

BRANCH BITS AND PIECES

Happy New Year!

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Special points of interest:

- Basket Auction Recap
- Board Meeting updates
- Program information
- Book Club titles

I hope 2020 is a great year for all of you! We have some great programs for the winter/spring, ending with our brunch on May 16 at a new location!

I'm happy to say that our branch is becoming known within the State for our successful basket auctions – thanks to all of you! A few members from other branches attended our auction this past fall and were very impressed. They also liked our addition of a book sale table. As a result, the Madison/Monona branch then included a book sale at their holiday luncheon/silent auction fundraiser, which I attended and enjoyed very much. I met new people, shared ideas, and even came home with the wine rack from their silent auction that I had been

planning to buy!

Hopefully some of you can join me next year. I encourage all of you to attend other branch activities as they become available if you are interested. It really is a lot of FUN!

Because of the success of the book sale table, we would like to incorporate it at our May brunch! Please bring books that you have that you don't really want any more to the May brunch and we will hold a sale—just like at the basket auction. Leftover books will be donated to either GoodWill or St. Vincents.

Hope to see all of you in 2020 at one of the programs and/or the May brunch!

Diane

AAUW Who We Are

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Since our founding in 1881, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day—educational, social, economic and political.

OUR MISSION:

To promote gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

OUR VISION:

Equity for all.

OUR VALUES:

- Non-partisan.
- Fact-based
- Integrity
- Inclusion
- Intersectionality

PROGRAMS FOR 2020

.Crafty Game Night is making a return on January 15. But the destination may make you more eager to attend: Chapel of the Archangels at 839 Madison Street. The owner will give us a tour and some of the history of the place. There is always an opportunity to play old favorite games or learn some new ones. Bring your favorite game to share with others. Those who want to display their craftiness are also encouraged to share with the group. 6:30 is the start time.

The elections are coming soon and here is an excellent opportunity for you to learn about women who have run for office. Becky Glewen, Therese Henriksen and Betsy Ramsdale will serve on a panel detailing their experiences. The February 19th meeting begins at 6:30 and is located at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Roll out the barrel for our March 18 meeting at Ooga Brewery located at 301 South Spring Street. We will learn about brewing beer. Come join the fun at 6:30 p.m.

Climate change has become a prominent issue in our lives. On April 15 at 6:30 p.m. Archan Sramek will speak about the facts and the future of this topic. We will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Landmark Credit Union, 105 E. Main Street.

The AAUW year ends on Saturday, May 16th with a brunch at a new location: First Lutheran Church at 311 Mackie Street. Members whose last names begin with A-M are asked to bring a dish to pass. The event begins at 9:30 a.m.



Basket Auction Success!!

. Our annual Basket Auction was a success. Although attendance numbers were down, we made enough to sponsor two \$2000 scholarships to two graduating senior girls and a \$1000 scholarship to each of two returning women at Moraine Park.

The total revenue was \$5,527.

A big thank you to the committee: Bobbi Marck, Diane Kitchen, Crystal Boling, Nancy Small-Palm, Andrea Utrie, Kathy McMichael, Carmen Hanson, and Deanna Disch.



A new feature this year was a book sale. We would like to hold another one at our brunch.

BOARD MEETING UPDATES

The Beaver Dam branch of AAUW held a board meeting on December 10. Here are some of the highlights:

Treasurer's Report:

Checkbook balance \$458.84.

Savings balance: \$8,850.29

Open Positions: Diane Kitchen will serve as branch president and Bobbi Marck as vice-president until May of 2021. Ellen Sushak has given up her position as Correspondence Secretary. Margaret Furdek has offered to take that position. This will go into effect in June of 2020.

AAUW Shirts: AAUW shirts will

be offered for sale on a signup basis at the February meeting. Shirts would be delivered at the March Meeting where members could again sign up with delivery at the April meeting. All shirts will be short sleeved and in AAUW blue.

State Convention: The AAUW state convention will be held in LaCrosse April 17th and 18th this year. Bobbi said that she would like to attend. After discussion, Margaret Furdek moved that our branch pay the registration and meal fees for up to two people attending the convention this year. Heidi Freeby seconded. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Bobbi.

Focus on Women: AAUW will sponsor a booth at the Focus on Women event in April. The board supported a motion for spending \$100 for the booth and supplies to manage it.

Funerals: Mary Kahler suggested that AAUW consider giving a small rose in a vase for a member's funeral. A note would be attached from AAUW expressing how much she was valued. Another suggestion was to give a donation to a charity of their choice. Ellen Sushak and Margaret Furdek will look into the feasibility of this and present their findings at the May brunch. Currently, we send a note of condolence.

MONTHLY BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

The Beaver Dam Branch of the AAUW has TWO monthly book clubs. One that meets in the morning and one that meets at night. The Morning Book Club meets the second Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at Higher Grounds Coffee Shop. And the Night Book Club meets at 7:00 p.m. the fourth Monday of the month at various members' homes.

MORNING BOOK CLUB

Do you like mysteries? Well, "Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie" by Alan Bradley is a good one with a main character who will make you laugh. Be ready to discuss this "who-done-it" on January 14.

On February 11 "Before We Were Yours" by Lisa Wingate will be the focus of discussion. This fiction piece is based on a real life story and will prompt a lively conversation.

For the adventurers out there... "Travels with Charley" by John Steinbeck will be the featured book during the March 10 meeting. Steinbeck writes about a cross country trip he took in 1960 with his dog...he even mentions Wisconsin.

"White Fragility" by Robin Diangelo is the book selection for the April 14 meeting. Lots of discussion will revolve on how we view racism from a white perspective.

The Morning Book Club ends its season with "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens. This book was Amazon's best-selling book of 2019. At this meeting selections and hostesses for the next "year" will be chosen.

AAUW

**American
Association for
University Women**

**Beaver Dam
Branch**

**Check us out on
our web page:**

**beaverdam-
wi.aauw.net**

Book Clubs Continued

NIGHT BOOK CLUB

On January 27 we will be discussing “Bad Blood—Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup” by John Carreyrou. Learn about the true story of a company whose goal was to save lives through advanced technology—but through scam and corruption threatened to put lives in danger with its malfunctioning technology. Heidi Freeby at 309 Farwell Road is the host.

“The Great Alone” by Kristin Hannah is the featured book for the February 24 meeting at Jan Sutter’s home (307 Hillside Drive). Hopefully, we will be

in the middle of an early spring thaw when we discuss this book since the setting is north Alaska. More likely we will be able to relate to the setting.

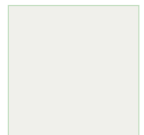
If you are looking for a good mystery, here is the one for you...”The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie” by Alan Bradley. The main character is a hoot. Please join us at Carmen Hanson’s home (304 Monroe Street) to share in the discussion on March 23.

Andrea Utrie’s home (319 Farwell Road) will be the place to go on April 27 for a discussion

of “Where the Crawdads Sing” by Delia Owens. This popular book has rich descriptions of the marshlands of North Carolina and the plot is very interesting.

Last year we read “The Kremlin Conspiracy” by Joel C. Rosenberg. We enjoyed it so much that this year we are reading Rosenberg’s follow-up to it: “The Persian Gamble”. Get ready for more action packed adventure in this international thriller. At this meeting, we will set the locations and selections for next “year’s” list.

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