



empowering women since 1881

Milwaukee, Inc. (WI) Branch  
making a difference since 1891

## NEWSLETTER

March 2017

*A Behind-the-Scenes Tour of the*  
**Milwaukee Public Museum Anthropology Department**  
*Led by Dawn Scher Thomae*

Saturday, March 4

Milwaukee Public  
Museum*Cost:*

**\$14 per seniors: 65+ / \$17 for ages 14-64.**  
**Bring check or EXACT CASH on March 4**

*Meet at Visitors Center at*  
*10:45am*

*Tour provided is between*  
*11am-12pm*

*Only limited space*  
*is available!*

*Reservations accepted on a*  
*first-come, first served basis.*

**RESERVATION DEADLINE****\*\*FEBRUARY 18\*\***

CALL OR EMAIL

414-276-6820

*Join us for a...*

Tour of the Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM) Anthropology Department Collections area! The MPM Anthropology Department houses some of the most important assemblages in Midwestern archaeology as part of their research and exhibit collection containing over 120,000 African, Oceanic, Native American, South and Central American, and European ethnographic and archaeological objects.



Northwest Coast Mask

**Museum admission is included. Participants are welcome to visit the exhibit floors following the tour.**

**Dawn Scher Thomae***Curator of Collections/Senior Collection Manager*

Dawn interned at museums in Boston, Denver, and Washington D.C. and worked at the Logan Museum of Anthropology before coming back to her hometown of Milwaukee and the MPM in 1987. She has a B.A. in Anthropology and a minor in Museum Studies from Beloit College and an M.S. in Anthropology from UW-Milwaukee.

As Curator of Collections, Dawn's primary responsibility is the care, documentation, and artifact research of over 100,000 African, Oceanic, Native American, South and Central American, and European ethnographic and archaeological objects. She also trains and supervises the volunteers, interns, work-study students, and temporary employees in the department. Her interests include Native American ethnographic material culture, Native Americans in the 20th century, Central and South American ethnology, and several topics in Museum Studies.

In addition to her anthropology duties, Dawn also coordinates and teaches graduate courses in the UWM/MPM Museum Studies Graduate Program, is the Museum Internship Coordinator, and is involved in a variety of museum educational programs both statewide and nationally.

# President's UPDATE

Michelle Prosek



Hello AAUW Milwaukee Branch,

I know it is hard to believe but this is our March newsletter! Which means Spring is just around the corner already...YEAH!!

We have some big dates coming up, so by way of this newsletter, I ask that you note these dates on your calendar.

**March 4<sup>th</sup>** – We are taking our monthly meeting off-site! In our February newsletter, I provided some tentative information. However, we now have the full details which are on the front page. By this time you should also have received the flyer with full details followed by an email blast. If for any reason you are unsure of what the plans are, please feel free to contact me or the office for more details.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE:** This is a first-come, first-served event due to space considerations. RSVP today!

**March 27<sup>th</sup>** — We are ramping up for the March 27<sup>th</sup> District 2 wide general meeting to be held at the Brookfield Library. Please see the back page of this newsletter for details. This is an opportunity to meet and talk with other branch members and see how their struggles and successes coincide with ours. We are coordinating some appetizers and desserts, and I am the point person on that. If you are expecting to come, and if you are planning to bring something, please contact the office or me directly!

**April 21-22** – The AAUW State Convention is an easy drive north to Neenah. The Branch does pay for registration fees and convention luncheon/dinner charges for Milwaukee Branch attendees. If you are interested in attending, please contact the office to get on the list. Watch for state convention details in upcoming issue of *Badger Briefs*.

## New Leadership Selection

In April we will vote on newly-elected leadership of our Branch and in May, during the Scholarship brunch gathering, we will induct those new leaders. The Board has taken on the Nominating Committee function to identify leadership for the two open positions for the next leadership election cycle which includes President-Elect and Programs. Other appointed leadership roles are also currently open: Girls' Club Fund Board and University Relations. With Lyn Hildenbrand at the helm, we have exciting things happening in the next couple of years. As they say, you can't be a part of the changes if you don't have a seat at the table! Please let anyone on the Board know if you have a suggestion, or if you are interested in a position yourself!

See you at the Milwaukee Public Museum! Please be kind to one another.



## TREASURER'S CORNER

*Shirley Metcalf, Branch Treasurer*

### Free Tax Return Preparation for Qualifying Taxpayers

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to people who generally make \$54,000 or less, persons with disabilities, and limited English-speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. IRS-

certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals. In addition to VITA, the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program offers free tax help for all taxpayers, particularly those who are 60 years of age and older, specializing in questions about pensions and retirement-related issues unique to seniors. The IRS-certified volunteers who provide tax counseling are often retired individuals associated with non-profit organizations that receive grants from the IRS.

**Before going to a VITA or TCE site**, check online under [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov), for [Publication 3676-B](#) for what services are provided and also the [What to Bring](#) page to ensure you have all the required documents and information our volunteers will need to help you. **\*Note:** services can vary at each site due to the availability of volunteers certified with the tax law expertise required for your return.

### Find a VITA or TCE Site Near You

VITA and TCE sites are generally located at community and neighborhood centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls and other convenient locations across the country. To locate the nearest VITA or TCE site near you, use the VITA Locator Tool or call 800-906-9887.

When looking for a TCE site keep in mind that a majority of the TCE sites are operated by the AARP Foundation's Tax Aide program. To locate the nearest AARP TCE Tax-Aide site between January and April use the AARP Site Locator Tool or call 888-227-7669.

At select tax sites, taxpayers also have an option to prepare their own basic federal and state tax return for free using Web-based tax preparation software with an IRS-certified volunteer to help guide you through the process. This option is only available at locations that list **"Self-Prep"** in the site listing.



# Membership Committee Report

## Membership Matters



Benita Clark

Graciela Pequeno



### Bragging About Our Branch

By the time you get this newsletter, February Black History month will be almost over. However, we would like to share with you a piece of truly educational information that came as a surprise to us this month.

Did you know that seven of the nine women who signed the Charter to found the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) were AAUW members? Yes! The message sent when they signed that charter on February 12, 1909, still rings true today: **Civil Rights and Women's Rights are Human Rights!**

Today, a central part of our AAUW work here in Milwaukee and in the nation includes raising diverse voices on issues that affect women of all backgrounds.

We believe our AAUW Milwaukee Branch is a leader in its diversity and inclusion. Diversity isn't just the right thing to do: It's good for growth, too.

Have you noticed that in these past few years we have seen a wonderful increase in our Branch membership from the minority community of Milwaukee? And we're all the richer for it. No one should be afraid to make her voice heard! We all have the support of our member sisters regardless of ethnicity, religious beliefs, age or gender issues.

Welcome to all our new members, young and old!  
**Welcome to Diversity! Welcome to your AAUW Milwaukee Branch!**

### Milwaukee Branch Community Contributions Reflect An Increase in 2017.

Each year the Branch contributes to local organizations and community groups determined by the Community Outreach Group chaired by Margaret Courtright. These contributions are possible through the earnings on investments with the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. Also, each year from those funds a scholarship is given to a non-traditional student attending UW-Milwaukee. This year the scholarship is for \$2500, \$500 more than last year. Also each of the organizations listed were given grants in the amount of \$700, which is \$200 more than last year.

The organizations selected are: **\*Gathering of Southeast Wisconsin, Inc., \*League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County, \*Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin, Inc., \*Urban Ecology Center, Inc., \*Milwaukee Community Service Corps, \*PEARLS for Teen Girls, Inc., \*Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative, Inc., and \*Optimist Theatre.**

We are honored to have the Greater Milwaukee Foundation as our charitable partner in supporting the causes we care about most. If you have any questions regarding these groups, the selection process, or the contributions, please contact Margaret Courtright through the office.



Rita Czukas, new Milwaukee Branch dual member, chats with our dual member Janet Nortrom at Feb 4 luncheon and program. Both are members of the North Shore Branch.



Mary Fiedler (foreground) with her guests, her sister Peggy, nephew Jeff, and brother-in-law Loren Mayfield.

# PUBLIC Policy

Reported by Jean Kreul  
Milwaukee Branch  
Public Policy Chair



## Local Celebration of International Women's Day

Last year's event was inspiring, and overwhelmingly uplifting! This year's affair is sure to be one **NOT TO MISS**. The Milwaukee celebration will be on **Sunday, March 5th at the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m.** There will be speakers, music, dance and a time for networking. This year's theme is "Women in the World of Work". The mission of the celebration is to educate, empower and inspire women for the greater good of the community. The event is coordinated by several organi-

zations. We may be able to distribute information about AAUW and our branch as we did last year

**Another Date of NOTE**  
**Tuesday, April 4, 2017 is National Equal Pay Day.** This event originated in 1996 to illustrate the gap between men's and women's wages and raise awareness of this difference. Our branch will once again have informational displays at area colleges. Volunteers are needed, so contact the office if you can help.

Tricia Briceno and Jean Kreul spent time with Graciela and Jose Pequeno at Feb 4 gathering.



Theresa Muselman, Donna Jordahl and Jean Collins socialized before the luncheon and program on Feb. 4.

## Please help represent our Milwaukee Branch at the Wisconsin State District 2 general meeting

**AAUW-WI District 2 Meeting on Monday, March 27, 2017**

**Location:** Sonia Bielmeier Community Room at Brookfield Public Library — 1900 N. Calhoun Road

**Timeframe:**

4:15 - 4:45	Meet-and-Greet
4:45 - 6:00	District 2 Business Meeting
6:00 - 6:30	Networking/Discussion/Social Time

## Dates to remember

**Tuesday, February 28**

Book Club 1 pm  
in Astor suite 202.



**SATURDAY, March 4**

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM**  
A unique opportunity for a behind-the-scenes peek at the anthropology division of the Milwaukee Public Museum.



Another don't miss event!!

Details on the front page.

**Tuesday, March 28**

Book Club-1 pm  
in Astor suite 202.



**SATURDAY, April 1**

- \* 9:30 a.m. Board Meeting
- \* 11:00 Social
- \* 11:30 Lunch and Program

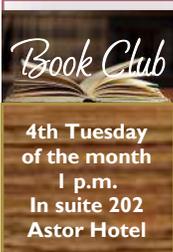
Christine Hill, Exec Director of **FUTURE MILWAUKEE**, will be our guest to present a very different approach to informing us about the organization. Come join us!

**SATURDAY, May 6**

**Scholarship Celebration Brunch honoring 2017 Scholarship recipients.**



**Seeking members to be on AAUW Milwaukee area team for Channel 10 Auction Call Center the end of April. Call Kathe in office if interested.**



**TUESDAY March 28** 1 pm Astor Suite 202

*The Little Paris Bookshop* by Nina George .... **Donna Jordahl, Discussion Leader**

Internationally bestselling and filled with warmth and adventure, *The Little Paris Bookshop* is a love letter to books, meant for anyone who believes in the power of stories to shape people's lives. Anyone is welcome to come and join in...or just listen.

