

Briefer Branch Briefs - February 2025



President's Message

Your AAUW branch needs your support to create an engaging and informative newsletter! As you may know, Bonnie Diehl, our dedicated Editor of the Branch Briefs, stepped down in December. Thankfully, Bev Kitzmiller kindly agreed to fill in until March 2025.

Our branch urgently needs someone to step into this vital role as the new editor. Your help is crucial to our continued communication efforts. Without a new editor, our branch's communication about affairs and events will rely on each committee or interest group chair, potentially limiting our reach and impact. Your role as the new editor could significantly enhance our communication efforts. If you are passionate about keeping our members informed and connected, please get in touch with Susan Steele at steeles203@gmail.com or 814-571-7616. Your contribution can make a significant difference for our branch! We deeply appreciate your consideration of this essential opportunity. Your potential contribution as the new editor is invaluable to our branch.

Your AAUW Board met earlier this month. We discussed members' interest in having and participating in more casual activities. The purpose is to meet informally and make new friends. We also discussed setting up a group text chain using Telegram. If a member plans to attend an event, she quickly texts to see if there is any interest. Please let me know if you aren't interested in participating.

The Board also heard from new member Hillary Dudek, who is willing to take on fundraising for the Branch. Hillary is experienced in non-profit fundraising in the New York area. She brings much energy, enthusiasm, and interesting fundraising ideas, one of which is having a raffle this year at an area establishment. Stay tuned for more information.

We will be having our first Zoom program in February. The subject will be our STEM Scholarship. This is just one of the many exciting events planned for this year. The link to the program details is under a separate cover.

Other 2025 programs (Advia Credit Union):

- 10-Apr **Fundraising and Development - Jennifer Charpentier of Gateway Foundation**
- 8-May **Indigenous Cultures--University of Wisconsin Madison**
- 12-June **Membership Event (TBD)**
- 10-Jul **Walworth County Literacy Council-Lilly Barrett**
- 14-Aug **STEM Scholarship Luncheon (Location TBD)**
- 11-Sep **Fundraiser TBD**
- 9-Oct **LGBTQ+ Pronouns**
- 3-Nov **AI**
- 11-Dec **Holiday Party**

Thank you, Janice Lyon and Joanne Kantner, Programming Co-Chairs and committee members!

Last but not least, the Board is trying to assemble a slate of officers for April 2025. We still need Membership co-chairs, President-Elect, and Communications.

Best regards,
Susan

Upcoming Events:

Virtual Program:

AAUW-GL STEM Scholarship Meeting

Join us on **February 13 at 6:00 pm** for an informative session about the Geneva Lake Branch of AAUW's STEM Scholarship, designed to address the critical shortage of women in STEM fields by supporting young women pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Learn about the scholarship's purpose, eligibility criteria, and application process. Discover how you can get involved as a district liaison and/or scholarship reader to help ensure the success of this impactful program. Let's work together to empower the next generation of women in STEM!

Please RSVP to Valerie@Wiredx4.com

Time: 6:00 PM

Date: February 13, 2025

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82308995110>

We hope to see you there!

Public Policy

HERE WE GO!!! The next elections will be the February 18th primary, and the April 1st election. These are IMPORTANT; we will try to keep you informed about the candidates.

There are two statewide nonpartisan races.

WI Supreme Court candidates running for a 10 year term: (Since there are only 2 candidates, there is no primary for this position,)

Susan Crawford

Brad Schimel

WI Superintendent of Education

(3 candidates require a primary; the top 2 will run in the April 1st election)

Jill Underly - incumbent

Brittany Kinser

Jeff Wright

We are also collecting information from school districts in the area to inform you about candidates for school board positions. Again, in these races, the number of openings and number of candidates will determine whether a primary is necessary. These can be very important races; stay tuned for more info as we have it!!!

BE INFORMED ABOUT WHO YOU ARE VOTING FOR AND IF YOU SUPPORT THEIR PLATFORMS!!!!

Kathy Walsh

Public Policy chair

Membership

Come join the newly formed Membership Committee. **We welcome all interested members.** We will discuss new ways to engage our new members as well as help to plan membership events. Our small but mighty team met Monday January 27th, and we will continue to meet the fourth Monday of the month at **10:00 am at Sue Edwards' house**. Please contact me if you are interested in joining us at 630-202-0703!

Our next meeting will be **Monday February 24th**. This year for our membership event we will be focusing on our current interest groups, so we will be looking for your support in this event. More to come!! Thanks all and hope to see many of you at the committee meeting!
Sue Edwards

Bluestockings

We will meet at noon on **Tuesday, February 18**, at the home of Roberta Killian in Williams Bay where Roberta will lead the discussion of **THE ENERGY BUS** by Jon Gordon. The lovely Doris Mosser will assist as cohost. If you will be attending, let Roberta know at 262 745 2674, and please bring a sandwich to share.

There are a limited number of books available through the library system. So put a hold on one early, or obtain a digital copy from a different source.

March 18	<i>The House on Mango Street</i> by Sandra Cisneros	Joan Davis	Emily Hummel, Host at Walworth Library—Cohost Jane Erickson
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January Bluestockings

Lunch Bunch

Just show up! Separate checks.

NOON, Wed, February 26, 2025, Elk Restaurant, 13 W. Walworth, Elkhorn

NOON, Wed, March 26, 2025, SABAI SABAI THAI, Lake Geneva

Janice Lyon 708.899.2734 Jan Schuren 262.728.7767 RSVP nice but NOT req.



Make an Impact! Join AAUW Legacy Circle

Leave a Lasting Legacy

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

Culinary Questers

CQ is a group who likes to socialize, eat, and cook in that order. We are in need of hosts and cohosts so that we can plan for 2025. We already have possible themes, but we need places to meet. As a host, you determine how many guests you can accommodate. Carolyn and I help with the theme, menu, and keep track of the guests and what they bring. Do as much or as little as you want. Please volunteer so we can keep CQ going. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month (except July) at 12:30 pm during the dark months and at 5:30 pm during the light months (May through September). Contact Karen DeFalco by texting or calling **815-953-5979** or email Carolyn Langner at cjlangner@gmail.com

Date and Time	Host and Cohost	Theme if decided
February 5 @ 12:30 pm		
March 5 @ 12:30 pm		
April 2 @ 12:30 pm	Gwen Clausius Bev Kitzmiller	
May 7 @ 5:30 pm		
June 4 @ 5:30 pm		
July 9 @ 5:30 pm		
August 6 @ 5:30 pm		
September 3 @ 5:30 pm		
October 1 @ 12:30 pm		
November 5 @ 12:30 pm		
December 3 @ 12:30 pm		Hanukah