



# The Apple Branch

American Association of University Women

Appleton, Wisconsin

Volume 35, Number 1 July 2020



APPLETON (WI)  
BRANCH

“Racism has robbed black Americans from benefiting from the advancements they’ve fought for, bled for and died for throughout history. That reality manifests in myriad ways - from underfunded schools to the gutting of health care and social programs, to financial redlining, to mass incarceration, to voter suppression, to police brutality and more. And it is undeniably harming health and prematurely ending black lives.”

**Michelle A. Williams, Dean of the Harvard School of Public Health**

Both reflection and action are needed.

As members of AAUW, we have resources. We have hope.

We are given tools at the national level. Kimberly Churches writes in her *AAUW Stands Against Racism* press release, “As a member of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, we will work to advance the policies and systemic changes identified in the *New Era of Public Safety: A Guide to Fair, Safe, and Effective Community Policing and Vision for Justice* platform.”

I hope you’ll take time to explore these important writings. In last month’s branch newsletter we all learned the steps to become a Two-Minute Activist. This tool, also from our national organization, keeps us informed and makes our voices heard. Our national vision is *Equity for all*.

At the state level of AAUW, the head of Public Policy, our own Stephanie Malaney is considering an online public policy day and working to inspire statewide voting.

At our branch level we have the tireless efforts of our Public Policy Committee led by Jacqui Klimaszewski. The action alert sent in late May made us all aware of important state legislation related to absentee ballots. It takes only a moment to request a ballot at <http://myvote.wi.gov/en-US/VoteAbsentee>.

Our vote is an essential tool.

I feel so fortunate to belong to a strong, engaged, forward thinking organization. I feel even more fortunate to belong with all of you.

Justice for all,  
Joan Moeschberger, Branch President  
[joanemoe@gmail.com](mailto:joanemoe@gmail.com)

Becky O’Connor has agreed to continue writing these monthly messages for our branch as Past President. We all look forward to her thoughtful and inspirational messages each month. Thank you, Becky!

## Program News

**Dig out your Calendars! Save the Date!**  
**Our first branch meeting of the year will**  
**be on Thursday, September 17th.**  
**Watch for details in August newsletter!**



You have heard of Fox Cities Reads.  
Coming soon is *AAUW Appleton Reads!*  
We will be announcing an “all branch read” book in August.  
This will connect us as readers and as advocates as we begin year 2020-21  
of AAUW! The book will be announced in the  
August newsletter! Stay tuned!



### **Nevertheless, We Progress!** **Celebrating One Hundred Years of Women’s Rights**

In so many ways, we have changed and yet have not. Join us in celebrating together our challenges and triumphs.

Women suffragists had to struggle through the 1918 flu pandemic yet still managed to persevere and get the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment passed. Our celebration of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Centennial will go on but adapted to protect our safety during the Covid-19 pandemic.

“**Nevertheless We Progress**” will be a high-energy virtual celebration including local voices sharing suffragist history, vibrant music by well-known musicians, and valuable information on how and why to vote.

Join us for this exciting virtual event launching on Women’s Equality Day, Wednesday, August 26, the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to celebrate women’s rights.

## Membership Notes

Thank you to Nancy Havens for guiding me throughout the past year in preparation for assuming the VP position. We had so much fun and I look forward to continuing to work together throughout our transition!

Congratulations and welcome to Mary Bechle as our new Assistant Membership VP. She will assume the "GO TO" position for our new members' questions about AAUW! Mary is a super active and proactive ONE- year member of AAUW and is full of good ideas!

Welcome, also, to our new members – Susan Ahrens and Barbara Waedekin! We are so happy that you have joined us.

According to the latest Badger Briefs, AAUW-APPLETON Branch came in 2nd place for new members during the past year. 1st place went to West Suburban Milwaukee, and 3rd to Lake Geneva. Congratulations to us all!

Georgianne Bravick, Membership VP, [gbrav@aol.com](mailto:gbrav@aol.com)



Are you new to AAUW? Do you have questions? Concerns? Comments? Please do not hesitate to contact Mary Bechle, our new Assistant Membership VP.

Mary's email is [msnn3bs@yahoo.com](mailto:msnn3bs@yahoo.com) or call her at (563) 235-3968.

### AAUW APPLETON NEWSLETTER/DIRECTORY ADVERTISING

Members who have a business may advertise in the branch newsletter and/or in the yearly directory. Costs to advertise are \$25 for a business card ad in 12 issues of the newsletter and \$25 for the same size ad in the directory. **Current and new advertisers need to send a business card and payment to Judy Goodnight, 1406 Fieldstone Court, Neenah, WI 54956 by July 15th.** A high-quality scan of your card is also acceptable via email to [judy@gwd.org](mailto:judy@gwd.org). Make checks payable to AAUW Appleton. If paying \$25, indicate your choice of newsletter or directory ad.

# AAUW Advocacy

## Vote-By-Mail? Absentee Voting? Early Voting?

There has been a lot of discussion regarding the pros and cons of Mail-In Voting. This discussion gets very confusing because of the variety of terminology about voting procedures which is further complicated because different states have different rules regarding voting. If that is not enough, there is a political spin put on this. Let's see if we can sort through this.

**Mail-In/Vote-by-Mail** – In Wisconsin, absentee ballots are mailed in, but this is different than a Vote-by-Mail system. There are several states (e.g. Utah, Colorado, Oregon) that use Vote-by-Mail as the primary procedure for voting. Registered voters in these states automatically get a ballot mailed to them and there are procedures for keeping the voting free from fraud. For additional information on the security of this method, see <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/false-narrative-vote-mail-fraud>

**Absentee Voting**—In Wisconsin, we do not have to provide a reason to request an absentee ballot. Many voters have used this—it is a safe, secure, and efficient way for most of us. While many voters have used this in the past, in the time of COVID-19 it is also a critical avenue for many of us and the number of absentee ballots increased dramatically in the last election. The increased volume caused some issues with getting the ballots to the municipal clerks in a timely fashion. Part of the difficulty arose because some voters were new to absentee voting and didn't sign or get the witness information per the instructions. Request your absentee ballot form at <https://www.myvote.wi.gov>.

The Wisconsin Elections Commission approved a plan to send absentee ballot **applications** to approximately 2.7 million voters in advance of the November Election. This mailing does not require an all-mail election but provides the form and information to voters regarding requesting absentee ballots.

### Procedures:

Requesting an absentee ballot can be done on Myvote.wi.gov or by contacting your municipal clerk.

You can request a ballot for specific elections within the year, all elections within the year, or for every election (if you are indefinitely confined).

### Safeguards:

You must be registered to vote at your current residence and you need to provide a copy of your Wisconsin ID (driver's license, passport, etc.) before you receive a ballot.

The voter signs the envelope AND there needs to be a witness's signature and address.

We have learned from the April 2020 election and both municipalities and the postal service have plans to address the large volume of absentee ballots. The Wisconsin Elections Commission has approved a plan to add intelligent bar codes on absentee ballot envelopes that will allow election officials and voters to track ballots in the mail—as well as providing funds to help offset the costs for local districts.

Continued on the next page...

Issues remaining:

- The absentee ballot requests will be sent out at the end of August. We need to promote the EARLY requests for absentee ballots for the August 11 partisan primary and the November 3 election. There are voters in our community who need assistance in acquiring and submitting an absentee ballot request which includes copying their ID and/or having someone witness the ballot before they turn it in. WE CAN HELP.
- There is a perception that the AAUW stance (<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/get-involved-in-elections/#Voter-Access>) on voting access for all citizens is a partisan issue—because one of the parties is indicating that there are opportunities for fraud. **Wisconsin has great checks and balances to prevent this.**
- There is also a perception that early voting favors one party over the other—in fact, one party openly says that they need to hinder absentee voting so their candidates can win. **There is no data to support that voting by absentee ballot gives an advantage to either party.**

**Early Voting**—This is in-person voting. Municipalities determine where and when this happens. In Wisconsin, the ballot is sealed in an absentee ballot envelope and processed on election day. Increasing the hours and locations would be a positive step to increase access to voting and decrease the number of voters on election day.

## COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

New Email address for Linda Dejmek: [Linda@DrDejmek.com](mailto:Linda@DrDejmek.com)

**Who to inform if you change your email: Send any email changes to Judy Goodnight ([judy@gwd.org](mailto:judy@gwd.org)) so that your delivery of branch newsletters can continue without interruption.** Those changes will be shared with the directory editor. In turn, Judy will share with you the procedure for changing your email address on file with the national AAUW so that you continue to receive national notifications.

## BOOK SALE UPDATE

Betsy Mintern will be at the lower level entrance to the Kaukauna Library on Thursday, June 25 at 9:30 am. If you have books to drop off, that would be a great time to go. If you need to drop off books and are not available at that time, please contact Betsy to arrange a date and time to meet.

Articles for the August newsletter are due July 15th.  
Send articles to Judy Goodnight at [judy@gwd.org](mailto:judy@gwd.org).

Website: <https://appleton-wi.aauw.net/>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.comAAUWAppleton/>  
Instagram: #aauwappleton

# Evening Literature

Due to the ongoing pandemic, Evening Literature will NOT meet physically for their July 9th meeting but will instead hold a Zoom meeting. Joan Moeschberger will host the meeting scheduled for July 9th at 6:30 pm. Joan will open at 6:15 to allow time for everyone to get checked in. If you are already a member of the group and are on the email list, no need to contact Joan, she will let you in. If you're not on the list and would like to join us, please contact Joan at [joanemoe@gmail.com](mailto:joanemoe@gmail.com) or 920-209-7488. We will send out an email closer to the time of the meeting with the information about the meeting link so that you can click on it to join the meeting.

We will be discussing ***That Churchill Woman*** by Stephanie Barron as well as selecting books for the 2020-21 schedule. Deadline for suggestions is June 30 to either JaneAnne at [jamforever02@yahoo.com](mailto:jamforever02@yahoo.com) or 920-382-0031 or Grace at [gracefuller22@gmail.com](mailto:gracefuller22@gmail.com) or 920-766-5378. An email will be sent out in early July with a list of the books suggested. If unable to attend the July Zoom meeting, you can vote via email or phone. We will also need discussion leaders and hosts-providing we'll be back to physically meeting.

If you are interested in joining the Evening Literature group, please contact either JaneAnne or Grace at the above contacts. We normally (whatever that means in these uncertain times!) meet on the second Thursday of the months of April through December at 6:30 pm, in member's homes. We would love to have you join us!!

Thanks!

JaneAnne McCabe and Grace Fuller



## Second Choice Books

July 15th at 1:00 pm will be a Zoom meeting for discussing ***Unmarriageable*** by Soniah Kamal. The book is an update of Jane Austen's beloved classic, *Pride and Prejudice* set in modern-day Pakistan. It is "an exhilarating exploration of love, marriage, class, and sisterhood." (Goodreads)

RSVP to [judy@gwd.org](mailto:judy@gwd.org) if you plan to attend so  
Judy can send you the meeting link.

On August 19th at 1:00 pm we'll be talking about *The Bookman's Tale: A Novel of Obsession* by Charlie Lovett. Mark your calendar. All Second Choice Books discussions will take place by Zoom until further notice.

# AAUW Influential Women STEM Essay Contest – Honorable Mention Maria Montessori: Scientific Educator

by David H.

Born on August 31, 1870, in Chiaravalle, Italy, Maria Montessori combined insights from psychology, medicine, and education in scientific ways to design a new and lasting approach to early childhood education.



Montessori started down several different scientific paths in her education and professional life but encountered limits on what a woman could do in those fields at that time. She began studying at “a boys’ school in Rome with a science/engineering emphasis” (“Timeline of Maria Montessori’s Life”). Under family pressure, she stopped studying engineering, which was viewed as a masculine profession. As a result of her poor school experience, Maria began to have thoughts about education, or at least how schools should *not* teach students.

She shifted to studying medicine, an even more unusual pursuit for women at the time. She encountered bias and discrimination from her male colleagues at the university, even though she excelled at academics (especially math), scoring 100 out of 105 at graduation (“Maria Montessori” New World Encyclopedia). She was also restricted in her study of cadavers because this was thought to be inappropriate for a woman.

Nevertheless, as the New World Encyclopedia states, “she became the first Italian woman to become a physician in the modern era” however, “her diploma had to be altered to accommodate her gender.” After graduation, she began working at a children’s hospital. Because she was a woman, the hospital assigned her to what was considered the more “menial” duty of taking care of the “defective” or “mentally retarded” children of Rome (“Maria Montessori” New World Encyclopedia). While taking care of these children, she realized that what they needed was not hospitalization, but just to be taught and educated like any other child.

In the early 1900’s she went back to the University of Rome to study psychology, anthropology, and educational philosophy. She combined lessons from those fields with observations from her work with children to formulate her new approach to education: the Montessori method. As her Wikipedia entry puts it, “during this time she began to consider adapting her methods of educating mentally disabled children to mainstream education. Montessori’s work developing what she would later call ‘scientific pedagogy’ continued over the next few years.” Scientific pedagogy means linking facts and ideas systematically to improve the quality of learning for students.

An underlying principle of the method is to move from the concrete to the abstract. As Montessori said, “What the hand does, the mind remembers” (quoted in Irinyi). The general idea is to use physical objects that children manipulate with their hands to teach them abstract concepts.

An example of this sort of teaching material is the number chain. Number chains are beads strung on a chain, where the number of beads is the original number cubed. For example, the “three” chain is three sets of three rows of three beads, which is 27 beads. If this concept is hard to grasp, that illustrates my point. Young children have a harder time understanding complex mathematical ideas (squaring and cubing for example), but by using materials like the number chain, these ideas are simplified.

The reason why I chose to write about Maria Montessori is because her method is central to my own education. My experience with the Montessori method began shortly before I turned two years old. I attended Montessori Adventure School for a year of preschool before switching to the Children’s School, a Montessori preschool which I attended for three years, from age three through five. I then began elementary school at Appleton Public Montessori, which I attended for six years, from first through sixth grades.

I feel like I owe my deeper understanding of math, geometry, and English to the solid foundation I experienced through the Montessori system. The tangible materials that are unique to this system helped me a great deal in these fields. Some of Montessori’s other ideas, including extended work time to foster attention and initiative, and also mixing children of various ages in one class, helped me as well. I am grateful to Maria Montessori for pioneering a scientifically-informed and child-centered approach to learning, which has benefitted me on my own educational path to this day.

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### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**



David H. is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Einstein Middle School in Appleton in Mr. Cross’s science class. His favorite subject is geography because of the useful information. He is spending his time doing schoolwork, watching videos, and being outside. David plays piano and drums. He is considering going into politics as a career.

For the next few months, we will be featuring the winning essays from our March Influential Women of STEM Essay Contest.



## **AAUW – Appleton Branch Meeting Via “ZOOM”**

**May 21, 2020, 1:00 PM**

President Becky O'Connor welcomed members to the first virtual Branch Meeting. The number in attendance was 62.

**Minutes** of the February Branch Meeting were approved as written.

**Program** VP Joan Moeschberger/Donna Cook gave us program updates. The planned programs had to be cancelled but the presenters agreed to reschedule. Joan thanked program planners and Donna Cook for their help this year. A Program planning meeting will be held on June 9 at 1:30 p.m., location to be determined. RSVP to Donna Cook by June 3.

**Membership** VP Nancy Havens/Georgianne Bravick Drew names for gift card drawings from those who renewed membership early. Winners were Susan McFadden, Pat Nelson, and Judy Goodnight.

Member anniversaries were celebrated for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 years of membership. Faye Binsfeld and Nancy Samson reached 45 years and Elaine Siegrist has been a member for 65 years.

Membership dues for this year are due by May 31. Form will be in the Newsletter.

**Finance** VP Kathleen Gagnow reviewed the Financial Report with the members. Net assets as of April 30, 2020 equal \$39,872 which includes 14,066 of scholarship monies.

**Nominating** Chair Judy Goodnight announced the slate of Officers: Joan Moeschberger, President; Sylvia Bull, Assistant Program VP; Laurie Leonard, Assistant Finance VP; Mary Bechle, Assistant Membership VP, and Kathleen McDonald, Secretary. Judy Goodnight moved to elect the slate of officers, seconded by Jacqui Klimaszewski. President O'Connor called for the vote and the motion was carried.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

**Public Policy** – Jacqui Klimaszewski reviewed public policy programs from the past year: September – an advocacy table at branch meeting, October - letters to Tammy Baldwin to sign on the ERA amendment bill in Senate. November/December included a homelessness program, prepared postcards to be sent to legislators, and equal pay quick facts were provided; December – children's books provided to Pillars. January – introduction to Race Equity, February – Migrant Child Detention. Looking forward to working with AAUW State group on development of voter guides for State Candidates. Plan to promote Absentee Voting and Fall Get Out the Vote activities.

**Book Sale** – Mary Grace: Book Sale will happen! Plans for the last 2 weeks in October – venue is reserved. Betsy Mintern reported the Kaukauna Library basement will be the new book sorting spot. Sorting begins August 4.

Trish Brehm announced bookmarks and poster printing is on hold.

**Bylaws Update** – Stephanie Malaney presented a proposed change to the bylaws concerning book sale proceeds to national. Copies will be included in the newsletter and will be voted on in September.

**Tech Savvy** – Jacqui Klimaszewski and Stephanie Malaney. Program was cancelled 2 days before it was scheduled due to the Coronavirus. They are doing the groundwork for next year and a date will be set in March 2021.

**Retiring Officers** – Judy Goodnight: Thanks on behalf of the branch was given to retiring Officers: President Becky O'Connor, Program VP Joan Moeschberger, and Secretary Mary Zanto.

**President O'Connor** remarked on her term as President of the Branch.

### **New and returning Officers were installed.**

**Incoming President** Joan Moeschberger thanked the members for the vote of confidence in electing her. She urged members to check out the National Website.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Submitted by Mary Zanto, Secretary

## Member Outreach

Member Outreach is a way for our AAUW community to stay connected and reach out to members during significant times in their lives.



Laurie Leonard, AAUW member creates beautiful cards for occasions such as:

- Thinking of you
- Congratulations
- Get Well
- Illness

If you know a member who we should reach out to in this way, please contact JaneAnne McCabe [jamforever02@yahoo.com](mailto:jamforever02@yahoo.com)

## American Association of University Women - Appleton Branch

### TREASURER'S REPORT

May 31, 2020

#### AAUW Appleton Branch Net Assets

05/31/20

#### NORTH SHORE BANK, GENERAL CHECKING #1472

Convention Fund	\$	10,511	
Beacon Fund		208	
General Fund		18,762	
		<u>          </u>	\$ 29,478

#### NORTH SHORE BANK, SCHOLARSHIP MONEY MKT #1907

14,066

#### Total Assets

43,545

Less: AAUW Nat'l & WI dues payable

(3,279)

#### NET ASSETS

\$ 40,266

**AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.**

AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.



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The Apple Branch is a publication of the Appleton, Wisconsin Branch of AAUW, the American Association of University Women.

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