



The Apple Branch

American Association of University Women
Appleton, Wisconsin



Serving the Greater Fox Cities Area

Volume 40 Number 3 November 2025



**APPLETON (WI)
BRANCH**

What's Happening This Month...

NOVEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
10/26 Book Sale	10/27	10/28 Social Justice	10/29	10/30 Book Sale	10/31 Book Sale Halloween	11/1 Book Sale
11/2	11/3	11/4 Book Sale Luncheon	11/5	11/6	11/7	11/8
11/9	11/10	11/11 Second Choice Books	11/12 WI ERA Lobby Day	11/13 Evening Literature	11/14	11/15
11/16	11/17 AAUW Reads— In Person	11/18 Holiday Brunch Helpers Meeting	11/19 Afternoon Literature/ Branch Meeting	11/20 Afternoon Literature	11/21 Holiday Brunch Deadline to Reserve	11/22
11/23	11/24	11/25 AAUW Reads— Zoom	11/26	11/27 Thanksgiving	11/28	11/29

President's Page

Hello Friends,

Although we focus on earning dollars for our scholars, Book Sale also has brought us some fantastic new members. You may be one of them, attracted by a blend of love of books and desire to help raise scholarship money, or just being a positive part of the community while gaining a group of friends who are so much fun and so interesting, dedicated to living meaningfully.

During our sale last year, I enjoyed sharing the enthusiasm of a first-time shopper who was blown away by all that our book sale offers. She was so impressed, and was wondering about the organization. She loved our mission: supporting girls and women made her light up with excitement. I could see her thinking she'd found a treasure of a group. She asked more questions, and I could see her interest growing. I held my breath mentally and added that we require at least an associate's degree for membership. Her face fell, her shoulders slumped, but she managed a perky smile, and thanked me for our conversation, returned to her family and off she went. My face and posture matched hers. She was just who we hope to have join us: a supporter of our goals, thoroughly impressed by our book sale and eager to support it, interested in meeting women who would share those interests. She belongs in AAUW.

Dropping the college degree requirement for AAUW membership doesn't mean a change of focus. We will always be the organization leading the way to promote higher education. Our fundraising will still go to scholarships, locally, nationally, internationally. Many of us achieved our own degrees thanks to the encouragement and support of parents who never had that opportunity themselves, but who shared the dream and the knowledge of what a college degree could do. Dropping the degree requirement is a way to honor them.

Please remember next time there is a vote on our membership requirements that a degree does not guarantee anything. It surely is a fine goal, one that leads to a better life in many ways, including a career of meaning and tangible rewards. But there are other paths to achieve success, there are other methods to become educated. As AAUW in the past moved from the somewhat racist origins of the suffrage movement, and then from the elitism of earlier days when a college education was a rare accomplishment of the upper classes only, and the more recent reluctance to give up historic barriers to joining, I hope you can realize how we shortchange ourselves by looking for a degree rather than at a vibrant person interested in joining our causes and activities.

As always, you amaze me. The work that goes into the book sale is stunning. We are THE best, and I salute each of you, workers and contributors. More importantly, our future scholarship recipients thank you. You've invested in the future of women, and that is a choice with endless dividends. You will stay in those women's hearts and memories as they move forward; you embody the spirit of generosity and empowerment that they will remember, and hopefully repeat, throughout their lifetimes. Your ripple effect is creating hope and confidence!

May your November include some quiet time for reflection. Give yourself credit for being part of quite a substantial gift to our community. Somebody says Thank you when they think of you.

Faye Binsfeld, President



AAUW Appleton Program News

Making Legislative Connections, Fair Maps and Public Policy Impact with Penny Bernard Schaber

At the Appleton Public Library's
Mary Beth Nienhaus Community Meeting Room C

DATE and TIME CHANGE !!

New Date: Wednesday, November 19th, 2025

New Time: 5:30 p.m. Set up
6:00 p.m. Gather
6:15 p.m. Program
7:30 p.m. AAUW meeting

Do you think Wisconsin should have Fair Maps for Legislative Districts?

Do you think your vote should count?

Do you wish your voice was heard by your elected officials?

If you do, then this program is for you!

The Fair Maps Coalition has been working on how legislative maps are drawn and approved in Wisconsin. Come and find out about the work being done to create an Independent Redistricting Commission in Wisconsin. Join retired Physical Therapist, dedicated community volunteer and Former State Representative Penny Bernard Schaber in a discussion and presentation on Fair Maps for legislative districts. Learn how you can add your voice, maintain a positive attitude, and make connections with your legislators and government and have a public policy impact.

Holiday Brunch

December 6, 2025

Bridgeview Resort and Hotel

**Time: 8:30 a.m. View Items, 9:30 a.m. Brunch Served,
10 a.m. Drawings, Meeting, Live Auction**

See details in this newsletter



Lisa Balster VP of Programs and Shirley Collins Assistant VP of Programs

AAUW Appleton Membership News

We are excited to have four new members in our Appleton Branch and look forward to their involvement in the many available opportunities.

* **JoAnn Shropshire** is a retired Occupational Therapist and Certified Hand Therapist. She has already been an active participant in activities.

* **Bambi Minczeski** has also been actively participating in meetings and events. She is a retired Registered Nurse as well as a Software Analyst.

* **Kathy Lynch** is "soon to be retired" and holds degrees in electrical engineering and computer science. She is an Education Specialist and Senior Lecturer at UW -Oshkosh.

* **Beth Watson** has a degree in theatre history and is currently the Pricing Coordinator at Essity.

Welcome to you all!

Yearbooks will be available at the book sale. Pick yours up if you haven't already.

During the book sale, AAUW brochures will be available on the informational poster. Please encourage anyone who may be interested in learning more about AAUW to take one.

Kathy O'Connor-Membership VP

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATES

New Member:

Bambi Minczeski
N1076 Quarry View Drive
Hortonville 54944
920-716-0884
bbm0220@gmail.com
RN & software analyst

New Member:

Kathy Lynch
2961 W. Shady Lane Neenah 54956
920-475-7033
LynchK@uwosh.edu
ThedaCare education specialist
UWO senior lecturer

New Member:

Beth Watson
514 N. Rankin St Appleton 54911
920-740-5933
Elizabeth.watson@gmail.com
Pricing Coordinator at Essity

Email update:

Laurie McCulloch's email in the directory should be changed to llmcculloch@gmail.com.

Changes of address/phone number/email address? Report any changes to Judy Goodnight and Jane Doughty 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 Update

AAUW-Appleton has been “showing up” to advocate for issues in so many ways. Writing to legislators, calling, and rallying together are among the ways so many members have amplified their voices to highlight issues that are important to this organization. We are also committed to supporting other local groups that share our values and vision of advocacy. Partnering with others and being visible in our community shows who we are. And we are stronger together. Recently a press conference was held to call attention to the WI ERA bill introduction. We had a strong show of support by our branch members! Here is a portion of my comments from that event. It is a reminder how important the ERA is for AAUW, for our state and our country.

I am a member of AAUW-Appleton, proudly representing not only our 160 members, but the larger community of more than 170,000 people standing strong for gender equity throughout the United States. AAUW's story began in 1881 when a small group of female college graduates banded together to open the doors for women's career advancement and to encourage more women to pursue higher education. AAUW's focus on gender equity in education and employment has been a cornerstone of this organization. The history of the AAUW mirrors the progress of women in the United States. The history mirrors the progress of the focus and intent of the Equal Rights Amendment as well. Hundreds of research reports have been published...from an 1885 paper disproving a prevailing myth that college impairs a woman's fertility to, most recently, a study documenting the economic impact of workplace sexual harassment. Advocacy efforts have propelled new laws including the Equal Pay Act, the Title IX amendment, the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

*From the AAUW official statement: **“The majority of Americans mistakenly believe that women and men have equal rights under the Constitution. The 14th Amendment explicitly states that men are guaranteed equality under the law but is silent about women. Women's equality under the law has advanced incrementally through patchwork legislation and court decisions, but remains illusory as these protections can be weakened or even revoked at the whim of legislators and judges. The Equal Rights Amendment would provide, once and for all, the constitutional guarantee of gender equality under the law and that these rights cannot easily be abridged.”***

Here is the WI-ERA language. It is far reaching and inclusive. You can call or write your state legislators and show your support for this important bill!!

Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by this state or by any political subdivision of the state on account of sex, gender identity, race, color, sexual orientation, disability, religion, national origin, marital status, family status, age, ancestry, or any other immutable characteristic.

Becky O'Connor, AAUW-Appleton Public Policy Chair



KEEP ON YOUR TOES - READ 2025 AAUW BOOK SALE CELEBRATION LUNCHEON!

Please join us to celebrate an amazing sale. This was our best year yet!

Date: Tuesday, November 4

Place: Fratello's Waterfront Restaurant
501 W. Water St, Appleton

Time: 11:30 am

RSVP: Sign up on the reservation sheet at the mall.

Or contact Mary Grace at 920-915-6369 or mcggs@aol.com

We hope you will all join us!
Your Book Sale Chairs



Save the date!
April 17 -18 2026
105th State Convention
DoubleTree by Hilton
Madison East

SOCIAL JUSTICE INTEREST GROUP

NEW MEETING LOCATION!

Join us at the Lake Winnebago Room at the Menasha Library on Tuesday, October 28th at 6:00 pm. Bring your own beverage if desired.

: We're wrapping up our discussion of "How to Read the Constitution and Why"
| by Kim Wehle—Part 3: Why Care?

If you're new to the group, contact Judy Goodnight (920-729-9553 or judy@gwd.org) so that you receive group email updates.

WISCONSIN ERA LOBBY DAY

November 12th—Madison, WI—State Capitol Building

The Appleton Area National Organization for Women is making plans to lobby for the recently introduced Wisconsin Equal Rights Amendment on November 12th in Madison. They are inviting members of the Women's Action Coalition to join that day. That includes members of AAUW, the League of Women Voters, the Northeast WI Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the Women's Fund for the Fox Valley Region, Inc.

Watch for a follow-up email with more details and specific information on how to RSVP. NOW will assist with setting up appointments to meet with lawmakers.

Support AAUW—Become a Legacy Circle Member

For more information:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/ways-to-give-aauw/leave-a-legacy/>

December newsletter articles will be due November 15th.

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

AAUW Reads



This month we begin the discussions of our new book! The AAUW Reads book for 2025-26 was a recommendation from the AAUW-Appleton Social Justice group. The topic is timely: immigration. You can join in person or on Zoom.

The November sessions are:

Monday, Nov. 17 at 1:00 at Becky's home (500 E. Timberline Drive, Appleton).
Please RSVP to Becky O'Connor if you plan to attend.

Tuesday, Nov. 25 on Zoom. Please RSVP to Judy Goodnight if you plan to attend.

Reading Assignments:

November: Intro and Part 1, Chapters 1-18

January: Part 2, Chapters 19-31

February: Part 3, Chapters 32-38

March: Part 3, Chapters 39-47

April: Part 4, Chapters 48-54

Becky O'Connor and Judy Goodnight

SECOND CHOICE BOOKS

Our November book is *Master Slave Husband Wife* by Ilyon Woo.

We'll meet on **November 11th at 1:00 pm.**

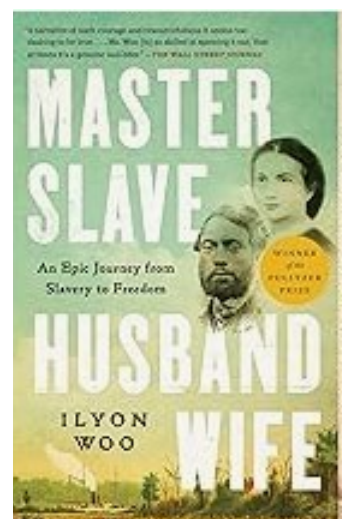
Please note the date change from the yearbook.

RSVP to Judy Goodnight at judy@gwd.org or 920.729.9553
by **November 9th** to get the location.

RSVPs are a must when we meet at restaurants!

Our December book is *Everyone This Christmas Has a Secret*
by Benjamin Stevenson.

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



AFTERNOON LITERATURE

Our November book is *Three Days in June*.

Author: Anne Tyler

Wednesday 11/19 group host is Sylvia Bull.

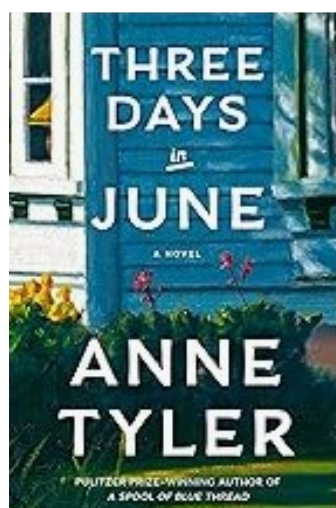
Discussion Leader: Faye Binsfeld

Thursday 11/20 group host is Nancy Samson.

Discussion Leader: Liz Lokensgard

RSVP to the host or to Judy Goodnight by Sunday, 11/16.

If you are not a current member of this group & are interested in joining, contact Judy Goodnight at judy@gwd.org.



THURSDAY EVENING LITERATURE:

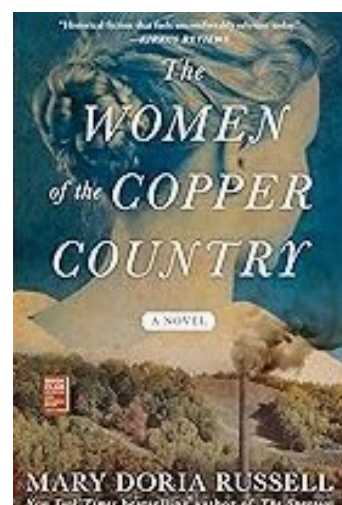
Next meeting: Thursday, November 13, 6:30 PM

Book: The Women of the Copper Country by Mary Doria Russell

Host: Joan Moeschberger

Discussion Leader: Grace Fuller

RSVP to either Joan or Donna Cook by November 12th.





*Join us for our
"Return to Winter Wonderland"
Holiday Brunch & Fundraiser*

Date: Saturday, December 6th, 2025

Place: Bridgewood Resort & Conference Center
1000 Cameron Way, Neenah



Time: 8:30 a.m. Gather
9:15 a.m. Full Buffet Brunch

Menu: Fluffy scrambled eggs, double smoked bacon,
breakfast sausage, seasonal fruit, assorted
pastries, homemade muffins, chilled fruit juices, coffee, tea



Cost: \$25.00 per person

Checks made out to: AAUW Appleton Branch

Due by November 21st

****Send checks to:** Grace Fuller
624 Black St.
Kaukauna, WI 54130



***If Grace receives your check by mail, she will confirm your reservation with you. If you do not hear from her within 7 days, please call her to confirm. Thank you for understanding that we cannot honor reservation requests made after 11/21.**

***Guests are always welcome! Be sure to include their names and remittance when you send your check to us.**

***Dietary restrictions? Put them in writing with your reservation.**

“Return to Winter Wonderland”

Brunch Details to Remember:

***November 21st:**

- *Deadline for Reservations (submit to Grace Fuller)
- *Deadline for turning in auction items:
 - Drop off at Jeanne Seitz’s or Sue Taylor’s or
 - Bring to the November branch meeting or
 - Call Jeanne or Sue for pick-up.

***Brunch Helpers’ Meeting:**

1:15 pm on November 18th at Jeanne Seitz’s home (see address below). Anyone interested in helping with tasks the day of the brunch, including new helpers and those who have helped in previous years, is asked to confirm their interest with Jeanne Seitz or Sue Taylor. Tasks include Setting up, selling raffle tickets, serving as delivery elves, etc.

***Sorting & Basket Assembly:**

9:00 am on December 3rd at Jeanne Seitz’s home, 5817 N. Kestrel Circle, Appleton

***Be prepared for fun!:**

We have a few new surprises for you this year.



Thanks to Vicki, Lisa, and other AAUW members who participated in the 10/18 No Kings Rally.

AAUW Appleton Branch Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2025

Book Sale site @ Fox River Mall

The meeting was called to order by President Faye Binsfeld at 5:40 PM.

It was announced that 2nd Choice Book Group is delaying their meeting and anyone wanting to attend should check the newsletter for the new meeting date.

Faye reviewed some sample “elevator speeches” that can be used if we are interacting with folks at the book sale and other times.

Lisa Balster, Program Vice-president, announced that the November 12 branch meeting is currently scheduled to be in a meeting room at the Appleton Public Library but she is trying to secure a larger room. If our speaker is amenable to changing the date of the meeting and the larger meeting room is available for us, the meeting will be November 19. Watch the newsletter and/or other notices online for the date of the meeting.

Nancy Samson invited anyone interested in being part of the Ethnic & Elegant group this year to let her know.

Jeanne Seitz and Sue Taylor reminded everyone to donate items for one of the auctions or the raffle at the Winter Wonderland Brunch at Bridgeview, Neenah on December 6. Details will be in the newsletters.

Kathy O’Connor, Membership Vice-president, introduced our 3 newest members and reminded everyone to pick up their yearbook.

The book sale committee gave instructions for setting up the book sale, good practices for interacting with the public, including at the check-out tables, and encouraged everyone to sign up for shifts at the sale.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Respectively submitted,
Connie Polley, Secretary

Appleton AAUW Income and Expense Statement

Sep-25

Budget
2025 - 2026

9/30/2025

INCOME:

Membership Dues 2025-2026	1,648.00	2,025.00
Membership Dues 2026-2027	0.00	0.00
December 2025 Brunch Net Income	0.00	1,229.00
Advertisement	50.00	50.00
Misc	0.00	
Interest	\$0.19	0.00
Total Income	<u>1,698.19</u>	<u>3,304.00</u>

EXPENSE:

Membership/Recruiting	71.74	400.00
Financial Assistance (2)	0.00	154.00
Newsletter	0.00	0.00
Programs	475.00	800.00
Yearbook	397.46	400.00
Insurance		400.00
Public Policy	0.00	100.00
Historian's Expense	0.00	50.00
President's Expense	0.00	100.00
Finance Expense	86.91	150.00
General Expenses	50.00	100.00
Women's Action Coalition	0.00	200.00
Brunch	0.00	100.00
Special Events	0.00	300.00
Diversity	0.00	50.00
Total Expense	<u>1,081.11</u>	<u>3,304.00</u>

Checkbook Balances as of 9/30/2025	20,879.82
Money Market Balance as of 9/30/2025	21,576.08

Faye's Poetry Corner

Leaf Blowers

by Lynn Ungar

Leaf blowers are an instrument of the devil.

They snarl from across the street
while you were trying to sleep
and pollute the air with dust and gas
and pointlessly blow leaves around
for the next gust to bring right back
where they started. Good people
use a rake or a broom, as God intended.

I knew this, clear as day, until
the dads showed up at the protest,
joined the walls of moms
with fists upraised
singing **hands up, don't shoot**
in tones that could comfort a baby.
The dads brought hockey sticks
to bat away the canisters of tear gas.
And leaf blowers to disperse the gas
back whence it came.

I don't trust anyone
who tells me what God intends.
Nonetheless, I will tell you this:
God means for us to use
the tools we have on hand
to protect what is threatened and grow-
ing.

Keeping Faith

Lynn Ungar

It's hard, these days, to know what to
believe in.

I still pray to Goodness, Truth, and
Mercy,
but I am starting to suspect there are
stronger gods,
and war brewing on the mountain.
Hope is still in the pantheon, but Opti-
mism slunk off a while back.

Joy, and her sister Delight,
still come around, and I leave the door
open as I can.

But sometimes it's hard for the soul to
keep faith.

I am trying to listen behind its high,
anxious whine to prayers of the flesh.
Tea, says the body.

Rain, lavender, red leaves, pie



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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Kathy O'Connor

kocpsy@gmail.com

920-205-0983

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



Michael L. Goodnight & Judy Goodnight

Owner

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

WOMEN'S

ACTION

COALITION

OF THE FOX VALLEY

ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN'S EQUALITY

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