

# BAYNOTES

Empowering Women since 1881 –  
Through Advocacy, Education, Philanthropy and Research  
Branch Website: [greenbayarea-wi.aauw.net](http://greenbayarea-wi.aauw.net)



## MOVIE NIGHT

Monday, January 18<sup>TH</sup> 6:30 p.m.

Movie: **The Hate U You Give**



The film, **Hate U Give**, is Angie Thomas's first novel about a teenage girl who grapples with racism, police brutality, and activism after witnessing her black friend murdered by the police. The book became an immediate young adult bestseller and was adapted into a movie shortly after its release. This book is familiar to the Afternoon book club which has already read it. Variety's review: "*A brilliantly modulated balancing act between dark and light, anger and optimism, white privilege mined for pointed laughs and black fury portrayed as a galvanizing force for change.*" It certainly is appropriate as we forge ahead as a nation to overcome the systematic racism so dramatically shown in the unforgiveable killing of George Floyd last summer.



Bring your own popcorn and beverage. The plan is to view the movie and then open the meeting for discussion. The meeting will be longer than usual, but remember when you are on mute, you can always take a break without worrying about disturbing others.

## Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81210315580?pwd=YmoxekVxaUZnejZrUXB4WXdT0hUZz09>

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## **Branch Coffee and Conversation - Monday, January 11 9:00-10:00 a.m.**

for an hour of reconnecting and catching up with each other

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82502424458?pwd=RnkvejRBVGaanV6UmJ0MXI4UUNsQT09>



Let's get together

## **Branch Whine with Wine January 14 at 6:30-7:30 p.m.**

Let's get together in the evening for an hour of catching up.

Join Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82127621221?pwd=WEpGVndzZHRFeURGNnZqT0p6VHJQZz09>





## TREASURER REPORT

Lisa Ubbelohde

51 members

\$6811.93 checking

\$79700.25 savings

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### **Short Note on Upcoming Branch Meetings:**

Planning branch meetings has been especially difficult this year. Clearly, it is not possible for us to have the Dreamers and Doers book presentation gala that we hoped to have in April. (My hope is that October might be possible.) Returning to last spring vote on branch programs, the next program was gerrymandering. The board decided we should proceed with this topic, because the branch chose it and it is very timely. Watch the BayNotes for updates on the branch programs.

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### **Women Made a Difference:**

We talk about women changing the world. Regardless of your politics, one has to admire the Black women in Georgia who worked to enfranchise their people. Here is an interesting article on the women and the organizations they run. [Meet the Black WOMEN WHO CHANGED GEORGIA BLUE](#). (Note: if those of you that get the paper copy of the BayNotes want to read any of the articles cited in this issue, just contact, me, Sara Ramaker and I will be happy to provide you with a paper copy of these articles.)

## CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sara Ramaker

I went for a walk the other night when it was snowing. I have taken to walking in the early evening, because the roads are empty and the Christmas lights are on. The snow made for a magical evening – a beautiful white covering making it all so very quiet. Unfortunately, under the snow was some very slippery ice. In the course of three blocks, I fell three times. Fortunately, no harm done with the falls. I got to St. Matthews and the snow was coming down so fast that I put my glasses in my pocket. Pippi loves to run around the playground. We continue on our walk. When I got home I was horrified to find my glasses were not in my pocket. So, I retraced my steps. Unfortunately, the snow was coming down faster and it was getting harder and harder to even see my steps in the snow. Along the way I saw some round thing sticking out of the snow. It was a twig that was shaped like glasses. It gave me hope, despite the fact the snow was coming down even harder. I knew the place I had put them in my pocket. I headed for that place. There just a foot away was something sticking up – just barely - my glasses! A few minutes more of snow and they would not have been found. Sometimes fortune smiles on us and we must find it in all the small as well as the big things in our lives. A new year starts and despite last year's missteps, we start with a clean slate. Actually, every day offers us the same opportunity, but for some reason, we humans look more to the new year. This last year brought so many changes...so many heartaches. Not seeing or hugging friends and family was difficult, but a slower life, one with less in it, had its advantages, too. "Rules" that were never previously challenged suddenly seemed to have no purpose. 2021 gave some of us an opportunity to challenge what was really "necessary" in our lives. Others have had to live without the very necessities in their lives. The "best country in the world" struggled to do the best for its citizens and by many standards failed. We needed big government at a time when many in the country had for years rejected big government and failed to financially support it. We learned that when we do



not spend our tax dollars supporting health care and a pandemic team, we cannot immediately create either when they are needed. Personally, I have been lucky. My extended family has their homes, their livelihood and all have avoided COVID, so far. Yet, my state and country are struggling more than I have the ability to fathom. As I write, our very democracy is under siege. Yet, I have hope.

Former Representative Gabby Gifford, in an opinion in the New York Times, spoke of the resilience and determination she needed to continue living after the gunman tried to assassinate her and killed her wonderful judge, her staffer and good friend and a third grader who was there, because she was interested in running for office someday. She notes that this has been a terrible year which has left us angry and scared. She says:

“It is going to take a long time before we feel strong again....There is no magic recovery for this in store for us as a nation....We are living the consequences of years of inflammatory speeches and false accusations. Through hard work, intention and commitment our country will overcome the rage of those who stormed the Capitol with Confederate flags and symbols of hate... We will move ahead as I did and still do every day- one foot after another. When one person flags, another person steps in – to lift up the weak, and give strength to the doubtful. Together, our resolve and determination will be fuel for years to come.” [Gabby Gifford' s Opinion on resilience](#)

It is not a time to relax. AAUW has much work ahead. I know I can do little to change this world, but I also know if I do nothing, nothing will change. So, I ask of you to help AAUW - our branch, our state, in Washington – to move forward.

**“Women speaking up for themselves and for those around them is the strongest force we have to change the world.” - Melinda Gates**

The new vaccine and the diversity of the new administration gives me hope for the new year. As we wait for the vaccines, there are many things to be done. Just because we sit in our homes does not mean that we cannot continue to work for change. That is AAUW’s goal to work for change...for greater opportunities for women and girls I hope you will join us in as many activities as you can. I wish you all a Happy, Healthy 2021!

### **MEETING OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

One of the highlights of our December get together was meeting our three scholarship recipients.

Our branch has been giving scholarships for over 90 years. It is important to keep them personal. It is so easy to forget the real purpose - real people succeeding in their efforts to achieve higher education.

When we meet the scholarship recipients, it becomes personal and fresh again. I was so impressed with all of them. I was flattered they attended and, though Heather had to leave due to a school commitment, stayed for the entire party. Each is such a lovely, poised and hardworking woman. I have no doubt they will be successful. I am so pleased that AAUW could help them on their journey.

I also want to thank Laura Jarosz for attending. I am sure they all had many things to do five nights before Christmas. Yet, they took the time to come and thank us for the scholarships. The board voted to give each student a student membership for the remainder of this year. We hope they will continue to feel welcome and join us as their schedule permits.

**Update on the AAUW's State Public Policy. - Demand Fair Maps:**

I have recently joined the AAUW's State Public Policy Committee. One of the areas we have decided to focus on is the issue of how we create our districts in Wisconsin. As a reminder, let us start with what districts are created. Every ten years the census identifies where people are living. From that census, in Wisconsin we create a number of districts: 1) Congressional Districts: these legislators represent us in the House of Representatives in Congress; 2) the State Senate Districts: these senators make up the Senate, half of the Wisconsin legislature and 3) the State Assembly Districts: these Assembly persons make up the other half of our state legislature. Local governments also create municipal districts, county supervisory and other districts. It is important to understand that while there are some federal rules on voting, the implementation of those rules, creation of other rules and procedures depends on each individual's state's own process.

In the past, there was a state law that required local governments to create their districts before the state government does its districting. The reason is that allows the state government to consider local district boundaries so that local districts will not be divided. After the last census, the state legislature chose to ignore that law and then changed the law so that they had not violated. But the result is that county supervisory districts, school districts, etc. were not considered in the creation of state districts. The problem is what happened in many local governments, namely: a single voting area might have two, three or more different state legislators. This led to one local clerk handing out the wrong ballot, meaning people's votes were not counted. It is not only elections, but any local issue requires several state legislators to be interested. Will they be interested if the local issue has so few voters in each legislative districts that they have no ability to

change the legislator? Probably not. This is just one of the reasons to demand Fair Maps.

One sure way for change is to demand it of our state legislators. We do this with letters, email and phone calls. Only the pressure of the voters will force the state legislature to create nonpartisan commission for creating our districts. Our state Policy Committee will be asking you many times to write or call your legislator. I will be forwarding more information to keep you up to date on the developments on this issue I will be asking you to take action. I hope you will - over and over again. The first email to watch for is around January 18<sup>th</sup> when LWV is organizing a statewide writing campaign to the state legislators. When I receive the information from LWV, I will forward it to all of you. If you have any questions, please contact me.

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**A HOLLY JOLLY DECEMBER BRANCH MEETING**



Our December meeting is always meant to be just a social event - usually a luncheon with entertainment. COVID has forced us to learn some new tricks. This is the first time we tried a "social branch meeting" via Zoom. Thank you to all who attended. Attendees: Nancy Anderson, Linda Birder, Jan Davis, Carol DeGroot, Laura Fischer, Barb Jenkins, Judy Johnson, Dotty Juengst, Eileen Littig, Lindsay Mather, Carol Pearson, Marilyn Rabideau, Sara Ramaker, Lisa Ubbelohde, Mary Woodbridge, and Mary Schmidt. Guests: Jenna Crawley, Christine Lueptow, Heather Phillips, all scholarship recipients and Laura Jarosz,



manager for donor relations for UWGB.



### **Mary Woodbridge's winning creation**

We had a fun time. The ugly holiday sweater contest was really fun! We had so many wonderful entries that we had a three-way tie – with Mary Woodbridge, Dotty Juengst and Christine Lueptow, one of our scholarship recipients, being the winners. (Personally, I think this might be an annual event.).



### **Dotty Juengst's winning ugly sweater**

We had a fun holiday reading with audience participation. It was lovely to hear the stories behind the special holiday items. We had a lovely gift for the drawing. (Our scholarship recipient Christine Lueptow won, but graciously declined to take two prizes.)

We ended with a rousing singing of “Jingle Bells”. (Lindsay had warned us that singing on Zoom is bad, because the sounds are not heard at the same time. She was right, but it still was fun!).

Special thanks to Barbara Wilson who created our Holiday Story, to Mary Schmidt who put together the prizes and delivered them and to our board members who have supported AAUW the entire year. Unfortunately, we did not think to take the picture at the beginning of the party, but rather as we were leaving. Still, it is a great picture to represent 2020 Zoom meetings.

## **GREATEST NEEDS FUND/DECEMBER MEETING**

Mary Schmidt

Usually at our December Holiday Meeting we sell tickets to a drawing for gift baskets and other items with proceeds going to LAF and now the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund. This year we (the AAUW Board) decided to brighten everyone's holiday season with a virtual Zoom party including an Ugly Sweater contest and a drawing for gift baskets. All prizes were donated by members for members.

Dotty Juengst, Mary Woodbridge and scholarship recipient Christina Lueptow wowed us with their ugly sweaters! All three were awarded either a suffragette coffee mug or ornament.

Carol DeGroot and Jan Davis received gift baskets of wine and chocolate.

Great fun was had laughing at all the creative sweaters, sharing stories behind treasured ornaments, reading a group participation story and singing a holiday song.

So... for a while we treated ourselves and tabled the collection of money for AAUW's Greatest Needs Fund. We have not forgotten the importance of AAUW's mission to respond effectively to gender equity issues. You can still help out by donating directly to AAUW. Your donations can be sent to AAUW at P.O. Box 98045, Washington, DC 20090-8045. Make checks payable to AAUW for tax-deductible contributions. You can also donate online at [AAUW.org](http://AAUW.org).

