

# BAYNOTES

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

**Branch Meeting**  
**Monday, April 19 6:30 pm via zoom**  
**Wisconsin and Gerrymandering**  
Presentation by Carlene Bechen



Carlene Bechen worked for 30 years as a public-school educator in Madison, WI before retiring in 2016. She has been activist for many years and has been fighting gerrymandering for years.

She described her reason for choosing this area as follows; “The way I got into this work was because of how frustrated and discouraged I was regarding funding for public education and the refusal of the legislature to take Medicaid expansion money from the Federal Government....I appreciate the important work (being done) to push the issue of nonpartisan redistricting forward. This is the only avenue I can see for getting anything done on the issues we care about.”

She began working with Wisconsin Voices as the Fair Maps Organizer, teaming up with grassroots volunteers and activists around the state in November, 2019. She worked closely with the members of the Fair Maps Coalition - specifically its Lead Team of the Fair Elections Project, Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, Common Cause, and National Redistricting Foundation.

We have asked her to briefly explain gerrymandering focus on what has happened and what is happening in Wisconsin and what we can do for change.  
See Sara’s article on gerrymandering in this newsletter

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82635612916?pwd=OTNMcko0cVRBcTJ4eIE4dIBhVFhpQT09>

If you are not comfortable using zoom and would like to attend a meeting – contact Sara (920-366-0910) and she will set you up with a member that will share their zoom (computer) space with you safely.

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**CATCH UP WITH COFFEE** - Wednesday, April 14 9:00 am



Give yourself an hour to relax with friends and talk about what is on their minds. via zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83785607732?pwd=Q1BOM2pBZUueG4rekJuSUd0MUVOZz09WHINE>



**WHINE WITH WINE** - Thursday, April 15 6:30 pm

Take an hour break with a glass of wine and enjoy a get-together with friends to talk about whatever via zoom. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84552872229?pwd=Wlp0N1UrbINOTVpMb3VnK0U3QzJDQT09>

## INTEREST/STUDY GROUPS

### ¡ADELANTE! BOOK GROUP

Mary Barker & Sara Ramaker

Wednesday, April 21 6:30 pm Via Zoom

#### **Book: Becoming by Michelle Obama**

A memoir of former US first lady, a deeply personal experience that speaks of her roots and how she found her voice, as well as her time in the White House, public health campaign and role as a mother



### AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

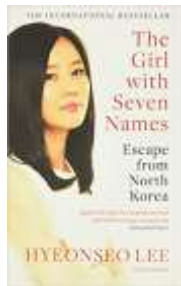
Wendy Schroeder

Monday, April 26 3:00pm  
via Zoom

Leader: Carolyn Reedy

#### **Book: The Girl With Seven Names Names: Escape from North Korea by Hyeonseas Lee**

An extraordinary insight into life under one of the world's most ruthless and secretive dictatorships and the story of one woman's terrifying struggle to avoid capture/repatriation and guide her family to freedom. At 17 she decided to escape North Korea and could not have imagined that it would be twelve years before she was reunited with her family.



### AAUW Board Meeting

Thursday, April 6 . 6:30 pm  
Via Zoom

## ART STUDY GROUP

Carolyn Reedy & Mary Woodbridge

Stats to think about:

\*Nearly half of visual artists in the US are women; on average they earn 74 cents for every dollar made by a male artist.

\*In a survey of the permanent collections of 18 prominent art museums in the US found that out of over 10,000 artists, 87% are male and 855 are white.

\*In a study of 820,000 exhibitions across the public and commercial sectors in 2018 only 1/3 were by women.

### Trout Museum of Art

**Art is Her:** Throughout 2020-2021 celebrates women artist and explores the relevance of equal rights in art today. Phoenix Brown is the featured artist March 1 – April 30, 2021.

**Unraveled, Restructured, Revealed:** Where Contemporary Art and Diverse Perspectives Intersect. Through May 23, 2021. Exhibit brings together over 60 contemporary arts from across Wisconsin, the country and world exploring inclusion and diversity through art.

### Neville Public Museum

**Milestones** March 21-May23, 2021

A juried exhibition inspired by the Neville Museum's collections featuring artwork of NWTC Artisan and Business Center Artists. Artist chose an item from the Museum's digital collection online or from the Generations Gallery to draw inspirations

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### DREAMERS & DOERS

Dotty Juengst

It has been almost a year since our Dreamers and Doers Gala was delayed. We never considered it would be more than a year to wait for rescheduling.

We decided to wait to reschedule so we could hold the Gala as we had planned - an event to celebrate women, visit and eat. That time may be coming in October. We will be discussing, at the Board Meeting, getting our planning committee back together. Please send me your questions, comments and ideas for rescheduling.

## **CLEAN WATER STUDY GROUP**

Carol Pearson

To learn where to dispose of certain items, use the Tri-County's waste wizard. Type the name of a waste item, and they will tell you how to recycle or dispose of the item. The wizard also offers a curbside recycling quick guide to learn about disposal options.

## **Earth Week Cleanup Projects Co-Sponsored by Clean Water Action Council**

### **UWGB Campus-Wide Cleanup. April 22, 2-4 PM.**

Join us for an Earth Day cleanup event with the Public Environmental Affairs Council (PEAC) and Round River Alliance.

### **Baird Creek Cleanup. April 24, 8:30 am – 12 pm**

Join us as we clean up Baird Creek and surrounding areas with the Baird Creek Preservation Foundation.

Please RSVP at [contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org](mailto:contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org) to receive event details. Both events will follow social distancing guidelines. Please bring gloves and wear clothes/shoes that can get dirty.

## **Food Waste Composting Workshop With FarmHer Donna Yost. Sponsored by Clean Water Action Council**

**Date: May 3 at 1-3pm (Rain date: May 10)**

Join us for an outdoor composting workshop with local organic farmer Donna Yost to learn how to compost food scraps at home and how it benefits the environment.

**A free composter will be provided to attendees while supplies last.** Sign-up by emailing [contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org](mailto:contact@cleanwateractioncouncil.org) or leaving a message at 920-421-8885 to reserve your spot. Details will be sent after registering.

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## **PUBLIC POLICY –AAUW-WI**

Sara Ramaker

### **Another Reason Gerrymandering Hurts WI**

AAUW-WI has chosen ending Wisconsin's gerrymandered districting as its focus public policy focus for 2021-2022. Here is one example of how gerrymandering hurts Wisconsin.

Sara Ramaker has been working with LWVGGB on their local fair maps project. This is a recent opinion sent to the Press Gazette recently:

Wisconsin voters have shown they want to end gerrymandering (political maps drawn to favor one party over another) by the passage of 55 county resolutions and 28 county and 19 municipal referendums demanding that the district maps be drawn in a nonpartisan manner. Every referendum passed by a super majority. With such support, what does the Wisconsin legislature do? Our heavily gerrymandered legislature hired two high-priced Washington, D.C. attorneys and retained one Wisconsin attorney to represent, not the state of Wisconsin, but themselves. We taxpayers since January, 2021 have paid \$30,000 a month (and promised at least \$800,000 totally) for redistricting litigation that does not even exist! Moreover, legislative leadership has not included these expenses in the budget and there is no limit to what the attorneys can charge us.

How can the legislature ignore the will of the voters? The referendums were only advisory and a gerrymandered legislature, such as Wisconsin's, can ignore the will of the majority. After every census, states are required to redraw districts for electing local, state and federal representatives. The law requires the districting to consider: equal population, compactness and contiguity of districts and recognition of community of interests. Political parties often consider party affiliation. Creating districts favoring the majority party is gerrymandering. This is done by putting all of one party's voters in a few districts, called "packing" or splitting up a party's voters into several districts to insure they never get a majority, called "cracking." While both parties have used it in the past, more sophisticated computer systems allow experts to gerrymander in even more extreme ways.

In 2010, Wisconsin taxpayers paid an out-of-state expert \$800,000 to draw district maps guaranteeing a Republican majority. These maps were prepared in secret, only Republican legislators who signed a secrecy pledge could see any of the process. The maps were presented to the legislature on Friday and passed shortly after without any public hearings. Taxpayers then spent another \$3.5 million defending these gerrymandered maps. The litigation only ended, when the U.S. Supreme Court decided gerrymandering was not an issue for the courts.

Democracy means the voters choose the legislators. Gerrymandering threatens democracy, because the legislators choose the voters. Gerrymandering creates many "safe seats". These are districts that are so heavily one party it is statistically impossible to defeat the incumbent. The incumbent can only lose if the party chooses to run a challenger. The legislator's interests are tied to the party's not the voters'. It fosters gridlock and more extreme positions, because compromise is never necessary. Legislators never need to appeal to independents. Thus, our gerrymandered legislature can ignore our referendums and resolutions.

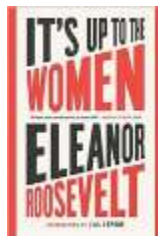
It is time to create a legislature that responds to the will of the voters and to stop this waste of taxpayers' dollars. Wisconsin's 2020-2021 districting must be nonpartisan. Only if Wisconsin citizens demand change will we get change. Get involved! Write, call and/or email your state legislators and demand nonpartisan districting now!

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## **BOOK SHARE**

Beverly Braun

I have a copy of the reprinted version of Eleanor Roosevelt's first book entitled "It's Up To The Women". I am willing to pass it around for anyone to enjoy and compare how her thoughts are similar or different to the problems of today.



## **CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Sara Ramaker

March Branch Meeting: It was not the celebration of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment that we had planned, to have, but I hope you all enjoyed Helen Bannon's portrayal of Wisconsin suffragette, Jesse Jack Hooper. Hooper was an amazing woman who not only insured Wisconsin was the first state to ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, but also was one of the first women to run for political office. It really is amazing that these women were able to convince the men in power to give up some of that power, because it was the right thing to do. Even so, let us not forget that it all depended on one legislator who chanced his vote, because his mother asked him. Never underestimate the power of one vote or a mother.

April Branch Meeting: Once again our branch is "ahead of the game". We chose gerrymandering as this topic a year ago - before the AAUW WI chose it as this year's number one policy issue. I have been regularly including information on gerrymandering and how it hurts our democracy. 2021 is the year Wisconsin must redraw its districts, but will it and how will it do it? The leaders of the legislature has hired attorneys to fight any litigation before any litigation has begun. It is expected the legislature will draw its own maps. Governor Evers has created the People's Maps Commission composed of nine citizens (not politicians) from around the state, who are charged to draw fair, impartial maps for the Legislature to take up in 2021. They have conducted hearings across the state of Wisconsin, listening to the concerns of citizens about how to draw the maps. Their proposed maps will be presented to the Legislature which has the constitutional authority to decide on the maps. All of this has been delayed, because the 2020 Census results may not be available until September. At our next Branch meeting, Carlene Bechen will speak, she has been teaming up with grassroots volunteers and activists around Wisconsin advising, advocating and supporting their efforts to fight gerrymandering in Wisconsin. I hope you will join us.

### **New Branch Leadership**

It is time to think about our future leadership team. I will be leaving as Co-President and Linda Birder will be leaving the Vice-President of Programming and Nancy Anderson will be leaving as Vice-President for Membership. (Membership started as

a co with Wendy Janosik-Schmidt, but with COVID19 and Wendy's new grandson, her world became very family focused.)

As I have been President for 5 years and Linda has handled programming for 4 years, it is clearly time for a change. What a great time to start anew!

The job of Vice-President of Programs has been simplified since Linda instituted our May planning event. The programs and who is setting it up is usually set at that time. The programming chair needs to follow up and prepare the two documents we give our members in September. Linda has the master for these which will make this all much easier. The rest of the year is confirming speakers and making sure thank you notes are completed. You could all handle this job

Vice-President of Membership does not need to worry about the directory this year, Lisa Ubbelohde has agreed to put it together again. This position needs to attend meetings, get out name tags, etc at the meeting, keep a list of guests and follow-up to encourage them to join. Someone interested in expanding membership would be ideal, but someone willing to keep memberships is necessary. This is a great way to get to know members better. This is also a great position to split with someone: The duties are easily divided and it helps if one cannot attend every meeting.

Co-President is a great job, because it is what you want it to be. There are a few "must do's:" 1) Attend and lead necessary meetings, 2) Receive and distribute information from national and state, 3) complete the necessary forms for state and national, and 4) such other duties that you feel are important. The positive part of this position is the doors it opens, opportunities it provides and the wonderful people one meets.

Having Lindsay as a Co-President this last year has been a great help. She is computer savvy and is willing to do many different things. Her job, however, makes it impossible for her to always be at meetings or to do this job alone.. We have been able to divide duties easily. I know you can divide the work in a way that works for both of you. This is a great year to consider taking this job, because there are no "rules". You can do this job!

Finally, I feel very strongly that it should not be anyone's job to "find someone to fill a position." If

you like being a part of this organization, you should want to participate so that it can continue. What position would you like to talk about?

We also need a Hospitality coordinator.

I am very glad to announce and want to thank the following members who have agreed to continue -

Co-membership VP: Mary Schmidt

Secretary: Portia Tuttle

Treasurer: Lisa Ubbelohde

BayNotes Editor: Barb Wilson

Art Study Group: Mary Woodbridge & Carolyn Reedy

Afternoon Book Group: Wendy Schroeder

Dreamers & Doers: Dotty Juengst

Scholarship: Sara Ramaker

Public Policy: Sara Ramaker

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**REGISTER NOW!**

**STATE AAUW CONVENTION VIRTUAL**

Please take advantage of the virtual AAUW-WI State Convention on April 23-24. It is free! There is no travel! The programs look great! You can register on line right now. To register, go to: <https://aauwwistateconvention.com> You will see two buttons "Click Here to Register" and "Click here for Website Tour". I strongly suggest you take the short website tour. It explains a lot about how to register and the convention. It also gives the name and email of the wonderful LaCrosse Member who is the contact on any web issues

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**AAUW FRIENDSHIPS**

**Sara Ramaker**

Who is our "friend"? There are many ways to define a friend: a work friend, a political friend, a social friend, a bridge friend, a book club friend, an acquaintance. When you lose a love one, those degrees do not matter. What is important is someone reaching out to tell you, "I am sorry." When I was first married and living in Dayton, Ohio, my grandmother died. She was so. very special to me. Losing her was very hard. I went home for the funeral. When I return to work, one acquaintance came up to me and said, "I am sorry about your grandmother's death." It meant the world to me. Before that experience I used to worry

about what to say. What can I say when someone dies that means anything? What I learned was anything spoken from your heart is more than enough. A member who lost her mother told me that the cards from other members – no matter what you said – meant a lot. Maybe what we need most is just a reminder that you are a person that we appreciate and we all recognize lost. That shared feeling of love and loss is the greatest gift we can give to anyone.



### **NCCWSL SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE**

We received this email from Maggie Linz, AAUW-Wisconsin Leadership VP

Our AAUW-Wisconsin State Board has good news to share: This year we had 15 nominations for the state scholarship to attend NCCWSL, and we were able to award scholarships to all 15 nominees! Our thanks to the District Coordinators and the Branch Presidents for getting out the word. Because of your efforts, nominees came from branches in each of our five districts, representing all parts of WI.

In this devastating year of pandemic, most in-person events have been moved to online virtual events. The NCCWSL conference will be no exception. (NCCWSL stands for National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.) The conference will be held virtually May 25-26, 2021.

The good news is that the registration fee for this year is \$125, much less than the in-person cost. The reduced registration fee allowed our state board to offer the scholarship for up to 12 college women from Wisconsin. The nomination application and information sent out to branches stated that priority in selection will be given for one nominee per branch. However, if space permitted, we would consider applications for a second nominee per branch.

To our delight, we received 15 nominees from 11 branches! This included 4 nominees that were the second nominee from their respective branches. Every one of the nominees were outstanding women, and our selection committee felt that all deserved to attend the conference. We contacted the AAUW state president, Joan Schneider, and state treasurer Joyce Gregg, recommending that we use funds that were budgeted for leadership activities. Our request was supported, and we were able to award scholarships to all 15 nominees!

I wish everyone could read the applications that were submitted! We have an inspiring and engaged group of college women in Wisconsin! They will represent our state very well and make us proud! We hope to hear back from our nominees, after the conference; and hope that it is a wonderful experience for all of them. This is also an opportunity for nominating branches to ask your nominee to speak to your branch next year. I promise you, hearing from these women will be uplifting!

Going forward, it's important to note that this may be a one-time opportunity. We don't know if NCCWSL will be held virtually in the future, or return to in-person. The opportunity to award scholarships for in-person will be limited again, due to higher registration fees. In past years, the state board was able to offer three scholarships.

I would therefore urge branches to consider including money for a NCCWSL scholarship in their branch budgets for the future. In the past, registration fees were close to \$500 which covered registration, room, and board. Transportation to the event was separate. Several branches are already sponsoring students to attend NCCWSL, and we congratulate them.

You can find out more information about NCCWSL on the [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) website, or [nccwsl.org](http://nccwsl.org).

Our branch thought we had a nominee, but, despite numerous prodding, she never completed the very simple nomination form. This was a disappointment, but perhaps an inspiration to find a candidate for our branch to support for next year. Anyone with a particular interesting working on this wonderful short-term project, that will perhaps introduce you to wonderful young women, should

inform one of the Co-Presidents or any member of the Board. It is never too early to get started.



### **Looking to Get Outdoors?**

Submitted by Jill Lauritsen

Visit a National Park! There are 63 available throughout the U.S. Get a lifetime pass if you are 62 or older. Only \$80 and good at national monuments, fish/wildlife areas, federal recreation sites and national forest campsites. There are over 2,000 places to visit. Your pass will cover you and 3 other passengers in your vehicle and can be purchased in Milwaukee and Florence. Some REIs sell them too. Call to check.

Under 62? An annual pass is \$80 per year. Military people and their dependents are free. There are several free days for 2021 with the first being April 17<sup>th</sup>.

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### **Women played a role in our National Parks**

Article submitted by Jill Lauritsen

**Sue Kunitomi** lived in the little Tokyo neighborhood of Los Angeles. During World War II, the federal government ordered her family to leave their home for Manzanar War Relocation Center, a remote military style camp because of their Japanese ancestry, she was 13 years old. Years later she successfully led a campaign to establish Manzanar National Historic Site in 1992. Kunitomi remained involved with the park where she led a commission to advise the National Park Service on the history it preserved.

**Paint Pot Peg** – some might say Marguerite Lindsley was destined to be a permanent park ranger at Yellowstone National Park. Marguerite held a degree in bacteriology and had an immense passion for Yellowstone, having spent her childhood living in Mammoth and her father being Yellowstone's interim superintendent during the transition from

the army to the National Park Service. In 1925 she became the first woman to serve as a permanent park ranger at the park. She enjoyed teaching the public about the wonders to be found in the park, which earned her the unusual nickname of Paint Pot Peg and Geysir Peg.

**Service corps crews** contribute mightily to the wealth and safety of our parks. Thanks to donor support the National Park foundation funded a grant for an all-women crew at Great Basin National Park in Nevada. The women received chainsaw training and then went on to complete 13,319 acres of vegetation clearing. One of their proudest moments was spent building 500 feet of retaining wall from native stone on the Bristlecone Trail. They also assisted National Park Service wildlife biologists in acoustic monitoring and outflight tracking of bat populations in the park.

### **More fun facts about our National Parks**

Submitted by Jill Lauritsen

#### **Did you know – America's National parks include more than**

85 million acres of spectacular scenery, historic landmarks and cultural experiences

- 17,000 miles of trails
- 43,000 miles of shoreline
- 27,000 historic and prehistoric structures
- 100,000,000 museum objects
- 12,000 campsites

#### **Did you know -**

\*The largest park, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve in Alaska is larger than Switzerland

\*The smallest Park, Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial is .02 acres located in historic Philadelphia

\*The highest point in North America is Denali in Denali National Park & Preserve at over 20,310 feet

\*National parks are home to more than 600 endangered species

\*Sequoia trees, the biggest in the world are found in national parks.