



Branch Beat

Mission Statement

Advancing gender equity through research, education and advocacy

Vision

Equity for all

Values

Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Principled. Inclusive and Intersectional

"If you have knowledge, let others light their candles at it"

Margaret Fuller

October Speaker is George Penn, WI United to Amend

Our October speaker is George Penn, co-chair for Wisconsin United to Amend. Penn will speak on **"Big Money in Politics-A Continued Threat to Women's Economic Equity and Much More."**

Wisconsin United to Amend, 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

Speaker bio:

George Penn grew up in New York and was in the navy for 6 years before moving to Madison in 1977 to get a degree in Nuclear Engineering. He has spent most of his career as an Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Consultant.

In 2012 he shut down his business to devote his "free years" to Restoring our Republic from a corrupt political system. He joined United to Amend in 2012 and is helping to grow the movement around the state and nation. He expects to be building this non-partisan, grassroots movement until he is unable. More information is available on the WIUTA website: <https://wiuta.org>.



President's Corner

What is the Goal of AAUW?

A friend asked me what the goal is of the AAUW. The mission statement from the national organization is: To Advance Gender Equity for Women and Girls through Research, Education, and Advocacy. But how do we set a goal that allows us to measure progress toward equity at the level of our local branch? The dictionary defines equity as the quality of being fair and impartial. A similar concept is egalitarianism - the idea that all people are equal in fundamental worth and moral status, and should be treated as such.

So what are ways that we can achieve this? Voting is one strategy. Voting for the candidates, policies, referendums that we believe will push these ideals forward. Changing human nature is another... there is a line in a Kris Kristofferson song ('Jesus was a Capricorn') that says "everybody's gotta have somebody to look down on". I think the best way we can mitigate the consequences of that is to recognize it when we see it in our own attitudes and actions (including inaction) towards others.

What exactly does equity for women mean? In particular, what does it mean in Fort Atkinson and what can we do to move the ball forward? Women compared to men? Educated women compared to uneducated women? Women of color compared to white women? Women who are cis gender versus transgender? Our challenge isn't to bring one group "up" (lower to higher or worse to better) but to try to level an unequal playing field by reducing or compensating for obstacles of social, economic, and gender bias.

— Barbara Rohland



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November Meeting:

November 4th at the Dwight
Foster Public Library



Minutes of Salad Supper Meeting

Hoard Museum

September 9, 2024, 5:30pm

In Attendance:

General Membership, scholarship recipients Olivia Granec (Jane Shaw Knox Graduate) and Alison Prisk (Grants for Gals) & family members, and several other guests.

Schedule:

5:30-6:00	Social Gathering
6:00-6:30	Salad Supper/desert/refreshments
6:30	Welcome and Introductions
6:35-7:15	Program (Scholarship and Grants for Gals Committees, V. Wright and T. Reeves
7:15-7:30	Break

Business meeting:

- Treasurer's Report and review of 2024-25 budget - A. Thompson
 - We have received \$100 in memory of Doris Carmichael.
 - Also. Our scholarship investment accounts at the Fort Foundation received a sizeable donation from the estate of Jan Zastrow.
 - The 2024-2025 Proposed Budget was distributed in the most recent Branch Beat
 - Details were reviewed by Treasurer A. Thompson.
 - There was discussion of the line item pertaining to funding for a revised Marketing Brochure and renewed software licensing. It will be further discussed when K. Marr, Membership Chair, is able to be present. Line item tabled until October 7 Board meeting.
 - Motion to approve proposed Budget, with exception of above Membership funding, by M. Lee, seconded by V. Wright. Budget approved.
- Booksale update, call for volunteers – K. Cheek
 - Online sales on eBay by B. Rohland (adult and collectables worth over \$20) and P. Dennis (kids) total approximately \$1300 to date. Online sales will continue through the calendar year.
 - Thanks to M. Marr for creating and implementing a new sorting system, using funds donated to purchase uniformly sized boxes, and a plan to create pallets of 27 boxes sorted by category for easier transport and setup.
- Booksale Dates: Sept. 13-14
 - Thursday Sept. 12 set-up at Municipal Building. Mats and tables will go down around 9, C. Cheek will distribute signs at 10
 - There are approximately 500 boxes, with an estimated 30 books per box, for about 15,000 books this year. Unloading will begin at about noon.
 - Friday sales are 10-6
 - Saturday sales 9-3. Bag sale 1-3. Clean-up will begin at 3, with assistance from some High School students and other volunteers.



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 - Saturday sales 9-3. Bag sale 1-3. Clean-up will begin at 3, with assistance from some High School students and other volunteers. K. Cheek will organize sorting of remaining books for future sales and donations to various groups including the FA library, Goodwill, Reena senior living, children's organizations, and the Thompson Correctional facility using odd-sized donated boxes and bags. Remaining books will be disposed of.
- Happy Bucks designation
 - 2023-24: outreach project (school supplies)
 - 2024-25: Homeless Coalition
- Additional items (announcements, discussion, concerns)
- Adjourned at 8 pm.

Next General Meeting: October 7, 2024 General Membership Meeting. Dwight Foster Library Community Room. 6:30 pm. Program Host: Public Policy

Next Board Meeting: October 7, 2024 at 5:15 pm in Library Rotary Room.

Renewals Due:

There are still a handful of members who have not yet renewed their membership. If you have not renewed or aren't sure, contact Kathy M. At 920-309-2668

Treasurer's Report

Through September 2014

Account Balances as of 09/19/2024: \$16,491.15

Checking Account: \$14,469.33

Savings Account: \$2,021.82

Expenses since September 1st (non- membership related – by check #): -\$300.00

09/11/2024 Hoard Historical Museum (Room Rental): \$100.00 #3891

09/11/2024 Cash for Book Sale Till: \$200.00 #3892

Deposits since September 1st (non-membership or book sale related): \$527.00

09/03/2024 Cash Donation from Farmer's Market (Scholarship): \$2.00

09/03/2024 School Supply Expense Donations: \$325.00

09/14/2024 Cash Donation from Book Sale (Scholarship): \$200.00

Book Sale 2024 Proceeds: \$9,528.32

09/23 – 09/24 Online Sales: \$2,715.32

09/13/2024 Book Sale Day 1 Proceeds: \$4,659.00

09/14/2024 Book Sale Day 2 Proceeds: \$2,354.00

Membership deposited: \$52.00

08/28/2024 National transfer of local dues: \$52.00

Grants for Gals Funds Reserved: TBD post-Book Sale

FA AAUW Grants for Gals Fund (reserve in checking) \$0 (TBD after Book Sale)

2024-25 Fundraising (reserve in checking) \$0 (TBD after Book Sale)

24-25 Philanthropic Funds Reserved:

Tech Savvy \$250.00

Outreach Project (TBD) \$1,045.00

Scholarships \$302.00



AAUW Fort Atkinson Awarded 15 Scholarships in 2024

Jane Knox Undergraduate Scholarship

Alice Van Haaften, Creative Writing
Tayanna Schwefel, Pre-Occupational Therapy
Jenna Schwab, Digital Marketing
Kiara Wolfram, Biochemistry
Lily Congdon, Nursing
Sarah Holzlii, Biology

Jane Knox Graduate Scholarship

Juanita Tarp
Martina Walling
Olivia Granec
Alexiyah Coughlin

Second Chance Scholarship

Kaitlyn Garza
Jordan Hynum
Audra Rogneby
Laurel Danielson
(Jefferson Foundation)





Scholarships



Two scholarship recipients attended the September Salad Supper
Vicki Wright, Olivia Granek, Alison Prisk, Thea Reeves

October is an optimal month to focus on your health – both mental and physical. World Mental Health Day falls on October 10, and the rest of the month contains several other awareness days like World Arthritis Day, World Allergy Awareness Day, and World Menopause Day.

AAUW Wisconsin Signs on as Awareness Campaign Partner

AAUW WI has signed on as a supporter of the awareness campaign encouraging people to VOTE NO to the constitutional amendment on the Nov. ballot.

No matter where we were born, our race, or what language we speak, all eligible Wisconsin voters are afforded the right to cast a ballot and make their voice heard.

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, and AAUW WI, is proud to stand with 30+ organizations urging voters to **#VoteNo** on the November constitutional amendment.

30+
WI Organizations
Urge Voters to
Vote No on Nov.
Constitutional
Amendment

bit.ly/NovVoteNoLetter

VOTE NO



Another Sale in the Books!

The 2024 Book Sale was held September 13th and 14th and was all-around a big success. The new book donation, sorting, and packing system changes were extremely successful. The timing changes made for setup morning made things run very smoothly when our school volunteers (who were amazing, as usual) showed up to empty the truck. Set up day, sale days and tear down all worked perfectly. It's hard to ask for much more than that!

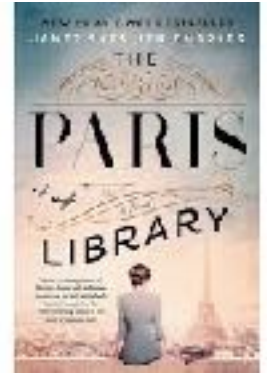
The onsite sale and online sales netted the Branch approximately \$9000 to allot to scholarships and other causes! However, you might remember that the 2023 sale earned approximately \$11,000. There are many valid reasons for the decline, most of which have to do with the timing of the sale...which we have no control over as it is determined by the availability of the municipal gym. Saturday September 14th was a very busy day in Fort and Jefferson and we found our sale competing against the Fort Citywide rummage sale, the annual Fiesta, and the Gemutlichkeit parade and festivities. Also, the weather was beautiful which gives people other options for their time. All of this impacted our attendance on Saturday. In addition, we had fewer book sellers this year, which may be a sign of how the overall book selling market is going today. But despite these challenges, the sale can only be viewed as a wonderful success.

The book sale committee would like to acknowledge the sponsors who contributed to the overall success of this year's book sale: Yerges Moving and Storage, Johns Disposal Service, Goodwill of Wisconsin, and the Crossroads and Government classes at the Fort Atkinson High School. We couldn't have done it without them!

Finally, thank you to all of our AAUW Fort Atkinson Branch volunteers who contributed their time and energy to making this event such a success...it couldn't happen without you!

Adelante! Book Club

The Paris Library, by Janet Skeslien Charles, will be the next book up for discussion. The group will meet on Wednesday, October 16 at 6:00 p.m. at Bev Dahl's house, 1224 Sioux Trail, Fort Atkinson.



The next three books we will be reading are:

January: Lessons in Chemistry

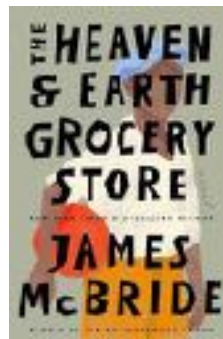
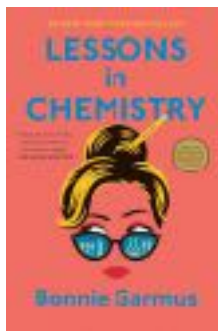
April: Heaven and Earth Grocery Store

July: The Women

Bonnie Garmus

James McBride

Kristin Hannah



The Adelante! Book Club meets four times a year and reads a variety of books — both fiction and non-fiction, selected by the group. All books have themes that benefit from lively dialogue and the sharing of insights.

Adelante! Book Group: Contact Kathy Marr 920-309-2668

UW-Whitewater hosts public lectures in Whitewater and Janesville focused on the election

The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater's Continuing Education announces free public lectures in Whitewater and Janesville this fall. Lectures in the **Election 2024: Looking Back and Ahead** series will examine local and national issues in the upcoming election, as well as explore elections through a historical lens.

For over 40 years, UWW has hosted lectures in the **Fairhaven Lecture Series** in Whitewater, and began a similar tradition in Janesville in 2020 with the **Cedar Crest Lecture Series**. Lectures in both series will reflect back on politicians, presidents and events from the past, and forecast what may be in store for 2025 and beyond.

Here are some

Presidential Influence on the Supreme Court of the United States: The Trump Effect

Jolly Emrey, associate professor, Politics, Government, and Law

Monday, October 7 at 3 p.m. at Fairhaven Senior Services in Whitewater

The Politics of News

Keith Zukas, associate professor, Communication

Thursday, October 10 at 2 p.m. at Cedar Crest, Inc. in Janesville and

Monday, October 14 at 3 p.m. at Fairhaven Senior Services in Whitewater

The Difference a Map Can Make

Jonah Ralston, associate professor, Politics, Government, and Law

Thursday, October 21 at 3 p.m. at Fairhaven Senior Services in Whitewater

The Promise and Potential of the 2024 Presidential Election

Eric Loepp, associate professor, Politics, Government, and Law

Thursday, October 24 at 2 p.m. at Cedar Crest, Inc. in Janesville and

Monday, October 28 at 3 p.m. at Fairhaven Senior Services in Whitewater

Attacks, Acclaims, and Defenses in the Historic 2024 U.S. Presidential Debates

Corey Davis, professor, Communication

Monday, November 4 at 3 p.m. at Fairhaven Senior Services in Whitewater

Recap of the 2024 Election Results

Faculty Panel from the Department of Politics, Government, and Law

Thursday, November 11 at 3 p.m. at Fairhaven Senior Services in Whitewater

Lectures in the Fairhaven Lecture Series are held in Olm Fellowship Hall at Fairhaven Senior Services, 435 West Starin Road, Whitewater. They will be recorded and posted to our website and YouTube channel. Videos of lectures from this and previous series can be accessed for free any time after they are posted. Visit <https://www.uww.edu/ce/fairhaven> for more information and descriptions of each lecture.

DIVERSITY

The following information is located on the [AAUW.org](https://www.aauw.org) site under DEI Toolbox. If you haven't checked out this information source, be sure to give it a look. There is a treasure trove of useful information in the toolbox.

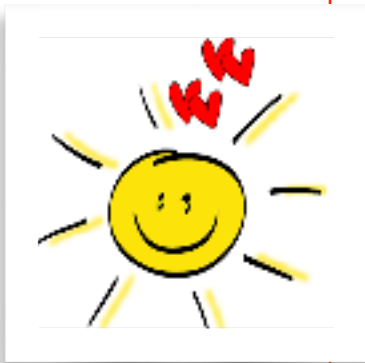
Dealing with diversity can be daunting. It will help to keep in mind the [Seven Underlying Principles of Diversity](#):

- Diversity is an inside job, meaning that diversity is not about “them.” Rather, it is about each person coming to terms with his or her attitudes, beliefs and experiences about others and gaining comfort with difference.
- Diversity goes beyond race and gender. The diversity tent is big enough to include everyone — young and old, homeless and affluent, immigrant and native, white and black, rural and urban, gang member and corporate professional.
- No one is the target of blame for current or past inequities. All human beings have been socialized to behave in certain ways, and all of us are at times both perpetrators and victims of discrimination and stereotypes. The idea is to move forward in creating more opportunities.
- Human beings are ethnocentric, seeing the world through their own narrow view and judging the world by their familiar yardstick. This is not bad in itself, but it can be a source of conflict if we do not accommodate and value other ways of being.
- The human species resists change. This makes the constant adaptation required by diversity difficult for people already overwhelmed by staggering transitions in today's communities and organizations.
- Human beings find comfort in likeness. We have a tendency to seek the company of those most similar to us in a variety of ways... age, gender and ethnicity being just several of many.
- It is difficult for people to share power. History shows that we rarely do it voluntarily. Understanding this past can help clarify why there is sometimes a backlash associated with diversity efforts from people who believe they will lose in this experience.



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.

