

AAUW Impact

Empowering women since 1881 American Association of University Women

Volume 39 No. 5

Janesville, WI Branch

April 2026



Amy Eccles

Camp with a Purpose-Camp Invention

Amy Eccles, 2nd Grade Teacher,
Milton West
Melissa Forrett, School Nurse,
Milton

Tuesday, April 21
6:00 Social, 6:30 Program
Janesville Woman's
Club



Melissa Forrett

Camp Invention is an engaging, hands-on summer program that inspires students to explore science, technology, engineering, and creativity in fun

and meaningful ways. Through exciting challenges and collaborative activities, children build problem-solving skills, confidence, and innovative thinking. Camp Invention takes place at locations all across the United States, making it accessible for families in many communities.

This will be our third summer offering Camp Invention in Milton. The program is not affiliated with the school district and is open to any student entering grades K–6. Throughout the week, students rotate through four different modules each day, ultimately culminating in the creation of their own unique inventions. Each module is led by a licensed teacher from surrounding districts.

Amy Eckels serves as the program director, and Melissa Forrett has supported the program in both teaching and assistant director roles. Students entering grades 7–9 can participate as “Leaders in Training,” assisting teachers, supporting younger students, and helping manage materials. In addition, high school students volunteer as leaders and may apply their hours toward their Silver Cord graduation requirement.

The program encourages curiosity and helps students discover how their ideas can make a real-world impact—all while having a great time!

The learning doesn't end when camp is over! Camp Invention has long-term benefits, including better school attendance, a higher GPA and improved test scores, and it helps build essential skills like creative problem-solving and collaboration. Campers have gone on to win national STEM challenges, become published authors, emerge as patented inventors, and more!

IMPACT is published monthly

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by AAUW, Janesville Branch, Wisconsin.

Editor –

Diane Adams

608-289-7002

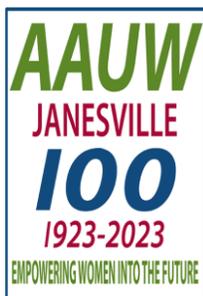
rjadams65@frontier.com

Articles for the next issue are due:

April 22nd

To Carole Salinas

csalinas3767@gmail.com



AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership

Co-Presidents-	Pat Logterman	512-203-4583
	Sharon Straub	608-774-3980
VP Program	Carol Meland	608-359-8698
VP Membership	Carole Salinas	608-201-1790
VP Finance	Nancy Moskal	608-359-3138
Secretary	Nancy Arnold	608-756-0773

AAUW's Mission: Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

Presidents' Message



Happy spring everyone! Was the recent record-breaking snow storm a sign that winter was finished and spring was approaching, or was this just a very bad April Fool's joke?

With spring on its way, we move into a new season with plants blossoming, longer days of sunshine, and gardens planted with wonderful vegetables. We also move into the season of voting. We will try to send you AAUW state and national notices to assist you in "making your voice heard." We would also like to thank those Janesville branch members who are helping at the polls. We appreciate your service!

We are back in the season of in-person branch meetings. Our April meeting will be held at the Woman's Club on Tuesday, April 28, with social time beginning at 6:00 and the program at 6:30. Our program, "Camp Invention: National Inventors Hall of Fame," will feature Amy Eckels and her support staff, as they present their journey developing and conducting a summer STEM camp for kindergarten through sixth grade students. Amy is an elementary school teacher working in the Milton School District.

We would also like to celebrate the very successful Tech Savvy event. So many of you volunteered to help, and everything went so smoothly. Thankfully, even the weather cooperated! We truly appreciate the planning that goes into such a growing event that strongly supports our AAUW mission. We even had a bus with students from Milwaukee attend this year! The word about Tech Savvy is out!

We look forward to many more community events that will allow us to share our mission with others. As we move into spring and summer, let's join together in advancing our mission of "equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research."

AAUW Janesville Board Meeting Notes

The March Board meeting was held on March 2nd at 6:00 at the Woman's Club.

- The Board will continue to work on Bylaw revisions. The revised Bylaws will be presented to the membership and submitted to state and national.
- We also discussed a timeline for budget planning. The Fiscal Year Budget will be presented for membership approval at the June 23rd branch business meeting.
- Janesville branch trifold display is being updated by Nancy Arnold. The new trifold will be on display at the State Convention

The next Board meeting is May 4th at 6:00 pm at the Woman's Club.



Sally M Cullen passed away on March 3, 2026. Sally was a lifetime AAUW member, as well as a past president of our branch. She was active in book discussion, and was passionate about education for girls. A good way to honor her memory might be a donation in her name to our scholarship fund.

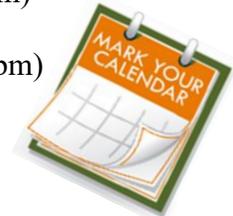
Action Items



- RSVP for Spring Super Fundraiser by April 15.
- Officers & committee chairs submit FY27 budgets to Nancy M. by April 24.
- Time to renew your AAUW membership if you have a **June 30** due date. (see renewal form attached to email with newsletter)
- Watch your email & register for AAUW National Webinar held on April 15

April Calendar Items

- M. April 6 Special meeting to discuss proposed bylaws, Woman's Club, (6 pm)
- T. Apr. 7 Spring General Election (polls are open 7 am – 8 pm)
- Th. Apr. 9 Scholarship Selection meeting, Rock River Charter School (3:30 pm)
- Sa. April 11 Beyond the Tassel, Parker High School (7:30 am – 2:30 pm)
- M. Apr. 13 Convention Planning Committee, Zoom (12:30-2:30 pm)
- T. Apr. 14 Diverse Discussions, Woman's Club (1:00-2:30 pm)
- T. Apr. 14 America 250 History Series: Hedberg Library (6 pm)
- W. Apr. 15 AAUW National Webinar (branch officers & board members) (3-4 pm CDT)
- Apr. 17-18 AAUW State Convention, DoubleTree Hotel Madison East
- T. Apr. 21 Book Discussion, Leslie Brunzell's home (6:30 pm)
- W. Apr. 22 *Impact* articles due to Carole Salinas
- F. Apr. 24 Officers and committee chairs submit FY27 budgets to Nancy Moskal
- Sa. Apr. 25 Spring Super Fundraiser, Janesville Country Club (10 am)
- T. Apr. 28 AAUW Branch Meeting: social (6:00), program (6:30)



- M. May 4 AAUW board meeting, Woman's Club (6 pm)
- T. May 5 Program Planning Meeting, Pat Phillips's home (1 pm)
- Sa. May 9 Spring Grounds Cleanup (9-11 am)
- Sa. June 27 World's Finest Fish Fry (fundraiser) RSVP to Nancy Moskal

April Birthdays

(3 sets of AAUW "twins")

- 2 – Edna Feldman-Schultz
- 7 – Carol Fosshage
- 9 – Nancy Arnold
- 9 – Paulette Davis
- 18 – Carol Herzig
- 18 – Jane Tucker
- 20 – Barbara Fett Timmer
- 20 – Michael Adair
- 21 – Michelle Kallio
- 30 – Paula DeRubeis



Someone need a bit of Sunshine?

If you know that one of our members could use a bit of sunshine, please let Karel Cripe know. karelcripe@gmail.com

She is our Sunshine Chair and will send congratulations, get-well, sympathy, or other messages on behalf of the members of AAUW Janesville.



Thankyou Tech Savvy 2026 Sustaining Sponsors



State Convention 2026

As of March 20, Janesville has 14 members registered to attend convention: Michael Adair, Diane Adams, Judy Adler, Janet Arndt, Nancy Arnold, Erica Boehlke, Leslie Brunzell, Mary Frederick, Pat Logterman, Ann Petersen, Pat Phillips, Carole Salinas, Wendy Tupper, and dual-branch member Maggie Winz.

Hearing a sitting Wisconsin Supreme Court justice give us an insider's view will be enlightening. Looking to the future of AAUW with national leader Melissa LaDuke should be empowering, and hearing how women came to be America's safety net from UW Madison sociologist Jessica Calarco should be eye-opening.

Our own branch members, Brienne Brown and Ann Roe, will be featured on a panel discussion. Breakout sessions will be filled with energizing opportunities to be inspired. It's going to be an excellent event. There is still time to sign up and join us!

Visit the AAUW Wisconsin website to register. Meals will not be available after Friday April

AAUW Janesville Collaborates to offer "Beyond the Tassel"



AAUW Janesville, the Parker High School Women Empowerment Club, and the Janesville Police Department are collaborating to host "Beyond the Tassel" on April 11, 2026 (8 am – 2 pm) at Parker High School.

The Saturday workshop will offer sessions focused on skills, safety, and strength for life after high school for senior girls. Topics include self-defense, understanding your body, signing contracts and leases, and adult law.

Parker High School teachers, Sherry Cook and Alexandra Scardino, advise the Women Empowerment Club. Beyond the Tassel is the offshoot of Stay Safe, an AAUW workshop offered to high school girls at Parker, Craig, and Rock River Charter School in the years before 2020.



News from AAUW National

- April 1 AAUW national dues will increase by \$2 to \$76
- April 1 Launch of the 5 Star Program Branch Survey to branch presidents (FY2026)
- June 30 Deadline to return the 5 Star Branch Survey

Note: There will be an AAUW National election in May. Watch your email for your online ballot and directions for voting. If you do not have email, you will receive a paper ballot in the mail.

Be sure your contact information is up to date with AAUW

Access your AAUW Personal Snapshot and update your contact information and preferences. Frequent users, click [LOG IN](#) to our web portal, as usual. Non-frequent users, click [LOG IN](#), then below the blue log in button, click FORGOT PASSWORD. Enter your email address and click RESET YOUR PASSWORD to receive and confirm a new password to access your Personal Snapshot. Need help? Email connect@aauw.org and enter LOG IN HELP in the subject line.



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Foundation News



The **Spring Super Fundraiser** theme is “April Showers Bring May Flowers.” This event is a top priority for the Foundation as it provides a large amount of the funds that keep the historic Woman’s Club functioning. You should already have received the letter with the luncheon information and the raffle tickets. Please consider attending the lunch and style show on Saturday, April 25, 2026 as well as purchasing the raffle tickets. Be prepared to find some exciting, generous, and unique items among the silent auction offerings as well as something new this year. The creative centerpieces that will be donated by each of the organizations that make up the foundation will be auctioned off as well.

The super fundraising chairs are still seeking models so if you are so inclined please contact Nancy Arnold at nancymssw@aol.com or 608-4493840. A volunteer coordinator for the models...to help track fittings ahead of time and be a point person before/during the Style Show...is also being sought. Kendra Scott will also be available for jewelry purchases at the luncheon. If you are unable to attend, please considering supporting this fundraiser by purchasing and/or selling additional raffle tickets. Additional monetary donations are always welcome. The Woman’s Club has a new mailbox near the front door which can serve as a drop off site for raffle ticket money, etc.

Mark your calendar for the **Spring Grounds Clean-Up Day** to be held Saturday, **May 9, 2026** from 9 to 11 AM. Come for the entire time or just part of it. It’s a great way to meet people from other organizations. If you are unable to attend the cleanup day, please consider sending a donation to the grounds program. Your check can be made out to FP108SJ and sent to the Woman’s Club with a notation for the grounds program. Pat Phillips presented plans for the summer Grounds Maintenance Program. Each member organization will be assigned one or two 2-week shifts to assist with the upkeep of the gardens.

There was some discussion about possibly having an Ice Cream Social since there is no Garden Walk this summer. Any thoughts/comments??

Nancy Arnold, AAUW Rep on the Foundation Board

Book Sale News



April begins our book collection season. Leslie Brunsell has been working on coordinating our members to help with the book transportation to our sorting room. The book Buddies Brigade would include the following:

Book Donation Coordinator: the job would be to take calls from interested donators, and pass along the message to the transportation volunteers.

Book Pick-up People: Help to arrange time to meet donors at the OTM to help bring in the donations.

Mall Monitors: Walk through the mall once a week to see if there are donations, and then move them into the sorting room. We would probably need to have people go several times a week as we get closer to the actual sale.

It looks like we will be able to transport the books through room 3 (where we had the sale last year) making it a shorter trip to get to the sorting room.

Please think about helping out. If we spread out the job, it is easier for all involved.

Please contact Leslie, and become a book brigade buddy today.

We have one volunteer to be a co-chair for the book sale; I would love to have one more. When we get that lucky person, we can meet and decide who does what. Thanks to Pat Phillips for volunteering.

Thank You!

Nancy Moskal has volunteered to be our new advertiser coordinator. That does not mean that she does not need your help with contacting new businesses for ads. More info to follow, but put your thinking caps on, we will need some new advertisers next year. \$40 for 8 issues of Impact, and inclusion in our membership book.



America 250 – Rock County

Contributor: Mary Buelow, Public Services Librarian

Hedberg Public Library will host *America 250 - Rock County*, a history series acknowledging and celebrating Rock County's history as the nation marks its semi quincentennial.

[From Fjords to Prairies: Norwegians in Rock County](#)

Tuesday, April 14 at 6 p.m.

Program Room, Hedberg Public Library
Presented by Dana Kelly of Norwegian Genealogical Society & Naeseth Library
Learn about Wisconsin's early Norwegian settlements, starting with Rock County's Jefferson Prairie in 1838. Explore the conditions in Norway, migration to Wisconsin, and the communities these immigrants created in Luther Valley, Koshkonong, and beyond.

Each month, continuing through June 16, this program series will explore and honor contributions multiple groups have made to Rock County history.

Presentations from local experts will highlight Yankees from the northeast, African-Americans from the south, Irish and Norwegian immigrants, women, and U.S. Military Veterans. Join us as we showcase a rich tapestry of Rock County stories to celebrate and commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Our history is America's history!

COMING SOON! 2026-2027 Program Planning

You can help us decide. The program committee, board members, and interested members are all invited to participate in choosing our next group of programs.

For those of you who are new to AAUW, we have programs in the evening on the 4th Tuesday of the month from September to November and March to July.

The topics of these programs are varied, but they are all designed to inform or enrich our members' lives. Mary Buelow, our branch historian, has shared the list of programs going back for the past 20 years. There certainly could be favorite programs that members would like again. As Program Vice President, I've been thinking about the kind of programs I'd find interesting. My preferences are that they are inspirational, applicable or focus driven. Let me explain my thinking. I love a good story and for the purposes of AAUW the stories I'd like to hear are those about women who have accomplished things despite obstacles based on gender. These might be women who were among the first to work in a male dominated field. I'm also happy to learn about something that may enhance my daily life, like avoiding being scammed or learning about Artificial Intelligence. And finally, by focused driven I mean programs about societal topics that I may be familiar with, like changes to voting laws, where there is information at the end of the presentation about what our AAUW branch members or I personally can do something about. I think it's great if you agree or disagree with me. Just come so your opinion can be considered.

The program committee and board members have all been contacted and we have a date, time and location. What we don't have is you, so please come.

The date and time have been chosen based on availability of the most committee members. The date is Tuesday, May 5th at 1:00. The location is Pat Phillip's home, 3738 Buckingham Dr., Janesville.

If you'd like an email copy of previous years' programs, or more information, please contact Carol Meland at 608-359-8698.



Krista Olson



Welcome, Krista Olson

We're excited to welcome Krista, our newest branch member, whose life and work are rooted in southern Wisconsin. Born in Janesville and having spent most of her years between Edgerton and Janesville, she brings a rich blend of creativity and curiosity to AAUW.

A lifelong learner, Krista graduated from Madison Area Technical College with a major in Liberal Studies. She spent nearly 28 years in graphic design before shifting into education, now teaching at Blackhawk Technical College. She is currently completing a degree in education with an emphasis on art and plans to apply to a Master of Fine Arts program—proof that it's never too late to pursue new passions.

Krista lives with her husband and their pets, and together they've been active in TNR (trap–neuter–return) efforts for neighborhood cats. When they're not helping their feline neighbors, they enjoy discovering great local restaurants, walking area parks and trails, traveling, attending live music events, and diving into creative projects.

Her hobbies reflect her artistic spirit: photography, ceramics, travel, and a variety of artsy pursuits—including the Zen of adult coloring books. While most of her reading these days is academic, she remains a devoted fan of sci-fi and Hunter S. Thompson, and she always welcomes new book recommendations.

Krista is especially drawn to travel study programs offered by local colleges. She finds that learning while traveling is one of the most rewarding ways to expand her world.

And here's a fun surprise: Krista once skated in roller derby and still enjoys getting out on skates—though she admits her age slows her down just a bit.

Krista joined AAUW to connect with like-minded individuals, expand her network, and learn what others in the community are doing. As she shared, "Being an older college student can feel isolating." Although Tuesday evening classes will keep her busy this semester and next fall, she hopes to join us for summer activities.

We're thrilled to welcome Krista and look forward to meeting her in person soon.

Budget Planning Timeline

At the March 2 Board Meeting: Current Fiscal Year 2026 budgets were shared with board members with recommendations to forecast to FY end (June 30, 2026) and begin planning for next FY27 (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027)

April 1-23: Officers and Committee Chairs are responsible for reviewing their current year budgets and developing their FY27 income and expense budgets to reach their goals (include assumptions). Please plan on at least a 4% cost of living increase for expenses. Document any assumptions and major changes for Board review.

April 24: Deadline to submit draft FY27 budgets to Nancy Moskal, Finance VP.

May 4 Board Meeting: Draft FY27 budgets, goals, and assumptions discussed by the entire board.

The FY27 budget will be printed in the June Impact for all members to review before voting to accept it at the June branch meeting.

June 23 Annual Business Meeting: FY27 budgets presented at the Annual Business Meeting for a vote by the membership.

If you have any questions about this process or your budget, please contact Nancy Moskal, Finance VP.

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—Sheila O'Brien



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November 2025

These Shining Lives by Melanie Marnich

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Bus Stop by William Inge

April 2026

Love, Sex and the IRS by Billy Vanessa Zandt
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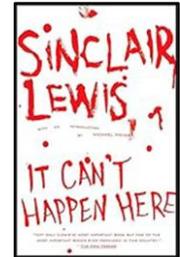
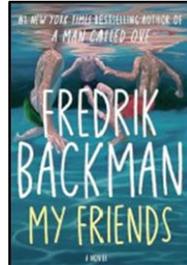
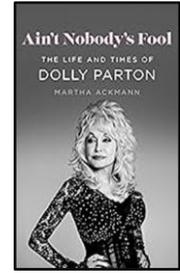
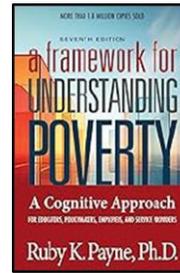
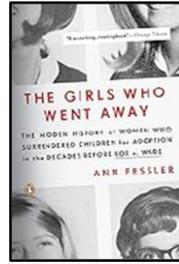




Book Discussion

Appropriately, the book discussion group read and discussed *The Women by Kristin Hannah* for our March Women's History Month selection. The challenges that Vietnam Army nurses faced were discussed, and the Vietnam era was remembered. We recommend this book.

Here is the list of our upcoming book selections.



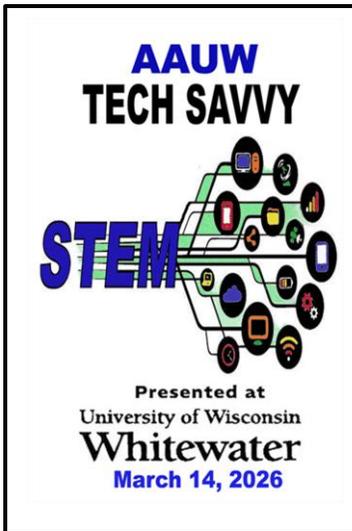
Date	Book & Author		Place	Leader	Snack
Apr. 21	<i>The Girls Who Went Away</i> by A. Fessler		Leslie Brunsell	Cindy Jensen	Mary Pharmer
May 19	<i>A Framework for Understanding Poverty</i> by R Payne *		Nancy Moskal	?	?
June 16	<i>Ain't Nobody's Fool</i> by M. Ackmann		?	Carol Neuman	Potluck
July 21	<i>My Friends</i> by F. Backman		?	Carol Meland	Potluck
Aug. 18	<i>How to Test Negative for Stupid</i> by J. Kennedy		?	?	Potluck
Sept. 15	<i>It Can't Happen Here</i> by S. Lewis		Carole Salinas	?	?

* The 7th edition of our May selection is new and expensive. All editions will be fine.

All meetings start at 6:30 PM, except potlucks which begin at 6:00 pm.

Please volunteer to replace a ? with your name. Contact Ann at apetersen608@gmail.com





Tech Savvy STEM Workshop

Our 6th annual Tech Savvy STEM Workshop was the biggest ever. We had over 110 students and 45+ parents and teachers. A college student that our branch sponsored to attend NCCWSL in 2021, Jasmine Elliot, who is now a middle school science teacher in Milwaukee, brought 43 students and 7 chaperones from her school. Her mother even came to help chaperone.

Willow Newell, Miss Wisconsin 2025, was our keynote speaker. Several students asked for her autograph and had photos taken with her after her presentation.

The hands-on STEM activities were engaging. The students assembled the solar powered race cars with ease and confidence. The students were in love with the week-old baby lamb, poodle, and hen that the Whitewater Veterinary Clinic brought for *Pets Make Great Patients* workshop.

Engineering Roads with Cookie Dough was new this year. Students used graham crackers, mini marshmallows, cookie crumbs, chocolate frosting, and white frosting to represent the different layers of flexible and rigid roads.

Thank you to our Janesville volunteers: Diane Adams, Janet Arndt, Nancy Arnold, Leslie Brunsell, Paula Flaherty, Michelle Kallio, Pat Logterman, Evon Mitchell, Nancy Moskal, Ann Petersen, Pat Phillips, Carole Salinas, Sharon Straub, Wendy Tupper, and Carol Watson. Thank you to UW Whitewater and our presenters.

Thank you to our sponsors: Alliant Energy, Fort HealthCare, Spacesaver, SHINE, SIM, and Premier Bank.

With no major technology glitches and no snowstorm, it was a very successful day!

