



Branch Beat

Mission Statement

Advancing gender equity through research, education and advocacy

Vision

Equity for all

Values

Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Principled. Inclusive and Intersectional

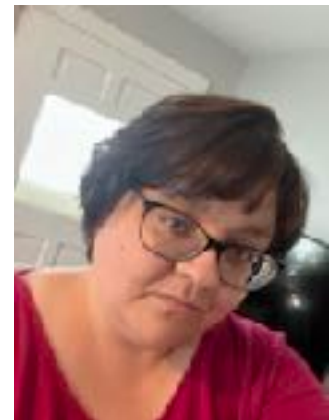
Thank you for the women before me.



The ABC's of Sexuality and Gender...a vocabulary Lesson

The DEI committer is pleased to host the November meeting and to announce the speaker will be Jennifer Bailey.

Jennifer Bailey, an active member of our Fort Atkinson Branch, will be our guest speaker for the October 2024 meeting. On behalf of the Diversity Committee, Jen will be speaking on the ABCs of Sexuality and Gender—a sort of LGBTQIA2S+ vocabulary lesson. Keeping up with the changes and nuances of this terminology can be difficult as it is ever-changing, but any attempts to stay up to date is one way to show acceptance and understanding for our LGBTQIA2S+ community. Not everyone wants or needs a label, but for some, knowing where they fit within the larger community can provide much-needed comfort. Also, the proper use and acknowledgement of one's labels by others can be literally lifesaving.



Jen is an office drone by day and author of queer stories with guaranteed HEAs by night. She writes about people traversing the crazy world of love, relationships, and acceptance. She's a firm believer that everyone, no matter their gender, age, sexual orientation, or paranormal affiliation, deserves a happy ending.

When not writing, Jennifer works at Martin Brower as a Customer Relations Manager and is busy pursuing her Master's in Communication Management.

Jen is a Fort Atkinson native and lives with her adorable puppy Penny.

"Love me when I least deserve it, for that is when I need it the most." Swedish Proverb

President's Corner



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I voted today, October 24th. I don't have as much trepidation about the election's outcome as I did in 2016 or 2020. It's not that I don't have a preferred candidate or realize that my life may be affected by the election of either candidate in ways that I can't anticipate.

In 2016, I seriously looked at how long a drive Canada would be from my family if I moved there! While I had thoughts of living in Vancouver, my husband pointed out that the Canadian Health Service was more likely to send me to an underserved area such as the Yukon to work. I have more confidence this time around that our lives won't fall apart because of an election. No matter what happens around us, we will go on striving to be our best selves. We will keep working to make the world a better place.

In the community of the AAUW we will keep watching and working toward the improved status of women in social, economic, and academic domains. In our personal lives, we will continue to bring in the neighbors mail when they are indisposed and help someone who drops their groceries in the parking lot. An elected official can't take away who we are or what we hope for. We may need to adjust our strategy, but not our mission.

Barbara Rohland



November Meeting:

November 4th at the Dwight Foster Public Library



Minutes of October Board Meeting

Dwight Foster Public Library

October 7, 2024, 5:30pm

Attendees: Barbara Rohland, Beverly Dahl, Alyssa Thompson, Kathy Marr, Kathy Townsend, Renee Barr, Maggie Winz, Thea Reeves, Mary Kay Weston

Last Meeting Follow-up

Budget Planning/Clarification- frequency of membership materials update & printing

Per Membership VP K. Marr, content is checked for updates prior to each reprint. No dates are included to remove the need to update. Approximately 150 pieces are printed in a lot, for a charge of about \$140.

Membership status -(total paid/pending/new) – as of June 30, we had 50 paid members, including 3 new

Tech Savvy Date – now scheduled to be April 5, 2025. Volunteer sign ups will be started at the November meeting.

New Business

1. Book Sale Funds Report - A. Thompson, Treasurer

The in-person Book Sale earned \$7132, and on-line sales brought in an additional \$1742 between January and September 2024.

2. Funds Distribution Discussion

Philanthropic giving can include: Scholarships - in addition to earnings from funds held by the Fort Atkinson Community Foundation (FACF), the national AAUW Greatest Needs fund (which are credited for branch 5 Star Status), NCWSSL attendance scholarship, Local Outreach projects, and Grants for Gals.

It was noted that \$1785 (\$30 per member) was approved to be donated to the Greatest Needs fund in last year's budget, but has not yet been disbursed. \$30 per member earns one Star, and an additional Star is awarded when year over year giving is increased by 15%.

Discussion of local projects determined that no specific project has been identified yet for 2024-2025, and any project is expected to be smaller than the Dental Clinic project for 2023-2024 was. Approximately \$350 remains unspent from that project.

Noted that if no local candidates for NCWSSL are identified, funds may be sent to the state to be used by a candidate identified state wide.



The Scholarship Committee has been informed by the FAFSA that Knox Scholarships (includes both Undergraduate and Graduate) will have \$10,000 earnings available, and the 2nd Chance Scholarships \$14,000. Funds to be added to FAFSA scholarships must be determined immediately. Other disbursements may be delayed until after the new year.

Motion: Recommend to the general membership that \$5000 be sent to the FAFSA to be added to Knox scholarship funds for 2025 awards. Motion by K. Marr, seconded T. Reeves. Motion approved.

1. Election/public policy education

Encourage voting in upcoming general election

Constitutional Amendment Vote materials - request to push from Angela Adams from WI AAUW, which is advocating a 'no' vote. After some discussion, it was recommended it be distributed electronically.

2. Other Items for discussion:

Pink Night - We received a request for funds by Jefferson HS for 'Pink Night', to provide free mammograms. Our policy is not to fund other non-profits, so the request will be presented to members if they wish to support as individuals.

Pi Day - The Foster Library and Heart of the City participate in 'Pi Day' on March 15, and split any funds raised through pie sales. Suggested that our members participate to earn additional funds.

Website - M. Winz, K. Marr and V. Wright have been updating our Website and are looking for input. A link will be added for G2 applications. M. has been monitoring incoming email and forwarding it to the appropriate officer.

Library Mitten Tree – Members are encouraged to contribute mittens or hats, beginning at the start of December, for those in need of gifts.

Motion to adjourn at 6:25 by R. Barr, seconded by MK Weston. Adjourned.

Next Meeting

Monday, Nov. 4, 2024

Program Host: DEI Committee

Speaker: Jennifer Bailey. LGBTQIA+: A Vocabulary Lesson and Why it Matters.



Minutes of October General Meeting

Dwight Foster Public Library

October 7, 2024, 6:30pm

Program Host: Public Policy Committee

The program, courtesy of the Public Policy Committee, was George Penn who is co-chair for Wisconsin United to Amend and will speak on "Big Money in Politics - A Continued Threat to Women's Economic Equity and Much More."

Wisconsin United to Amend is a non-partisan state network of concerned citizens dedicated to restoring our representative democracy, by minimizing the corruptive influence that big money has on our political process. They seek to overturn the Citizens United and related Supreme Court Decisions.

Election Issues Update: Frankie Fuller called attention to the upcoming election, and the proposed amendment to the state constitution. Changing 'every' citizen to 'only' citizens eligible to vote could lead to limiting access by citizenship. WI state AAUW has recommended a 'no' vote. Members are advised that they may view their upcoming ballot by accessing myvote.wi.gov.

New Business

Book Sale Report

The 2024 Book Sale has earned \$8842 to date, both from in-person and on-line sales. On-line sales will continue through 12/31/24.

The Fort Community Foundation has advised the Scholarship Committee that \$10,000 will be available for Knox scholarships, and \$14,000 is available for Second Chance.

Board Meeting Report

After discussion, the Association Board is recommending that an additional \$5000 from Book Sale proceeds be added to the Knox Scholarships.

Motion: Send \$5000 to the Fort Foundation to be added to available funds for 2025 Knox Scholarships. Moved by M. Winz, seconded by T. Reeves. Motion approved.

Noted that over \$2000 will remain from the Book Sale, to be used for philanthropy. Further disbursements will be discussed in early 2025. Possible recipients include National AAUW (Greatest Needs, and 5 Star program), NCCWSL, Grants for Gals, and special projects.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:00 by K. Marr, seconded T. Reeves. Adjourned

NEXT Meeting: Monday, Nov. 4, 2024

Program Host: DEI Committee

Speaker: Jennifer Bailey, presenting "LGBTQIA+: A Vocabulary Lesson and Why it Matters"

Treasurer's Report

Account Balances as of 10/22/2024: \$11,808.57

Checking Account: \$9,786.75

Savings Account: \$2,021.82

Expenses since September 19th (non- membership related – by check #): - \$6,925.00

10/08/2024 AAUW Greatest Needs Fund (FY '23 – '24: \$1,725.00 #3893

10/08/2024 Fort Atkinson Community Foundation (Knox Scholarship): \$5,000.00 #3894

10/08/2024 The Baldwin Group (General Liability Insurance): \$200.00 #3895

Deposits since September 19th (non-membership or book sale related): \$13.00

10/08/2024 Happy Bucks Donations: \$13.00

Book Sale 2024 Proceeds (Since Book Sale): \$416.00

09/30/2024 Book Sale Donations: \$246.00

10/08/2024 Book Sale Proceeds (Online): \$170.00

Membership deposited: \$117.00

09/30/2024 National transfer of local dues: \$117.00

Grants for Gals Funds Reserved: ~\$911.78

FAAAUW Grants for Gals Fund (reserve in checking) ~\$911.78

2024-25 Fundraising (reserve in checking) ~\$911.78

*Proceeds from Book Sale to be put towards Grants for Gals OR Outreach Project. Currently undetermined by the Board.

24-25 Philanthropic Funds Reserved:

Tech Savvy \$250.00

Outreach Project (TBD) \$1,045.00

Scholarships \$302.00

Come One, Come All!

Holiday Auction

*O Christmas Tree, O Christmas tree,
How lovely are thy branches....
Thy AAUW Branches that is!
And, AAUW Fort Atkinson is the most festive
branch of all!*

Please join us for a fun filled evening

Monday December 2nd

at the Hoard Museum

5:30p social

6p dinner with auction to follow

Members are encouraged to bring:

- an auction item
- a white elephant item
- Guests!

Brought to you by the Special Events Committee

Happy Thanksgiving!



Communication

Where Does AAUW Stand on...?

The November Ballot-Another Constitutional Amendment Vote!

This is the amendment that will be on the Wisconsin ballot on November 5, 2024. It is strongly recommended to vote **NO**.

Question: “Eligibility to vote. Shall section 1 of article III of the constitution, which deals with suffrage, be amended to provide that only a United States citizen age 18 or older who resides in an election district may vote in an election for national, state, or local office or at a statewide or local referendum.”

This amendment has a direct effect on all and puts voting rights on the ballot. From the LWV study: “*The change from “every” to “only” is a downgrade to all of our voting rights. The language changes our constitutionally protected voting rights from a guarantee for all citizens to a limitation that could be used to erode our voting rights. In fact lawmakers have already discussed this being a step on the path to further limit our right to vote, including by implementing a proof of citizenship requirement despite knowing that 1 in 10 US citizens don’t have the documents to prove their citizenship.*”

AAUW Public Policy Priorities state that “AAUW is committed to open and fair elections that are broadly accessible to all voters, nonpartisan voter education efforts that will promote equitable political participation and representation in appointed and elected office, and expanding voting rights

This statement is clearly outlined in AAUW national policy. And it continues:

“Our democracy works when everyone can fully participate. Elected officials routinely make decisions about issues that directly impact all of us. From our paychecks to paid leave, access to reproductive health care and access to education, our lives are on the line – and our vote is our voice. To create real change, we must be part of the conversation, and the most powerful way for us to have our say is at the polls. Yet the right to vote has a long and tumultuous history. Protecting that right – the one that many fought long and hard for – continues today as ongoing efforts to suppress the right negates what it means to be a free democracy.”

With this in mind, a NO VOTE is being recommended by the League of Women Voters (our Women’s Action Coalition and AAUW-WI on the referendum question on the NOVEMBER BALLOT.

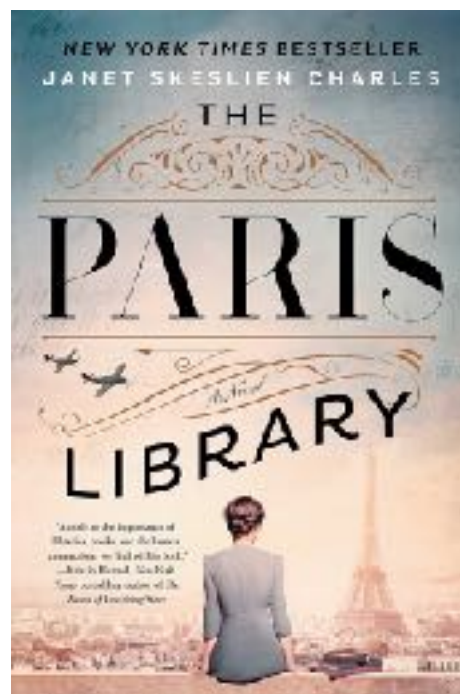
-Reprinted from AAUW Wisconsin Communication

Adelante! Book Club

The October meeting of Adelante! Book Club was rescheduled until November 6th at 6:00pm.

We are still meeting at Bev Dahl's home. Her address is: 1224 Sioux Trail in Fort. Her phone number is 603-750-9631.

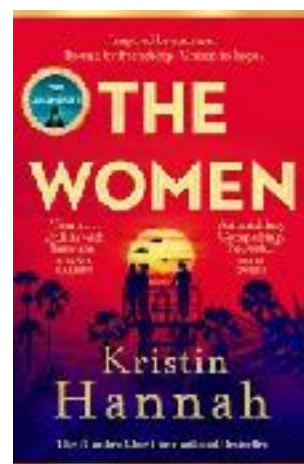
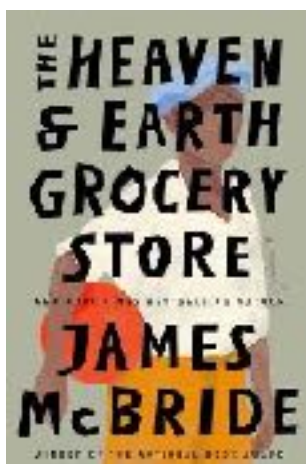
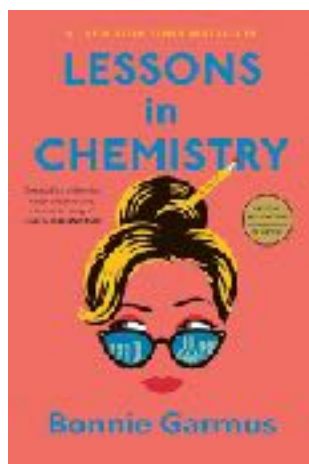
We will be discussing The Paris Library by Janet Skeslien Charles.



Future Book Selections:

- *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Grams
- *Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride
- *The Women* by Kristin Hannah

All good recommendations even if you don't belong to the book club!



DIVERSITY

The AAUW DEI Tool Kit

As Maya Angelou said, “In diversity, there is beauty and there is strength.” AAUW respects and celebrates the diversity of our members and those differences form the backbone of our organization. The DEI tool kit offers a way to show others how to bring together differences for positive change through inclusive practices. (AAUW DEI Tool Kit)

Included in the tool kit is a section on “Getting Started with Difficult Conversations. Below are the ground rules to set before the conversation begins:

Here are the ground rules for a starting a difficult discussion:

- Listen actively — respect others when they are talking.
- Speak from your own experience instead of generalizing (“I” instead of “they,” “we,” and “you”).
- Do not be afraid to respectfully challenge one another by asking questions, but refrain from personal attacks — focus on ideas.
- Participate to the fullest of your ability — community growth depends on the inclusion of every individual voice.
- Instead of invalidating somebody else’s story with your own spin on her or his experience, share your own story and experience.
- The goal is not to agree — it is to gain a deeper understanding.
- Be conscious of body language and nonverbal responses: They can be as disrespectful as words.

Again, you are encouraged to check out the tool kit on AAUW.org



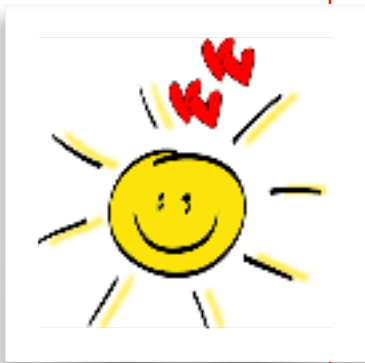


NOVEMBER 5th

*OPEN VOTING OPENED OCTOBER 22

This and That

Special Invite: Fort Atkinson members are invited to Monona/Madison's January and February Zoom meetings. More details to follow as we get closer to the dates.



Sunshine Chair!

If you know someone who is in need of a little sunshine in their life, please let our Sunshine Chair, Carla C. know!

She will send get well, congratulations, or sympathy cards on behalf of the Fort Atkinson Branch.

Do you need a ride to a meeting?

It can sometimes be a struggle at night, especially in the Winter. Don't let a lack of wheels make you miss a meeting! If you do need a ride, give **Kathy** a call at **920-309-2668** or text her and she will organize a ride for you.

