



# PIECES AND BITS

American Association of University Women

Beaver Dam, WI Branch

September 2025

President's Message—Andrea Utrie

*"When the world is so complicated, the simple gift of friendship is within all of our hands."* —Maria Shriver

I still remember many of the songs I learned during my eleven years as a Girl Scout. Among the favorites is this one, sung in rounds to provide some lovely harmony:

"Make new friends, but keep the old,  
One is silver and the other gold!"

What an opportunity we have to fulfill this promise of friendship as we begin our 2025-2026 season of AAUW.

We kick off the year with our morning book club at 9:30 on Sept 9. Our hostess, Cindy Noe, will guide us through a discussion of "I Sang in My Chains" written by our very own member, Marilyn Thomas. This published author will join us that morning! Whether you are a past member or new, you are invited to attend. It would be helpful for you to let Cindy "know." (Noe!) Then morning refreshments can be planned accordingly. We usually kick in \$5 or so to help cover the cost.

What can be more exciting for us all than the week of September 14-20 when we experience the gifts of award-winning photojournalist, John Noltner? If you haven't responded yet to attend the opening reception at 5:00 on September 14 at the Beaver Dam Area Art Center, again, contact Cindy Noe. It is free and includes refreshments. The gallery will display some of his portraits and his stories to respond to questions like "when have you felt at peace...how have you experienced a sense of belonging...what gives you hope?" If you haven't had a chance to read his books, treat yourself to a peek at his website.

The grand finale to an exciting week will be held at Beaver Dam Area Community Theater at 7:00 on September 20. And guess what? More free refreshments preceding the program. Please encourage friends and family to join us. Let's fill the auditorium for this very exciting event created using his experiences during the week in Beaver Dam.

Is this leaving you breathless (another favorite song by the Coors, Irish singing group, not the beer!) On September 22, the evening book club will meet at the home of Marilyn Thomas on Winn Terrace to discuss *The Tender Bar*. If you haven't finished the book, woo hoo, it is a movie on Amazon Prime. Guess what? More free refreshments,

stimulating discussion, and growing camaraderie. Members old and new are welcome, just let hostess Marilyn know.

I'm sure during your moments of quiet reflection you are mentally creating your basket for our annual basket auction fundraiser on October 15. This year we will be at the Beaver Dam Country Club. No time to create a basket? Donations are welcome. Guests are encouraged to attend! Wouldn't it be amazing if we could provide scholarships exceeding \$8000 for deserving students?

Until then... "so long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, goodbye!" (Sound of Music)



#### Book Clubs

Please join the morning book club at Higher Grounds Coffee Shop on Tuesday, September 8 at 9:30 a.m. as they discuss "I Sang in my Chains" by Marilyn Thomas. Marilyn is a member of our branch and acclaimed author. She has promised that she will make an appearance. Please contact Cindy Noe ([cindysnoe@gmail.com](mailto:cindysnoe@gmail.com)/920.344.8939) if you plan to attend. And if you want to get a headstart for next month—they will be discussing "The God of the Woods" by Liz Moore.

The Evening Book Club will be discussing "The Tender Bar" by J.R. Moehringer on September 22 beginning at 7:00. Marilyn Thomas will be the host for this discussion. She would probably appreciate knowing ahead of time if you are coming. Her contact is: [mthomas.writer@gmail.com](mailto:mthomas.writer@gmail.com)/650.494.1516. And if you want to get ready for the following month—the book of discussion will be "No Two Persons".

## Going Once, Going Twice.....



The Scholarship Basket Auction is coming up fast. The event will be held on October 15 at a new location, the Beaver Dam Country Club. Flyers and the information sheets will be sent to everyone this week. RSVPs are due by October 1, so be thinking of who you want to invite. AND what kind of marvelous basket you plan to bring. AND if doing some fall cleaning—there will be a used book and puzzle table.

## John Noltner John Noltner John Noltner John Noltner John Noltner



If you haven't seen his name as of late, you are not reading your e-mail or your snail mail OR you are not listening to other members. The Unity in Community Committee has been working on this project for at least a year—determined to make our community more united by understanding each other better. For more information on these events, go to <https://beaverdam-wi.aauw.net/> Click on the blue "Peace".

**WHO:** John Noltner is originally from Beaver Dam. He is an author, photographer and peace advocate travelling the world gathering stories and photographic portraits of people from a variety of cultures.

**WHAT:** He will be sharing his message with us through a variety of ways—workshops, receptions, classes, interview/portrait sessions, programs.

**WHEN:** Beginning Sunday, September 14 through Saturday, September 20. A full line up is listed below.

**WHERE:** These are places where John will be: Dodge County Center for the Arts, Art on the Town, Beaver Dam Community Library (temporary location), Beaver Dam High School, Moraine Park Technical College, Beaver Dam Middle School, Watermark Community Center, Wayland Academy.

Here is a rundown of the events during his stay with us:

### At Dodge County Center for the Arts

130 W. Maple Ave., Beaver Dam

#### "PEACE OF MY MIND" PHOTO EXHIBIT

- Monday, Sept. 15, 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, Sept. 16 – 9 AM to 6 PM
- Wednesday, Sept 17 – Noon to 7:00 PM
- Thursday, Sept. 18 – Noon to 8:00 PM
  - 7 PM – EXHIBIT COMMENTARY BY JOHN NOLTNER
- Friday, Sept. 19 – 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- Saturday, Sept. 20 – 10:00 AM to 5 PM

#### BEAVER DAM CHAMBER BREAKFAST (with John Noltner)

- Tuesday, Sept. 16 - 7 :30 AM to 9:00 AM,

\*\*\*

### At The Watermark, 209 S. Center St.

- Wednesday, Sept. 17, Presentation by John Noltner, 8:30 AM

**At Art on the Town, 127 Front St.**

- Saturday, Sept. 20, 10 AM to Noon

Photo Techniques Class by John Noltner (register at [www.artonthetownwi.com](http://www.artonthetownwi.com))

**From Beaver Dam Community Library (temporary location: 1701 N. Spring Street)**

- Thursday, Sept. 18, 10:00 – 11:30

Beaver Dam Community Library Book Club

**At the BDACT Fine Arts Center, 117 W. Maple Avenue**

- Saturday, Sept. 20, 6:00 PM – Appreciation Reception (closing keynote address at 7:00 p.m.)



READY FOR A NEW PHOTO IN THE  
AAUW DIRECTORY

OR EVEN A PHOTO?

Please send me (Mary Kahler—  
[mary.kahler@gmail.com](mailto:mary.kahler@gmail.com)) a photo of yourself  
that you would like in the directory. It has to  
be a photo of you—not who you want to be.

I would like these by September 8

## State and National AAUW

Okay, I'll admit it, I usually get National and State AAUW information regularly through e-mail. Most of it ends up in a file labeled "AAUW" because I will get to it later—and I don't. But I was intrigued by this item: "Two Minute Activist". Heck, I have two minutes...so I just googled "two minute activist" and it took me right to the site. You can also go to <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/> if you want. You may be feeling uneasy in this political climate and that there must be something you can do about it—go there. I was pleased. Simple, easy, makes you understand some of the policies that you may want to support, not support; but at least become aware of. Do you know about the SAVE Act? I didn't. Now I know and now I will do something about it. Try it (it took me one minute).

Mary Kahler