



# The Apple Branch

American Association of University Women  
Appleton, Wisconsin

Serving the Greater Fox Cities Area

Volume 40 Number 1 September 2025



**APPLETON (WI)  
BRANCH**

What's Happening This Month...

## SEPTEMBER 2025

| SUN  | MON                                | TUE   | WED  | THU  | FRI  | SAT                                      |
|------|------------------------------------|---|--|--|------|--|
|      | 9/1                                | 9/2<br>Book<br>Sorting<br>9:00-Noon                             | 9/3<br>Second<br>Choice Books<br>Book Sorting<br>1-4:00 pm | 9/4<br>Book Sorting<br>6-8:00 pm                                   | 9/5  | 9/6<br>Postcard<br>Writing<br>9-noon APL |
| 9/7  | 9/8                                | 9/9<br>Book Sorting<br>9:00-Noon<br>Branch Kick-<br>off Meeting | 9/10<br>Women's<br>Fund<br>Luncheon                        | 9/11<br>Book Sorting<br>6-8:00 pm<br>Evening Lit                   | 9/12 | 9/13                                     |
| 9/14 | 9/15<br>Newsletter<br>Articles Due | 9/16<br>Book Sorting  | 9/17<br>Afternoon<br>Literature                            | 9/18<br>Book Sorting<br>6-8:00 pm                                  | 9/19 | 9/20                                     |
| 9/21 | 9/22                               | 9/23<br>Book Sorting  | 9/24   | 9/25<br>Book Sorting<br>6-8:00 pm<br>Box Lunch Or-<br>der Deadline | 9/26 | 9/27                                     |
| 9/28 | 9/29                               | 9/30<br>Book Sorting  | 10/1<br>Second<br>Choice<br>Books                          | 10/2<br>Book Sale<br>Set-Up  | 10/3 | 10/4                                     |

## *President's Page*

*Dear Friends,*

I love going home. For me, that is still Decorah, Iowa. Although I don't want to live there, it's a gateway back to the happy days of my childhood in that beautiful little town. There are certain parks, the cemetery, and restaurants (Mabes Pizza still rules!) I always try to visit, and it's one destination I actually prefer traveling to alone.

A high school class reunion called me back this summer. It wasn't the official one- that will be in September when I can't attend- but an informal gathering in the home of a classmate. There are others who can't come in the fall but who didn't want to risk another 5 years without sharing some time together. At our age that risk is significant!

The bonds that we have kept through the 60 years since graduation are unique. No other group I'm part of knew my parents, my siblings. They know where I lived, who taught us, where we went and what we listened to. Those early years are intense, and we carry the memories deep in our hearts.

Our branch meeting on September 9 won't carry quite the emotional impact that my reunion did, but in some ways it's more important. We AAUW members also have a collective memory which makes coming together again after the separation of summer a sweet celebration. Even better than a class reunion, our first meeting of the year brings the welcome opportunity to meet new members so we can initiate them into this wonderful group with our smiles and interest. In your joy of reuniting with friends, don't forget to greet our visitors or first-time attendees. I hope you bring some friends you've been thinking would like our group, and let them get a feel for what we offer.

Our branch really has my high school group beat when it comes to enriching my life now. In AAUW, we enjoy new and old, familiar and fresh, known and unknown, which is the recipe for healthy living, isn't it? As much as I enjoy wallowing in nostalgia on occasion, it isn't what will keep me learning and involved in my life here- but AAUW does! I include my membership in what is best about my life. Say yes to some form of involvement ! It's healthy for the branch AND for you!

Let's be sure we keep extending the invitation to join us for supportive friendship but also stimulating challenge. New members keep us healthy, so thank you for inviting some of your valued friends to our nutritious group.

We're planning another fun evening on the 9th, with your delicious finger foods and games and table discussions that will make it a fun and informative night. I'll be looking for you.

*Faye Binsfeld, President*



## AAUW Appleton Program News

You are invited to a **Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Sweet and Savory Kick Off Meeting**



to begin the new program year 2025-2026!  
If your last name starts with a letter from A-M,  
please bring a savory finger food  
and letters N-Z should bring a sweet treat.  
Drinks will be provided.

Meet at the **Prince of Peace Fellowship Hall**  
2330 E. Calumet Street (Use west entrance and parking lot)  
5:15 p.m. - Gather  
5:30 p.m. - Dinner from Buffet  
6:00 p.m. - Meeting with Games!

Pick up your new Membership Directory/Yearbook!  
Meet New Members! Sign up for Book Sale Box Lunch!  
Take home Book Sale posters and bookmarks! Play some games!  
Find out what President Faye has in mind for the new year and  
learn more about the state AAUW focus too!



Helping hands.... Still need a few pair for future programs. Thanks  
to those volunteers who have helped or already agreed to provide  
set up and clean up assistance and refreshments at our meetings.

If interested, please contact Shirley Collins at

[shirley.collins.wi@gmail.com](mailto:shirley.collins.wi@gmail.com)

## AAUW Appleton Program News



### **BYOP-PP (Bring Your Own Picnic – Program Preview)**

The summer picnic at Telulah Park had beautiful weather and fabulous food with 23 members attending. The group enjoyed each other's fellowship as well as some short interesting discussions regarding diversity, equity and inclusion. Updates regarding membership, public policy, the book sale and a preview of this year's upcoming monthly programs were given.

Some people shared what they like about the AAUW branch on Post-Its on a mini-poster board. Here are some of the responses; A "Life Saver" having like-minded women in my life, Interesting People, Support, Friendship, Passion, Encouragement, lifelong learning and working on important issues on lots of things with like-minded people, a chance to talk about meaningful topics, no guilt, great members and interesting programs.

A BIG THANK YOU to all the people who helped with set up (especially the surprise AAUW-owned microphone and sound system), shared food dishes for the buffet, and clean up.

**Lisa Balster, VP of Programs & Shirley Collins, Assistant VP of Programs**

## AAUW Appleton Membership News

\*\* We warmly welcome a new member to the Appleton Branch. Kiara West is the Community Engagement Director at LEAVEN and comes to us with a wealth of experience in the non-profit sector. She has heard about AAUW from many of the LEAVEN volunteers over the years and is excited to join this amazing branch. Please look for her at the meetings and introduce yourself!

\*\* Our September 9th Branch Kickoff Meeting is the perfect opportunity to invite prospective members. They can experience the positive energy and get a great overview of all that our branch has to offer.

Kathy O'Connor-Membership VP

## COMMUNICATIONS UPDATES

New Member:  
Kiara West  
617 W. 10th St., Kaukauna 54130  
920-850-4465  
kiarakwest@gmail.com  
Leaven Community Engagement Director

## AAUW Appleton Public Policy Update



When AAUW National encouraged members to participate in the Good Trouble Lives On National Day of Action...we were there! We were proudly wearing our AAUW shirts. We are visible in our community, using our collective voices to advocate for issues core to AAUW.

How do we keep the momentum going? Glad you asked...

Use your [5 Calls App](#) each week to contact your elected officials. One of our members made a personal commitment (during Lent!) to do this once a week. She is continuing. And call those who support AAUW issues to thank them as well!

Stop by the [Women's Action Coalition table at the Appleton Farmer's Market](#) on Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> 8:00-12:30 or let Faye Binsfeld or Becky O'Connor know if you'd like to take a shift that morning! Again...AAUW is visible in the community! Visitors get their polaroid pictures taken with their cards that tell what equity means to them!



There is a [POSTCARD WRITING OPPORTUNITY](#) at the [Appleton Public Library](#) (not sponsored by AAUW) the first Saturday of the month from 9-noon. All supplies are provided including prepared messages or you can write your own. A good way to focus on key AAUW issues outlined by AAUW State and National.

Interested in joining the fabulous AAUW-Appleton Public Policy Committee?  
Let me know! We don't meet often...and when we do we have cookies.

Becky O'Connor, AAUW-Appleton Public Policy Chair

## BOOK SALE UPDATES

### Book Sorting Sessions

Book sorting will take place every Tuesday morning (9 to noon) and Thursday evening (6 to 8 pm) starting on Tuesday, August 19. We will go out to lunch after our first morning of sorting on August 19. Our last day of sorting will be Tuesday, September 30. If you are new to sorting, please join us and we will help you get started.

**SPECIAL ALERT:** Due to the 4 sorting dates we lost because of the leak, we have added 3 additional dates in August and early September. The dates are Monday, August 25, Wednesday, August 27, and Wednesday, September 3. These are all afternoons from 1 to 4 pm. We may add an additional date on a Saturday later in September if needed.

### Table Set-up

We will set up the tables, shelving, signs, etc. on Thursday, October 2 at 9:00 am.

If you are one of the members who helped us store any of our shelving or other supplies, Thank You! We are now ready to welcome all of them back! If you need help getting supplies back to the store, let us know.

### Pre-Sale work times

Our store will be open every day except Sunday from October 3 to 15 to put out and organize books, puzzles, DVDs, etc. as well as other miscellaneous tasks to prepare for the sale. Our hours during the pre-sale work time will be from 9 am to 7 pm on Mondays through Fridays and 9 am to 5 pm. on Saturdays, No need to sign up for pre-sale work times; just come when you can.

### Sale Dates

For the 3 weekends of the sale there will be an advanced sign-up for shifts to make sure we have all times covered. Sign-up information and forms will be available at the September and October branch meetings, in the October newsletter, and at the store during the pre-sale work times.

### Publicity

Posters and bookmarks with all of the sale information are available at our store, at September and October branch meetings, book group meetings, and from Trish Brehm. There will be a sign up sheet with the bookmarks for you to list where you are distributing them. Please share information about our sale wherever and whenever you can!

### Looking forward to another great sale!

Your Book Sale Chairs

## 88th Annual AAUW Book Sale! KEEP ON YOUR TOES READ!



### NEW LOCATION! FOX RIVER MALL

*Use outside entrance to the right  
of main entrance to food court*

### Oct. 16-19, 2025

Thurs. & Fri. 9am - 7pm

*(Most Books \$1-\$2)*

Sat. 9am - 5pm, Sun. Noon - 5pm

*(Most Books \$1-\$2)*

### Oct. 23-26, 2025

Thurs. & Fri. 9am - 7pm

*(Most Books \$1-\$2)*

Sat. 9am - 5pm, Sun. Noon - 5pm

*(1/2 Price Days)*

### Oct. 30 - Nov. 1, 2025

Thurs. & Fri. 9am - 7pm *(\$5/Bag)*

Sat. 9am - Noon *(All Items Free)*

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

**booksalefinder.com**

*Profits for Scholarships*

**To contribute books prior to the sale,**

**Please call:**

920-284-7098

920-636-8153

920-540-7751

920-734-6750



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# 88th Annual AAUW Book Sale!

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Sat. 9am - noon  
(All Items Free)



empowering women since 1881

American Association of University Women



**Join Us for a Box Lunch on Book Sale Work Night**  
**Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> , 2025**

Branch Meeting and optional box lunch at 5:00 p.m. at the new Fox River Mall site.  
Book sorting opportunities before and after the meeting.

**Menu Choices:**

Box lunches are from Cousins Subs and include your choice of a sandwich along with chips, cookie, and beverage for **\$11.00**.

Please indicate your choice of sandwich:

- Italian Special – ham, provolone cheese, bologna, salami, lettuce
- Ham and Provolone – ham, provolone, lettuce, tomatoes, oregano
- Club – ham, turkey, provolone cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, oregano
- Veggie – provolone cheese, spinach, cucumbers, green peppers, tomatoes

Cold Water will be provided.

MAIL your check (made out to AAUW Appleton) and sandwich choice form below to:

Shirley Collins  
1359 W. Brewster St.  
Appleton, WI 54914

**OR** Look for the BOX LUNCH SIGN UP CLIPBOARD at the September meeting.

**ALL ORDERS MUST BE PLACED NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2025**

Many thanks for a timely response.

.....

Return this portion with your payment.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sandwich Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

\$11.00.    CASH    CHECK    (circle one)

# AAUW Reads



Our next book has been chosen! The AAUW Reads book for 2025-26 is a recommendation from the AAUW-Appleton Social Justice group. The topic is timely: immigration.

From Kirkus Reviews: **A *New Yorker* staff writer examines the tragedy of Central America against the backdrop of U.S immigration policy. From the beginning, the U.S. has meddled in the affairs of Central America's nations, some of them autocracies. This tinkering, particularly in the Reagan years, led to murder, civil war, and, decades later, a stream of migrants desperate to flee rampant poverty and violence. "For more than a century, the U.S. has devised one policy after another to keep people out of the country," writes Blitzer. "For more than a century, it has failed." It's a sorrowful yet urgent topic, and Blitzer navigates it with both journalistic rigor and compassion. A sobering, well-reported history in which no one emerges a winner.**

As always, AAUW Reads tackles difficult topics with heartfelt enthusiasm and courageous discussions. We hope you consider taking part in this one! We will read the book in "chunks" with a schedule that runs from November-April (no discussion in December). Two options each month will be offered...in person and on Zoom. As always...if you plan to participate...you can win this book at the September branch meeting!!

Stay tuned and watch the newsletter for updates and ways to buy this book that supports a local, independent, woman-owned business!

Becky O'Connor and Judy Goodnight

## SECOND CHOICE BOOKS

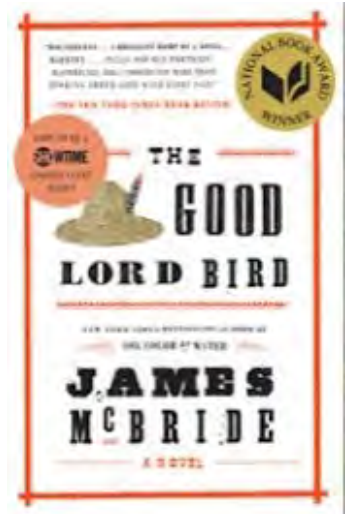
Our September book is ***The Good Lord Bird*** by James McBride.

We'll meet on **September 3rd at 1:00 pm.**  
RSVP to Judy Goodnight at [judy@gwd.org](mailto:judy@gwd.org) or 920.729.9553  
by August 31st to get the location.

**RSVPs are a must when we meet at restaurants!**

Our October book is ***The Messy Lives of Book People***  
by Phaedra Patrick.

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



## AFTERNOON LITERATURE

We're starting our 2025-2026 year off on September 17th with  
***Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books.***

Author: Kirsten Miller

Discussion Leader: Pauline Werner

RSVP to either Nancy Samson or Judy Goodnight.  
Details for September were sent to group members  
in a Mailchimp email.

If you are not a current member of this group & are interested in  
joining, contact Judy Goodnight.

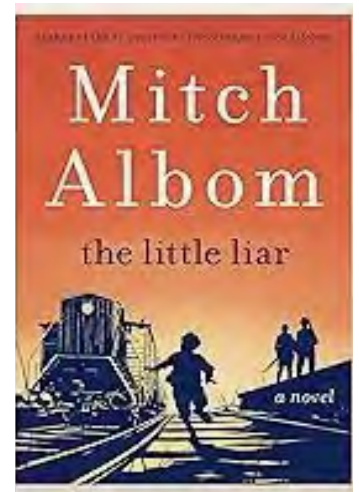


## EVENING BOOK GROUP:

**Thursday, September 11, 2025, 6:30 PM**  
**Book: The Little Liar by Mitch Albom**

**Discussion Leader: Eileen Hilbelink**  
**Host: JaneAnne McCabe**

**RSVP to JaneAnne or Donna by noon on the 10th .**  
**All members are welcome!**





: September 23rd at 6:00 pm. We're reading & discussing "How to Read the Constitution and Why" by Kim Wehle—Part 2: Rights—Chapters 5-9.

**WOMEN'S  
ACTION  
COALITION**  
OF THE FOX VALLEY  
*ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN'S EQUALITY*

Send articles to Judy Goodnight at [judy@gwd.org](mailto:judy@gwd.org).

## FAYE'S POETRY CORNER

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### THE LIBRARY

by Ellen Kort

Wisconsin's First Poet Laureate 2000-2004  
(commissioned by the Appleton Public Library)

When we speak of hunger and thirst  
it is good to say the word library  
When we study the shape of an oak leaf  
or the way clouds swim in the river  
outside the window how can we  
not speak of libraries When we love  
the earth that gave its space for this building  
books with their rich and luminous  
invitations when we swing open  
the library doors and bask in the radiance  
of words we enter a new world

What if we held hands circled the library  
called out the names of thousands  
of books and they came down  
from the shelves and are with us told us  
their stories And what if the river sang  
those stories the wind shook them  
against trees and children shouted them  
to the stars What if each time we say  
the word library we speak of what  
we have loved and where we have lived



**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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920-205-0983

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Judy Goodnight

[judy@gwd.org](mailto: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](mailto:jamforever02@yahoo.com), Text: 920-382-0031

#### **Michael Goodnight and Associates, LLC**



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**Michael L. Goodnight & Judy Goodnight**

**Owner**

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