

SCOPE



Greater Madison Area Branch November/December 2025 Newsletter

Tuesday, November 25

6:30 p.m.: Social Time

7 p.m Program: “Holding it Together: How Women Became America’s Safety Net” presented by Dr. Jessica Calarco, Professor of Sociology at UW-Madison. More information will be provided at her introduction.

Hosts: Lynn Christensen, Sue Richter, Barbara Sorensen, Gail Steinhorst



Saturday, December 6: Holiday Luncheon

PRESIDENTS' CORNER, Debbie Mahaffey & Sue Richter

Happy Thanksgiving. This year the colors of leaves seem exceptionally vibrant. What a treat! Enjoy the sunny fall days and beautiful colors.

Branch activities are in full swing. Next up, on November 20, we will volunteer with the Madison Reading Project. We will be assembling “My First Pages” gift bags given out to children birth to 5 years and their caregivers through a partnership with Dane County hospitals and community organizations. Madison Reading Project is also the official Literacy Champion of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library for Dane County. There is still time to sign up to volunteer. See Lynn Christensen for details. If you’d like to learn more about the Madison Reading Project go to www.madisonreadingproject.com

Watch for details on the special opportunity to purchase beautiful and intricately handcrafted needleworks done by long time member Ellie Beck, with money raised donated to our scholarship funds. Ellie’s family has donated the beautiful rugs and other needleworks to our Branch. Thanks to Lynn Celley for coordinating the opportunity.

Happy Thanksgiving! A message of thanks as you gather to celebrate Thanksgiving: “For the food before us, the people beside us, and the love that surrounds us, let us be truly grateful. For those who hunger, give them food. For those who have food, give them hunger for justice.” (author unknown)

Remember to sign up for our Holiday Luncheon!!

When: Saturday, December 6, 2025

Where: Maple Bluff Country Club
500 Kensington Drive
Madison, WI

Why: To enjoy excellent food, delightful company, and to raise funds for our scholarship awards.

Agenda: 11:00 Bar opens
11:15 Silent Auction/Book sale begins
12:00 noon Luncheon, followed by live basket auction

The Chef at Maple Bluff has developed the following menu for us:

Salad: Holiday Salad (w/spinach, dried cherries, candied walnuts, cranberry vinaigrette)

Entree: Either - Mushroom Pithivier (French rounded pie w/portobello & roasted veggies) Or - Holiday Scampi (Shrimp, bucatini pasta, squash, spinach, seasonings)

Dessert: Cheesecake (w/mixed berry purée)

\$32.00/person, taxes and gratuity included.

Checks payable to Greater Madison area AAUW.

Please RSVP with entree choice and check by the end of the day Monday November 24th. See form at end of newsletter.

Please RSVP to: Liz Senseman, 3199 Shady Oak Lane, Verona WI 53593

Please contact me with any questions at lizsenseman@icloud.com or call/text 608-395-5146

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON ACTIVITIES, Kleo Baruth Kritz

'tis the time for the holiday festivities, just a month away:

1. We will need items for the silent auction. Yes, it can be some lovely item you have or a crafted object. However, we have many talented women. How about a skill you can share with others? One year Sally had a jewelry making session for members. Donna and I have had high teas for 8 people with a set price for a slot. Janesville had a member who offered a soup-a-month for a year, a very tasty item, or maybe just 6 soups!! Use your imagination, three special desserts for major holidays? You all are creative!!
2. We also need baskets for the live auction. Come up with **a catchy title** and **a list to put in front of the basket** so our guests can see full content and the **total price of basket**. This is what I used in 2020:

TREATS & TEA for TWO OR JUST YOU

Two Violet 3-legged Cups and 6 Tea Bags

Package of 16 Paper Napkins

Baker's Dozen Crisp Chocolate Chip Cookies & Recipe

Baker's Dozen Chocolate Chip Mocha Fudge Cookies & Recipe

It makes it easier for bidders to know what is in the basket and for the auctioneers to be able to promote the basket. Make sure the list is attached to **outside** of basket so can be separated from basket when we start the auction.

- Our final event is the holiday book sale. Here you don't have to prepare anything and definitely do **NOT** bring any book donations to the luncheon unless you and I have made other arrangements. (Save them for our big sale next September!) Sharon and I have already picked out some children's books as well as adult books from the September sale and have about three boxes in our garages. There will be a donation jar accepting either cash or checks.

So 'tis the time to show off your holiday outfits (an opportunity to dress up!!), invite friends to attend with you, enjoy a delicious luncheon, and visit with friends old and new!

We are in for a treat at the holiday luncheon. Before Ellie Beck passed away, she donated EIGHT beautiful, handmade, hooked wool rugs, and a number of other [cross-stitched and embroidered pieces](#) that are beautifully done and ready to hang on your wall. These items [were](#) all created by Ellie, and this is an opportunity for many of us who knew her to have a piece of her artwork to enjoy. (These rugs can be used on walls or on the floor because they are very easily cleaned, and she has also provided the underneath gripper pad if you choose to have it on the floor.)

Her daughter, Sue, has been the liaison between Ellie and our organization. She wants very much for us to share these pieces. and to help them find new homes. [To honor Ellie's beautiful crafts and labors by simultaneously raising funds to advance our scholarship mission, which she actively supported, we plan to propose a minimum bid for these pieces.](#)

Gail Stirr has taken pictures of these items and will be making them available for us to see through a [32auctions](#) website that she is setting up. That will give you an opportunity to see what lies ahead for us to bid on at the auction, [and it will also let you know a suggested starting bid. If you will not be attending the Holiday Luncheon & Auction and you are interested in bidding or making a purchase, you can contact Gail when you have had a chance to view these works at the 32auctions site \(still in the works!\).](#)

My friend and Ellie's friend, Mary Schnitzler, will be at the luncheon and is expert at rug hooking herself, so she will be there to answer any questions you might have. Come and enjoy the luncheon and see these beautiful works of art and maybe you will take one home with you. They certainly would make a beautiful holiday gift.



Here is a sample of one of [Ellie's](#) rugs and also one of Three Bears Cross Stitch



FINANCIAL REPORT, Gail Stirr October 31, 2025

AAUW Monona/Madison Branch FINANCIAL REPORT, Gail Stirr October 31, 2025

Beginning Balance 9/30/25:	\$8,984.43
3. Branch dues (repaid from National)	\$30.00
4. Odyssey Meal donations	\$25.00
5. Bridge donations	\$70.00
6. Evening Lit Group (scholarship donations)	\$140.00
7. La Cuisine donations	\$70.00
8. T-Shirt purchase	\$20.00
9. Epic Tour (fundraising event)	\$165.00
Total Income thru 10/31/25:	\$520.00
- AAUW table at Labor Fest - WI Department of Financial Institutions (Annual fee) - WI Department of Financial Institutions (Filing fee: Branch name change, Amendment to Articles of Incorporation)	\$104.86 \$25.00 \$40.00
Total Expenses:	\$169.86
Current Balance 10/31/25:	\$9,334.57

MEMBERSHIP, Jennifer Ondrejka

New Member: In 1997 Cheryl lost her sense of balance and the ability to know where she was in space. Then in 2010 it was discovered she had a brain aneurysm that required surgery. In the summer of 2013, she developed seizures secondary to her brain surgery.



Pioneered by renowned and esteemed Dr. Paul Bach-y-Rita, Cheryl took part in ground-breaking neuroplasticity sensory substitution research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She became “Subject Zero” as well as a co-investigator in this research which developed the Brain Port, a device that re-trains the brain by using one sense to take the place of one damaged, in this case, her loss of balance. It was this experience that set the stage for her now remarkable life.

Cheryl’s experiences have been featured in *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Discover Magazine*, *New Scientist Magazine*, *National Geographic*, PBS, On Wisconsin, and Wisconsin Public Television.

In 2008, Cheryl earned a BS in Rehabilitation Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and went on to work in the disability field including vocational rehabilitation, youth transition, independent living, and disability advocacy and support. She has served as a Board of Director for Access to Independence, an Independent Living Center, and for Movin’ Out who assist people with disabilities obtain home ownership.

As a Board of Director and Facilitator for The Employability Project, their mission is to help those with autism or other barriers successfully transition to fulfilling employment through the “Student Transition to Employment Program (STEP).”

Cheryl is a member of the Wisconsin Women’s Entrepreneurs, and various photography groups. Her work has been included in exhibits and gained various awards.

DIRECTORY ADDITIONS

Kathleen Paris 608-445-1085 2838 Crinkle Root Dr , Fitchburg 53711
kathleen@kathleenparis.com

Ruth Goldstein ruth.goldstein@wisc.edu

Cheryl Schiltz 606-334-0104 1859 Aberg Ave, #416, Madison 53704
schiltz.cheryl@email.com

Display Your Pride in AAUW

The AAUW branches in District One are selling custom-made t-shirts to celebrate AAUW and everything we've accomplished together.

Wearing our shirts together will make us look like the team we are — connected, confident, and proud of what we represent. When we volunteer or collaborate with other organizations, these shirts will make a statement.



Andrea Utrie, AAUW Beaver Dam President

Our friends at AAUW Beaver Dam found a local company to produce the shirts at a very reasonable price. These t-shirts are:

Classy: a beautiful blue with the AAUW logo and the slogan, “Empowering women since 1881” embroidered on the front.

High Quality: Soft, durable fabrics

Great gifts: Don't forget that the holidays are coming. These attractive shirts make a perfect gift for your daughter, your sister, your husband--anyone who supports our mission.

The shirts are available in men's or women's sizes S, M, L, and XL. Short sleeved shirts (V-neck in polyester) are \$18. Long-sleeved shirts (V-neck in polyester or crew neck in cotton) are \$20. Note that the cotton shirts are a slightly different blue color.

To order, email me at jmondrejka@gmail.com or call 608-833-3349 by December 1. Just state the sizes (men's or women's), v-neck or crew neck (for long sleeved shirts only) and quantities you want to order. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions about sizing or payment.

MILESTONES

November Birthdays: Faith Howe, 10; Suzanne Poggio, 10; Ann Huggett, 15; Marian Ehrenberg, 16; Liz Senseman, 19; Carrie Wurz, 24; Sally Lee, 27.

December: Mary Boyd, 8; Pat Ruppert, 13; Wendy Way, 13;



FUNDRAISING

My friend, Xue Vang, has offered to sell us delicious eggrolls at cost to support our scholarships. She has 10 dozen frozen pork eggrolls, and will make vegetable ones later on. If anyone would like to order some, please contact me, Sally Keyel, and I will deliver them (I won't be able to make the November meeting). Cost is \$20 per dozen.



Save the date!
April 17 -18 2026
105th State Convention
DoubleTree by Hilton
Madison East

MINUTES

October 28,2025

6:30 Social Time; Speaker 7:00pm

Announcements:

Great Decisions: Mary Boyd shared information on the 2026 Great Decisions group. The meetings begin the 1st Tuesday in February and are held every two weeks at Oakwood West. The deadline to sign up is November 14th, please contact Mary if you would like to sign up.

Odyssey Meal: Kleo Baruth Kritz, Mary Michor: An envelope was passed for donations to support the Odyssey Meal sponsored by AAUW Greater Madison Area.

Speaker: Representative Francesca Hong, District 77, Assembly.

Title: *From Culinary to Caucus, Share the Table, Equity Advocate*

Call to order The meeting was opened by co-president Debbie Mahaffey,

Thanks to hostesses: Donna Anderson, Kleo Baruth Kitz, Mary Michor, Ellen Healey, Tiffany Butzbaugh

Minutes of Meeting September 23, 2025 The minutes were approved as submitted.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Jennifer Ondrejka reported on the membership drive.

Public Policy: This committee could use an additional member. Current initiatives include a focus on the importance of the ERA, getting out the vote (a collaboration with the League of Women Voters), and a draft of the equivalency membership project.

Fundraising: The branch had two successful fundraising events; a tour of the EPIC campus and a trip to museums in Oshkosh. Val Murphy is working on getting a group together to attend the MATC lunch, a local theatre group, and a trip to Art in Bloom at the Milwaukee Art Museum.

Community Outreach: Lynn Christensen thanked all who participated in the Girls on the Run project and lunch. The next community outreach project will be the Reading Project – collating books for Baby's First Books.

Holiday Luncheon: There are 20 people already signed up for the Holiday Luncheon and Auctions on Saturday, December 6th. Checks and food choice should be sent to Liz Senseman. The deadline to sign up is November 26.

District One: Consuelo reported on the District One initiatives which include promoting AAUW webinars, programming, bridge building (supporting our non-profit partnerships), developing elevator speeches to introduce people to AAUW, branch mentoring and leadership, fundraising, and increasing membership.

Each branch will find a person who will be the liaison with our local community colleges to invite staff and students to AAUW's economic empowerment webinars.

We have shirts. We shared photographs. Beaver Dam branch is helping us to order AAUW shirts for the whole district.

Newsletter: Sally Keyel. Deadline for October *Scope* is November 5th

Other: There is a forum on healthcare on November 4th at the Pinney Library.

Old Business: None

New Business: The 2026 State Convention will be April 17 and 18 in Madison at the Doubletree by Hilton on East Washington Avenue.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Ruppert, Secretary Pro-tem

CALENDAR

Nov. 11: Film Group

- **Nov. 19 at 7 p.m.: Evening Lit Group:** Host: Gail Stirr;

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Reviewer, Debbie Mahaffey; *The Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict

- **Nov. 25 at 7 p.m.: General Program**

- **Dec. 4 at 9:30 a.m.: Morning Lit Group:** Monona Public Library. Discussion Leader, Wanda Nelson; *An Unfinished Love Story* by Doris Kearns Goodwin

- **Dec. 5 at 1 p.m.: Bridge:** St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Pheasant Hill Dr, Monona

- **Dec. 6 at 11:15 a.m.: Holiday Luncheon,** Maple Bluff Country Club. Silent Auction, Book sale & Live Auction Basket Sale

- **Dec. 11 at 11:30,** Lunch Book Bunch at Culver's on the Beltline

- **Dec. 15 at 6:30 p.m.: La Cuisine:** Moroccan Dinner. Host: Suzanne Poggio; Co-hosts: Liz Senseman, Val Murphy

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



Francesca & son



Francesca with Sue & Debbie

LUNCHEON CHOICES:

Name _____

Entree choice: Mushroom Pithivier _____

Holiday Scampi. _____

Guest Name _____

I enclose \$32.00 per person _____