



*Empowering Women Since 1881*

Vol 91 No 5 AAUW Wausau (WI) Branch



**THE LEAFLET**

November 2014

## **December Brunch Program**

**Saturday, December 6, 2014**

**Terrace Room, UWMC, 518 S. Seventh Avenue, Wausau**

**10:00 Reception 10:30 Brunch, followed by presentation**

### ***Sample the Cultures & Peoples of the Middle East***



Join AAUW Wausau Branch member **Nancy L. Schulz** as she recounts her five-week October 2014 solo backpacking travel adventure through Israel & Palestine, Petra, Jordan, Egypt, Istanbul, and Turkey

Nancy's previous travels have taken her to North, Central, & South America, Britain & Continental Europe. On this trip Nancy traveled by plane, train, ferry, felucca (sail boat), horsedrawn carriage, donkey, bicycle, & foot. She slept in hostel, overnight train, & tent & napped in a mountaintop Bedouin hut. She ate food from market, vender, & eatery & (mostly) drank tap water. And contrary to expectations of concerned family & friends, she felt & remained safe.

Nancy's ambitious goal for her pilgrimage was to further peace in the region. She looks forward to sharing insights she gained into the lives of residents whom she met. And since no presentation on the Middle East would be complete without discussing the role of religion & politics, we'll briefly explore these topics. Interspersed will be slides including some of the sites for which the countries are famous.

Invite & bring a friend & join us for the morning as we explore together this fascinating & too-frequently-misunderstood region of our world.

RSVP by Tues, November 25 (Check for \$8 per person made out to AAUW Wausau Branch.)

Mail to Alana Holt, Treasurer at 604 Clark Avenue; Rothschild, WI 54474

Alana Holt at [daahholt@frontier.com](mailto:daahholt@frontier.com) –or- 715.359.4329.

For ride, contact Alana Holt at 715-359-4329

## Join the Conversation

### Monday, November 17, 2014

The voting is done and some are glad and some are sad. There are many newly elected faces as well as some incumbents who need to be reminded that women's issues are crucial to our common good. Let's get together for an early supper among friends and discuss how we can best reach out to our newly elected officials – no matter where they sit – aisle seat or window seat.

We have the private room at Sawadee Thai Restaurant where the food is delicious and the conversation will be animated. Come join the friendly gathering from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m on Monday, November 17.

### **It's time for some lively AAUW interaction!**

Lively interaction like we enjoyed at **Barbara Roberts'** recent presentation about Marathon County women who saw a need in their community then went about addressing it. Those women did this both through their work as well as volunteerism. Barb focused on multiple vocations, organizations and projects that have been influential in improving our community throughout the years. One such program was a joint venture between AAUW and the YWCA which addressed the pressing need for child care for working parents. That entity is now Wausau Child Care. Barb gave other examples of women stepping forward to strengthen our community. Thanks, Barb !

#### **AAUW PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM, 2013–2015**

The Public Policy Program underscores AAUW's mission of advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research and speaks to women's needs, aspirations, and concerns across the life span. The work of AAUW builds upon more than 130 years of responsible public participation, and the following principles provide a basis for AAUW members' actions at the local, state, national, and international levels. Implicit in each of our principles is support for government agencies administering programs, including adequate appropriations, effective and accountable administration, and provision for citizen participation. We advocate public discussion to ensure enlightened decisions on these principles. We work to increase the number of underrepresented populations, including women, in policy- and other decision-making positions. AAUW is committed to working in partnership with diverse allies and coalitions to break through educational and economic barriers for women and girls.



#### **Eleanor Roosevelt Walkers**

Our branch supports scholarships through AAUW Eleanor Roosevelt Fund, so mail your \$25 check and tell Alana Holt you wish to participate. Walkers can go out anytime/anywhere and then send their \$25 contribution to Alana at 604 Clark Avenue; Rothschild, WI 54474. Better yet, call an AAUW member to join you for a walk and talk. (Alana and Lucy are done with their walks, so call other members. )

## How We Raise Our Boys – Review by Keith Uhlig, Wausau Daily Herald Reporter



An American Association of University Women panel of experts said gender biases can limit the potential of children. (Photo: Daily Herald Media file photo )

WAUSAU – Girls and boys are bombarded with images, words and circumstances every day that form their ideas of what men and women should be as adults.

Often, those perceptions add to gender biases — notions that peg males as aggressive and strong and women as nurturers and caregivers, or that boys are good at math or girls are better at art. “Raising Our Girls and Boys,” a roundtable discussion sponsored by the Wausau School District Family University Network and the American Association of University Women, was held Monday night to help parents confront those biases.

The forum featured a panel of experts: Pat Murphy, the interim youth sports and camp director for the YMCA of Wausau; Dr. Jeffrey Lamont, a pediatrician and former School Board member; Laura Martens, the fund developer of the Girl Scouts of Northwestern Great Lakes; William Schmelzer, a psychologist who works with children with disruptive behavioral disorders; and Ann Saris, the director of the Wausau YWCA. They spoke about how gender biases can limit a child’s potential, unintentionally steering a girl away from a technical field for example.

“Our entire society is hurt when we do anything to limit the hearts and minds of our children,” Saris said.

The presentation attracted about 15 audience members, including Song Her, 41, the mother of three girls ages 5 to 14; and her friend Pang Her, 44, mother of six ages 10 to 27. The women, both of Rib Mountain, said they were interested in the subject of gender bias and its impact on their children.

Song Her said she hoped to find ways to reinforce what she tells her daughters all the time: “You can be anything you want to be.”

But she also believed that influences such as television and advertising “makes them more focused on girlie stuff. I really want them to have non-gender interests. I want them to be interested in science and math.”

Pang Her wants her children, three boys and three girls, to understand that they should let their skills and interests guide them in their lives. “We want our daughters to understand that they can be as successful as boys,” she said.

Panel members said parents can help children overcome biases by allowing them to express themselves, to explore a variety of interests and to take risks that can help teach resilience.

Let a boy take ballet lessons, let a girl kick around a football if the child wants to, Saris said. “Let them take the lead and follow them in that path,” she said. “Especially when they’re young. If they have the slightest interest in something, nurture that.”

Lamont said one way to raise children who explore and are open-minded is for parents to be that way themselves, and to give their children their time, love and attention.

“Instead of setting a goal of what you want your child to be, decide who you want your child to be,” Lamont said. “And then be that person yourself.”

Keith Uhlig can be reached at 715-845-0651. Find him on Twitter as @UhligK.

### **Take Aways from *Raising Our Girls and Boys***

- Captured by Lucy Harvey

It takes courage to take time to be with children. The speed of society almost prevents that. Less time and energy are available to children, so one might ask “Who is raising the children?” What do we as a community value?

Encourage: Open communication, resilience, strong self-reliance skills, roll with the punches. Kids need free time. Be there, support them, and allow them to learn to fail (within reason).

Model the way – who, not what you want your child to become. Model desirable behaviors such as love, honesty, courtesy, and sharing. Show children that they matter. Encourage their interests; try everything and let them find their passions.

Restore the integrity to the household unit by combining the giftedness of individual differences to the family unit.

Remove role delineations and encourage them to try a variety of experiences.

Help them learn a wide array of words to express their emotions and then ask them to use their words to communicate what they are feeling. Help them gain respect for the self first and then for others.

(I’m not sure which panelists made which comments, but these were the notes I took. )

# WELCOME

Please welcome our new member:

**Lou Ann Bohn**

1241 Evergreen Rd, Wausau 54403

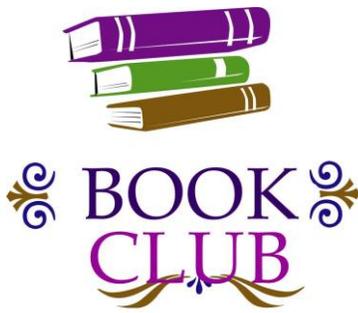
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UW-Milwaukee-History, German, International Studies

UW Madison School of Law-JD

# WELCOME



AAUW  
2<sup>nd</sup> TUESDAY BOOK CLUB  
At Immanuel Lutheran Church ~ 630 Adams Street, Wausau  
The second Tuesday of the month

Join us for lively discussion from our multiple perspectives ~ that means some agree while others have different viewpoints; all are respected. Call Ruth Grauer to join: 715-842-1592  
See the Membership Directory for books that were selected for 2014-2015.

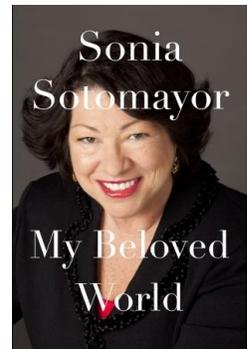
**Due to the November snowstorm we will postpone *Flight Behavior* until our December 9 meeting.**

*Our December 9 book--Lois Rosenberg, Discussion Leader will be rescheduled*

*My Beloved World by Sonia Sotomayor*

**" An instant American icon--the first Hispanic on the U.S. Supreme Court--tells the story of her life before becoming a judge in an inspiring, surprisingly personal memoir.**

With startling candor and intimacy, Sonia Sotomayor recounts her life from a Bronx housing project to the federal bench, a progress that is testament to her extraordinary determination and the power of believing in oneself. She writes of her precarious childhood and the refuge she took with her passionately spirited paternal grandmother. She describes her resolve as a young girl to become a lawyer, and how she made this dream become reality: valedictorian of her high school class, summa cum laude at Princeton, Yale Law, prosecutor in the Manhattan D.A.'s office, private practice, federal district judge before the age of forty. She writes about her deeply valued mentors, about her failed marriage, about her cherished family of friends. Through her still-astonished eyes, America's infinite possibilities are envisioned anew in this warm and honest book, destined to become a classic of self-discovery and self-invention, alongside Barack Obama's *Dreams from My Father*. " ...[goodreads.com](http://goodreads.com)



**Overview** from amazon.com

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***Beating the Blues – Tonight curl up on the couch and leaf through diaries, letters, mementos, photographs. It can be uplifting to reconnect with your past self, reminisce about good times, remember old loves and friendships, revel in all the growing up you’ve done. – from 101 Ways to Stop Eating After Dinner by Nancy Butcher***





## Come Enjoy the Lunch Bunch – Food for the Mind and Body

The Weds. **November 19 Lunch Bunch** gathering will be at **11:30 at the new Vino Latte in Weston (Corner of Camp Phillips and Schofield Ave.)** Please join us. We'll get an update on what's happening with the YWCA.

On Weds. **December 17**, we're going to **Basil Restaurant** at 2106 Schofield Ave. There we will learn more about the prestigious Athena Award.

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### Thoughts from the Simon Sontek Video

This is a story about **heroism and leadership**. Simon watched a loading of injured soldiers being flown to hospitals in a helicopter. What startled him was the soldier receiving the injured, leaned over and kissed the forehead of the soldier on the stretcher being received into the plane. Simon says to himself, "Where do these people come from?" Where does this caring, this love, this care for perfect strangers come from?

It is my thinking that the environment makes these people. Trust and Cooperation are prevalent. It's a "feeling." When we feel safe with our own, we are okay. Forces against us are constant. The difference can be a good leader. That person makes us feel strong and secure. A good leader sacrifices to keep his people safe and secure.

God believes in "heartfelt". Some suffer a little to help all. Leadership is a choice. Choose to care or choose to dominate. The leader takes the risk. Why do you lead? Why do they lead? Because like the soldier bidding a fellow soldier good bye, because "They would have done it for me."

## Well Done, NTC. Keep up the good work!

Good morning Marian:

Thanks for your note. NTC has been extremely proactive in recognizing our responsibilities under Title IX and VAWA. We are engaged with a statewide consortium of resources and now that final guidance has been offered we will engage in formal training on how best to make sure NTC is in compliance. We have a place on our website dedicated to helping students that may be affected by dating/ domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and other similar behaviors. That information can be found at the bottom of this page: <http://www.ntc.edu/current-students/counseling>

Thank you for your resources. We will review and integrate them as we continue to strengthen our resources to students.

Have a great day!

Shawn P. Sullivan, Director of Student Development  
Northcentral Technical College 715.803.126

### ??**District Four Dilemma**???????????????????????????????? by Lucy Harvey

On Saturday, September 27 an AAUW District meeting was held, and it was such a struggle for me to decide whether to attend our Branch meeting to hear Barb Roberts or represent our Branch at the District meeting. Finally I decided that someone needed to take our comments to the AAUW District level, so off I headed to Eau Claire, although dragging my heels.

Unfortunately my GPS took me to a dead end at 33<sup>rd</sup> St. on the wrong side of Eau Claire, and it took another half hour to get to the correct meeting site. By then I was 30 minutes late, but warmly welcomed by our District Four members. Just being among these bright, engaging, inspirational women re-energized me, and I'd like to share some of the topics we discussed. Fortuitously, one topic on the agenda was *Realigning the AAUW Districts*. We were all in agreement, and instead of being part of the area that extends to River Falls, Wausau would now be in the same district as Rhinelander/Northwoods, Oshkosh, Green Bay, Wisconsin Rapids, XXXXX . A central meeting spot for this group would be Wittenberg or Shawano. Hopefully this new District 4 will be approved.

We also talked about the importance of relationships and connecting by telephone instead of just emails. Trust, friendships, and idea-sharing are all part of what causes people to be in AAUW. Some branches have a Soup and Cinema evening that is purely social. Members choose the films they would like to see and then enjoy a Saturday evening together.

*As for Get Out the Vote*, AAUW could encourage a more diverse voice by strategically accessing the Voter Access Network and calling to encourage minority women to vote.

One idea that I brought forward is that we could use telephone conferencing among District branches for people in the same position. No one would have to drive, and we could glean ideas from one another. Program people could meet whenever they wish. Treasurers could share experiences and expectations, and newsletter folks could get out from behind the keyboard and talk things out. Another suggestion that was floated is to have the State Convention in a central part of the state so it is equal driving distance for everyone. Branches would take turns hosting the convention in that central location.

As you can see we covered a variety of issues and I came away very appreciative that I had gone to hear the multiple perspectives that AAUW Branches all have. It was a refreshing day - cheery and uplifting to the spirit just like the autumn leaves along the way.



**AAUW Wausau (WI) Branch *LEAFLET***  
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**145 Kent St.**  
**Wausau, Wisconsin 54403**

### **Calendar**

**November 17 – Dinner and Discussion at Sawadee Restaurant**  
**5:00 – 6:30**

**Weds. Nov 19 – Lunch Bunch at Vino Latte in Weston at 11:30**

**Weds. Dec 3 Action Team at 11:30 at the Library (Second floor) All are invited**

**Sat. December 6 – Holiday Brunch. Reservations to Alana Holt**

**Tues. Dec 9 Book Group at 12:45**

**Weds. Dec 17 – Lunch Bunch at Basil in Schofield at 11:30**

**Jan – NO ACTION TEAM**