

SCOPE



**Monona/Madison Branch
Newsletter**

April 2025

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

6:00 pm: Salad supper

Members N-Z please

bring a salad or main dish to serve 6-8. Members

A-M please contribute \$10

**7:00 pm: Leslie Brunsell, Diversity, Equity,
Inclusion State AAUW Coordinator. "An
Evening of Inclusion/Infusion Activities"**

Leslie Brunsell received her B.Ed. from UW-Whitewater in Elementary Education. After nine years teaching, she began her career in retail banking, retiring after 26 years in 2004. She has been a member of AAUW Janesville for 47 years and served on its board since the early '90s. In 1995 she became interested in the AAUW initiative "Adelante!," helped to form a community group known today as "The Diversity Action Team of Rock County," and continued as Diversity Outreach Chair for the branch. In 2020 she was asked to join the AAUW State Board as the DEI Coordinator. She has been recognized by the Janesville YWCA as a Woman of Distinction, received the UAW Local 95 Civil Rights Service Award, and was inducted into the Janesville High School Honor Wall in 2019.



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Leslie lives with her patient husband Whitey & stubborn Yorky Jordee. She enjoys gardening, playing tennis, reading, volunteering at Rotary Botanical Gardens, and entertaining International guests in her spare time.

Hostesses: Sally Keyel, Val Murphy, Consuelo Lopez, Carrie Wurz

Location: Odyssey Center, 2238 South Park St, room 22, in the UW South Madison Partnership Building behind the Goodman Library.

Please bring your own beverage.

PRESIDENTS' CORNER, Pat Ruppert & Debbie Mahaffey

Happy Spring! Days are a bit longer, birds are singing, sandhill cranes are strolling through neighborhoods, and a little color is starting to pop in lawns and spring flowers. It's energizing!

The spring election in Wisconsin brought excellent news! We elected another woman to the Wisconsin State Supreme Court! Even as we celebrate the victory, we are reminded that much work is yet to be done in our fight for women and girls' right to quality health care, economic stability and access to top notch education. The current political environment requires ever more commitment and determination. Stay strong! Remember during a recent meeting the website <https://5calls.org/> was mentioned. It is very easy to use to contact federal legislators. Enter your zip code for your legislators and phone numbers. Choose the topic you'd like to address and talking points are suggested. We need to make our voices heard!

A group of our members volunteered with *Girls on the Run*. The organization provides fun and evidence-based programs that inspire girls to build their confidence, kindness and decision making skills. We will have another opportunity to support the organization and the young girls it serves in May. If you are aware of additional volunteer activities that align with our mission, please let us know. It's a meaningful and rewarding way to serve.

We look forward to seeing you at the April meeting and Salad Supper, April 22!

April showers bring May flowers. (hopefully)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE , Sharon Knoop, Kleo Baruth Kritz & Gail Stirr

Great News! We have our slate of officers for 2024-2025:

Sue Richter will join Debbie Mahaffey as our Co-President

Shiela Reaves will join Georgia Stilp as our Program VP

Jennifer Ondrejka will be our Membership VP, working with a Membership committee

Stephanie Sorensen will continue as Recording Secretary

Marian Ehrenberg will continue as Corresponding Secretary

Gail Stirr will continue as Finance Officer

Thank you to everyone for your cooperation with the Nominating Committee and to these members who are willing to serve as officers. We will vote on this slate at our April meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT, Gail Stirr

Our AAUW fiscal activity has been completely quiet from February 28, 2025 through March 31, 2025. We have had neither deposits nor withdrawals: no income and no expenses. Note that our balance remains identical to that reported at the close of February: \$11,182.83.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL, Jennifer Ondrejka & Kleo Baruth Kritz

Spring Is the Season of Renewal

Spring is the time when the flowers bloom, the birds nest, and most AAUW members renew their memberships. In the next few weeks, you will receive an individual mailing about renewal, but you don't need to wait for that. You can renew online right now.

Just go to <https://www.aauw.org/membership/> Scroll down to "Learn More about AAUW Membership" and click on that. If you don't already have an account, set one up right there—it only takes a few minutes. From then on, the site will automatically check you in.

On the "Learn More about AAUW Membership" page, scroll down to "Explore Membership Options" and click on National Member. The system will walk you through the steps needed to renew your memberships for National, Wisconsin, and the Monona-Madison branch.

If you need assistance using the website, there is a 3-minute video, "How to Self-Renew for Existing Members" that will walk you through the process.

<https://www.aauw.org/membership/new-systems-update/>

You can also contact Jennifer Ondrejka at jmondrejka@gmail.com or 608-833-3349.

You can also renew by giving a check for \$102 to Gail Stirr at the April or May meetings.

The deadline to renew is June 15.

Note: National has increased dues by \$2/year, from \$70 to \$72. Your total dues will now be \$102/year. This is the first increase in many years and is needed to cover the rising costs of operating.

FUNDRAISING, Val Murphy

There are several possible trips we may look at setting up for this spring and summer. It would likely be good to get to somewhat better weather, but hopefully things will be warmer in a few weeks. For these trips we ask participants to make a \$15 donation towards scholarships. If you have a strong interest in any of these, please email Val Murphy at lvsmadcity@gmail.com, and we will look for possible dates. I will send a notice to all members once we have several possible dates and more information.

1. Tours of the Epic campus
2. A tour of the Anderson Japanese Gardens in Rockford.
3. A tour of the Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville. They also offer some adult education programs.
4. Renting a party bus??? Stopping at antique stores and thrift stores and ???

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS, Liz Senseman

From Anne Niendorf:

Dear AAUW,

I hope all is well! The Division of Continuing Studies, ACSSS scholarship committee is excited to announce the 2025-2026 AAUW Monona/Madison Fund for Excellence scholarship has been awarded to two very deserving UW-Madison students, their bios are listed below. We are hoping they can attend the reception in April so you can meet them!

Please note, AAUW usually supports one single parent undergraduate scholarship for \$2,000. Due to an oversight, two single parent students were awarded \$1,000. The oversight is complete on me. In my notes (for some reason) I had two students listed to receive scholarships from AAUW instead of one. This has been corrected so it will not happen next year. These two students have been awarded additional scholarships from our committee, so they will receive more than \$1,000, but just not all from AAUW. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this.)

Bio: Amanda Sauri was a ward of the state who always dreamed of beating the statistics against foster children receiving a higher education degree. Today, she has only four classes left until she is able to finally make her dreams come true. As a single mother of a five-year-old and an infant, it has been challenging to re-enter college. It proves to be a challenge to hold sobriety along the way, but every year with persistence and dedication, she is an example that it all can be done. She is very grateful for the help she has received from UW–Madison's donors through scholarships.

Note of Thanks from Amanda Sauri

I can't describe the emotions that I am filled with seeing this award. I have lacked support most my life including my high-risk pregnancy I just endured. I've felt so alone and discouraged lately and wondering how I will finish my last year of school, but now I feel so much support. I want to help students when I get older in a way that you all have helped me. I should add that you've not only helped me but my children. You have impacted even future generations in a powerfully positive way. I began my life with low chances of success as a minority ward of the state and with your support I can create a better life for my kids with an education for a career in business. Thank you is not enough and god bless you! – Amanda Sauri

Bio: Heather Stoll is an undergraduate student in UW–Madison's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences pursuing her first bachelor's degree in biology. After taking a nine-year break from education while doing seasonal work domestically, she has settled into Madison where she raises her 3-year-old son and attends school full-time. After completing a bachelor's degree, she hopes to pursue a master's degree in marine mycology and work to promote a healthy marine ecosystem. Her interests include bouldering, painting, baking, and bike riding.

Note of Thanks from Heather Stoll

I am honored to be a recipient of the award supported by the American Association of University Women. As a single mother returning to school after 10 years, I knew I'd face many challenges. Navigating the university system has been an exhilarating new adventure, filled with many highs and many lows. I am incredibly excited to finish my biology degree and move on to complete my master's in marine biology. The support of this foundation will allow me to achieve my goal of graduating in two years through the financial flexibility which enables me to maintain my full-time status. I'm very grateful for this opportunity and hope to make this community proud. – Heather Stoll

Soon, you will receive an invitation to the 2025 Outstanding Adult Students Reception to be held at UW-Madison, Memorial Union, Great Hall on Thursday, April 24 from 4:30-6:30pm CDT. The reception will be live streamed as well. **Please RSVP by April 21st to attend in-person, anne.niendorf@wisc.edu or phone 608-265-5120**

Thank you, as always, for supporting amazing returning adult students!

From Sarah Stilp, Assistant Dean, Admissions & Student Services, Division of Continuing Studies

Hello!

Thank you again for the amazing support for the Outstanding Undergraduate Returning Adult Student Award! I've tallied the scores and ranked the average scores for each of our finalists; Beth and I felt there was a natural break between the top two and the other four. The top two winners are Ivanna Ceballos and Chikara Crooks. Both will received \$1000 award. The other four will receive the finalist award of \$500. I've emailed them the decisions this afternoon.

We could not do this without you. THANK YOU!

MILESTONES

April Birthdays: Apr. 3: Sally Keyel & Barb Sorensen,

Apr. 13: Mary Zins, Apr. 14: Kleo Baruth Kritz, Apr. 23: Debbie Mahaffey, May 2 Tiffany Butzbaugh



SPRING PICNIC

Saturday, June 7th, 2025 – 11:30am – 2:00pm

Elver Park “Open” Shelter, 1260 McKenna Blvd, Madison 53719

Join fellow members & guests as we gather to welcome summer! Elver Park Open Shelter has picnic table seating, in-shelter restrooms, and nearby parking. We encourage you to invite guests! Thank you!! *Picnic Committee: Donna Anderson, Linda Bergren, Debbie Mahaffey, Wanda Nelson, Pat Ruppert, Gail Stirr*

Arrive between 11:30am and Noon. Welcome & introductions at Noon; picnic and chat until 2pm – we have the shelter reserved for a leisurely gathering.

****Please select one of these boxed lunches from *Chez Vous Catering*. All include beverages (iced tea, lemonade, bottled water) and a Turtle Bar (chocolate, caramel, pecans) for dessert.**

1. *Curried Chicken Salad Sandwich*—Roasted chicken, curry mayonnaise, slivered almonds, golden raisins, and red leaf lettuce on croissant. Includes side fruit salad.

2. *Spicy Thai Noodle Salad with Grilled Chicken*—Chinese noodles, scallions, edamame, carrots, cilantro, and roasted bell peppers with a Pad Thai ginger sesame oil dressing (peanuts, rice vinegar, lime juice, coconut milk, chilis and Thai fish sauce). Includes side fruit salad.

3. *Roasted Vegetable Sandwich*—Red and yellow bell peppers, eggplant, zucchini, and portobello mushrooms with balsamic dressing on focaccia. Includes side fruit salad.

****Cost for each boxed lunch is \$23.00**

[includes tax and delivery fee; any funds remaining after catering payment will be allocated for scholarship support]

Registration deadline is Saturday, May 24th.

****To register for the June 7th AAUW picnic: fill out the form below and send to Pat Ruppert, 2925 Maple Run Drive, Madison WI 53719 with check payable to AAUW Monona/Madison. Questions? Contact Pat Ruppert (608-698-1376) or Gail Stirr (608-239-3243).**

Member Name_____ Lunch Selection

Guest Name _____ Lunch

Selection_____

Guest Name _____ Lunch

Selection_____



STATE CONVENTION, Kleo Baruth Kritz

AAUW-WI Convention 2025 is just around the corner! *Forward AAUW: Bridges to the Future* will be held at the Stoney Creek Hotel, La Crosse/Onalaska, April 25-26. EVERYONE IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE STATE CONVENTION – NOT JUST OFFICERS. Please join us! It's an excellent way to meet members from throughout the state and hear about current issues in women's rights, public policy, and other important subjects. For more information, to register, and to reserve a hotel room, please go to <https://aauw-wi.aauw.net/convention/>.



AAUW GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, March 25, 2025

Co-President Pat Ruppert called the meeting to order at 7:55 pm.

She thanked the hostesses: Barb Sorensen, Lynn Christensen, Gail Steinhorst, and Jan Robertson.

The minutes of the last meeting on Feb. 27, 2004 were approved as printed in the *Scope*.

Pat thanked those who participated in the Girls on the Run volunteer day including Kleo Baruth Kritz, Donna Anderson, Gail Steinhorst, Lynn Christensen, Robby Sonzogni, Mary Michor, Jennifer Ondrejka, Debbie Mahaffey, and Pat Ruppert. The experience was fun and went really well, giving participants a chance to socialize and contribute to the community.

Donna reported that Tech Savvy STEM workshop, hosted by Janesville and Fort Atkinson, will be held on Saturday, April 5, at the UW-Whitewater. Our branch is not directly involved in organization of this activity, but Debbie Mahaffey has volunteered to help.

Kleo reported that the AAUW State Convention 2025 being held at the Stoney Creek Hotel in Onalaska has 111 people registered, including 13 from our Branch. In 2026, the convention will be held in Madison at the DoubleTree by Hilton on East Washington, opposite East Towne.

Pat Ruppert reported that the OURASA Scholarship selection process was very interesting. Six applicants participated by writing essays and doing Zoom interviews. Pat participated in the selection process from our branch and found the process quite interesting and worthwhile. Two awards were finalized.

We are still looking for someone to work with Val Murphy to find group volunteer activities that we can do that offer a contribution to the community.

Jennifer Ondrejka briefly described her work on developing a plan for promoting our AAUW branch focusing on three things: 1) does this organization align with our mission of supporting women and girls; 2) will the activities we are involved with bring us visibility; and 3) will this organization/activity help us attract new members? Often younger people want to find a way to make a contribution. Many groups have their own activities, but we may be able to find a way to work together.

Sharon Knoop announced the two newly nominated officers: Sue Richter as Co-President and Shiela Reaves as Co-Program VP which had been printed in the last *Scope*.

The next *Scope* deadline is Wed., April 2.

Pat announced that AAUW National dues will be increased by \$2.00 per year each of the next two years. Our branch will also be discussing our dues structure.

Mary Boyd introduced her guest, Jan Schubert, who is also attending Great Decisions.

Our next meeting is April 22 beginning at 6:00 PM for our salad supper. Members with last names beginning N-Z, please bring a salad or main dish to serve 8-10. Others are asked to contribute \$10.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Stephanie Sorensen

CALENDAR

- **Apr. 4 at 1 pm: Bridge** at St. Stephen's
- **Apr. 8: Film Group**
- **Apr. 16 at 7 p.m.: Evening Book Club:** Host: Liz Senseman; Reviewer: Donna Anderson; *The Loves of Theodore Roosevelt* by Edward O'Keefe
- **Apr. 24 at 9:30 a.m.: Morning Literature:** Monona Library; Leader, Carrie Wurz; *Dear Life* by Alice Munro
- **Apr. 22 at 6 pm:** Salad Supper and General Meeting
- **Apr. 25 & 26: State Convention**
- **May 2 at 1 pm: Bridge** at St. Stephen's

Co-presidents: Pat Ruppert & Debbie Mahaffey; Membership: Kleo Baruth Kritz & Jennifer Ondrejka; Newsletter: Sally Keyel. Monona/Madison AAUW website: monona-madison-wi.aauw.net
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