

# The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 53, ISSUE 9

MAY 2014

## May Meeting: Scholarship and Award Brunch

**When:** Saturday, May 3, 2014

**Where:** Viterbo University,  
Room 195 of the School of  
Nursing at Viterbo University.  
10th & Jackson ... Park in any  
lot or on 10th Street.

**Breakfast Cost:** \$10.00

**Menu:** Choice of meat or  
vegetarian quiche, assorted fresh  
fruit, Potatoes O'Brien, scones  
Coffee, Hot Tea .

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 Marla French  
at [mfrench000@centurytel.net](mailto:mfrench000@centurytel.net) or  
782-6589 by noon on Wednesday,  
April 30, 2014.

We will host upwards of 40 guests  
at our scholarship brunch. We will  
recognize 20 scholarship recipients,  
5 grant recipients, and 1 artist from  
UW-L. Each recipient has been  
invited to bring a guest.

There is no other program, but  
meeting these enthusiastic young



### PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

## Finally, Spring!

by Carol Robertson, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

We are finally able to see signs of  
spring around us after the ridiculous  
winter we have

experienced (not that  
I am complaining).  
Buds are on the trees  
and flowers are trying  
to break through.

Because of the long  
winter, it seems the  
Annual Scholarship  
Brunch came quickly  
even though the Committee has  
been working diligently for several  
months to select the recipients.

Thank you to Sharon DeCicco and  
Robert Richardson, Co-Chairs, for  
their leadership of the Scholarship  
Committee and to all the members  
of the committee. On May 3rd,  
our Branch will award \$25,000 in  
scholarships. I hope many of you  
plan to attend the brunch. It truly  
is the culmination of our branch's  
efforts throughout the year. And  
do think about sponsoring the  
award winners by paying for the  
cost of the brunch for them. Details  
are elsewhere in this issue of the  
Current.

Before we move on to Art Fair on  
the Green, I would like to thank

Andrea Hansen, Erica  
Koonmen, Liz Nutter,  
and Lois Gilbert for  
the wonderful job  
of organizing the  
WINGS (Women  
Interested in Going  
to School) workshop  
on April 12. The  
workshop was filled

with valuable information for the  
attendees to learn how to further  
their education. Job well done!

Also, a shout out of thanks goes to

*Continued on Page 2 »*



### Next Board Meeting

**There will be no board meeting  
this month.** If any items come up,  
they will be handled via email.  
We held the Annual Business meet-  
ing in April so no business will be  
conducted at the Scholarship Brunch.

**Questions or concerns may be  
directed to Carol at: 519-0548 or  
[cfrobertson@charter.net](mailto:cfrobertson@charter.net)**

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

## Finally, Spring! *(continued from pg. 1)*

Marcia Wine for her fundraising efforts for Herbergers Community Days. We raised over \$1300.00 for LAF. Another job well done!

Now it's time to turn our efforts to the 56th AAUW Art Fair on the Green. Committees have been working since January in preparation for the Art Fair on July 26 & 27, UW-L grounds. The committee requests all members' help in carrying out the details of the weekend. If you're not sure what all the volunteer needs are, just let Marla French know that you are willing and she will find a spot for you.

As I said at the Annual Meeting in April, it is a privilege to serve as President of this Branch. Members believe in what we do and step up when called upon.

Thanks to all of you!

## Membership News

*by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership*

### ***Address Change***

Marian Ford now resides at Bethany Riverside, 2575 S. 7th St.,  
La Crosse, Wi. 54601

### ***AAUW National Membership Programs***

If you know of someone graduating this spring who would be a potential member, *Give-A-Grad-A-Gift* offers free year national membership. Grads are eligible for a year after graduating. We gave 2 of them last year. For help with the application process, my email is marizah@yahoo.com.

In the *Shape the Future Campaign* anyone who joins at a branch event pays only half of the national dues of \$49.00. I'll have membership materials at the art fair information booth.

### ***AAUW Dues Tax Deductibility***

Whoops, this info is too late for this tax cycle, but here it is: \$46.00 of national dues are tax deductible. The other \$3.00 is used to support the AAUW Action Fund's Lobby Corps and election-related activities.



## ***May Meeting (cont)...***

people is program enough. It's a great reminder of why we put so much effort into our Art Fair each year.

Our branch does not charge the recipients or guests for these meals. Historically, AAUW members have contributed to "sponsor" a recipient (\$10) or a recipient and guest (\$20).

If you can participate in this sponsorship program, you may pay in advance by sending a check to Treasurer Michele Strange or you can pay upon arrival at the bunch on May 3rd.

Thank you for your generosity!

## **Branch Executive Board Elections**



*2014-2015 Board: (L-R) Sue Heuer, Marilyn Hempstead, Cindy Walterhausen, Carol Robertson, Michele Strange. Not pictured: Marla French*

Congratulations to Sue Heuer, Co-VP, Program and Cindy Walterhausen, Secretary. They were elected at the April general meeting.

Returning are: Carol Robertson, President, Marilyn Hempstead, VP-Membership, Marla French, Co-VP, Program, and Michele Strange, Treasurer.

Thank you to Carol Taebel for her term as Co-VP, Program and to Jean Petri as Secretary. We appreciate their time and efforts this past year.

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	3rd Wednesday of month, evenings	Sharon DeCicco, 788-5356
AAUW in Action	Second Saturday of month, after general meeting	Erica Koonmen, 366-1509

## Study Group News

### Hearth & Home

#### *Italian dinner cook-off!*

Date: **Wednesday, May 14**

Time: **6:00 p.m.**

Host: Erica Koonmen

1214 Jefferson Ave, Sparta

You're invited to join in the cooking fun! Two teams will take turns choosing ingredients and then have 60 minutes to prepare an appetizer, entree and dessert using only those ingredients. While some team members cook, others will set a festive table. When the time is up, we'll sample all the dishes and vote on the winners!



In order to have enough food, please RSVP as early as possible. You'll be asked to bring a food item to contribute to the mix but the antipasto and beverages will be provided.

Please RSVP by **May 7th** to Erica at 608-366-1509 or moogs56@hotmail.com.

### AAUW in Action

**Next Meeting:** *Thursday, May 22, 2014*  
 1214 Jefferson Ave., Sparta  
*Potluck dinner/ year end re-cap meeting*

We're wrapping up another year of fun events and programs. Some of the past months highlights are:

- **Profiles of Women.** We hope you all enjoyed the presentation at last month's general meeting. On April 29th, we'll be doing another one for the teen group at the YWCA. I think it would be great to expand our scripts to include more Wisconsin women; anyone interested in working on that??
- **International Women's Day Panel.** This program was well attended; our audience keeps growing! We're already looking ahead to next year's panel.
- **Internships.** The branch offered its first one this spring in "Public Policy". More are in the works for the fall in "Social Media" and "Diversity".
- **WINGS.** Eleven women attended this informative program on April 12th. All the evaluations were positive and appreciative so we'd like to offer this program again!

New members are always welcome!



## 2014 AAUW ART FAIR ON THE GREEN

The Art Fair is rapidly approaching so this is a reminder to keep July 26 & 27 open. We will need many volunteers for the various jobs and you will have plenty of new art work to enjoy. This is a great event to shop for special gifts for family and friends. Remember that gift certificates are available for Mother's Day or Father's Day! Just contact Jan Eriksen to purchase one.

**Artists report:** by Erica Koonmen and Carol Robertson  
27 new artists were juried in for this year's fair; an exciting variety.

### **Concessions:** by Betty Kruck

Our branch will be selling water and pop again this year. We welcome donations of both. Please contact Betty: 608-689-222; krux@mwt.net or Michele : 608-781-6962; mstrange@uwlax.edu to donate.

### **Volunteers:** by Marla French

Attention all AAUW members! There's an opportunity for anyone and everyone, as well as your spouses or significant others to help out!! Even responsible children, as long as you're there with them. You are always part of a team at whatever job you're doing.

First, help is needed with **setting up the grounds on Friday morning at 8:00am**, as well as **take down at 4:00pm Sunday**. Many hands make for light work!!

**Ticket sellers** are needed--36 positions to fill there. The **Raffle** area needs 10 more. **Concessions** requires another 12 people, and 6 more for **booth sitting**. In the past, many of you have helped out in several positions, for example set up or take down, plus selling tickets. Others like to work in both Concessions and Tickets.

It may sound overwhelming, yet all it takes is an email or phone call on your part, making my job easier. The more slots you fill for me, the fewer pleading calls I need to make.

If you prefer a specific time, indicate that, and I'll do my best to work it out for you. Please contact me at mrfrench000@centurytel.net or 782-6589.

Thank you in advance!

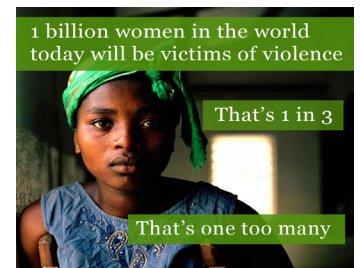
## Public Policy

By Carlene Roberts, Chair

### Some Good News on Violence Against Women Issues

- At the end of March the Supreme Court, with a vote of 9-0, upheld a federal law banning gun ownership for those convicted of domestic violence.
- On March 28 the U.S. Treasury Department announced that domestic abuse survivors who live separately from their spouse will be able to access Affordable Care Act subsidies. This eliminates one factor that keeps women experiencing violence from leaving their abusers.
- As the Department of Education continues rule making negotiations, increased attention is being paid to sexual assault on college campuses. This is due to rising numbers of victims coming forward and demanding protection. Our AAUW Government Relations Manager is calling for real weight to be put behind initiatives to end sexual assault.

We need to continue to make our voices heard in LaCrosse, Madison and Washington D.C. on this important issue, and to support those experiencing violence everywhere.



**Given the following possibilities, can you pick the right answer?** Mother's Day began:

- In 1858, when Anna Jarvis, a young Appalachian homemaker, organized "Mother's Work Days" to improve the sanitation and avert deaths from disease-bearing insects and seepage of polluted water.

- In 1872, when Boston poet, pacifist and women's suffragist Julia Ward Howe established a special day for mothers --and for peace-- not long after the bloody Franco-Prussian War.

- In 1905, when Anna Jarvis died. Her daughter, also named Anna, decided to memorialize her mother's life-long activism, and began a campaign that culminated in 1914 when Congress passed a Mother's Day resolution.

**The correct answer:** All of the above. Each woman and all of these events have contributed to the present occasion now celebrated on the second Sunday in May.

*From the Treasurer*  
*Michele Strange*

**Financial Report as of**  
**April 20, 2014**

**Checking Account** .....\$14,433.50

**CD's**

*none at this time*

**Scholarship Bridge** .....\$984.02

**More from the**  
**Treasurer...**

*Dues Reminder*

Please note that you may now begin renewing your AAUW membership for next year (2014-15). Deadline for membership dues is June 30, 2014.

Dues are \$70 of which \$46 is tax-deductible. More information of dues breakdown can be found on the renewal form sent to you in a separate email. Please submit the form and a check for \$70 before June 30th. If you are unable to return it at the May meeting, my mailing address is below:

Michele Strange  
2442 Redwing Rd.  
La Crosse, WI 54601

## Artspire La Crosse

*by Robert Richardson, Chair*

AAUW will participate in the first ARTSPIRE event in La Crosse, scheduled downtown for June 13-14. On Saturday the 14th, we will host a tent in which we will feature art and artists and publicize our own Art Fair on the Green.

We need to borrow art from AAUW members. We want to display art that has been purchased at the Art Fair on the Green. We need members to let us borrow those pieces of various genres.

Also, we need some of our members to make appearances in our tent as living-representatives of women artists. These women would talk about their artist-selves. We need members to volunteer to fill these roles.

Please contact Robert Richardson at 608-788-0595 or richards.rob2@uwlax.edu.



## Wine for Women's Health

Options Clinic invites you to join them for an evening of good food, good wine and good company at their annual fundraiser, Wine for Women's Health, to celebrate National Women's Health Week (May 11-17, 2014).

Thursday, May 15, 2014

5:30 pm- 8:30 pm

The City Brewing Co. Hospitality Center

1111 3rd St, La Crosse

\$25 in Advance/ \$ 30 at the door. Ticket price includes a fresh seasonal buffet provided by Nell's Vity Gril and a signature drink created by Nell.

Wine ~ Dinner ~ Silent Auction ~ Live Auction ~ Door Prizes

Call 608-775-8380 to reserve your ticket.

To see all of Options Clinic's National Women's Health Week events, visit [www.optionsclinic.org](http://www.optionsclinic.org)



May 11-17, 2014



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

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)