

BRANCH BITS AND PIECES

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pres. Message	1
Scholarships	1
Programs	2
Book Clubs	2
Board Updates	3
September Program	3
Financial Info	4
Basket Auction	4

Special points of interest:

Board Notes

Our scholarship recipients

Program information

Book Club Offerings

Basket Auction

Dear AAUW Members

Welcome to the new AAUW year!

As a former teacher, fall brings feelings of excitement and fresh beginnings. It brings memories of reconnecting with old friends and meeting new ones. And it challenges me to think ahead, to plan for the coming frosty winter months.

Our new AAUW year brings many of these same things. I'm excited about the programs we have lined up. It feels like a new and improved year for me as president. I have one term of experience, a new and enthusiastic Vice President, a newly updated set of bylaws and several new members.

We have memories of the fun we had on August 23rd at our kick-off event at Ooga Brewing, reconnecting with old friends and meeting new ones. And I'm thinking ahead to a new initiative

we're introducing to warm up your fall and winter. Looking forward to the first installment on September 28.

A new year is exciting, but it is also a comfort to build on past successes. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion is still an important initiative with our national organization, and several of our programs this year touch on that issue. Once again, we'll gather in October to raise the money for our spring scholarships at our basket auction. Our book clubs are ready to go. Our members will continue to volunteer at the Food-Is-Free food pantry. And, as always, our slate of programs for the year includes timely and thought-provoking topics, but also some dedicated more to fun and camaraderie.

Here's to new fall beginnings! I wish you a joyous season filled with warm sunny days, cool clear nights and your favorite warm beverage.

--Bobbi

Oodles of Fun at Ooga

On Wednesday, August 23, members and prospective members met at Ooga Brewery for some socializing. Record heat temperatures kept us all inside but that didn't stop the fun. It was a great time to catch up on each other's summers and talk about plans for the upcoming year. Thanks to all who brought treats.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

In May two \$2000 scholarships were awarded to two Beaver Dam High School graduating seniors, Trinity Mahnke and Cameran Schraufnagel. Congratulations and best wishes for the upcoming year!

PROGRAMS TO START THE YEAR

Can You Come Out and Play?

Unlike most people in my family, I love board games.



Even when I try to bribe them with freshly baked dessert, they still would rather watch Netflix than play Pictionary with me. So I'm excited about our newest local AAUW initiative: interest groups.

Inspired by our May members' survey and after hearing about interest groups held at many branches around the state, we decided it's time to give them a try.

Suggestions for groups include board games, card games, sewing, crafting, current events, going to movies/plays, or going out to eat. If you like to do it, chances are someone else will, too. It's an opportunity to get out of the house and have some fun.

Our local version of interest groups is intended to provide small, casual, flexible gatherings of like-minded people an opportunity to do something they enjoy. Each group starts with one person being willing to host the first event. Hosting can be done at your home, or any suitable public space.

Mary Kahler has generously agreed to host the first board games night on September 28 at Dragon's Den Lounge (126 South Spring) starting at 6:15. Bring your own favorite board game or enjoy the many that will be provided.

Attend as many or as few as you wish – and bring along your family and friends. We'll send out regular emails to let you know what events are happening.

Interested in joining or hosting a group? Contact me and we'll get started.

--Bobbi



LOAVES AND FISHES

On November 15, our program will feature John Smedema from Loaves and Fishes. Loaves and Fishes is a to-go meal service that provides meals every Tuesday evening to anyone and everyone. There are no requirements to receive a meal. The service is run out of First Lutheran Church but volunteers come from all over the community. Cars start lining up around 4:00 p.m. Currently, they are serving 500-600 meals. The program begins at 6:30 at Landmark Credit Union 106 East Main Street.

Night Book Club Offerings

On September 26, TUESDAY, we will be meeting at Andrea Utrie's home to discuss "The Gift Of Our Wounds" by Arno Michaelis and Pardeep Singh Kaleka. This will follow AAUW's September 20 meeting that will feature Pardeep Kaleka as a speaker. The book has been a focus of our DE&I committee.

Do you like mysteries and twists and quick reads? If so, then "The Maid" by Nita Prose is right up your alley. This book will be featured at our October 23 meeting at Lori Degner's home.

"Payback Jack" by Timothy Gene Sojka is the read for November's book club. Be at Jan Sutter's home on November 27 to discuss.

All night book meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. If you are unable to be there in person but would still like to get in on the discussion, call the hostess to set up a zoom meeting.

Day Book Club Gatherings

On September 12, "Mad Honey" by Jodi Picoult will be the topic of discussion. Now I have not read this book, but was talking to someone who had—she described it as one of the best books she had ever read. It made her re-examine her life. Now I'm hooked. Be prepared for an interesting discussion of secrets, risks and becoming ourselves.

Michelle Obama's "The Light We Carry" will be the focus of conversation on October 10. Look forward to a lively discussion of how we can light up the world for others.

We are going back to the classics as we talk about "Go Tell It on the Mountain" by James Baldwin on November 14.

A current best-seller, "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Grams, will be the focus of discussion on December 12.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM: PARDEEP KALEKA, CO-AUTHOR OF THE GIFT OF OUR WOUNDS

To underline its “Unity in CommUNITY” theme and conclude the 2023 Beaver Dam Community Summer Read, AAUW is opening the first program of our new season to the community on Wednesday, September 20, 7:00 PM (following a brief AAUW business meeting at 6:30). The public program will feature Pardeep Kaleka, co-author of the book, “The Gift of Our Wounds: A Sikh and a Former White Supremacist Find Forgiveness After Hate,” at the BDACT Fine Arts Center, 117 W. Maple Avenue. In an interview-style program, Kaleka will converse with well-known Beaver Dam area radio personality, Craig Warmbold. This unique, inspiring program is offered by our DEI committee to expand community discussion about the impact of hate, a conversation that was initiated last year with the community summer read book, “So You Want to Talk About Race” by Oluo Ljeoma. The speaker program is supported by a grant awarded to AAUW from the Beaver Dam Area Community Foundation. “The Gift of Our Wounds” is a true story about how Kaleka, son of the Sikh leader who was murdered in one of the deadliest mass-murder hate crimes at the Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, and Arno Michaelis, founder of one of the largest racist skinhead organizations in the world, breached a great divide to find brotherhood and love. In 2012, as an ongoing peaceful response to the Temple shooting, Kaleka and Michaelis founded Serv2Unite, an organization nationally recognized for bridging school and community groups.



Kaleka’s talk will explore the role of both communal and individual trauma and healing. Following Kaleka’s public interview on September 20, there will be an opportunity for audience questions and discussion. To enhance the project’s success, members of the DEI committee, including Margaret Furdek,

Annette Kamps, Betsy Ramsdale, Anita Streich, Ellen Sushak, and Andrea Utrie ask everyone to “spread the word” about the book and Pardeep Kaleka’s presentation, free and open to the public. Although the community is encouraged to read “The Gift of Our Wounds,” it is not a requirement for attendance.

BOARD MEETING NOTES

The Beaver Dam branch of AAUW met twice over the summer. They will be meeting again on Tuesday, December 14th, at Our House 2 at 9:00 a.m. Any members are more than welcome to attend. Here are some highlights from the summer meetings:

- Andrea Utrie agreed to be our vice-president. In addition to being the vice-president, she will work with the people responsible for coordinating each individual event including finding a location, paying the presenter, issuing a thank you, among other things related to programs.
- We are still in need of a public relations officer. This person would be responsible for Facebook upkeep and sending out any needed correspondence/cards.
- The Basket Auction is planned for October 18.
- Speaker Honorariums were approved for four of the upcoming programs at \$50 each (a total of \$200).
- Social gatherings will be encouraged. Mary Kahler will set up a game night this fall.
- In a way to encourage new members, the cost of the first year of new membership will be \$49.

AAUW

**American
Association of
University
Women**

**Beaver Dam
Branch**

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

**beaverdam-
wi.aauw.net**

BASKETS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, October 18, as we hold another Basket Auction at Old Hickory. For years we have earned money to pay for the scholarships that we give out through this event. And we are hoping to clear enough to pay for the two \$2000 college scholarships that we offer to high school seniors and the two \$1000 scholarships that we offer through Moraine Park Technical College.

Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. to give you an opportunity to view baskets and catch up with people you may not have seen for a while.

Dinner follows at 6:00 p.m. Dinner choices will

be walleye, chicken parmesan or a veggie stir-fry with rice. Sides are garlic mashed potatoes and green beans as well as a tossed salad and dessert. Yes, I said dessert. Tuxedo cake will be the featured dessert. Cost of the meal will be \$35.

Following the meal, baskets will be auctioned off by Nate Weyenberg. He has been doing this for us for several years now and he is fun to listen to and involves the audience thoroughly.

The baskets come from YOU. You are encouraged to create a basket for the auction. If your creative juices just aren't flowing, you can

donate by writing a check at the table.



Please join us for this fundraiser.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Currently we have \$1707.97 in savings and \$1839.72 in checking. The books were audited this summer and everything is up to date. Cindy now has a checkbook instead of a ledger.

MARY KAHLER
209 BEAVER STREET
BEAVER DAM, WI 53916

RECIPIENT NAME
STREET ADDRESS
ADDRESS 2
CITY, ST ZIP CODE

