

Foliage

a newsletter of AAUW-Eau Claire

February 2014



“Domestic Human Trafficking” Featuring Jenny Almquist

Founder of Fierce Freedom, a local organization dedicated to raising awareness about human trafficking in Wisconsin and the United States.

Tuesday, Feb 11, 2014, 6:30 pm
Location UW-Eau Claire Davies Center, Third Floor, Room 330A (Ojibwe Room A)

Social Media Training

Saturday, March 8, 2014,
10:00-11:30 am

Location: McIntyre Library, Library Instruction Lab, UW-Eau Claire

Pay Equity Day

April 8, 2014



News of Women

Dealing with the Contradictions

In the Fall of 1958, a group of forward-looking women gathered to form the Eau Claire branch of AAUW. Certainly, the world has changed a lot for women in the past 55 years. I was eight years old then and not thinking about a career. Later in middle school, my mother narrowed the choices down to teacher, nurse, or bank teller. Although an avid reader of *Look* magazine, she never quite understood why I decided to major in journalism. Obviously, I envisioned a future writing newsletter articles in retirement. The degree didn't lead to a newsroom desk, but it hooked me on the news.

There is no lack of reporting about women in the news today. I don't know what the headlines were in 1958, but I doubt that people were reading about the possibility of the first woman to be the Federal Reserve chief, or about the female Secretary of Health and Human Services trying to explain a disastrous website launch, or even anything about a teenage Pakistani girl who survived getting shot for speaking out in behalf of educating girls.

Whether you smudge your fingers turning the pages of a newspaper, or scroll through your FaceBook feeds, every day brings us more news that gives us reasons to celebrate the progress of women. But, unfortunately, it isn't all “swell” and “Neat-O!” as they said in the 50s. AAUW sponsored numerous showings of “The Invisible War” last year to shine a light on sexual assault in the military and legislation was introduced to address the epidemic problem. We hear about high-profile women who have broken the glass ceiling in the technology industry, but last March a female developer in the Silicon Valley received threats of violence and was fired after posting on the Internet an image of male programmers audibly cracking sex jokes at a public conference.

WPR recently aired two interviews with authors of books that don't paint a rosy picture of the future. In *The New Soft War on Women*, Caryl Rivers and Rosalind C. Barnett argue that an insidious war of subtle biases and



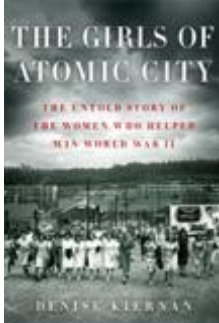
Janet Yellen
Federal Reserve Chairperson



Book Group Meetings:

February 4th, *Icy Sparks* by Gwyn Rubio (Adelante list)
- at JJ Henricksen's at 7:30 pm

March 4th,
Girls of Atomic City
by Denise Kiernan
(Adelante list)
- at Chris Kondrasuk's
at 7:30 pm



April 8th, *The Orchardist* by
Amanda Coplin

JOIN THE BOARD

We are looking for people to fill several important roles on the board.

The positions of Secretary and Treasurer are up for election this year.

In addition, there are many appointed positions the board will be trying to find volunteers for in the next months:

- Development
- Membership Co-Chair
- Bylaws
- Program
- Book Sale Co-Chair
- College/University Rep Co-Chair
- Newsletter editor

Please email if you are interested!
aauweauclaire@gmail.com

“News of Women” continued

barriers is being waged that continues to marginalize women. And economist Alison Wolf, author of “The XX Factor: How the Rise of Working Women Has Created a Far Less Equal World” says that while the gender gap is narrowing, the gulf is widening among women themselves.

So, how do we process the contradictions of news stories that make us exclaim “Yes, finally!” and “Oh no, not again!” while drinking the same cup of coffee?

AAUW is part of the answer. For example, through the Legal Advocacy Fund, AAUW is supporting service members who have filed lawsuits against the Department of Defense. Our local branch sends young college women to AAUW’s NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders). Those who attended our annual luncheon and silent auction in November were treated again to an impressive talk from one of those students, Alicia Fields. She passed on some wisdom she learned at the conference: *while we may be in a hurry to lunge way ahead, it’s better to take small, but powerful, steps.*

That’s what AAUW-Eau Claire has been doing for 55 years and should strive to do for the next 55.

— Connie Russell, AAUW-Eau Claire President



AAUW-Eau Claire welcomes **Jenny Almquist**, founder and executive director of [Fierce Freedom](http://fiercefreesdom.org), a local advocacy organization dedicated to ending domestic human trafficking. Learn more about human trafficking in the United States and Wisconsin, and find out how local activists are taking action on this problem.

“Domestic Human Trafficking”

Speaker: Jenny Almquist, Fierce Freedom

Date and time: Tuesday, February 11, 2014, 6:30 pm

Location: UW-Eau Claire Davies Center, Third Floor, Room 330A (Ojibwe Room A) ([map of the Davies Center](#))

Parking: Any parking space in the lot adjacent to the Davies Center is available after 6:00 pm

Legislative Day 2013

It was the best way to spend 7 hours in Madison that you could imagine. Barbara Peterson, AAUW-WI Public Policy Coordinator and Jennifer Dillard, AAUW State Organizer for our 4-state area, pulled off an action-packed event. In addition to the speakers in the room with us, our agenda included the first appearance via Skype of Anne Hedgepeth, AAUW Government Relations Manager from AAUW national headquarters.

Women's Health/Reproductive Health

Sara Finger-Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health

Sara spoke about the political games being played with women's health. She encouraged us to tell our legislators to focus on jobs and the economy for Wisconsin women and to stop interfering with our relationship with our doctors. She said, "If you cannot change the minds of your legislators, you need to change their faces."

Jennifer Lewis, Planned Parenthood Advocate

Jennifer talked about the closing of Planned Parenthood offices in Wisconsin, including the one in Chippewa Falls. Only 3 sites provide abortions: Appleton, Madison, and Milwaukee, and these and the other 20 offices in the state serve the health care needs of over 70,000 women. More restrictive laws and funding difficulties have eroded the health care that can be provided to women.

Public Education Issues/Voucher Effects on Public Education

Jennifer Kammerud-Legislative Liaison for the WI State Superintendent

Jennifer explained that only 4% of WI schools fail to meet expectations, so the current political climate that claims that students need a chance to transfer to (perceived) more successful private and charter schools is for the most part untrue. Funding for education has not increased to cover the cost of vouchers, so the result is that struggling schools get less money, instead of the help they need. We were surprised to hear that independent charter school students are funded at 100%, and this money is taken from their school districts. (This was not an upbeat session.)

Work Place Issues/Pay Equity

Emily Kitchin-9to5 Milwaukee

Emily discussed the 9to5 initiatives to provide family friendly workplaces and pay equity for women. The current focus is on protecting and expanding Wisconsin's Family Leave Act. The group advocates for a family leave insurance plan that would allow workers to bank days to be used when needed. Check out the 9to5 site for more information. <http://9to5.org/local-chapters/9to5-wisconsin/9to5-wisconsin-info/>



Donna Weidman, Connie Russell, Margot Bouchard, and Mary Hayden

“Legislative Day 2013” continued

Anne Hedgepeth-AAUW Gov't Relations Manager

Anne covered the AAUW publications on the wage gap, and the lack of progress on pay equity. Current AAUW initiatives focus on paid leave and sick days, as well as support of the Paycheck Fairness Act. Companies would need to justify why men and women were paid differently, and allow salaries to be revealed without retaliation to employees.

Campaign Finance Reform/Redistricting 2020

Mike McCabe-Wisconsin Democracy Campaign

Mike is always a popular speaker at these events. He talked about the tremendous amount of money that is spent to elect legislators. He discussed the need to fight proposed campaign finance legislation and also the threat from a Supreme Court case, *McCutcheon v. FEC*, that would make it even harder to trace the money, and allow larger contributions. The Wisconsin Democracy Campaign database attempts to document the source of campaign contributions, and more restrictions on the release of information would make this more difficult. Mike also talked about the need for reform of the redistricting process. The last partisan redistricting, or gerrymandering, of Wisconsin's legislative districts dramatically altered the political geography of the state.

Action

Jennifer Dillard, our AAUW State Organizer, talked about the Action Alert systems in place in Wisconsin and nationally. In Wisconsin we have over 1800 members and non-members signed up for the Two Minute Activist. Unfortunately, when the last request went out for a response, only 80 people responded. She suggested encouraging branch members to sign up for the alerts, providing more public policy education at meetings, and urging action. Sign up today at: www.aauw.org and <http://aauw-wi.aauw.net/>

Legislator Visits

AAUW-Eau Claire members at Legislative Day made appointments to visit our legislators in the afternoon to discuss the issues from the morning sessions. Our delegates were able to talk to Dana Wachs, Warren Petryk, and Kathleen Vinehout's aide. For more information on how these visits went, contact Mary Hayden, Margot Bouchard, Connie Russell, or Donna Weideman.

Mary Hayden,
Branch Public Policy Co-chair

Fundraising Ideas Wanted

Our primary fundraising event, the annual used book sale has been going strong for decades, but for the past several years, the Board has been leaning toward exploring other possibilities for raising money to fund our philanthropic and outreach efforts. Each year, the high number of volunteer hours necessary to conduct a successful sale is balanced against a gradually dwindling amount of revenue. Fewer book dealers are coming to our sale and more people are converting to electronic reading. At some point, we may find that the return doesn't justify the investment. We need to think about transitioning to something else. We need to generate ideas, think about different events, and talk to the people who can make it happen.

To this end, the Board has decided to recruit members for a task force or, since we're exploring, an Expedition Team. More minds lead to more ideas. If you have an idea or are interested in joining a group of thinkers and talkers, let me know: russelc@uwec.edu.

The book sale is near and dear to our hearts and many in the community appreciate the service it provides. For now, the book sale 2014 is still a “go.” I need a year to read the pile of books I bought at this year's sale.

— Connie Russell, President



Book Sale 2013

In the rearview mirror

It's not magic, but at times it seems so. The Eau Claire AAUW book sale begins in an empty garage. Volunteers deliver to the garage, books from donors and barrels placed in grocery stores. The garage doesn't stay empty long. For the next four to six weeks, more volunteers sort and box the books into predetermined categories. During this time, the publicity committee is tirelessly getting the word out about the sale. Two days before the sale, the UWEC

men's hockey team arrives in the dark of the morning and within minutes, they transfer hundreds of boxes of books into a huge moving truck.



The transfer of the books to the Expo Center is equally fast. The Center staff has already set up the tables. The hockey team delivers the boxes to the appropriate table and more volunteers begin to set up for the sale. Those that help with this phase of the set up are rewarded with breakfast, again, provided and prepared by volunteers. The set up continues with the help of assorted university groups and AAUW member and their friends and family until the day of the sale.

Hours before the sale, the line of customers begins to form. At the appointed hour, the customers flood in and begin shopping. More volunteers are ready to help at the checkout station, others are helping

customers load their purchase into their cars. This continues for two and a half days. Volunteers supply wonderful treats for those working the sale. When the sale ends, more volunteers re-box any remaining books. The leftovers are donated to a nonprofit agency.

All of this doesn't happen magically. A few volunteers put in many hours, many volunteers put in a few hours. About two thirds of our members take part in the sale. Through all aspects of the book sale, most of the volunteers are smiling. A few are rubbing their lower back, some are wondering if there is an easier way to fund the programs the book sale funds but most have a good time and magically reappear the next year to do the same.

— Nadine Jentsch,
Book Sale Chair

Thank you
to all our
volunteers!



AAUW VISION STATEMENT - AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls..

AAUW MISSION - AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

FOLIAGE - Newsletter of the American Association of University Women - Eau Claire Branch

Send or call items of interest to Kate Hinnant, kate.hinnant@gmail.com, 831-0182, 220 Roosevelt Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54701



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