



The Apple Branch

American Association of University Women

Appleton, Wisconsin

Serving the Greater Fox Cities Area

Volume 39 Number 4 December 2024



**APPLETON (WI)
BRANCH**

Nov 22	Brunch Reservations Deadline
Nov 28	Thanksgiving Day
Dec 5	Second Choice Books
Dec 7	Holiday Brunch
Dec 12	Evening Literature
Dec 18	Afternoon Literature Holiday Lunch
Dec 31	New Year's Eve
Jan 1	New Year's Day
Jan 7	Second Choice Books
Jan 7	Board Meeting
Jan 14	AAUW Reads : Evening Zoom
Jan 15	Wed. Afternoon Literature
Jan 15	Branch Meeting Zoom
Jan 16	Thurs. Afternoon Literature
Jan Date TBA	AAUW Reads: Afternoon

Dear Friends,

It's almost Thanksgiving! We have 6 children, all married, all with children, so our house is quite full despite only having about half of them attend. I'm already thinking about it!

Putting on a big dinner for a big crowd is work. But just like our book sale, family members pitch in and have great conversations while we prepare. They help me so I don't pull my usual trick of leaving something in the fridge or on the back porch. We put aside our differences to share a delicious meal together, and welcome any new members or visitors to the group. We've found that the years we have new diners to welcome are the best. Friends, co-workers who someone invites always make the conversation more interesting. Our small-scale diversity efforts yield great rewards. A local college student who can't go home? A neighbor? Invite them and I'm pretty sure you'll enjoy the new viewpoints and experiences they share.

I usually have someone read a poem expressing joy and gratefulness. Here are a few lines of one we've used, just to give you the gist:

We are thankful for food and remember the hungry

We are thankful for freedom and remember the oppressed

But I'm thinking. Shouldn't we listen to Indigenous voices on this holiday especially? What about one of these Native Americans?

I'm going to eat some turkey. But not in honor of some mythic coming together of Natives and colonizers. Because it's delicious. The fight will still be there after that turkey, and I'll be ready. ~Adrienne Keene

Thanksgiving is nothing less than an annual white victory lap. It's a celebration of aggressive Christian domination and imperialism. ~Simon Moya Smith

The path to reconciliation starts with honest acknowledgement of our past, with open eyes and open hearts for a better future. ~Matika Wilbur

Sobering food for thought, right? Do we literally white-wash our early history? Is this time of year the time to correct some of the Disney-versions we've passed on? Are our schools doing better with accuracy in studies of US settlement by Europeans? Worth considering, I believe.

I do hope you can celebrate the holiday with people you care about despite how different your views of the world may be. I hope you remember that our great good fortune is not universal. I hope you use your influence to create kindness and respect for others. I hope you don't forget something in the fridge.

My friendships with so many of you are an honor and a joy. I'm so grateful to know and learn from you- and raise some serious money with you! There are going to be some women who are grateful for AAUW next spring when those scholarships are awarded, too!

Wishing you good health and stimulating company, *Faye Binsfeld, President*



Last-minute reminders for Brunch attendees:

- * **Easy travel to Bridgewood from Appleton** – Take HWY 41 south toward Neenah. Then take the Winneconne Ave. (114) exit turning left onto Winneconne Avenue. Stay in the right hand lane and continue south through 3 roundabouts. Then turn left onto Cameron Way.
- * **Bag raffle items** – We can still use more items for the bag raffle. Bag items are smaller items such as notecards, scarves, soaps, etc. or homemade items such as breads, cookies, candy, or other fresh things. **Bag raffle donations will still be accepted the day of the brunch.**
- * **Cash/checkbook** – Don't forget your money! The brunch celebration is also a fundraiser. It's our only fundraiser in which the monies generated go directly to our branch. In addition to buying tickets for the bag raffle, there will be both a silent and an oral auction, with some lively bidding taking place. Lucky winners of those can pay for their purchases with cash or checks.



AAUW Appleton Membership News

We've welcomed several new members recently and have shared our branch information with others as well. Please talk about AAUW with your friends and let us know if they are interested in learning more so that we can follow up. Now is a great time to spread the word!

The Winter Wonderland Holiday Brunch & Fundraiser is December 7th. We could use 2 more greeters to welcome members and guests to this fun event at Bridgewood Resort. We look forward to seeing you there!

Jayne Heinrich, VP Membership & Kathy O'Connor, Assistant VP Membership

Assistant Finance Vice-President Nominee—Dr. Kathryn Herzog



I retired a year ago in August from Non-Profit Leadership. In October 2023 I attended a book sale that was fantastic, as I am an avid reader. I found many treasures. I think I visited four times. This was not my first time attending, but my first time that the opportunity to serve was possible. I thought this must be a great group of people and asked for more information. I was given a folder that explained the different groups and activities of AAUW and joined shortly after.

My husband Frank and I have two children. Our son, Philipp (33) who lives in Montana with his fiancé, Simone, and my two grand dogs. Our daughter, Hannah (31) and our other grand dog live here in Appleton. Frank and I enjoy being active, traveling, and, of course, reading. I am also involved in CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), working election polls, and as a con-



AAUW National News:

An informative power point was presented to the committee and will be shared with the branches as soon as possible. Peggy Cabaniss, AAUW Board Finance Chair, presented. Heads up! It is on the way! I know I don't need to say this but understanding our finances is important.

We have been discussing the failure of the vote regarding the Open Membership by-laws. What does it mean for the future of AAUW? Any Feedback?

Changes are in the works for Five Star Advancement criteria. Our goal is to make the process manageable, productive and supportive of our branch.

Joan Schneider joandschneider@gmail.com National Advancement Committee

2024 AAUW Appleton Book Sale: WE DID IT!

The 2024 book sale is in the books. A huge thank you to all of the branch members who gave so many hours organizing and running our sale. It truly takes a whole branch to run a book sale! Despite the challenges of a smaller store, we took in more money than ever before! We will have a complete financial report in the January newsletter.

Do enjoy reading the following report, **“Book Sale by the numbers” by Becky O’Connor.**

12 – months of planning the book sale

87 – years of an AAUW-Appleton branch book sale

39 – years Mary Grace has worked the book sale

39 – years Judy Phillips was recruited by Mary to work the book sale

2000 – boxes of books collected and sorted

4 – number of phone numbers on the bookmark

4 – number of branch members thinking of changing their phone numbers

752 – number of messages left about picking up books on those phone numbers

752 – number of times the book pick-up people prayed someone else had already gotten the books

2548 – number of books dropped off the day before the book sale

298 – naughty words whispered by Donna and Shirley when the books were dropped off the day before the book sale

78 – times Betsy was heard saying “I am well aware you don’t have enough space.”

432 – times we heard Laurie mumble “God I hate books.”

285 – times Missy sneezed due to checking books for vintage value

134 - times Glen and Mike heard their names called out

134 – times Glen and Mike realized it was not Betsy and Judy calling out their names so technically they could ignore it.

24 – times Trish changed her mind about the theme of the book sale. #23 was “Just Buy the Damn Books, I’m Out Of Theme Ideas.”

875 – Children’s books with the name Malaney on them. Again.

2467 – times Betty, Marian, Jolene and I said “you need a post it on your pile of books before you leave the children’s department because the front table can’t count that high.”

234 – number of Lou’s scones consumed during set up and the sale

175,000 – total calories in those scones

3 – times Ruth and Chris played rock-paper-scissors to see who had to close the sale at night

3 – maximum number of customers in our sale seen from 6-7 in the evening (0 in the children’s department)

59 – times overheard that Faye was an incredible, hardworking branch president

70+ – members who came to work on the book sale


140 – women who make up the Appleton Branch of AAUW also known as the best branch in the country


48,000+ – dollars earned for scholarships and advocacy through the determination and hard work of all of us and the incredible leadership of the book sale committee

Priceless – times we encouraged, supported, cheered, laughed, and lifted each other up during this amazing effort. We do make a difference in the lives of women. And buckle up... We will now need to work harder than ever to advocate for issues important to AAUW.

AAUW Appleton Public Policy

After focusing on voter registration and election issues, the AAUW-Appleton Public Policy committee met to plan the path forward in our advocacy. In these uncertain times with newly elected officials, it is more important than ever to take action to advocate for issues that are core to the mission of our organization. Recently an official statement from AAUW National was sent to all members. Taking the time to read this letter from Chief Executive Officer Gloria Blackwell and checking out the national website with the press release **AAUW reacts to 2024 national election results** will unify the vision of advocacy for us in the years to come. Onward and forward.

 Our Appleton branch members were sent an email that helps us find our new legislators and current districts and legislative maps. Also included is a website that helps us find this information.

 Suggestions for ways to advocate for Public Education were distributed to branch members after hearing a presentation by members of Fox Cities Advocates for Public Education at the November branch meeting. Sample letters are included in this newsletter.

 We encourage you to **sign up today** to become a ***Two-Minute Activist***.

Go to AAUW.org

Click on "Take Action."

Click on "Two-Minute Activist."

Enter your contact information.

Congratulate yourself for taking the first step! It's an easy and fast way to take action!

Thank you to all for staying active and involved!
Becky O'Connor, Public Policy Chair

"AAUW is committed to holding all elected officials accountable about women's rights, bodily autonomy, and access to education and opportunity, particularly for women of color."

-GLORIA BLACKWELL

Chief Executive Officer

Here are the sample letters we suggest you use to contact your legislators to advocate for Wisconsin public education as discussed at our November 18th branch meeting::

Taking Action!

Tips for writing to your legislators to advocate for Public Education.

- Follow all conventions of formal letter writing when contacting legislators by email.
- Share a personal story if possible (neighbor, child, grandchild, etc.)
- Share that you are a member of American Association of University Women and part of a large organization that supports Public Education.
- **Thank them for their service and time. Congratulate newly elected officials.**

(continued on next page)

Sample #1:

Dear Representative _____,

I am writing to ask that you prioritize the needs of Public Education as you begin the new session. As a member of American Association of University Women (AAUW) I know that thriving public schools provide safe and welcoming environments for all students. Equity in funding ensures our public schools have the resources they need for **every student**. As an advocate of public schools, I ask that you support our BIPOC students, our LGBTQ+ students, our English language learners, and students in poverty. They need and deserve full access to the rights and freedoms we all cherish!

Thank you for your time and service.

Your Name

City

Sample #2:

Dear Representative _____,

I am writing to ask that you prioritize the needs of Public Education as you begin the new session. I am a member of AAUW-Appleton (American Association of University Women) and our organization nationally and in our state advocates for public schools that are fully and fairly funded. I encourage you to advocate for that as well. I especially encourage you to work for:

- Increasing the special education reimbursement from 33% **to at least 60%**
- Increase mental health funding for our students

I appreciate your time and service to our state.

Your Name

City

Sample #3:

Dear _____.

Congratulations on your recent election! I am looking forward to having you represent me in my district!

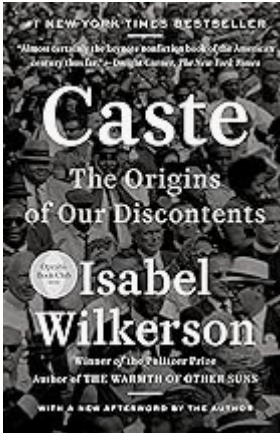
As a member of AAUW (American Association of University Women) I am very interested in public education. We have long believed that it is the cornerstone of our democracy. Each and every child is entitled to a thriving public school. We also understand that diverting public money to private education starves public schools of vital resources. I ask that as you begin your new session that you work to support **public funds for public schools which are open to all children and are accountable to the community**.

Thank you for your time and service.

Your Name _____

City

AAUW Reads! 2024-25



Our AAUW Reads book discussions will be on hiatus in December. For those planning ahead, the evening discussions for January and February will be on Zoom. The January date is January 14th. The Zoom link will be included in the January newsletter.

Reading Schedule:

January: Part 3 (64 pages)

Becky O'Connor and Judy Goodnight

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATES

Corrections & Updates to the Branch Directory as of 11/22/2024:

Nancy Graham—new email: ngrahamapp@icloud.com

Joni Conrad—updated address: 127 Somerset Lane, Kimberly WI 54136

Brunhilde Courtney —Corrected phone number: 739-5247

A NOTE ABOUT MAILCHIMP & EMAILS FROM AAUW APPLETON:

Our branch uses the Mailchimp Email Service to send emails to our membership. It allows us to send emails to a large number of people for free without being tagged as a spammer. Our branch has a gmail email address that technically these emails are coming from. I **do not** have the time to monitor the AAUW email inbox as often as I do my own overflowing personal inbox. When I send an email from Mailchimp asking you to respond to someone regarding the book sale, for example, I provide an email that you should respond to, for example, Mary Grace's. **That means that you cannot simply click reply! You must start a new email to that particular person.** If you click reply, then your reply winds up in the AAUW gmail account inbox. When I happen to find the time to check that inbox, that is when I will find all your replies that should have been directed to someone else. So if you're wondering why you were never contacted about something, that is why.

—Judy Goodnight

SECOND CHOICE BOOKS

Our December book is *The Wager* by David Grann.

We'll meet on **December 5th at 1:00 pm.**

RSVP to Judy Goodnight at judy@gwd.org

or 920.729.9553

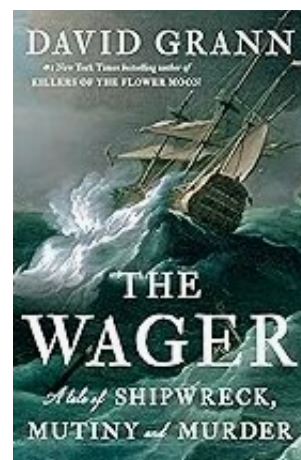
by December 1st to get the location.

RSVPs are a must when we meet at restaurants!

The January book is *The Twilight Garden* by Sara Nisha Adams.

Second Choice Books is open to all members of the branch.

Questions? Contact Judy Goodnight at judy@gwd.org.



AFTERNOON LITERATURE

Our December book is *The Wishing Game* by Meg Shaffer.

We'll be meeting together on Wednesday, December 18th
at 11:30 am.

If you missed signing up at the November book groups, watch for
an email to Afternoon Literature group members with details.

If you're not currently a member of the group and wish to join, contact Judy
Goodnight at judy@gwd.org or 920.729.9553.



Evening Literature Book Group

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 12th, 6:30 PM

Host: Joan Schneider (address and contact info in Yearbook)

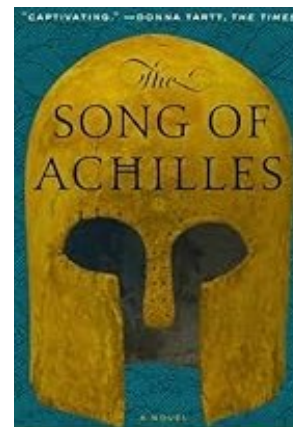
Book: The Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller

Discussion Leader: Judy Goodnight

RSVP by December 11th to Joan or Donna (contact info in Yearbook)

Note: We will **NOT** meet in January or February 2025. Winter Break!

All members are welcome to join us.



FAYE'S POETRY CORNER

This Thanksgiving

Lynn Ungar

You don't have to be grateful.
You could rail against
the injustice of it all and we
would certainly understand.
You could resent the hell out of
this year or your family or your health.
You could be livid about politics
or grieving climate change
or overwhelmed at the thought
of making toast, let alone turkey.

It's OK. One way or another
the mist will wrap gently around the
hills,
and crows, sleek and unperturbed,
will manage their secret societies.
However you feel about
marshmallows on yams,
or eating alone, or the family table,
bees bunched tight in their hives are
humming each other lullabies.
Beetles under the leaves
are striding with such assurance
that I can only believe that
they have got this covered,
at least for now

November

Lynn Ungar

Is there anything left to be said
about the blaze of autumn leaves-
the way they let go with such gra-
ciousness,
how they dance on the wind
and crunch under the feet and glow
in the afternoon light? Maybe just
this:

The colors fade. They turn sodden as
milky cereal in the gutters and side-
walk.

The trees look tattered, and then
vulnerable and exposed. It turns out
that loss is really loss. Which is every
bit
as much a part of the story as
autumn's glamor. Listen.
You are not obligated to be beautiful.
You don't have to shine.
Blooming will happen when it hap-
pens.

If you can be still for a moment
you might notice
that the roots that feed you
are still reaching silently through the
dark.



Appleton AAUW Income and Expense Statement
 July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

As of 10/31/2024

Budget
 2024 - 2025

INCOME:

		add'l 1485.00 received prior	
Membership Dues 2024-2025	495.00	to 7/1/2024	2,175.00
Membership Dues 2025-2026	0.00		0.00
December 2024 Brunch Net Income	0.00		1,619.00
Advertisement	50.00		50.00
Misc	528.50		
Interest	50.87		0.00
			<hr/>
Total Income		<u>1,074.37</u>	<u>3,844.00</u>

EXPENSE:

Membership/Recruiting	37.83		400.00
Financial Assistance (2)	0.00		144.00
Newsletter	0.00		0.00
Program	207.48		800.00
Yearbook	373.47		350.00
Insurance	362.50		300.00
Public Policy	0.00		100.00
Historian's Expense	0.00		150.00
President Expense	0.00		300.00
Finance Expense	0.00		150.00
General Expense	427.83		100.00
Women's Action Coalition	0.00		200.00
Fox Valley Reads	0.00		0.00
STEM	0.00		500.00
Special Events	0.00		300.00
Diversity	0.00		50.00
			<hr/>
Total Expense		<u>1,409.11</u>	<u>3,844.00</u>

Revenue Less Expenses (334.74)

Checkbook Balances as of 10/31/2024

General Checking Account

Leadership Development	7,908.89
General Fund	53,700.92
Total Checking Account	<u>61,609.81</u>

Scholarship Money Market Account* **\$16,591.49**

*Includes \$2.11 in monthly interest

Booksales expenses to be reimbursed at the
 end of booksale 1,842.24

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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Membership Outreach

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

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

- * Thinking of you
- * Congratulations
- * Get Well
- * Illness



If you know of a member who we should reach out to in this way, please contact JaneAnne McCabe. E-mail: jamforever02@yahoo.com, Text: 920-382-0031

Michael Goodnight and Associates, LLC



1406 Fieldstone Court
Neenah, WI 54956
Phone: 920.215.0014
E-mail: Mike@michaelgoodnight.com

Michael L. Goodnight & Judy Goodnight

Owner

WOMEN'S

ACTION

COALITION

OF THE FOX VALLEY

ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN'S EQUALITY

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