



# PIECES AND BITS

American Association of University Women

Beaver Dam, WI Branch

November 2025

## President's Message

Each year, the AAUW president is encouraged to designate a local nonprofit to benefit from the generosity of AAUW members. In the past we have sponsored PAVE, BD Area Community Library, Dodge County Humane Society, Food is Free, the Playground Movement, Church Health Services, and the Dodge County Food Pantry. Please continue to support these incredible organizations meeting the needs of our local community.

I have selected this year's beneficiary as Noble Clinic. There are many Noble clinics throughout Wisconsin and this continues to expand. It has grown from its humble beginnings in the 1960s as a community-led effort in the Wild Rose/Wautoma area to help migrant farm workers. Today it serves entire communities with diverse and comprehensive healthcare needs. The health center provides accessible medical, dental, and behavioral health care to all. They accept many insurance types, offer a Sliding Fee Scale discount program and are willing to work with people who have difficulty paying for care. Brochures will be available at meetings. The community outreach worker is Laura Goral and the community engagement coordinator is Emily Deiringer.

**Personal care items and diapers are often needed by clients.** Please generously donate these at each of our monthly meetings. Sometimes people come in who have not eaten for a long time, and cash donations will be used to provide Aldi gift cards and taxi vouchers. This partnership aims to strengthen the clinic's ability to serve the local community, ensuring that essential resources are available to meet patient needs. The AAUW sponsorship reflects a shared commitment to improving healthcare access and outcomes in the Beaver Dam area.

--Andrea Utrie

## Belonging to Beaver Dam AAUW

### **FOCUS ON MEMBERSHIP**

As many of you know, effective July 1st Jan Sutter took over the Treasurer's position, and I, Cindy Noe, am continuing on as Membership Chair. I served in both roles from July 2021 to June 30, 2025 (as was customary for Beaver Dam AAUW). Learning the Treasurer's role took time and we made some

upgrades to our processes. I never really felt like the Membership role was getting its due attention. Our local group has remained pretty constant in the low 40's for membership. 2025 seemed like a year of changes. We "lost" some members who decided to move on or moved away: Eileen Goodman, Kristin Hanson, Ellen Sushak, and Sarah Hasbrouck. And we gained eight new members so far in 2025: Roni Harper, Patricia Lyon, Emily Schier, Chelsey Seippel, Angela Rheingans, Kerry Stoehr, Audrey Parr, and Jessica Haynie. Here's a mini introduction of the first four to join this year:

**Roni Harper** joined in January 2025. She is retired and very involved in the community volunteering at BDACT, teaching tap dance, and playing with a local polka group. Roni earned her Master's degree in Social Policy and worked for the State of Wisconsin twice, along with three years at Second Harvest Food Bank in between. She has a daughter in Indiana and a son in Beaver Dam.

**Patricia Lyon** joined in April 2025. She is a retired United Methodist minister. Pat has two children, Michael and Emily. Michael and his wife are United Methodist ministers in the Madison area. Emily Schier is Pat's daughter. This winter Pat is going to Cambodia for the 40th time! While in Cambodia she taught, built wells, worked on solar energy and got toilets installed. This next trip will be touristy with a friend.

**Emily Schier** also joined in April 2025. She grew up wherever her Mom was serving as a minister and ended up in Beaver Dam because of her husband's chiropractic practice. They have five children and also foster children. Emily is very busy with her kids. She is the Executive Director of PAVE and volunteers at BDACT. She is currently President of the BDACT Board.

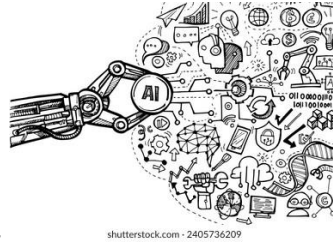
**Chelsey Seippel** joined in August 2025. She is the Executive Director of the Seippel Center for Music and the Arts, and President of the Peter J. Seippel Foundation. Chelsey grew up in Vail, Colorado and Beaver Dam. She earned her Doctorate of Education in Counseling Psychology and has a Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. Chelsey really enjoys living in Beaver Dam with her two dogs and two cats (her spirit animals). She loves the friendships she has developed here, and Christmas is her favorite holiday – she put up 26 trees last year!

For our next issue, I will introduce you to Angela, Kerry, Audrey and Jessica! We had 42 members at the beginning of 2025, and now we have 46! We can all focus on our current members so everyone feels welcome, valued and included. I am also very focused on growing our membership. I appreciate all the leads and ideas you give me, so we can invite potential new members to our meetings and events!

Beyond our local Beaver Dam AAUW, I also am connected to the Wisconsin District 1 Membership Chairs and Presidents. We meet several times per year to share our activities, how we are growing our local groups, and to learn from each other. I also am connected to AAUW National - Membership Matters.

We are trying to recognize our current members' birthdays in the monthly Pieces and Bits. Just a shout-out of Happy Birthday to you! If you haven't given me your birthday, I would love to include you. Hope to see you at our November meeting! --Cindy Noe

**NO NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO CELEBRATE**



## INTRO TO A.I.

- How much do you know about artificial intelligence?
- How does it affect your life?
- How can it affect your life?

So many questions about this new technology. On November 19<sup>th</sup> we hope to answer some of these questions. We are partnering with The Watermark to present Dave Schroeder from the University of WI—Madison through Badger Talk. Dave is the associate director for Intelligence and Security Initiatives at the University as well as being a subject matter expert on cyber and national security issues. His presentation will begin at 6:30 at The Watermark. This program will be open to the public AND PBS-Wisconsin has asked permission to videotape this presentation for their programming. How exciting!!

Please let Traci Gmeinder know if you are coming so that we make sure there is enough room (tgmeinder@ci.beaverdam.wi.gov)(920.306.2178)

## Basket Auction Is a Success



**Our Scholarship Gift Basket Auction was a huge success with a net profit of \$8,367.60!! We had 89 people registered (30 members and 59 guests), with 36 live auction baskets which raised \$4,450 and 11 silent auction baskets which raised \$715. Books brought in \$202. And donations came in at \$2,768. That total comes to \$8,135. We make a little money on the meals and then there are a few expenses with paying the auctioneer and making copies, which makes the grand total \$8,367.60. Members really outdid themselves with making the beautiful baskets, as well as giving such generous donations. Several baskets were donated by members of the community, plus our Beaver Dam businesses once again were generous with the gift cards and/or baskets.**

## And finally....Scholarship Recipients

Although we awarded scholarships last spring—here is information on who received the scholarships.

### High School

We gave out two scholarships (each \$2000) this spring to graduating seniors. They are Aliyah Guerra and Sharon Lin. Here is a thank you note from Aliyah:

*My name is Aliyah Guerra and I am the recipient of University Women Scholarship. I am honored to be selected and your generosity will help me in my pursuit of becoming a physical therapist. Your help means more to me than I can say. It will lighten my financial burden and I am committed to making the most out of this opportunity that you offered me.*

*Sincerely, Aliyah Guerra Ripon College Class of 2029*

### Moraine Technical Park Institute

Scholarships were awarded to four recipients this semester. Due to a student leaving early, there was an additional \$500 available, which was awarded to Abbygale:

- Ashley Apfelbeck – \$1,000
- Abbygale Henke – \$500
- Caroline Hernandez – \$1,000
- Katy Wagoner – \$1,000

Thank you notes from Ashley and Katy:

*I hope this letter finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to sincerely thank you and the American Association of University Women for awarding me this generous scholarship. I am truly honored to be selected as a recipient. This support means so much to me as I continue my education at Moraine Park. It not only helps ease the financial burden but also encourages me to stay focused and committed to my academic and career goals. I am a mother of 4, and I want to show my children that it is never too late to keep aiming for your goals. I am inspired by AAUW's mission to empower and support women through education, and I am proud of that legacy.*

*Thank you again for your kindness and belief in my potential. I'm deeply grateful.*

*Ashley Apfelbeck*

### *Respiratory Therapy*

*I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for the generous scholarship you have provided. Your support is invaluable to me, and I am truly thankful for your belief in my potential. My name is Katy Wagoner, and I am currently a Watertown resident and enrolled in the Nursing Program at Moraine Park's Beaver Dam Campus. My aspiration is become a labor and delivery nurse, with the hope of furthering my education to obtain a*

Midwife Degree. This scholarship will significantly ease my financial burdens, allowing me to concentrate on my studies without the added stress of work or tuition fees. It will also afford me the precious opportunity to dedicate time to my studies and spend quality moments with my six-year-old daughter. Once again, thank you for your generosity and support. I am committed to continue excelling in my education and making the most of this opportunity. Your investment in my future is deeply appreciated, and I am determined to make you proud.

Warm regards, Katy Wagoner.



## Book Clubs

The **Morning Book Club** will be meeting on Tuesday, November 11, at 9:30 a.m. at Higher Grounds Coffee Shop. They will be reading Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury. One of the categories for Morning Book Club was banned books and one will find Fahrenheit 451 on many banned book lists. Oddly enough, the book is about censorship. For those of you who do not like thick books—this one is less than 200 pages. And well worth the read. Beaver Dam Branch AAUW Directories will be available at this meeting, if you don't have yours.

For those of you Morning Book Clubbers who would like to get a head start on December, the book focus for that month is Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon.

Looking for Jane will be the focus of discussion on Monday, November 24, for the **Evening Book Club**. Just a heads up—Jane is not a person and it's not a mystery. It's about an abortion network founded in Toronto in the early 1970s. This meeting will be held at Rosalee Book Boutique (234 S. Spring Street) at 7:00 p.m. Look forward to lots of discussion.

And for those of you Evening Book Clubbers who want to get a jump on the December book—well, take the month off because the Evening Book Club does not meet in December.

## UNITY IN COMMUNITY

We have received a request from John Noltner to help him and his non-profit organization continue to expand its peace driven mission throughout our country and abroad. Please consider the appeal below and pass it on through your social media contacts and beyond.

### HOW YOU CAN JOIN JOHN NOLTNER'S "ROAD TO PEACE"

While in Beaver Dam, John Noltner gave twenty-one presentations for over 1600 people, from sixth graders to senior citizens, who benefited from his commitment to bring people from all walks of life "to

the table.” Given the world’s challenges, we often feel helpless to be a part of the solutions. Thankfully, supporting Noltner’s non-profit organization is a real way to join “the road to peace.”

An appeal from John Noltner:

“That week-long residency in Beaver Dam.....leaned into a new and more robust model of community engagement that I am pretty excited about. Now more than ever, we need creative ways to bring people together, to build connections, and to imagine new possibilities. .... I’m going as fast as I can and we are building a team to spread our wings and expand our reach. <https://apeaceofmymind.org/donate/>. <-  
(The link to Noltner’s website and donation options. Please share.



## AAUW Calendar

November 11	9:30 a.m.	Morning Book Club at Higher Grounds Coffee Shop
November 19	6:30 p.m.	Intro to A.I at Watermark
November 24	7:00 p.m.	Evening Book Club at Rosalee Book Boutique
December 2	6:30 p.m.	Unity in Community at The Bank Esports Center
December 9	9:30 a.m.	Morning Book Club at Higher Grounds Coffee Shop
December 10	3:00 p.m.	AAUW Board Meeting at The Bank Esports Center
December 17	????	Holiday Pub Crawl downtown Beaver Dam