

BRANCH BITS AND PIECES

Dear AAUW Members,

Happy 2022! January is named for Janus, the Roman god of beginnings and endings. He is often depicted with two faces, one looking towards the future and one looking at the past. That image popped into my head as I thought about what's happening with AAUW.

We have several beginnings I want to highlight.

On the national level, we have a new CEO, Gloria Blackwell, as of October. She has been working within AAUW for over 15 years, including as our main representative to the United Nations. (I didn't even know we had one!)

There will also be a new membership data system, called Nimble, which will make it easier than ever to connect with AAUW. The new system will include a portal for each member to access their own information. Training for all members will take place soon. Watch your email.

At our local level, we have two new programs we're excited about. In response to member suggestions about more social activities, the Board asked Cindy Spangler to spearhead our first attempts. She started with the Loco Vocals event in November which was well received. The socializing continues with small Zoom conversations premiering this month. Designed to be casual and fun, I encourage you to check out one of these conversations in the upcoming weeks.

We also have an exciting new committee, chaired by Annette Kamps, focusing on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. It was created as part of an initiative on our national and state levels. They have been hard at work and will be sharing their work with us each month going forward.

There are also several important events of the past that remind us of why we support AAUW:

- Did you know AAUW celebrated its 140th anniversary last year? I am proud to belong to an organization that has successfully navigated decades of change while staying focused on their vital mission of equity for women and girls. I wonder if the founders thought AAUW would still be around (and still needed) after such a long time!
- We are also celebrating the 50th anniversary of Title IX, the federal law which prohibits discrimination in any federally funded educational program on the basis of gender. I sent you an email on December 18 about an event to be held in February at the high school to celebrate the profound impact this law has had on the lives of countless women and girls. That event has been moved to April. Please continue to send me any ideas for the event or personal experiences you or someone you know, have had that can help illustrate the power of this important law.

I hope 2022 brings you all your own exciting new beginnings to look forward to and happy memories to look back on. Stay warm!!

Bobbi

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Pres. Message | 1 |
| DEI | 2 |
| Book Clubs | 2 |
| Board Updates | 2 |
| Programs | 3 |
| New Social Opportunities | 4 |

Special points of interest:

- Board Notes
- Program information
- New Initiatives
- Book Club titles

OUR DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION CHALLENGE— A POSITIVE WAY TO START 2022!

AAUW EVENING BOOK SELECTIONS

4th Monday at 7:00 p.m.
via Zoom

1-24: *Hadley and Grace*
by Suzanne Redfearn
Host: Mary Kahler

2-28: *White Rose, Black Forest*
by Eoin Dempsey
Host: Crystal Boling

3-28: *The Women of the Copper Country*
by Maria Doria Russell
Host: Andrea Utrie/Carmen Hanson

4-25: *Anxious People*
by Fredrik Backman
Host: Jan Sutter

5-23: *The Searcher*
by Tana French
Host: TBD

AAUW MORNING BOOK SELECTIONS

2nd Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.
Higher Grounds Coffee Shop

2-8: *The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek*
by Kim Michele
Host: Carmen Hanson

3-8: *Take What You Can Carry*
by Gian Sardar
Host: Denise Roedl/Ellen Susak

4-12: *Keep Sharp*
by Sanjay Gupta
Host: Andrea Utrie

5-10: *Before the Coffee Gets Cold*
by Toshikazu Kawaguchi
Host: Diana Schneider/Lori Degner

The National AAUW has initiated a plan to make Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) a priority. So far, local branch DEI Chair Annette Kamps, has recruited Margaret Furdek, Lori Degner, Andrea Utrie and Ellen Sushak, to create and activate a plan that involves our members in this very important task.

Since programming for our monthly AAUW meetings is already scheduled through May, the committee will present a brief 10-15 minute discussion or activity at the beginning of each meeting. Your responses to the committee's email requests prior to those meetings will contribute valuable input.

For more engagement and to assure a continuing commitment to the DEI project, the committee encourages you to join its meetings. *First Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.* Also, you can check out the AAUW tool kit which offers numerous resources, including a link to check out our own unconscious biases.

Counterpart to our DEI task, the Beaver Dam community, under the leadership of Mayor Becky Glewen, is also initiating a DEI plan. Margaret Furdek attended the city's organizational meeting and we will continue to participate as we see potential for collaboration.

This will be a continuing edifying process to benefit our organization, our community, and us as individuals. Ultimately, this AAUW DEI project can only have many inspiring repercussions.



[DEI Toolkit: Education – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881](#)

Notes from Board Meetings

The Board of the Beaver Dam branch of AAUW met in December. They will be meeting again this summer. Any members are more than welcome to attend. Here are some highlights from the December meeting:

- The branch continues to be in need of several positions: Historian and Vice-President. In order to fill these vacancies, we will need a nominations committee. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Bobbi Marck.
- We currently have (as of December 7, 2021) \$4300.23 in savings and \$2014.60 in checking.
- A total of \$6502.49 was raised during our fundraiser for scholarships. Memorials came in from Phyllis Nagler's and Jeanne Young's estates.
- The National AAUW is considering doing away with degree requirements by putting it up for a vote again. They received many complaints about the voting process.
- Annette Kamps reported on the progress of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee.
- Cindy Spangler reported on the success of the LocoVocals outing.

Programs to Start 2022

“Peonies in Beaver Dam” is the title for our January program over Zoom. With winter having a tight grip, a little bit of flower talk will help ease the pain. Michelle Ovans of Ovans Peony Farm is the featured speaker. Michelle has a farm that specializes in peonies—any kind of peony. She is instrumental in establishing an Arts Festival in Beaver Dam in June; but let her tell you all about it on Wednesday, January 19 beginning at 6:30.

The speaker for our February 16 meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. will be Lois Levenhagen. Lois has been a Beaver Dam mainstay on the sewing front for many years. She is famous for outfitting Mike Leckrone, the band director of the UW-Madison band of which I’m sure she has some good stories. We will meet at DCAA (Dodge County Area for the Arts) located at 130 West Maple Street and then take a side trip to Mill Street Quilts, a new business in Beaver Dam specializing in sewing needs.



Patrick Lutz will talk about the changes at the Dodge County Historical Society Building at 105 Park Avenue for our March 16 meeting. Depending on pandemic conditions, we may meet at Palenque Mexican Bar & Grill for dinner beforehand. Dinner will be at 5:15; the program will begin at 6:30.



The Unity Project has been working on expanding cultural experience and integration within Fort Atkinson for a number of years. At our April 20 meeting, one of the leaders, Dr. Laura Alwin, will talk about the project and the effect it has had on the community. Stay tuned to your email for information on the location of this program.

Wondering about what kind of wine to serve at your next get together? Well then May’s program is for you. Please join us at Riverfront Wine Bar on May 18 to learn about different kinds of wines and how they may be served. Riverfront Wine Bar is located at 227 Front Street in Beaver Dam.



Our annual brunch has been traditionally in May, but this year we will have it in June...Saturday, June 11 to be exact. First Lutheran Church at 311 West Mackie will be the location beginning at 9:30 a.m. Members whose last name begins with A through M are asked to bring a dish to pass.

□

AAUW

**American
Association of
University
Women**

**Beaver Dam
Branch**

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

**beaverdam-
wi.aauw.net**

STAYING CONNECTED

Cindy Spangler is at it again. After a successful November outing to see “Locovocals” at our community theater, she has started a Zoom based “Coffee and Conversation”. Join any of the upcoming Coffee and Conversation Zoom social sessions to stay in touch and get to know each other better. Format is:

- check-in
- discussion topic,

- and any show-and-tell you want to share.

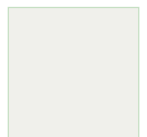
They just finished a series about Pandemic Blues. The next one will be either Friday January 21 from 10-11 am OR Tuesday January 25, from 2-3 pm. The theme will be “Family Traditions, growing up I remember...”

The following month they will discuss “In

my next life, I want to be/do...and why”. These will be either Friday, February 4 from 10-11 p.m. or Tuesday, February 8 from 2 to 3 p.m.

A zoom meeting notice will be sent to the membership prior to the event. Join if you can. No RSVP needed. Just sign into the Zoom meeting. Looking forward to connecting.

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