

SCOPE



Greater Madison Area Branch OCTOBER 2025 Newsletter

Tuesday, October 28

6:30 p.m. Social Time

7:00 p.m. Program: “From Culinary to Caucus, Share the Table, Equity Advocate” presented by Representative Francesca Hong, District 77, Wisconsin State Assembly.

Rep. Hong was born in Madison, Wisconsin. She graduated from West High School and briefly attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is a former restaurant co-owner and co-chef. In addition to being a state assembly representative since 2020, she is a member of the following: Wisconsin United Coalition of Mutual Assistance Association (board); Main Street Alliance Wisconsin (leadership team); Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (board); AAPI Coalition of Wisconsin (board); Rooted Wisconsin (board); Dane County Food Collective (co-founder); Culinary Ladies Collective (co-founder and board president); and Kennedy Heights Community Center (board).



Hostesses: Ellen Healey, Kleo Baruth Kritz, Donna Anderson, Tiffany Butzbaugh, Mary Michor

Location: Odyssey Center, 2238 South Park St, room 22, in the UW South Madison Partnership Building behind the Goodman Library. The parking spaces right in front of the Odyssey Center labeled 30 minutes or an hour have no restrictions **after 5 pm** so you can park there.

MILESTONES

Our condolences to the families of recent members who have passed on: Dee Zimmerman and Ellie Beck

October Birthdays: 1st Stephanie Sorensen, 18th Rosemary Lehman, 31st Ellen Healey



PRESIDENTS' CORNER, Debbie Mahaffey & Sue Richter

Welcome to autumn crispy apples, colorful trees, bright orange pumpkins and anticipation of winter holidays. AAUW Greater Madison Area branch is jumping into many activities for this year. Thanks to everyone, especially Sharon and Kleo, we had a successful book sale in September. In upcoming months Val has enjoyable field trips and Lynn has community service volunteer activities planned. Of course December brings our winter luncheon with the silent auction, basket bidding, and lovely books for presents. We encourage everyone to participate in these activities. Besides providing community services and earning scholarship dollars, it is great fun to get to know branch members. We are smiling and fun-loving group.

Finally, please note that we are trying to keep our business meetings meaningful but short. If you need to be on the agenda notify us a week in advance of the branch meeting. We will do our best to stick to the agenda and get everyone on their way home quickly. Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP, Jennifer Ondrejka **NEW MEMBER**



Kathleen Paris: I am a retired management consultant, currently a writer and editor. I love to cook and have put together several cookbooks. It was the kind, friendly and smart women who attracted me to AAUW. My recent books include *Gentle Comforts: For Women Grieving the Loss of a Beloved Companion* and *Bending Granite 30+ True Stories of Leading Change* which I edited. I look forward to getting to know the members in our chapter!

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS, Kleo Baruth Kritz

Please correct these addresses:

Ann Bowles, 618 Jupiter Dr, Apt 4020, Madison 53718

Betty Schmidt, 5815 American Parkway, #324, Madison 53718

Please remove Donna Anderson's landline phone. Her cell phone is correct.

La Cuisine Chair is Robbie Sonzogni, not Suzanne Poggio

Directories have been distributed at our book sale and by mail. If you did not receive one, please contact Kleo kbkritz@charter.net

AAUW Greater Madison Area Connects at 2025 Labor Fest

Consuelo Lopez and Jennifer Ondrejka represented our branch at Madison's Labor Fest. The turnout was fantastic, and we connected with people from many organizations who share our values. In addition to labor unions, there were groups advocating for racial and economic justice, environmental issues, peace, health care, immigrants. . .

Of course, there was great support for all of our key issues. But two things got the strongest response from attendees: Our scholarships and fellowships, especially in STEM, and our 140+ year history of women supporting women.

AAUW's booth drew people of all ages who wanted to try our Women's Trivia Quiz. This is a cool idea we learned about from our friends at AAUW-Janesville. We had a Spinner Wheel with questions in 14 categories, for example, Women in STEM, Wisconsin Women, Women in History, and Women in Politics. Although some questions were challenging, people were happy to ace questions like "Who was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic?" and "Which woman won Nobel prizes in two different categories?"

We'll demonstrate our prize wheel and trivia contest at the September meeting, so don't miss it—you could win valuable prizes for demonstrating your knowledge of women!

Member Recruitment Campaign Rolls Out

We are excited to roll out our vibrant new membership marketing materials. Past President Pat Ruppert created a bookmark that we can give out at the book sale.

We now have a colorful "rack card" that will be distributed at the book sale and displayed at libraries and other organizations. The card highlights our mission, activities, and the benefits of membership. Gabrielle Czeremuga, a brilliant UW student in web design and digital communications, created the card and other materials. We are very grateful that this talented young woman has worked for almost six months *pro bono* because she supports our mission of gender equity.

Gabi has also redesigned our web site, using many of the new graphic elements that National is using. Our National office is helping us take Gabi's design elements and convert them to the program that local branches use.

Now that our printed and digital materials are vibrant and updated, we will start a comprehensive campaign of recruiting new members. If you'd like to be involved with this effort, please contact Membership VP Jennifer Ondrejka at jmondrejka@gmail.com.



ODYSSEY MEAL DONATIONS, Mary Michor & Kleo Baruth Kritz

“The award-winning UW-Madison Odyssey Project takes a whole family approach to breaking the cycle of generational poverty through access to education, giving adult and youth learners a voice, and increasing confidence through reading, writing, and speaking.

“Now in its 23rd year, this inspirational project has empowered more than 600 low-income adults to find their voices and get a jump start at earning college degrees they never thought possible. Some graduates of the program have journeyed from homelessness to UW-Madison degrees, or from incarceration to meaningful work in the community.

“In this six-credit English literature course, UW-Madison faculty members introduce adults to great works of literature, philosophy, history, and art and help them improve skills in writing and critical thinking. In class, students read, write about, and engage in lively discussions of Emily Dickinson, Martin Luther King, Walt Whitman, Shakespeare, Lorraine Hansberry, and more.” <https://odyssey.wisc.edu>

Once each year our branch passes an Odyssey Project envelope to collect donations used to purchase a meal for approximately 40 people at their Odyssey class. Since two adult classes are now being offered rather than one class to total about 65, in 2023 Odyssey recommended we might prefer dinner for tutors/students, art classes for el/middle/hs students, and music lessons for ms/hs on Monday night, which would fit our previous numbers better. Monday, November 3, is the date for this year’s meal. We also give two \$500 Odyssey scholarships and \$1000 to the Odyssey Family Fund

Thanks to all people who donated at the September meeting. We will pass the envelope at October meeting again in case there are people who still want to donate. If you are unable to attend these meetings and want to make a donation, please mail your donation to Gail Stirr, 7510 Red Fox Trail, Madison, WI 53717.

Volunteer Opportunities, Lynn Christensen

We still have openings to work as a group on community projects with fellow AAUW branch members.

Sign up begins on September 12 to help hand out water and treats for the November 8 Girls on the Run 5k in Waunakee. It is a public sign up so we want to get on it early. We are also helping with two inside activities. One for Girls on the Run on October 21 and one for Madison Reading Project on November 20. Reply to me at lxvbadger@gmail.com If you missed the earlier notice containing more details I can easily resend it to you.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON, Liz Senseman

Holiday Luncheon - Save the Date!!

Our annual Holiday Luncheon will be held on **Saturday, December 6th, 2025.**

This is a great event and in addition to wonderful food and delightful company there is a silent auction and book sale which precede the luncheon, and a Live Basket Auction at the end of the meal.

We invite you all to attend, and we welcome your guests!!

Maple Bluff Country Club

500 Kensington Drive

Madison, Wisconsin

Events start at 11:00am when the bar opens, the silent auction begins at 11:15, at noon luncheon is served, and then the Live Basket Auction is held at the end of the meal.

The chef at Maple Bluff Country Club has come up with the following menu for us:

Salad - Holiday Salad with spinach, dried cherries, shaved radish, candied walnuts, to be served with a cranberry vinaigrette.

Entree - Mushroom Pithivier (*a rounded French pie made with pate brisee (pastry) enclosing a savory filling*) with portobello mushroom and roasted root vegetables, served with a mushroom veloute (sauce)

OR **Holiday Scampi** with sautéed shrimp, bucatini (pasta), Delicata squash, spinach, lemon, garlic, white wine.

Desert - Cheesecake with a mixed berry purée

\$32.00 per person (includes tax and gratuity)

(Checks payable to Greater Madison Area AAUW)

All proceeds go to toward education scholarships

PLEASE RSVP with Food Choice and check by the end of the day,

Tuesday, November 25

To

Liz Senseman

Lizsenseman@icloud.com. 608-395-5146

3199 Shady Oak Lane, Verona, WI 53593

FINANCIAL REPORT, Gail Stirr

Beginning Balance 7/31/25: \$6,054.33

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Membership renewals | \$334.00 |
| 2. Branch dues (repaid from National) | \$30.00 |
| 3. Scholarship donations | \$300.00 |

(in memory of deceased members)

Total Income thru 8/31/25: \$664.00

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|---------------------------------|------------|
| • National & State Membership | \$302.00 |
| • Monona Grove H.S. Scholarship | \$1,000.00 |
| • Middleton Players refunds | \$200.00 |
- (event canceled)

Total Expenses: \$1,502.00

Balance 8/31/25: \$5,216.33

FINANCIAL REPORT, September 30, 2025

Beginning Balance 8/31/25: \$5,216.33

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|---------------------------------------|------------|
| 4. Membership | \$65.00 |
| 5. Branch dues (repaid from National) | \$15.00 |
| 6. Odyssey Meal donations | \$260.00 |
| 7. Fall Potluck Supper | \$80.00 |
| 8. Book Sale income | \$3,191.50 |
| 9. Deposit of Cash debited from | \$100.00 |

Bank account (used for Book Sale)

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| 10. General donations | \$504.00 |
| 11. Scholarship donations | \$125.00 |

(in memory of deceased members)

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|---|----------|
| 12. Morning Lit Group (scholarship donations) | \$105.00 |
| 13. Labor Fest donations | \$35.00 |
| 14. T-Shirt purchase | \$20.00 |

Total Income thru 9/30/25: \$4,500.50

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|---|----------|
| • National & State Membership | \$78.00 |
| • 2025-26 Branch Directory (Insty-Prints) | \$204.99 |
| • AAUW National Greatest Needs | \$50.00 |
- in memory of Ellie Beck & Dee Zimmerman
- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| • Cash for Book Sale cash box | \$100.00 (reimbursed by deposit shown above) |
| Book Sale yard signs (FastSigns) | \$121.33 |

Printing: bookmarks, rack cards \$178.08 (Bob's Copy Shop; Office Depot)

Total Expenses: \$732.40

Current Balance 9/30/25: \$8,984.43

GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUP, Mary Boyd

We Welcome New Members

Keeping up with foreign policy and how it affects us here in the U.S. and locally is not easy. Finding reliable information is also a challenge. Our AAUW branch has an answer to this dilemma--an interest group that utilizes materials from the Foreign Policy Association in New York City. Their materials have been developed by experts in the field. They provide a briefing book (8 separate topics --with approximately 10 pages written by an expert on each topic.) Each member of the group purchases a briefing book costing approximately \$35- which varies slightly depending on the number of participants.

Topics for 2026 are: 1. **America and the World: Trump's "America First" Foreign Policy**; 2. **Trump Tariffs and the Future of the World Economy**; 3. **U.S.-China Relations**; 4. **Ruptured Alliances and the Risk of Nuclear Proliferation**; 5. **Ukraine and the Future of European Security**; 6. **Multilateral Institutions in a Changing World Order**; 7. **U.S Engagement of Africa**; 8. **The Future of Human Rights and International Law**

As a group, we also purchase a DVD (usually included in the \$35 fee) with an additional lecture about each topic. We meet 8 times (every 2 weeks) on Tuesdays between the first week of February and the middle of May. We will view a 30-minute DVD presentation for that topic and then as a group discuss and answer questions about the topic. We will again be meeting at Oakwood Village West at 6205 Mineral Point Rd. Each session begins at 1:30 pm and lasts approximately 90 minutes depending on group involvement. More information about the Great Decisions program is available on the website: www.fpa.org/greatdecisions

Payment is due when the books arrive sometime in late December or early January. As with all our interest groups, there is a \$10 donation request to help support the AAUW charitable agenda.

If interested, **contact Mary Boyd** (boydma2322@sbcglobal.net) or call 608-222-7673 **by October 23rd.**

Heads Up, Sally Keyel

Just to let you know, I'll be having an Open House to sell my jewelry and my son's nature photography on Saturday, October 11th and Sunday, October 12th from 12 to 5. 20% of the sales to AAUW members will be donated to the branch. Nice time to do some Christmas shopping, or just getting out! Bring your friends!



BOOK SALE, Kleo Baruth Kritz and Sharon Knoop

AND THE FINAL TOTAL FOR OUR SCHOLARSHIPS IS \$3191.50!!! We made \$2260 on Saturday, \$781.50 on Sunday, and an additional donation of \$150 with a total head count of 217. What an accomplishment for our Greater Madison Area branch! What an accomplishment for our Greater Madison Area branch and what a great fundraiser for our scholarships!!



Thank you to all our members who contributed so much--from donating books to distributing yard signs and posters throughout the community to showing up on Monday to set up tables and unpack boxes and to spending long hours sorting boxes after boxes after boxes on Tuesday. Thanks must go to our workers and cashiers who showed up for the actual sales and collected the money for our scholarships: And the final job, the cleanup, when everyone is exhausted and just wants to go home, we had dedicated individuals who stuck around for the final dismantling of our fundraiser.

Our book sale for 2026 is already scheduled for third weekend of Sept. 19-20.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, September 23, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Co-President Debbie Mahaffey at 7:48 pm.

Debbie thanked all of the hostesses: Sally Keyel, Stephanie Sorensen, Linda Bergren, and Jennifer Ondrejka who set up and brought desserts for our September Potluck Dinner meeting.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of May 27, 2025 were approved as written.

Finance Report: Debbie briefly explained the proposed budget Gail Stirr prepared for 2025-26 that was sent to members before the meeting. It is essentially the same as last year - scholarships are the same. There are a few minor changes: funds were added for program expenses (and removed from administration); funds to cover the one-time cost of applying for a non-profit 501 (c3) status were added. Kleo Baruth Kritz made a motion that the budget be approved. It was seconded by Jennifer Ondrejka and passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Jennifer reported that their appearance at the Labor Temple went well in that lots of people stopped by to spin the wheel for a prize and they distributed a number of brochures. She is looking for other opportunities to help us get known in the community.

Fundraising: Val Murphy reported that the Epic tour scheduled for Oct. 8 is now full and

she will look for additional opportunities in 2026 for others to go to Epic. A few members are going on the trip to Oshkosh on Sept. 30 to visit both the Paine Museum and gardens and the Oshkosh Public Museum with a lunch break in between. There is space for more/an additional car to come along.

Community Outreach: Lynn Christiansen announced Oct. 21 from 9:30 - 11:30 to help assemble Race Day supplies for Girls on the Run. We will also help the Literacy Project with assembling gift bags for Baby's First Book on Nov. 20 at 10:00. Wear your blue T-shirt if you have one.

Book Sale: Kleo reported that the total raised from the book sale was \$3041.50 (\$2260 on Sat. And \$751.50 Sun.) with a total of 217 attendees. Many of our new bookmarks were distributed. We got wonderful help from Monona High School students during the final cleanup. Kleo especially thanked Sharon Knoop for her outstanding help as Co-Chair, dedication, and her attendance each day of setup and sales. She thanked Mary Boyd and her crew for distributing yard signs and posters, which help a great deal in attracting people to the sale. Kleo thanked everyone who helped, which was approximately 50% of our membership! The dates for 2026 are already set for the third weekend of Sept. On the 19th and 20th.

Newsletter: The next deadline is Wed., Oct. 1.

Additional Items:

-Liz Senseman reported that our Holiday Luncheon is scheduled for Dec. 6, but we do not yet have menu options. We will continue with both silent and live auctions as well as a small book sale.

-Sally Keyel reported that her friend is willing to make her eggrolls again as a fundraising project if enough members want to buy them. A show of hands indicated this would be sufficiently supported, and Sally will follow up. The plan is that it costs \$16/doz. to make them and we will charge \$20/doz. for a profit of \$4.00 per order.

-A hearty thank you to Faith Howe and Kleo for putting together our directory.

Old Business:

Report from the Board: Co-President Sue Richter reported on Board business. The main business at our last meeting was the budget which has now been passed. We decided to wait on doing anything about including those without a degree as members to see what both the State and National are doing and will propose. We know they are working on this issue.

AAUW Star Awards: Debbie announced that AAUW awarded our Branch 4 Stars this past year on: Public Policy & Advocacy; Governance & Sustainability; Programming; and Communications & External Relations. We did not earn a Star for Advancement and it would take a concerted effort for us to achieve that one.

New Business:

Board expansion: At the most recent Board meeting, it was agreed that all Committee Chairs would also be official Board members. This gives us a chance to include more members and hopefully help generate new ideas and keep everyone informed.

Name Change: Debbie explained that due to the deadline to print the Directory, we decided to do an email vote of the membership. She thanked everyone who voted (29 members) and we have officially changed our name to AAUW Greater Madison Area. This needs to be accepted by the State (Gail) and National (Debbie).

-The business meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.

ANNOUNCEMENT ADDENDUM

-Kleo announced that she was sending around an envelope to request donations for the Odyssey Meal Project and encourage everyone to be generous. She is still collecting donations.

-Jennifer demonstrated her contest wheel and encouraged members to try it during the break and win a prize. She will continue to use this in her membership outreach projects. She also distributed to each member an envelope containing one copy of each of our great looking printed materials.

-Jennifer will manage our application for 501(c3) status. We need to have our name changed officially by both State and National to go forward. Once that happens, we can proceed and it will help with fundraising particularly related to requesting donations for our Branch as well as saving sales tax.

Respectfully Submitted, Stephanie Sorensen

CALENDAR

- **Oct. 3 at 1 p.m.: Bridge:** Place: St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Pheasant Hill Dr, Monona
- **Oct. 14: Film Group: TBD** The film, time, theater will be emailed the Friday before the scheduled Tuesday date because that is when the theaters announce their new weekly schedule.
- **Oct. 15 at 1:00 p.m.: Board meeting at Gail Stirr's**
- **Oct. 15 at 7 p.m.: Evening Literature:** Host, Deborah Mahaffey; Reviewer, Ellen Healey; *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn
- **October 16 from 11-1: Lunch Book Bunch** at Culver's on the Beltline.
- **Oct. 23 at 9:30 a.m: Morning Literature:** Monona Public Library; Discussion leader: Lynn Celley; *The Last Light Over Oslo* by Alex Rickloff
- **Oct. 28 at 6:30:** General Meeting
- **Nov. 7 at 1 p.m.: Bridge:** Place: St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Pheasant Hill Dr, Monona

Co-presidents: Debbie Mahaffey & Sue Richter; Membership: Jennifer Ondrejka; Newsletter: Sally Keyel website, www.monona-madison-wi.aauw.net
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