



November 2023 Branch Briefs

President's Message

President's Notes for November

What a great turnout for our annual fall fundraiser at Geneva National Clubhouse. Kudos to the hardworking committee of ladies headed up by Diane Thompson. The women on the committee were Sharna Ahern, Betsy Polousky, Joan Davis, Jean Hendersen, Kathy Walsh, Gwen Clausius, Sue Edwards, Patti Stejskal, Kate Berley, Carla Olson, Carolyn Langner, Sue Greben, Pam Christensen, Sarah O'Reilly and Doris Mosser.



We had such a wonderful time celebrating our friendships and learning the history of women's fashionable hats. Chris Brookes wrote and presented the Historical section of the slideshow with our own Jean and Joan, collaborating on the Hilarious Hats portion of the show. It was exceptional. Joan Lagerlof has shared a Smilebox photo slideshow with all of you. It will appear as an envelope to open. Enjoy!

I look forward to seeing you all for our **November AAUW meeting on Tuesday, November 14th at 6:30 pm. at the Matheson Memorial Library at 101 N. Wisconsin Street in Elkhorn.** This meeting is open to the public and therefore we will not have a social or business meeting. It will be on Human Trafficking. Find more information in this newsletter. If you have a bottle of wine for our Holiday raffle basket, please bring and give it to me.

I am constantly amazed at the resourcefulness and creativity of our branch members. I am **thankful** for your leadership and volunteer spirit. **Have a wonderful Thanksgiving spending time with family and friends.**

Nina Ruskey

Finance Update

Hats off for a successful fundraiser. We made almost \$10,000! We sold 224 tickets for our luncheon. We netted \$1,530 from the raffle and silent auction. Thanks to many participants who rounded up their registration or for those who made a direct donation to our cause. Those donations totaled \$2,980. Those additional dollars added to the success of our event. Thanks to all for your contributions, participation and hard work.

Bank balance as of October 30, 2023 is \$26,343.83

Treasurer, Carla Olson

AAUW November Program - Human Trafficking

New Date - Tuesday, November 14, 2024

New Time - 6:30 pm (There will be no social or meeting time due to this being a presentation open to the public)

Location - Matheson Memorial Public Library, 101 N. Wisconsin Street, Elkhorn, WI

ADVOCATING CHANGE: LEARN ABOUT HOW TO FIGHT SEXUAL TRAFFICKING VIA SOCIAL MEDIA AND SENIOR EXPLOITATION

AAUW-Lake Geneva Branch has partnered with Matheson Memorial Public Library to bring you this program through the generous support of Join the Movement Events (JTME). JTME is a 501c3 Non-Profit with the mission of bringing awareness and education to our local communities while providing advocacy assistance to victims of trafficking and the related crimes of domestic and sexual violence. Their presentation on Tuesday, November 14th at 6:30 PM will discuss social media's role in human trafficking and how you keep yourself and your loved ones safe online. They will also discuss senior exploitation and how to recognize the signs of abuse.

This presentation will be given by Dawn Heath-Fiedler, the Founder and President of JTME. Dawn's passion is threefold: for her husband and family, her relationship with God and for Join Movement Events, Inc. (JTME), educating our local communities, what human trafficking is and how to protect their neighborhoods and most especially our youth. She became aware of this great need for Wisconsin at her Rotary District conference several years ago. Since that time Dawn has attended the WCASA (Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault) Sexual Assault Victim Advocacy School, trainings with the FBI, DOJ, ICAC, WDOJ, Children's Hospital, Amber Alert and NCJCT, Truckers Against Trafficking and local organizations.

By Maura Zinni and Paula Jarzemsky

"GO-SIP" II (Get Out, Socialize, Initiate and Participate)

Mark your calendars for **Thursday, November 9th, 10:00-Noon!**

Barrett Memorial Library (65 W. Geneva St. Williams Bay)

A spin off from our Program Meeting: Aging with Attitude, we will meet to connect and discuss topics and issues that we want to explore as we journey life.

Bring your own coffee, tea or water to SIP on and your ideas as to what future topics you would like to explore. No topic is off limits! We have a wealth of knowledge in our group and we want to listen and learn from each other. To get us started we will talk about Sleep and Energy. What works and what doesn't. If you would like to attend this gathering, please RSVP to Pattiestejskal@gmail.com (AAUW GO-SIP in subject line) or text (include your name) to Pattie: 847-477-9727.

By Pattie Stejskal

Great Decisions 2024 Update

This is just a reminder that AAUW will host **Great Decisions** offered by the Foreign Policy Administration. This class is held for 8 weeks from the first week in February to the last week in March. The evening group meets in Elkhorn at the Matheson Memorial Library on Tuesday evenings. The morning group meets in Williams Bay at Barrett Memorial Library on Thursday mornings.

This year's topics include: Midwest Realignment, Climate Technology and Competition, Science Across the Border, U.S. -China Trade Rivalry, NATO's Future, Understanding Indonesia, High Seas Treaty and Pandemic Preparedness. If you are interested in participating, please contact Patti at pattiestejskal@gmail.com ASAP
Please put AAUW Great Decisions in the subject line.

By Pattie Stejskal



December Holiday Celebration

We will have our Holiday Celebration Dinner on December 7th. Thanks to Kate Berley and the Big Foot Country Club, we have a lovely venue to celebrate our mission and friendships. Please see the invitation at the end of this newsletter. **You are welcome to bring a guest.** Two menu changes.....the Chicken entree has been changed to Chicken in Mushroom Sauce and a Squash Ravioli Vegetarian option has been added. Salmon is still on the menu. Yummy!

RSVPs are due Nov. 30th. See registration form at end of briefs.

We want 5-6 bottles of wine for a raffle basket to raffle to a lucky member. Contact Nina Ruskey at nruskey16@gmail.com if you have a donation for the basket. You could bring your donation to our November meeting or drop off at my door.

Interest Groups

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will not meet in November.

Public Policy

The Public Policy committee has been working to provide bookmarks with election dates for the coming year and a QR code that will take you to a list of your representatives and outline how to get in touch with them. These will be available at the Nov. 14th meeting in Elkhorn. Our continued goal will be to help you be informed voters in the coming year and to encourage you to contact your representatives to let them know your thoughts on current issues.

The next Public Policy meeting will be at 7:00 pm. Nov. 7th at Kathy Walsh's home, 775 Brickley Dr., Fontana. kath3032@gmail.com Join us if you want to get involved.

Kathy Walsh
Public Policy Chair

Bluestockings

Bluestockings for November will meet WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15 instead of our usual Tuesday, due to a conflict with the November AAUW meeting in Elkhorn.

We will begin at 12:00 at the home of Diane Thompson, with Sue Greben co-hosting. Diane's address is N1757 Fair Oaks Road, Lake Geneva. Please bring a sandwich to share and let Diane know you will be there at billanddiane@charter.net. Marcia Lauzon will lead our book discussion of *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. Hope to see you there!

Looking ahead to Bluestocking for December we will meet TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12th. This is a week early but hopefully avoids important holiday preparation and celebration dates. We will meet at Noon at the home of Kathy McCarville for a discussion of *West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge, led by Karen DeFalco. Kathy lives at N7258 Country Side, Elkhorn, WI 53121.

Culinary Questors

November Culinary Questors

Join us Nov. 1st for our Irish Foodie Day! 

Susan Anderson and Mary Winingham will be co-hosting our November Culinary Questors on November 1st at noon at Susan Anderson's, 7230 S&D Townline Road, Delavan, WI. Both Mary and Susan have returned recently from visits to Ireland and have good stories and pictures to share. Contact Carolyn Langner cjlangner@gmail.com for information.

December Culinary Questors

Looking ahead to December, we will celebrate Holiday Soups and more at Nina Ruskey's home at 404 W. Miller Court in Lake Geneva. Consider it a soup tasting. We will have a few other recipes for a bread, salad or two and dessert but mostly soups. Bring containers to take a few soups home with you to eat or freeze for cold winter months ahead. The date is Thursday, December 6th at noon. Recipes and more to come. RSVP to Nina at nruskey16@gmail.com or Carolyn Langner cjlangner@gmail.com



Help Wanted-Branch Briefs Editor

By Nina Ruskey

We are looking for a Communication/Branch Briefs Editor. This person collects the information from members via email near the end of the month and manages the group email. The editor inserts the info into a newsletter format. The newsletter is ready to send out by the first of each month. For the months of January, February and March, a very shortened version (1-2 pages) is sent out since our branch does not host monthly meetings in those months. Let me know if you are interested. **Contact Nina at nuskey16@gmail.com.**



Make an Impact!
Join AAUW
Legacy Circle

Leave a Lasting Legacy

Contact: Lucy Harvey lois3545@aol.com; Bonnie Diehl bdiehl81@gmail.com

Welcome to Susan Steele as our President Elect. More about her in the December Branch Briefs. Thank you and Welcome Susan!

President: Nina Ruskey 262-745-1351 nruskey16@gmail.com
President Elect: Susan Steele 814-571-7616 steeles203@gmail.com
Past President: Sheila Venteicher 262-245-9178 s@venteicher.org
Secretary: Pattie Stejskal 847-477-9227 pattiestejskal@gmail.com
Treasurer: Carla Olson 989-600-0287 AAUWGLtreas@gmail.com
Co VPs Programs: Mauri Zinni 630-639-8280 zinnim@att.net
Paula Jarzemsky 608-445-6108 pjarzem@wisc.edu
Co VPs Membership: Suzanne Edwards 630-202-0703 sedward8910@gmail.com
Louise Zitzler 262-745-9144 lzitzler@yahoo.com
STEM: Valerie Schmitz 920-205-4116 valerie@wiredx4.com
Sheila Venteicher 262-245-9178 s@venteicher.org
Branch Briefs/ Messages:
Website Manager: Judy Moser 262-394-5047 judithmoser@gmail.com
Facebook Manager: Mary Winingham 608-395-5485 marywiningham@gmail.com

Calendar

- Nov. 1 - Noon - Culinary Questors Irish Foodie Day
Nov. 7 - 7:00 pm. - Public Policy Meeting - at Kathy Walsh's home
Nov. 9 - 10:00 am. GO-SIP - -Barrett Memorial Library- Williams Bay
Nov. 14- 6:00 pm. Human Trafficking-Matheson Memorial Library -Elkhorn
Nov. 15 - Noon -Bluestockings - at Diane Thompson's home
Nov. 30- RSVP due for the Holiday Celebration at Big Foot Country Club
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- Dec. 6 - Noon - Culinary Questors -Holiday Soups at Nina Ruskey's
Dec. 7- 6:00 pm. - Holiday Celebration at Big Foot Country Club
Dec. 12 - Noon - Bluestockings at Kathy McCarville





**AAUW Invites You to Our Holiday Celebration
Thursday, December 7th 2023 at Big Foot Country Club
770 Shabbona Drive, Fontana, Wisconsin**

Appetizers/Cocktails 6:00 pm. Dinner at 7:00 pm.
Cost \$48 per person (cash bar)

Plated Dinner
Includes salad, rolls, coffee and dessert

Entree Choice of

Maple Glazed Salmon

Or

Chicken with Mushroom Cream Sauce

Or

Acorn Squash Ravioli (vegetarian option)

All Reservations Must be received by November 30th.

Reservation form for our AAUW Holiday Celebration

NAME _____

Choice _____

GUEST _____

Choice _____

Total attending ___ x \$48 _____

**Checks made out to AAUW Geneva Lake Branch
Mail to Carla Olson, 610 Settlers Ridge Dr. Lake Geneva, WI 53147**