

# March Meeting: Networking

**Presenter Panel:** Debbie Lee, Westland Insurance, and Cathy Norris, ServPro, both representing Women of Worth; Dawn Harris, D.M. Harris Law LLC, of the Wisconsin Women's Alliance; and Kay Buck, Wells Fargo, of Women in Networking and Support.

**When:** Saturday, March 10, 2012  
**Where:** Room 107 (the Board Room) in Reinhart Center on the Viterbo University campus.

**Breakfast Cost:** \$10.00

**Menu:** Scrambled eggs, Creme brulee French toast, Bacon, Fresh fruit, Coffee, Tea, Orange Juice

As always, members who do not wish to join the group for brunch, are welcome to attend the program portion of the meeting at no charge.

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

For cancellations or late reservations contact Jan Eriksen at 608-796-3398 (office); 608-787-5946 (home); or jperiksen@viterbo.edu. by noon on Wednesday, March 7, 2012.

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AAUW

# The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 51, ISSUE 7

MARCH 2012



## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

### Our Story

by Marilyn Hempstead, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

Where were you in 1987 the year that March was designated as Women's History Month? I was in the Denver area involved in WomanSchool (a wonderful but short lived project offering courses for women), the Colorado Committee for Women's History, Lakewood Branch AAUW and was presenting my slide show "Colorful Colorado Women." Having that acknowledgement of "herstory" then was great reinforcement.

On moving to La Crosse in 1990, joining the branch here was a first priority and what a good it experience it was. If you belonged then you remember all our projects: children's theater, home tour, children's movies and, of course, the art fair. I was impressed by the generous scholarships that were given. Our story has evolved since then. Our energies are funneled into the art fair, which has grown and provided us with more returns than the combined proceeds from four fundraisers and allowing more

generous scholarships. We were and remain a group, dedicated to the progress of women, that also enjoys each other's company.

During Women's History Month we celebrate all our branch has done because of you our members, our rich heritage beginning in 1881 with the founding of AAUW and the contributions of women now and from the past.

We celebrate the special projects reported on in this issue and look forward to our March 10th meeting about local women networking. Celebrate your story. We are all a part of women's history.

## Next Board Meeting

**Monday, March 5th at 6:30 pm**  
River Place Apartments. #1 River Place Drive

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

**Contact Marilyn at:** marizah@yahoo.com or 784-8763 to place items on the agenda.

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

# Wisconsin Women: Celebrating Their Contributions

**Two Wisconsin Supreme Court justices will lead a program at UW-L that will focus on the state's women leaders.**

Who: Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson and Justice Ann Walsh Bradley

What: "Wisconsin Women: Celebrating Their Contributions"

When: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28

Where: 1309 Centennial Hall, UW-La Crosse

Parking is available in the C-10 lot, 16th and Vine streets.

Admission: Free and open to the public.

The presentation will last about 30 minutes, followed by questions.



Chief Justice Abrahamson



Justice Bradley

Sponsors of the program are UW-La Crosse, La Crosse Tribune, League of Women Voters, AAUW, YWCA and La Crosse County Bar Association.

## Nominating Committee Report

*by Carol Robertson, Chair*

The Nominating Committee met to draw up the slate of officers for 2012-1013. Those nominated are:

President: Carol Robertson

President Elect: Open

Vice President, Finance: Michele Strange (continuing)

Vice President, Membership: Marilyn Hempstead

Vice Presidents, Program: Marla French and Pat Markos (continuing)

Secretary: Jean Petri

The slate of candidates will be presented and voted on at the April General Meeting. Many thanks to the Nominating Committee members consisting of Erica Koonmen, Pat Staupe, and Marilyn Hempstead (ex officio member). I appreciate their time and willingness to serve.

## March Meeting (cont.)

The program focuses on networking and consists of a panel of representatives of local women's organizations.

Debbie Lee



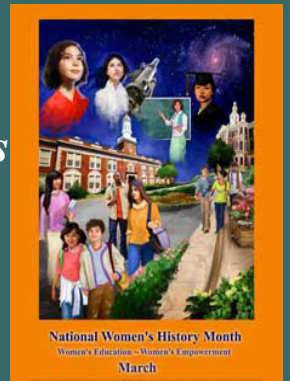
Cathy Norris

Dawn Harris



Kay Buck

## March is Women's History Month



2012

Theme:

*Women's Education-  
Women's Empowerment*

*Recognizing the Pioneering  
Leadership of Women and  
Their Impact on the Diverse  
Areas of Education.*

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	1st Thursday of month at 6:00pm	Erica Koonmen, 366-1509

## Study Group News

### AAUW in Action

**Next Meeting:** *Thursday, March 1st*  
6:00 pm, River Place Apts, 1 River Place Dr.

March's collection of items at the general meeting will be for school supplies, art supplies (coloring books, crayons, drawing paper), books (paperback or hardback), magazines and fabric for the Hmong Mutual Assistance Center. We will happily accept toiletries any month as well as small kitchen appliances.

For more information on the "**25 Books for 25 Years**" initiative, please see the article on page 5.

The cyber-bullying workshop for the community will be **Thursday, April 26, 2012 from 6:30-7:30 pm at the Myrick Hixon EcoPark**. We are partnering with the Girl Scouts (providing childcare) and the Myrick Hixon EcoPark to present Dr. Troy Harcey speaking on this topic.

Our group is available to do a "**Profiles Of Women**" presentation for other groups or organizations. This is a first-person program of notable women in history. It's appropriate not only for Women's History Month in March but any time during the year!

For more information on any of the above, contact Erica at moogs56@hotmail.com.

### Hearth & Home

#### *Olive Oil and Vinegar*

Date: Wed., March 21st

Place: La Crosse Olive Oil Company, 515 Main Street, La Crosse ([www.lacrosseoliveoil.com](http://www.lacrosseoliveoil.com)) & 4Sisters  
Time: 5:45-6:30 pm : olive oil sampling and presentation.  
6:45pm: 4Sisters Wine Bar & Tapas,  
100 Harborview Plaza, La Crosse.  
([www.4Sisterslacrosse.com](http://www.4Sisterslacrosse.com))

Join us on March 21st for an amazing tasting experience at the La Crosse Olive Oil Company. We will be learning about the health benefits of using olive oil as well as which ones to use to enhance your salads, desserts, meats, fish, etc. Also learn about their 18 year old Traditional Balsamic Vinegar from Italy. This unique shop also features a great variety of spices, sea salts and accessories. Afterwards, we will proceed to 4Sisters Wine Bar & Tapas where we will share a variety of tapas.

Reservations Due by Monday, March 19th to:  
Jane Wernecke: 608-534-6330 ([janewernecke@gmail.com](mailto:janewernecke@gmail.com))  
or Sarah Stuber: 608-784-9310 [sjz212@charter.net](mailto:sjz212@charter.net)



### Contemporary Authors

**Our next book will be:**

**THE SWEETNESS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PIE**  
by Alan Bradley

**Next Meeting:** *Tuesday, March 20, 2012 2:00 PM*

Contemporary Authors has met for many years on the 4th Tuesday of the month. This year we are meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. For meeting places and any further information contact either Alice Ross at 608-788-4206 or Mary Hall at 608-783-3483.

## Scholarship News

by Betty Kruck, Co-Chair

AAUW members are invited to nominate a woman (a non-traditional student age 30 or older ) to receive the Karen Wilson Scholarship. The scholarship was first available in 1981 in memory of Karen Wilson, a former branch member.

Applications, essays and letters of reference must be sent to Betty Kruck, P.O.Box 27, Genoa, WI 54632 or krux@mwt.

## Support National Women's History Museum

The National Women's History Museum

affirms the value of knowing Women's History, illuminates the role of women in transforming society and encourages all people, women and men, to participate in democratic dialogue about our future.



NWHM was the driving force behind the raising of the Woman Suffrage Statue, a monument to Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott, from the U.S. Capitol Crypt to the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. For the first time in our nation's history, our foremothers are honored with our forefathers!

For more information, go to <http://www.nwhm.org>

## AAUW Art Fair on the Green

By Pat Staupe, Chair



**July 28-29, 2012**

The first mailing to artists has been sent and artist registrations have started coming in as the preparations for Art Fair on the Green continue. New artists have until March 31 to send in their applications and Jury Day will be held in April. Returning artists have a deadline of April 30 to submit their registrations. All of the application forms and information are posted on our website: [aauwlacrosse.org](http://aauwlacrosse.org).

Need a gift or something new for your home? Plan to make a Purchase Award this year. Also--gift certificates are available again this year.

We also are looking for someone who would be able to update our art fair website. Please contact Erica Koonmen or Pat Staupe if you would be able to help with this project.

## Public Policy

From the national AAUW website: [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

### Help Fight Sexual Assault in the Military! Support the Sexual Assault Training Oversight and Prevention (STOP)

19,000.

That's an estimate of how many sexual assaults occurred in the military in 2011. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, who Wednesday called this number a "stain on the honor of the armed forces," indicated that although there were 3,191 reported incidents, the stigma of reporting sexual assault is so high that 19,000 is a better reflection of the truth.

Take Action! Help fight the scourge of sexual assault in the military by asking your member of the House of Representatives to cosponsor the Sexual Assault Training Oversight and Prevention (STOP) Act (H.R. 3435)!

Stronger rules and better enforcement are critical to the health and safety of the men and women in our nation's armed forces. The STOP Act would create and empower a civilian sexual assault oversight council, establish protocols to protect victims, and create tools and resources to help reduce sexual assault. Ensuring adequate investigation and support is a first step toward eliminating the stigma of reporting sexual assault and fighting its prevalence in the military. We must help protect the troops who protect us.

AAUW is committed to improving the way the military deals with sexual assault by ensuring victims receive adequate support for their case. That's why we are helping to support a group of veteran and active duty servicemen and servicewomen who are suing the Department of Defense (DoD) who allege that the DoD failed to investigate or prosecute their cases.

To send a message asking your asking your members of the House of Representatives to cosponsor the STOP Act (H.R. 3435), visit AAUW Two-Minute Activist (<http://bit.ly/55Ljd>).

*From the Treasurer*  
Michele Strange

## Financial Report as of January 20, 2012

Checking Account .....\$ 7,138.20

### CD's

matures May 2012 ..... \$ 5,110.50

Scholarship Bridge.....\$617.77

## LAF Community Days

*by Bev Bodine, Chair*

Herberger's Community Days is April 27th and 28th this year. You will soon receive two booklets which you may either sell or use yourself.

Help is needed with selling the booklets at Herberger's both before and 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 pbbodine@centurytel.net.

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.

## 25 BOOKS for 25 YEARS

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the designation of March as Women's History Month, the La Crosse Branch of AAUW is sponsoring **25 Books for 25 Years** -- a program that will provide books related to women and women's history to local organizations such as CouleeCap, Hope School for Teen Moms, Family & Children's Center, YWCA and Brighter Tomorrows. This program will run through the month of March. We are asking community members and organizations to help by either purchasing a book (or books) or donating funds toward the purchase of the books. A bookplate will be placed in each book with the donor's name.

A list of 25 books for each adults and children is available on our website: [aauwlacrosse.org](http://aauwlacrosse.org). If you would like to purchase one or more of the books, you can do so through Pearl Street Books or [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). Pearl Street Books is offering a 20% discount (this discounted price is on the lists). If you would like to make a monetary donation, please send your check to:

AAUW La Crosse  
25 Books for 25 Years  
PO Box 2112 La Crosse, WI 54601

Checks should be made out to: AAUW La Crosse. Please let us know if you'd like your funds to purchase a specific book. Purchases or donations should be made by March 25.

Thank you for your support of this initiative! If you have any questions, please contact us. Erica Koonmen, Lois Gilbert, Carol Robertson and Betty Kruck

## Membership News

*by Carol Robertson, VP Membership*

Remember that after March 1, new members can join and not pay dues again until June, 2013. That means they receive 15 months of AAUW for the price of 12 months.



It's been nice to see guests attend our meetings. Ask a friend to come with you to any of the Study Groups or General Meetings.

## Named Grant Nominations Needed

*By Katie Webster, Chair*

We traditionally recognize a member of our La Crosse Branch who has given outstanding service to the organization. Our branch donates money to the AAUW Educational Foundation in that person's name. Please send me your nominations for this honor by **March 25, 2012**, along with supporting information.

Katie Webster N2062 Wedgewood Dr. E La Crosse, WI 54601  
[skwebster@centurytel.net](mailto:skwebster@centurytel.net) 608-788-7232



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?**

If you are on the email list to receive *The Current* and are having problems, please check your virus and/or spyware software to see if that software is putting the message into the Spam/Junk folder. If you know that the e-newsletter has been sent out and you did not receive it, please contact Erica.