



*The American Association of University Women and the AAUW Educational Foundation advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.--Mission of AAUW*



## THE LEAFLET



**Vol 95 No 1 AAUW Wausau (WI) Branch**

**January 2018**

January, February and March Programs will be on the **third Wednesday of the month**  
**from 11:30 to 1:00** to accommodate employed folks and those who don't like  
to drive on dark wintry nights.

Winter Warmth Combined Program of AAUW and YWCA

### **The United States of ALEC: Is this good or bad for our democracy?**

**Wednesday, January 17 11:30 – 1:00 at the YWCA**

with flavorful soups, tasty bread, and healthy fruit available

The *United States of ALEC* video was given to us by National AAUW at our AAUW Lobby Day a few years ago. It is published by The Center of Media and Democracy



#### **Let's look at both sides of the issue. You decide**

The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing and promoting the Jeffersonian principles of limited government, free markets and federalism at the state level. ALEC accomplishes this mission by educating elected officials on making sound policy and providing them with a platform for collaboration with other elected officials and business leaders. This forum for the free exchange of ideas—along with education for elected officials—has made ALEC **one of the most powerful forces in the resurgence of free-market reform at the state level.** – from ALEC's website

#### **Sounds good, but what effect does it have?**

ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council) is a non-profit organization, but there is a somewhat different definition based on the research that AAUW's Rita Pachal did. She found that:

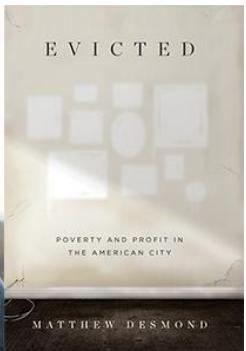
- It is tax-exempt
- It is funded (98%) by Exxon, AT&T, PhRMA, Georgia Pacific (Koch Industries), and many other corporations.
- State legislators are wined and dined at the annual conventions—the latest was this past August in Florida.
- Legislation is written behind closed doors to advance corporations' bottom line. It is not written by our legislators or for the benefit of U.S. citizens.

Her sources were from these publications:  
*Washington Post, New York Times, The Nation, Mother Jones, The Center for Media and Democracy*



## AAUW 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday BOOK GROUP

Second Tuesday of the Month at 12:45-3:00 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 630 Adams Street, Wausau. Please enter from the parking lot by the side door



### ***Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* by Matthew Desmond**

**January Discussion Leader-- Marian Seagren Hall**

"*Evicted* is a regal hybrid of ethnography and policy reporting. It follows the lives of eight families in Milwaukee, some black and some white, all several leagues below the poverty line.

'If incarceration had come to define the lives of men from impoverished black neighborhoods,' Mr. Desmond writes, eviction was shaping the lives of women. Poor black men were locked up. Poor black women were locked out.

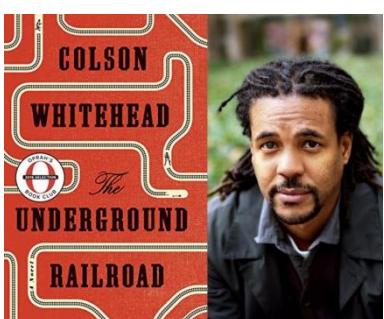
With vacancy rates for cheap housing in the single digits, the moment is ripe for exploitation. It's a landlord's market. So exploit they do..."But *Evicted* is most memorable for its characters, rendered in such high-resolution detail that their ghost images linger if you shut your eyes. To respect their privacy, Mr. Desmond has given them pseudonyms, but their voices are as distinct as fingerprints, their plights impossible to invent."

February 21, 2016, *New York Times* book review excerpts.

### ***The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead**

**February Facilitator--Marlene Lau**

Far and away the most anticipated literary novel of the year, *The Underground Railroad* marks a new triumph for Whitehead. Since his first novel, *The Intuitionist*, (1999), the MacArthur "genius" has nimbly explored America's



racial consciousness — and more — with an exhilarating blend of comedy, history, horror and speculative fiction. In this new book, though, those elements are choreographed as never before. The soaring arias of cleverness for which he's known have been modulated in these pages. The result is a book that resonates with deep emotional timbre. *The Underground Railroad* reanimates the slave narrative, disrupts our settled sense of the past and stretches the ligaments of history right into our own era.

"The conceit of Whitehead's novel is oddly whimsical: He imagines that the Underground Railroad, the system of safe houses and clandestine routes used to smuggle slaves north, was, in fact, an *actual* railroad built underground. 'Most people think it's a figure of speech,' a slave catcher says, but in this version of the antebellum South, that engine of courage is forged from tons of iron, stone and wood. The first time we see one of the stations in Georgia, it's wondrous..." *Washington Post* review



FEBRUARY PROGRAM:

## **Unconscious Racism: Do We Unknowingly Offend Others?**

February 21 at 11:30 to 1:00 at the YWCA  
with flavorful soups, tasty bread, and healthy fruit available

With guest speaker Sande Sliwicki

**What are the things that we say or do  
that may offend others?**

**How do we look at issues from others' perspectives?**

Sande will help us better understand **Unconscious Racism**.

. We look forward to a frank and open discussion.

Sande graduated from UW-Stevens Point with a degree in Communications and Theatre Arts. She has taught Diversity Circles for area schools and also taught Intercultural Communications at the post-secondary level. Sande joined AAUW in 2008 and chaired the AAUW Lunch Bunch.. She has also served as secretary of the YWCA Board of Directors. Sande is a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation.



### ***The AAUW Wausau Facebook page is up!***

Please "like" our page or "share" it on your Facebook newsfeeds to spread the word about our new medium. We hope the page will be a place where we can post our events and invite members of the community to participate. We also plan to use the page to share information about AAUW and the organization's work in our community.

<https://www.facebook.com/AAUW-Wausau-WI-Branch-803013683196691/>

Here is the link! You can also find the page by searching "AAUW Wausau" in your Facebook search bar. Just click "like" and you should begin seeing AAUW posts in your newsfeed.



Thanks, Jana Schleis and Laura Syring for making this happen!

## MARCH PROGRAM

### **The Role of The Women's Community in Our Area.**

Wednesday, March 21.

11:30 – 1:00

Y.W.C.A.

with flavorful soups, tasty bread, and healthy fruit available



Speaker: Jane Graham Jennings, Executive Director,  
The Women's Community

**Sexual harassment and crimes against women have been in the news recently**

**Just how bad is it in our area ?**

**What is being done about crimes against women ?**

**What resources are available?**

**How can we help others?**

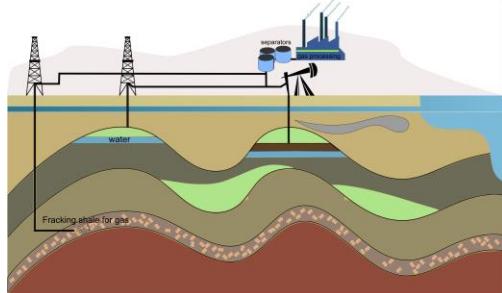
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### ***Crude Beyond Belief***

Thursday, January 25th. 6:30 p.m.

***Crude Beyond Belief*** is a documentary that AAUW member Rita Pachal will be showing at the Universalist Unitarian Church on Thursday, January 25th. at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend. . It is totally issue based and shows how two organizations succeeded in protecting the local community. AAUW member Barb Roberts provided the documentary.

A farmer, Tom Franz takes us on a tour of Kern County's oil fields. You will see how oil drilling and fracking have nearly destroyed the land and air quality in central California. The organizations of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and Fresans vs Fracking have joined together to protect the environment. This is a timely video because of the new state laws rescinding the mining moratorium and the relaxation of air quality control in Wisconsin.



The U.U. Church 504 Grant Street is so gracious to allow Rita to show documentaries at the church.

These documentaries are always free and open to the public.

**AAUW WAUSAU****FINANCIAL REPORT**

	Checking	Savings
Balance 11/1/17	\$2236.63	\$2156.12
Receipts	290.22	
Disbursements	605.36	
Balance 12/31/17	\$1921.49	\$2156.12

Receipts: Brunch-\$130.00, Dues-\$160.00, Interest-.22

Disbursements: Leaflet and Directory Printing-\$141.58, Postage -\$98.00, Membership AAUW-\$49.00, Membership AAUW-WI \$13.00, Brunch-\$28.78, AAUW-Northwoods-\$50.00, AAUW Funds Branch Donation-\$200.00, AAUW STEM Fund \$25.00

## **OUR DUES GET THINGS DONE!!**

Sometime people wonder where their dues are used, so we started asking

“Why do you belong to AAUW ?” ....

One member stated: “I cannot lobby now, so my contribution goes to affect policy through the AAUW Lobby Corps. Instead of buying an airplane ticket to Washington, D.C. my funds go to the advocates who attend meetings, appear at Listening Sessions, and confer with elected officials. I know that my dues help the Lobby Corps work with lawmakers on AAUW’s issues..”



### **Why belong to AAUW ? - A review from the National AAUW Board Chair**

Looking back at just a few of our accomplishments during 2017, we sent more than 270,000 messages to lawmakers. Through AAUW *Start Smart and Work Smart* workshops 17,000 people learned to negotiate their salaries; but we’re not resting on those laurels. We plan to train 20,000 women by 2020 — and that’s just in San Francisco with a new partnership launched in December 2017! Stay tuned for news about additional partnerships we’re launching across the country.

We awarded \$3.7 million to women and community projects, and we held science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs in 35 states! We celebrated 100 years of awarding International Fellowships to more than 3,600 women representing more than 140 countries, and we travelled to Morocco, Tunisia, and Dubai to share our research and programs with women leaders and activists



## **AAUW MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**

Someone will soon be receiving a 50 Year Membership pin. Could that be you? Have you advocated for women and girls for 50 years? If not, it’s a worthy goal.



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

Tues. Jan 16 12:45	Book Group discussion of <i>Evicted</i>
Weds. Jan 17 11:30 – 1:00	<b>PROGRAM: The United States of ALEC</b> YWCA – Light lunch provided
Thurs. Jan 25 6:30 p.m.	Crude Beyond Belief Universalist Unitarian Church
Weds. Feb 7 11:30 – 1:00	Board Meeting – All Are Welcome! Marathon County Public Library Second floor meeting room
Tues. Feb 13 12:45	Book Group discussion of <i>The Underground Railroad</i>
Weds. Feb 21 11:30 – 1:00	<b>PROGRAM: Sande Sliwicki</b> <b>Unconscious Racism: Do We Unknowingly Offend Others?</b> YWCA – Light lunch provided
<b>Weds. March 7</b> <b>11:30 – 1:00</b>	Board Meeting – All Are Welcome! Marathon County Public Library Second floor meeting room
Weds. March 21 11:30 – 1:00	<b>PROGRAM: The Role of The Women's Community in Our Area</b> Jane Graham Jennings