



The Apple Branch

American Association of University Women
Appleton, Wisconsin

Serving the Greater Fox Cities Area

Volume 39 Number 7 March 2025



**APPLETON (WI)
BRANCH**

What's Happening This Month...

MARCH 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2/23	2/24 Public Schools Week	2/25 Caste Evening Zoom	2/26	2/27	2/28	3/1
3/2	3/3 AAUW APL Tour	3/4 Second Choice Books	3/5	3/6	3/7	3/8 International Women's Day
3/9	3/10	3/11	3/12	3/13 Evening Literature	3/14	3/15
3/16	3/17	3/18 Program & Branch Meeting	3/19 Afternoon Literature	3/20 Afternoon Literature	3/21	3/22
3/23	3/24 Caste Afternoon In Person	3/25 Art Class Caste PM Zoom All Women's Equal Pay Day	3/26	3/27	3/28	3/29
3/30	3/31	4/1 ELECTION DAY	4/2 Second Choice Books	4/3	4/4	4/5

President's Page

Hello Friends,

Do you think money grows on trees? My dad often reacted with that question as my mom would mention her hopes for home improvements, an opportunity for one of us kids, or anything outside our normal expenditures. This was often at the dinner table, with our parents at opposite ends of the table (and viewpoints) and the 5 of us chewing and pivoting to follow the discussion lob back and forth. It didn't take me too long to realize that while Mom never ruined the meal with arguing, she quietly went about getting most of what she wanted/needed eventually. And mysteriously, Dad didn't seem to object.

It took me longer to realize that it was timing that made the difference. Dad owned a farm implement business, so his income was uneven. The periods when income didn't quite meet expenses were when he was quick with the veto, and my mother quick to retreat despite believing the projects she had in mind were sensible and needed. When you're in survival mode you aren't interested in long-term thinking or achieving goals, no matter how worthwhile, and my mother understood and accepted that.

We've received news that national AAUW will probably implement a dues increase over the next several years. Our first instinct is quite similar to my dad's old question. Aren't we already paying a lot? What do they do, anyway? Where's the value? Do they think money grows on trees?

I hope none of us is in survival mode personally, and that after some cooling off time we can pause and consider. We will remember the value we receive from national: the leadership, the research, the advocacy, and the assistance. Our own branch comes to mind with the varied opportunities for growth, learning, and achieving important goals through our scholarships and our public policy involvement. Our friendships are priceless. We are each better for our involvement.

And then there's inflation. Each trip to the grocery store renews that pain, and not just in the egg department. We know expenses for everything have risen, so that doing more with less, more with smaller staff has become the necessity that every organization lives with. The past few years for national AAUW has meant cutting budgets and payrolls. Reluctantly we face reality and understand the need for an incremental raise now. And like my dad, we may not notice the \$5 a year increase.

I want my voice heard on Capitol Hill. I want to have facts to back up opinions. I want to speak up for women and girls' opportunities and fairness. I want to help prosecute sexual harassment in the workplace. I want Title IX to be the law everywhere and for everyone. I want women to do better at achieving pay equity. I don't want books being pulled from library shelves because they make someone uncomfortable. I don't have time or power to do all that, but AAUW stands up for those worthy goals with my support. My membership makes me part of the change I desire.

Mom quietly shaped our future by funding our needs. She saw the expenditures as investments in our future achievement. Today we're being asked to ensure the future of the organization that gives us purpose and achievement. Let's keep our eyes on the goals we share.

Faye Binsfeld, President



AAUW Appleton Program News

MARCH 18 PROGRAM

In recognition of International Women’s Day, our program will unwrap the 2025 theme....[Inspire Inclusion](#)

"Diversity is being invited to the party; inclusion is being asked to dance". Verna Myers

"If justice is what love looks like in public, then inclusion is what love looks like among groups". Rev. Matthew Johnson

" There is something to being chosen that is uniquely healing". Cole Arthur Riley

Members of Celebrate Diversity Fox Cities will lead us in examining our attitudes and beliefs about inclusion.

++++
We will meet at the Junior Achievement Building , 11 Tri-Park Way (Across Bluemound from the main entrance to Fox Valley Technical College at the roundabout).

Come for the Junior Achievement Building tour and/or come for our program. This will be an opportunity to see yourself as an AAUW volunteer at Junior Achievement.

OPTION ONE: TOUR & PROGRAM MEETING

- Arrive at 5:45
- Tour 6:00-6:25
- Program 6:30-7:45
- Nibbles and a sip 7:45-8:00
- Business meeting. 8:00

OPTION TWO: PROGRAM MEETING ONLY

- Arrive at 6:15
- Program 6:30-7:45
- Nibbles and a sip 7:45-8:00
- Business meeting. 8:00

AAUW Appleton Membership News

Warm greetings!

*We have a new member Faith Wolberg. She grew up in this area but attended U of Iowa, Iowa City. She is retired but worked for Ascension as a medical transcriptionist. She loves reading, gardening and her cat. I hope you will welcome her at some of our events.

*We are having a Membership Committee meeting, March 12th at 2pm at 2525 Eric Drive, Appleton. We will be planning new member events and thinking about the summer picnic.

*Let us know if you have a referral for membership so we can get a folder delivered to them.

***RENEWAL REMINDER--It is time to renew for those joining in February 2024. You can renew online at AAUW's Community Hub. Just click log in and go to your personal profile with your credit card. Renewal amount is \$100: National \$72, State \$13 and Branch \$15. If you prefer, you can send a check made out to AAUW-Appleton to Kathryn Herzog, 4313 N. Windcross Dr., Appleton, 54913.

Jayne Heinrich & Kathy O'Connor—Membership VPs

Nominee: President-Elect: Stephanie Malaney



I have been and continue to be active at both the branch and state level. I was lucky enough to attend the last National AAUW Convention in Washington DC while serving as the AAUW-WI President. I currently serve as the State Public Policy Chair. I have also served as Chairs of Membership, Bylaws, Resolutions, and Parliamentary. While state president I started the 501 c 3 AAUW WI Foundation that has allowed branches to raise funds for STEM Tech Savvy programs. In the branch I served as your president elect and president when I first joined the branch. I continue to serve as a Chair on the Book Sale Committee and Bylaws. I Co-Chaired Tech Savvy for many years.

- Stephanie Malaney

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATES

Updates to the Branch Directory as of 2/23/2025:

New Member:

Wolberg, Faith

315 Division St. Iola 54945

715-445-2733

wolbergf@yahoo.com

BA U of Iowa—Zoology &
General Science

**Articles for the April newsletter are due
March 15th.**

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

****Notice anything different with this edition of the newsletter? Let me know if you like the large calendar instead of the small calendar side bar. If you like the large calendar, do you like it on the front page with the President's message on the first inside page? Or would you prefer to read the President's message on the front and have the calendar on the inner page? Give me feedback by email to aauwappleton@gmail.com

Changes of address/phone number/email address? Report any changes to Judy Goodnight ASAP to ensure that your branch records stay up-to-date. Make sure you update your information in the national database as well.

AAUW Appleton Public Policy

➔ Many emails flood our inboxes! We are all tempted to delete, delete, delete! I know I am. But please watch for those that come from **Meghan Kissell**. These will have timely actions that directly relate to AAUW core issues. You can join this nationwide ACTION NETWORK in “urging Congress to improve and expand legislation protecting equity in education, economic security and civil rights.”

➔ Looking for an easy way to contact your legislators? You can download the free app **5 Calls** to find phone numbers and sample scripts to help you with your messages. You can target issues that are central to AAUW and make your voice heard.

➔ **The following is an excerpt from a recent press release on the day that McMahon became the Secretary of Education. You can read the full position taken by AAUW on the national website.**

“The Secretary of Education should be focused on strengthening civil rights protections, not undermining them,” said Gloria L. Blackwell, CEO of AAUW. “McMahon’s support for private school vouchers would strip critical federal funding from public schools, her failure to commit to the SAVE student loan repayment plan threatens to saddle millions of borrowers with a lifetime of debt, and her disregard for the vital work of the Office for Civil Rights puts the safety and well-being of student survivors of gender-based harassment, discrimination, and violence at risk.”

High-quality education is the foundation of a democratic society and the key to economic prosperity, college and career readiness, and gender equality. The U.S. Department of Education plays a critical role in ensuring opportunity for all through enforcement of federal civil rights laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Education Amendments Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

➔ **Our March Equal Pay Day event has been put on hold for a year. But you can still spread the word about this important issue for AAUW! Equal Pay Day 2025 is March 25 and marks the current state of the gender pay gap for women. A future newsletter will mark the complete Equal Pay Day calendar to raise awareness about how the pay gap varies significantly among different communities, particularly for women of color.**

Stay tuned. Stay active. Stay warm!
Becky O’Connor, Public Policy Chair

PUBLIC EDUCATION UPDATE—Carol Lenz

Celebrate ‘Public Schools Week’ February 24-28

Take time to thank those who are dedicated to servicing all kids. Spread the good news that happens every day in our public schools. Contact your state representatives and express your support for increasing funding for special education and mental health.

‘The Year of the Kid’

The Governor’s proposed budget includes record investments in universities and tech colleges, K-12 schools, mental health, literacy, and special education (60%). The budget process is now moving to the Joint Finance Committee. They will take the Governor’s proposal altogether and start from a zero budget. From this point on, regularly contact your State Senator, Assembly Rep, and Governor Evers. The greatest needs are to raise the special education reimbursement rate (to 60%), drastically increase mental health funding (\$300m), and raise the revenue limit for low spending districts. If a new budget is not passed by **July 1**, the state continues operating under the previous budget.



April 1 Election

Electing a pro-public education State Superintendent of PUBLIC Education is vital. Mail in your ballot early, take advantage of early in-person voting starting March 18, or be sure to get to the polls on April 1. Check out these articles before you vote. Choose wisely. Candidates: [Jill Underly](#), [Brittany Kinser](#)

ACTION ALERT: U.S. Department of Education Update

Federal funding makes up approximately 8-10% of a K-12 school district’s budget. It would be devastating if federal funding is eliminated or reduced, especially since state funding has not kept up with inflation for the past 16 years. K-12 federal funding mostly supports low poverty schools and special needs students. The [Department of Education](#) also enforces civil rights laws in education and recently released a [letter](#) threatening schools with a loss of federal funding for failure to comply.

PUBLIC EDUCATION UPDATE CONTINUED...

The U.S. Department of Education was established by Congress. The [laws](#) it enforces were passed by Congress and signed into law. The funding was appropriated by Congress. The Executive's responsibility is to faithfully execute the laws. Call your U.S. Senators and Representatives and tell them to ensure the laws and court orders are followed. Remind them that 85% of Wisconsin students are educated in public schools and are counting on their support. Also, call Governor Evers and Attorney General Josh Kaul asking them to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that federal funding continues.

Tammy Baldwin (D) - US Senator for Wisconsin

Madison Office phone: 608-264-5338

Green Bay Office phone: 920-498-2668

D.C. Office phone: 202-224-5653

Email: <https://www.baldwin.senate.gov/contact>

Ron Johnson (R) – U.S. Senator for Wisconsin

Oshkosh Office phone: 920-230-7250

Milwaukee Office phone: 414-276-7282

Madison Office phone: 608-240-9629

D.C. Office phone: 202-224-5323

Email: <https://www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/email-the-senator>

Tony Wied (R) - U.S. Congress for District 8

De Pere Office phone: 920-301-4500

D.C Office phone: 202-225-5665

Email: https://wied.house.gov/address_authentication?form=/contact/email-me

Glenn Grothman (R) – U.S. Congress for District 6

Fond du Lac Office phone: 920-907-0624

D.C. Office phone: 202-225-2476

Email: <https://grothman.house.gov/contact/>

Governor Tony Evers

Office Phone: (608) 266-1212

Website: <https://evers.wi.gov/Pages/Home.aspx>

Attorney General Josh Kaul

Office Phone: (608) 266-1221

Contact form: <https://www.doj.state.wi.us/ag/contact>



STATE CONVENTION 2025 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!!!

Welcome to the city of La Crosse on the mighty Mississippi! You can now register for Convention 2025 on April 25-26, and we encourage your friends who are not AAUW members to join us.

Just click this link to the AAUW WI website <https://aauw-wi.aauw.net> and then click “State Convention” on the horizontal menu at top of page and you will find:

Convention Registration:

Everyone will need to register online.

Registration fees are \$107 for only Friday, \$85 for only Saturday, or \$135 for both.

Your meals/beverages/snacks are included in your registration fees.

After you register, you can pay online or by check. **No service fees are charged for online payments.**

Late registration charge of \$10 after Monday, March 24.

Hotel Registration:

We will meet at Stoney Creek Hotel in Onalaska/La Crosse. We have a special rate, and you can book your room online at our website or use the phone number that is provided. <https://www.stoneycreekhoteles.com/hotel/la-crosse/>

2025 Hotel rooms \$104 + 13% tax = \$118.04

Hotel registration includes self-serve breakfast.

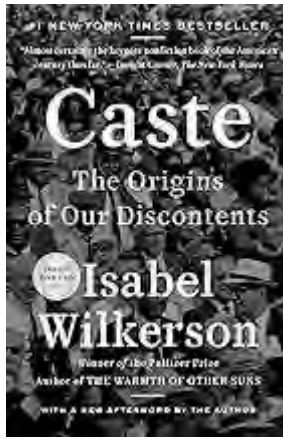
Last Day to Book at special rate: Monday, March 24, 2024.

Check around with your friends and find someone with whom to share a room.

As you scroll through our convention page on the AAUW WI website, you can also find out about our optional Friday morning activities, silent auction, and the entire schedule of convention activities/speakers.

Register today to visit the city of the Mississippi River, to hear ideas from speakers, and to visit with old friends and meet new ones.

Appleton Members: Thanks to your generous support of our December fundraiser, we are able to reimburse members' registration fees for our State AAUW Convention! Join several of your AAUW friends in Onalaska (near LaCrosse). We will carpool, so reach out to any branch officer to find a seat. You may attend 1 or both days, but remember your registration includes your meals. Speakers and workshops will cover a wide variety of topics; it may be difficult to decide! Take advantage of this event- you'll be glad you did!



AAUW Reads! March 2025 Discussion Dates

Mark your calendars! We will be reading **Part 5 of *Caste* (45 pages)** for the month of March. If you were unable to attend an earlier discussion, just pick up the book and catch up to where we are and join one of the conversations! So many are taking part in this book study. It's not too late to join us!

We have been enlightened, challenged, and grateful for the opportunity to learn together. Here are the options:

Monday, March 24 at 1:00 at Becky O'Connor's home. (RSVP to bandboc@gmail.com)

Tuesday, March 25 at 6:30 on ZOOM (RSVP to Judy Goodnight at judy@gwd.org)

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.

BOOK SALE ALERT!

We have just learned that our current book sale site will NOT be available this fall. There is nothing else available at the Northland Mall. We are currently on the search for a new home. We are asking all members to keep your eyes and ears open for all possibilities. If you hear about a possible site, please let a book sale chair know and we will check it out. All of our contact information is in the yearbook.

We also need a place to store our supplies. They are currently stored in the back of last year's store and need to be moved by the end of March. Any suggestions, contact us.

Until we have a new home and a plan for our sale, we will not begin collecting books. If you collect books from anyone, you would need to store them until we are ready to start.

Hopefully we will be moving forward in another great location and have another successful sale!

YOUR BOOK SALE CHAIRS

SECOND CHOICE BOOKS

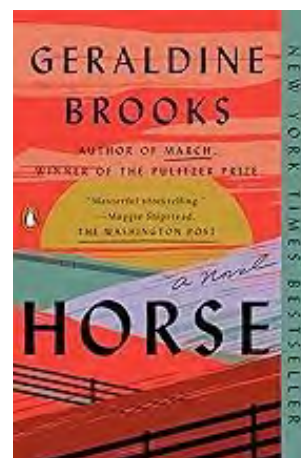
Our March book is *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks.
We'll meet on **March 4th** at **1:00 pm**.

RSVP to Judy Goodnight at judy@gwd.org or 920.729.9553
by March 1st to get the location.

RSVPs are a must when we meet at restaurants!

Our April book will be *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano.

Second Choice Books is open to all members of the branch.
Questions? Contact Judy Goodnight at judy@gwd.org.



AFTERNOON LITERATURE

Our March book is *The Women* by Kristin Hannah.

Be sure to RSVP to your March hosts:

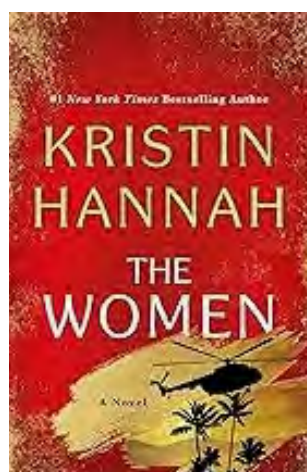
Wednesday, 3/19: Sylvia Bull

Thursday, 3/20: Pauline Werner

Check your directory for contact information.

Discussion Leaders are Mary Grace & Shirley Collins.

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

After our winter break, we will be starting to meet again in March:

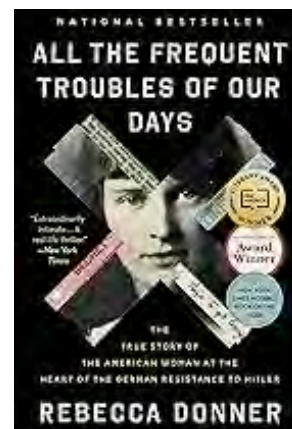
Thursday, March 13th, 2025, 6:30 PM

Host: Sylvia Bull

Discussion Leader: Jessica Hess Larsen

Book: *All the Frequent Troubles of our Days: The True Story of The American Woman at the Heart of the German Resistance to Hitler*, by Rebecca Donner

RSVP: by March 12th, to Sylvia or Donna (contact info in Yearbook)



A Special Invitation for Us!

We're going to the library, the brand new Appleton Public Library!

Tasha Saecker, Assistant Director, will lead us on our own tour of the exciting new facility.

She will greet us in the lobby at 4:30, Monday, March 3.

The tour is free and should last nearly an hour. Please let Faye Binsfeld know if you can make it so we have an idea of our group size. Guests are welcome to join us. Come and "check out" the new space!



AAUW Art Class for March

Theme: The Mountains of Asia



Materials:

Soft Pastels in black and shades of gray and red

Watercolor Brushes # 1,5 & 8 round

Black and red extra-fine tipped Sharpie Markers

Alcohol 91% Isopropyl

Small 2-3" container for alcohol

Paper towels

Water

Watercolor paper or drawing paper 11x14

When:

March 25 (Tuesday)

Where:

On ZOOM at 12:30pm - Central Time

All are welcome to join: RSVP to Laurie Leonard

rjllal2024@gmail.com by Tuesday, March 18.

AAUW Appleton Branch Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2025 7:30pm

ZOOM - 47 attendees

Preceding the meeting was a presentation by Kim Simes from Family Equality.

President Faye Binsfeld called the meeting to order.

Program: Helene Iverson

Our next meeting will be held in person at the Junior Achievement Center. The topic will be "Inspire Inclusion." Information about the meeting will be in the Newsletter.

Membership: Jayne Heinrich

We have a new member, Faith Wolberg of Iola.

Nominations: Chris Taylor

We have a candidate for President Elect: Stephanie Malaney.

We still need a Secretary and an Assistant Program VP. Please consider taking over one of these positions.

Scholarship: Mary Grace

Keep promoting scholarship applications.

The 2025 Booksale at this time will be at the same location and same three weeks as last year.

No books will be picked up until May.

Public Policy: Becky O'Connor

Read the articles in the Newsletter relating to Public Policy.

Like and Follow the Fox Cities Advocates for Public Education on Facebook.

Be sure to vote in the April election for State Superintendent of Schools and State Supreme Court Judge.

AAUW Reads: Becky O'Connor

Discussions for the book, Caste, will continue. You are encouraged to join in at any time, even if you missed the previous discussions.

Announcements: Faye Binsfeld

On March 3, 2025 at 4:30pm we will have a tour of the newly renovated Appleton Public Library. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Faye.

We would like someone to volunteer to become the ZOOM Meeting Manager. Please contact Faye if you know someone, including yourself, interested.

Communications: Judy Goodnight

AAUW Appleton Facebook page has daily posts this month celebrating Black History Month.

State Convention: Chris Taylor

It will be held April 25-26, 2025 in LaCrosse. Information and registration can be found on the AAUW WI Website.

The branch will reimburse registration fees for members attending. Registration includes meals. Lynda Drews, author of The Maid and the Socialite, will be one of the speakers.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Collins, Recording Secretary

AAUW Appleton Branch 2025-2026 Operating Budget

Account Number	Account Name	2025-2026 Budget (\$)
	Revenues	
43100	Membership Dues (1)	2025
43150	December Brunch Income	1229
43200	Advertisements	50
Total		3304
	General Disbursements	
60100	Membership/Recruiting	400
60110	Financial Assistance Fund (2)	154
60150	Newsletter	0
60200	Programs	800
60250	Yearbook	400
60300	Insurance	400
60350	Public Policy	100
60400	Historian's Expenses	50
60450	President's Expenses	100
60500	Finance Expenses	150
60550	General Expenses	100
60600	Women's Action Coalition	200
60650	Brunch	100
60700		
60750		
60800	Special Events	300
60850	Diversity (New)	50
Total		3304
<p>\$2,482.30 from the brunch will be added to the Leadership Development fund</p> <p>(1) Membership dues based on 135 members projected at \$15/member</p> <p>(2) Financial assistance based on national dues of \$77 per each of 2 recipients</p>		

Board approved 2/4/2025

Branch will vote on this budget at the March meeting.

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

As of 1/31/2025

Budget
 2024 - 2025

INCOME:

Membership Dues 2024-2025	630.00	add'l 1435.00 received prior to 7/1/2024	2,175.00
Membership Dues 2025-2026	15.00		0.00
December 2024 Brunch Net Income	3,711.31		1,619.00
Advertisement	50.00		50.00
Misc	708.50		
Interest	<u>52.02</u>		<u>0.00</u>
Total Income		<u>5,116.83</u>	<u>3,844.00</u>

EXPENSE:

Membership/Recruiting	88.37		400.00
Financial Assistance (2)	0.00		144.00
Newsletter	0.00		0.00
Program	342.48		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	50.74		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	<u>0.00</u>		<u>50.00</u>
Total Expense		<u>1,645.39</u>	<u>3,844.00</u>

Revenue Less Expenses 3,471.44

Checkbook Balances as of 1/31/2025

General Checking Account	
Leadership Development	7,908.89
General Fund	<u>17,910.44</u>
Total Checking Account	<u>25,819.33</u>

Scholarship Money Market Account* \$36,144.35

*Includes \$4.68 in monthly interest



FAYE'S POETRY CORNER

Long Nights Together by Pat Reckrey

In the deep of winter
dark drapes over the day
like a dinner guest
come too early-

And, oh dear,
the table's not yet set,
the roasting chicken's
still pink at the bone-

Lets light a candle,
share a glass of Chablis,
tell stories of spring,
stoke up the old fire.

Study of Blue by Pat Reckrey

"How like them"
I lament watching
the bluejays sweep over the feeder.

"How like them,
the powerful, the pushy,
the fancy feathered to steal
from the chickadee's mouth."

How like me to forget
It is I who fill the feeder,
I who watch through the window.



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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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

WOMEN'S

ACTION

COALITION

OF THE FOX VALLEY

ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN'S EQUALITY

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