



The Apple Branch

American Association of University Women

Appleton, Wisconsin

Serving the Greater Fox Cities Area

Volume 39 Number 5 January 2025



**APPLETON (WI)
BRANCH**

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Dec 31 | New Year's Eve |
| Jan 1 | New Year's Day |
| Jan 7 | Second Choice Books |
| Jan 7 | Board Meeting |
| Jan 13 | AAUW Reads: Afternoon In Person |
| Jan 14 | Art Class via Zoom |
| Jan 14 | AAUW Reads : Evening Zoom |
| Jan 15 | Wed. Afternoon Literature |
| Jan 15 | Branch Meeting Zoom |
| Jan 16 | Thurs. Afternoon Literature |
| Feb 4 | Board Meeting |
| Feb 5 | Second Choice Books |
| Feb 10 | Branch Meeting Zoom |
| Feb 18 | ELECTION DAY |
| Feb Dates TBA | AAUW Reads |

Hello Friends,

We made it through 2024! I wish you an ending to this crazy year that's filled with friendship, family, and fun. We need to celebrate all that is dear to us; let's forget the world for a few days!

January means drawing in closer, renewing ourselves, heading to the beach or into a pile of good books, tackling projects long delayed. The first years of my retirement we traveled to Florida and reveled in the escape from responsibilities. We can't do that any longer, but I've been delighted to learn that the Fox River rivals the Gulf of Mexico for soothing beauty. I find that I can escape reality inside a good book in my armchair here as well as my beach chair there. And eagles beat sea gulls any day.

This January we will see a change in our government at the national level that should be quite dramatic, far-reaching, and perhaps upsetting. Can we hide from what's happening? Can we ignore the news of the day? Do we let others speak of concerns? You know we won't.

We will shrug off our comforters (of all kinds) trade our flip-flops for our big girl shoes and engage. Our January program about money in politics is well timed. Learning more is an important step in advocacy, so I hope you join the zoom branch meeting from wherever you are.

AAUW has a history of researching before speaking, and we will be thoughtful in our efforts. You can be proud of the several branch members who attended and spoke at the recent Governor's listening sessions. Our advocacy is not going to be dramatic or daring. We'll be writing letters, attending meetings, or sending e-mails to make our points. You can do most of that from the beach!

Are you a full-fledged member of AAUW if you prefer to not advocate for issues? Of course. Each of us has our own style, our own skills, and our own set of circumstances. We each contribute in our own ways, as we can. We can respect each other's choices.

But I have a photograph that prods me to stay active. In it, I see my great grandmother standing proudly as one of the 5 young women who graduated from Charles City Iowa High School in 1875. That achievement must have influenced her entire life. She married a man who shared her passion for women's suffrage; he successfully ran for the Iowa state legislature several times until he could help pass Iowa's approval of the 19th Amendment. I know because it is in his obituary as his proudest achievement.

I feel their expectations. Grandpa went to Des Moines which meant that Grandma ran the family and the business so he could achieve a goal that their daughters and granddaughters could enjoy. They didn't work and sacrifice so much to open the doors for women only to have me stay home, warmly cocooned in my own concerns.

My prediction for the new year is that we will have many opportunities to put our beliefs into action. AAUW will offer guidance so we make our points clearly and factually. We'll have strategic wisdom to rely on as we make our Suffragist grandparents proud. Enjoy the holidays, rest up a bit, and then Buckle Up for 2025!

Faye Binsfeld, President

AAUW Appleton Program News

\$\$\$ \$

"Outside spending on 2024 federal elections has hit a record \$4.5 billion"
Anna Massoglia, Open Secrets

"Between January 2023 and April 2024, US political campaigns collected around \$8.6 billion"
USA Facts

"The Fix Wisconsin super PAC , which is a single candidate PAC supporting Hovde, has raised \$15.8 million..."
Milwaukee Journal

**Big Money in Politics-A Continued Threat to Women's Equality & Much More
Presenter: George Penn, Co-Chair for Wisconsin United to Amend**

WIUTA is a grassroots volunteer based organization which seeks to combat the dominance of moneyed special interests and restore the authority of "We The People".
Mr. Penn will give a Zoom presentation with questions to follow.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15TH VIA ZOOM AT 6:00PM, BUSINESS MEETNG TO FOLLOW
ZOOM LINK WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 14TH.**

The meeting will be opened before 6:00 pm and members should plan to join the meeting sometime between 5:45 and 5:55 to be admitted to the waiting room. As a courtesy to our speaker and branch members, be on time. If you are late joining, turn off your computer sound until you are in the meeting and ready to listen.

AAUW Appleton Membership News

Welcome to our new members! Two of the November panel members, Amy Nasr and Patti Clark-Stojke decided to join AAUW and I'm sure they will be valuable members as we go forth to encourage fair education budgets. Amy Nasr was a speaker at the recent listening session with Governor Evers. Patti Clarke-Stojke is a retired Speech Pathologist and spoke passionately for more funding for Special Education. Our other new member, Diane Eisenach, is Linda Buck's sister who has moved back to the Fox Cities from Virginia Beach & has to get used to Wisconsin winters again.

We had 24 guests at our Holiday brunch. We hope you are encouraging them to join AAUW. Let us know if you would like membership information delivered to them.
Jayne Heinrich, VP Membership & Kathy O'Connor, Assistant VP Membership



Thank you so very much!

Our “Winter Wonderland” Brunch & Fundraiser was a huge success! Thank you to those who shared their time and talents to help plan, organize, wrap, and set up the brunch. It truly took a “village.”

Thank you, also, to those who so generously donated items to the bag raffle, the silent auction, and the live auction. Thank you to all of our generous bidders as well! Together you **all** helped us make a profit of approximately \$3565 which will be divided into:

*the branch “General Fund” to help us maintain our budget

*the branch “Leadership Development Fund”



ART ALERT

There will be 2 special AAUW ZOOM Art Classes with Chris Scott in 2025

January 14 (Tuesday) 12:30 pm - (Central Time)
Chalk Pastels Mountain Scene



Materials Needed:

4 pcs. Heavyweight Drawing Paper 11x14
Chalk Pastels Set
Paper Towels

RSVP to Laurie Leonard @ RJLLAL@new.rr.com

A ZOOM link will be sent to you a few days before the class.
We hope many of you can join us!

Save the date for the second class:

March 26 (Wednesday) 12:30pm - Central Time - TBA
Watch for further information in the monthly newsletters.

AAUW Appleton Public Policy

Recently Meghan Kissell, Senior Director of Policy and Member Advocacy for AAUW sent us an important message from the AAUW Action Network. If you missed it, here is her message: *The next days are critical in the fight for gender equality, and you have the power to take action. As we navigate a new political landscape, the demand for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is more urgent than ever. Without the ERA in the U.S. Constitution, advances in women's rights that we took for granted are at risk of being weakened or even reversed.*"

You can call the White House (202-456-1111) or email President Biden (search "contact White House") to take action. Urge the president to do everything he can to publish the ERA to the Constitution.

OUR BRANCH IN ACTION!

➡ Nine AAUW-Appleton members attended Governor Evers' Budget Listening Session held on December 2nd. The breakout room for the topic of public education was filled to capacity and many voices were heard on issues including funding, special education, and transparency for voucher schools. One of our members also attended the breakout focusing on climate issues.

➡ If you have not already found your legislator, now is the time! Check out the sample letters in support of public schools (published in the December newsletter) and write an email! It feels surprisingly good to hit that *send* button! Then reward yourself with a cup of coffee. Or chocolate.

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

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

-Margaret Mead, Pioneering Anthropologist & 1978 AAUW Achievement Awardee



More Public Policy Information Related to Public Education
on the next page.

PUBLIC EDUCATION ALERTS—Carol Lenz

Public Education funding has lagged inflation for the past 16 years. It is urgent that informed, action-oriented citizens advocate for their community schools.

Here are four things you can do now:

1. Stay connected with the state budget process by 'liking' the Fox Cities Advocates for Public Education Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/www.fca4pe.org>.
2. Review the budget presentation and sign up for the EducateAll newsletter on the FCA4PE website. [fca4pe.org](https://www.fca4pe.org)
3. You may submit comments to Governor Evers [here](#) on any topic as he prepares his budget.
4. Contact Senator Tammy Baldwin (608-264-5338) and Senator Ron Johnson (920-230-7250), requesting they oppose Linda McMahon for Secretary of Education, whose only qualification is that she is a billionaire donor.

Link to Handout: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:09d4deb3-491b-4824-9a4b-a6f0fb352b7f>

WHY INVEST IN PUBLIC EDUCATION?



Strong schools attract businesses and families to communities.

We depend on quality services, products, & community.

A good education leads to civic responsibility & a healthy democracy.

A good education leads to innovative thinking and agile response in rapidly changing markets.

The quality of a public education system shapes our region, state, & nation's ability to compete & win in a global economy.

A good education leads the way to employment and self-reliance.

RESOURCES

Find us on Facebook or see our website: [FCA4PE.org](https://www.fca4pe.org)



Budget Guide



Resource Guide



DPI Budget Press Release



DPI News



Find your legislator



Blue Ribbon Report



WPEN - Wisconsin Public Education Network Budget HQ

2025-27 WISCONSIN PUBLIC EDUCATION Budget Guide & Timeline



WITH INCREASING GAPS IN PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING, IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER THAT WE USE OUR COLLECTIVE VOICES ACROSS WISCONSIN TO ENSURE KIDS GET THE RESOURCES THEY NEED FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS.

This guide is a resource & timeline tool to keep informed, prepared, and active over the coming months.



Three 2023-25 Budget Gaps



FCA4PE HIGHLIGHTED THREE MAJOR GAPS IN THE LAST BUDGET

We maintain that these are still significant concerns.

REVENUE LIMITS

All schools need a spendable catch-up budget to cover inflation for the past losses and the upcoming two years.

Low revenue limits need more adjustments to reduce disparity among districts.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Reimburse special education by 60% with the long term goal of reimbursing by 92%.

MENTAL HEALTH

\$270 million in sustainable, long-term mental health funding; not grants.

DPI's 2025-27 Preliminary Budget Highlights - \$4B

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Help offset costs to districts in providing mandated special education services to students by increasing the special education reimbursement rate from about 32% to 72% in FY26 and to 90% in FY27 (\$28 over the biennium).

REVENUE LIMITS

Sustainable funding (for) Wisconsin public schools. Adjust per-pupil revenue limits by \$42 in FY26 and by \$437.75 in FY27 (\$18 over the biennium). Ensure property tax increases due to this increase are limited to an average of 1.5 percent over the biennium.

MENTAL HEALTH

An increase of \$30M in mental health investments to support youth mental health.

LITERACY

\$42M to increase help to implement early literacy coaching programs, fund intensive summer reading programs, and invest in community-based early literacy supports including tutoring programs.

NUTRITION

\$31M to offset costs to students and families for meals received while at school - breakfast and lunch.

For more on DPI's budget announcement, see: 

<https://dpi.wi.gov/news/releases/2024/underly-spec-education-investment-budget-revenue-limits>

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

STAY INFORMED

Follow us on Facebook, sign up for our newsletter, check back with DPI, utilize the Wisconsin Public Education Network's Budget Toolkit, follow your local public school district's board meetings, Facebook page and newsletters.

JOIN US

Join our meetings, lobbying, presentations, and/or events; like & share our Facebook page & posts.

KNOW YOUR LEGISLATORS

Welcome your new legislators with a phone call and email. They want to hear from you.

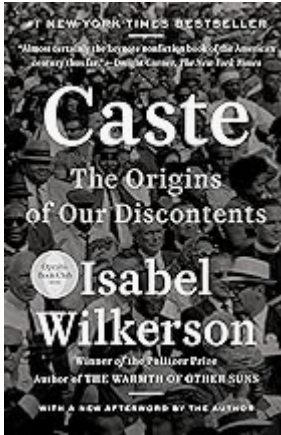
AMPLIFY THE MESSAGE

Testify at Joint Finance Committee Budget Hearings and write your local legislators, members of the Joint Finance Committee, and the Governor. Talk with friends, family, & peers.

Are you a member of a local organization? Consider having us present in February - March.

ADVOCACY

AAUW Reads! January 2025



Mark your calendars! We will be reading **Part 3 (64 pages) of *Caste*** for the month of January. If you were unable to attend the November discussion, just pick up the book and catch up to where we are and join one of the conversations! Here are the options:

Monday, January 13 at 1:00 at Becky O'Connor's home.

(RSVP to bandboc@gmail.com)

Tuesday, January 14 at 6:30 on ZOOM

(RSVP to Judy Goodnight at judy@gwd.org)

Becky and Judy

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATES

Corrections & Updates to the Branch Directory as of 12/28/2024:

Laurie Leonard—new email: rjllal2024@gmail.com

New Member:

Patti Clarke-Stojke
4824 West Jack Pine Court
Appleton WI 54913
920-419-2713
patticlarkestojke@att.net

**Articles for the February newsletter are due
January 15th.**

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

A note of thanks to SueAnn Flittner, owner of the Tannenbaum Holiday Shop in Sister Bay and former member & former President of AAUW Appleton, who donates each year to our holiday brunch auction.



Tannenbaum
HOLIDAY SHOP

11054 Highway 42
Sister Bay, WI 54234

www.tannenbaumholidayshop.com

SECOND CHOICE BOOKS

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

We'll meet on **January 7th at 1:00 pm.**

RSVP to Judy Goodnight at judy@gwd.org

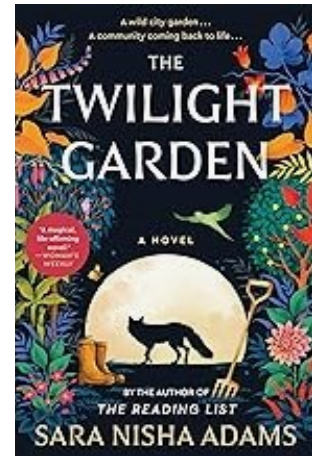
or 920.729.9553

by January 4th to get the location.

RSVPs are a must when we meet at restaurants!

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

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



AFTERNOON LITERATURE

Our January book is *She Said: Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story That Helped Ignite a Movement* by Jodi Kantor & Megan Twohey. Also watch the movie *She Said*.

Be sure to RSVP to your January hosts:

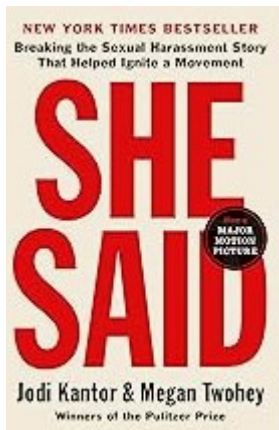
Wednesday, 1/15: Paulette Stoltzmann

Thursday, 1/16: Judy Goodnight

Check your directory for contact information.

Discussion Leaders are Pat Hauser & Karen Pfefferle.

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

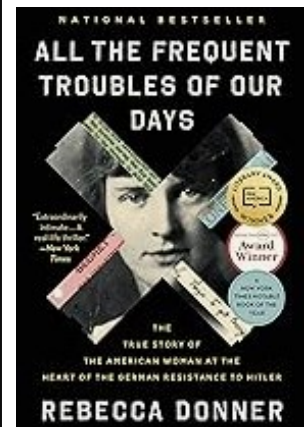
We will be on winter break for January and February of 2025, resuming again on March 13, 2025.

Planning ahead, our March book is *All the Frequent Troubles of our Days*, by Rebecca Donner.

Discussion leader is Jessica Hess Larsen, our host will be Sylvia Bull.

Have a wonderful holiday season, see you in the new year!

All members are welcome to join us.



SCHOLARSHIPS 2025

As a result of a very successful book sale we will be able to award several scholarships.

Women who will be a Junior or Senior in college or attending graduate school and who graduated from a Fox Valley area high school or lived in the area 10 plus years are eligible to apply. Applications and requirements can be found on our AAUW Appleton branch webpage. You can also request a paper application from Mary Grace. The deadline is April 15.

Help us spread the word to all eligible candidates. Also, when the branch posts an announcement about our scholarships on Facebook, please share. If you have any questions or would like more information, contact Mary Grace. Her contact info is in your yearbook.

AAUW Appleton Branch Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2024 10:30am

Bridgewood Resort and Conference Center

President Faye Binsfeld called the meeting to order. 92 members and guests were in attendance. The minutes of the November 2024 Branch Meeting stand approved as published in the Appleton Branch newsletter.

The financial report will be printed in the January newsletter.

Information about our January Zoom meeting will be in the newsletter.

Book Sale update: Mary Grace

Book sales brought in \$48,876.81.

Expenses were \$4,853.24.

Our profit was \$44,023.57.

Scholarships: Mary Grace

Scholarship applications are on the website available to women starting their junior or senior year of college, graduate students, and older students.

Nominating Committee: Chris Taylor

There was a motion from the Committee made by Chris Taylor and seconded by Connie Polley to elect Kathryn Herzog as the new Assistant VP of Finance. Motion carried.

Kathryn Herzog was voted to be the new Assistant VP of Finance effective immediately.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Collins

Recording Secretary

AAUW Appleton's 2024 Book Sale Financial Report

Income \$48,876.81

Expenses \$4,853.24

Tables \$2,024.50

Mall Rental \$1,800.00

Printing* \$396.07

Lumber \$224.46

Insurance \$206.50

Bank Fees \$110.50

Returned check \$50.00

Supplies \$41.21

*posters/bookmarks

Profit for the 2024 Book Sale: \$44,023.57

35% for National's Greatest Needs Fund: \$15,408.25

65% for Local Scholarships: \$28,615.32

The \$367.55 charge for the pod rental was donated by one of our members.

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

Budget
 2024 - 2025

As of 11/30/2024

INCOME:

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| | | add'l 1485.00 received prior | |
| | | to 7/1/2024 | |
| Membership Dues 2024-2025 | 555.00 | | 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 | 678.50 | | |
| Interest | 50.87 | | 0.00 |
| | | | <hr/> |
| Total Income | | <u>1,284.37</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 | 267.48 | | 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>1,469.11</u> | <u>3,844.00</u> |

Revenue Less Expenses (184.74)

Checkbook Balances as of 11/30/2024

General Checking Account

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Leadership Development | 7,908.89 |
| General Fund | 60,288.87 |
| Total Checking Account | <u>68,197.76</u> |

Scholarship Money Market Account* \$16,819.50

*Includes \$2.01 in monthly interest

FAYE'S POETRY CORNER

The Kind of Women
by Karen Kaiser

may we be
the kind of women
who make space at the table
rearrange chairs
so everyone has a seat

may we be
the kind of women
who listen carefully to all voices
especially those
who have been silenced

may we be
the kind of women
who search the shadows
look for lights that have been dimmed
invite them to shine again

may we be
the kind of women
who go before
walk beside
get behind

may we be
the kind of women
who lift up other women

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.

Branch President:

Faye Binsfeld
binsfeldfaye@gmail.com
920-268-8246

Membership VP:

Jayne Heinrich
plainjayne37@gmail.com
920-246-8569

Newsletter Editor:

Judy Goodnight
judy@gwd.org
920-729-9553

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

Audio, Video, Photo, & Slide Converting to Digital Files – PC Computer Support

WOMEN'S

ACTION

COALITION

OF THE FOX VALLEY

ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN'S EQUALITY