

## NOVEMBER MEETING

### Kosovo: Our Story

**Presenter:** Visiting Delegation from Kosovo

**When:** Saturday, Nov. 12, 2016

**Where:** Centennial Hall, UW-La Crosse

**Breakfast Cost:** \$10

**Breakfast Menu:**

Oatmeal/yogurt bar, assorted breads and mini scones, scrambled eggs, fresh fruit, 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.

**Registration** .....9:30 AM  
**Breakfast** .....10:00AM  
**Program** .....10:30AM

**RSVP DEADLINE:**

For cancellations and late reservations, please call Silvana at 608-788-0595 by NOON on MONDAY, November 7th.



Six delegates from the Republic of Kosovo will share experiences

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# The Current

*a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch*

VOLUME 56, ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2016



## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

### Thanksgiving

*by Michele Strange, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President*

As the days grow shorter and cooler, our branch is heating up for a brand new experience—the arrival of the Kosovo delegation that we are hosting!

Kudos to Betty Kruck and Carlene Roberts for all the hard work they have put in to make this happen. They have spent many hours contacting local presenters and lining up a five-day schedule, so the Kosovars will have information that will fulfill their mission: to learn more about how the La Crosse area handles victim rights and compensation for those affected by domestic/gender based violence.

I want to send out a special thank you to Lois Gilbert and Silvana Richardson for their outstanding work as program chairs. Their enthusiasm for planning the details of each program is so inspiring! This past month they have reached out to the Winona and Tomah branches to invite their members to join us for our

November meeting. Lois has also been busy securing sponsors for our 2017 International Women's Day event.



We are thankful for the extraordinary weather and the crowds at this year's Art Fair on the Green. I heard many

positive comments from artists and attendees. Carol Robertson has provided the final count for our proceeds from the event:

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## NEXT BOARD MEETING

**Monday, Nov. 7th 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](http://www.aauwlacrosse.org)

## Thanksgiving... *(continued from page 1)*

To Branch General Fund: \$ 1,759  
 To La Crosse Foundation (LCF): \$ 15,838  
 To LCF directly from sponsors: \$ 1,700  
 To LCF directly from members: \$ 1,685  
 Total to LCF for AAUW Scholarship Fund: \$ 19,223

As you can see, we will be able to give at minimum 19 scholarships and grants this coming spring! Thanks again to everyone who helped before, during and after the weekend.

Finally, in thanksgiving for the great freedoms we have in this country, be sure to vote on November 8th (or before) and urge others to vote.

And don't forget to stop by our table at the kick-off event for Global Initiatives Week on Friday, November 4th from 4 pm to 7 pm. The event will be held at the Myrick Park Center and will feature information tables, free food samples, multilingual story time, and cultural performances. Come and enjoy the festivities!

In case I missed anyone, thanks again for all you do.

## Help Wanted *by Michele Strange, Branch President*



The AAUW Board is seeking a few enthusiastic, talented members to serve as committee chairs. Carlene Roberts would like to retire as chair of the Public Policy. She has served several years in this capacity. We also need a chair of Publicity. If you have questions about this position, please contact Betty Kruck, who was done this job in the past.

Finally, we need a head of Fund Raising, which is one of our more important positions. We have willing members to help and several fund raising ideas; we just need someone to coordinate our efforts.

Please contact Michele Strange if you are willing to serve.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michele Strange  
 mstrange@eagle.uwlax.edu  
 608-781-6962

## NOVEMBER MEETING

*(continued from Page 1)*

related to domestic violence and victim rights. The delegation includes a judge, a victim advocate, several prosecutors and a senior legal officer from the Ministry of Justice.

Kosovo's Parliament recently adopted a crime victim compensation law.

The government is still determining its proper implementation.

The delegation is visiting La Crosse as part of an exchange program through the Open World Leadership Center arranged through World Services of La Crosse.

Our chapter of AAUW is the host organization for this week long program: "Domestic/Gender Based Violence: Victim's Rights and Compensation."



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## 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.*



On September 23rd, the Hearth & Home group took the La Crosse Trolley tour of downtown and then enjoyed lunch at 4 Sisters Wine Bar & Tapas Restaurant. We learned some interesting history and saw many of the grand old homes of the past. Thank you, Sharon, for organizing the event!

## 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:** TBA. 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 welcome new members and suggestions for events and programs.

## Scholarships & Grants

*By Robert Richardson, Co-Chair*

The Scholarship and Grants Committee of the AAUW La Crosse Branch (1) solicits applications from those seeking scholarships to support collegiate education and (2) researches organizations that need financial support to sustain their empowerment work. We annually award about \$20,000 in scholarships and \$5,000 in grants. If our Art Fair profits exceed expectations in any given year, the committee determines additional awards in the form of scholarships &/or grants.

We meet our scholarship recipients at our reception in May. In these next issues of The Current, we will describe our grant recipients. We want our members to develop an appreciation for the direct connection of our scholarship recipients and our grant recipients. It's a unique complementarity!

### Teen LEAD: A program of the YWCA La Crosse

LEADERSHIP is a scholarship program designed to address the needs of junior-aged high school girls in their development into confident, strong and active members of their communities. During this eight month program, qualified junior girls participate in a series of leadership activities. They benefit from the opportunity to enhance their leadership skills and to learn pathways to success from outstanding female community members.

The YWCA believes that every young woman has unique gifts and the potential to succeed, no matter what her background or what challenges she faces. These girls learn to look inside of themselves to develop inner strength, character, and the skills that it takes to be a true leader.

For more information, contact Teen Services Director Tracie Stinson at (608) 781-2783, Ext. 231 or email [tstinson@ywcalax.org](mailto:tstinson@ywcalax.org)

**Mission:** The YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

**Vision:** YWCA La Crosse empowers women to reach for their full potential and creates an inclusive community based on equality, respect, and dignity.

**ywca LEAD**  
Leadership Empowerment And Development

# Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership

At our October meeting we gained THREE new members!

Lema was our very interesting speaker telling of her native country Kosovo.

Lema Kabashi  
311 Losey Blvd. S.  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
412 297 6893  
UW-L PHD Special Ed  
lkabashi@uwlax.edu

Bobbi and Cindy are librarians, colleagues of Lois Gilbert who is a great ambassador for our branch in inviting her friends to join.

Barbara J. Cowgill  
3037 Lakota Place  
La Crosse, WI54601  
Western Reserve U MSLS  
608 784 0936  
bjcwg@netscape.net



Cindy Mishnick  
1633 S. 31st Place  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
UW-L MLS  
608 797 9330  
cydnick7@gmail.com

It was a pleasure to meet each. A warm welcome! We look forward to your involvement.

## Membership Updates



- Condolences go to **Andrea Hansen** on the September passing of her father Edwin Hansen.
- Also, thanks to Andrea, director of the Self Sufficiency Program, for the wonderful breakfast event on October 18th where we met many of the people whose lives were changed because of the educational opportunities provided by SSP.
- A final note on her is a correction of the zip code in the directory. It should be 54656.
- Change of email address for **Joan Koonmen**:  
jckflits@outlook.com
- Change of address for **Margaret Winch**:  
2904 East Ave. S. Apt. 110  
La Crosse, WI 54601

# Public Policy

By Carlene Roberts, Public Policy Chair

**VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!**

Do you know anyone who may not vote because they need a ride, need someone to watch their children, need assistance due to limited mobility or vision? If you do, please help out if you can, or give them my name and phone number. Carlene Roberts, 788-0868. And any of you who would also be willing to help out, please give me a call.

**VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!**

COME ONE COME ALL to our Nov. 12 AAUW brunch with program provided by our Kosovo delegation. Our branch is hosting a group brought by World Services and Open World Programs to learn about our LaCrosse Community Coordinated Response Team for those experiencing domestic/gender based violence. We will share with them legal, law enforcement, health care, prevention, protection, shelter, recovery and compensation programs. They will share with us their involvement in Kosovo's efforts to deal with this violence.

Bring a friend, spouse, relative etc. to hear their message.

ALSO, we will host an open *community reception* for our Kosovo guests:

**Wednesday, November 16, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.**  
**on UW-L campus at Centennial Hall**, Hall of Nations. They will speak to the group at 5:30 p.m. Please pass the word to groups you are involved in, friends, neighbors, etc. NO reservation necessary.

**VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!**





## FROM THE TREASURER

*Kristin Foehner*

### Financial Report as of October 20, 2016

Checking Account .....\$7,701.34

CD's .....none at this time

Scholarship Bridge.....\$683.02

### Global Initiatives Week: Nov 4-11, 2016



You are invited to attend the Kick-Off event for the 4th Annual Global Initiatives Week!

When: Friday, Nov. 4, 2016

Time: 4pm-7pm

Where: Myrick Park Center  
2000 La Crosse St  
La Crosse

Cost: Free

- Free Appetizers
- Multi-lingual Children's Story Time
- Dance & Music Performances
- Information about our region's global and cultural connections.

For more information:  
<http://www.explorelacrosse.com/global/>

Our AAUW branch will have a table at the Kick-Off!



## 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?

### *Sangeetha Kelly*



1) I found and joined AAUW through an accidental phone call with Lois Gilbert. She explained what AAUW does, and that got me curious and interested.

2) I would like to be an active participant in the scholarship committee as my contribution to the branch and trying to bring in more new members.

3) Various aspects of women's rights from the right to choose, affordable childcare and equal pay for women.

4) I would like to visit Africa as part of my bucket list.

5) One thing you don't know about me is that I won a trip to Italy many years ago by smooth talking my way through the interview. It worked!

*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](mailto:aauwlacrosse@hotmail.com) anytime!*

## Shop at Target, Support AAUW



AAUW is pleased to announce a new member benefit with Target. Every time you make a Target.com purchase, you can now donate to AAUW — and take advantage of weekly flash sales and promotions!

For every Target.com purchase you make, AAUW earns up to 5 percent commission. It's a win-win situation! Simply use AAUW's dedicated link, [bit.ly/AAUWtarget](http://bit.ly/AAUWtarget), to shop for your favorite items at Target. All sales made through our link will be eligible for supporting AAUW.

Even better, when you sign up for a wedding, baby, or college registry at Target.com via AAUW's member link, AAUW will get a \$4-\$6 donation. We'll also get \$8 for every Target REDcard registration.



**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](mailto:aauwlacrosse@hotmail.com)