

DECEMBER MEETING

Humorous Holiday Stories

Presenter: Michael Scott

When: Saturday, Dec. 10th, 2016

Where: Viterbo School of Nursing
Room 195
At the corner of 10th and
Jackson Streets.

Breakfast Cost: \$10

Breakfast Menu:

Scrambled eggs, hash browns, fresh
fruit, kringles, coffee, tea and juice.

*Please note: Anyone with dietary
restrictions should notify the
person taking reservations.*

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

Registration9:30 AM

Breakfast10:00AM

Program10:30AM

RSVP DEADLINE:

For cancellations and late
reservations, please call Silvana
at 608-788-0595 by NOON on
MONDAY, December 5th



Michael Scott is an actor, writer,
teacher, and storyteller and is
the creator and host of the Old
School Variety Show which has

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The Current

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VOLUME 56, ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2016



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

A Notable Year

by Michele Strange, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

Whew! The Kosovo delegation took flight yesterday (November 19th) for Pristina and everyone involved came away delighted and exhausted. I got sick in the middle of the week, so, unfortunately, I missed the sessions I wanted to attend and some of the evening social events. But I know from the positive comments on Saturday that the delegates, the host families and the committee members thought that the visit was a great success.

Our thanks go to co-chairs Betty Kruck and Carlene Roberts, and committee members Carol Robertson, Robert and Silvana Richardson, Erica Koonmen, Bev Bodine, plus van drivers George Kruck, Jef Jerde and Cam Roberts. A special thanks go to our host families (Roz Schnick, Anita Evans/Larry Liebecki, Richard and Lisbeth Reynertson, Rob and Kathie Tyser, Drake Hokanson/Carol Kratz) for

making our Kosovars feel so welcome. Thanks to all our members who provided food for our guests. Hopefully, all of you saw the article on the front page (above the fold!) in Saturday morning's La Crosse Tribune, complete with a picture of the delegates. Some good publicity for AAUW-La Crosse Branch!



Our participation in the Global Initiatives Week kickoff celebration was a successful one. Thanks to Lois Gilbert, Carol Robertson, Sangeetha Kelly, Erica Koonmen

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NEXT BOARD MEETING

Monday, Dec. 5th at 6:30 pm

Location:

Viterbo University Nursing Building,
Room 103. Meetings are open to any
member who is interested in attending.

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

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

A Notable Year... *(continued from page 1)*

and Marilyn Hempstead for setting up our table, producing bookmarks to hand out and helping me staff the table. This event drew a bigger crowd than last year. We made several good contacts and handed out application forms to some prospective members.

Arrangements are taking shape for our 2017 International Women's Day panel. The date for the event is set for International Women's Day itself, March 8th.

November has proven to be a busy month and a wild one as well. No matter what the result of the elections, AAUW National, as a non-partisan organization, will continue to advance its mission of working for equity for women. For AAUW's comments on the election results, see Five Takeaways from Election 2016 on National's website at: <http://www.aauw.org/article/analyzing-the-2016-election/> and read the article on page 4 about what you can do to help get AAUW's message out.

Moving forward, we can anticipate another wonderful program on December 10th. Our program chairs have planned a different type of entertainment for the holidays! Please join us for a celebration of the season. See details on this page.

As the year draws to a close, let's remember the great Art Fair on the Green, the many scholarships we've given, and all our other collaborative efforts, including the Kosovo visit.



*Congratulations to all of us
for this past year!!*

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership

Another retired librarian joined at the November meeting.



Peg Zappen
N13001 W. Prairie
Trempeleau, WI54661
608 534 5004
U of Iowa, MLS
pzappen@gmail.com

Welcome Peg and I guess we are finding out Librarians Rule! Right Lois?

DECEMBER MEETING

(continued from Page 1)

been performed in the Grand Hotel Ballroom above the Pearl Ice Cream Parlor. Recently he wrote the script and performed in the second Dark La Crosse Radio Show for the La Crosse Public Library and wrote and guided historic neighborhood walking tours for La Crosse Promise. He has been a featured teller at the La Crosse Storytelling Festival and Northlands Storytelling Conference. Michael is a teacher for La Crosse Community Theatre as well as a teacher and Artist in Residence for the School District of La Crosse.

You and your guest(s)! are in for a relaxing and holiday-infused December program as Michael will share family stories, a little Garrison Keillor humor, impersonations of famous people, an unusual version of "Twas the Night Before Christmas", and a sneak preview of the upcoming production of Santaland Diaries. Join us and sit back and relax and get into the holiday spirit with this delightful performance.



Michael Scott

Study Group News

AAUW IN ACTION

See below for meeting info

Contact: Erica Koonmen, 366-1509

HEARTH & HOME

See below for meeting info

Contact: Sharon DeCicco, 788-5356

CONTEMPORARY AUTHORS

3rd Tuesday of the month at 2pm

Contact: Alice Ross, 788-4206

SCHOLARSHIP BRIDGE/CARD GAMES

TBA

Contact: Sharon DeCicco, 788-5356

HEARTH & HOME

Annual Holiday Meal at Savory Creations
1230 Caledonia St, La Crosse



Date: Wednesday, Dec 14, 2016

Time: 6:00pm

Cost: \$40, menu will be a variety of international foods

Deadline to RSVP: Fri. Dec 9th to Sharon at 788-5356

AAUW in Action

AAUW in Action is a study group that serves as a springboard for community service activities for our branch that promote AAUW's mission.

Next Meeting: January is an email meeting. If you are interested in joining us for a meeting, or just knowing what we're planning, please ask to be on our email list by sending an email to Erica at moogs56@hotmail.com

We are working on our March Women's History Month plans as well as organizing our 3rd WINGS program for April.

We'd like to start a new activity, "Write, Read, Write", and are looking for an elementary school classroom for the pilot program.

We invite you to join us!

Farewell to Bookfellows

By Marilyn Hempstead, Branch Historian

It was November 20, 1935 and The College Club (now La Crosse Branch AAUW) had been in existence for 15 years. After an organizational meeting initiated by member Miss Helen Dorset, a new study group Bookfellows met at the public library to hold its first book discussion. Miss Dorset, a classical scholar, set the high standards and served as president for the first 30 years.

In December, the second meeting established the format practiced thereafter. Meetings were held in the afternoon at the home of a member. Guests were served coffee, tea and dessert buffet style from a formal table set with silver and fine china. Then the paper prepared by a member was presented with discussion following.

A yearly theme such as "American Authors" (the first year's choice) was selected and each member researched and wrote a paper on a related author or book. Officers were president, secretary, and program and sunshine chairs. There were no dues, but collections were taken up to present a memorial book to the library or send flowers to a member who was ill. Elections were held at the May meeting and the next topic was selected.

With changing times, Bookfellows dwindled and now has its history stored in the archives of the public library.



An early group picture from the 1930's



2000

Front Row - Alex Cincere, Pat Sheehan, Marian Whiteway, Kay Fuller
Back Row - Lou Smith, Mary Bugge, Marian Schuyler, Marilyn Hempstead, Betty Heuslein, Liz Wing

Scholarships & Grants

By Robert Richardson, Co-Chair

Our committee members research possible grant recipients. We make those decisions in February.

We have posted our scholarship applications on our branch website. Completed applications must arrive in our hands by mid-February.

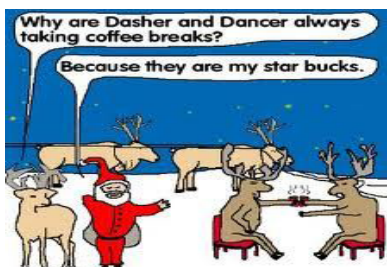


Most relevant to you? We ask branch members to nominate people for the **Karen Wilson Scholarship**. The nominator writes a letter of recommendation; the nominee completes the application.

The criteria for the scholarship appear below:

- 1) An applicant can be an AAUW member or can be nominated by an AAUW - La Crosse Branch member.
- 2) An applicant must be female and age 30 or older.
- 3) An applicant must apply credits earned with the help of this scholarship toward a specific educational goal. A person taking graduate courses toward a Master's Degree can apply. A person taking courses in order to update or change careers can apply. A person taking courses for personal enrichment will not be considered.
- 4) An applicant must plan to enroll for the next academic year in an institution of higher education (excluding proprietary schools).
- 5) An applicant must submit a typed 300-500 word essay. Include in the essay an explanation of:
 - A. educational goals,
 - B. why or how receiving this scholarship will support educational opportunity, and
 - C. financial need or special circumstances effecting educational progress.
- 6) An applicant must provide letters of reference from (A) the AAUW sponsor, if the applicant is a non-member; and (B) a faculty advisor, teacher, or employer who knows the applicant well enough to address the applicant's potential to succeed in higher education.

At our December meeting, we will distribute hard copies of the Karen Wilson Scholarship application. But, we want you to think early and often about your possible nominee!



Public Policy

From AAUW National's Washington Update

Are you wondering about AAUW's reaction to the election results? Listen to the recorded AAUW Election Analysis Conference Call (<http://www.aauw.org/article/analyzing-the-2016-election/>) for our take on the outcome of the 2016 election, and insight into the threats and opportunities we expect to see in the first 100 days of a Trump administration as well as the year ahead.

But Because You Want To Do More...

AAUW Action Network is a powerful community of activists who help share our message with legislators at all levels in all 50 states. Now more than ever, women's voices must be heard. Now is the time to grow our Action Network by sharing this message on Facebook:

"Our elected officials are making important decisions about education, economic security, health care, and civil rights every day. I take action on these issues with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and so should you! AAUW's brand of speaking truth to power is needed now more than ever. Be a part of Action Network: www.aauw.org/actionnetwork."



AAUW
Cheer of the Week

On Tuesday, Nov. 15th, the bipartisan Congressional Commission on the American Museum of Women's History presented a proposal for a new Smithsonian museum dedicated to women's history. In its 10-year strategic plan, the commission notes, "America needs and deserves a physical national museum dedicated to showcasing the historical experiences and impact of women in this country." AAUW has long been a leading proponent of the museum. In fact, the formation of this commission was a direct result of AAUW's Capitol Hill Lobby Day in 2011.

Bits and Pieces

- The House of Representatives passed the AAUW-supported "Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2016," which ensures the participation of women in conflict management and peace talks in foreign conflicts.
- On election night, several AAUW members won elected office. Of the known AAUW members who hold a position in their state legislature, all 19 women who were on the ballot were reelected.

FROM THE TREASURER

Kristin Foehner

Financial Report as of November 25, 2016

Checking Account\$10,000.47

CD'snone at this time

Scholarship Bridge.....\$763.02

AAUW National Convention 2017

Save the dates!

June 14-17, 2017 Washington, DC

The AAUW National Convention is the perfect two-for-one deal, combining both education and vacation opportunities to give you an amazing experience — we call it an “eduvacation.”

Develop the valuable leadership skills you need, and connect with fellow women leaders at our workshops, daily dialogues, and trainings. Gain new insight and inspiration from our speakers and awardees as they discuss the latest issues and share lessons from their own leadership journeys.



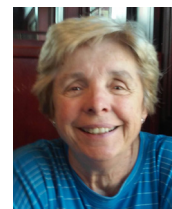
La Crosse Branch Cameos

“Cameo: a short descriptive literary sketch that neatly encapsulates someone or something.”

In an effort for each of us to get to know fellow branch members, we'll be featuring members in the monthly issues this year, answering these questions:

1. How did you find & join AAUW?
2. What significant changes/ improvements have you seen in AAUW over the years (older members)
What would you like to have the opportunity to contribute to the branch? (for newer members)
3. What do you think is the most important issue facing women today?
4. What's on your bucket list?
5. What's something we don't know about you?

Sharon De Cicco



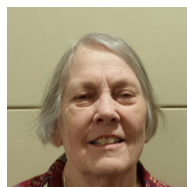
1) I found out about AAUW by reading an article in the newspaper. In the 1970's, the group met in people's homes. The article gave the name, place and time of the meeting and said if interested in the group, you were welcome to come. So I did and some time later I joined.

2) The biggest change I have seen is that we are more involved in the community and the world at large. We award scholarships and grants. We are helping women of all ages to better themselves.

3) Issues facing women are many. Equal pay, glass ceiling issues, respect, abuse are just a few.

4) My bucket list includes a trip to St. Petersburg, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania via a Baltic cruise.

5) I bet you didn't know that I was on synchronized swim team in college called the Dolphins.



Katie Webster

1) We moved to La Crosse in August, 1971. Two of my newest friends, Natalie Hartigan and Carol Taebel, introduced me to AAUW. Soon they became co-chairs of the Art Fair. When asked if I could help, I agreed and was given the job of finding the snow fences for the grounds. I certainly and quickly learned my way around La Crosse County while locating those fences. Art Fair has always a favorite program of mine and Natalie and Carol, in spite of the challenge they provided, continue to be special friends.

2) Although the number of fund raisers has decreased, our monthly programs continue to be very educational, community involved, and thought provoking.

3) These talented young women of today have the challenge of successfully and happily balancing family, home and careers--and hopefully finding time to volunteer!

4) Through the years we have traveled quite a bit, partly due to 9 to 10 years in the Army. My bucket is filled with wishes to spend as much time with our family as possible, to finish the family history scrapbook, and to research our family genealogies.

5) I was the first girl to be captain of the Safety Squad at Sigsbee Elementary School in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

We'd love to feature YOU in upcoming issues. Please send your answers to the above questions, along with a close up photo, to Erica at aauwlacrosse@hotmail.com anytime!



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

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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 EditorErica Koonmen (moogs56@hotmail.com)
Webminder*Position Open!*
Newsletter DesignTegan 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