

BAYNOTES

Empowering Women since 1881 – Through Advocacy, Education, Philanthropy and Research
Branch Website: greenbayarea-wi.aauw.net



MAY ANNUAL BRANCH MEETING

Monday, May 17 6:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84400436968?pwd=dEx0TkxHbEE3Y0hkTGQ4cEp2c1Jvdz09>

Join us as we celebrate our branch this past year. It is an important get-together for many reasons: recapping the year, making plans for next year, and most important, thanking our past officers and electing our new officers.

We'd like to extend a special thank you to Sara Ramaker for her many years as branch president. Her hard work and leadership is much appreciated. Also thank you to Linda Birder for her leadership in program planning these past years. We are a stronger and better branch because of you.

Election of Branch Officers for 2021-22

Nominated officers for 2021-2021 - The board is proposing the following candidates:

Presidents: Lindsay Mather

Co-Vice-President - Membership: Mary Schmidt & Thao Coopman

Vice President – Programs – Barbara Wilson

Treasurer: Lisa Ubbelohde

Secretary: Portia George

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Monday; May 10 9:00 am

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



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84604584303?pwd=eINGUmJZdj3NVZNbFM4djBwR1NaUT09>



WHINE WITH WINE

Wednesday, May 12 6:30

Take an hour break with a glass of wine and enjoy a get-together with friends via zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89047043909?pwd=cmxZbE5lK1UwaS8zMHFNalpiVWdxUT09>

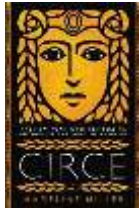
INTEREST/STUDY GROUPS

ADELANTE! BOOK GROUP

Mary Barker & Sara Ramaker

Wednesday, May 19 6:30 pm
Via Zoom

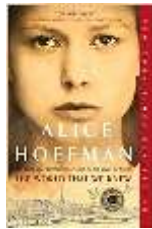
Book: **Circe** by Madeline Miller. A bold and subversive retelling of the goddess's story, Circe is both epic and intimate in its scope, recasting the most infamous female figure from the Odyssey as a hero in her own right.



June 16 selection:

The World That We Knew by Alice Hoffman

Takes place in 1941, during humanity's darkest hour and follows three unforgettable young women who must act with courage and love to survive.



AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Wendy Schroeder

Monday, May 24 3:00 pm via Zoom

Book: *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83114466611?pwd=OVFFa3BsZVBjcXBtVGxGYWw0OVJJOQT09>

Louise Erdrich pays poignant homage to her grandfather in this sweeping novel about Native American dispossession in the 1950s. Like her grandfather, our titular hero is a humble night watchman, also the tribal chairman of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa in North Dakota. Initially an uneventful post, Thomas Wazhashk's life is upended when he learns that the U.S. government has earmarked them for "emancipation" (an odd term, he points out, since



they were not enslaved). *The Night Watchman* follows Thomas's tireless efforts to persuade the U.S. government to honor treaties that protected what remained of their already picked-over lands.

June selection – Monday, June 28 3:00 pm

Book: **Dreaming in Cuban** by Cristina Garcia

A moving story of three generations of women whose ties to Cuba simultaneously draw them closer together, while forcing them apart. Haunted by family secrets and longing for the comforts of home, each of the women struggles to come to terms with her true identity.



ART STUDY GROUP

Carolyn Reedy and Mary Woodbridge

"I feel that there is nothing more truly artistic than to love people" - Vincent Van Gogh

If you are ready to take a road trip there is a wonderful opportunity to see the presentation "Beyond Van Gogh" in Milwaukee this summer. The exhibit uses cutting edge projection technology to create an engaging world of Van Gogh. It will take place at the Wisconsin Center 400 W Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee 53203. Tickets are available online and the dates are July 12-31, August 1-3 and 20-31 and Sept 1- 19. Adult - 46.99 Senior – 41.99 Tickets are made for specific dates and times.

COCKTAILS AND CONVERSATION

Wednesday, June 30 Watch for details – hopefully we can meet in person at a park.

We will share ideas about the next year's programs, speakers and projects. All members and ideas are welcome.

BOARD MEETING Thursday, June 3th 6:30 pm

TREASURER

Lisa Ubbelohde

2021-2022 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Your AAUW membership expires on June 30, 2021. You can renew anytime until June 30th.

***Dues are \$88**, which includes National \$62 (of which \$59 is tax deductible), State \$13, Local Branch \$13.

*You can renew online at AAUW.org or send a check with the attached renewal form, identifying any changes in your information to:

Lisa Ubbelohde, 427 Harvard St. Green Bay, WI 54304. When you renew online, the entire amount is paid and national AAUW sends the branch the local dues.

Lisa will send, via email, a national generated invoice to all who have not renewed. By opening it you can renew online with a credit card. Please renew as soon as you are able.

If there is any change in your information which goes into the branch directory, please send that information also to Lisa Ubbelohde. This will assure that the Membership Directory is complete and accurate. Our newest member, Thao Coopman, is also our first member to send in her renewal! Thank you!



It is important you vote in the AAUW National election. You should have received an email that will take you directly to the national voting site. Or go to AAUW.org.

There is an important bylaw change being voted on to do away with the requirement to have a two or four year degree to be an AAUW member.

Remember – your vote counts.

WATER STUDY GROUP

Carol Pearson

Clean Water Action Council Health Forum **“Protecting Your Family from Toxic Air** **Exposure in the Home,” with Martine Davis,** **Certified Building Biologist May 11, 7-8 pm**

Online presentation via Zoom. Join via computer or telephone.

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErFumorDwjHNx7ASlzkPErbwvmcn8LJOo](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErFumorDwjHNx7ASlzkPErbwvmcn8LJOo)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Learn how to reduce your family risks to toxic exposures in your home.

Identify pollutants in your home from:

- * Construction Materials
- * Household Chemicals
- * Environmental Contaminants
- * PAHs from driveway sealants
- * Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs)
- * Clothing & Furniture with special emphasis on PFAS exposure.

Learn how to minimize exposure for yourself, children and pets.

PUBLIC POLICY

Sara Ramaker

State Public Policy Update on Gerrymandering and **Notice of Fair Maps Panel Webinar - May 13 at 6:30** **p.m.**

AAUW WI Public Policy Committee has been very active lately. It chose gerrymandering as the key issue facing Wisconsin. A sub-committee was formed to develop/adapt materials to provide a **Fair Maps Toolkit** online to assist Branches in educating members about gerrymandering, why it interferes with democracy, and what they can do about it. The full Toolkit is available

on the AAUW Wisconsin website (<https://aauw-wi.aauw.net/>) and contains:

- **AAUW-WI Guide to Advocacy Opposing Gerrymandering in Wisconsin Pamphlet**
- **PowerPoint with Complete Notes for Presenting**
- **Sample Correspondence--letters or emails for newspapers and legislators**
- **Additional Resources**

In addition, on Thursday, May 13 at 6:30 They will present a panel to discuss the issues, featuring Sheila Plotkin (We the Irrelevant), Deb Cronmiller (LWV Executive Director)--among others! Here is the info from the Public Policy Committee:

What is Gerrymandering, and why should you care about it? Join AAUW Wisconsin's Public Policy Committee on May 13th from 6:30 to 7:30pm to learn more about the issue of gerrymandering, as well as how your branch can get more involved in state-wide efforts to bring back fair maps to Wisconsin. Register in advance at: <http://bit.ly/AAUW-WI-FairMapsWebinar>. You will be sent a link.

This webinar will be jam packed with information about Wisconsin re-districting in 2021. A PowerPoint presentation will be followed by speakers on the legislative status of re- districting and what you can do about getting fair maps drawn.

This is the most important advocacy members of AAUW can do in 2021. We need action by every member of every branch across the state so we can be heard in Madison. Please join groups across the state as we rise up in unison. We will be heard!

If you missed, **Can You Hear Us Now?** panel discussion on Thursday, April 29, 2021 sponsored by the Appleton League of Women Voters and Appleton AAUW Branch can viewed it on the Appleton LWV website:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKF3_uEcF0k
Panelists featured were Susan Peters and Jim Cricchi (co-producers), Sheila Plotkin (We the Irrelevant), Senator Hanson, and Tony Phillips (People's Maps Commission).

The film ***Can You Hear Us Now?*** is available on Amazon. "In Wisconsin, where extreme partisanship has become the norm, voters are finding their lives increasingly irrelevant to state lawmakers. Through the stories of four determined women, *Can You Hear Us Now?* unravels the ways that years of one-party control have reshaped democracy in a state in the crosshairs of American politics."

People's Map Commission website is <https://govstatus.egov.com/peoplesmaps> You can sign up to create your own version of a Fair Map.

Fair Maps Coalition <https://www.fairmapswi.com/>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sara Ramaker, Co-President

April Branch Meeting: It feels like a long time ago we heard Carlene Bechen of Fair Maps speak to us about Gerrymandering for our April branch meeting. I hope those who were able to attend learned something new and were inspired to call, write or email your state legislator regularly to tell them to vote for nonpartisan districting. As part of the AAUW-WI Public Policy, we have been working hard on this issue. I was able to do a "trial run" of the new AAUW PowerPoint on the gerrymandering issue to a neighborhood group in Howard. I received very good feedback on the presentation. I hope you will attend the AAUW-WI Policy Webinar on Gerrymandering on May 13 at 6:30 p.m. The speakers who the lots of experience will talk about different aspects of the issue. Many AAUW members from around the state have worked hard to put together webinar together. I hope you will support them.

May Branch Meeting: Finally, this is the last note I will write for the BayNotes as Co-President. All of your support, friendship and hard work has been greatly appreciated. I will miss it. Being president and co-president has opened my life to so many wonderful people and experiences. It is been an

incredible journey. I can recommend it all very highly. Yes, it takes time, but what worthwhile doesn't? I thank you for the opportunity!

May is our annual meeting which is a time to thank the old board and welcome the new. I am very confident that Lindsay will be an excellent Co-President. But, her job schedule makes attending meetings unpredictable. She clearly needs a "Co". This is a great time to take this position. COVID19 has taught us: "There are no rules." Join the fun and enjoy the adventure.

We need one other officer position and several chairpersons. We need a program chair or perhaps two. Creating the branch programs has been greatly simplified. Linda has all her templates so creating the calendar is much easier. Once the schedule is created, the job requires only to make sure everything is set for the meeting, to welcome the guest speakers and make sure thank you notes are given or sent. **The other open positions on the board are: Social Events Group Chair and Hospitality.**

We have lots to look forward to in 2021-2022. It certainly seems likely that we will be able to return to in-person meetings in the fall. It is time to start thinking of ideas for topics/presenters for the branch meetings. If you have any ideas send them to me at Ramaker.sara@gmail.com or call me at 920-432-8249. I will begin to compile the list for our annual "Cocktails and Conversations" when we will vote on our favorite programs.

Hope to see you at the annual meeting, the last branch meeting of this amazing year!!

STATE CONVENTION RECAP

Barbara Wilson, attendee

With the State Convention, April 23-24, being virtual this year, the state board was pleased so many members attended. It was well thought out and presented. Kudos to the IT person who

masterfully navigated all of us on zoom with only a few glitches. It was good to see people from around the state and connect with them again. Our energy is rejuvenated and we move forward with gusto.

13 members from the Green Bay Area Branch attended virtually – Nancy Anderson, Mary Barker, Bev Braun Thao Coopman, Teresa Gulyas, Carol Pearson, Marilyn Rabideau, Sara Ramaker, Mary Schmidt, Wendy Schroeder, Lisa Ubbelohde, and Barbara Wilson.

Julia T. Brown, AAUW Board Chair greeted us from National. Updating us on their work at a National level and the need to join with other organizations for collective action working towards equal rights and equal justice. She emphasized the national member webinars and toolkits we can use for programming. And for all to vote in the National AAUW election where there are some bylaw changes. We also had a welcome from Kathy Evers First Lady of Wisconsin.

A Friday evening performance of "**The Suffrage Movement: A Remembrance by Midwesterners Jessie Jack Hooper and Carrie Chapman Catt**" was very enjoyable. Helen Bannan, who gave her presentation at our March meeting, and Pam Thiel portraying Carrie Catt made the time of suffragettes come alive. Easy back and forth exchange gave us a glimpse into the fight they took on 100 years ago.

Saturday morning annual business meeting.

President Joan Schneider welcomed 250 members to the convention with 24 branches registered, so many that there was no need to scurry around to find a quorum). Reports of officers and committees were given, appreciation expressed to outgoing and incoming board members, election and induction of officers and actually – no new business or bylaw changes to vote on.

Shelia Stubbs, Wisconsin State Legislator for Assembly District 77 gave our keynote address: "**Opportunities to Listen: a Conversation with a Black Women.** What a ball of fire and energy. I was exhausted just listening to all Shelia is doing at

a local and state level to work towards a more just and equitable Wisconsin. Working with youth initiatives, women's groups and making her voice heard for women.

Breakout sessions followed. I saw several people from our branch on zoom in the meetings so I know we were well represented and came away with ideas for our branch. I attended the "Ideas for Programs That Are Mission Driven" and came away with the validation that we are doing programming right. Many other branches meet as a committee to plan and implement programs, using AAUW mission as their basis. Many found being on zoom allowed for presenters from out of city/state on various topics.

I also attended the Promotion of Social Diversity and Justice with Dr. Laura Alwin from Fort Atkinson informed us their Unity Project, integrating minority groups in their community through festivals, dances and projects.

The convention ended with a performance of "Women who Dared" presented by Jessica Michna. Though somehow the sound didn't sync with her speaking, but just listening gave us a sense of the many women who championed the cause of women's suffrage in our country and overseas.

Update on Paycheck Fairness Act

Wednesday, May 5 was Mom's Equal Pay Day. This is the day that women earned the same salary men earned at the end of 2020.

AAUW wants members to help get the Paycheck Fairness Act and Pregnant Workers Fairness Act passed. A toolkit on Paycheck Fairness has been created for members.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/pfa-toolkit/>

This act has passed the House for the fourth time and the goal is to convince 60 senators this is important. Be sure to sign up for Two-Minute activist to stay informed on these acts.

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>.

Robin Lucas, AAUW's Grassroots Advocacy Manager sent this email," Cheers, everyone!

Paycheck Fairness Act passed the House last night. Before we immediately shift gears to focus on the Senate, I urge each of you to take a minute today to take a deep breath, grab a celebratory coffee, tea, drink or food of choice, and revel in the hard-won triumph that this represents for decades and lifetimes of work. Kate Nielson, AAUW's Senior Director of Public Policy, Legal Advocacy, & Research, was amongst the many great women leaders who spoke at a press event April 1, hosted by Rep. Rosa DeLauro. Unto the Senate....

If you would like an overview of the history of the Equal Pay Act leading up to the passage of this latest bill, the Paycheck Fairness Act, by the House of Representatives, this American Bar Association discussion of the Paycheck Fairness Act is pretty thorough and understandable:

https://www.americanbar.org/advocacy/governmental-legislative-work/priorities_policy/discrimination/the-paycheck-fairness-act/

DID YOU KNOW? from Carol's presentation on Women Inventors
Carol Pearson

Did you know that Mary Kies became the first woman to receive a U.S. Patent on May 5, 1809 for her method of weaving straw with silk. First Lady Dolley Madison praised her for boosting the nation's hat industry. With her new patent, Kies could make and sell beautiful hats and, by law, no one else could sell hats just like hers.

Unfortunately, her patent file was destroyed in the great Patent Office fire in 1836. In the fire, approximately 10,000 patent records were lost, as well as hundreds of volumes of original drawings and notebooks.

Mary Kies was not the first American woman to improve hat making though. In 1798, New Englander Betsy Metcalf invented a method of braiding straw. Her method became very popular, and she employed many women to make her hats,

but she didn't patent her process. When asked why, Metcalf said she didn't want her name being sent to Congress.

Kies had a different perspective, and she couldn't have picked a better time to secure her new product, because the U.S. government had stopped importing European goods. Kies was unsuccessful in her attempts to profit from her invention. However she broke the barrier and by 1840, approximately 20 U.S. patents had been issued to women, mostly for inventions related to cooking, tools and clothing. After her husband's death in 1813, Mary Kies went to live with her son, Daniel Kies, in Brooklyn, New York, where she died penniless at age 85 in 1837.



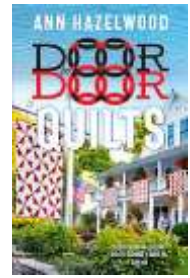
Today hundreds of thousands of people apply for and receive U.S. patents every year, with more than 12 percent of all patent applications coming from women inventors.

Background on patents and women

inventors: A patent is the exclusive right granted by a government to an inventor to manufacture, use, or sell an invention for a certain number of years. In simpler terms it's a paper that gives all the details of an invention. Patent law prevents anyone else from reproducing that invention, without a license, for a certain amount of time. Now days it's 16 to 20 years in most countries. The first Patent Act of the U.S. Congress was passed on April 10, 1790, and signed by President George Washington. The Patent Act of 1790 opened the door for anyone, male or female, to protect his or her invention with a patent. There were so many applications that a Patent office was formed in 1802. However, because in many states women could not legally own property independent of their husbands, many women inventors didn't bother to patent their new inventions. It took a brave Mary Keis to step up and be the first female to apply for one. With the creation of the patent, the place of the woman inventor in history was secured and recorded.

ATTENTION QUILTERS

Missouri author Ann Hazelwood has her second in the Door County Quilt series **Door to Door Quilts** hit the shelves and will be in our area for a book signing later this month.



Saturday, May 22 from 1:00-3:00 pm at Novel Bay Booksellers located at 44 N. Third Avenue, Sturgeon Bay, WI. 54235 (715) 207-1484. Masks are required and safety measure have been put in place.

Warning: This Is a Whine: My Pet Peeve: Not Getting Thank You Notes correct!

Sara Ramaker

My husband and I do differ. I give to some organizations, he would never think to give to. It is a pet peeve of mine that I write the check and send the donation and they send the thank you to Michael only because his name is the first name on the check.

Fast forward to our AAUW scholarship at NWTC and UWGB. As you know, we have set up a scholarship at both schools in the amount of \$1000. \$450 comes from our branch account and \$550 from our account at the Green Bay Community Fund. The total \$1000 is for a scholarship that each school has in the name of AAUW Dreamers and Doers Scholarship. This is the third year we have this form of scholarship. AND the third year I (more correctly Michael and I) have received a letter from each school's foundation thanking Michael and me for our contribution to the AAUW Scholarship of \$450. I know I have written each school at least once explaining the scholarship and that they had incorrectly listed my husband and I as the donors. A letter neither school bothered to respond to.

This year I got the same letter from each school. This year the gloves were off. I called Crystal at the NWTC Foundation who had signed the letter. I got her voicemail and I told her that if she was going to send a thank you note. She ought to get the details right. If a

thank you note is written to make donors feel happy, her completely inaccurate note failed to do the job.

I give her lots of credit. She called me back. (I should confess. In my mind I am trying very hard to be nice and jovial, but I have been told that I am scary when I am unhappy.) Crystal starts by telling me that the problem is her computer system that adds my husband's name. I point out that has happened before and I have told them about it and the live person on the receiving end cares little about her system issues. She then says she cannot mention the other \$550 portion of the AAUW donation, because the IRS requires them to send the letter to the person sending the check (Not me I would point out.). I point out the person sending the \$550 is the AAUW Branch who owns the account at the Greater Green Bay Foundation, who merely holds the account and sends the check. I was surprised they thanked the foundation and not the owner of the account. I then said, "Okay, I understand this is not a thank you letter but rather a government required letter so I will just ignore it in the future." She says, "No, it is a thank you letter and many of their donors appreciate it." I point out that the donors who appreciate it receive letters that accurately state their donation. She then tells me she will take Michael's name off the letter. I told her that would not help. If I read this letter to my branch, the first question would be, "What about the additional \$550, we gave?" I also point out that with this letter Michael and I could claim a \$450

deduction and the IRS would never question it. How should my other branch members react to this letter? Might they not rightfully think I am trying to claim the deduction? Would not an accurate letter, without violating any IRS rule include a statement stating that this donation with the \$550 we received from your account at the Green Bay Community Fund fully funds the \$1000 yearly scholarship you have so graciously set up on an annual basis? (Really, is that so hard?) I then said, I do not know how many of these letters you have to send out, but it seems that the bulk are the same, because you are so surprised to receive my call. Surely, the few like ours deserve a little more attention.

I said if I read your letter, even with Michael's name excluded, it would not make AAUW members feel thanked. My call is no criticism of the students, because we have all been very impressed with the students you have chosen. She then said, "Oh, Please do not punish our students for this." I assured her we would never do that. We really enjoyed the students and wished them the very best. It is just important for all to keep that good feeling one gets when they are helping a younger person make it in the world. She told me she appreciated my comments and they would make changes. We shall see. One reason I will continue as the Scholarship Chair for 2021-2022.