

BAYNOTES

Empowering Women since 1881 – Through Advocacy, Education, Philanthropy and Research
Branch Website: greenbayarea-wi.aauw.net
Celebrating our Branch's 90th year



CELEBRATE 90 YEARS GREEN BAY AREA BRANCH



OPEN HOUSE
FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2017 TIME 4-6 PM
HERITAGE HILL STATE HISTORICAL PARK
2640 S. WEBSTER AVE.

We are celebrating 90 years of accomplishments, service, education & scholarship.

**No charge for the evening, however in honor of our 90th birthday consider a donation to our scholarship fund providing assistance to local women continuing their college education.*

**Members –donate a new children's book, remembering our Book Fair years*

RSVP by Monday, March 27th

Phone: Maryl Hitchcock 920-336-5173 or email: silksensations@new.rr.com

From President Sara Ramaker: It is hard to believe that this branch is celebrating its 90th birthday! The committee has worked hard to make sure we celebrate it in style. I do hope you will all attend. Bring a prospective member. What better way to introduce someone to AAUW than to show our rich "herstory." This party is also our scholarship fundraiser so I hope you will all want to contribute. Did you know that a month after the branch was created, the branch awarded its first scholarship? It was \$50, a significant amount in 1927.

INTEREST/STUDY GROUPS

ART STUDY GROUP

Thursday, March 16 10:00 am
World's Greatest Paintings – The Great Courses
Artists: Bellini, Geertgen and Durer
Hostess: Sandy Melroy
1931 Rainbow Avenue, De Pere
Co-hostess: Janice McCarthy

Art Presentation and luncheon April 20

The Art Group has organized an art demonstration at the Popelka Trenchard Glass Fine Art Gallery, 64 South 2nd Avenue in Sturgeon Bay at 10:00 on April 20. Luncheon will follow at the Blue Front Café, 86 West Maple Street, Sturgeon Bay. Please RSVP to Stella Frigo at sfrigo@new.rr.com or 632-4052. For pictures and information on the gallery, see: <http://www.popelkaglass.com/>

BOOK GROUP – meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Reader's Loft at 3:30pm.

Tuesday, March 28

Book: **1916: A Novel of the Irish Rebellion** by Morgan Llywellyn. At age fifteen, Ned Halloran lost both of his parents--and almost his own life--when the *Titanic* sank. Determined to keep what little he has, he returns to his homeland of Ireland and enrolls at Saint Edna's school in Dublin. Saint Edna's headmaster is the renowned scholar and poet, Patrick Pearse--who is soon to gain greater fame as a rebel and patriot. Ned becomes deeply involved with the growing revolution . . . and the sacrifices it will demand. - Amazon.

Happy 90th Birthday, Green Bay Area Branch!

Things have changed since 12 women organized this branch on January 31, 1927, but its goals remain the same, namely: advancing equity for women and girls through quality education. So strongly did these early founders believe in education that at the Branch's second meeting, the first scholarship of \$50 was awarded to a graduate of Green Bay West High School. Our styles have changed. In the 1930s, members held teas for high school girls and their mothers to "acquaint them with positive points of views of college education." More recently, the Branch supported the Sex Equity Task Force that became the impetus for Green Bay Schools to implement Title IX fostering equal education for boys and girls. Although not our only project, scholarships remain our major emphasis. Over the years, thousands of dollars of scholarships have been awarded. Presently, the Branch awards scholarships to women over 25 years old, junior or senior, earning their first baccalaureate or finishing their associate degree at Bellin College, College of the Menominee, NWTC, St. Norbert College or UWGB Green Bay. We also continue to annually support the AAUW Education Foundation Program. We published the book, *Women of Northeastern Wisconsin Dreamers and Doers*, highlighting area women who made significant contributions to this area. This was followed by an annual Dreamers and Doers awards luncheon. Presently we are preparing the sequel that will include, among others, these nominees and award winners – ensuring "herstory" remains a part of history.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sara Ramaker

February Branch Meeting on the Immigration Story

A special thank you to Stella Frigo for coordinating February's branch meeting with speakers, Elizabeth Kostichka and Sr. Melanie Maczka from Casa ALBA, a local Hispanic resource center. I loved hearing Elizabeth's immigration story. She reminded me that, unlike what the media wants us to think, each person's immigration story is unique. Elizabeth's began with a chance meeting in a line at Disney World! She is a lovely talented woman who spoke passionately of her life and the difficulties in bridging the cultures. I can only imagine the feelings she had leaving the large cosmopolitan Mexico City (as well as her family and culture) for Green Bay. She arrived in March and thought all the trees were dead, because they had no leaves on them. Clearly adapting to our climate was only one of her many challenges. (At least my Swedish relatives were familiar with the climate.) I so appreciated the open and honest discussion of the problems facing the Hispanic community today.

Elizabeth never had to worry about being undocumented, but she is very sensitive to the concerns of this part of our community. The fear created by the administration's efforts to criminalize all of the Hispanic community is alive and well in Green Bay. This fear is very close to me, though my Mexican American daughter was born in Green Bay. I know from personal experience that these are hardworking people with families who have lived and contributed to this community for years. It includes adults, brought as children to this country, who have no memories of Mexico. Deportation has and will divide families and cause harsh disruptions in our schools and workplaces. As the administration shows more and more of what its immigration policy is really going to be, let us remember the real people that governmental policy is impacting. I was hearten to read that Green

Bay's police chief was one of many law enforcement leaders asking Congress not to make them enforce immigration laws. These officers have fears, too. They know that without community cooperation their jobs become nearly impossible. One cannot investigate crimes if no one will talk to you. Like the Disney line, perhaps we can use the grocery or other line to keep lines of communication open. A smile or casual conversation might be enough to let people know we welcome them to our community.

On a positive note, we were invited to share a lunch with members of Casa Alba, perhaps when our Birthday Party and State Convention are over. Also, thank you to all the members who brought donations for the Casa Alba preschool program. Thank you too to Sue for the delicious Chili and to all who brought fruit, veggies and desserts.

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND

Mary Schmidt

Equal Pay Day

April 4, 2017 is Equal Pay Day. This is the symbolic day when women's pay from the past 15 months catches up to what their male equivalents earned in the past year. It's a day to raise awareness about the gender pay gap.

The gender pay gap is one of the main issues AAUW focuses on. They began their initiative in 1922 when the AAUW Legislative program called for a reclassification of the U.S. Civil Service and repeal of salary restrictions in the Women's Bureau. In 1955 AAUW supported an equal pay for equal work bill and in 1963 were instrumental in getting Congress to pass the Equal Pay Act. However, as we all know, the disparity continues.



Human Trafficking Study Group

The latest issue of Outlook has an article about Human Trafficking, highlighting that this is one of the Association's areas of interest. Locally, Liz Pierce has been spearheading our Branch's efforts. Presently Linda Birder, Dotty Juengst and Sara Ramaker are working with Liz. The topic is huge and the needs are great. Presently, we are studying and meeting with others working more directly in the area. We will then decide exactly what part we can play to end this trafficking. If you are interested in joining us, let one of us know.

New Branch Program Model considered

Linda Birder has presented a new model of branch participation. She proposes each member commit to one or two areas of high interest for the year. This could be Art Study Group, Book Group, Scholarship Fund, Social Group, LAF, Dreamers & Doers, Pay Equity Study, STEM Study, Social Justice.

Each group would be responsible for education of issue, scheduling a monthly branch meeting (1/year or ½ year); providing opportunity for some type of community outreach/service, effective communication and advertising, it will get AAUW name out there, making money for our scholarship fund would be an option, networking with other groups when possible and appropriate.

This will be discussed more at our April & May branch meetings.

STATE AND NATIONAL AAUW NEWS

Please plan to attend the **AAUW Wisconsin Convention to be held April 21 and 22 at the Best Western Bridgewood Resort Hotel and**

Conference Center in Neenah It should be a fun, interesting and entertaining event. It is an opportunity to talk to wonderful women from around the state. Last year the programs were great and I also learned so much from talking to the other participants. It is so healthy and so energizing to hear what women around this state are doing to advance women's rights. Treat yourself and spend the night. The hospitality room opens at 9:30 pm.

As you may recall our District 5 is responsible for the State convention in April. Barb Wilson, Bev Braun and I joined 10 AAUW members from around the district at a planning meeting for the state convention on Saturday. We had a huge agenda, but had it completed in less than 4 hours! These are an amazing and fun group of women to work with. In addition to the meeting, we heard updates from each branch in the district. Some interesting programs and ideas were discussed. It is always inspiring to get together with AAUW members from around the state. I must admit I went to the meeting worrying what the workload was going to be. I left the meeting very excited and looking forward to the convention.

We are responsible for the registration, creating the district raffle basket and collating the registration packets. Barb will be handling the registration. Bev has collected many items and will put together the district's basket or baskets. Three members will handle the registration table on Friday and Saturday. We will need help putting together the 100 registration folders, the nametags and meal tickets. The registration packets will consist of the convention booklet, notepaper and pencil or pen, evaluation form, information about the Fox Valley (hopefully from the Fox Valley Cities Visitor Bureau and some treats). I anticipate the packets will be done the week before the convention.