



American Association of University Women  
Tomah WI Branch – Organized in 1972

the **Twig** branch newsletter January 31, 2022

## Six Triple Eight

In preparation for the February meeting please take 73 minutes to view this video before our February 22 zoom meeting.

<https://vimeo.com/527344329>

password: SixTripleEight final

**The amazing 6888! (sponsor: Tomah Branch)**

Renowned documentarian Jim Therese will discuss the making of "Six Triple Eight." This is the untold story of the group of American Black Women who saved mail delivery and morale for the fighting troops of WWII. This is a 73-minute documentary.

## FEBRUARY'S MEETING:

**Time: Feb 22, 2022 05:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)**

AAUW Wisconsin is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82163216950>

**Meeting ID: 821 6321 6950**

One tap mobile

+19294362866,,82163216950# US (New York)

+13017158592,,82163216950# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)    +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)    +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)





**Calling for Nominations!**  
**Women's History Month:**

Please submit your nominee(s) to Julia Palmer.  
Her phone numbers are: 608-372-6065 (home) and 608-567-9386 (cell).  
Her address is 7072 Division Rd, Tomah, WI.

We will need to have at minimum a brief overview of the nominee in order for discussion and selection by the officers. A meeting to handle this will be held on Monday, February 7 at Julia's at 5:30 p.m. So, please get the info to Julia prior to this date! Thank you!

**We EXCEEDED our Goal!** We hoped to reach 150. We provided over 225 gift bags plus another 100 multiple personal care items to the Afghan Women at Fort McCoy! Many of the women we reached out to are starting their lives around the Country. Most of the 150 (AUW) Asian University Women who fled Kabul, Afghanistan are now enrolled in Universities. Our plan is to provide Scholarships to some of them to attend the upcoming NCCWSL virtual conference May 24-26 with remaining funds. We are looking like we are in good shape financially on this project! It is projected that all the Refugees will have placement and leave Fort McCoy by February 11. We will make sure to use up the monies we collected for these women. A win-win for everyone! High 5 Tomah Branch members - you're making a difference!!

Here's a couple of photos:

**2022 NCCWSL Conference:**

Few of us know that the acronym **NCCWSL** means **National Conference for College Women Student Leaders**. However, we definitely do know what it stands for: the opportunity to help the next generation of equity leaders network and learn from each other!

The 2022 Conference is set for May 24-26<sup>th</sup>. It's virtual which gives us the opportunity to sponsor greater numbers of applicants. The conference will be split into a half day, the two day or bundled options.

This year AAUW Wisconsin will support at least 10 nominees by providing scholarships for their registration. We can reserve early bird slots and transfer them to selectees. Please share information about this opportunity with your college age friends, neighbors, family and locality. Reach out and let your community know about this outstanding opportunity offered by AAUW!

This year we will add an option for candidates to apply directly via the State Website. ([AAUW-WI.Net](http://AAUW-WI.Net)) This supports and recognizes local Branch efforts while making it easier to apply.

Eligible nominees must be currently enrolled in a program leading to an Associate degree (or equivalent), Bachelor's degree, or Master's degree, and they may be attending a technical college or other two or four year public or private college. Consideration will be given to every Branch's first choice applicant before considering multiple candidates from the same Branch. To learn more about the conference, go to [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) and search NCCWSL, or [NCCWSL.org](http://NCCWSL.org)

**This year, students are asked to complete the initial application and submit it to their designated Branch by March 1 for review. Then the branches will forward their recommendations to: [AAUWTOMAH@gmail.com](mailto:AAUWTOMAH@gmail.com) SUBJECT LINE: NCCWSL 2022. Recipients will be notified by April 15.**

*Deborah J Thiel, Tomah Branch President & VP- Leadership for AAUW Wisconsin*

**AAUW National Blackout Period!** AAUW National will soon upgrade our data systems to better serve our membership. As a necessary step in the implementation, there will be a blackout period from February 4 through February 15, during which neither you nor AAUW staff will have access to online applications for renewing your membership, making donations or logging in to the Member Services Database (MSD).

**If you would like to make any of these transactions, please do so by no later than 9 p.m. ET on Thursday, February 3, or plan to complete them when systems are restored.**

We apologize for the temporary service interruption but are confident that the long-term benefits of this upgrade will far outweigh the short-term inconvenience. We look forward to offering you vastly improved systems, including a robust member database that you can easily access and update. Please stay tuned for more information on that.

Throughout the blackout period, you will still be able to use the AAUW website, where you can peruse all of our content and participate in the member Art Contest, 2-Minute Activist feature and the 5-Star Recognition Program for AAUW branches and states.

AAUW can still receive checks and forms by mail, and staff is available to assist you with any requests that don't require database access. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org).

Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Katrina Sun Breese  
Senior Director of Institutional Advancement



### **Minutes of the Last Meeting:**

Our Branch held a ZOOM meeting on January 25, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Participating were Julia Palmer, Deb Thiel, Dick Thiel, Sonia Olson, Ann Gerzel, Bonnie Peterson, Tammy Hewuse, Tia Hewuse, Cindy Zahrte, Deb Young. (I hope I didn't miss anyone!)

President Deb Thiel mentioned that AAUW-WI has been collecting ideas regarding recruitment to AAUW. One idea, for which there is assistance available, is to hold an event. We'd need to supply the venue and refreshments. More information regarding this idea will be shared in the months ahead.

Tina Thompson as STEM Coordinator for our Branch has suggested that we sponsor an essay contest for 8<sup>th</sup> graders, reaching out to the Tomah public and parochial schools. The essay would be about a woman in a STEM field. We discussed funding of prizes. Deb Thiel moved, seconded by Dick Thiel, that we set aside \$100 for the prize(s). Cindy Zahrte expressed support for the \$100, but as a single prize for the contest due to the amount of effort we would be

asking the students to put forth. The motion was amended to go with the \$100 and refer the detail decisions about the contest to a subcommittee. Unanimous approval.

Bonnie Peterson provided information from Audrey Chamber, Branch Treasurer.

Prep for Success project (Afghan women leaving Ft. McCoy) .....	\$426.37 balance
Earmarked Scholarship Fund in General Fund .....	605.00
General Fund total .....	\$1,402.10

All bills to date have been paid, including \$150.00 to the Tomah Chamber for annual dues. A question was asked about the amount of donations collected from the Christmas Brunch for AAUW Greatest Needs fund. Bonnie did not have that information.

**Prep for Success Update: We EXCEEDED our goal! We hoped to reach 150. We provided more than 225 gift bags, plus another 100 multiple personal care items, to the Afghan Women at Fort McCoy! Many of the women we reached out to are starting their lives around the country. Most of the 150 (AUW) Asian University Women who fled Kabul, Afghanistan are now enrolled in universities. Our plan is to provide scholarships to some of them to attend the upcoming NCCWSL virtual conference May 24-26 with funds remaining from the project. We are looking like we are in good shape financially on this project! It is projected that all the Refugees will have placement and leave Fort McCoy by February 11. We will make sure to use up the monies we collected for these women. A win-win for everyone! High-5 Tomah Branch members - you're making a difference!!**

**A big thank you goes to the River Falls Branch, and many other contributing individuals here in Tomah and across the state, for the wonderful donations and support to the Afghan women's project.**

Content for February ZOOM meeting was discussed.

A suggestion was made to have the Meat Smyth cater our annual meeting in May rather than have member provide food. Joline Powell offered to check into the options, availability and costs. We would each pay our share, as we would at a restaurant.

Julia Plamer said we need to get our nominations in for the Women's History Month recognition. **Cindy Zahrte will be able to produce the booklet provided we get everything to her no later than March 10.**

Cindy Zahrte and Deb Thiel attended the recent rally in La Crosse regarding gerrymandering.

Congratulations to Tia Hewuse who is in the ATC play "Always" — a tribute to Patsy Cline. Barb Sullivan and Rocky Shutter are directing. Masks are required for the performances Feb. 3-6 and Feb. 10-13.

**Our program continued with Julia Palmer sharing her story.** Her story began in Oklahoma City, OK where she was born. She soon moved to Grand Forks, ND, and later moved to Maryland and then to Burlington, VT as her family followed her father's career in medicine and education. With the encouragement from her mother, Julia entered into a nursing program but later decided to switch to dietetics and nutrition. She did a 2-year fellowship at Mayo in Public Health. While living in Lewisville, KY she met and married Dr. Gary Palmer who has six children. The couple added another son to the busy family. They moved to Tomah for work at the Veteran's Administration hospital. Julia continued her work in nutrition through the VA and Monroe County until her retirement. She has also been a substitute teacher in the Tomah School District for several years.

Her advice: ***"Always be flexible and be aware of opportunities. Nothing is impossible!"***  
long-time leadership in AAUW-Tomah Branch, Julia!

Thank you for your

**Our program continued with members sharing a synopsis of a book, movie or podcast.**

**Ann Gerzel** spoke about the series she viewed on Netflix — **Call the Midwife**. Ann was impressed with the writing, well developed characters, and the hard issues covered during the series, such as polio, racism, feminism.

**Bonnie Peterson** reviewed the book **Sisters In Spirit**. The book explained the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) influence on early American Feminists (Elisabeth Cady Stanton, Matila Gage, Lucretia Mott). It covers the political structure of the Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy. From this model of freedoms for and leadership by women, the early feminists drew great inspiration.

**Dick Thiel** spoke about the book **In the Land of the Grasshopper's Song**. It is about two New England women who make their way to California during 1908 – 1909 with the goal of change the lifestyles and beliefs of native peoples into those of the eastern whites. This autobiographical book chronicles their many and various challenges. “It’s a really good read,” says Dick.

**Deb Thiel** spoke about the book **First Women**, published in April 2016. The book uses well-written stories to explain how women have viewed their roles in terms of their personalities and the limitations and barriers of their times. “It was interesting to compare and contrast,” she said.

**Tia Hewuse** spoke about the **Financial Feminist** podcast of Tori Dunlap. Tia finds the advice on sustainable finances “very interesting.” As a young woman. Tia also feels that the podcast has enlightened her on making investments and breaks myths associated with financial issues.

**Cindy Zahrte** spoke about the book **Gusty Women** by Chelsea Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton. It contains short biographies a variety of outstanding “gutsy” women who have asked the tough questions and inspired the authors.

**Deb Young** shared an experience with her 83-year-old mother in Green Bay. Deb retired at the end of December, so when her mother fell just before Christmas, Deb was thankful to be able to spend time with her (especially after learning she needs a heart valve replacement. Together, they watched **1883**, a western about how families left all they knew to move “out West.” Deb felt that their discussions of what it would be like to go through those experiences and the intergenerational sharing of perspectives with her mother was a wonderful experience. The importance of connecting in this way with her mother was very rewarding.

**Sonia Olson** has spent some time reviewing the AAUW National website. She spoke about several things she learned by becoming more familiar with the new website. This included the change from International Federation of University Women (IFUW) to Graduate Women International (GWI). GWI continues to advocate for women. She suggested visiting the website **WG-USA.org** to see the organization’s goals and how this parallels AAUW.

**Tammy Hewuse** told us about the book **The Moment of Lift** by Melinda Gates. It is about how we can lift each other up, thus lifting up ourselves in the process. “This help society turn hierarchy into equality,” said Tammy. “If you want to lift up humanity, empower women. Nothing else can improve the world more.” The book also covers the author’s view on family planning and contraception across the world, focusing on how it creates unequal justice in cultures that see women just existing for the pleasure of men and their role as care takers of children.

**Julia Palmer** reviewed Michael Lewis’s 2021 book called **The Premonition**. It’s the story of a pandemic, the censored news out of China, and the impact on public health. “The development of the characters in the book is fascinating,” said Julia.

Meeting adjournment at 7:45 p.m. Please send newsletter items to Bonnie Peterson, AAUW Twig Editor / Secretary [wordemp@centurylink.net](mailto:wordemp@centurylink.net). 608-372-7501