

The Branch Beat

AAUW – Fort Atkinson Wisconsin Branch

October 2021

Fort Atkinson AAUW Website: fortatkinson-wi.aauw.net

President's Corner

Wow. That is all I can say about September! What a way to kick off our new season. After eighteen months of Zoom meetings, we finally were able to get together again at the museum for our September meeting. What a treat that was. It was different from years past as we were not able to have our typical salad supper due to existing Covid constraints, but really, it was ok because just being together again was what was important. (The cookies were lovely!)

The meeting honored this year's scholarship winners, and we were lucky enough to have two of them in attendance and personal messages from most of those unable to attend due to their class schedules. We were then entertained and motivated by our night's speaker, the ever-delightful Sandra Bernhardt, coincidentally the recipient of AAUW Fort Atkinson's first ever scholarship. A perfect choice to speak during our scholarship recognition night.

On the 17th and 18th, the annual Used Book Sale was held in the Fort Atkinson Municipal Building. This was the culmination of three months of collecting and sorting thousands of donated books. The Used Book Sale is a huge project and requires a lot of volunteer hours, but wouldn't have happened without the energetic and dedicated leadership of Kathy Cheek. She did an incredible job as always. Please take a minute to tell Kathy thank you, she has earned our gratitude.

Now, I know you are wondering how did the sale go, right? Well, from my point of view the attendance numbers were down from previous years, maybe in part due to competing events going on in Fort and the incredibly glorious days outside. But despite the slower attendance, we still managed to sell a bunch of books! Total income for the sale was just over \$5000. Keep in mind, this was income not net profit...after we take out our expenses for advertising, dumpster, and miscellaneous we will share the final number with you. But still, not too shabby!

However, one thing was painfully obvious to me during this year's sale. We did not have enough volunteers this year, and to be perfectly blunt, some of us are a little past our prime and limited in the amount of physical labor we should be doing. This is a direct

reflection of the declining membership challenge we are facing as a chapter. We need more members, and it wouldn't hurt if they were a little younger than our current average age! This is a theme you will hear from me a lot over the tenure of my time in office. If we do not find more and younger members, we may no longer be able to support some of the events we have done in the past. Those are just the hard cold facts. But I know we can find more members and turn them onto the value that is AAUW!

I'm going to sign off with another request to be a membership recruiter for AAUW. We are stronger in numbers. Bring your daughters and nieces, your co-workers and neighbors, and friends and acquaintances to our next meetings. And if you have any ideas on how we can make membership more appealing, call me. I'd love to hear from you.

Kathy Marr

Meeting Reminder

A reminder that our **AAUW Board** will meet on **Monday, October 4 at 6:00 pm**. We are meeting prior to the **general meeting at 6:30 pm** in the Community Room at Dwight Foster Library.

October is our Public Policy month, and this year we are doing something a bit different. We have been asked to read something on a women, current or historical, who has influenced public policy and to be prepared to discuss why you chose this individual and what impact they have had. So, if you haven't yet selected your book, you still have nearly four days to get it chosen and read!

Please remember to wear a mask.
Kathy and Vicki

Last Meeting Minutes

AAUW Fort Atkinson Branch – General Meeting Minutes Monday, September 13, 2021 – 7p Hoard Museum

Kathy Marr called the meeting to order.

Updates from Committees:

AAUW Funds – Maggie W: Still working on getting a speaker for April

Diversity – Carla C.: newer initiative with AAUW on diversity and inclusion, will have an AAUW speaker from that committee in November.

Grants for Gals – Thea R.: next application cycle will be Feb-Mar2022

Membership – Marianne B.: Roughly 44 members but a few additional trickling in.
Outreach – Marianne B., Lisa T.: 52 backpacks this year
Scholarship – speaker from Dave Gala Foundation in February
Public Policy – Frankie F.: October meeting will be discussion by AAUW members of articles/books about empowering/influential/inspiring women. Short book report style discussion.
Special Events – Donna L.: December Holiday Event will be pending Covid Status
Tech Savvy – Maggie W.: April 30th at UW-Whitewater pending Covid Status
Used Book Sale – Cathy C.: Sale this weekend. Grab-and-go bag will be a table/tent outside (weather pending) – bags will be sealed and labeled by genre. Trying it out as a method to get rid of more books. There will be a separate entrance and exit, masks are required in city buildings so we should encourage use. Will have student volunteers on Saturday afternoon. \$5 bag sale 12-3 on Saturday.
Treasury – Bev D: Reviewed Report

Budget for Approval – Motion to approve by Linda W. seconded by Renee B.

Kathy asked committee chairs to submit updates for branch beat each month.
Can treats be provided at meetings? – will add a note to newsletter but likely small snack/treat (potentially pre-packaged) and bring your own drinks.

Motion to adjourn by Jill K, second by Brittany Noe.
Submitted by Brittany Noe, Secretary

Membership Report

Here is a quick update of where we are in our membership totals. As of 9/19/2021, we have 42 members for the 2021-2022 Year.

Happily, we can be back in person with masking and a few safety procedures.

If you were unable to attend the September "Cookie" Scholarship Program, please email cappymb@charter.net to receive your Annual Membership Booklet.

Just a couple updates for your membership booklet:

- Mary Zentner - zentnercm@gmail.com
- Linda Winn now lives in Cambridge. Her new address is in your 2021-2022 Membership Booklet.
- Chris Yeager is still a Fort AAUW member and Co-Chair of the Membership Committee. She has bought a home in Janesville. Her new address is 1220 Milton Avenue Janesville, WI 53545.

For various reasons these members are not able to join us this year. All have put many years of service and hard work into our AAUW Branch. Please take the time to stay in touch with them. See your 2020-2021 Membership Booklet for their information: Tina Beckman, Kristen Curran, Nancy Breitsprecher, Virginia Epps, Barb Pernacciaro, Ruth Schauer, Cynthia Smith, Bethany Woychick.

We will be previewing our membership recruiting posters and cards at our October meeting. These will be placed at schools and businesses throughout our community and the surrounding area.

Remember to bring a friend, co-worker, relative or neighbor to our October Meeting. Look forward to seeing you there.

Marianne Bardenwerper
Membership Co-Chair

Membership Spotlight

Maggie Winz, member since 2003

Maggie joined AAUW when she retired after teaching Kindergarten for 33 years at the Kettle Moraine School District. She felt that joining AAUW was a wonderful way to begin her retirement, meeting new friends and serving the community. She earned her BS from UW-Madison, and MS at UW-Milwaukee.

Maggie and her husband live in the countryside near Dousman where they enjoy gardening and watching the birds, deer, and other wildlife. They both enjoy volunteering for the Whitewater Optimist Club, and leading tours at Ten Chimneys in Genesee Depot.

Serving on the AAUW state board has been a wonderful experience for Maggie. She finds it inspiring to learn about so many wonderful branches across Wisconsin. She's very proud of our Fort Atkinson branch and looks forward to staying involved with our branch and serving on the state board as President-Elect this year, and President in 2022. Her inspiration for leadership comes from our Fort Atkinson co-presidents and past presidents. She hopes to live up to their fine example.

Carolyn Nord, member since 1972

Carolyn has been a member of the Fort Atkinson branch for almost 50 years! Carolyn lives outside of Fort Atkinson with her husband, Russ. Both are members of the Whitewater

Gourmet Club. They enjoy cars now being owners of their second Miata. Carolyn loves playing games and reading. She is a member of our AAUW Book Group.

Carolyn taught art at the Oregon Junior High School, St. Bernard's in Watertown, St. Joe's in Fort Atkinson, and summer school for the Fort Atkinson District. Carolyn is an accomplished artist. While she does not paint, she specializes in glass and pottery and produces some lovely work. You may have seen her work at Blackhawk Artists exhibitions held at the museum.

Be sure to talk with Carolyn at a meeting. You will find her a wealth of information about our AAUW branch having served as our president in 1999-2000 and 2006-2007. She is currently our branch historian.

New Membership Spotlight

Please join us in welcoming our new member, Barbara Rohland, MD.

Barbara and her husband Jim moved to Fort Atkinson in mid-May 2021, after Barbara retired from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

The couple has lived part-time in Fort Atkinson since 2004, as they have family in the area. But living in Wisconsin is not new to Barbara: she graduated from Owen-Withee school district in western Wisconsin, and fondly remembers being chosen to attend Badger State as a high school student. She then went on to receive her BS at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and her MD at Washington University in St. Louis.

Barbara decided to join our AAUW branch as a way to meet people with common interests, and to support educational opportunities for girls and women. She has joined our Adelante book group and is looking forward to learning more about our branch activities. Welcome Barbara!

Backpack Project Report

Many Thanks!

We have completed another successful year of the **AAUW backpack project**. Our branch provided 52 backpacks this year: 14 each to Purdy and to Luther, 12 each to Rockwell and to Barrie. Thanks to all who shopped and/or donated, you have helped elementary students in Fort Atkinson get the year off to a great start!

Marianne Bardenwerper and
Lisa Tuttle Woods on behalf the Outreach Committee

AAUW Scholarships Awarded to Eight Women

Our Fort Atkinson branch of AAUW awarded nine scholarships in 2021. Since 1984 our membership has awarded 187 scholarships totaling \$348,550. This year \$18,000 was presented.

- The Second Chance scholarship is available to women who plan to continue their education at a vocational or technical college after having been out of the mainstream of education for more than one year. A total of \$9,500 was awarded for the Fort Atkinson Second Chance and \$7,000 for the Jefferson Second Chance.
- The Jane Shaw Knox Undergraduate Scholarship of \$2,000 was awarded to one young woman this year.
- The Jane Shaw Knox Graduate Scholarship is offered to women who are pursuing a graduate degree at an accredited college. A total of \$6,500 was awarded this year to four women.

Watch this newsletter each month for information about each scholarship recipients. You will be delighted to learn about the plans they have for their futures!

Special Note

A note from Sandi Bernhardt: I feel that I should provide some information as to my talk on September 13. In my 30 years of public speaking, I have never experienced the challenges I faced that evening. The afternoon of my talk, I was "blessed" with uncomfortable physical symptoms that presented a decision: Stay home and fail to speak to the scholarship recipients? Tough it out? I chose the latter and took a med I hoped would help. Afterward, I read the dosage guidelines and learned I could take one more tablet, which I did.

The effects of that fateful decision? A mouth so dry, my tongue was adhered to the roof of my mouth; difficulty focusing; and glugging water like an African nomad. Fortunately, I did receive some positive comments and was especially grateful for the husband of a scholarship recipient, who couldn't stop laughing. If any members wish to hear the talk from a speaker who is now lucid, contact me. I'll repeat the talk in your living room.

Thanks for your understanding!

Tech Savvy 2022 Update: We're Hopeful!

Pencil in **Saturday, April 30, 2022**, for Tech Savvy 2022.

Our Fort Atkinson and Janesville Tech Savvy committee has reserved rooms on campus at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater for hosting our second annual Tech Savvy for middle school girls, grades 6-9.

Tech Savvy is a hands-on workshop designed to introduce middle school girls to careers in the STEM fields. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). We hope to bring back many of our wonderful presenters from 2021 and will be looking to bring in some new presenters as well.

Last year, due to the coronavirus quarantine, Tech Savvy was held virtually. While appreciated, the girls overwhelmingly asked for an in-person workshop. The committee is committed to holding an in-person event for 2022, if at all possible, with safety and health our foremost consideration.

Our committee is working with UW-W and will proceed with further plans as Covid protocols are in place. As with everything else these past few years, we're staying flexible, but remain hopeful.

Please contact us with your thoughts or to volunteer,
Maggie Winz and Vicki Wright

Handbag Project

Please join us! Wednesday, October 20th, 6pm to 8pm at Marianne's 121 W Blackhawk Dr, Fort Atkinson for fabric, friendship, and fun!!

We will be creating two new bag styles with a brand-new selection of fabric and straps. If you participated last time, then you know how much fun this is. If you missed it, then this is your chance!

Scissors, irons, and ironing boards will be provided. Just bring your fabulous, creative self!

Our goal is to put together 25 purses (to add to our existing bags) so we have a really wonderful showing at the Fort Holiday "Mini Market". 100% of the proceeds will go directly to our new Grants for Gals 501C3.

Help us with the kick-off to fund this important program! Please RSVP to Marianne Cappymb@charter.net

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

- About 1 in 8 women in the United States will get invasive breast cancer in their lifetime.
- In 2021, nearly 300,000 cases of invasive breast cancer cases will be diagnosed in the US, along with nearly 50,000 new cases on non-invasive cases.
- About 43,600 women in the US are expected to die this year from breast cancer. Numbers for women under 50 have been remaining stable since 2007 but have been dropping for women over 50.
- For women, breast cancer retains the highest death rate next to lung cancer in the US.
- As of January 1st of this year, there are more than 2.8 MILLION women with a history of breast cancer in the US.
- Breast cancer remains the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women, with 30% of all newly diagnosed cancer cases.

Bottom line: check your girls regularly and get your mammogram as recommended! Facts were all from: www.breastcancer.org

AAUW Adelante Book Group

The Adelante Book Group meets 4 times a year (January – April – July – October).

We will be meeting on **Tuesday, October 12 at 6:00 p.m. at the Café Carpe**, 18 S. Water Street, Fort Atkinson, WI.

For October we are reading **Between Two Kingdoms** by Suleika Jaouad.

In January 2022 we will read **On Juneteenth** by Annette Gordon-Reed.

For April 2022 we will read **The Code Breaker** by Walter Isaacson.

July 2022 we will read **The Daughters of Erietown** by Connie Schultz.

We choose the date for the next book at the time of our meeting. We choose the books for the year at our July meeting.

This Book Group has been meeting for over 20 years, and we always welcome new members, so let us know if you are interested. Our coordinator is Teresa Golembiewski (golembit@uww.edu). Or you can email me, Carla Cheek (carlahans867@yahoo.com).

If you would like to join us in October and think you would like to order a meal/appetizer from Café Carpe, please let us know so we can call ahead to give them the number attending and what you might be ordering. You can find their menu online. – Carla Cheek

Upcoming Meetings

November Meeting: November 1 at 6:30 at the library

Board Meeting: November 1 at 6:00 at the library

December Holiday Auction: December 6 at 5:30 at the museum

