



The Apple Branch

American Association of University Women
Appleton, Wisconsin

Serving the Greater Fox Cities Area

Volume 39 Number 10 June 2025



**APPLETON (WI)
BRANCH**

What's Happening This Month...

JUNE 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
6/1	6/2 Art Class	6/3 Book Dropoff/ Board Meeting	6/4 Second Choice Books	6/5 Mindfulness Class	6/6	6/7
6/8	6/9	6/10 Book Dropoff	6/11 The Ridges Trip/ Flagship Ro- mance	6/12 Evening Literature	6/13	6/14
6/15	6/16	6/17 Book Dropoff/ LGBTQIA+ Equal Pay Day	6/18 Summer Mysteries	6/19 Juneteenth	6/20 Pollinator Walk Riverview Gardens	6/21
6/22	6/23	6/24 Book Dropoff/ Social Justice 6:00 pm	6/25	6/26	6/27	6/28
6/29	6/30	7/1 Second Choice Books	7/2	7/3	7/4 Independ- ence Day	7/5

President's Page

Hello Friends,

Recently I was browsing the AAUW National website. I had a desire to leave the 21st century for a bit, so I looked at the history section. It seems pretty amusing now, but our first research's purpose was to refute the widely accepted belief that education beyond grade school was detrimental to the reproductive health of women. I can hear it, the "facts" laid out clearly: "A woman has one duty: to make a happy home for her family. There's no need for fanciful tales or ruining her eyesight with all that reading."

After a bit of that, I thought about beliefs we hear today that may seem laughable years from now. I took a look at Project 2025, written by the Heritage Foundation, which has been cited as the base and framework for government this presidential term. Here's their site if you're curious to read more: https://static.project2025.org/2025_MandateForLeadership_FULLL.pdf

- "Married men and women are the ideal, natural family structure because all children have a right to be raised by the men and women who conceived them." p.489
- "those (federal education) funds should be block-granted to states without strings" p.320
- "The President must make the institutions of American civil society hard targets for woke culture warriors. This starts with deleting the terms sexual orientation and gender identity, diversity, equity, and inclusion, gender, gender equality, gender equity, gender awareness, gender-sensitive, abortion, reproductive health, reproductive rights, and any other term used to deprive Americans of their First Amendment rights out of every federal rule, agency regulation, contract, grant, regulation, and piece of legislation that exists." p. 4-5

These statements are accepted by many as truth. I'm not laughing. How about you?

In my first letter as president of our branch, I remember writing about the delights of summer. I said we need to immerse ourselves in them, give ourselves a break. I'd still argue for that, but I also know that this summer is going to be pivotal in our country's history. We need to be aware, awake, and ready to advocate for our democracy and our rights as women. We'll need to decide where we put our time and energy. AAUW will offer suggestions. We won't be alone.

Will our democracy still flourish? Will our daughters and granddaughters see us as citizens of conviction who stood up for them? Will they have the same rights that we have had? Project 2025 was written over several years with several contributors, and offers clear goals. In contrast, we, or at least I, feel confused and overwhelmed with the chaos of daily news. Amid that turmoil, let's stick together. Let's see what we can do in our community. Together we have power, together we have support to offer each other, together we can influence our elected officials. Speak up, stand up. It's time.

July 2026 is the 200th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. I want to celebrate that amazing document with you and our entire country. I want to look back and know that together we stood up for the basic truths of our founding, and the evolving expansion of the rights they guarantee. My goal for next July Fourth is to be a mother/grandmother/citizen who spoke truth to power so that the beautiful words of defiance that began our country live on. I hope you will join me.

Faye Binsfeld, President



AAUW Appleton Program News

In the Rear View Mirror by Helene Iverson

As I finish my term as program VP, I wanted to express some appreciation:

Lisa Balster, Thank you for your counsel and suggestions.

AAUW Board members, thank you for being my cheerleaders.

Thanks to everyone who said yes when I asked them to take on a job.

Thank you to the greeters and refreshment providers.

Thanks to everyone who took the time to attend a program meeting.

Thanks to everyone who got their RSVP's in before the deadline!!

To everyone who covered for me in May while I was gallivanting in Germany, danke schoen.



Bright ideas wanted for the new 2025 – 2026 program year. Lisa Balster, the new Program Vice President, would like to have branch members shed some light on subjects for the monthly programs that serve our AAUW mission and are interesting to the group.

If you have any suggestions, would like to join the program committee, or help out with the hospitality treats at the meetings, please let me know. Please send ideas to me before the planning meeting on **Wednesday, June 4th at 3:00 p.m.** **Thanks for your input!**

Lisa Balster, 414-236-8868, balsterlisa@yahoo.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.

UPCOMING PROGRAM DATES for your calendar...



BYOP-PP:

If you are wondering what these letters mean? It is a shorter way of saying:

Bring Your Own Picnic to the Program Preview. Hope you can join a picnic at **Telulah Park Pavilion** on **TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025 from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

The picnic is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with members, bring other guests and potential new members who are interested in knowing more about our great organization, our work, and our mission. **Bring a salad or dessert to share. Bring your own beverages and main meal.**



September 9th AAUW Program Year 2025-2026 first meeting! Join the kick off meeting for the year at the Prince of Peace Church Fellowship Hall located at 2330 E. Calumet St. (use the west entrance). People can gather, eat and reconnect at 5:15 pm with the meeting starting at 6:00 p.m. Keep reading the newsletters for more details!



Book Sale Work Night and Branch Meeting on Tuesday, October 7th, 2025.

The book sale work night and Branch meeting will be held at our new location at the Fox River Mall. Stay tuned for more exciting details for the evening!

AAUW Appleton Membership News Part 1

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

At our April meeting we had Mary Willems join us. Mary is still working at Country-Side Veterinary Services. You will see her very active at Gibson Music Hall and during Mile of Music supporting her daughter and husband.

In May, we had a wonderful new/prospective member Ice Cream Social with 16 people present. Two new members joined that day. Nancy Vilker-Krause is retiring from the Appleton Area School District this year where she's been working as a speech pathologist. She's looking forward to joining our group. Sally Podoski is a retired Healthcare consultant for ThedaCare and is eager to get involved.

Our new members will be wearing gold name tags at events so please be sure to go up and introduce yourself and give them a warm welcome to AAUW Appleton!

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

AAUW Appleton Membership News Part 2

Membership Renewals:

The majority of our Appleton branch memberships have renewals due in May or June. If you are uncertain of the date, check your yearbook or call us. Effective 4/2025 your National dues are \$74, State \$13 and Appleton \$15 for a total of \$102. Your National dues only are a tax-deductible donation to the national 501(c)3 organization.

We encourage you to renew online at the AAUW Community Hub (AAUW.org). Click log in and go to your Personal Snapshot, scroll down and select RENEW. Payment is with your credit card.

If you would prefer not to renew online, you can send a check for \$102 made out to AAUW-Appleton to Kathryn Herzog, 4313 N. Windcross Dr., Appleton 54913. We thank you for your continued support of our organization.

AAUW – Appleton Financial Assistance Policy

In any given year, an active AAUW-Appleton member may need financial assistance to pay annual AAUW Membership Dues. An announcement placed in the newsletter will state the availability of funds to assist any active member who may need help paying her annual Membership Dues. Assistance will be only for that portion of the Membership Dues that goes to National AAUW. The recipient is responsible for the State and Local portion of the Membership dues. A member who seeks assistance shall send a note by email or mail to the Assistant VP of Membership with her name and a short explanation of the circumstances of need.

A three (3) member subcommittee of the Membership Committee will review any requests received. The subcommittee will consist of the Assistant VP of Membership plus two (2) other experienced Membership Committee members. The decision of the subcommittee is final. All requests, submittals, and grants awarded are confidential. The Assistant VP of Membership will inform the branch Finance VP of any individual who receives the reduced dues.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATES

Add the following new members' information to your directories:

Willems, Mary
59 South Meadows Dr.
Appleton 54915
920-419-0086

willems4@twc.com

BA Communications
UW-Oshkosh
CountrySide Veterinary

Vilker-Krause, Nancy
3608 Aschen Puttel Dr.
Appleton 54915
920-540-4279

nancykvk@yahoo.com

BS/MS Communicative Disorders
UW-Madison
AASD Speech Pathologist

Podoski, Sally
7570 Sunburst Lane
Neenah 54956
920-809-2758

Lspodos@yahoo.com

BS Medical Technology, MA/OM
UW-Stevens Point, U of Phoenix
Retired—ThedaCare Healthcare
Consultant

AAUW State Convention Wrap-Up—Faye Binsfeld

What A Convention!

Fifteen members of our branch attended the AAUW-WI convention in LaCrosse and we are all in agreement that it was well worth the drive and the time spent there. Here are a few reasons why we all were smiling, and thinking, on the way home:

- *Just sitting at lunch became a learning opportunity with people from other branches eager to tell of successes and look for help with challenges. Conversations were great!
- *Matt Glowacki has turned his birth without legs into a life of motivating others, getting them to understand the intersections of mental health, disability, and care-giving. “ Diversity is being invited to the party. Inclusion is being asked to dance. Equity is being the DJ.” Inspiration and Insight throughout his talk.
- *Meghan Kissell from National AAUW urged us to stand up and speak out about issues we stand for. We can make a difference through nonpolitical advocacy in the areas of funding education, removing barriers in education and the workplace. As AAUW members, we can support full enforcement of Title IX and other civil rights laws that are under attack currently. But we must always be careful to not pair our AAUW membership with any political race. Stick to the issues, but advocate!
- *Information was abundant! Public Policy gave many fact sheets that will be useful as we plan programs and advocate for education. Breakout sessions were interesting and pertinent to our goals.
- *Sarah McBride, the articulate House of Representatives member from Delaware, gave a video greeting that was warm, complimentary about AAUW, and reassuring that as challenging as these times are, our country has seen worse. She reminded us that enslaved people would never have dreamed of an Emancipation Proclamation, that unemployed workers in the 1920s had never heard of a New Deal, and that we are at a “slingshot moment” today. We’ve been pulled backwards, but like the arc of the moral universe, we will bend toward justice. Rep. McBride is the first openly transgender person to be elected to Congress.
- *We ended the convention with an outstanding program by Amanda Garcia Goodenough, a passionate advocate for the gifts and power diversity brings us. We loved her description of the spaces we need for life: first our family, friends, then our work, then hopefully some public space where we gather for enjoyment, activity, building community. But she thinks what many are missing is a Fourth Space where we have meaningful conversations that are deeper than casual chats. “We cannot heal if we cannot discuss.” Many of us realized that AAUW gives us that Fourth Space, but also that we need to continue to seek diverse membership and cooperation with other organizations and parts of our community.

*Comments gathered from the attendees

Watch Representative Sarah McBride’s video at this link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WxES6n5j0P1tBL7kixwPL7rVbm8MxXZ2/view?usp=drive_link

AAUW Appleton Public Policy

As we gathered to celebrate the scholarship winners, we were reminded once again that EDUCATION is a priority of AAUW advocacy. Take a moment to check out <https://www.aauw.org/> and the Strategic Priorities recently adopted. These priorities reflect the purpose of this effort:

“AAUW advances equity for women and girls by championing success in higher education – a vital pathway to economic security. For over 140 years, AAUW has led the fight for gender equity through advocacy, funding and collective action.”

The following is also a message from AAUW:

“In its first 100 days, the Trump administration has launched a relentless assault on higher education—threatening student aid, undermining civil rights, and jeopardizing access to quality education. AAUW stands firmly against these regressive policies and continues to advocate for equity and opportunity in higher learning.”



Be sure to watch your emails with ACTION ALERTS to easily become part of this advocacy. It is easy. It is fast. It is important.

This Photo by
At our branch meeting, our members continued to support PUBLIC EDUCATION IN WISCONSIN with a postcard campaign. You can do this at home as well! Call. Write. Email.
YOUR VOICE MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

(From the Wisconsin Public Education Network)

WISCONSIN KIDS DESERVE:

- 1. An increase in the state reimbursement of districts' special education costs.**
- 2. Equitable, adequate, transparent, predictable, spendable, and fair state funding.**
- 3. Priority spending aligned with priority needs by adequately funding: English language learning, mental health support, students in poverty, school nutrition, rural schools and low-revenue limit districts, early childhood/pre-K and higher education, and attracting and retaining educators.**
- 4. Accountability for all public dollars and a moratorium on private voucher and independent (non-district) charter spending.**

Our branch members are amazing. Thank you for your continued support of our Public Policy efforts!

Becky O'Connor, AAUW-Appleton Public Policy chair



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

BOOK SALE NEWS!

Keep On Your Toes — Read!

Reminder: Our new location is at the Fox River Mall. We are in the main part of the mall just to the right or south of the food court as you are facing the outside entrance. Lots of space!

Book Drop-off: Drop your books off every Tuesday during June and July. We will alternate times on the following schedule:

Mornings - 10:00 - Noon; June 3rd & 17th; July 1st, 15th, & 29th.

Afternoons: 1:00 - 3:00 PM: June 10th & 24th. July 8th & 22nd.

Please note: These drop-off dates are for AAUW members ONLY. Members of the public who have books to donate should call one of the pick-up phone numbers listed on the bookmarks & posters.

Sorting: Sorting begins on Tuesday, August 5th, and we will plan on going out for lunch after sorting that day to celebrate the beginning of book sale season.

Schedule: 9:00 - Noon every Tuesday in August and September; and

6:00 - 8:00 PM Thursdays in August and September.

Posters and Bookmarks: available at the book sale location during drop off times or contact Trish Brehm.

Sale Dates: Oct. 16 - 19; Oct. 23 - 26; and
Oct. 30 - Nov. 1.

Questions: Contact any of the book sale chairs listed in your directory.

We need your used books!

For the 88TH Annual AAUW Book Sale

KEEP ON YOUR TOES READ!



Hardcover • Paperback • Children's
Large Print • Books on CD • Sheet
Music • CDs • DVDs • Puzzles • Games
(Please, no magazines, textbooks, or VHS tapes)

**For Book Pick-up
Please call:**

920-284-7098 • 920 636-8153
920-734-6750 • 920-540-7751

Contributions appreciated by Mon., Oct. 6th.
Mark Your Calendars For the Book Sale!

**Oct. 16-19, 23-26
& Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 2025**

**WATCH FOR OUR
NEW LOCATION
COMING TO THE
FOX RIVER MALL!!**

booksalefinder.com

Profits for Scholarships



American Association of University Women

We need your used books!

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(920) 734-6750 • (920) 540-7751

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by Monday, October 6th.*

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Hardcover • Paperback
Children's • Large Print
Books on CD • CDs
DVDs • Sheet Music
Puzzles • Games

*(Please, no magazines,
textbooks, or VHS tapes)*

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booksalefinder.com

Profits for Scholarships



empowering women since 1881

American Association of University Women

AAUW Mindfulness Class

Mindfulness Practices to Ease Stress

Research shows that a regular mindfulness practice increases focus, decreases anxiety, and improves emotion regulation. In this session, you'll learn about and *experience* varied mindfulness exercises. These are practices that can be implemented in small, doable ways (even at work!). You'll leave the session with a *deeper sense of calm* and a *toolkit of practices for everyday life*.

Speaker Bio

A former statistics professor, Joy Jordan helps people struggling with anxiety, exhaustion, and busyness to slow down and savor life. Her work takes her into prisons, corporate offices, schools, non-profits, and community classes. Using simple, low-commitment but high-impact tools that are quick to master, Joy helps people turn mindfulness and meditation into the everyday practice they've always wanted. You can find her at bornjoy.com

Please join us at the Appleton Public Library on Thursday, June 5th from 4:30-5:30 in the David L. and Rita E. Nelson Family Fund Unconference Room. The cost of the class is \$20 per person with a minimum of 10 people needed to hold the class. Pre-registration is necessary. Refunds will only be given in the event the class is cancelled.

Questions? Please email armstrongjessicamarie@gmail.com or call Jessica Armstrong at 920.427.3385

AAUW Mindfulness Session with Joy Jordan

Thursday, June 5th from 4:30-5:30

Name

Address

Phone #

Email Address

Please enclose \$20 cash or check made out to Jessica Armstrong by 5-31-25

Jessica Armstrong

N9643 Crystal Court

Appleton, WI 54915

A DAY IN THE WOODS, MEADOWS, LAKE SHORE!

You are cordially invited to visit Door County's jewel,
The Ridges Sanctuary in Bailey's Harbor

We will have a private guided tour to see the amazing variety of wild flowers,
some found only in this unique ecological site
Our stroll through the sanctuary is on its boardwalk and firm, flat walking paths

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

Meet at the Park and Ride just north of 41 at the Little Chute Exit (#146) County Rd. N
and Evergreen Drive at 9:30, DEPARTURE AT 9:45.

Our tour will begin at the Sanctuary's main building at 11:30, and will last an hour
There are bathrooms and a gift shop in that building

OPTIONAL LUNCH TO FOLLOW AT
THE BAILEY'S HARBOR CORNERSTONE PUB
<https://baileysharborcornerstonepub.com/>
8123 Highway 57, Bailey's Harbor

Please Respond to Faye Binsfeld by June 6, indicating if you can drive or need a ride

A note by Judy Goodnight—There's no doubt that our AAUW Branch has an affinity for books from our renowned book sale to our many & varied book groups. At our recent Afternoon Literature luncheon, I shared a favorite quote that I had come across recently and I was asked to share it in the newsletter. Here it is...

"What an astonishing thing a book is. It's a flat object made from a tree with flexible parts on which are imprinted lots of funny dark squiggles. But one glance at it and you're inside the mind of another person, maybe somebody dead for thousands of years. Across the millennia, an author is speaking clearly and silently inside your head, directly to you. Writing is perhaps the greatest of human inventions, binding together people who never knew each other, citizens of distant epochs. Books break the shackles of time. A book is proof that humans are capable of working magic." - Carl Sagan

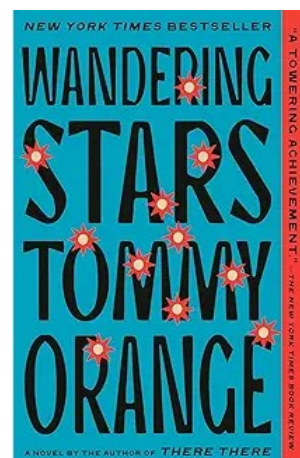
SECOND CHOICE BOOKS

Our June book is ***Wandering Stars*** by Tommy Orange.
We'll meet on **June 4th** at **1:00 pm**.

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

RSVPs are a must when we meet at restaurants!

Our July book will be ***Rabbit Moon*** by Jennifer Haigh.
Second Choice Books is open to all members of the branch.
Questions? Contact Judy Goodnight at judy@gwd.org.



AFTERNOON LITERATURE is on hiatus until our End of Summer Gathering in August.

If you're interested in joining the afternoon group,
contact Judy Goodnight at judy@gwd.org or 920.729.9553.

Evening Book Group News

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 12th, 5:30 PM (note time change)
Hosts: Donna Cook and Joan Moeschberger
RSVP to Donna by noon on the 11th (contact info in yearbook)
Where: Lake Park Crossing Apartments community room
3135 E Lake Park Crossing, Appleton

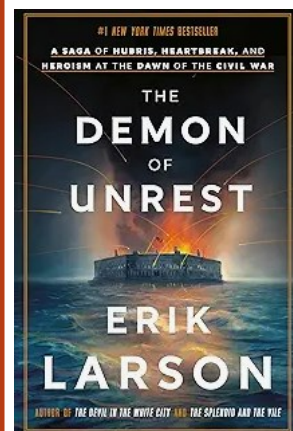
It's a potluck! BYO beverage and bring a dish to share--light dinner fare: pasta/green/fruit salads, cheese/crackers, finger sandwiches, chips/dips, etc.

Dessert, utensils, and ice will be provided.

Book: ***The Demon of Unrest*** by Erik Larson
Discussion Leader: Mary Grace

2025-2026 Book Choices

Submit suggestions to Donna by May 26 (limit of 2 per person please).
Donna compiles and emails suggestions back to members ASAP.
Make your choices of 9 books and email to Donna no later than June 9.
(We meet September through August, skip October, January, and February). Please check that suggested books are available at libraries.
Choices will be announced at June meeting where we will also choose hosts and discussion leaders.





SUMMER MYSTERY GROUP



To: Active Detectives
From: Chief Inspector H. Iverson

Here is the list of cold cases we are being asked to solve. Please choose 2 cozy books and 1 longer book by emailing your choices to Det. Shirley Collins at shirley.colliins.wi@gmail.com (Example: 3, 5, D) Deadline to vote: June 15.

Remember to "reserve your desk" for June 18 lunch by contacting Mary Jane Cummings at [cum-mingsmaryjane@gmail.com](mailto:cummingsmaryjane@gmail.com)

COZY MYSTERIES - CHOOSE TWO

1.)The Cracked Spine (Delaney Nichols. Mystery #1.) - Paige Shelton

The Cracked Spine is filled with everything a book lover could want, each item as eclectic as the people who work in the Cracked Spine Bookstore; the spirited and lovable Rosie, who always has tiny dog Hector in tow; Hamlet, a nineteen-year-old thespian with a colored past and bright future; and Edwin, who is just as enigmatic and mysterious as Delaney expected. An extra bonus is Tom the bartender from across the street, with his cobalt eyes, and a gentle brogue—and it doesn't hurt that he looks awfully good in a kilt.

2.)Death in the Truffle Wood - Pierre Magnan

In a small, peaceful Village in Provence, the principal source of income is the cultivation and sale of truffles. When Commissaire Laviolette arrives to investigate why several of the town's citizens are missing, it isn't too long before their bodies turn up. It takes all of the detective's ingenuity to unravel crimes whose origins are as old as the truffle woods.

3) Pork Pie Pandemonium: Albert Smith's Culinary Capers - Steve Higgs

When a retired detective takes a culinary tour of the British Isles, he hopes to find tasty treats and delicious bakes ...what he gets is a clue to a crime in the ingredients for his pork pie. His dog, Rex Harrison, an ex-police dog fired for having a bad attitude, cannot understand why the humans are struggling to solve the mystery. He can already smell the answer – it's right before their noses.

4)The Mysterious Bakery on the Rue de Paris - Evie Woods

A heartwarming tale about Edie, an Irish woman who leaves Ireland for a bakery job in Paris, only to find herself in the charming, but not-so-glamorous, town of Compiègne. Edie discovers the bakery, La Boulangerie et Pâtisserie de Compiègne, has a history and a mystery, including a ghost and the bakery's looming financial problems.

5) A New Chapter (Secrets of Mary's Bookshop #1) - Kristen Eckhardt

Grieving the loss of her husband while working to open a new bookstore in Cape Cod featuring the novels she loves, Mary moves in with her sister, reconnects with old friends, and attempts to solve a mystery of her own- the theft of an old photograph and some unsettling secrets in her family history.

6)Shadow Divers -Robert Kurson

In the tradition of Jon Krakauer's *Into Thin Air* and Sebastian Junger's *The Perfect Storm* comes a true tale of riveting adventure in which two scuba divers risk everything to solve a great WWII mystery when they discover an unidentified wrecked German U-Boat off the coast of New Jersey that no government had a record of being there.

[Continued Next Page]

COZY MYSTERIES—continued

7) Miss Julia Knows a Thing or Two—Ann B. Ross

Miss Julia has decided to turn over a new leaf -- it's time to stop meddling in other peoples' lives. But her hands are full before long! Mildred is sent into a tizzy when a grandchild she's never met shows up on her doorstep. Luckily Miss Julia has experience dealing with children dropped on doorsteps, and sweeps in to lend a hand. But there's something just a bit strange about the child, and Miss Julia can't quite put her finger on what it is.

8)The Murder at the Vicarage—Agatha Christie

Miss Marple encounters a compelling murder mystery in the sleepy little village of St. Mary Mead, where under the seemingly peaceful exterior of an English country village lurks intrigue, guilt, deception and death.

LONGER MYSTERY JUNE 2026. CHOOSE ONE

A) Faceless Killers -Henning Mankell

It was a senselessly violent crime: on a cold night in a remote Swedish farmhouse an elderly farmer is bludgeoned to death, and his wife is left to die with a noose around her neck. And as if this didn't present enough problems for the Ystad police Inspector Wallander, the dying woman's last word is *foreign*, leaving the police the one tangible clue they have—and in the process, the match that could inflame Sweden's already smoldering anti-immigrant sentiments.

B) Survivor's Guilt - Robyn Gigl

Transgender defense lawyer Erin McCabe is back in *Survivor's Guilt*, another legal thriller. A businessman is shot dead and adopted daughter, Ann, who is trans, confesses to the crime. Erin isn't so sure—and after Ann withdraws her plea, a tantalizing trial ensues. The author who is also an attorney, is especially adept at crafting thrilling courtroom scenes and skillfully asks pressing questions about gender, power and justice.

C) The Need - Helen Phillips

Phillip's dazzling and disturbing novel opens on a classic scene: a young mother is home with her kids when she hears the footsteps of an intruder. Molly, a paleobotanist, gathers her infant son and toddler daughter and hides in the bedroom. But as she quiets her children, she begins to question what she's heard and whether it may exist only in her head. Expertly paced genre-blending thriller about the terrors of parenthood and the strength of a mother's love.

D) The Suspect (Kate Waters #3) -Fiona Barton

When two 18-year-olds go missing in Thailand, their families are thrust into the International spotlight-desperate and bereft with worry. Journalist Kate Waters, always wanting to be the first to the story with the exclusive, and the first to discover the truth, is eager for this story. As the case unfolds, all find that danger can lie closer to home than one might think.

E) The God of the Woods -Liz Moore

A mystery thriller about the Van Laar family and their intertwined lives with the blue-collar community surrounding their Adirondack estate. The story revolves around the disappearance of 13-year-old Barbara Van Laar from her summer camp, which is owned by her family, and its echoes of her older brother's previous disappearance. As the search for Barbara intensifies, the novel delves into the Van Laar family's secrets and the tensions between them and the community, exploring themes of inheritance, privilege, and the corrupting influence of wealth.

F) The Shards -Bret Easton Ellis.

A novel of sensational literary and psychological suspense that tracks a group of privileged high school friends in a vibrantly fictionalized 1980s Los Angeles as a serial killer strikes across the city.

G) The House on Vesper Sands -Paraic O'Donnell

A Victorian-era mystery novel centered around a seamstress's suicide and a series of missing girls in 1893 London. Inspector Cutter, a sharp detective, investigates the events, aided by Gideon Bliss, a Cambridge dropout, and Octavia Hillingdon, a young journalist. The story intertwines with a potential occult threat that leads at last to the secrets hidden at the house on Vesper Sands.

Let's Paint Again Like We Did Last Summer!

AAUW Summer Art Class for June

Where: Chris Scott's House

(1406 W. Edmund Dr., Appleton)

Date: Monday, June 2, 2025

Time: 12:30 pm

Cost: \$15.00 (All supplies included)



Theme: Acrylic Floral Still Life

***(Please bring a photo of a vase of flowers to work from.)**

All are welcome. No experience necessary. Just come and have fun.

Please RSVP to Laurie Leonard at rjllal2024@gmail.com

by **Tuesday, May 27.**

Enjoy a Night Out at Gibson Music Hall!

See the duo Flagship Romance.

A Mile of Music favorite, the duo are partners on stage & in life who create music that's full of heart and harmony with only a guitar and their voices. They will leave you feeling like you made two new friends. Learn more at their website:

<https://www.flagshipromance.com>

June 11th, Time to be announced

Buy tickets via the Gibson Music Hall website <https://gibsonmusichall.com/events/>

(Tickets not on sale yet—likely \$20-\$30)

Email Kayla Rouse to let her know you're attending

kaylaerouse@gmail.com


Let's Take a Break From It All!



Pollinator Walk with Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust at Riverview Gardens
June 20th, 1:00-2:30 pm.

Celebrate National Pollinator Week at Riverview Gardens (an urban farm and park here in Appleton). We will learn about the interactions between pollinators, plants, and seasonal changes, all of which are important for natural ecosystems as well as agriculture. We will explore the grounds of Riverview Gardens to find pollinators and learn to document our observations in support of conservation research. This event is free and open to participants of all ages. Register to attend at this link <https://newlt.org/events/pollinator-patrol/> Registration is required and limited to 30 individuals. Email Kayla Rouse after you've registered to let her know you're attending. kaylaerouse@gmail.com



What You Want and Need to Know About Your Jewelry! 
Wednesday, August 13, 4:00 pm, Wilder's Bistro on S. Oneida Street

Bridget of Bridget's Jewelry Workshop will be offering her expertise on jewelry. If you have any questions about your jewelry, this is your opportunity to learn more than the fact that the ring looks pretty on your finger. Topics that can be covered are: what to look for when buying jewelry, the different metals, pearls and why they are making a comeback and how to take care of your jewelry.

Bridget received her education at NWTC focusing on Jewelry Repair and Fabrication. In 2012 she started her Jewelry Workshop specializing in jewelry repair and design as well as jewelry evaluation and materials purchasing. She's worked in the jewelry industry since 2001 and says she loves working with her hands and helping people with their jewelry needs.

Please **RSVP by August 6th** to Cheryl Reissman (#s in our directory). We need to confirm numbers with Wilder's. Family and friends are welcome.

If you have ideas, based on those listed above, or something totally different, contact Sylvia Bull (sjbcreate@gmail.com) or Shirley Collins (shirley.collins.wi@gmail.com). Also look in future monthly Newsletters for events.

Here's your link for the most recent edition of Badger Briefs:

[Badger Briefs May 2025.pdf](#)

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

As of 4/30/2025

Budget
2024 - 2025

INCOME:

		add'l 1485.00 received prior to 7/1/2024	
Membership Dues 2024-2025	630.00		2,175.00
Membership Dues 2025-2026	90.00		0.00
December 2024 Brunch Net Income	3,711.31		1,619.00
Advertisement	50.00		50.00
Misc	708.50		
Interest	<u>\$2.44</u>		<u>0.00</u>
Total Income		<u>5,192.25</u>	<u>3,844.00</u>

EXPENSE:

Membership/Recruiting	154.55		400.00
Financial Assistance (2)	0.00		144.00
Newsletter	0.00		0.00
Program	496.90		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	100.00		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>1,965.99</u>	<u>3,844.00</u>

Revenue Less Expenses 3,226.26

Checkbook Balances as of 4/30/2025

General Checking Account

Leadership Development	6,168.89
General Fund	<u>18,322.23</u>
Total Checking Account	<u>24,491.12</u>

Scholarship Money Market Account* \$34,557.29

*Includes \$4.19 in monthly interest

Book sale expenses to be reimbursed at the end of book sale \$185.00

FAYE'S POETRY CORNER

Encouragement from Albert Camus (and perhaps others)

In the midst of hate, I found there was,
within me, an invincible love.
In the midst of tears, I found there was,
within me, an invincible smile.
In the midst of chaos, I found there was,
within me, an invincible calm.
I realized, through it all, that...

In the midst of winter, I found there was,
within me, an invincible summer.
And that makes me happy.
For it says that
no matter how hard the world pushes against me,
within me, there's something stronger-
something better,
pushing right back.



Distance

by Lynn Ungar

Admit it. You've watched the news,
witnessed scenes of devastation from afar-
earthquake, tsunami, bush fires, drought-
and instructed yourself in distance,
coached yourself through how
this could never happen to you.
The desperate refugee at the border,
children hiding from bombs in Syria-
of course you're sorry,
but parsed your own security through it all.
Who hasn't listened to a siren stream by
and muttered a prayer,
almost beneath consciousness,
*Please, let it not be my house. Let it not
be someone I love. Please.*

Surely we are safer behind
some sort of a wall, protected
from the grief of belonging.
But all along your heart knew
it was a lie, the polite fiction
that you tell a child.
*Nothing bad can happen.
You're safe with me.*
Look around. Confess the truth,
the horrifying blessing,
the cracked heart of our salvation.
There is no *them*.
Everything that happens,
happens to us all.

I care

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

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

WOMEN'S

ACTION

COALITION

OF THE FOX VALLEY

ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN'S EQUALITY