



AAUW

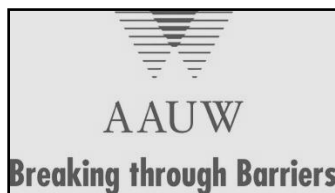
Wheaton/Glen Ellyn

March 2011

Twigs

Mark Your Calendar

- February 28 Great Decisions, *Rebuilding Haiti*. 7 pm at Phyllis Fogel's, 1126 South Edgewood, Lombard.
- March 2 Annual Branch meeting, **6:30 pm! Note early meeting time!! Women In Science: Why So Few?**
Presented by Ruth Sweetser, IIT Director, Corporate Relations, and past AAUW national President,
Glen Ellyn Civic Center, 535 Duane Street, Glen Ellyn, Betty Clayton Room
- March 3
and 17 Book Sorting at Pond's, 26W515 St. Charles Rd., Carol Stream, Contact Jan Radil
- March 4 AM Lit, 9:30 am at Marla Felsten's, 623 Arbor Ave., Wheaton.
- March 9 Board meeting. Contact Linda Johansen or Marilyn for location.
- March 11 Film Group. Contact Marilyn Wiedemann for film and discussion location.
- March 16 Bridge, 7 pm at Phyllis Fogel's, 1126 South Edgewood, Lombard.
- March 21 PM Lit, 7:30 pm at Barb Isom's, 848 High Gate Course, Glen Ellyn
- March 22 Cultural Arts / Tea Class, 6:30 pm, Serene Teaz, 221 W. Front St., Wheaton
- March 23 Non-Fiction Lit, 7 pm at Margaret McGrath's, 377 Turner, Glen Ellyn
- March 28 Great Decisions, *US National Security*, 7 pm. Contact Jane Palmer for location.



Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

Join us at our Annual Branch Meeting where we get to vote on the new officers for the upcoming biennium, and we also are privileged to hear the immediate Past President of the entire American Association of University Women—Ruth Sweetser—as she discusses with us the AAUW Research report on women in science and technology.

In an era when women are increasingly prominent in medicine, law, and business, why are there still so few women scientists and engineers? The AAUW Research Report on this subject, produced under Ruth's leadership, presents compelling evidence that helps to explain this puzzle. Eight key research findings point to environmental and social barriers. The report includes up to date statistics on women's achievement and participation in "STEM" areas. It offers new ideas for what each of us can do to open these fields to girls and women. AAUW Research Report "Why So Few" is available on the Branch website's home page.

Sweetser is currently Director of Corporate Relations at Illinois Institute of Technology where she has held numerous positions in the development of educational programs that strengthen the relationship between higher education and business and industry. Professionally and through her many roles in AAUW, Ruth has personally encouraged many girls to consider science and technology-related careers. . She is an exceptional role model of an AAUW woman as well as an active mover working for equity for women in our workplace and educational system. See you there.

THIS MONTH ONLY – EARLIER MEETING TIME - REMIND YOUR FRIENDS!!!

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

**Time: 6:30 p.m.— gathering * 6:45 p.m.— program begins * 7:30 p.m. –break for treats
7:45 p.m.—Business Meeting begins**

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

A Leaf from the President

Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann

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*Nothing in life is to be feared:
it is only to be understood.--Marie Curie
(AAUW Grant recipient, 1920)*

March is Women's History Month.
Time to reflect on those women who have worked for change to create a better life for all.

Time to reflect on the women in our own lives who have helped us become who we are, or who help us now. Time to continue the "other voice" so necessary to complete the full range of human expression.

Women's History Month evolved from International Women's Day, March 8. Scheduled as a labor day for women, on March 8, 1908, 15,000 women marched in NYC for shorter hours, better pay, and suffrage. By 1911 in Europe on that date, a million women marched for those rights. And on that date in 1917, Russian women marched for bread and work and were soon joined by the men. Within days the mass demonstrations led to the abdication of the Czar.

Remind you of Cairo? (And elsewhere?) Not for bread, but for freedom to be and to become. We see women interviewed on the street in their veils. Even in Tehran the people march. Where will it lead? We do not know precisely, but we DO know that where women are suppressed, whole countries move backward.

Spring forward with your AAUW Branch. You have that privilege. Pick a program from inside *Twigs* and attend. Your mind will be stimulated; your heart cheered. Join Fiction, Non-Fiction, Great Decisions, Film Group, Cultural Arts, Bridge--and of course, Book Sale Sorting. Book Sale is the force we have to carry the work of women forward through their higher education.

Report of the Nominating Committee **Sherry Yarema, chair** 630-858-5225 syarema@earthlink.net

The Nominating is pleased to announce that we have a full slate of candidates for the positions which come up for election at our March 2 Branch meeting, as stipulated by our by-laws. Here is the slate:

President: Phyllis Fogel

Co-Vice-Presidents for Program: Laura Desmarais and Jane Palmer


Secretary: Kimberly Thacker

The terms for all three of these positions will start July 1, 2011 and end June 30, 2013. We are extremely gratefully that these active and hard-working members of our Branch are willing to serve the in these positions.

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee: Sherry Yarema, Chair; Phyllis Fogel, Jane Palmer, Kimberly Thacker

PS. It may appear that the Nominating Committee sat around nominating each other! Indeed that is not the case! We considered many members who we thought capable of assuming more active leadership roles in our Branch. Coincidentally, the nominating committee already consisted of Branch leaders who were gracious and generous to step up to the opportunity.

The continued success of our organization depends on the ideas and involvement of all members. Everyone is busy and active, whether working, grandparenting, or enjoying retirement opportunities. Every member's ideas and service to the Branch are critical for it to remain strong. All 111 of us benefit from the strong programs of our Branch. Consider a leadership role when the new officers ask **you** to help!

	Book Sale News	Judy Sims ('04)	630-790-1093	JudSims@hotmail.com
		Jan Radil	630-260-0119	jrakil@sbcglobal.net
		Karen Bondy	630-436-0621	bondykj@aol.com

May still seems a ways away, but we need to get our calendars turned to enter **AAUW Used Book Sale** for **May 9 – 14!** Traditionally every member of the Branch contributes in some way to this fundraising effort which supports our AAUW Educational Fund contributions and the local scholarships to high school girls.

The March Branch meeting will be your first chance to sign up to work. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (9am-9pm) of sale week, we will be unpacking books and getting them set for display. Wednesday evening though Saturday at 2 pm we will need members to take money and assist customers. Beginning Saturday at 2, the "move-out" team breaks down the sale and we all go home! Think about a time commitment you can make to this important fundraiser. Oh, and did I mention it is really fun to hang out with AAUW members and look through all the stuff we will offer for sale? It is GREAT fun! Contact one of the co-chairs (above) to let us know when you plan to work, what ideas you have for set up, pricing, publicity, efficiency, etc.

If you have space to hang onto them for a few weeks, when you shop, start to collect cardboard flats such as Gatorade and juices are packed on. We will need hundreds to use as we unpack and turn the books spine up. Look at Sam's, Costco and the liquor stores, especially. Thanks for your help.

And speaking of WORK, Jan shares the following, of interest to all book readers, lovers, and sorters: London, June 1857- Members of the Philological Society form an "Unregistered Words Committee" to search for unlisted and undefined words lacking in current dictionaries. By November, their report has become a study that identifies the shortcomings of contemporary dictionaries. The committee decides to develop a comprehensive new dictionary. Volunteer readers are assigned particular books and copy passages illustrating word usage onto "quotation slips." As time passes, assistants collect two tons of quotation slips; numerous slips are misplaced, and paper-and-ink technology becomes a major drawback. Although many volunteer readers lose interest, W.C. Minor, an American and resident of Broadmoor Asylum for the Criminally Insane, is an effective contributor of quotations as he has comfortable lodgings, leisure time, and a pension to use to purchase books. February 1884 brings the first installment, 352 pages covering the words from A to Ant, and other installments follow. Between 1928 and 1933 additional material is compiled, and the dictionary is reissued in 12 bound volumes with a one-volume supplement. Work ends, and the quotation slips go into storage. The *Oxford English Dictionary*, more than seventy-five years in the making, is at last put to bed. The English language, however, is restless; it continues to change. While the Oxford English Dictionary slumbers...

Branch members have sorted 392 boxes of books.

March 3 and 17: Book Sorting continues, Dick Pond Athletics, 26W515 St. Charles Rd., Carol Stream, Contact Jan Radil

Your Branch's Board at Work**Linda Johansen****630-871-1933****lindajohansen@sbcglobal.net**

Board action and discussion in March:

- The Board heard a brief report of the success of *Atravete; Dare to Dream*. 240 girls and 140 moms attended. Our Branch contributed financially to this program, and several members have worked toward its success.
- The Board recognized efforts required to reschedule the February program due to weather.
- The Board approved offering ½ price Branch dues starting next year for new members who join January through March.

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

**Educational Opportunities Fund****Sue Balk****630-858-0829****suzanneBalk@yahoo.com****Donna Jennings****630-858-1461****drjennin@att.net**

Letters have been sent to four area high schools offering the Wtn/GE Branch Higher Education Incentive Award. These \$1,000 scholarships will enable four young women going to the College of Du Page this Fall to complete an associate's degree with intentions to go on to a four year school. As you know, we've funded four very grateful and appreciative recipients for the last two years.

The high school guidance counselors will choose the recipients based on several qualifications. The student should have academic potential to enter college, be of good character and might have been a work-based student while in school and could continue this work during college. As a result, the student may not have met criteria of other scholarships and would have access to our scholarship as a financial resource.

This is a warm, feel good, happy event for our Branch. Now the anticipation.....

And the winners of the 2011 Higher Education Incentive Award are.....! We'll know in May.

Diversity and Women's History News**Glennette Turner, Chair****630-668-7027** mzfootstep@aol.com

Pauli Murray (1910-1985) -- Years ago in a C-span interview, Betty Friedan stated that NOW was founded at the urging of African American civil rights worker Pauli Murray, who deserved so much credit for the concept and structure of the organization. I misunderstood Betty to say "Polly" rather than Pauli and didn't remember the last name. Ever since then, from time to time, I would try to find out who "Polly" was. Several months ago my grandson's high school class was studying women's history and I told him about my quest. Soon afterwards, he said, Grandma, I think I found the name of the person you were searching for!" Following is a brief summary of Pauli's accomplishments. She is certainly a person to be remembered in both Black History and Women's History months!

Pauli Murray was born in Baltimore, Maryland, and educated in segregated Baltimore public schools. Murray graduated from Hunter College in 1933. In 1938 she attempted to gain admission into the University of North Carolina law school but was denied admission because of her race. Murray later entered Howard University Law School and graduated in 1944. She sought admission to Harvard University to obtain an advanced law degree but was denied admission because she was a woman. She then studied at the University of California, Berkeley, where she received her Masters of Law degree in 1945. In 1965 she was awarded a J.S.D. (a law doctorate) from Yale, the first African-American to be awarded the degree, based on a dissertation entitled, "Roots of the Racial Crisis: Prologue to Policy."

Murray was an early and committed civil rights activist and wrote one of the early law review articles on sex-discrimination. Murray, along with Betty Friedan, was a founding member of NOW. At the age of sixty-two, Murray entered the seminary and became, in 1977, the first Black female priest ordained by the Episcopal Church.

**Cultural Arts News****Alice Blount****630 253-0527****aliceblount@hotmail.com****Monica Meehan****630-240-1937****mdm1023@hotmail.com**

Cultural Arts Event on Tuesday, March 22 at 6:30 p.m. is a tea class at Serene Teaz, a lovely tea room, in downtown Wheaton. The Tea 101 class is designed for individuals who are either new to the world of tea or would like to expand their knowledge of this popular beverage. During the first 45 minutes of the class, students are given samples of approximately 10 different types of tea along with their history and instructions on how to prepare them. At the end of the class, you may sample your favorite tea and a pastry at an additional cost.

Call Serene Teaz to register by phone with a credit card or stop in and pay in person. There is a maximum of 20 students allowed per class. This event is open to the public and not exclusively for AAUW. Register now! You don't want to miss this fun and informative evening. Questions? Call or email Alice Blount (Cultural Arts Chair, info above). Join us at Serene Teaz on the 22nd for Tea 101.

Fee: \$10 registration fee

Time: 6:30 pm until about 8

Location: Serene Teaz, 221 W. Front St. in Wheaton, (630) 784-8327 www.SereneTeaz.com**BRIDGE, Fun with Friends and Learning****Phyllis Fogel****630-629-7911****prfogel@live.com**

Trump Management as Declarer will be the lesson for March. Do I draw the last remaining trump or leave it outstanding? Do I need to ruff in the short hand? All this and more will be covered. We'll meet on Wednesday, March 16, at the Fogels at 7 pm. Please come and join in the fun and the pleasure of playing this marvelous game of bridge.





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

Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese moves from India to Ethiopia to an inner-city hospital in New York City over decades and generations. Twin boys are born to an Indian nun & an English surgeon in Addis Ababa. One twin narrates his own & his brother's long, dramatic, Biblical story set against the backdrop of political turmoil in Ethiopia, the life of the hospital compound in which they grow up and the love story of their adopted parents, both doctors. The boys become doctors as well, and the practice of medicine is woven into the narrative. We will meet on March 4th at the home of Marla Felsten with Virginia Highstone as our co-hostess. Sherry Yarema will lead the discussion.

Reading Ahead, April 1: *My Name is Mary Sutter* by Robin Oliveira.

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

Our March book, *The Glass Palace* by Amitav Ghosh, tells of political and personal turmoil in Burma and Malaya over 115 years, beginning in 1885 when the British send Burma's king into exile. It is certain to give us better insight into problems that continue in the region today. Joanne Rowland will lead the discussion. We'll meet on Monday, March 21 at 7:30 pm at Barb Isom's home in Glen Ellyn. Our April selection is *Let the Great World Spin* by Colum McCann.

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

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. Non-fiction lit book group will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 23th at Margaret McGrath's home in Glen Ellyn.

***** **Books selected for all Lit groups are also posted at 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, **March 28** at Phyllis

Fogel's. We will discuss Topic 2 of the 2011 book, *US National Security*. If you would like to volunteer to host the meeting or lead the discussion, contact Jane. And let her know if you want your name to be on the Great Decisions email list.

If you don't yet have your 2011 book, contact Judy Sims at (630) 790-1093.



Film Group **Marilyn Mayer Wiedemann** **630-858-2091** hillarlyn@wowway.com

Great discussion last month of the movie *Black Swan* which we attended prior to meeting at the partially solar powered home of Kitty and Tomas Johansson. Both were eminently discussable!

We agreed with the *LA Times* tag that *Black Swan* is a "wildly melodramatic...look at the blood sport that is NYC ballet," but well worth seeing, especially if you don't take it seriously.

In the spirit of giving reviews to the Branch (our educational mission) our group Oscar selections would be: Best Picture: *King's Speech* (but we think *Social Network* will win). Best Actor: Colin Firth. Best Actress: Jennifer Lawrence, *Winter's Bone* although we think Natalie Portman will win).

Join us for a lively recap of the Oscar choices at our next meeting, Friday, March 11. We forgot to select a host, so we're trolling for a volunteer. And of course, we have no idea what film we'll be seeing. But we know we will certainly be able to talk about it!!!! It's a wonderful group. Do join us when you can. No preparation needed. And please call me if you can host. ☺☺☺

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.

If you've never been to the one of the AAUW conventions in Washington, D.C. to participate in a lobby day, but it sounds like something that you would like to do, then you have the chance to participate this year. On Friday, June 17, the second day of AAUW Convention 2011, AAUW will hold Capitol Hill Lobby Day. A briefing will be given the day before on a selection of AAUW issues at stake in legislation being considered by Congress at the time of the Lobby Day. You can participate in AAUW Capitol Hill Lobby Day by registering for AAUW Convention 2011.

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

Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 * * * Tell Your Senators to Oppose Cuts to Critical Programs

Now is the time to build up our future, not chip away at it. As the House of Representatives is poised to pass the (H.R. 1), the Senate is all that stands between a sensible budget and House proposed cuts that would hurt ordinary Americans and have a lasting, detrimental impact on our economy.

The House's proposed \$100 billion in funding cuts would fall unfairly on the backs of students, women, and working families by terminating or cutting funding for several important programs. For example, the proposed **cuts would END programs** that:

- Help children succeed in school.
- Encourage students to remain in school.
- Assist students in pursuing higher education.
- Help workers pursue job training.
- Enable access to affordable health services.
- Support older adults and their family caregivers.
- Help protect workers' against sex discrimination, pay discrimination and pregnancy discrimination.

It is time to send a message to the Senate: You promised to create jobs and strengthen the economy -- why would you support legislation that undermines these goals? **Take Action!**

Urge your senator to oppose the drastic funding cuts proposed in the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (H.R. 1) that would cut \$100 billion from FY11 appropriations. The cuts would hurt ordinary Americans and have a lasting, detrimental impact on America's economy.

Go to www.aauw.org Click on ACT and "Take Action" to send a message to your senators.

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

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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) 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 Ellyn Branch Non-Board Chairs 2010-2011

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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.