

December Meeting: Riverfront, Inc.

When: Saturday, Dec. 14, 2013

Presenter: Jackie Jensen-Utz
Chief Development Officer

Where: Ward Room, UWL
Cartwright Center

Breakfast Cost: \$10.00

Menu: Assorted breads/ scones,
Fresh fruit tray, Eggs, Bacon
Juice, Coffee, Tea

Members who do not wish to come
for brunch, are welcome to attend
the program portion at no charge.

Registration 9:30am
Breakfast 10:00am
Program 10:30am

*For cancellations or late
reservations contact Marla French
at mfrench000@centurytel.net or
782-6589 by noon on Wednesday,
December 11, 2013.*

Riverfront's Chief Development
Officer, Jackie Jensen-Utz, brings
a depth of development experience
to her role in educating commu-
nities about the value Riverfront
contributes in the communities
served. The eight offices in Wis-
consin and Minnesota serve adults
with disabilities by providing
innovative employment support
and educational programming. One
such program enjoyed by many in
the La Crosse area is the Riverfront



The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 53, ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2013



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Holidays...Enjoy!

by Carol Robertson, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

End of year, beginning of year, or
middle? The calendar says we are
at the end of 2013, but flip the page
and it is the beginning of 2014.

For our Branch, it is
the middle of the year
for activities. The
Scholarship Committee
met in November and
will meet in December
to continue with the
process of selecting
candidates for scholarships. In
Action is in the midst of scheduling
events and planning projects for the
coming months. One of the group's
projects is to develop an internship
with our University partner, UW-
L. You'll hear more about this
opportunity in the coming months.
Our program chairs have provided
us with excellent programs. For
the December general meeting we
will hear a special holiday message
from Riverfront. Don't forget to
bring your "gently used" works of
art for the 3rd Annual Art Auction.
Art Fair on the Green Committee
met to wrap up the 2013 Fair and

start plans for 2014 (July 26/27 -
save the dates). Carlene Roberts,
Public Policy Chair, reminds us
each month of policy concerns.

Community Days at
Herbergers will soon be
in the planning stages as
we look to raise funds for
LAF. So it goes on, not
the end or the beginning
of the year for our Branch
but a continuation of our
projects.

One thing for the end of the year
though is the reminder that not
all share what we have. We know

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Next Board Meeting

Monday, December 9th, 6:30 pm

River Place Apartments
1 River Place Dr.

Meetings are open to any member
who is interested in attending.

Contact Carol at: 519-0548 or
cfr Robertson@charter.net to place
items on the agenda

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Get all the CURRENT news at our website: www.aauwlacrosse.org

Holidays...Enjoy! *(continued from pg. 1)*

that local organizations are stretched to meet the needs of those who have difficulty providing for their families. I encourage you to support in any way, through time or money, those who are experiencing hardship.

However you choose to celebrate the holiday season, I wish for you a time of renewal and joy as families and friends get together to have good times, share memories, and create new ones to remember in the years to come.

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership

Welcome to two new members.

Gloria Doyle
N5525 Hauser Rd
Onalaska, WI 54650
608 -783-1204
UW Madison
JD. Poli Science/Economics
gloria.doyle@wicourts.gov



Gloria attended our November meeting as the guest of Carlene Roberts. Thanks, Carlene, for inviting her.

Margaret Wood
1804 Cameron Ave
La Crosse, WI 54601
785-1561
Viterbo University MA, Education
pixielacrosse@hotmail.com

Thanks to Pam Thiel for alerting me to Margaret's interest in rejoining our branch.

Please add the information to your directory. And we look forward to seeing Gloria and Margaret at our meetings.

Not So Trivial Unscientific Statistics...



One of our members had fun counting the colleges and universities represented in our branch. She found there were 52 with UW-L having the most graduates at 16 and UW-Madison next at 8, now 9 that Gloria has joined.

December Meeting *continued...*

Singers. Although this group is presently on hiatus, a special holiday message from Riverfront and the participants will be a part of the December program.

Jackie Jensen-Utz



3rd Annual Recycled Art Auction

Here's a golden opportunity to make room for some new art in your homes! By bringing those pieces that have outlived their usefulness in your own home, you'll be giving someone else an opportunity to recycle them in theirs. This should be gently used original art that deserves a second chance. Just bring your art (pottery, paintings, jewelry, carvings, etc.) to the December meeting in the Ward Room at UWLCartwright Center when you come at 9:30. If you feel that we should get a minimum amount for the piece, indicate that on the piece. Don't forget your own checkbook so you can help others recycle.

An added bonus is that now when you come to the 2014 Art Fair on the Green, you can justify shopping!



Study Group	Meeting day/time	Contact person
AAUW in Action	2nd Saturday of month, after the general meeting	Erica Koonmen, 366-1509
Hearth & Home	3rd Wednesday of month, evenings	Sharon DeCicco, 788-5356
Contemporary Authors	3rd Tuesday of month at 2:00pm	Alice Ross, 788-4206
Scholarship Bridge/Card Games	TBA	Sharon DeCicco, 788-5356
Bookfellows	3rd Wednesday of month at 2:00pm	Liz Wing, 782-7963

Study Group News

Hearth & Home

Dinner at Savory Creations

Date: Wednesday, December 18, 2013

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: intersection of Caledonia and Clinton Streets, across from the Loggers offices.

Cost: \$25

RSVP and pay: by December 4th

This is a business run by Chef Shawn McManus. Shawn has gone to culinary school in California, worked in Madison, Chicago and helped developed the 500

Club with Chef Thomas at Gundersen. He will prepare our dinner while we are there and able to watch his technique. He loves to answer questions about food and food preparation. Our menu consists of crab cake appetizers, chicken breast in Boursin creme sauce, risotto with sun dried tomato, green beans, variety of breads and butters and a taramisu in martini glasses for dessert. He will provide coffee and various cold beverages. Phyllis and I will bring the wine.

RSVP to:

Sharon DeCicco 788-5356

(sharon.decicco@gmail.com) or Phyllis Miletto 788-1346



AAUW in Action

*Next Meeting: Saturday, December 14
Right after the general meeting at UWL*

- **YWCA Transitional Housing Program:** we'll be providing snacks and a craft activity for this group at their Dec. 17th meeting. This is an opportunity for us to share AAUW's mission with these young women and let them know of scholarship support we offer.

- **International Women's Day Program:** save Thurs, March 6, 2014 from 5:30-7pm for this presentaiton featuring a panel of 4 women from different cultures sharing their stories.

- **We now have 4 certified \$tart \$mart faciliators!** Members Carol Robertson, Janet Kusch and Carol Klitzke as well as Molly Hilligoss from YWCA completed their faciliator training in November. We're planning on offering salary negotiation workshops to UWL & Viterbo classes in the spring. Congrats ladies!!

- **We are working on a WINGS** (Women Interested In Going to School) program in conjunction with UWL's Self-Sufficiency Program to be offered in next year helping women gain the confidence to pursue higher education. This will be a one day event providing information on all aspects of returning to school and starting the process.

Does any of the above sound like something you'd be interested joining in and helping? Come to our next meeting... **New members are always welcome!**

Gift Wrapping for LAF

By Marcia Wine, LAF Chair

The Valley View Mall offers a space for gift wrapping service to holiday shoppers, provided by nonprofit organizations, who collect the tips. The Mall provides the space and 3 covered tables. The service groups provide boxes, wrapping paper and ribbon, etc., and staffing.



The Miss Sparta Pageant has been doing this for 10 years and they are willing to help new groups get started. A bit of advice I received from the mall manager: buy our supplies at a dollar store.

There are many slots still available. Usually they are 12 hour slots, but we could choose to do 6, divided into 2 or 3 hour shifts--which might be a good idea for our first time. I suggest we choose a weekday/evening, when it will be less busy. If this works out and we want to do it again, we can pick a busier time next year.

We will need at least 3 people per shift; I will have a better idea after I see it in action on Monday evening, and after speaking with the Miss Sparta people. I am also open to suggestions.

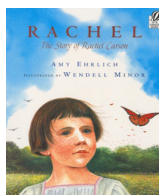
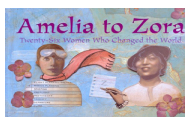
I will send out an email early next week with the specifics. Please let me know if you can help!

Book Suggestions...

Give children the gift of Women's History!

Knowing about amazing women and their accomplishments expands our sense of possibility and achievement. Children are never too young to learn these stories. They are a fun read for the entire family.

See more at: <http://www.nwhp.org>



Public Policy

By Carlene Roberts, Public Policy Chair

Fair Minimum Wage Act



The minimum wage is a working woman's issue. Almost 2/3 of minimum wage workers are women. At \$7.25/hour (unchanged for 4 years), 40 hours/week, 52 weeks/year, a

person earns less than \$20,000, which is below the poverty level for a family of 4. Child care costs for single parent families makes this even more difficult. It hasn't always been this way, and it doesn't have to be. A new Gallup poll shows that 76% of Americans agree. The Senate is expected to vote soon on the Fair Minimum Wage Act, which would gradually increase the minimum wage over 3 years to reach \$10.10.

PLEASE urge your members of Congress to support the Fair Minimum Wage Act - H.R. 1010 and S. 460, so that women and their children don't have to live in poverty in spite of working hard to achieve the American dream.

Increasing College Graduation Rates

In addition to promoting healthy eating and exercise, and helping military families, First Lady Michelle Obama announced she will advocate for increasing college graduation rates. The U.S. currently ranks 12th worldwide in % of college graduates. The goal of President Obama and the Dept. of Education is to rank #1 by 2020. Mrs. Obama is beginning to use social media and speaking tours to share her own story. She will promote continuing education after high school as an opening to the wider world. She is the daughter of a pump worker at the Chicago Water Works, and she graduated from Princeton and Harvard Law School.



I hope our branch, and all of AAUW can join in and continue to promote education beyond high school for all.

From the Treasurer Michele Strange

Financial Report as of October 20, 2013

Checking Account\$ 10,737.19

CD's

none at this time

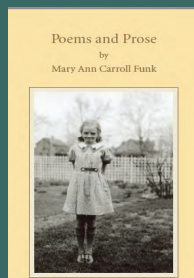
Scholarship Bridge\$754.02

New Book By Local Author

Announcing a new book by
Mary Ann Carroll Funk.

Life experiences
on Brice Prairie,
tales of life &
voyages, the letters
“j” and “p”.

Mary Ann (Mim)
Funk's collection
of poetry and
prose ranges from
witty to poignant. Now 88 years
old, her writings span a lifetime of
observations: from ice
fishing to her husband's WWII
flight crew reunion. The reader
is left refreshed, laughing, or
thoughtful as we see the world
through new eyes.



Books are available at Honig's Gifts
531 Main Street, LaCrosse. Tues
-Thurs 9am-5pm; Sat. 9am-4pm.

If you'd like a book shipped to
you, contact JoAnn Funk joann@
joannfunk.com or 651-739-4510.

Books are \$12.00 each. with a one
time \$3.00/per order for shipping.
Please send checks to: JoAnn Funk.
Box 25343, Woodbury MN. 55125.

National Conference of College Women Student Leaders

By Betty Kruck



AAUW Branch members are invited to
nominate a student to be the LaCrosse
Branch nominee for one of the two state \$500
scholarships for the National Conference
of College Women Student Leaders. The
conference will be June 5-7, 2014 at the

University of Maryland, College Park. Each AAUW branch in the state may
nominate only one student.

Please send your nominee to Carol Robertson by December 6.

Eligible nominees must be currently enrolled in a program leading to an
Associate degree, Bachelor's degree, or Master's degree at a technical college
or other two- or four-year public or private college.

The following information is required:

- Name, educational institution attending, and enrollment status of nominee
- Awards, recognition, or honors received by the nominee
- Major area of study being pursued by nominee and why
- How attendance at the conference would further the nominee's goals.

New Internship Possibilities For Our Branch

Our Branch was approached by Prof. Jodi Vandenberg-Daves of UWL's Dept.
of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies to gauge our interest in creating
internships for women students. A committee met with Jodi in mid-November
to talk more about it. It was decided that both our branch and WGSS would
benefit from this and that we'd give it a whirl!

Carol Robertson, Betty Kruck and Erica Koon-
men met and came up with 3 possibilities:
Social Media Intern; Public Policy Intern and
Diversity Intern. We've written job descriptions
for the three and will be submitting them to the
UWL Career Services to see if there are any interested students for Spring
2014 semester.



The unpaid internships would provide an opportunity for branch members to
mentor young women in these areas and give the interns exposure to AAUW as
well as experience working with a non-profit organization. A winning propo-
sition for everyone! If you are interested in being involved in this program--
by helping create the job descriptions, mentoring or devising other intern-
ships--please let Carol, Betty or Erica know.



American Association of University Women
La Crosse Branch
P.O. BOX 2112 • LA CROSSE, WI 54602-2112

THE CURRENT

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

AAUW’s Mission

*AAUW advances equity for women
and girls through advocacy,
education, philanthropy, and
research.*

*For 130 years, AAUW members have
examined and taken positions on the
fundamental issues of the day —
educational, social, economic, and
political. Our commitment to our
mission is reflected in all aspects of
our work.*

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- Webminder***Position Open!*
- Newsletter Design**.....Tegan Jerde-Koonmen (jerdet@gmail.com)

NEWSLETTER CONTENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

Please send all content for *The Current* to Erica by the 20th of the month.

PROBLEMS RECEIVING THE CURRENT? LET US KNOW AT:

aauwlacrosse@hotmail.com