



The Apple Branch

American Association of University Women

Appleton, Wisconsin

Volume 35, Number 7, January 2021



"Ubuntu. Humanity. I am because of who we all are." -African philosophy

APPLETON (WI) BRANCH

Dec 30	Public Policy Meeting
Jan 1	New Year's Social Hour
Jan 6	Second Choice Books
Jan 7	Branch Meeting
Jan 12	Art Class
Jan 12	Board Meeting
Jan 14	AAUW Reads: Just Mercy
Jan 15	Newsletter Articles Due
Jan 20	Afternoon Books: AAUW Reads
Jan 21	Afternoon Books: AAUW Reads
Jan 26	Social Justice
Feb 4	Second Choice Books

You have most likely seen some of the memes circulating about 2020. *If 2020 was a drink, what would it be? A colonoscopy prep. Or...If 2020 was a bag of chips, it would be [photo of Lay's Orange Juice and Toothpaste flavored packaging].* Yep. We pretty much aren't too sorry to put this one behind us and have a fresh start in 2021. There were days we just shrunk into ourselves with loneliness, fear, uncertainty. We all felt it. You are not alone.

But those were just some days.

We also showed we stayed strong together.

Our auction raised well over \$5000 for scholarships. Donna, Sylvia and Chris leading us where we had not gone before and all of you, our branch members, determining that even with a book sale on hold we can help women achieve their educational goals. You contributed items to interest group baskets, you donated services, you bid on items with humor and generosity and you donated even when you got nothing in return. *Strong together.*

Joan shared the letter to **our branch** from Kim Churches in the last newsletter. Our donation to the Greatest Needs Fund was recognized. The importance of this flexible support cannot be overstated as we realize the inequities that still exist. The work of AAUW in educational opportunities and economic security for women continues and we are actively supporting it. *Strong together.*

We are opening our minds and hearts as we read *Just Mercy* and as we look ahead to January and February programs. We know it takes courage to admit that the opportunities and pathways we have had are not the same for all. It takes humility to admit we have biases we never knew existed. It takes determination to keep reading and learning about white privilege. *Humanity.*

2020 has been something of a mess. But for our branch...it has been a common oneness, a common humanity. *I am, because you are. Ubuntu.*

*The road is long
We have traveled far
I am because we are
You are not alone
I am here for you
We are strong together*

Onward together in 2021.
Becky O'Connor, past president
bandboc@gmail.com



Program News

Join us on Zoom for our January Meeting

Thursday, January 7, 2021

6:30 PM

Our speaker will be Dr Jesus G Smith, Assistant Professor of Ethnic Studies at Lawrence University. Dr Smith is an Andrew W Mellon Faculty Fellow and has recently received a national fellowship with the Woodrow Wilson Foundation. He recently spoke on "The Changing Face of Race" for an Imagine Fox Cities event. On the 7th he will talk about gender and racism. He will show not only how racism may be perpetrated differently against different ethnic and racial groups of women, but also how racism against women may be expressed differently than that against men.

There will be time for questions after Dr Smith speaks.

SAVE THE DATE

Our February meeting will be SATURDAY, February 13th, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

Auction Results

Our first Virtual Auction is history, and what history! Although we could not be together in person for our customary brunch, we could still raise a LOT of money for scholarships, and have fun doing it! When all the counting was done, we had raised (drum roll please!) \$5,664! This amount includes \$4,409 in actual auction bid payments, as well as \$1,255 in additional donations.

Wow! I am blown away by the generosity shown by you, our members, to insure we could provide scholarships for 2021.

On behalf of the Auction Committee, I thank all of you for your enthusiasm and support for this endeavor!

I would also like to thank the members of the Committee (Joan Moeschberger, Sylvia Bull, Chris Taylor, Becky O'Connor, Mary Grace, and Judy Phillips) for their hard work in planning and implementing this auction.

GREAT JOB EVERYONE!

PROGRAM MEETING ZOOM ETIQUETTE

- ◆ The Waiting Room opens 15 minutes before the start of the meeting. You can enter & test your audio & video while you wait. **All participants' microphones will be muted upon entry to the meeting.**
- ◆ All members will be admitted to the meeting about 5 minutes before we start. Any special instructions will be given at that time.
- ◆ **Meetings will start promptly at the time listed. Please be courteous and be on time!**

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Save the date for a 2021 Zoom!

Let's drink a toast!

January 1 @ 6:30 pm (byo!)

Email Georgianne B.

gmbra@aol.com for the link!



Scholarships 2021

We did it! We have raised the funds to continue our scholarship program for 2021! A huge thank you to everyone who supported the auction or made donations to our scholarship fund.

We will be awarding 2 scholarships to 2nd year associate degree women students at Fox Valley Technical College. We will also be awarding scholarships to women entering their Junior or Senior year in college or enrolled in a graduate school program. Eligible students must have graduated from a greater Fox Cities high school or be currently living in the area for at least 10 years. Scholarship information and applications can be found on our AAUW Appleton branch web page. If you would like a hard copy or have questions, please contact Mary Grace. Please share this information with anyone you know who might be eligible to apply for our scholarships. Deadline for applying is April 15, 2021.

News From National AAUW

At its October 16, 2020, meeting, the AAUW Board of Directors voted to increase Individual Member dues for the next three years. The dues will rise by \$3 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, \$5 for FY 2023 and \$5 for FY 2024, making the total dues amount for those years \$62, \$67 and \$72, respectively. All but \$3 of your annual dues remains tax deductible.

This decision wasn't made lightly. The board members couldn't be more grateful for our members — or prouder of the work you've done this year. We also recognize that all of us are navigating numerous challenges in these uncertain times. However, in order to preserve the viability of this organization we all love, the board needed to take action. Simply put, this measure is essential for AAUW to continue our mission to achieve gender equity.

Most nonprofits adjust their dues annually or every other year to keep pace with inflation and rising expenses. However, due to prudent budgetary management, AAUW has been able to keep its dues flat since July 2018. That means that, by the time the first scheduled increase takes effect, we will have maintained three years of dues stability.

Moreover, in recognition of the difficult economy we're in, the board planned for the initial adjustment to be the most modest. Over the course of the year, it works out to be only an additional 25 cents per month — what we hope is a small price to pay for maintaining our important work and community.

Current life members will not be affected by this change. New life memberships acquired after July 1, 2021, will reflect the higher dues' amounts. College and university membership fees will remain unchanged.

Please [reach out to us](#) with any feedback or concerns.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to AAUW and our mission. On behalf of the AAUW Board, we are grateful for your understanding and look forward to continuing our work together.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julia T. Brown".

Julia T. Brown, Esq.
Board Chair





Influential Women STEM Essay Contest 2021

AAUW-Appleton would like to invite Fox Valley students in grades 6-8 to participate in an essay contest called **Influential Women...Then and Now**. This initiative recognizes March as Women's History Month. The contest has a STEM focus and students are asked to write about a woman who made a difference in science, technology, engineering, and math and tell why the woman is significant to them.

The contest guidelines, along with the link to the online application, are listed below. School administrators will be sent the application with guidelines along with a public address announcement, newsletter announcement and posters. We hope are asking them to distribute the information to the appropriate classroom teachers, the media center, etc. and encourage students to participate.

All entries are due **by February 26, 2021**. Cash prizes will be awarded and a reception for the winners will be held virtually the evening of March 16th. More information about the contest can be obtained by calling 830-2919.

Contest Guidelines:

- All students in grades 6-8
- Typed essay on a Woman in History with a STEM focus. Tell us why you selected the woman. What is the personal impact of her STEM contribution?
- Essays should be no more than 700 words and should include bibliography or sources. Essays will go through a check for plagiarism.
- Essays longer than 700 words or essays without bibliography or sources will not be considered for the contest.
 - Submit entries by **completing the online submission form at <https://appleton-wi.aauw.net/essay-contest/>**



This will be sent to school administrators in January. We are asking members to follow up by contacting teachers that you may have a connection with asking them if they have received this information.

Thank you!

AAUW – WI Virtual Convention



Have you ever wondered what the AAUW Wisconsin State Convention was like, but didn't want to travel, or couldn't afford the expense? This is your year to experience the convention without the travel or expense. While a Zoom convention won't be quite the same, it will give you a taste of what an in-person convention is like. Save the dates, and plan on joining via Zoom for all or parts of the convention. There are some interesting speakers already booked, and plans continue to be firmed up for our virtual convention.

Friday April 23, 2021 (7-9)

Welcome, and presentation of Conversations between suffragists Carrie Chapman Catt and Jessie Jack Hooper

Saturday, April 24, 2021

9:30 – 10:45 Business meeting

11 – 12 **Featured Speaker:** Rep Sheilia Stubbs

12:10 – 2:00 Breakout sessions

2:00 – 3:00 Jessica Michna presents "Women Who Dared"

Notes from the AAUW Wisconsin State Board President

Do you attend a few Zoom events? The state board does also. What a great way to get together and work on AAUW when we are situated all over the state! That is the plus of Zoom, but just like with our branch, I miss the personal touch of meeting face to face. One very important function of our state board is working with the branches. Please use us to support you, answer questions, help generate ideas, etc.

Our contact information is in the Badger Briefs. Remember also that the state convention is April 23, 24. Won't that be interesting? **Zoom Convention!**

By the way, **we have a great branch.** Every day I see ways we help each other, especially during some of the challenges that we have had lately. Stay healthy, be safe! Happy Holidays!

Joan Schneider joandschneider@gmail.com AAUW Appleton 920.734.2009

Articles for the February newsletter are due January 15th.

Send articles to Judy Goodnight at judy@gwd.org.

Website: <https://appleton-wi.aauw.net/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AAUWAppleton/>

Instagram: #aauwappleton

Social Justice Group

Date and Time: Tuesday , **January 26th at 10:00 am**, link will be sent in a separate email just to group members. We will finish our discussion of *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson and begin planning for future meetings.

Contact Judy Goodnight at 729-9553 or judy@gwd.org to get on the group mailing list. More info can be found on our website: <https://appleton-wi.aauw.net/what-we-do/groups/> Scroll down the page to Social Justice.

Find the most recent copy of AAUW Wisconsin's Badger Briefs newsletter here:

<https://aauw-wi.aauw.net/files/2020/11/Badger-Briefs-Fall-2020-2.pdf>

Barbara Meier: An Appleton Branch Member and Oh, So Much More

I ask you, "What do all AAUW members have in common? Your reply very well may be, "To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy."

When I asked some longtime branch members to send me their memories of Barbara Meier, the overwhelming response included Barbara's lifelong actions that demonstrated her devotion to this mission.

One response was, "While working at FVTC, Barbara promoted AAUW any chance she could, stressing equity in educational issues for women." Others remembered her "energetic, smiling, knowledgeable, infectious leadership" in taking on various branch projects such as book sale, Math and Science Rock, and the presidency. "She was a woman who could get things done."

During Barbara's terms as AAUW-WI President (1991-93), National Board Program Dev. Comm. (1993-95) and Great Lakes Regional Director (1995-97), she continued to be a mentor. Recently, a branch member told me, "I appreciated Barbara unobtrusively instructing me at a 1984 National Convention in my duties as President representing our branch. In other words, she and two other seasoned branch members led me around by the nose and made me look good." This, too, was just one example of her helping others develop their strengths.

In the 1970s, Barbara included her own young children in the book sorting process. For years, her grandchildren and most recently, her great-grandchildren attended the sale with Barbara — seeking books that would further develop their strengths and love of learning.

Other personal characteristics mentioned are: "intelligent, caring, generous, kind, funny, resilient and compassionate".

"Barbara saw the big picture. Being active on the branch, state, and national levels she was a part of a nationwide (perhaps worldwide) movement — advancing equity for women and girls."

Barbara was a guiding light; a steady resource; and a longtime good friend. We know her efforts have improved the lives of many. She shall be missed.

Betty Pontius — with contributions from many longtime AAUW branch members.

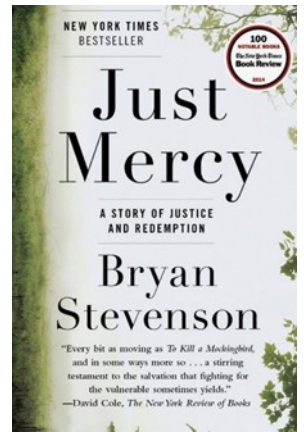
AAUW READS: JUST MERCY DISCUSSIONS via Zoom

January 14th, 6:30 pm, January 20th, 2:00 pm, January 21st, 1:00 pm

The following summary and discussion questions will help guide our reading of Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy*.

Credits: Mount Prospect Public Library. All rights reserved. Used with Permission.

Summary: The founder of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama recounts his experiences as a lawyer working to assist those desperately in need, reflecting on his purpose of the ideal of compassion in American justice.



- Is there anything about which you think or feel differently as a result of reading *Just Mercy*?
- Who would you say is the center of this book: Bryan Stevenson or Walter McMillian?
- Which details of Walter's case were most difficult for you to accept? Was it difficult to believe this could really happen?
- What was your reaction to the fact that Walter's case took place in Monroeville? How could the very residents who romanticized Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* stand for (or, worse, contribute to) Walter's trials?
- In which aspects was Walter's case the ideal choice to use as the focus of the book?
- Are the cases used as examples more about race or about poverty? In your opinion is that a worthwhile question to ask?
- Stevenson laments that "the opposite of poverty is not wealth; the opposite of poverty, in too many places, is justice." How do you feel when you read those words?
- Do you agree that "wealth, not culpability, shapes outcomes" in our justice system?
- Critics of social justice initiatives complain that too many excuses are being made for those who have done wrong. What relevance might this opening line from *The Great Gatsby* have in the debate over this issue: "whenever you feel like criticizing anyone...just remember that all the people in this world have not have the advantages that you've had"?
- How do cases such as Herbert Richardson's, the man who set a bomb that killed a young girl, test these convictions?
- Do you believe as Stevenson does, that we are more than the worst thing we have ever done? What effect, if any, should that belief have on the justice system?
- One of Stevenson's persistent talking points is that the question is not whether the condemned deserves to die but whether we deserve to kill. How does he explain this? Do you find this compelling?
- Do you agree that the character of a nation is determined by how it treats the broken, the poor, the oppressed?
- In your opinion, is Stevenson against individuals accepting responsibility and/or consequences for their actions? Is there a middle ground?
- Which other cases were memorable for you? Were you angry? Saddened? Did any moments bring satisfaction?
- This book is often characterized as a memoir. Does that surprise you? In what ways does it fit that category?
- What is your opinion of Stevenson as a "character"? Do you feel you know him? Understand him?
- Did you notice the alternating structure of the book in which chapters about Walter's case were followed by chapters on cases which illustrated different issues? What might the thinking behind that have been? Was it effective? [Continued on the next page]

JUST MERCY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS continued

- What does it mean to be a “stonecatcher”? What are the implications, both positive and negative?
- Were you satisfied with the amount of time devoted to how the court system deals with mental illness, women, and children? Are you inspired to learn more?
- Consider the title. What did you take it to mean before you read and/or what does it mean to you now?
- The title appears specifically in two passages (p. 294 and p. 314). What is the context? Why “just” mercy in each instance?

When asked what effect he hoped *Just Mercy* would have on readers, Stevenson replied:

“I hope it makes people more thoughtful about our criminal justice system and the need to prioritize fairness over finality, justice over fear and anger. Many of the problems I describe exist because too many of us have been indifferent or disinterested in the poor and most vulnerable among us who are victimized by our system...”

Looking at your own response, did Stevenson achieve his goal? What do we do with ourselves after reading a work such as this?

AFTERNOON LITERATURE

January Book & Movie: ***Just Mercy*** by Bryan Stevenson

Meeting times listed in the AAUW READS promo. All branch members are free to join in on the afternoon book discussions

Zoom link will be sent to all branch members via Mailchimp. **Be sure to save the email to access the link.**

BETWEEN THE
pages
OF A
book
IS A LOVELY PLACE TO BE

SECOND CHOICE BOOK TALK

We are discussing ***Emma*** by Jane Austen.
Wednesday, January 6th at 1:00 pm.

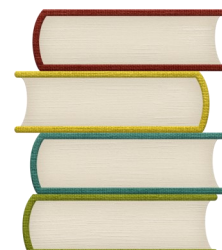
RSVP to Judy at 729-9553 or email judy@gwd.org
so that you get the Zoom link.

On deck for Thursday, February 4th is
There There by Tommy Orange.



EVENING LITERATURE

Evening Literature is on hiatus until April, 2021.



Zoom Art Class with Chris Scott

When: Tuesday, January 12th

Time: 12:30

Where: Your home

Topic: Acrylic Painting: Sailboats

*You will need: an 11X14 White canvas, acrylic paint (white, black, red, yellow, blue and brown), various size brushes, a small bottle or tube of Liquitex Slow-dry Medium, a container of water, and paper towels.

No prior skill is needed. Just come and have fun.

RSVP to Laurie Leonard at rillal@new.rr.com by Monday, January 4th if you are interested.

You will be sent the meeting number and the password prior to the class.

The next Zoom Art Class Date will be Monday, February 15th.

Our topic will be: Oil Pastels: Flowers. More information will be in the next newsletter.



Greetings from the Diversity Committee

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. We are a group who are working toward increasing branch participation on a diverse level. We need members to share ideas, opinions, facts, etc., to achieve this goal. We want to make our branch one that a diverse population will want to join and people in our group to make that happen. If this interests you, please consider joining our Diversity Committee.

Mary Bechle, 563-235-3968, msnn3bs@yahoo.com

[Watch the AAUW webinar - Working Together to Build a Diverse and Inclusive AAUW](#)

If link doesn't work, copy & paste in your browser: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQ_K0j1yR5s

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

AAUW Appleton Branch Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2020, at 9:30 AM via ZOOM

President Joan Moeschberger welcomed 60 members and reminded everyone that AAUW advances equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. President Joan introduced our Program VP, Donna Cook, who thanked her committee for all their work on our holiday celebration and auction. She gave many statistics concerning the auction followed by an announcement of our first group of auction winners.

President Joan then called the meeting to order. The November minutes were approved as published. President Joan wished everyone a happy holiday and thanked all the members for their many contributions to our Appleton branch.

Program VP Donna Cook discussed our January 2021 branch meeting program guest and speaker. Dr. Jesus Smith, an Assistant Professor of Ethnic Studies at Lawrence University, will be speaking on racism and gender. The date will be Thursday, January 7, 2021, via ZOOM. President Joan then announced the second group of auction winners.

Membership VP Georgianne Bravick wished everyone a happy holiday from the membership committee and announced that there will be a ZOOM membership social on January 1, 2021, at 6:30 PM. Contact Georgianne for a ZOOM link. Christine Taylor then announced the third group of auction winners.

Finance VP Kathleen Gagnow gave the November 2020 financial report. Our Appleton branch earned 40 cents in interest income and there were no expenses for the month of November. We have over \$16,000 in the General Account and over \$7000 in the Scholarship fund for now.

Special Tribute-Past President Joan Schneider gave a special tribute to one of our members, Ellie Olson, who recently passed away. \$100 will be sent to AAUW National's Greatest Needs Fund in her honor.

Past President Becky O'Connor talked about our first AAUW Reads book, *Just Mercy*. *There will be three ZOOM discussion sessions and members can attend the ZOOM session of their choice. Sessions will be held on Thursday, January 14, at 6:30 PM, Wednesday, January 20, at 2:00 PM, and Thursday, January 21, at 1:00 PM. Becky then announced the fourth group of auction winners.*

Public Policy chair Jacqui Klimaszewski discussed the STEM essay contest for middle schoolers which will be virtual this year. The winners and their essays will be announced at our March 16, 2021, branch meeting via ZOOM. Jacqui needs help getting the word out to the various schools involved in order for students to enter the contest. Please contact her if interested in helping.

Funds Development chair Mary Grace reminded the membership that all proceeds from the auction go toward the Scholarship Fund. Anyone not winning an auction item is welcome to donate money toward the Scholarship Fund. Send a check to Mary Grace made payable to *AAUW Appleton Branch and designate scholarship fund on the memo line*. *Mary gave the criteria needed to apply for a scholarship and asked anyone qualified to contact her for an application. Mary Grace and Judy Phillips then announced the fifth group of auction winners.*

Book Sale chair Mary Grace said to keep any book sale donations at your home as the best option. If that isn't possible, contact Betsy Mintern at 832-9218 for more options.

Afternoon Literature and Second Choice Books chair Judy Goodnight listed the dates and times for a ZOOM meeting for afternoon literature book, *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell*, by Robert Dugoni, which will be held on December 16 at 1:00 PM. *Second Choice Books will discuss Emma*, by Jane Austen. *The ZOOM meeting will be held on January 6, 2021, at 1:00 PM. Contact Judy Goodnight for a ZOOM link.*

Social Justice Group chair Judy Goodnight said that discussion of the book *The Warmth of Other Suns*, by Isabel Wilkerson will be held via ZOOM on December 22, at 10:00 AM. *Contact Judy Goodnight for a ZOOM link.*

(Minutes continued on next page)

Art Class chair Chris Scott explained that the next art class will be a holiday/winter theme and she listed the materials needed for that class. It will be held via ZOOM on Thursday December 17, at 12:30 PM. RSVP to Laurie Leonard to get a ZOOM link if interested in joining the class .

Program Assistant VP Sylvia Bull gave a wrap up of the auction by stating that we earned \$4,409 for the Scholarship Fund. Sylvia also announced the sixth and final group of auction winners.

New Business-President Joan announced that the next branch meeting will be held via ZOOM on Thursday January 7 at 6:30 PM. Joan adjourned the meeting at 10:05 AM and invited everyone to stay on ZOOM for special entertainment. A slideshow with a poem was presented by Past President Becky O'Connor that included pictures of many of our members. Becky also introduced a very inspirational choral production called UBUNTU.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Connie Wunderlich
 Recording Secretary

FINANCE REPORT

American Assoc of Univsity Women - Appleton Branch

12/02/20

Balance Sheet
 As of November 30, 2020

	Nov 30, 20
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
General checking - Northshore	
Beacon Fund	206
Convention Fund	5,511
General checking - Northshore - Oth...	10,435
Total General checking - Northshore	16,151
Scholarship checking	7,069
Total Checking/Savings	23,221
Total Current Assets	23,221
TOTAL ASSETS	23,221
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Net Assets - Restricted (Schol)	7,067
Net Assets - Unrestricted	17,147
Net Income	-993
Total Equity	23,221
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	23,221

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.

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

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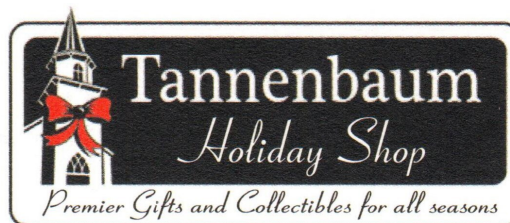
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