



AAUW

Wheaton/Glen Ellyn



February 2011

Twigs

**Mark Your Calendar**

- January 24 Great Decisions, 7 pm at Peggy Connolly's, 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton
- February 2 **Branch meeting *DuSable to Obama: The Production of a Documentary*** presented by Barbara Allen, 7:00 pm, Glen Ellyn Civic Center
- February 3 and 17 Book Sorting at Pond's, 26W515 St. Charles Rd., Carol Stream, Contact Jan Radil
- February 4 AM Lit, 9:30 am at Peggy Connolly's, 1445 Brentwood Lane, Wheaton
- February 9 Board meeting at Linda Johansen's, 1103 Windsor Drive, Wheaton, IL
- February 11 Film Group. Contact Marilyn Wiedemann for film. Discussion to follow at Kitty Johansson's, 303 W. Harding Road, Lombard
- February 16 Bridge, 7 pm. Contact Phyllis Fogel for location.
- February 19 Cultural Arts/Wheaton Drama theater event, 8 pm, 111 N. Hale, Wheaton
- February 21 PM Lit, 7:30 pm at Phyllis Fogel's, Lombard
- February 28 Great Decisions, Rebuilding Haiti. 7 pm. Contact Jane Palmer for location.
- March 2 Annual Branch meeting **Women In Science: Why So Few?** Presented by Ruth Sweetser, IIT Director, Professional Learning and Business Relations, and past AAUW national President 7:00 pm, Glen Ellyn Civic Center
- March 23 Non-Fiction Lit. See March *Twigs* for details.



**The Production of a Documentary**

On February 2 come and personally get behind-the-scenes insights from and ask questions of Barbara Allen, the producer of the award-winning

WTTW/PBS documentary, *DuSable to Obama*. Vicariously experience what went into the making of the film, the people she met along the way, the hurdles she overcame and successes she had in the making of the film. She has asked that we view the film again prior to the presentation, if possible. Here's the link: <http://video.wttw.com/video/1522918184/>

See you there.

**Location:** Glen Ellyn Civic Center, 535 Duane Street, Glen Ellyn, Betty Clayton Room

**Time:** Wednesday, February 2, 2011 - 7:00 p.m. networking / 7:25 business meeting / 8:00 program



*A Leaf from the President*

Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann

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hillarlyn@wowway.com

**We are each other's harvest; we are each other's business; we are each other's magnitude and bond.**

Gwendolyn Brooks

What do Gwendolyn Brooks, Katherine Dunham, Richard Wright, Langston Hughes, Gordon Parks, Margaret Burroughs, Nat King Cole, Charles Seabee, and Louis Armstrong have in common?

They have deep roots in Chicago as part of the wonderful Black Metropolis Renaissance earlier in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

If these names and their particular accomplishments are a bit vague to you at this point, take time to watch the marvelous WTTW production *DuSable to Obama: Chicago's Black Metropolis*. You can view it at home at <http://video.wttw.com/video/1522918184/>.

This is as good as any Ken Burns production, which it resembles in approach, having stills, video, drawings, interviews, letters, diaries and the like. You'll love it. And you'll learn wonderful things about our Chicago and see sights of people at work and at play in the city that you probably never, ever saw before.

Our own Branch member Glennette Turner appears about 20 minutes into the program. Years ago Gwendolyn Brooks spoke at a Branch meeting. Quite something indeed.

Please come. Please bring your friends and family.

In addition, member Glennette Turner, who helped make arrangements for the February program, learned recently that her youth non-fiction book, *Fort Mose and the Story of the Man Who Built the First Free Black Settlement in Colonial America* was selected by Booklist as one of the best books in that category for 2010. Congratulations to Glennette.



## News from the Membership Desk

Sherry Yarema 630-858-5225 syarema@earthlink.net

We are now at 111 members. Introduce yourselves at the Branch meeting. Our membership makes us strong.



### Book Sale News

Judy Sims ('04)

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Jan Radil

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If you've ever wondered how many different books are out there in the world, Google has an answer: 129,864,880 according to the Google Books project.

To come up with this approximation, the company started by ingesting book information from multiple cataloging systems, such as the International Standard Book Numbers (ISBN). However, such catalogues, while helpful, do not provide a definitive count since ISBNs have only been used since the 1960s, and only in Western countries. Also multiple books have been assigned to individual ISBN numbers, and items such as t-shirts and DVDs also have ISBNs. So Google engineers have written programs to comb through about 150 such catalogues and directories, and eliminate many duplicate entries.

The company also made a number of tough decisions about what is and isn't a book. Soft cover and hard cover editions of a text are counted as two books, as are different versions of a popular text. Serials may be either individual books or 1 collected work.

As of June, the company has scanned 12 million books, written in about 480 languages (including 3 books in the Star Trek-originated Klingon language). The scan, which will be complete within a decade, will result in a virtual collection, consisting of four billion digital pages and two trillion words in total.

The number of boxes of books sorted by our Branch is 388 and growing. 25-40 books/box – YOU do the math!! Woohoo!

**February 3 and 17- Book Sorting at Dick Pond Athletics, 26W515 St. Charles Rd., Carol Stream, Contact Jan Radil**

### Fresh Look Follow-up

Jane Palmer

312-403-6434

jfpalmer@comcast.net

As some of you may recall, the Fresh Look Committee recommended that the Branch form a "summer sales committee". Since the books we would try to sell in the summer are the ones we would otherwise be saving for next year, it would not affect our agreement with PaceSetter to let them sell our leftover books nor with our longstanding policy of "no pre-sales."

From the Fresh Look Report: **Recommended: Form a "Summer Sales Committee" to go through leftover curios and coffee-table books and sell them online. Tasks involved could be done in a group (social aspect) that meets every week or two with their laptops or internet phone devices. If three or four members (or more) volunteer for "summer sales", one or two members can search the internet for recent sales in order to set prices and another can list the books. After sales begin, one or two can work on mailing sold books. This "Summer Sales Committee" could also be viewed as a prototype if in 5 or 10 years from now the Branch decides to move toward a "virtual book sale" where more of our sales are done on-line rather than at the Civic Center.**

I've volunteered to lead this committee. Please let me know if you can help. We will need members to select and pack books to "save", members with laptops or smart phones to help research recent sales of titles, and members to ship when we sell a book.



### Educational Opportunities Fund

Sue Balk

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Donna Jennings

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Happiness is contacting counselors at our four local high schools, Glenbard West and South, Wheaton Warrenville South and Wheaton North about our Higher Education Incentive Award. How cool is it to tell them about a \$1,000 scholarship to be awarded to a qualified female student at each school who plans to attend the COD in fall? By late April we should know the recipients....stay tuned.

Having attended previous award convocations, a \$1,000 scholarship ranks among the higher amounts given by various organizations. Students are extremely grateful to receive these prestigious awards to assist them in financially troubling times. We're very proud that our Branch has chosen to support these scholarship awards.

Received a note from AAUW thanking us for our \$12,000 contribution to the Marjorie Robinson & Kay Storm R & P Grant.

### AAUW 2011 National Convention

### Breaking through Barriers — Advocating for Change

Renaissance Washington, D.C. Hotel • Washington, D.C. \*June 16–19, 2011\*\*\***Best-Value Registration opened December 1!** What a year, not only our national convention in our national capital, but one of our members (Pamela Starr) now living part-time in that very capital, and inviting us to enjoy some time with her as our Guide to Great Stuff.

Please consider joining us in going to this particular convention and spending some time with "insider" Pam. For details go to the Branch website and click on the AAUW Convention logo. And you can talk to Pat Walton, Sherry Yarema, or Marilyn who are planning to attend. We'll also be sending our new President (whose costs are covered by the Branch) Think about it! Do it!

Share your ideas for workshops or special interest groups on the AAUW Facebook page or send an e-mail to convention@aauw.org

### Your Branch's Board at Work

Linda Johansen

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lindajohansen@sbcglobal.net

Board action and discussion in January:

- The Board brainstormed book pricing in an advisory role to the Book Sale Steering Committee.
- The Board supports a "Summer Sales" committee proposed in the *Fresh Look* report (see above)
- The Board heard reports that registration is strong for the *Atreverte: Dare to Dream* conference for Latina girls and their mothers, co-sponsored by our Branch. (January 29th at Elmhurst College)

Board meetings are always open to the entire Branch membership. Notify Marilyn (630-858-2091) if you plan to attend.

**Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF)****Pat Walton****630-736-0295****pjwplace@aol.com**

**Pay Discrimination Litigation Progresses:** In a 5-1 decision, the New Jersey Supreme Court decision granted a right to proceed to a pay discrimination case brought by three female Seton Hall University faculty members. The court agreed that every discriminatory paycheck is an act of discrimination. However, the women will only be able to sue for discrimination they experienced during the past two years according to the New Jersey statute of limitations for such claims.

In another case, the **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission** filed suit against the Port Authority of NY and NJ in September for age and sex discrimination, accusing the agency of paying female non-supervisory attorneys less than males for similar work and firing women because of age. The Port Authority asserts the dismissals were part of overall reductions and has refused pre-litigation settlement offers.

The **Census Bureau** recently released data from the American Community Survey (2005 to 2009) that details the pay disparities between men and women, and occupational gender segregation. Of 20 occupations where men's median annual salary is \$40,000 and more, men out-earned women in every single instance.

In an attempt to limit women's access to abortion services, Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN) introduced a bill (H.R. 217) recently, that, if passed, would restrict **Title X grants** from being awarded to any organization that provides abortion care with their own funds. Title X grants fund comprehensive family planning and preventative health services, but contain existing restrictions that forbid funding to go toward abortion services. The bill currently has 122 co-sponsors.

AAUW supports the right of every woman to safe, accessible, affordable, and comprehensive family planning and reproductive health services, stemming from AAUW's 2009-2011 Public Policy Program, which advocates choice in the determination of one's reproductive life, increased access to health care and family planning services including expansion of patients' rights.

**Cultural Arts News****Alice Blount****630- 871-6628****aliceblount@hotmail.com****Monica Meehan****630-240-1937****mdm1023@hotmail.com**

Please join us at Wheaton Drama's Playhouse 111 (111 North Hale, Wheaton) for *20th Century*, a comedy directed by member Alice Blount's husband, Steve Blount. Alice is in charge of props and would love to see AAUW members at the show! The play runs Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. beginning January 28th and running to February 20th. I would like to suggest AAUW members, spouses and friends come on **Saturday, February 19**. That night we'll offer a backstage tour after the performance. Tickets are available through [wheatondrama.org](http://wheatondrama.org). or at 630-260-1820. Prices are \$13 for Thursday; \$16 for Fridays and Saturdays and Sundays. Hope to see you at the theater!

**HUGE THANKS from the Branch to Alice and Monica, brand new members, who have stepped up to organize Cultural Arts! We appreciate their enthusiasm and look forward to the events they are planning.**

**A.M. Lit****Kathy McCullough****630-653-8971****kathy.mccull@sbcglobal.net**

*Clock without Hands* by Carson McCullers is set in Georgia in 1953 on the eve of court-ordered segregation, and contains McCullers's most poignant statement on race, class and justice. The story is told through several characters: a small-town druggist dying of leukemia, an elderly judge who really believes that the confederate money hoarded in his attic will someday bring him riches, an African-American piano player and the judge's grandson who sees changes coming. We will meet on **February 4th** at Peggy Connolly's. Laura Desmarais will co-hostess and lead discussion.

**P. M. Lit Group****Kimberly Thacker****630-665-4631****kjthacker@comcast.net**

Our February PM Lit selection is Abraham Verghese's universally acclaimed novel *Cutting for Stone*, the story of twin brothers of an Indian nun and a English doctor. Verghese is known not only for this excellent novel but also for his memoir *My Own Country: A Doctor's Story*, which tells of his early medical career working in Tennessee during the first years of the AIDS epidemic. *Cutting for Stone* is available in paperback and on Kindle for \$5.00.

We'll meet at 7:30 on Monday, **February 21** at Phyllis Fogel's home in Lombard.

Coming up: March 21: *The Glass Palace* by Amitav Ghosh

**Non-Fiction Lit Group****Margaret McGrath****630-942-0980****margmcgrath@yahoo.com**

Non-Fiction Lit will meet next on Wednesday, **March 23**. The book we will be discussed is, *A Pirate of Exquisite Mind: The Life of William Dampier: Explorer, Naturalist, and Buccaneer* by Diana and Michael Preston. By the early 1700's Dampier had been around the world three times. He was a soldier, plantation manager, lumberjack, hydrographer, naturalist, but by the age of 28, settled on piracy. Watch next month's *Twigs* for meeting location. Questions or suggestions, email [margmcgrath@yahoo.com](mailto:margmcgrath@yahoo.com)

\*\*\*\*\* **Books selected for all Lit groups are also posted at [www.wheaton-glenellynaauw.org](http://www.wheaton-glenellynaauw.org)** \*\*\*\*\*

**Great Decisions****Jane Palmer (for Winifred Creamer)****312-403-6434****jfpalmer@comcast.net**

As some of you know, Winifred will be on sabbatical spring semester and will be in Peru from January 26 to August 1. Jane Palmer will take over the emails in her absence. The next meeting will be Monday, **February 28**. We will discuss Topic 1 of the 2011 book, *Rebuilding Haiti*. If you would like to volunteer to host the meeting or lead the discussion, contact Jane. Also, contact Jane if you would like to add your name to the Great Decisions email list.

If you don't yet have your 2011 book, contact Judy Sims('04) to arrange to pick it up.



**BRIDGE, Fun with Friends and Learning** Phyllis Fogel **630-629-7911** [prfogel@live.com](mailto:prfogel@live.com)  
We will meet on **February 16**, 2011, at a place yet to be determined. Contact Phyllis for more information.



**Film Group** Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann **630-858-2091** [hillarlyn@wowway.com](mailto:hillarlyn@wowway.com)

Our next film night out will be Friday, **February 11**. While we don't yet know the title (something we have to select the week of the meeting) we DO know that we will be meeting at the home of new member Kitty (and Tomas) Johansson who have already been adding a wonderful spark to the group. Their address is: 303 W. Harding Road, Lombard, IL 60148, (630-613-9495.)

January's meeting at Lindy Pond's was a lively group of 24 who discussed *The King's Speech*, English history, speech/psych. therapy, and the value (or not) of the monarchy—along with acting, royal family trees, and who will win the Oscar. (Between *The Social Network* and *The King's Speech*, the latter won our vote, but we figured the former will win the Academy's.)

If you aren't receiving the notices for this group and want to, please e-mail me and I'll add you to the list. It's always a spirited group, typically 15 or 20 who can make it that night, and we welcome husbands or other friends to come.

**Volunteer To Help Students With Workplace Skills** Sue Balk **630-858-0829** [suzanneBalk@yahoo.com](mailto:suzanneBalk@yahoo.com)

Anna Gay, one of our Community Action Grant recipients and EOF speaker at the December dinner has emailed me to follow up with her request for volunteer mock interviewers. This is a part of her ongoing program at College of DuPage for the DuPage Area Student Leadership Academy. This program links area high school juniors and seniors with area employers and is designed to enhance the skills (ethics, time management, resume writing, attitude and more) these young people need to find success in the workplace.

One critical area for students is the interview. Anna is asking for volunteers in all fields of employment to conduct mock interviews with prospective job candidates. You will be as closely matched as possible to a candidate interviewing in your field of expertise. Guidelines for the interview will be provided. Mock interviews will take place on **February 10<sup>th</sup>**, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. on the IIT Rice Campus of COD and **February 11th** at DeVry, the Addison Campus. Following a morning session on each of those days, you are invited for stay for lunch.

What a nice way to help area students, share your expertise and make a winter day more fun. Participate with a friend or an AAUW member you have recently met. Contact Anna Gay at: [gayanna@cod.edu](mailto:gayanna@cod.edu). She will appreciate your lending a hand.

**Wheaton-Glen Eilyn AAUW Branch Board, 2010-11 (use this contact info if you have any questions!)**

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	and Jan Radil	630-260-0119	jradil@sbcglobal.net
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Like e- or U. S.? Members need to let Jane Palmer or Karen know if you prefer a different format to receive your newsletter. If electronic works for you, it saves the Branch a little money. If you wish to receive it in the U.S. mail, that's no problem. Just let us know. Send Karen ([bondykj@aol.com](mailto:bondykj@aol.com)) changes to the e-mail address where you wish to receive *Twigs*. Electronic receivers: Make sure your spam filter will allow you to receive e-mail from my address and group mailings. Look for *Twigs* the last week of every month.

**Wheaton-Glen Eilyn Branch Non-Board Chairs 2010-2011**

AM Lit	Kathy McCullough	630-653-8971	kathy.mccull@sbcglobal.net
PM Lit	Kimberly Thacker	630-665-4631	kjthacker@comcast.net
Nonfiction Lit	Margaret McGrath	630-942-0980	margmcgrath@yahoo.com
Film Group	Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann	630-858-2091	hillarlyn@wowway.com
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Twigs mailing	Helen Westlake	630-665-2776	donhelenwestlake@webtv.net
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**Mission:** AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

**Membership:** In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, class or disability. Membership is not by invitation.

**Legal Advocacy Fund:** AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

**Vision Statement:** AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.