

59th AAUW Art Fair on the Green... July 29 & 30



Our AAUW Art Fair on the Green is right around the corner and committee members are

busy arranging all the details.

It takes many people to make this event run smoothly so look at the volunteer opportunities Marla French, Volunteer Coordinator, has outlined on page 2. Remember, volunteers are needed to assist with Grounds, also; see page 5. This year we have new food vendors. Be sure to read Betty Kruck's article on page 5.

If you aren't able to volunteer, you can still participate by contributing to the awards and scholarship funds. Jan Eriksen has outlined your options on page 2. The art fair is our main source of income to support the scholarships we give each year.

This event is a great place to find that unusual gift as well as buying artwork for your own enjoyment.

Please see page 3 for the list and pictures of the scholarship recipients this year. These awards and scholarships are made possible by your dedication and hard work on AAUW Art Fair on the Green.

With 90 new and returning artists, you're sure to find something wonderful there!



The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 56, ISSUE 10

SUMMER 2017



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE: Summing Up The Year

by Michele Strange, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

What a lovely end to our activities this past year! Our scholarship reception on May 4th was very well attended with all but a couple of students. It's so wonderful to hear their stories and to think AAUW is helping contribute to their educational goals.



This has been a year of firsts: our September welcome reception; our hosting of the Kosovo delegation; our March trip to Winona for a joint meeting with their AAUW branch. We have had a record number of 12 new members join our branch this year. We welcome all the women who have joined us on our mission. Our monthly meetings have had great attendance, including a whopping 41 attendees in January. I am looking forward to September and a new year of great programming.

Inside this issue you will find articles about ArtSpire and Art Fair on the Green. I hope that all of you will be helping out on the weekend of July 29-30. See you there!



Next Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 7, 2017

6:30 pm

Location: Michele Strange's house:
2442 Redwing Rd. La Crosse
Meetings are open to any member
who is interested in attending.

Contact Michele at: 781-6962 or
mastrange@uwlax.edu
to place items on the agenda.

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

Art Fair Volunteers Needed!

by Marla French, Volunteer Coordinator

Have you set aside the last weekend in July for the Art Fair on the Green? If you're new to AAUW, it's a pretty big deal for us. It's our main fundraiser for the many scholarships and grants we award each spring. This year we awarded over \$25,000 to many deserving women and organizations.

To make the event a success, however, requires many, many volunteers. Folks are needed for setting up and taking down, as well as selling tickets at the three entrance gates and the Raffle. If you're a veteran art fair worker, you probably have your favorite job, and I'll do my best to get you to your spot. As Volunteer Coordinator, that's my job.

You can make my job easier by contacting me first. If I don't hear from you, expect an email or phone call in late June, and a more panicky one mid-July if I don't have all the positions filled. Specifically, set up is Friday, July 28th. The fair itself is the 29th & 30th, with take down/clean up at 4:00pm Sunday, July 30th. Ticket selling and Raffle sellers work 2.5 hour shifts beginning at 9:30am both Saturday and Sunday. You will be sitting under a canopy, so the sun shouldn't be an issue....the heat could be. An added bonus, in addition to the pleasure of helping, is all the Kettle Korn you can eat.

Please contact me (Marla French) at 782-6589 or mmfrench1959@gmail.com. You can also phone or text me at 608-385-7432.

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership

Welcome to two new members who joined in May:

Monica Lazare (U of Iowa Social Work)
3043 Lakota Place, La Crosse, WI 54601
608 781 7344
monilaz@charter.net



Susan Sharpe (U of Pittsburgh MBA Finance)
1835 Wood Run Place, Onalaska, WI 54650
608 399 4234
susansharpe412@gmail.com

We look forward to your participation in our branch! Thanks to Betty Kruck who invited Monica and to Kristen Foehner who invited Susan.

NEW MEMBERS 2016/17

Between March 15, 2016 and 2017 we have gained 13 new members!

ADDRESS CHANGE

Jean Knorr 622 Bennora Lee Court #270 La Crosse, WI 54601-6325
Jean is an Honorary Life Member, a designation bestowed to those who have belonged to AAUW for 50 years.

EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGE

Patti Savarin: patti.savarin@IRCO.com

Art Fair Awards

by Jan Eriksen & Robert Richardson

The letters regarding contributions to the 59th AAUW Art Fair on the Green will be sent to all members via email. The categories remain the same: Purchase Awards, Artists' Awards and Scholarship Fund.

Artists' Award Fund

Member donations comprise the chief source of funding for the 4 artist awards. A pair of art experts selects the recipients. In total, we give \$1000 of award money to the artist recipients. By so doing, we maintain the high quality of exhibitors at the Art Fair on the Green and offer an incentive to new Art Fair participants as well as to returning artists.

Donations to this fund are tax-exempt.

Purchase Awards

To attract the finest available artists, we offer the opportunity to pre-commit funds to purchase art during the Art Fair. Purchase award patrons provide considerable support for our outstanding artists.

The purchaser designates a dollar amount (\$100 or more) and, prior to the fair, gives that amount to the Art Fair purchase award fund. When the purchaser arrives at the fair she/he selects one or more items and informs the committee chairs what has been chosen. The AAUW Art Fair pays the artist. This is NOT tax exempt.

Checks for Artists' Awards & Purchase Awards should be made payable to **AAUW Art Fair on the Green**.

Checks to the Scholarship Fund should be written to the **La Crosse Community Foundation**, with the notation "for AAUW Scholarships" in the memo.

FROM THE TREASURER

Kristen Foehner

Financial Report as of May 30, 2017

Checking Account\$11,070.65

CD'snone at this time

Scholarship Bridge\$458.02

.....

Suffragist Statue Trapped In Closet for 75 years



In 1921, six months after the 19th amendment was ratified, an assembly of more than 70 women's organizations and members of Congress gathered at the Capitol Rotunda for the unveiling of a massive statue. The Portrait Monument, by sculptor Adelaide Johnson, shows Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony and Lucretia Mott in towering white marble.

The very next day, the statue was moved underground. On multiple occasions, Congress refused to approve bills that would've brought the statue back into the light. On May 14, 1997, the statue was finally moved back to the Rotunda using money raised from donors around the country.

Read the entire shameful story at:
[The Suffragist Statue Trapped in a Broom Closet for 75 Years](#)

Art Fair Concessions

By Betty Kruk, Concessions Co-Chair

New food vendors this year:



- The Wisconsin Meat Company- brats, hot dogs and hamburgers
- J. Wade Confections - handcrafted caramels and chocolate confections
- The Nutman - nuts and snacks
- Lemon shakers- hand squeezed lemonade

Returning vendors this year:

- Jean Luc crepes
- Sandberg Valley Meats
- Roncalli Newman Bread for the World
- Cabin Coffee

AAUW will sell only bottled water. If you would like to donate bottled water, please bring it to the concessions area on Saturday or Sunday, or contact Betty Kruk, krux@mwt.net or 608-689-2222 to make arrangements for pick-up or drop off locations. Please let Betty know if you have water to donate so accurate plans can be made for purchasing bottled water.

Art Fair Grounds Help Needed

Spring is in the air, summer isn't far off, and the Art Fair is fast approaching. The grounds committee needs help in these areas:

- 1-set up on Fri. morning
- 2-closing fences at the end of Fri. and Sat.
- 3-opening restrooms each morning
- 4-collecting garbage at the end of the day on Sat.
- 5-take down at the end of the fair on Sunday.
- 6-directing artist traffic Fri afternoon and opening & closing on Sat & Sun



We have a wonderful crew of volunteers, and 'many hands makes light work', but we could still use a few more to help direct traffic, especially on Sunday. Set up, on Friday, 28th, involves measuring and staking out artist spaces, placing tables and chairs where needed, putting up the AAUW tents and placing signs around the neighborhood.

We still need people for Sun. the 30th take down from 4 to 5 or 6 p.m. Spouses, teen or young adult children, and friends have been a great addition in the past.

I look forward to hearing from each of you so we can build our teams. Please reply by e-mail to me or to Marla, the Volunteer Coordinator. Thank you!

Susan Fabian, Grounds Chair
susa530@gmail.com

AAUW State Convention report

by Michele Strange



Amplifying Our Voices Together

Jan Eriksen and I attended the AAUW Wisconsin State Convention on April 21-22 in Neenah. Below are some highlights of the two days.

One of Friday's keynote speakers was Eileen Hartmann, who is a member of the national board of directors of AAUW. She highlighted the year's activities and initiatives, especially in the public policy area. She made special mention of her fellow board member, Pam Thiel, who is a La Crosse branch member, as well the article in the current Outlook about our branch hosting of the World Services' Kosovo delegation.

Jan and I went to breakout sessions for presidents and fund development, as well as the meeting for District 4.

The keynote speaker for the Saturday luncheon was Mary Burke, businesswoman, philanthropist and social entrepreneur. The sharing of her journey to become the first Wisconsin women to win the gubernatorial nomination of a major party was riveting. She is an inspiring speaker who tied her remarks to the convention's theme. While she lost the race, she discovered her most confident self and wanted to share this with other women. Building Brave is an online community of women who inspire, encourage and empower each other to discover and be their most confident selves. It is designed to amplify the power of women working together. You can visit her website at buildingbrave.org.

Jan and I attend the final session on collaboration with other organizations. We brainstormed about new groups that we may want to research and seek out for engagement. One of the best parts of the weekend was sharing ideas with other branches. For a fundraiser one branch had a silent auction of services or goods contributed by members.

As in previous years we learned that our branch continues to be very active, particularly in the area of fundraising for scholarships. We found out that we are the fourth highest contributor to national, mainly because of personal donations from our branch members.

It proved to be an informative conference and we were glad to get an insight into the larger world of state and national AAUW.

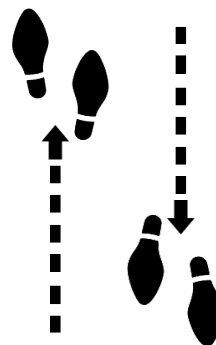
Public Policy

by Linda Myers, Chair

One Step Forward:

The Healthy Families Act (HFA) (HR 1516/S 636) would require employers with 15 or more employees to grant seven paid sick days per year to care for themselves or a family member. This benefit would have far-reaching implications for the financial, physical and emotional well-being of families. Additionally, as working parents often must ask older children to stay home to care for younger children, HFA greatly improves the education experience of children. HR 1516 has been referred to the House Committees on Education and the Workplace, and Oversight and Governmental Reform. S 636 has been referred to the Senate

Committee on Health Education Labor and Pensions. Contact your elected officials to urge their support!



One Step Backward:

On May 2, 2017, The US House of Representatives passed the Working Families Flexibility Act (WFFA) (HR 1180). The Act amends the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) to allow private sector employers to grant employees compensatory time off rather than monetary overtime for extra time at work. The employer must reach agreement with the employee in advance of work performed. However, the WFFA allows employers to deny an employee's request to use compensatory time if the request would "unduly disrupt" business operations. Additionally, the Act does not authorize new Department of Labor (DOL) resources to educate employees regarding their rights nor to ensure employers comply with the Act. Last, the WFFA does not provide for administrative recourse for employees to contest violations of the Act, forcing individuals to file actions in court, both costly and time consuming. The WFFA will proceed to the Senate for consideration.

Working women and families should be properly compensated for extra time at work, and are entitled to fair protection against employers who deny employees their rights. Contact Senators Baldwin and Johnson to voice your concern about the WFFA.

Scholarship & Grant Awardees 2017

AAUW Members' Cause-to-Celebrate

Only 23 of our members were able to join us for the reception on May 4th. I wish that number had been 80. The recipients said "thank you" in ways I cannot recapture in these written words. We would all benefit from hearing them speak and realizing they will continue to break barriers! Refreshing and inspiring!

We began at 5pm with check-in, delicious finger foods, and much meeting/greeting. . .thank you Mary, Kristen, Kristen's mother, Silvana, Erica, Lois, Jan, Marilyn, & all the members who interacted with our 40 guests.

Erica orchestrated the group picture and then we moved into the auditorium to begin the program. . .thank you Michele (valedictorian), Sharon (emcee), Carol (salutatorian), and Hugh (the building custodian) who helped me arrange the presentation space and set the PowerPoint.

We heard amazing, well-considered stories from women whose confidence and articulation deserve amplification. . .thank you committee members who researched agencies read all the applications and selected all the right recipients: Alice, Betty, Carol, Francie, Mary, Marilyn, Michele, Sangeetha, Sharon, & Silvana.

We laughed a little, listened in captivation, and felt tears welling.

At 7:06pm, we closed the evening.

The day following, we shared the left over foods with the nursing students on their last day of classes for Semester II. . .thank you Lois and Jan.

We owe a major thank you to the Art Fair Committee members and all the AAUW members who make the Art Fair a success and, thereby, provide the proceeds we use to award our grants and scholarships and, thereby, to augment barrier breaking for decades to come!

Finally, mark your calendar to attend our reception in 2018, then it will get priority in planning your personal schedule for the first Thursday of May!

Relieved to close 2016-2017 and excited to open 2017-2018,
Robert Richardson, Co-Chair, Scholarships and Grants.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Janet Isler Memorial Scholarship:

Naomi Engleke, Viterbo University

Karen Wilson Memorial Scholarship:

Sara Sheard, UWL

Xia Yang, UWL

Graduating High School Senior Scholarships:

Mai Tong Lee, Logan HS

Alexandra Rosendahl, La Crescent HS

Taylor Treadway, Holmen HS

Yeng Vue, Logan HS

UW-L Scholarships:

Taylor Harmon, Janelle Kopa, Lillian Minor

Viterbo University Scholarships:

Jennica Darcy, Alyssa Hannan, Victoria Voight

AAUW Bridge Scholarship:

Elizabeth Sckhoff, UWL

Continuing Extra Effort Scholarship:

Grace Jacobs, Winona State U

La Crosse Tribune Extra Effort Awards:

Makayla Teague, La Farge HS

Macy Williams, G-E-T HS

GRANTS & AWARDS

- Brighter Tomorrows, Sparta
- HOPE Academy
- New Horizons
- UW-L Self-Sufficiency Program
- Western Technical College Foundation
- YWCA



Group photo of all award recipients attending the May 4th reception



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.*

Newsletter Contact & Deadlines

- Newsletter Editor**Erica Koonmen (moogs56@hotmail.com)
- 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