name and email address. The Zoom link will be emailed to you on the day before the event.

More information about the **AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch** can be found at <https://wheatonglenellyn-il.aauw.net>.



AAUW has always been a strong supporter of public education.

Below is the press release issued by AAUW in response to actions by the Executive Branch of the US government.

“The President knows he cannot unilaterally dismantle the U.S. Department of Education through executive order; however, this reckless action is part of a deeply troubling agenda to dismantle public education through cuts and chaos.

By slashing funding, stripping oversight, and creating disorder, this administration is deliberately undermining students’ ability to access and complete higher education.

The consequences will be devastating — especially for low-income students, first-generation college goers, and communities historically marginalized in education.

AAUW calls on Congress to reject this cynical attack on the U.S. Department of Education and to uphold its essential mission: ensuring that every student, regardless of background, has access to a high-quality education.

This is not just an attack on an agency — it is an attack on our students, our economy, and the fundamental promise of equal opportunity.

AAUW will not stand idly by as education is placed on the chopping block. We urge students, parents, educators, and advocates across the country to make their voices heard and demand that Congress protect the future of education in America.”

Members are encouraged to contact Senators Durbin and Duckworth and members of Congress to express their concerns regarding this action.

At the local level, remember that local elections for school, library, parks and other local government entities are on April 1, 2025.

Early voting is now available in DuPage County. Information is available at dupagecounty.gov.



Great Decisions

Peggy Connolly, Peggy McGrath, Alison Hayes

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

The April Great Decisions topic is **India: Between China, the West, & the Global South**. The Zoom group will meet April 8 at 1:30 pm via Zoom.

The in-person group will meet April 3 at **Carol Ginger's home**, 44 Tanglewood Drive, Glen Ellyn at 1:00 pm. Please contact Alison Hayes for the Zoom link for April 8, and RSVP to Carol (cranston166@gmail.com) if you will attend April 3.

These will be our last Great Decisions meetings before the summer hiatus. We will continue this year's Great Decisions discussions September 2 (Zoom) & September 4 (live).



AAUW Online

Jane Palmer

janefpalmer@icloud.com

The AAUW Online team has been busy this month. Patricia Spence continues to post photos of Branch activities on the Branch Facebook page. Great pictures from recent Branch programs and discussion groups!

The Member Contact Listing is also on the Members Only Page. We have two member lists: the Primary Listing with members' addresses, phone numbers and emails and the Supplemental Listing with members' degrees and "special" details, such as, "past president" (this Branch or another Branch), "lifetime member" or "dual Branch member". Please take a few minutes to review your listing and send any corrections or additions to me at janefpalmer@icloud.com.

Finally, you may have noticed that we have recently been setting up our Branch programs as Facebook "Events" and sharing with other community groups. This outreach has been a success. Many guests have attended recent Program Meetings to hear our speakers and learn about AAUW. We also set up the programs on both the Glen Ellyn and Wheaton Patch.com sites. Whenever you see our Branch events on Facebook or on Patch, please click on "interested" or "attending".

We will soon be gearing up for Book Sale publicity. Contact me at janefpalmer@icloud.com if you have suggestions or pictures to help keep the Branch's Book Sale Facebook page fresh. Last year, we used a series of photos of my cat, Dinah, posing with books and donation bags to try to keep the buzz going. Also, Tracy Kline provided some wildlife pics which were great attention-getters. If you have a pet (or grandchild) who loves books, take some photos and send them to me. Pets and young readers are always attention-getters.

Continue to keep Patricia (pspence101@aol.com) and Tracy Kline (trakli@msn.com) updated with pictures of members enjoying Branch activities.



Secretary

Janet Miller

janetmiller800@yahoo.com

Minutes of the AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch Meeting

March 5, 2025

Location: Glen Ellyn Police Department and Zoom

March Branch Meeting

The requirement of 20% of the membership met the quorum requirements for a valid vote on the slate of candidates for the 2025 - 2026 Branch offices.

Elected at the Branch meeting were **Maureen Sheehan and Patricia Spence** for Co-Presidents, **Sara Allen and Karen Schulz** for Co- Program Vice Presidents, and **Valli Schiller** for Secretary. Installation of officers will be done at the May Banquet.

The Branch has 123 members.

March Program (In person and Zoom) – “Title IX in Transition: Understanding the New Landscape” presented by Dr. Suzanne Chod.

Announcements

Used Book Sale – Sale June 19-21, Move-In June 9, Sorting and preparation June 9-18. The location of the sale will be Parkview Elementary School in Glen Ellyn.

Encouraging Civility – March 20, 7:00 -8:00 pm. Workshop Format at Hadley Junior High School, 240 Hawthorne Boulevard in Glen Ellyn. The program is sponsored by the Wheaton – Glen Ellyn AAUW and League of Women Voters of Glen Ellyn. The workshop focuses on skills for effective communication through our differences.

Memoir Group – Interest group was approved at the February Board Meeting. See details in Twigs.

Programs – April, Dark Skies (Light Pollution). May, Clarence Goodman music program rescheduled from February.

May Banquet – May 31 at Adelle’s Restaurant in Wheaton at Noon. Installation of officers.

****Please see reservation form for the Banquet in this issue of Twigs****



Membership

Marie Corcoran & Susan Hagerty

susanhagerty18@gmail.com mecorcoran31@gmail.com

While our membership stays at 122 in total, we do have a returning member.

New Members

We welcome **Angela Smith** back to AAUW! After sheltering in place during COVID, Angela is reconnecting with our Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch.

Originally from outside Indianapolis, Angela headed to the Chicago area after graduating from Purdue University and has made Illinois her home since. Using her communications degree, she spent many years in consultative sales for Kodak, Johnson & Quinn and other high-tech companies. She then founded her own firm promoting farmers markets and small gourmet businesses.

Angela and her husband moved to Glen Ellyn in 1987, where they have raised their two, now adult, children.

Angela serves as an Elder at Southminster Presbyterian Church here in Glen Ellyn. Locally, she is also active with Bridge Communities assisting homeless families into transition housing. Over the last 17 years, Angela has been volunteering at the Art Institute of Chicago - most recently in the Ryan Learning Center - and assisting visitors in personalizing their tours with a program called Journey Makers.

An avid reader, Angela is interested in our Non-Fiction Book Group, Spice Routes and Film Group. Please welcome Angela back!

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 National AAUW. It should arrive shortly before your anniversary date. Most of our members have a summer anniversary but we do have some with a renewal coming up in the next couple of months.

When you get the email -- 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 that email notification from National AAUW as well. If you have any trouble, just reach out to us and we will be glad to help.



Have you heard of **SAVE**? This is the federal site to “**Safeguard American Voter Eligibility.**” This law mandates that you prove your identity to vote, to get your REAL ID, and to show eligibility for federal programs. SAVE was created to make voting more cumbersome for immigrants or naturalized citizens. You can check out the details at www.useis.gov.

Why is this relevant to us, relevant to women in particular? Women often have multiple surnames. My dear Mother-in-law (MIL) had a maiden name and got a new surname when she married. But then she was widowed. When she remarried, she got a new surname which she kept after her divorce. But then she married again. A FOURTH last name! She inherited property, she purchased homes, she had multiple credit cards—all potentially not matching her birth certificate, her maiden name. To prove her identity, my MIL had to collect and maintain a paper trail of ALL her legal names.

SAVE was created to obstruct voters, but invertedly it has a special impact on women. So, while you are organizing DNRs, wills, deeds, marriage licenses, divorce papers, trusts and similar documents, remember that this an active, important file. It tracks your legal identity. Your legal papers are important. PS: my daughter has kept to a single name since birth and through marriage, widowhood, remarriage and divorce. Applause!



Cultural Arts

Laura Desmarais and Patricia Spencelkdesmarais@gmail.com pspence101@aol.com

Upcoming Cultural Arts Event – Hokusai Art Exhibit at the MAC

Cultural Arts has scheduled a lecture and tour for the upcoming Hokusai exhibit at the MAC for AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch members.

Friday, June 13

Hokusai and Ukiyo-E - The Floating World

10:00 am: Introduction to the exhibit (Branch exclusive)

10:30 am: Admission to tour exhibit on your own

Cost is \$27.00 which includes a senior rate and tour discount. To secure your seat send checks payable to AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch to: Laura Desmarais, 1323 Shagbark LN; Wheaton, IL 60187. Contact me for more information: lkdesmarais@gmail.com

The “Hokusai and Ukiyo-e: The Floating World” exhibition, housed at the Museo d’Arte Orientale E. Chiossone of Genoa showcases over 60 works and artifacts by the masters of Japan’s Edo Period (1603-1868). Works by acclaimed artists such as Hokusai and Hiroshige are a window into the life during this time when the city of Edo (present-day Tokyo) thrived as the center of Japan’s economy and culture. The collection includes original painted works, intricate color woodblock prints and instruments and other beautifully lacquered objects and more.

Note: We are sending this out a little early as we need 20 participants to secure our group.

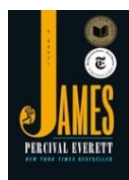
Our Branch Book Groups



AM Lit

Donna Staples

donnastaples5050@gmail.com



We will be meeting on Friday, April 4 at 9:30 am back at the Glen Ellyn Public Library. Our scheduled book is **"JAMES"** by Percival Everett. This novel is based on Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain but with an ironic twist. In our tale the protagonist is James, the slave from the Twain story.

To better understand, Everett's sense of irony, you may want to view the movie that was loosely taken from an earlier novel of Everett's. **"American Fiction"** is currently available on Amazon Prime Video and Apple TV. Hope to see you on April 4. All are welcome!

May book— **"The Great Divide"** by Christina Hernandez

PM Lit

Susie Gullickson

gullish.1955@gmail.com



"The Berry Pickers" by Amanda Peters is our April selection. This is a heartbreaking, stunning tale of Indigenous family separation. The story follows a Mi'kmaq family as they navigate life after their four-year-old girl goes missing in the blueberry fields of Maine. The book is told through two alternating points of views: the youngest son named Joe from Nova Scotia and a young girl named Norma who grows up in Maine with an overbearing mother and emotionally distant father.

Amanda Peters invites the reader to examine the effects on intergenerational trauma, racist residential institutions and the specific ways Indigenous families were treated.

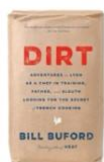
Join us Monday, April 21, 7:00 pm at Sandy Karras' home, 22W504 Lakeside Drive, Glen Ellyn.

Patty Mugavero will lead the discussion.

AM Non-Fiction

Susan Herrmann

sherrmann710@gmail.com



Our AM Non-Fiction book club will be meeting April 23 at 10:00 am at Carolyn Oesterle's home. We will be discussing **"Dirt: Adventures in Lyon as a Chef in Training, Father and Sleuth Looking for the Secret of French Cooking"**, by Bill Buford.

Please contact Carolyn (coesterle@gmail.com) if you are planning to attend.



Spring Luncheon
Saturday May 31, 2025
at Adelle's, 535 W. Liberty Dr., Wheaton

Please plan to join your fellow Branch members at a celebration of the past year's achievements and installation of Branch officers at **Adelle's Modern Kitchen + Bar** in Wheaton. Adelle's serves crafted comfort food, focusing on fresh, locally sourced ingredients and made-from-scratch meals with community at the heart of their mission.

Menu includes first course, choice of entrée, dessert, coffee, tea, or soda and tax and gratuity. A cash bar will be available. Save the date, talk to your friends and make this special end-of-the-year celebration, a perfect afternoon out. Contact Karen Bondy (bondykj@aol.com) before May 24 if you have questions or dietary needs, and we will make certain that you are accommodated.

11:00 – 11:30 am Social Hour Cash Bar – mimosas, beer or wine \$10/glass, includes tax and gratuity

11:30 am – Lunch, followed by the program

MENU

FIRST COURSE

Cream of potato leek soup



CHOICE OF ENTREE

ENTREES MUST BE PRE-ORDERED WHEN YOU SEND YOUR CHECK

Quiche Lorraine, made with applewood smoked bacon, Swiss cheese
plated with a side salad

OR

Chicken Breast, Panko-parm breaded w/ cheddar mash,
asparagus, tomato cream sauce



DESSERT

Cupcake – back by popular demand

Coffee, soda, iced tea

Cost: \$39.00 per person

Reservation due: May 23, 2025

Mail entrée choice along with check to:

Laura Desmarais, 1323 Shagbark Lane, Wheaton. IL 60187

Make check out to: AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP.

To reserve your place, make sure your check and selection is received **by May 23**. Please consider sending a check as soon as you check the date. We have no other way to take reservations than US mail which often is 5 days or more. Last minute tweaks may be *possible*, but don't wait too long. Please!



Please clip and mail with your check to:

**Laura Desmarais
1323 Shagbark Lane
Wheaton. IL 60187**

Spring Luncheon Reservation Form - Deadline May 23

***Luncheon date: Saturday May 31 at Adelle's in Wheaton
11 am social and lunch at 11:30 am. Program will follow.***

Name(s): _____

Number in Party @ \$39.00 = _____



Select one entrée choice:

☐

Quiche Lorraine, made with applewood smoked bacon,
Swiss cheese plated

☐

Panko-parm breaded chicken breast w/ cheddar mash,
asparagus, tomato cream sauce

☐

Karen Bondy: Please contact me by May 24 for special dietary need

Checks: AAUW Wheaton-Glen Ellyn Branch, NFP

Please mail to Laura
(info above)
Reserve by **May 23**.

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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