

*February Meeting:  
Partnership  
and Community  
Building in Haiti*



# The Current

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

VOLUME 52, ISSUE 6

FEBRUARY 2013

**Presenter: Beverly Ruston**  
**When:** Saturday, Feb. 9, 2013  
**Where:** Room 1300,  
Centennial Hall, UWL

**Breakfast Cost:** \$10.00  
**Menu:** *Scrambled eggs, Bacon,  
Breads/scones, Fruit tray,  
Juice, Coffee*

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

Registration ..... 9:30am  
Breakfast ..... 10:00am  
Program ..... 10:30am

*For cancellations or late reservations contact Pat Markos at [pmarkos@uwlax.edu](mailto:pmarkos@uwlax.edu) or 780-8623 or Marla French at [mfrench000@centurytel.net](mailto:mfrench000@centurytel.net) or 782-6589 by noon on Wed., Feb. 6, 2013.*

Bev Ruston, a retired medical social worker who has gone on seven medical missions to Haiti, will talk on how Haiti got to be the country it is now. She will update us on conditions in Haiti especially since the 2010 earthquake that she and other church members lived through and will tell us what we can do to help the Haitian people.



## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

### Always Busy!

*by Carol Robertson, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President*

As we all settle into 2013, I would like to call your attention to several projects that our Branch is sponsoring in the coming months. Details are covered for each of these in separate articles in this issue of the Current: Herbergers' Community Days, 25 Books for 25 Years (Plus), Salary Negotiation Workshop, and A Celebration of International Women. Each of these programs is designed to educate and/or raise funds for us to continue supporting the empowering of women whether in education or the workplace. Please take time to read about each of these worthwhile endeavors and decide how you can support them.

In one of the myriad emails that arrived in my inbox was one announcing that AAUW National will be unveiling a new logo and new website in the month of February. Both will be launched on February 20th and will be featured in the email issue of Mission & Action to be sent on February 21. Tools will be provided to minimize the cost of updating materials.

More information will follow as it becomes available.

Even though the heat of July seems far off, the Art Fair committee is ramping up to provide another great weekend of superior artwork, good food, and fun. Be sure to mark July 27 & 28 on your calendar and if you haven't already volunteered, think how you can contribute your time and talent to the art fair. A big thank you to Pat Staupe and her committee for another successful 2012 art fair. Their efforts give us the opportunity once again to offer a

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## Next Board Meeting

**Monday, February 4th, 6:30 pm**

River Place Apartments  
1 River Place Dr.

Meetings are open to any member who is interested in attending.

**Contact Carol at:** 519-0548 or [cfr Robertson@charter.net](mailto:cfr Robertson@charter.net) to place items on the agenda

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Get all the CURRENT news at our website: [www.aauwlacrosse.org](http://www.aauwlacrosse.org)

## Always Busy... *(continued from pg. 1)*

significant number of scholarships.

And if you have a friend you have been meaning to ask to attend AAUW with you, now is a good time for someone to join as membership is half price. Check out the info with Marilyn Hempstead.

As you can see, we never run out of causes or projects.

Thanks for all you do.

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## Membership News

*by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership*

It was a pleasure to welcome 3 guests in December and we would be happy to welcome more in the New Year.

As always, you are encouraged to invite guests to our meetings.



**Our condolences** to member Phyllis Miletto for the loss of her husband on January 1st, 2013.

**Condolences** to the family of Marian Schuyler who was a valued member of both of our book clubs. She will be missed.

**And our sympathy** goes out to Carlene Roberts on the passing of her long time ward, Michael Sandberg, her cousin's son.

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## Nominating Committee

*by Carol Robertson*

Sharon DeCiccio and Jan Eriksen have graciously consented to serve with me on the Nominating Committee this year.

The Committee will be meeting soon to nominate the slate of officers for the 2013-2014 year.

Thank you to Sharon and Jan for their time.



## February Meeting (cont.)

Bev is a member of a mission team from First Presbyterian Church in La Crosse that makes an annual trip to Haiti. The team travels to the remote community of St. Martin. They set up a mobile clinic there and typically see between 150 to 200 patients per day.

Ruston has said Haiti is “a desperate place” because of the level of poverty and ineffectiveness of government to provide basic services like water, roads or health care.



*Bev Ruston*

## Directory Correction

*The date for the Scholarship Brunch is listed incorrectly in the directory.*

*It is listed as Sat. May 3, and that Saturday is actually May 4.*

Study Group	Meeting day/time	Contact person
Bookfellows	3rd Wednesday of month at 2:00pm	Pat Sheehan, 788-3808
Scholarship Bridge/Card Games	TBA	Sharon DeCicco, 788-5356
Contemporary Authors	3rd Tuesday of month at 2:00pm	Alice Ross, 788-4206
Hearth & Home	3rd Wednesday of month, evenings	Pat Staupe, 788-7439
AAUW in Action	3rd Thursday of month at 6:00pm	Erica Koonmen, 366-1509

## Study Group News

### Hearth & Home



The Hearth and Home annual Valentine's Party!

Wednesday, February 13

6 p.m. at the home of

Patricia Boge; 219 21st St. S., La Crosse

Please bring something to eat that is either heart-shaped or in a heart dish.

Also bring an inexpensive Valentine's gift to exchange.

Questions? Call 784-3952 or email  
patriciaboge@yahoo.com.



### AAUW in Action

*Next Meeting: Thursday, February 7, 2013  
6:00 pm, River Place Apts, 1 River Place Dr.*

Our next collection will be in March for paper goods (toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, etc...)

We have the following events or workshops planned for this year. If you are interested in being involved with any of these programs, please let us know.

- **25 Books for 25 Years.** This program celebrates the designation of the month of March as Women's History Month. We're partnering with Pearl St. Books again to offer 20% off. Booklists will be found at our website ([www.aauwlacrosse.org](http://www.aauwlacrosse.org)) and at the store. The program runs February 15 -March 25, 2013.

- **A Celebration of International Women: 4 Cultural Viewpoints.** This one time event will feature women from 4 cultures speaking about the perception of women in their culture; current roles and future opportunities. Thursday, March 7, 7-8 pm, UWL. Open to public.

- **\$tart \$mart: Salary Negotiation Skills Workshop for Women.** This is geared for college seniors. Apr 9, 4-5pm, UWL.

# 2013 AAUW ART FAIR ON THE GREEN

By Pat Staupe, Chair



Our art fair committee has begun working on the 2013 show. At a recent meeting we discussed ways to make our art fair run more efficiently so that it isn't so labor-intensive for some of our committee members. Most of our Branch members probably aren't aware of the labor that a few of our members do each year to set up the grounds and remove the trash. Yes, we are responsible for trash removal! We will be looking for ways to lighten our load and yet have a good profit at the end of our art fair. Concessions and Hospitality are also areas that are being evaluated so you may see some changes this year. Having outside vendors participate has been quite successful and means that we don't have to provide safe, healthy concessions. We may expand the concessions to include more vendors.

Packets for artist registration will be going out soon. If you have a name of a new artist to suggest, please forward the name of the artist and any pertinent information to Erica Koonmen or Carol Robertson.

Final monetary distributions from the 2012 art fair are:

To La Crosse Community Foundation - \$16, 227.75 (plus \$1,380 from member donations)

To AAUW General Fund - \$1,803.08

**DATES: JULY 27-28, 2013**

## New Website

by Erica Koonmen

Our new website for the La Crosse branch is up and running. The address remains the same-- [www.aauwlacrosse.org](http://www.aauwlacrosse.org) -- but it has a new look.

You can find archived issues of The Current there as well as a calendar of events, up-to-date information on the study groups and all the scholarship forms can be downloaded for printing.

## Public Policy

By Carlene Roberts, Chair

### Take Action! Tell Congress to Pass VAWA Now!



A bipartisan group of senators has just announced the reintroduction of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). VAWA was first enacted in 1994, but expired nearly 2 years ago. This important

legislation saved lives and dollars for many years. The Senate passed this bill in 2012, but the House did not, so we must renew our efforts. Let's keep the momentum going by urging our senators to cosponsor and vote for VAWA.

Contact Sen. Tammy Baldwin and Sen. Ron Johnson through AAUW Action Network, by letter or phone.

### What's Next After the Fiscal Cliff Deal...

we still have work to do.

The automatic spending cuts have been delayed, but they are still dangerous. In the next two months, Congress will need to find a solution to avoid deep cuts to important investments such as education, funding for civil rights enforcement, women's health programs, and workforce training programs.

Your voice was critical in reaching this last deal; now it's time to finish the job. We'll let you know of key moments in the coming debate when we need to urge Congress to protect these important programs from sequestration.

Thank you for all you've done so far—let's keep it up.

**ALSO**--Watch for Pres. Obama's State of the Union address on Feb. 12th.



*From the Treasurer  
Michele Strange*

**Financial Report as of  
January 20, 2013**

Checking Account .....\$12,781.57

**CD's**

*none at this time*

Scholarship Bridge .....\$284.02

**More from the  
Treasurer...**

2012 Art Fair proceeds to  
general fund :

\$1,803.08

December Silent Auction;

\$333.00

Jewelry Sales for LAF:

\$120.00

Thanks to Ruth Ann  
Knapp for her donations

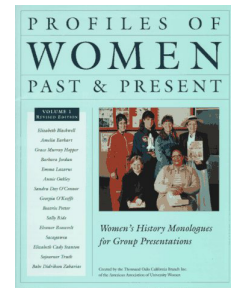
Transfer from Scholarship  
Bridge Account to our

Scholarship Fund :

\$1,000.00

## Join The Profiles of Women Cast!

The AAUW In Action (AIA) study group will once again be presenting their Profiles of Women Past & Present program in March to celebrate Women's History Month. Anyone interested in portraying a first-person character is welcome to participate! Short scripts are available for a wide range of inspirational women. The scripts do not have to be memorized and are usually hidden in the props so they can be referred to during the presentation. Each script comes with a suggested costume and props, all easily obtainable. Each person's part lasts about 5 minutes.



The program will be presented on

***Tuesday, Mar 19, 7pm, South Library.***

We'll be inviting the public as well as local organizations serving women.

This is a low-pressure, fun activity!

If you're interested in more information and/or would like to see the list of scripts available, please contact Erica at [moogs56@hotmail.com](mailto:moogs56@hotmail.com) or 608-366-1509.

## Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) Community Days

*By Bev Bodine, Chair*

Herberger's Community Days is March 1st and 2nd this year. Booklets will be available for pickup at the February General Meeting with the remainder being mailed out.

Help is again needed with selling the booklets at Herberger's both before and during the days of the event.

Sign up for a 2-hour shift – with a friend if you like. If you are willing to help, please contact Bev Bodine at 781-3849 or [bevbodine@yahoo.com](mailto:bevbodine@yahoo.com).

This is our annual LAF fundraiser. Last year we sent \$1,000 to help support this fund which works to end sex discrimination in workplaces and in higher education.

Thanks for your support.





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)**