



LOVE IN AN ENVELOPE

An Illustrated History of Valentines

Presenter: Marilyn Hempstead
AAUW La Crosse Branch Member

When: Saturday, February 13, 2016

Where: Cartwright Center, UWL

Breakfast Cost: \$10

Breakfast Menu:

Vegetarian Egg Bake(no cheese),
bacon, fruit, assorted bakery,
coffee & tea

Please note: Anyone with dietary restrictions should notify the person taking reservations. The food service will do their best to accommodate.

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 or late reservations please call Silvana Richardson at 608-526-9397 by NOON on Wednesday, Feb. 10.

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The Current

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FEBRUARY 2016



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Love is in the Air...

by Carol Robertson, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

Well, love may be in the air for Valentine's Day, but you sure can't tell it from the political "love fests" that are occurring in the news. And we still have almost nine months to go in this election cycle. But that should not stop us in AAUW of making sure that we are informed of issues as well as making sure all voters have the right to cast their votes. Ensuring that every citizen is able to vote without unnecessary restrictions is an initiative of local, state, and national AAUW.



Our Branch will observe Valentine's Day at our general meeting on Saturday, Feb. 13 where our own Marilyn Hempstead will help us keep love in the air with her program on "Love in an Envelope" – a welcome reminder that people do care about each other.

We as a Branch care about young men and women who want to pursue their education and in that

vein, the Scholarship Committee will meet in February to begin to review the many applicants for the scholarships and grants that our branch awards each year. Helping

these young (and some not so young) adults to complete their education is a way we care for those in need. Each year we hear their amazing stories and are impressed with their fortitude and perseverance.

The committee for Art Fair on the

Continued on Page 2 »

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Monday, Feb. 8, 2016; 6:30 pm

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

Contact Carol at:

399-1751 or cfrobertson@charter.net to place items on the agenda.

Love is in the Air... *(continued from page 1)*

Green met January 26th to start plans for the annual event which will be held the weekend of July 30th & 31st. Note that the dates are the fifth weekend of July. Usually the Art Fair falls on the fourth weekend but we stipulate that the art fair is held the “last full weekend in July”. This is the latest it can occur. Without the dedication of all of you who assist with the art fair, we could not award as many scholarships and awards as we do each year. Think about how you would like to participate this year and watch for ways to volunteer your time.

Thanks for all you do to make sure we are able to continue taking care of others.

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership

Several members were unable to attend the January meeting because of family situations.

Condolences to Susan Fabian on the loss of her brother-in-law.

Mary Garves, Ann Brice and Bev Bodine were care giving for family members.

Our thoughts are with you all.



Now is a good time to invite someone to join our branch with the dues at half price for this 2015/2016 program year.

Name Grant Nominations

It’s time for nominations for the 2016 Name Grant award. Your candidate should be an AAUW La Crosse Branch member who has been an active contributor to the association and the branch. Members are permitted to receive the honor only once (the back of the 2015-2016 directory has past recipients). The Name Grant award funds are contributed in the award-ee’s name from the branch to the national AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund. The mission of the fund is “to support educational and lifelong learning opportunities that give women a chance for a lifetime of success.”

Please let Jan Eriksen know of your nominee(s) for the grant. She can be reached at 796-3398 (office), 787-5946 (home), or jperiksen@viterbo.edu. You may leave a message at either of the telephone numbers. Please indicate why your candidate is deserving of the honor.

The deadline is March 19. The recipient will be announced at the annual meeting on April 9th.

FEBRUARY MEETING

(continued from Page 1)

Valentine customs have their origins in ancient Rome and the legend of St. Valentine. Our own Marilyn Hempstead will go through the evolution of Valentine greetings from then through the Middle Ages to the present showing how they were a reflection of the life and times of each era.

Featured will be images from her extensive collection of Valentines along with a display.



Art Fair Artist Committee Help Needed

The AAUW Art Fair on the Green Artist Committee is looking for another person to join us in finding, registering and working with our artists! You’ll be joining two seasoned committee members.

Commitment includes an April jury day for new artists and being available Friday July 29th and Saturday, July 30th to sign-in artists as they arrive. Please ask Sharon or Erica for more information.

STUDY GROUP	MEETING DAY/TIME	CONTACT PERSON
Bookfellows	3rd Wednesday of month at 2:00pm	Liz Wing, 782-7963
Scholarship Bridge/Card Games	TBA	Sharon DeCicco, 788-5356
Contemporary Authors	3rd Tuesday of month at 2:00pm	Alice Ross, 788-4206
Hearth & Home	meeting occasionally, see below for details	Sharon DeCicco, 788-5356
AAUW in Action	Various times & locations; please see below for current one	Erica Koonmen, 366-1509

Study Group News

HEARTH & HOME

Annual Hearth and Home Valentine's Party



Date: Wed., February 10th

Time: 6 p.m.

Place: Patt Boge's house: 219 S. 21st St. La Crosse

Bring a dish to pass that's either heart-shaped or served in a heart-shaped dish. If it's red, that's a bonus. Also bring an inexpensive (maximum \$10) red or heart-shaped gift to exchange.

New members are welcome!

Questions? Call Patt Boge at 784-3952 or p.boge@lacrosse.lib.wi.us.

AAUW IN ACTION



Next Meeting: Thursday, Feb 18,
1:00pm

Great Harvest Bread Co, 58 Copeland Ave, La Crosse

Upcoming activities:

- YWCA: Wednesday evening in February. Appetizers and activities with Ophelia's House and Ruth House women.
- International Women's Day Panel: March 10. See separate article on page 5 for more information.
- Celebrating Women's History Month with displays in the Pearl St. Bookstore window AND daily women's history blurbs in the La Crosse Tribune.

We welcome new members!

UWL SOUTH ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL: WHO IS 'INDIA'S DAUGHTER?'

In conjunction with International Women's Day, Gita Pai (UWL History), Mahruq Khan (UWL WGSS), and Nabamita Dutta (UWL Economics) would like to invite AAUW members to the South Asian Film Festival, which will take place at **6pm each weeknight Mon, Feb 29- Mon, March 7, 2016 in 1309 Centennial Hall**. The films will be followed by a guided discussion by a few members of the campus community. Events are free and open to the public.

We have also invited Director Sonali Gulati (Virginia Commonwealth University) for a reception (3/2 5 pm), post-film discussion (3/3), and lecture (3/4 10 am) that week. To RSVP for the reception: <http://www.eventbrite.com> or call 938-919-1468.

For a complete list of films and descriptions, please go to www.uwlax.edu/south-asian-filmfest.

Public Policy

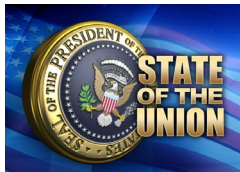
By Carlene Roberts, Public Policy Chair

Education For All

A report from the Center for American Progress found that states that have not embraced Common Core educational reforms have the lowest rates of growth in National Assessment of Educational Progress scores for low income students. Our AAUW mission to promote quality public education for all continues to be needed for our population and our country to succeed.



State of the Union Address



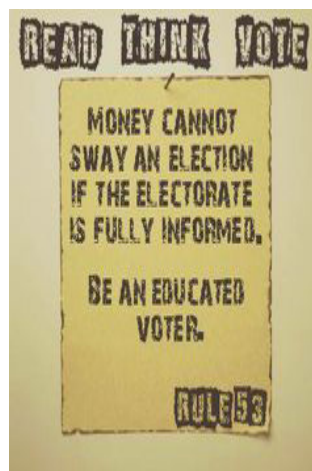
• In his State of the Union address Pres. Obama pledged to continue the fight for free community college tuition for 2 years for eligible students. AAUW supports

the concept and awaits details. Please contact the White House with your feedback.

- President Obama's address was organized around 4 themes, and AAUW priority issues are imbedded in each: equal pay for equal work, paid leave, raising the minimum wage, work-family life balance, K-12 education policy, gender equity in STEM fields, voting rights and educational loan repayment.
- AAUW priorities not mentioned are violence against women (especially campus sexual assault) and access to reproductive health services and birth control.

Responsibility

As part of a democracy and members of AAUW, we have a serious responsibility to EDUCATE OURSELVES about candidates, VOTE, and be ACTIVE CONSTITUENTS to those who are elected. AAUW resources can help us with all of these.



Nominations Needed for NCCWSL

Deadline extended to February 10!



Our La Crosse AAUW Branch has the opportunity to nominate college woman student leaders to receive a \$500 state scholarship to attend the National Conference of College Women Student Leaders.

If you know of a young college woman student leader you would like to nominate, please send the name to Carol Robertson by **February 10, 2016**. Eligible nominees must be enrolled in a program leading to an Associate degree (or equivalent), Bachelors degree, or Master's degree at a technical school or other 2-4 year public or private college/university.

Please include the following:

- 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 it was chosen
- How attendance at the conference would further the nominee's goals

For more information on the conference, please check the website AAUW.org or contact Carol Robertson: cfrobertson@charter.net or call: 608-399-1751.



“CHANGE IS OUR CHOICE” COURSE

What: 5 week Northwest Earth Institute Discussion Course

When: Thursdays Feb 11 - March 10, 6:30pm-8:00pm

Where: People's Food Co-op Community Room

Contact: Coulee Partners at info@cpslax.org or call 782-5727

Course book: ebook \$28

What you will learn:

- Explore climate change from scientific, psychological and social perspectives
- Consider how you can take action in your community
- Make & implement a plan of action
- Consider how you can take action on a larger scale.

FROM THE TREASURER

Kristin Foehner

Financial Report as of January 20, 2016

Checking Account\$10,331.18

CD'snone at this time

Scholarship Bridge.....\$810.02

Branch Nominating Committee to Meet

It's that time of year to think about filling branch positions for the coming year.

The Nominating Committee will meet in February to start the process.

If you are interested in being a member of the committee, email or call Carol Robertson.



International Women's Day

International Women's Day Reception and Program

March 10th Reception: 5:00 Program: 5:30

UW-L Centennial Hall, Hall of Nations; Room 1300

A coalition of organizations & university departments joins our AAUW La Crosse Branch in co-sponsoring an International Women's Day celebration. International Women's Day is celebrated all over the world annually on March 8th. The theme for 2016 is *Pledge for Parity* and the focus of our presentation is Women's Rights. The World Economic Forum has predicted that will take until 2133 to achieve global gender parity. Read more and take the pledge to take a concrete step to help achieve gender parity more quickly at: <http://www.internationalwomensday.com/Theme>.

Mark your calendar to hear panelists from the Congo, Malaysia and Sweden discuss what they've experienced for women's rights in their country or origin and how it compares to what they've experienced in the US.

This will be the 4th annual program in La Crosse that AAUW has initiated to commemorate this special day.

Sponsoring organizations are AAUW La Crosse, YWCA, League of Women Voters of La Crosse, World Services of La Crosse, Gundersen Global Partners, International Women's Group of La Crosse, UW-L Office of International Education, UW-L Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Dept., the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, Viterbo University and WTC.

Important Events and Dates in February

- **Black History Month**
- **National Human Trafficking and Slavery Prevention Month.**
Read more at <http://www.aauw.org/2013/11/15/human-trafficking/>
- **February 3: National Women and Girls in Sports Day...** recognizing the extraordinary achievements of those who have helped to effect change and create opportunities for women and girls in sports.
- **February 4: National Rosa Parks Day**
- **February 6: National Wear Red Day:** Wear RED to show your support for research preventing heart disease & strokes in women.
- **February 20: World Day of Social Justice.** Proclaimed by the United Nations. "For the United Nations, the pursuit of social justice for all is at the core of our global mission to promote development and human dignity."





American Association of University Women

La Crosse Branch

P.O. BOX 2112 • LA CROSSE, WI 54602-2112



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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

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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