

the **Twig** branch newsletter – December 10, 2021



'Tis the Season to be Jolly!

Holiday Brunch Saturday, December 18th at 10:00 a.m.

Hosted by Julia Palmer at her home -- 7072 Division Road, Tomah (372-6065)

❄️ **Bring a dish to share! Also, we will accept free will donations to the national AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund. (\$10 suggested)**

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

We are pleased to welcome two new members who joined our Branch at the November meeting! Tia Hewuse and Tania Anderson! So happy have you both as AAUW – Tomah Branch members!

Tia Hewuse 608-343-1301 tiahewuse@gmail.com 21344 Inshore Ave., Tomah, WI 54660
Webster University BA in Media Communication; Oklahoma State University MS in Entrepreneurship
Captain in United States Air Force Reserves; Business owner/CEO Hewuse Family Homes LLC

Tania Anderson 608-633-1942 taniaanderson761@gmail.com 14744 Gentry Road, Sparta, WI 54656
Viterbo University BA in Spanish; Concordia University MA in Education
English Language Teacher/Coordinator in Tomah

From President Deb Thiel:

At our November meeting, Deb Thiel spoke about her volunteer work with Afghan women refugees at Ft. McCoy. Catholic Charities is one of the main organizations helping meet the needs of the refugees. Deb said that the women who have shared their stories are very diverse and have had complex experiences. She suggested that we provide them some bags with donations of cosmetics as a way to help build confidence and self-esteem as they begin to build new lives in the U.S. Since then, a lot has happened!

- Delivered 46 completed bags. Handed the first one out myself! They are thrilled! And say THANK YOU!

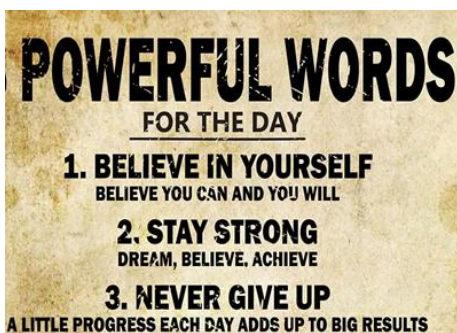
Things are happening!



- Nancy Patterson has organized 30-80 makeup kits
- Audrey Chambers has a great pattern and solicited a whole bunch of sewing groups in our community who are furiously stitching!
- Folks are contacting me about donating.
- The information about this project will be sent out to all State of Wisconsin AAUW members tonight by Fanny Behrens, Badger Brief editor. Joan Schneider, State President, is excited about this and gives her blessing.
- I posted similar notice on the Facebook page "Salam Society." (I want to be careful with putting Audrey's name out there -- if we do more sharing of that maybe we should just say: Mail To: Treasurer, AAUW Tomah
- I hope to finalize 30 bags to deliver to Fort today for the women that are scheduled to leave tomorrow.
- Lisa Kirschbaum is helping to coordinate the bags and moving parts!

What we need yet:

- I'm awaiting the process to be approved for Charitable group through Pay Pal and then use for Go Fund Me -- but that is much slower than I hoped.
- Handwritten notes of encouragement and friendship from our members and the community would be wonderful to include. In meantime, I created this in half sheets to include. Hoping some of them will email us!



Dear One!

Many people believe in you and cheer you forward as you enter the next step of your journey. Your progress and success are a tribute to all those at home and beyond. You honor them by your courage.

We wish you well and encourage you to stay in touch if you desire. We would love to hear your story!

On Behalf of our Community of Well Wishers,

Deb Thiel President,
American Association of University Women (AAUW) Tomah Branch
Email: aauwtomah@gmail.com

Congratulations, Martha Klatt!

Martha Klatt, Financial Advisor and Managing Partner with Carlson Advisors, was recently recognized by Ameriprise for the selfless investment of time, effort and energy that she has made as a mentor in the Ameriprise Women's Empowerment Network. The program is designed to support the future growth of women advisors at Ameriprise. Martha has been awarded the Ameriprise Women's Empowerment Network Membership Award for 2021.

Minutes of our Last Meeting: We met at the Tomah Chamber of Commerce on November 30, 2021.

Those present: Deb Thiel, Dick Thiel, Deb Young, Barb Sullivan, Barb Mundinger, Audrey Chambers, Bonnie Peterson, Tammy Hewuse, Martha Klatt, Julia Palmer, Megan Divyak, Tia Hewuse, Lisa Kirschbaum, Tania Anderson, Cindy Zahrte, and Nancy VanderMeer.

- Our Mary Kay orders were distributed. Thank you to Anna Mae Rudolph for her generous sharing. This year we raised \$447.60. Throughout the years, Anna Mae has provided about \$3,200 for use toward scholarships. The American Legion fish fry brought in about \$143. Treasurer Audrey Chamber said that she has ordered new checks and they will last our Branch a long time. The treasury balance on November 30 was \$1,776.55.
- Cindy Zahrte requested that she be given 5 – 10 minutes at each meeting to share what's happening in AAUW WI Public Policy. AAUW is non-partisan and education is important to AAUW's mission. She said

that Critical Race Theory is not taught in our local public K-12 schools, but only at the collegiate and law school levels. She suggested that we could, however, perhaps host a panel discussion regarding local school board races.

Cindy outlined three Public Policy areas of interest to AAUW. 1. To preserve a strong system on public education, promoting equity and diversity. 2. To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women. 3. To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society. Cindy urged that AAUW members sign up for “Two Minute Activist” at AAUW.org.

- Cindy Zahrte and Bonnie Peterson presented their “Life Reflections.” Cindy recalled the path that led her to a career in education and the position of District School Superintendent. She left us with this advice:
“Believe in yourself. Seek out the company of others who value you. Stay centered and don’t lose sight of your core values. Lastly, you control your attitude and how you respond to each situation. Don’t give that power away.” She ended with the following quote by Walter Anderson, “Bad things do happen; how I respond to them defines my character and the quality of my life. I can choose to sit in perpetual sadness, immobilized by the gravity of my loss, or I can choose to rise from the pain and treasure the most precious gift I have - life itself.”

Bonnie spoke about her path to a career in corporate communications in the male dominated utility industry. She also shared a journey of struggles with health and personal tragedy and how these have impacted her life today.

- Deb Young was our program presenter for the evening. She recapped her experiences in an exciting new program through U.W. Stevens Point – School of Education. It is a course in Sustainable Development Goals, stating that she is passionate about two goals in particular: Quality Education and Gender Equality. She added that the coursework is “a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for our world and the future. Sustainability is the capacity to endure in all its various contexts.” The United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals are defined as: 1. *No Poverty* 2. *Zero Hunger* 3. *Good Health & Well Being* 4. *Quality Education* 5. *Gender Equality* 6. *Clean Water & Sanitation* 7. *Affordable & Clean Energy* 8. *Decent Work & Economic Growth* 9. *Industry, Innovation, Infrastructure* 10. *Reduced Inequalities* 11. *Sustainable Cities and Communities* 12. *Responsible Consumption & Production* 13. *Climate Action* 14. *Life Below Water* 15. *Life on Land* 16. *Peace, Justice, Strong Institutions* 17. *Partnerships for Goals*. Thank you, Deb Young, for providing an insightful and timely program.
- There was a drawing held for three Mary Kay Cosmetics gifts from Anna Mae Rudolph. The winners were Megan Divyak, Sonia Olson (will be held for her), and Martha Klatt.



Women’s History Month: Our celebration will be held on March 24th at the Best Western. It will follow the same format as in previous years. Please be thinking about who we can recognize at the event (NO MORE THAN THREE). Food to be provided by our Branch members.

As in the past years, we look to members to suggest women in the Tomah-Monroe County area. Our celebration recognizes women for their personal talents and accomplishments which have enhanced the community, its history, the present, and the future.

You may need to interview your nominee(s) or interview persons with more detailed information regarding the individual you are nominating. The nominees will be reviewed. After selection of 2022 Outstanding Women, a more complete biography, along with a photograph, will be your responsibility to obtain for inclusion in the commemorative booklet.