



Branch Beat

Mission Statement

Advancing gender equity through research, education and advocacy

Vision

Equity for all

Values

Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Principled. Inclusive and Intersectional

February Meeting

**February 3 at
6:30 at the
Trinity
Lutheran
Church.**

Community Outreach Brings in Fort Food Pantry

The February meeting will be hosted by the Community Outreach Committee. The Committee's yearlong project this year has been support of the Fort Atkinson Food Pantry. They have been accepting non-perishable food donations at each meeting and are hosting a CAN-DO Challenge demonstration at the Hoards Museum on January 31st at 9:00 am.

The speaker for our February meeting will be Kathy Kalvaitis. Kathy volunteers at the Fort Atkinson Food Pantry as the Grant Writer. She is active on the Planning and Events Committee. Kathy also volunteers at St Joseph's Catholic School and Church as well as St. Vincent dePaul Thrift Store.

Prior to retirement, Kathy was a businesswoman in Fort Atkinson. She and her husband bought their first business (a gas station) in 1993. They continued to run businesses for the next 27 years in Fort. She also spent 18 years with Fort Healthcare in their Community Health and Wellness department. Kathy is a proud mother of two daughters who live in Fort Atkinson and a grandmother to three.



President's Corner



Expectations that January would be a month of rest following the Christmas and New Years Holiday have turned out to be wrong for many AAUW members, including me.

First, Thanks to Brittany Noe and the events committee. The Holiday Party was the perfect end to the calendar year with great food, great shopping/fundraising opportunities, and, most of all, great company.

The Outreach committee has been busy organizing the Can-Do event (on January 31, 2026) event to bring awareness (and food donations) to the food pantry. Mary Kay Weston will be able tell you more about this project and its outcome at the February 2 meeting.

The Fundraising committee will have a vendor spot at the Feb. 7 Winter Market. They/we will be selling a dry bean soup mix in a jar along with soup cozies. Barbara Hanser, daughter Katie Logsdon and Granddaughter Nora Logsdon have taken a very active role in this event. Kathy Cheek and I are also involved. My sewing room looks like cozy central but we need many more sewers to reach our target of 60 soup jar/cozy combinations.

I have had projects going at both the national and state level. At the state level, I am on the State Convention planning committee along with Maggie Winz and Bev Dahl. The convention is in Madison (with district 1 as hosts) on April 25-26. There will be more details in the March newsletter. Online registration will be opening soon.

Another regional/state project involves the presidents of branch 1 meeting with each other to discuss strategies to increasing membership in our branches and in our state. More details to come.

At the National level, I am a reviewer for the international fellowships in the area of Natural and Physical Sciences. I was assigned a partner and each of us reviewed 20 applications (primary reviews). We then forwarded our top 6 candidates to each other for review (secondary reviews) and, this week are going to meet on zoom to select the 4 (out of 12) applicants that we will forward to a panel to recommend for funding. The panel meets in early February. I am so impressed by the work, passion and sincerity of the applicants. I am so pleased that the AAUW offers this opportunity to these candidates. This is the second year that I have been involved in the reviews and hope to continue (and the program continues) into future years

I want to thank all the work by the AAUW members- both seen and unseen- as well as the things that you do for the community outside of AAUW. I encourage all of you to consider a leadership role in 2026-27. I am happy to meet with anyone interested in the role of president. It has been interesting and I have especially enjoyed meeting and working with people at the district and state level. For that, I thank you all for allowing me to serve in the role of branch president for a two-year term.

Spring is coming! The clubhouse at Rock River Park has been reserved for June 15 for our end of the year celebration.



January 16, 2016

Account activity as of on-line view of accounts: \$15,428.86

Checking Account	\$13,429.18
Saving Account	\$1,999.68

Expenses since 11.16.2025 (non- membership related – by check #): -\$667.71

- Fort Atkinson Winter Market Booth - \$25.00 #3952
- Friends of the Library Membership Renewal - \$100.00 #3953
- Opportunities, Inc. (Can-Do! Challenge Flyers) - \$80.71 #3954
- AAUW of Greater Madison Area (AAUW T-Shirts for Members) - \$312.00 #3954
- Fort Atkinson Chamber Membership Renewal - \$150.00 #3956

Deposits since 11.16.2025 (non-membership or book sale related): \$2401.07

Holiday Auction Proceeds: \$2,113.07

Fort Atkinson Member T-Shirt Order : \$288.00

Book Sale Deposits (01.01.2025 – 12.31.2025): \$9,041.53

Book Sale Event - \$6,207.16

Book Sale Online - \$3,034.37

**\$320.00 online sale from Pam Dennis received 12.15.2025*

Membership deposited: \$52.00

2025-2026 Philanthropic Funds Reserved: \$8,150.00

Scholarships: \$5,000 to Knox Scholarship Fund with Book Sale proceeds (funded 10.09.2025)

Tech Savvy: \$250.00

Grants for Gals Donations: \$1,000.00

Adopt-a-School Fund: \$1,000 (from 2025 Book Sale + Pi Day Sale)

AAUW Greatest Needs Fund: \$1,900
(\$30 per member (2/26 number) + 15% over 2025 contribution)

Note: We have a \$546.02 pending deposit from the online book sales and that they continue, even if the physical book sale has ended.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Katie Logsdon

I was raised in southern California and moved to Fort Atkinson in 2023 to be closer to family. Growing up I was active in the performing arts having danced ballet, tap, and jazz for many years before segueing into musical theater in high school and college. I graduated from the University of California at Santa Cruz with a BA in Women's Studies at the height of the "girl power" nineties.



After working in aerospace and IT during and after college, I fell into a career in higher education in 2004 and have loved it for the past twenty plus years. Along the way, I earned a MA degree in Organizational Leadership from Azusa Pacific University, and most recently completed a second MA degree with an emphasis in Industrial and Organizational Psychology. My current position is Associate Registrar at Los Angeles Pacific University, a fully-online Christian university based in southern California. Our workforce remained remote after the pandemic, which allowed me the flexibility to move to Wisconsin. I love living here but am still figuring out how to navigate this thing called "winter."

I was also able to buy my first home here after leaving the insane California housing market! I have one daughter, Nora, who is finishing her senior year studying elementary education at Anderson University in Indiana. I spent much of the last decade as a dance/gymnastics/dive mom and Girl Scout leader. In my spare time, I love to cook and experiment with new recipes, read, and watch way too many cooking shows. My mom (Barbara) and I discovered AAUW in 2023 at the book sale and immediately knew that we wanted to be part of the organization.



Tech Savvy 2026 Coming March 14

Tech Savvy workshops are designed to inspire middle school girls to consider careers in the STEM fields, where women are vastly under represented. (Boys are welcome to attend the event, too!)

This year's event will be once again be held on the main campus at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Saturday March 14, 2026.

Registration is now open until March 7, 2026 at:

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

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

Our generous sponsors who help make this event possible include:





AAUW Fort Atkinson | Janesville

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH (STEM) Workshop

Located at:



University of Wisconsin
Whitewater
MAIN CAMPUS

Saturday, March 14, 2026
8:00 am to 1:30 pm

Designed for girls in grades 6-9
All genders are welcome
Special sessions for parents

Online Registration Required
www.edu/ce/camps/additional/techsavvy
Closes 3/7/2026 (or when 120 student limit met)

\$15 per person includes
Workshops - Presentations - Lunch
T-shirt and drawstring bag for students

Keynote
Miss Wisconsin 2025
Willow Newell



Hands-on Workshops Led by STEM Professionals (choose 3)

- ~ Mysteries of Glowing Creatures
- ~ Bath Bomb Chemistry
- ~ Engineering Roads with Cookie Dough
- ~ Flash and Buzz Circuitry
- ~ Bust Crimes with Technology
- ~ Model Earthquakes with a Slinky
- ~ Surgical Intern for a Day
- ~ Build a Solar-Powered Racer
- ~ Engineering Robots of All Sizes
- ~ Pets Make the Best Patients

Thank You to Our Sponsors!



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Spacesaver

This is not a school-sponsored activity, and is not supported by the local school district.

Community Outreach

Can-Do Challenge Changes

By Mary Kay Weston

The Outreach Can-Do Challenge has shifted gears and will be having a demonstration on Saturday, January 31st starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Hoard Museum. Our team is gathering to put together a structure of can items to illustrate the project for future promotional use. Unfortunately we were unable to gather enough teams for a full competition.

Please stop by and see our progress and lend some encouragement. We are hoping the Jefferson Dairy Union will be stopping by as well.

Our program for February will feature the Fort Atkinson Foot Pantry, please bring foods items to donate.



Don't forget to bring your non-perishables to the event when you come to cheer on the two AAUW teams!

Greetings from the Capital – Joan Fitzgerald

Greetings from the Capital! After the holidays, we returned in January to a full agenda of committee meetings and session days. There are two big issues that both sides of the aisle are working on - data center regulation and the Knowles Nelson Stewardship fund.

During the January Assembly Session, AB 315 relating to extending funding for the Knowles Nelson program passed on a strictly partisan basis. The proposal as written by Republicans does not contain adequate funding for land acquisition which is a main goal of the program. While I applaud these efforts to extend some funding, I am hoping that we can have discussions and find a compromise that maintains the integrity of the Knowles Nelson Program, while also addressing some of the concerns. My office has heard from dozens of people in support of this program, and I hope we can find agreement on a bill that the Assembly, the Senate, and the governor can all agree on.

The other big topic that my constituents care deeply about is the regulation of data centers. In January, the Republican authored bill was brought to the Assembly for a vote and passed on a mostly partisan basis. We are still working on the details regarding: energy production and placement of facilities, energy costs and protecting rate payers, water usage and conservation, and overall resource planning. Like our efforts around the Knowles Nelson program, there is plenty of room to cooperate and compromise on these issues.

I've been working hard, with my colleagues, to introduce legislative packages to address concerns around Agriculture, Education, Child Care, and Election Integrity. Just this week, the 23 First Term Assembly Democrats introduced a constitutional amendment bill that would protect the privacy rights of all Wisconsinites. There are lots of things going on in Madison, and since we'll be ending session in February, we are hoping to get some good legislation passed before then.

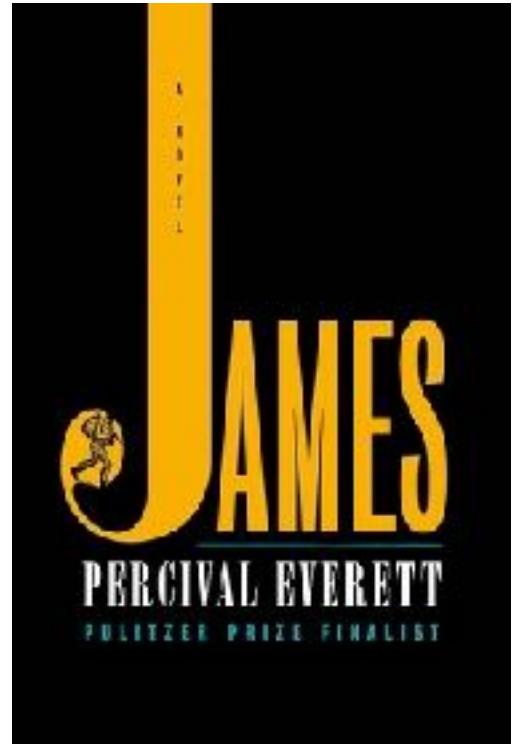
As this session closes, we are already working on setting an agenda for the next one and would appreciate as much input as possible. Assembly Democrats have created a survey and want to hear from as many folks as possible. I'd love it if each of you would visit our site at WorkingforWISurvey.com and share your opinions. Stay warm, stay safe and, together, let's keep moving Wisconsin Forward!





FORT ATKINSON BOOK CLUB

The Adelante Book Club met January 13th at the Dwight Foster Public Library to discuss “James”, by Percival Everett. The novel is a reimagining of the Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain, but told from the perspective of Jim, or James in this case. The book was an exciting retelling of an old classic that had been turned on its head. The topics of racism and ownership and human relationships were energetic and extremely interesting during the meeting. The book was definitely worthy of its Pulitzer Prize, National Book Award for Fiction, and Kirkus Prize, as well as our group's two thumbs up!



The Adelante Book Club will meet again April 21 at the Fort Library from 6:00-8:00. We will be reading the “Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir” by Kai Kalia Yang.

Yang's memoir of a family's harrowing escape from war in Laos is a love letter to her grandmother, a troubling portrait of the consequences of US intervention in Southeast Asia, and a glimpse into the little-seen exodus of the Hmong people, first to refugee camps in Thailand and then, for many, to new homes in Minnesota.

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....and more!

Monday, March 2nd 7-8 pm

314 Barrie St.

Fort Atkinson, WI

Facilitated by Fraud Specialist

Fiona Wiese APRP, BSACS



NCUA

Equal Housing Lender. NCUA Insured.

T-Shirts are on Their Way!

AAUW t-shirts have been ordered! 16 t-shirts were ordered by Fort Atkinson branch members and they will be delivered to Fort Atkinson from Beaver Dam when they are completed and ready for delivery. Members who ordered a t-shirt will be informed when they arrive.

If you did not order a t shirt in this round, there will be another chance to order one if there is enough interest from members in other district branches (there needs to be a minimum of 10 shirts to place an order).



Save the Date!
April 17-18, 2026
105th State Convention
DoubleTree by Hilton
Madison East

Fort Atkinson Food Pantry's Current Wish List:

- ◆ Pancake Mix
- ◆ Pancake Syrup
- ◆ Pork N Beans
- ◆ Apple Sauce
- ◆ 1lb Rice
- ◆ Canned Pasta
- ◆ Canned Chicken
- ◆ Peanut Butter
- ◆ Canned Fruit



Don't forget to bring your non-perishable food donations to the February 2nd meeting!

Key February Events in Women's History

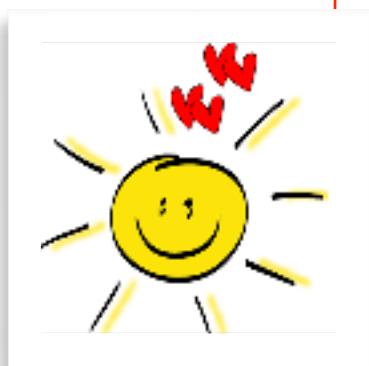


- Feb 1, 1978: The U.S. Postal Service issued the first stamp honoring a Black woman, abolitionist Harriet Tubman.
- Feb 4, 1987: The first National Women in Sports Day was proclaimed.
- Feb 11, 1989: Rev. Barbara Harris was ordained as the first woman bishop in the Anglican Communion.
- Feb 12, 1869: The Utah Territorial Legislature passed a law allowing women to vote, a major step for suffrage.
- Feb 15, 1921: The Suffrage Monument, honoring Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott, was dedicated at the U.S. Capitol.
- Feb 17, 1870: Esther Hobart Morris became the first female Justice of the Peace in the U.S. (Wyoming).
- Feb 23/28, 1909/1917: The earliest "Women's Day" was observed in the U.S. on Feb 28, 1909, while Russian women began a crucial strike on Feb 23, 1917 (Julian Calendar), leading to the international adoption of the date.
- Feb 24, 1912: Henrietta Szold founded Hadassah, the largest Jewish women's organization in the U.S..
- Feb 24, 1967: Jocelyn Bell Burnell discovered the first pulsar.



This and That

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.

