

SCOPE



Monona/Madison Branch Newsletter
APRIL 2020

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020
CANCELED

PRESIDENTS' CORNER, Kleo Baruth Kritz & Donna Anderson

From Kleo: As my aunt once said, “I am not a spring chicken anymore.” None of us are, and we need to keep ourselves safe and healthy during this unpredictable pandemic. Our governor issued an edict closing all non-essential businesses beginning March 25, lasting for a month, and telling us to stay home. PLATO has canceled all its summer courses and all lectures/social gatherings until at least May 12. The Civics Club, likewise, has postponed all its speakers until the fall. Both groups have older members like us. After much thought and consultation with other officers/members, we have unanimously decided the best decision for the safety and health of our branch is to cancel our April meeting and our Art in Bloom trip to the Milwaukee Art Museum. Our April meeting was scheduled the same week that we would be setting up the Dean House for our book sale and selling the books on Saturday, May 2, and Sunday, May 3. We have decided to postpone our book sale. Hard to say how things will go for our May meeting and June luncheon, but we will keep you informed, thanks to the Internet and the skills of Sally Keyel. Stay healthy!

From Donna: This is an unusual *Scope* for an unusual time. Since we have not been able to meet in person and our usual activities have been shut down, we have less news to report for this issue. However, it is a pleasure to connect with you via this newsletter. We will continue to produce the *Scope* and hopefully you are able to check it regularly for information we would often present at meetings and share ways to be helpful to each other in a difficult time.

Hopefully, you are all well and are finding ways to tolerate this unprecedented physical isolation. We take comfort in the close bond between AAUW members in the past and present. Keep in contact with one another. We are just a phone call, facetime, text, email, or old- fashioned letter away.

The women in our branch are intelligent, creative people. The *Scope* might be a good way to share how we are creatively making the best of our situations as an inspiration to others. For example, one of my neighbors has put out a wipe board by his mailbox with a joke of the day written on it for people who walk by. He gives the question one day and the punchline the second day. As a result, you are encouraged to take another walk to get the answer. Question: “What kind of jokes are the CDC recommending?” Answer: “Inside Jokes.” Ok, not the greatest jokes, but you get the idea and must admit it is creative. I for one have been doing a lot more walking in my neighborhood and are finding the darndest things!

How are all of you passing the time? What project have you dusted off which you never had time to do before? What new thing have you learned of interest that is not related to a pandemic? What movie or book has been an escape? How are you documenting this time in history for the next generation? How are people reaching out like they never did before? What is your new cleaning or gardening project? What music experience is giving some peace? The questions go on and on. We can use our talents in writing, sewing, painting, drawing, journaling, crafts, building, music, photography, gardening, and culinary arts, to name a few. If you send me, Donna Anderson, at 1danderson54@gmail.com your ideas of support, we would be glad to present it somehow in our next edition.

One way to help face the current crisis is to look to how our brave sisters in the past managed their situations. The recent issue of *Time Magazine* has proved a timely means to do just that. The whole issue is devoted to honoring women of the last 100 years. Many are well known and some are unsung heroes. It is an interesting and inspiring issue.

I would like to highlight just one of these women who also lived in a time of economic stress and had little power to change things, but through her observational talents was able to document a human face to an era. I am speaking of Dorothea Lange who lived during the Great Depression and who is the photographer who took the famous photo which is now called “The Migrant Mother.” I am sure you have all seen this photo of her worried face and her three children. Dorothea survived polio as a young child and went on to document her time through photography. She paid a price for her efforts by being fired from her job for refusing to limit her photos to only white people. Dorothea also documented Japanese-American internment camps and her work was suppressed until after World War II. Without her, the human toll would be lost. Dorothea’s work reminds us that even though we feel helpless to change things, sometimes it is enough to just observe and use whatever talents we have to record our experiences, thoughts and feelings.

As one way of support, I hope to highlight other inspiring women in the future.

**BOOKSALE, Sharon Knoop & Kleo Baruth Kritz
POSTPONED**

FUNDRAISING, Val Murphy & Pat Ruppert

Art in Bloom Update: We have decided to **cancel our Art in Bloom trip**. The Milwaukee Art Museum is currently closed and is scheduled to re-open in April, but it is uncertain if that will happen. If we cancel our trip now we will be able to have our deposit returned. If the Art Museum re-schedules the event farther in the future we will look at setting up another trip. If you have paid for the trip already we should be able to send you a refund. If you have questions, contact Val Murphy, 608 833-5595 lvsmadcity@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP: DUES ARE DUE! Annual dues payable in April & May

A reminder to all AAUW Monona/Madison Branch members. Dues for the 2020-2021 year are payable during the months of April and May 2020. The total for local, state, and national dues is **\$87.00** (National = \$59; State = \$13; Branch = \$15.) *Remember that \$56 of the National dues amount is tax deductible.*

As we are unable to hold an April meeting and are still uncertain about holding a May meeting, we cannot collect dues payments in our usual meeting contexts. AAUW National has created a new Membership Payment Program that will help facilitate dues payments. **Please watch your email inbox for a letter from “memberinfo@aauw.org” that shares two renewal options that will appear as below:**

1. Online, [click here to use your credit or debit card](#).
2. By check: Make check payable to your AAUW branch. Mail it to your finance officer listed below.

Checks should be made out to **Monona/Madison AAUW** and mailed to Gail Stirr (Finance Officer), 7510 Red Fox Trail, Madison WI 53717.

Anyone new wishing to join should contact Membership Co-VPs Betty Schmidt at 608-240-2217 (bjschmidt37@yahoo.com) or Liz Senseman at 608-848-6486 (lizsenseman@tds.net). Membership applications are available online at monona-madison-wi.aauw.net under the “Contact” tab, listed with membership Vps.

MILESTONES So sorry to lose two members who died recently: Paula Budiger and Susan Becker. Susan has one brother and one sister. Here are their addresses: Janet James (sister), 200 Rampart Way, #334, Denver, Colorado 80230 and James (brother) and Mary Lawson, 100 Sherry Dr., Marietta, Ohio 45750. You can also send your condolences and memories to: <http://www.cressfuneralservice.com> (Cress Funeral Home). If you don't get the paper, go to [WI State Journal.madison.com](http://WIStateJournal.madison.com) and find the link for Obituaries.

PUBLIC POLICY, Wanda Nelson

On March 12th I received the following notice from the national AAUW office:

Dear Members of Congress,

“We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to co-sponsor and advocate for swift passage of the Paid Sick Days for Public Health Emergencies and Personal and Family Care Act (S. 3415/H.R. 6150).

The spread of COVID-19 has highlighted the economic consequences faced by working people when they lack access to paid sick days. In the United States, over 32 million workers lack access to paid sick days, and for low-income workers it’s even worse. While 93 percent of the highest-wage workers have access to paid sick days, only 30 percent of the lowest wage workers do. Workers in jobs that require frequent contact with the public, including those in food preparation and service, personal home care, and child care are among the least likely to have paid sick days and the most likely to be unable to afford to take unpaid time away from work.”

This letter was followed by pages and pages of organizations that signed on to support this Act.

The final paragraph of the letter noted that our society is only as healthy as its most vulnerable members. We all have a stake in ensuring paid sick days for public health emergencies and for personal and family care.

We AAUW members have the opportunity to go to the national AAUW website, click in to “Take Action” and urge our members of Congress to act.

ELECTION OF BRANCH OFFICERS

The election of AAUW branch officers typically takes place at our April branch meeting, but the Monona Senior Center is closed and it is unknown when they will open. So, there is a good chance we will not hold an April branch meeting. As an alternative, we will ask members to vote by email. We will be sending out an email that so you can reply to vote for the branch officers. The current nominees for the 2020 -21 officers are: Co-President, Sally Keyel; Program VPs, Jan Robertson and Kleo Baruth Kritz; Membership VP, Lynn Christensen; Secretary, Ann Bowles; and Finance Officer: Gail Stirr. We expect to send the ballot out in a separate email sometime in April. We need 50% of members to respond, so we appreciate your response.

BRIDGE MARATHON, Sally Keyel

As of now, the final meeting of the bridge marathon is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12 at 1 p.m. at St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church. We’ll know more as the time draws near. If you have been unable to complete all your games, DON’T WORRY. I will take the average of the games played and go from there. It’s possible we could postpone until June to give people more time to play. Let me know your thoughts on that (keyels@frontier.com).

HOSPITALITY

Every member should sign up to host at least one meeting. When we meet again, please sign up if you haven't already.

SCHOLARSHIP, Liz Senseman

The Returning Adult Student Awards at UW were awarded on March 10, after a week of preliminary review of all eligible candidates (there were 11) and personal interviews with the 5 finalists. This year the two awards of \$1000.00 each were made to Talesa Allen, 48 years old and who had been away from school for 25 years, and Rick Kempf, who had spent 10 years as a cheese salesman before returning to school. The hardships and life experiences all the candidates shared were heart warming and heart breaking. One of the major factors in originally dropping out of school seemed to be a feeling of failure. That combined with sobriety issues, family issues or financial issues made the decision to return for a degree all the more impressive. There are about 700 returning adult students on campus, just 2% of the student population.

Robby Sonzogni undertook the time consuming task of reading and evaluating each student's personal history, transcript and nominating papers and then forwarding her scores which were then combined with those of five faculty members to determine the finalists. The 3 finalists who did not "win" are each awarded \$500.00, and the other candidates all receive \$100.00. Our branch does not provide all this award money, our Swenson-Rosenberry Fund contributes \$600.00 out of an endowed fund to help support these awards. In addition, a \$2000.00 Single Parent Scholarship is awarded each year but we do not participate in the selection of the winner. This scholarship is funded from our Fund for Excellence, which is not endowed.

Meanwhile selection of the two high school scholarship winners is underway. Monona Grove begins their selection process next week, and La Follette is beginning to review the 150 applications they received. This year the La Follette scholarship will be designated as from AAUW in honor of the Kusuda family. Awards night at both schools is May 20th.

JUNE LUNCHEON, Saturday, June 6th

Optimism and flexibility are key in these uncertain times, as we tentatively proceed with plans for our AAUW Annual Luncheon **at Maple Tree Supper Club** in McFarland. We would love to see a large turnout, if gathering in groups is again possible by our early June date, we will be ready to socialize and celebrate! This luncheon would offer a delightful way to conclude a successful year and an opportunity to meet our scholarship recipients.

If we can proceed with holding our luncheon, registration details for members and their guests will be found in the May issue of Scope. Conversation and cash bar would begin at 11:30am. Introductions and lunch would start at 12:15pm.

FINANCE, Gail Stirr

March 2020

Beginning balance 2/29/20 **\$8,121.26**

Book Sale signs - donations \$250.00

Art in Bloom trip \$1,190.00

Total Income: \$1,440.00

Postage (Sally Keyel) \$11.00

FASTSIGNS Madison \$316.50

 new Book Sale signs

Kobussen Coach deposit \$56.16

 Art in Bloom trip/MKE

AAUW donation \$25.00

(in memory, Paula Budinger)

Total Expenses: \$408.66

Ending balance: **\$9,152.60**

CALENDAR

May 12 at 1 p.m.: Bridge finale, tentative

Co-presidents: Kleo Baruth Kritz & Donna Anderson; Membership: Liz Senseman & Betty Schmidt; Newsletter: Sally Keyel. **Monona/Madison AAUW website: monona-madison-wi.aauw.net**

