



Branch Beat

Mission Statement

Advancing gender equity through research, education and advocacy

Vision

Equity for all

Values

Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Principled. Inclusive and Intersectional

Next Meeting

March 3, 2025

Dwight Foster Public Library, Community Room

Hosted by the Education Coommittee. Bonnie Geyer, Chair

February Meeting Hosted by Outreach Committee

The February meeting is hosted by the outreach committee. Branch member, Kathleen Townsend, will be presenting a slide show about the work of the **Homeless Coalition**. Items contributed by members will be packaged into self care packages during the meeting. These prepared care packages will be donated to the Homeless Coalition for distribution to the homeless.

Items needed include:

FULL SIZE: shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothpaste, deodorant, shaving cream
ALSO: disposal razors, shower scrub large underwear

Small gestures generate great results



President's Corner

January/February by Barbara Rohland



It has been a cold and brutal January in many ways. In early January you should have received an e-mail from our national organization regarding changes in bylaws, public policy priorities and membership dues. I am going to share the feedback to AAUW that I provided to them on public policy priorities and membership dues (I did not provide feedback on bylaws). The period to comment online ends on January 29, but the membership will have an opportunity to vote on them in April.

Membership dues. I have the financial means to pay the proposed increase in dues and it will not be a factor when deciding if I want to renew my membership. However, it seems to be at cross purposes to last year's proposal to open membership to women without a college degree who, presumably - on the average- make less money than women with a college degree. Was the organization only wanting to (effectively) open membership to those women who have no college education but can afford membership? Are we going to offer a scholarship or fee admission to women who demonstrate financial hardship? The group that will be most affected by the increase are the same group that were targeted for membership by eliminating the education requirement for the stated goal of increasing socioeconomic diversity within the organization. *

Public Policy Priorities: I am confident in believing that everyone in our organization (at least in our branch) is "for" social justice. I personally wish that our educational focus (branch, state, and national) would be more

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November Meeting:

November 4th at the Dwight
Foster Public Library

President's Corner

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directly intended to promote women in leadership positions in fields where women are underrepresented (STEM field, department chairs and deans in academic institutions, CEOs in businesses, business owners, state and national political offices, heads of research labs and think tanks). We talk about goals pertaining to women in higher education, but our actions are more directed to social, cultural, and financial barriers to setting the stage to reduce barriers for more girls/women to access to higher education. Maybe there are ways to support both.

Since I have recently watched the movie "Conclave" which explores doubts by people in leadership roles, I am going to share some of mine, I don't know how much our scholarships to undergraduate candidates (high school students) from our book sale money do to help young women to achieve a college degree. I do think they have value to say "you go, girl" and "there are women you don't even know who see you and support you" but it is probably not enough money to make a difference in going or not going to college. There are a LOT of scholarships to high school graduates managed by the Fort Foundation. So in that regard, our graduating high school students are already enriched by a generous community invested in the future of its young people. My thoughts about supporting girls are going to two ends of the spectrum: middle school students who are just starting to think about what they want to be when they grow up (programs like Tech Savvy); and support for women who are midway or at the end of their path to earn doctorate or professional degrees. This is the time when their saved or other initial funding may have out. For this group, attainment of their goal is a long hard and often lonely road. Financial support at that point might spare an extended daily menu of peanut and jelly sandwiches, living in housing that is cheap but not safe, and getting to classes, residencies or practices using unsafe or unreliable transportation. Or buys them some sleep instead of working 3 jobs.

I encourage you to share your ideas (including your doubts) with me and with other members. I welcome hearing your disagreement on ideas I shared and also have confidence that you can offer different and better ones.

*Reminder: In 2024 the membership of AAUW voted against the referendum to allow non-degreed persons to join the organization.

Treasurer's Report

January 27, 2025

Submitted by: Alyssa Thompson

Account activity as of on-line view of accounts: \$13,126.19

Checking Account \$11,104.22

Saving Account \$2,021.97

Expenses since 11.15.2024 (non- membership related – by check #): \$100.00

Dwight Foster Public Library Membership Renewal: \$100.00 #3922

Deposits since 11.15.2024 (non-membership or book sale related): \$2,421.47

Square Deposit from Holiday Auction: \$142.97

Cash & Check Deposit from Holiday Auction: \$1,278.50

Required Minimum Distribution Donation (Patricia Jones): \$1,000 (to Grants for Gals)

Book Sale Year End Recap: \$9,111.78

Online (01.01.2024 – 12.31.2024): \$2,112.24

Book Sale Day 1: \$4,617.67

Book Sale Day 2: \$2,335.87

Donations: \$246.00

Membership deposited: \$52.00

National Transfer of Local Dues (October 2024): \$52.00

Grants for Gals Funds Reserved:

Grants for Gals Fund (reserve in checking): \$1,000.00

2024-2025 Philanthropic Funds Reserved:

Scholarships (Fort Community Foundation): \$5,000 sent to Knox Scholarship Fund

Tech Savvy: \$250.00

NCCWSL: \$0

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

New Members

Swenson, Betsy

betsyswenson608@gmail.com

618 Reena Ave.

Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Courtney Thom

727 N. 4th Street

courtneyethom@gmail.com

Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Laurie Anderson

912 Van Buren St.

laurieanderson50@yahoo.com

Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

WELCOME!

Directory Information Updates/Corrections

Marie Dorgan Nelson

Please remove from Grants for Gals Committee.

Mary Zentner

email correction: zentnercm@gmail.com

KRIsten Curran

Linda Winn

Cambridge ZIPcode 53523

Kathleen Townsend

920- 397 – 6323

Alyssa Thompson

262- 388 – 2183

Pam Truog passed away on May 17, 2024



Tech Savvy Update: Save the Date April 5, 2025

Hosted by Fort Atkinson and Janesville AAUW branches, Tech Savvy workshop is designed to inspire middle school girls to consider careers in the STEM fields. (Boys are welcome too!)

Our upcoming year's event will once again be held on campus at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Saturday April 5, 2025.

Thank you to UW-Whitewater staff, and all the workshop presenters, volunteers, and our sponsors who make Tech Savvy possible!

Volunteers are still needed to help with check in and also to assist workshop presenters. Please consider helping with this branch project!



SAVE THE DATE:

Check back for details and registration information about our upcoming Tech Savvy: April 5, 2025.

<https://www.uww.edu/ce/camps/additional/techsavvy>

AAUW-WI Convention 2025 Highlights

The 104th Wisconsin State Convention will be held at the Stoney Creek Hotel La Crosse – Onalaska, April 25-26. Reduced guest room rates have been negotiated at \$104 plus tax (\$118.04 total) per night.

- **Optional Tour**

On Friday morning, an optional guided tour of Mary of the Angels Chapel at St. Rose Convent in La Crosse, founded by the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in 1878, will be offered to those who arrive early. The church is Romanesque style, with Corinthian pillars and Bavarian stained glass windows. Altars are constructed of Italian marble inlaid with Venetian glass and mother of pearl mosaics. There is no charge for the tour.

- **Keynote Speakers**

Keynote speaker Amanda Goodenough, an educator and consultant, works to elevate historically marginalized voices and advance racial justice. She is currently Lead Executive Officer and Founder of Goodenough Consulting, LLC.

Prior to assuming that position, she worked for 17 years as the Director of the Research and Resource Center for Campus Climate at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Amanda serves on the boards of numerous organizations focused on justice, equity, decolonization, and interconnectedness. Her honors include the Social Justice Achievement Award for the YWCA Tribute to Outstanding Women (2010) and the La Crosse Area Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Award (2021). The title of Amanda's convention presentation is "Welcome to the Struggle . . ."

Lynda Drews of Green Bay is the author of *The Maid and the Socialite: The Brave Women Behind Green Bay's Scandalous Minahan Trials*. Her keynote, "Uncovering the Lost Histories of Women," will discuss the true story behind the book. The historical nonfiction, written in the victims' voices, discusses the truth about the women's abuser, a famous Green Bay surgeon. *Midwest Book Review* says, Lynda's book is "written with the drama of fiction and the compelling research of fact." She also wrote *Run at Destruction: A True Fatal Love Triangle* and *Circle of Innocence*. Lynda will have books available for signing.

- **Concurrent Sessions**

Concurrent sessions will feature topics such as the differently abled, artificial intelligence, big money and politics, the Holocaust, reproductive health, and local African American history.

- **Convention Activities**

Traditional convention activities, such as tri-board displays from each branch and a fundraising silent auction, will be included. Branches are encouraged to donate baskets for the auction. The Friday evening "Sweet Suite" will again be offered.

For more information or to receive a copy of this article as an email attachment, please contact Jan Eriksen, La Crosse Branch, at jperiksen@viterbo.edu.

2026 AAUW Wisconsin State Convention

The 2026 State Convention will be sponsored by District I. District I is comprised of the Fort Atkinson, Janesville, Beaver Dam, Madison/Monona branches. All branches are expected to participate in the planning and running of a successful convention.

Participation includes suggestions for a venue, speakers, program, break out groups, and other ideas toward an interesting and enjoyable event. We will also be looking for onsite volunteers during the events.

Maggie Winz from Fort Atkinson is Co-Chair of the Convention and Barbara Rohland has volunteered to be on the planning committee. We are looking for a minimum of 2 more members to step up and be active committee members. The Planning Committee is a 1-2 hour monthly Zoom meeting commitment. More members will be needed at the actual convention. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Barb Rohland at bmrohland@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS!

Hoard Historical Museum Director, and branch member, Merrilee Lee was awarded the Tourism Counts Award at the Fort Atkinson Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner Wednesday night. Merrilee was given the honor in recognition of her contribution to the development and promotion of tourism in Fort Atkinson. Congratulations Merrilee!



Pi Day Fundraiser 3.14

AAUW has the opportunity to join two other local organizations, Heart of the City and Friends of the Library, for a special fundraiser on March 14. What could be more appropriate than Pie Day on 3.14 (Pi Day)?!

Here's how it works: AAUW members deliver pies, either sweet or savory, full size or hand pies, made in disposable pans with AAUW tagged on the bottom to the library on the morning of March 14th. We also will need a couple members willing to donate a couple hours during the day to man the sale.

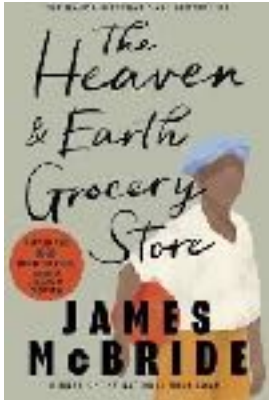
AAUW will receive the proceeds from all AAUW donated pies sold. This is the third year for the sale and they have always had much more demand than pies so there was room for a third partner in this fundraiser. AAUW will also assist with marketing through online efforts.

For this fundraiser to be successful, AAUW would need support from membership...the more pies we donate the more money we make! The current plan is that the proceeds of the pie sale would go to the Greatest Needs Fund.

If you have any questions please contact Kathy Marr at 920-309-2668 or marr.kathy@gmail.com.

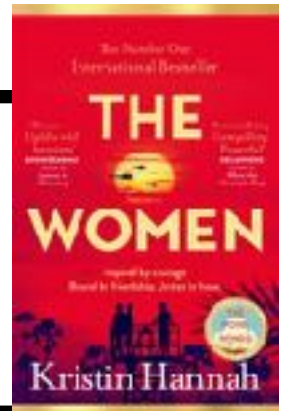


Adelante! Book Club



In April, the club is scheduled to discuss The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride on Thursday, April 10, 2025 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the Niedecker Room at the Dwight Foster Public Library in Fort Atkinson.

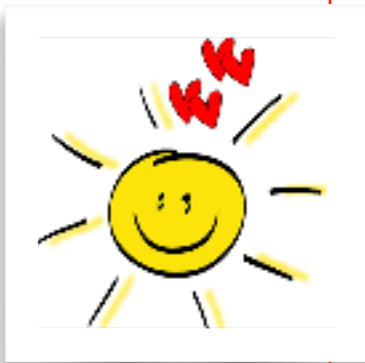
Our final book selection of our current season will be The Women by Kristin Hannah in July, with date to be determined.



For more information about the Adelante Book Club please contact Kathy Marr or Renee Barr.

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.

