

JANUARY MEETING

La Crosse: A Look Into the Future

Presenter: Jason Gilman

Director of Planning and Development for the City of La Crosse

When: Saturday, Jan. 14th, 2017

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

Breakfast Cost: \$10

Breakfast Menu: scrambled eggs, diced potatoes, sausage, pastries, coffee, tea and orange 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 9th.

The City of La Crosse is enjoying a burst of growth in building, in economic development, and in increased cooperation and collaboration with adjacent communities. This growth is evident around us and in the news regularly. To get the scoop on the plan for our city, and find out what is happening next and where we are going, please join us in welcoming

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The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 56, ISSUE 5

JANUARY 2017



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Happy New Year 2017!

by Michele Strange, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

As we greet the New Year we can look back on a very busy, productive 2016. And 2017 promises to bring new opportunities for our branch to award scholarships to deserving young students and grants to organizations in the Coulee Region that help further our mission.

This month is the inauguration of the 45th President of the United States, and AAUW National has some interesting points to convey regarding the nominating process for cabinet appointees. Please visit www.aauw.org for more information.

Please note that the day after the inauguration, AAUW will have an official delegation at the Women's March, slated to begin at 10:00 am on January 21st at Independence Avenue and Third Street SW, right in front of the U.S. Capitol. All are invited to join! Click: www.aauw.org.

Now to news closer to home.

At our December board meeting we decided to make a personnel change on the board. Carlene Roberts has been our public policy chair for at least four years and is eager to pass this important role on to someone else. Our secretary, Linda Myers,

is very interested in the topic and has offered to take on the position. The timing was excellent, because Jan Erickson just retired from Viterbo and someone suggested that

she may be willing to become more active. Jan has accepted the position

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NEXT BOARD MEETING

Monday, January 9, 2017

January will be an email meeting. Michele will send out the agenda and board members can respond with their reports which will be compiled into one report after the meeting.

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

Happy New Year 2017... *(continued from page 1)*

of board secretary and will begin her duties this month. Thank you, Jan, for stepping up to help us out! I know you have been secretary in the past, so your continued support is much appreciated. Thanks also go to Linda for being so flexible.

On December 12th I participated in a webinar called "Programs + New Members + \$ (Fundraising) = The Branch of Tomorrow". It gave me some interesting ideas--particularly about fund raising--that I will share with the board at our next meeting. We have been discussing strategies for rethinking how our budget can be more in balance. Stay tuned for more information on this topic.

As I am writing this I received in the mail a formal letter and a certificate of honor from AAUW National President Patricia Fae Ho recognizing our branch on its 95th anniversary. Just think, in five years we can have a 100th birthday party for ourselves! This will be a big celebration and another chance to get some good publicity for our branch.

Happy 2017!

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership

New Member!

Carlene Roberts recruited our newest member who joined at the December meeting.

Sarah Arthur
1145 Seiler Lane
La Crosse, WI54601
650 814 9118
UW Madison BS Molecular Biology
Sla73@sbcglobal.net
Sarah, welcome!



OTHER NEWS

Roz Schnick attended a gala in Washinton, D.C. as a guest of Congressman Ron Kind in December.

Former member Liz Wing is in the rehab unit of Bethany Riverside after hip replacement surgery.

Cindy Waltershausen plans a move to Urbana, Illinois to be near her daughter and family. Serving a term as secretary, she has contributed in many areas of our branch and will be missed. The Champagne-Urbana branch will gain a fine member. Best wishes to Cindy and George!

JANUARY MEETING

(continued from Page 1)

the person in the know, City Planner Jason Gilman, at our January meeting. It is easy to catch the excitement about growth and change when you hear Jason talk about our joint future. How does our city planning intersect with social justice issues, historic preservation, and projections for growth in our city? Any citizen can take a look at City plans at any time by going to the City of La Crosse website and looking over the plans. Just go to <http://www.cityoflacrosse.org/CityPlans> and you can look at the plans and think about what you would like to ask our expert speaker at our January meeting. Hope to see you at this important presentation.

Jason Gilman, AICP, (American Institute of Certified Planners), is the current Director of Planning and Development for the City of La Crosse. Jason is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and has nearly 30 years of public and private sector planning and landscape architecture experience. Jason has served both the Wisconsin and Minnesota Board of Directors Chapter of the American Planning Association and also served at the President of the Wisconsin Downtown Action Council. Jason has also served as an adjunct professor in State and Local Politics and Environmental Policy at UW La Crosse and Winona State University. He is a knowledgeable, thoughtful, and enthusiastic speaker.



*Jason
Gilman*

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

Hearth & Home study group meets periodically to explore new ideas, culinary experiences, fun activities and our area through visits to local businesses or in-home happenings. If you are interested in planning a program for the group or if you would like to head it up, please contact Sharon.

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

Thank you for all the cards, calendars and gift wrap donations at the December general meeting! Ardu delivered them to New Horizons and YWCA's Ophelia House (where they'll be shared with YWCA's Transitional Housing women and YWCA's Ruth House). They were very appreciative!

At the January general meeting (Jan.14th), we'll be collecting travel-size toiletries. Also the Family & Children's Center Adult Group Homes needs

Easy-Peasy Fundraiser

By Lois Gilbert



AAUW Art Fair Chair Carol Robertson has received word from La Crosse's People's Food Co-op that the Art Fair has been selected as one of the nonprofit organizations to be a Beans for Bags

recipient for the months of January and February, 2017. This easy-peasy fundraiser, lasting two months, means that any time someone shops at the Co-op and brings their own reusable bag, the shopper will receive a bean (for each reusable bag used) and can use that bean to "vote" by placing it in the glass jar labeled AAUW Art Fair on the Green. Each bean means a donation of five cents, which is the reusable bag credit. IT ALL ADDS UP! There are three different recipients, thus three glass jars, each time. Choose ART FAIR!

Every two months, the PFC chooses three local nonprofit groups as Beans for Bags recipients, and the choices are based on the areas of food, animal well-being, and social justice. The application to be a beans for bags recipient is on the PFC website. Please take reusable bags every time you shop at the Co-op in January and February and ask for one bean per bag, then use that bean to vote for Art Fair on the Green. And please encourage your friends, relatives, and neighbors to help with this easy-peasy fundraiser for us also. Thank you!

toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, puzzles & decks of cards so if you have any of those to donate, we'll be happy to drop them off.

We are working on our March Women's History Month plans: save the evening of Wednesday, March 8th for our 4th Annual International Women's Day Panel event. Lois Gilbert and her committee are busy lining up speakers.

We are organizing our 3rd WINGS program for early April.

We should have a new Social Media Intern helping us keep up-to-date after the first of the year. Look for more info about Rachel Cain in the next newsletter.

We invite you to join us!

Scholarships & Grants

By Robert Richardson, Co-Chair

The Scholarships and Grants Committee eagerly anticipates receiving and reviewing hundreds of applications (that's a slight exaggeration). We begin that process after the opening of the new year. We remind all members to consider willfully all possible nominees for the Karen Wilson Scholarship for women over 30 years of age.

The Scholarships and Grants Committee determines Grant Recipients based on direct alignment with our AAUW mission. The committee receives consideration requests from members and discusses all possible recipients.

In this issue of The Current, we continue meeting our grant recipients.



Scholarships and Emergency Mini-Grants for Self-Sufficiency Program, UW-La Crosse

Each semester, SSP graduates enrolled in area colleges apply for the "Locally Grown Scholarships," funded by AAUW-La Crosse Chapter and other generous donors who believe that education changes lives. These scholarships help nontraditional students meet the financial costs of going to school. Moreover, an AAUW-supported scholarship is "a stress relief (that) gives some wiggle room to spend more time on school work and less time worrying about finances," (SSP graduate and Viterbo student). The scholarship and awareness of AAUW's mission and commitments provide needed funds and valuable encouragement.

AAUW grants also support SSP's emergency fund that addresses the barriers that prevent SSP participants from completing the program or starting college. Funds have been used for monthly bus passes and gas cards; math refresher texts for Western GOAL Program students; fees for college applications, test-taking, and transcript requests; school supplies; and an occasional car repair.



Brighter Tomorrows is a subsidiary of Monroe County Sheltercare, which provides support services for adults, children and families.

Brighter Tomorrows has offices in Sparta and Tomah. Its mission is to reduce domestic violence and sexual assault in Monroe County, and empower individuals to create a safer personal environment through education and positive choices.

Brighter Tomorrows serves adults aged 18 and over, and services are available for persons of any income level. Most of the clients are women, though the number of men seeking assistance is increasing. Staffed by three persons who are on call 24/7, the organization offers free and confidential counseling and if necessary, safe shelter in its office locations or in secure transitional housing sites.

Public Policy

by Linda Myers, Chair

Progress on Pay Equity



In anticipation of Equal Pay Day in April, start the New Year working towards our goals!

Equal Pay is Good Business:

On December 7, 2016, 44 new companies, including Yahoo, eBay and Estee Lauder, signed the White House Equal Pay Pledge. Pledging companies commit to reviewing hiring and promotion policies to reduce structural barriers and unconscious bias, embedding equal pay efforts into corporate equity initiatives, and conducting annual gender-based pay analyses across occupations. Use your consumer power to support businesses that support equity! Visit the AAUW Advocacy website for full details.

Breaking the Pay Inequity Chain:

Pay discrimination starts early in women's careers. Many prospective employers rely on prior earnings to set salary for a new female employee, further compounding the problem. The Pay Equity for All Act (HR 6030) was referred to the House Education and the Workforce Committee on September 14, 2016. The Act protects job applicants from having to disclose salary history in order to be interviewed or considered for a job offer. Visit AAUW's Two Minute Activist webpage to urge your representative to support this important step in the path to economic empowerment!

Wisconsin Women Deserve Equality:

Did you know women in Wisconsin received just \$38, 594 to men's \$49, 306 in median earnings in 2015? AAUW's "The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap" (Fall 2016) provides important information



about pay disparities and advocacy strategies for members. Visit the AAUW Research webpage to learn more.

FROM THE TREASURER

Kristin Foehner

Financial Report as of December 20, 2016

Checking Account\$9,198.54

CD'snone at this time

Scholarship Bridge.....\$833.02

Plan to enter the 2017 AAUW Art Contest

We hear about the gender gap all the time — in salary, in math and science fields, in leadership. But one of the most glaring and long-standing gaps is in the art world. For centuries, women artists were unrecognized, unencouraged, or even discredited simply because they were not men.

Today, things have changed ... some. Still, in 2012, only 4 percent of artists on display at the Metropolitan Museum were women. There is just one major museum in the world dedicated solely to women artists. That's why we host an annual art contest to give women artists the equal attention they deserve.

The six winning entries will be featured in a collection of note cards mailed to AAUW members in the spring.

Submissions open January 4, 2017.

For more info:
<http://www.aauw.org/contests/>



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?

Lois Gilbert



1) My daughter had been a scholarship recipient years before, and there was another person I knew in my workplace who had been a member.

2) I think that AAUW is improving in being more involved in social justice ideas and thinking about women in other nations.

3) Protecting the right to make our own decisions about our bodies and our health.

4) More travel to the mountains, more trips to see Broadway plays!

5) I also belong to the La Crosse Interfaith Justice and Peace Network.

Ardus Cleveland

1) We moved to La Crosse in 1960 and I discovered a college friend had also moved here and was a member of AAUW. She asked me to the meetings and I joined the Branch in 1961.

2) Changed from an organization where the emphasis was more internal, speakers, study groups, etc. to outreach and support of community, state and national activities.

3) Many single mothers who are having difficulty finding jobs that have child care available while they are working; equal pay; difficulty entering the political arena, just to name a few.

4) Finish sorting the family photos and put them in albums for our children.

5) In 1974 I was elected Treasurer of the AAUW Branch on the island of Guam.

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



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

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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:
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