



### Public Policy Committee Notes Chair Kathy Walsh

Meghen Kissell (left), National AAUW Senior Director of Policy and Membership brought us up to date on all policy matters at the Wisconsin AAUW State Convention. She spoke about “ERA—Equality is Overdue.” The current topics of importance for the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress include: Paid Leave, Paycheck Fairness, Student Debt, Title IX and Civil Rights. Meghan also explained and discussed “Being Heard in the Workplace” and Diversity in Higher Education. She clarified the importance of Branches focusing on 1-2 issues so as not to get overwhelmed and frustrated. What public policies are important to you? Join the Public Policy Committee and speak your voice and share ideas with like-minded, dynamic women. Start by [joining](#) 2-Minute Activist to let your voice be heard.

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### Important Dates

- May 6 Membership Renewal
- May 7 Fundraiser Planning Meeting
- May 9 Installation of New Officers and Wisconsin Farmer’s Market Presentation
- May 13 State Public Policy Meeting
- May 21 Bluestockings
- May 22 Lunch Bunch
- June 13 Charcuterie Membership Celebration



# President's Message

*Spring is here and our snowbirds are back from vacation. We have a calendar full of fun and educational events that are open to all AAUW members and guests. Please check them out.*

*I was energized this past weekend as I attended the AAUW Wisconsin Conference in Racine and met members from branches all over the state. The highlight for me was to hear the many inspiring stories of the fundraising, programs and “good works” that are being done by branches large and small. I reflected on the work that our Geneva Lake Branch has done with fundraising, stimulating programs and interest groups that help us to build relationships, have fun and learn new things. It has been an honor for me to serve as your President.*

*I am looking forward to our May meeting as we install our new board members during our business portion of the meeting and we learn about Wisconsin Farmers Markets. I know this month our Membership Committee is busy planning our event for June 13th and that the Fundraising Committee has started the work of planning the Soup and Signing event on September 11th.*

*I hope you can make yourself available to help in any way needed. We are still seeking a Co-Chair for Fundraising with Diane T. and a President-Elect. Questions or interest, please contact me at [nruskey16@gmail.com](mailto:nruskey16@gmail.com) or text 262-745-1351.*

The Nominating Committee is officially announcing our AAUW Geneva Lake Slate of Officers, Board Members, Committee Chairs and Interest Groups for 2024-2025. The Officers and Board Members will be installed at the May meeting at 6:15 pm.

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### **Geneva Lake Branch AAUW 2024-2025**

#### **Officers**

President	Susan Steele
President Elect	Vacant
Co-Vp's of Programs	Janice Lyon and Joanne Kantner
Co-Vp's of Membership	Suzanne Edwards and Louise Zitzler
Secretary	Maura Zinni
Treasurer	Carla Olson
Past President	Nina Ruskey

#### **Board Members**

Communications	Bonnie Diehl
Fundraising	Diane Thompson and _____
Public Policy	Kathy Walsh
Scholarship Stem/NCCWSL	Valerie Schmitz and Sheila Venteicher
Facebook Manager	Mary Winingham
Website Manager	Judy Moser

<https://genevalake-wi.aauw.net>

#### **Interest Group Coordinators**

Bluestockings	Nan Voss and Bev Kitzmiller
Culinary Questors	Carolyn Langner and Karen DeFalco
Great Decisions	Pattie Stejskal
Keep Moving	Jean Henderson
Lunch Bunch	Janice Lyon

#### **Other Coordinators**

Bylaws	Sharna Ahern
Care and Concern	Sue Greben
Hospitality	Brigitte Krieger
Photographers	Joan Lagerlöf

## Membership

We are busy planning for our Annual Membership Celebration and will need all of your participation in this fun team building event! This year we are planning a..... Charcuterie Creations party!! Our Annual Membership Celebration is an important time to gather and celebrate our current membership as well a time to invite women who may be interested in joining or learning more about the opportunities that our AAUW- Geneva Lake Branch affords. We'd like to challenge each of you to "bring a friend!"

Charcuterie Creations – How it works:

- We will learn about the art of creating charcuterie boards
- We will create these beautiful boards in small groups (4)
- Enjoy the delicious product of your efforts with a glass of wine or beverage

What we will need from you:

- First and most importantly spread the word about the event and bring a friend!
- Either print the invitation included in these Branch briefs or pick up a few at the May meeting.
- We will need each of you to sign up to bring ingredients for the charcuterie boards. These include items such as wine, cherry tomatoes, crackers, chocolate candy, grapes, berries, olives, kiwi, cucumbers and nuts (See signup sheet for specifics) **The membership committee will provide the meat and cheeses.**
- Please RSVP (Sue Edwards [sedward8910@gmail.com](mailto:sedward8910@gmail.com) or 630-202-0703) and provide the name of any friends that will be coming so that we can properly welcome them!

## 2024 Bluestocking Schedule

<i>May 21</i> <i>Walworth Memorial Library</i> <i>525 Kenosha St, Walworth.</i>	<b><i>The Last Green Valley</i></b> Mark T. Sullivan	Diane Thompson, Leader	Pam Christensen, Host Pam Rawles and Nan Voss, Cohosts
<i>June 18</i>	<b><i>The Bluest Eye</i></b> Toni Morrison	Marcia Lauzon, Leader	Sharna Ahern, Host Barbara Turner, Cohost
<i>July 16</i>	<b><i>The Good Life</i></b> Robert Waldinger MD	Jean Henderson, Leader	Jean Henderson, Host Bev Kitzmiller, Cohost
<i>August 20</i>	<b>Books Selection</b>	Nan Voss, Leader	???????, Host Karen DeFalco, Cohost
<i>September 17</i>	<b><i>The Covenant of Water</i></b> Abraham Verghese	Sharna Ahern, Leader	Debbie Mecklenberg, Host Nan Voss, Cohost





## Letter from Your Editor

Welcome back to Issue #5! See my granddaughter Charlotte soaking up the sun on page 1. It is finally warming up after April brought on the showers. Lots of ways for you to be active with public policy in AAUW starting with [joining](#) the 2-Minute Activist. It is an easy way to inform your legislators of your public opinion. It is quick and takes me less than 2 minutes!

*Bonnie Dill*

## Membership Renewal

Most of our members renew their membership as of June 30. [National](#) has started to send out reminder emails. National will share a [video](#) of how to renew online. They have asked you to renew by May 6<sup>th</sup>. Your dues total \$100

\$72 to national

\$13 to state

\$15 to local

You can also renew by check payable to AAUW Geneva Lake. Please mail to Carla Olson, 610 Settlers Ridge Dr., Lake Geneva, WI 53147 before June 30. Carla will also collect checks at the meetings on May 9 and June 13.



In 2024  
there are **FOUR**  
important elections  
in Wisconsin!

**Spring — Local Leaders & Presidential Primary**

**February 20, 2024**

- Primary

**April 2, 2024**

- General Election
- Presidential Preference Primary

**Fall — State & Federal Legislators, President**

**August 13, 2024**

- Primary

**November 5, 2024**

- General Election



Everything you need to know to register and vote is right here!



[myvote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov)



AAUW GENEVA LAKE BRANCH  
Fiscal year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

	<u>Budget</u>		
Member totals	82		
\$100 total dues, \$15 stays local			
	<u>CASH IN</u>	<u>CASH OUT</u>	<u>NET</u>
TOTAL DUES	8,200.00	6,970.00	1,230.00
<b>MEMBERSHIP EXPENSES</b>			
Monthly programs (inc Membership event)		1,425.00	-1,425.00
Newsletter		50.00	-50.00
Care/Concern		45.00	-45.00
Treasurer		30.00	-30.00
Public Policy		150.00	-150.00
President		130.00	-130.00
Stem Scholarship Expense		300.00	-300.00
Storage		100.00	-100.00
<b>EVENTS</b>			
Holiday party	3,650.00	3,650.00	0.00
Great Decisions	1,250.00	1,250.00	0.00
Big Read	800.00	800.00	0.00
Stem Luncheon	420.00	420.00	0.00
Convention		0.00	0.00
Net Cash from dues after expenses			-1,000.00
FUNDRAISING	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00
STEM Scholarships		6,000.00	-6,000.00
Net change in cash			<u>-1,000.00</u>

### Treasurer's Report

See proposed budget for our next fiscal year (left), Please send any comments to Carla at [aauwgltreas@gmail.com](mailto:aauwgltreas@gmail.com).

As you can see, we are anticipating a deficit next year. The share of annual dues that stays with our branch is only \$15. This is not enough to cover all our membership expenses. We do currently have a bank balance of \$20,303.59. The board feels that we should use our current cash and not increase local membership fees at this time.

## Lunch Bunch

**Geneva Lake Branch members and guests gather to talk about all thing's women and progress. We meet at independent eateries, many women-owned or managed. Come one, come all. RSVP (not required) by text 708.899.2734 to Janice L. This is a great way to introduce potential new members to our exceptional AAUW women!**

**4th Wednesday monthly at NOON.**

2024 schedule always at NOON:

Wed, May 22, 2024, at Grandma Vicki's, Lake Geneva

Wed, June 26, 2024, at Simple Café, Lake Geneva

Wed, July 24, 2024, Boat House, Buttons Bay, Lake Geneva

Wed, Aug 28, 2024, at Harpoon Willies, Williams Bay

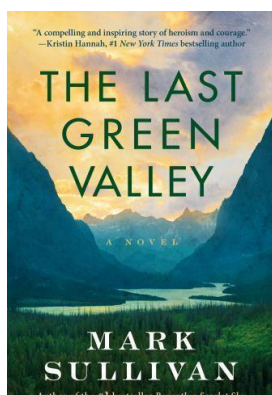
Wed, Sept 25, Luis's Pizza, Lake Geneva

Wed, Oct 23, Abbey Resort, Waterfront Restaurant, Fontana, RSVP Jan Schuren, 262-728-7767

**NO LUNCH BUNCH NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024**

**Bluestockings** will meet Tuesday, May 21 at the Walworth Memorial Library, 525 Kenosha Street at 1:00 PM. Please have lunch before you arrive, and bring your own beverage. Desserts will be served. Diane Thompson will lead the discussion of *The Last Green Valley* by Mark T. Sullivan.

Our host is Pam Christensen, with co-hosts Pam Rawles and Nan Voss. Please contact Nan at (847) 757-1118 or [vossnj@aol.com](mailto:vossnj@aol.com) to let them know you will be attending.



## WHAT IS OUR FUNDRAISER?

Every year our AAUW branch has a fundraiser. Last year, in 2023, we had a luncheon with a program on “Hats”. This year our program is “Soup and Signing.”

“Soup and Signing” is where 8 local restaurants donate soup and 8 local authors are chosen to join us for the day to sell their books. We alternate events each year between a luncheon and “Soup and Signing.”

This year “Soup and Signing” will be held Wednesday, September 11th at Horticulture Hall in Lake Geneva. We need names of local authors to ask to be our guest. If you know of a local author who has recently written a book call or text Diane (1-262-745-8355).

The first planning meeting will be at Diane’s house on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 10am (N1757 Fair Oaks Rd. Lake Geneva, WI 53147). Please come and offer ideas for restaurants and authors. We hope to see many of you there!

## Culinary Questers 2024

We are in dire need of hosts for 2024! Please volunteer for May, June, August or November to keep our group going. Message either Karen DeFalco at 815-953-5979 or Carolyn Langner at 202-230-8847. We need your help to keep Culinary Questers running this year. We will help in any way if you want to try to host.

- February No one volunteered
- March No one volunteered
- April 3 Gwen Clausius Judy Johnson and Doris Mosser Cohosts 5:30 pm Appetizers, Salad and Portillos’ Chocolate Cake
- **May 8 Need volunteers ASAP**
- June 5 Need volunteers
- July 10 5:30 Karen Hirn host, Need cohort
- August 7 5:30 Sue Anderson host with Sue Greben cohort
- September 4 5:30 Barbara Turner host, need cohort
- October 2 12:30 Nina Ruskey host Bev Kitzmiller cohort
- November Need volunteers
- December 4 12:30 Diane Thompson Host with Jane Erickson cohort: theme “Charcuterie Boards”



Make an Impact!  
Join AAUW  
Legacy Circle

Leave a Lasting Legacy

Contact: Lucy Harvey [lois3545@aol.com](mailto:lois3545@aol.com); Bonnie Diehl [bdiehl81@gmail.com](mailto:bdiehl81@gmail.com)





Bio: Kristin Krokowski, Professor with the University of Wisconsin Madison Extension works with farmers markets and fresh produce growers around the state. Her research focuses on increasing the sustainability and profitability of farmers market to support small farms in Wisconsin. Kristin's practical perspective comes from farming 50 acres of fresh market vegetables with her husband in the town of Mukwonago, Wisconsin for over 20 years. She also provides education and technical assistance for growers in the areas of pest management, produce safety and post-harvest handling.

**May 9<sup>th</sup> Talk Title**  
**Exploring Opportunities for Profitability at Farmers Markets**

Farmers markets may seem simple, but hosting a farmer market takes a lot of infrastructure and effort. Finding individuals or agencies willing to take on this role is critical to supporting local agricultural producers. This talk will discuss the impact of farmers markets in the local economy and the efforts being made in Wisconsin to make them more sustainable and resilient.

## **Advancing Equity for Women and Girls**

The AAUW Board of Directors and Governance Committee recommend approval of the proposed bylaw amendment to open AAUW's membership. This change will align our membership practices with our purpose of advancing equity for women and girls and enable us to include members with the diverse backgrounds and perspectives needed to achieve our purpose in today's world.

### **When and how do I vote?**

All voting will take place online starting April 3. AAUW is utilizing an independent, third-party voting system for this year's vote. Most members will receive emails from [vote@simplyvoting.com](mailto:vote@simplyvoting.com) with their unique Elector ID and Password to vote.

All members without an email address on file will receive a paper ballot by mail. No additional paper ballots will be sent during the voting period.

Voting will close on Wednesday, May 15 at 12:00 pm ET.



<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Location</b>
May 9 2024 Thursday	<b><i>What's New and Exciting about Wisconsin Farmers' Markets</i></b>	Kristin Krokowski is a Commercial Horticulture Educator for the UW-Madison Extension in Waukesha County. Her research and programming focus on produce safety, farmers' markets and the success of small to medium size fruit and vegetable growers throughout Wisconsin. Kristin also provides leadership for the Wisconsin Farmers Market Association along with supporting female farmers across the state.	Advia Credit Union 837 N Wisconsin St. Elkhorn, WI
July 11 2024 Thursday	<b><i>The Great Great Lakes</i></b>	Moira Harrington, Associate Director for Communications for UW-Madison's Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education, will share her knowledge of the world's largest freshwater system right on our doorstep, the Great Lakes. Fresh water is a precious commodity and Moira will share how she uses research, education and outreach to promote the sustainable use of our precious Great Lakes.	Advia Credit Union 837 N Wisconsin St. Elkhorn, WI
October 10 2024 Thursday	<b><i>Night Sky Star Gazing</i></b>	GLAS Education (Geneva Lake Astrophysics and STEAM) provides educational experiences to local students, as well as opportunities for college students to participate in research projects and community outreach programs, like the organization's popular stargazing events. An astronomy scientist will lead us through a star-gazing experience.	TBD
November 14 2024 Thursday	<b><i>Wisconsin Cranberries</i></b>	Leslie Holland is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Plant Pathology at UW-Madison. Leslie's presentation will answer these burning questions we all have about Cranberries...Where do they come from? Are they really grown in water? Which pathogens are vying to ruin your Thanksgiving Dinner? What challenges do cranberry growers face and what exactly is Ocean Spray?	Inspired Coffee 883 W Main St. Lake Geneva, WI Free parking at Central-Dennison School

*All programs are held on the second Thursday of each month, April – November  
The program schedule is as follows:  
6:00 pm – Social time; 6:15 pm Business meeting; 6:30-7:30 pm Program*

# Karla Tildahl

April 13, 1939—April 7, 2024

## Obit



### Remembering Our AAUW sister, Karla Tildahl

By Bev Kitzmiller

Our Dear AAUW sister for 22 years, Karla Tildahl, passed on April 7. She was a woman with a kind, loving heart, who lived her life with purposes greater than herself. I so admire her for the life she lived, the examples she set, and the legacy she left for us to follow. We will miss you, dear friend. Below is a piece that **Karla wrote** for me a couple years ago to help me better remember her leadership in the steps we took to develop our current STEM scholarship program.

***Brief History of Some of Geneva Lake Branch Activism Before STEM College Scholarships By Karla Tildahl***  
***Turn Beauty Inside Out lasted for 5 years - 2003 to 2007. Besides the sessions for the girls in 5th and 6th grade, we also did a session for the parents called Raising a Healthy Daughter. The goals of TBIO were to inspire independent thinking, to teach the girls how to be leaders in the process of introducing change, and to strive for a definition of beauty based on good works, a great heart, and activism. The title of the program stressed to look within themselves for their beauty rather than in the mirror. I did not keep numbers on this, but would guess about 25 girls each year.***

***Camp Badger Exploring Engineering ran from 2010 - 2017. 78 girls in 7th grade were awarded full scholarships. I had read the AAUW study "Why So Few" and decided as one of my goals as president I would try to start a STEM program of some sort for girls. I originally thought of reaching high school girls, but the science teachers at the high schools told me that was too late. So, when the committee researched what was available, we were so lucky to find Professor O'Leary and Camp Badger, a week-long sleep away camp at UW Madison for students going into 8th grade. He was eager to work with us because they had hardly any girls in the program. By the time the camp closed in 2017, their number of girls attending was about half! We started planning the program in 2009, but had no funds to do anything. The Holiday Party auction funded our 2010 camp, and we could only send 6. We needed a way to make more money, and I had seen a program Green Bay AAUW did called "Dreamers and Doers" when I went to the state convention. I asked Sarah O'Reilly if she thought we could do a tea and house walk here. She, Chris Brookes, and Diane Thompson all were so excited about the project, and so it goes! We worked closely with the area middle schools in getting the program for Camp Badger going. In 2010, we had 12 applicants, and in 2017 we had 50!***

***The STEM committee also worked with Yerkes to do some programs for girls locally and aimed at 5th and 6th grade again. Our Camp Badger attendees served as mentors for the younger girls attending those programs. It is interesting that many of our high school scholarship winners were also Camp Badger attendees.***

Note: Camp Badger folded due to lack of funding from the university, and by that time, STEM learning at all K-12 levels was better established. Our branch then decided that our scholarship program would better serve college level young women, and, thus, we have a successful college scholarship program under the leadership of Val Schmitz (Karla's pick to be her successor).

*You are invited to attend the*

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN  
GENEVA LAKE BRANCH

*ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CELEBRATION*

## **Charcuterie Creations**

**Thursday, June 13, 2024 6:00 pm**

*Team Charcuterie Building*

SILENT AUCTION OF HAND-CRAFTED CHARCUTERIE BOARDS



**Linn Presbyterian Church  
W 3335 Willow Road  
Lake Geneva, WI**

Please join our local AAUW branch to learn about our mission of advocacy, education, and service.

Come meet our members and discover all that our branch has to offer.

RSVP: Sue Edwards (630) 202-0703 [sedward8910@gmail.com](mailto:sedward8910@gmail.com)



empowering women since 1881