

October Meeting:

Kosovo: My Story

By Dr. Lema Kabashi,
UWL Professor

Election Update

By Deb Lutjen,
League of Women Voters

When: Saturday, October 8, 2016

Where: UW-L Ward Room
Cartwright Center

Breakfast Menu: Oatmeal/yogurt
bar, scrambled eggs, fresh fruit,
coffee, tea and juice

Breakfast Cost: \$10

Registration.....9:30 AM

Breakfast.....10:00AM

Program.....10:30AM

RSVP DEADLINE:

Members and guests are welcome to attend the brunch or just the program. Please indicate such when you RSVP. For late reservations or cancellations, please call Silvana at 788-0595 by NOON on Monday, October 3rd.

We are fortunate to have two presenters for the October meeting. Dr. Lema Kabashi, assistant professor of Education at UW-La Crosse will share her personal story as a native of Kosovo. Deb Lutjen from the League of Women Voters will prepare us with updates on the November elections. Wearing her "other hat" Deb will share information from World Services about the November visit with the delegation from Kosovo.

Kosovo: My Story

This is a story of a young woman

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The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 56, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2016



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Think Globally, Act Locally

by Michele Strange, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

Our first meeting of the year was deemed a success, thanks to all the planning by Lois Gilbert and Silvana Richardson. The Conversations and Cocktails event included a lot of good food, libations, door prizes, mingling and laughter. Pam Thiel did an excellent job presenting an overview of the accomplishments of AAUW National.

About 35 to 40 people attended our reception, including Lema Kabashi, our October brunch presenter. Some members brought potential new members. One person said she was very impressed with our organization and signed up on the spot! Others took application forms home. The verdict was that we may repeat this event next year.

Our upcoming events for the next couple of months remind me of the popular saying "Think globally, act locally". On the national level, did you know that AAUW has numerous global connections? See their website at www.aauw.org/what-we-do/global-connections/ They also sponsor programs like international

fellowships. For information on these programs see www.aauw.org/what-we-do/global-connections/international-programs/



On Friday, November 4th, AAUW will again have a booth at the kick-off event

for this year's Global Initiatives Week. The event will be held at Myrick Park Center from 4-7 p.m, with free food samples, multilingual story time and cultural performances. Please stop

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Next Board Meeting

Monday, October 3 2016

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.

Think Globally, Act Locally ... *(continued from pg. 1)*

by and enjoy the offerings. More information, see their website, www.explorelacrosse.com/global/

Our next two general meetings will feature our involvement with the World Services Kosovo delegation to La Crosse. Our branch is the host organization for the visit. As you see in the article on our October meeting, Dr. Lema Kabashi will be our speaker. She will give us background information on the country she was born in, so we will have a better perspective on Kosovo before the arrival of the delegation.

Our November meeting will feature a visit from our Kosovo delegates, fresh from their stopover in Washington, DC. This will mark the first day of their week in La Crosse. More information will be forthcoming about the events planned for their stay. We are still in need of host families to house our visitors. If you can help, please let me know.

I hope that all of you will be able to join us for both of these meetings, as this is a "first" for our branch.

Thanks for all you do!

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership

Welcome

Mary O'Sullivan, Francie Ball's guest at our September meeting, has joined our branch. Add her information to your new directory.

Mary O'Sullivan N1079 Lauterbach Road La Crosse, WI 54601
608 787 1748; maryo@centurytel.net
UW Madison PHD Curriculum-Instruction

Welcome Mary and thanks to Francie!

Directory Changes

Following is corrected information for our 2016/17 directory of new member Tita Yutuc. She has a changed telephone number and there were errors in the spelling of her last name and her degree.

Tita Yutuc 916 Cliffwood Lane La Crosse, WI 54601
608 386 2902; badgers86@msn.com
UW Madison MSW

Members Not Renewing

Due to life circumstances several members are not rejoining our branch this year. One is Nan Kember who explained she is leaving the branch because she and her husband Jerry, a retired school superintendent for the La Crosse District, are moving to Black Earth. There they will be close to family. In the meantime, as Oktoberfest dignitaries, they will participate this fall in events in Germany and La Crosse. Nan's membership in our branch goes back many years. We will miss her and wish her well.

October Meeting *continued...*

who was born and raised in an ancient and the same time the newest country in the world, Kosovo. Being from a country with such a rich history, but a very painful one, is a great pride but also a huge struggle. As one of the people of this country, Dr. Kabashi's story sheds light into the wounds and struggles of being a young Kosovar woman with hopes and dreams. By sharing her journey with you, Dr. Kabashi will bring you closer to pre-and post-war Kosovo. Daring to dream was all she and her fellow counterparts could do for decades. However, they had to take the risk and follow their dreams for a free country and for a better life.

Lema Kabashi, Ph.D., works as an Asst Professor in Special Education, Department of Educational Studies, at the U W – La Crosse. She has a bachelor's degree in Pedagogy from the University of Pristina, Kosovo, a master's degree in Special Education from Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA, and a Ph.D. in Early Intervention - Special Education from the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA. She has over fifteen years of teaching and advising experience and over ten years of research experience in the field of special education.



*Dr. Lema
Kabashi*

October Meeting continued...

Deborah Lutjen is Vice-President of the League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area and a member of the League's Voter Services Committee. She will provide AAUW members with information about how they can join with the League in "Making Democracy Work" by serving our community at the November 8th polls. The LWV has voter education materials that will be available for AAUW members to distribute as appropriate.



Deborah is also a Project Coordinator at World Services of La Crosse (www.wslax.us). The La Crosse AAUW

branch is hosting a congressionally sponsored Open World exchange in November. Six participants from Kosovo will spend eight days in the La Crosse area sharing experiences related to domestic violence and victim rights. AAUW members are organizing a professional program and cultural activities in the Coulee Region as well as providing home host stays for the Kosovo legal professionals. World Services of La Crosse is a national grantee for the congressionally sponsored Open World Leadership Center and has partnered with cities in over 20 states to host Open World delegations for over 15 years. We look forward to sharing the Coulee Region with our new friends from Kosovo in partnership with the La Crosse AAUW volunteers.

Learn Albanian!

Here are some useful phrases to learn so you can make our visiting delegates from Kosovo feel welcome.

Thank you to Dr. Lema Kabashi for the translations.



Hello: Tungjatjeta
Please: Ju lutem
Thank you: Faleminderit
How are you?: Si jeni?
I'm fine: Une jam mire
Good morning: Miremengjesi
Good afternoon: Miredita
Good evening: Mirembrema
Good night: Naten e mire
Good-bye: Lamtumire

For more phrases and practice, go to:

<http://www.learnalbanianlanguage.com>

Scholarships & Grants

by Robert Richardson, Scholarship & Grants Committee Co-Chair

The Scholarship Committee invites new members to join us in our valuable and rewarding work. The committee will meet for the first time this year after the October branch meeting on the 8th.

If you want to join this great committee, please contact Sharon DeCicco or Robert Richardson.

Reading the scholarship applications is actually exhilarating; we discover that our current high school and college students contribute in many ways to the improvement of our communities and our collective lives.

Branch Directory

by Robert Richardson, Chair

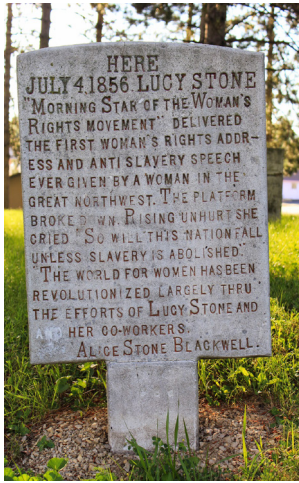
The Directory exists as a work in progress! We assembled the information current on the 1st of September and printed one copy for each member. Some of you received your copy at the September meet and greet. Others of you will receive at the October meeting. We will mail via post the remaining copies.

If you find any errors, please send notification to Robert Richardson, project coordinator.

Lucy Stone - Famous abolitionist and women's rights advocate visits Vernon County Fair.

On Thursday, Sept 15, 2016, Vernon County Fair was visited by their own 'Lucy Stone'. Ms. Stone spoke and then strolled the midway, visiting with fairgoers. The re-enactment was part of Women In Democracy Week.

Did you know that Viroqua was visited by the real Lucy Stone in 1856?



This marker commemorates the site where suffragette Lucy Stone delivered, on July 4, 1856, what was recognized as "the first woman's rights address and anti-slavery speech ever given by a woman in the great northwest." The platform broke down. Rising unhurt she cried, "So will this nation fall unless slavery is abolished." Erected 1930 by historian, Dr. C.V. Porter, the marker is located at Pioneer Cemetery on North Rock Avenue, between Church Street and West Parkinson Street, Viroqua.

Lucy Stone (August 13, 1818 – October 19, 1893) was a prominent American orator, abolitionist, and suffragist, and a vocal advocate and organizer promoting rights for women. In 1847, Stone became the first woman from Massachusetts to earn a college degree. She spoke out for women's rights and against slavery at a time when women were discouraged and prevented from public speaking.

Sen. Jennifer Shilling with "suffragette" Betty Kruck at the Vernon County Democratic Party, Wisconsin headquarters on Sept. 19th as part of the Women's Issues Forum!



Public Policy

By Carlene Roberts, Public Policy Chair

Congressional Voting Records - CVR



How did our Senators and Representatives score in the new AAUW CRV for the 114th Congress? Will we hold our elected officials accountable for their stands on AAUW priority issues? Find the CVR on the AAUW website under AAUW Action Fund. Share with family, friends and neighbors. Use the information for candidate forums and debates, or to write a letter to the editor. Be Informed - Be Empowered - VOTE.



Electing Women Legislators

When women vote we change the conversation. When women are elected, statistics show that bipartisanship and cooperation increase. Women make up 19% of legislators in the U.S. Congress.

Could more women in office help break the gridlock?

AAUW in the Statehouse

The first edition of AAUW in the Statehouse is on-line. This new monthly e-bulletin will cover issues on a state level. With record levels of gridlock in the U.S. Congress, many state houses continue to push forward. States are laboratories where new ideas are piloted.



Example: this summer Massachusetts unanimously passed a bill - with much support from AAUW - that has a provision banning the use of salary history in screening and hiring. This perpetuates lower salaries for women. Capitol Hill took notice and last week introduced a similar bill in Congress. Our ideas and voices and advocacy matter in Madison and in D.C.

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 monthly to explore new ideas, culinary experiences, fun activities and our area through visits to local businesses or in-home happenings.

The group is in the process of re-organizing; it needs new members and new ideas for activities. The group is not currently meeting. If you are interested in planning a program for the group or if you would like to head it up, please contact Sharon at 788-5356 or sharon.decicco@gmail.com.

Intern Mentors Needed

Our branch began mentoring interns from UWL 2 years ago. We've had interns in Public Policy and Social Media. It's been a valuable experience for both our branch and the intern; we've benefitted from the contributions they've made and they have learned skills in working with a non-profit organization.

Betty Kruck and Carlene Roberts have been the mentors for the Public Policy intern; both find that they must now give up the position. Would you be willing to work with a student as a Public Policy mentor? Both Betty and Carlene are happy to share their experiences; the groundwork is well-planned and ready to go!

Please contact Betty at 608-689-2222 for more info.

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

New activity this year: Write, Read, Write.

The purpose of this program is to provide an opportunity for elementary school students to develop and exercise their reading and writing skills through a meaningful activity.

The program begins with students writing letters introducing themselves and describing their interests to AAUW volunteers.

Each AAUW volunteer, or "buddy", purchases a book that matches the student's reading level and interest.

The AAUW buddy also includes a letter about themselves and why they chose the book they sent.

Students return thank you letters to their buddies. The program concludes with a final letter written to the student telling them how important reading is.

We are in the process of organizing this program and need branch member volunteers!

Are you interested in being a "buddy"? Let us know! When we have the program ready

to go, we'll let you know all the details. It doesn't require a lot of time on our part but will make a difference in the life of a young student and encourage reading!

Contact Erica at moogs56@hotmail.com for your chance to participate.

We welcome new members and suggestions for events and programs.

Read & Write



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 several 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 (for 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?



Elsie Patterson



1. When I first came to La Crosse, I discovered the Art Fair and concluded that any organization that sponsored such an event was worth joining. I later served 4 times as General Chair.

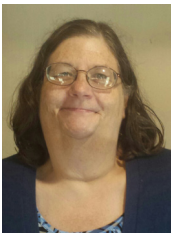
2. Regarding the Art Fair, I'm delighted that we're finally spending significant funds to publicize it, which wasn't the case when I was involved.

3. The right of a woman to make her own choices regarding her body and her own life.

4. I've done most of them. I went with the La Crosse Community Theater to New York, London and Washington DC. I spent my 5th birthday, 2 yrs ago, at Disneyland and Honolulu. I've seen Mt. Rushmore, Yellowstone, Niagra Falls and Mackinac Island. I went to New Orleans for Mardi Gras, took a cruise and had fun at DisneyWorld and Universal Studios (Harry Potter). Maybe I should add Branson to my list since everybody's who anybody has been there!

5. My major interest through high school was not Speech-Theatre but Music. Had 10 years or piano, 7 of violin and 1 of vocal lessons. Hence, my primary interest in musical theatre.

Jo Anne Revels



1. I found out about AAUW from my good friend, Pat Staupe

2. The changes I have seen over the years are current topics being discussed and encouragement of utilizing member input in choice of topics.

3. The most important changes I have seen over the years I have been a member are that member input being considered more and more action being taken on issues in the news.

4. Going to Sedona AZ is on my bucket list.

5. Something not known about me is...I once protested the War in Viet Nam in Madison and got tear gassed at 16.

Lila Seager



1. When we moved to La Crosse, I was invited to a meeting and later joined AAUW.

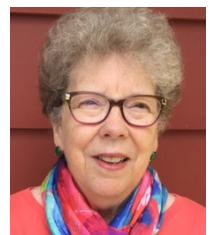
2. Over the years, I have seen growth in AAUW with more challenges and more opportunities for women to serve.

3. Security is the most important issue facing women in the world today. Just witness instances of terrorist acts, kidnapping, rape, and human slavery around the world. If we have no security, we have nothing. If we have security, we will be able to continue to work together to solve any other issues.

4. High on my bucket list is to have more time with family and friends and for traveling to learn about people and places as well as helping others anywhere including students through the La Crosse Friends of International Students.

5. In New York city in the sixties, I needed to pass the literacy test to vote even though I tutored students in reading in the school where I went to vote. The literacy test was given by the school principal.

Michele Strange



1. I was invited to a meeting when I lived in Michigan, but never joined. When I moved to La Crosse, Lila Seager invited me to a meeting in 1999 and the rest is history.

2. Art Fair on the Green has continued to produce great income and because of this the scholarship fund has really grown. Also, we have expanded our collaborative efforts with organizations whose missions overlap with ours.

3. I think the most important issues are worldwide violence against women and continuing, often subtle, prejudice against women in the United States.

4. I would like to visit and go birdwatching on the Amazon. We would also visit our many international students we have gotten to know over the years. I would also like to go to Italy and Greece.

5. I am really an introvert, so serving as president of AAUW is somewhat of a challenge.

From the Treasurer
Kristin Foehner

**Financial Report as of
September 16, 2016**

Checking Account\$7,921.24

CD's none at this time

Scholarship Bridge\$491.02

Dues Reminder

If you have not already renewed your membership for 2016-17, now is the time to send in your payment. Please make your check payable to AAUW - La Crosse Branch.

Dues are \$70.00, of which \$46.00 is tax deductible. If your dues are not received by October 31, 2016, your name will be removed from the local and national rosters.

Please mail your dues to:
Kristen Foehner
4104 Beverly Dr.
Onalaska, WI 54650

You may email me with any questions regarding your dues at:
K_Foehner@Yahoo.com

AAUW La Crosse 2016-2017 Budget

The following budget was approved by the La Crosse Branch Board at their meeting on September 6, 2016. Please contact Kristen Foehner at K_Foehner@yahoo.com with any questions related to the budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year.

Income

Art Fair.....	\$1,600.00
Branch Dues.....	\$ 625.00
Meals.....	\$ 0.00
Fundraisers (LAF, Community Days, etc).....	\$ 600.00
Miscellaneous.....	\$ 50.00
AAUW In Action Projects	\$ 200.00
Total Income.....	\$3,075.00

Expenses

Board Tools (postage, supplies).....	\$ 50.00
Convention.....	\$ 350.00
Current (printing, postage, supplies).....	\$ 125.00
Legal Advocacy Fund Donation.....	\$1,000.00
Other Donations.....	\$ 550.00
Hospitality.....	\$ 15.00
Insurance.....	\$ 500.00
Membership.....	\$ 0.00
Miscellaneous.....	\$ 0.00
Name Grants.....	\$1,000.00
Organization (directory, PO box, website).....	\$ 242.50
Program (room rent, honoraria).....	\$ 450.00
Scholarship Expenses.....	\$ 25.00
AAUW In Action Projects.....	\$ 500.00
Total Expenses.....	\$4,832.50

OVERALL TOTAL:-\$1,757.50





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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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