

MARCH MEETING

Watkins tour and Lunch with AAUW Winona

Join us on a carpooling road trip to meet Winona Branch members, tour the Watkins Museum and Store in Winona, and stay (or not) to enjoy a casual lunch at the Blue Heron.

When: Saturday, March 11th, 2017

Where: Our tour begins at 10am at Watkins Heritage Museum and Gift Shop, 150 Liberty St., Winona, MN.

Carpooling: Those who are carpooling should meet no later than 8:45am at either the K-Mart parking lot on the south side (Lois will be there to coordinate) or the parking lot between Office Depot and Pier One in Onalaska (Michele will be there to coordinate).

RSVP DEADLINE:

For reservations please call Robert by NOON on Saturday, March 4th.

Do you know the difference between pure vanilla extract and pure BAKING vanilla extract? And have you ever seen a stained glass window designed by Louis J. Millet? Well, a February 2017 visitor to the Watkins Museum and Store in Winona just posted a glowing review on the popular Trip Advisor website and said she learned all about vanilla there. And Louis Millet, along with Louis Sullivan, both of whom attended the world-renowned art school, Ecole de Beaux-Arts in Paris, became part of the "Chicago School" of architecture, Millet being one of its most notable

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The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 56, ISSUE 7

MARCH 2017



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Times Flies...

by Michele Strange, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

March is upon us and I can't believe that we only have two more programs to go before our scholarship reception on May 4th. This year has flown. I am looking forward to our joint March meeting in Winona and getting acquainted with our fellow AAUW members. If you recall, 10 members of the AAUW-Winona Branch visited our March meeting last year and we are returning the favor. I think it will be a wonderful change to our programming—a road trip!

As you can see from the article on this page, we are asking members to help with carpooling. They would like a count for the tour (because they will be making up gift packs for us) and for lunch at The Blue Heron so they know if they need to reserve the larger dining room.

When you make your reservations, please tell Robert if you're coming for the tour only, or

tour and lunch, and if you are willing to drive others. We will carpool from K-Mart on the south side and from the parking lot between Office Depot and Pier One on the north side. Please be at these meeting sites by 8:45 am if you are going to drive/ride with others.

March is Women's History month and Lois has been very busy writing the daily articles for the Tribune and getting the window ready in Pearl Street Books (see her article in this issue). Of course the

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NEXT BOARD MEETING

Monday, March 6, 2017

6:30pm

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

Time Flies... *(continued from page 1)*

major event is on International Women's Day, Wednesday, March 8th at our panel presentation. This year our sponsors will feature five local women who came here from their birth countries: Bulgaria, China, Iceland, Ukraine and Syria. Their stories should be fascinating! Try not to miss it. Refreshments begin at 5 pm and the presentations from 5:30-7:30 pm. As in years past, the event is being held in the Hall of Nations, Centennial Hall on the UW-L campus.

And new this year, we are going to have a presence at the Mayor's Neighborhood Expo. We will have a table displaying our bookmarks, brochures, etc. It will be held in the La Crosse Center on Saturday, March 25th. We are looking for volunteers to help at the table. Please let me know if you are interested. The hours will be from 8:30 am to 2 pm.

So March will be a very busy month. I hope to see you at many of these events. Thanks for all you do!

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership

New Member

Suzanne C. Ryan
512 Bluebird Court
Onalaska, WI 54601
608 780 0682
UW La Crosse MS Aquatic Sciences
ryan.suza@alumni.uwlax.edu



Welcome
Glad you're here!

After attending branch events with Ardur Cleveland, Sue joined at the February meeting. We are glad to have her with us and thank Ardur for recruiting her.

Thanks also to all who brought in a new member this year. Now anyone joining after March 15th will officially begin membership for the 2017/18 program year but will be eligible for all privileges of this year's members.

Address Change

Clara Peterson has moved just south of the Wisconsin border.

Her new address is:

Clara Peterson
4444 Brendenwood Rd Apt. 130
Rockford, IL 61107



Name Grant Nominations

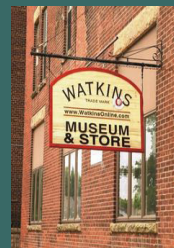
Please send Jan Eriksen nominations for the 2017 Name Grant or give them to her at the March meeting. Nominees can be any member who has made significant contributions to the branch and who has not previously received the Name Grant. A list of previous honorees can be found at the back of the directory. Funds will be sent to the national AAUW Education Foundation in the name of the Name Grant recipient(s). The deadline is March 31 and the honor will be given at the April 8 meeting.

MARCH MEETING

(continued from Page 1)

decorative designers in the late nineteenth century. Let's hope for a beautiful day with natural light so that when we tour the museum we can gaze upon an "...extraordinary stained glass window designed by Louis J. Millet, with ornate mosaic beneath it." The main building also features different types of marble and mosaics made of glass tiles as well as semi-precious stones and other natural materials. And of course, we will learn all about Watkins which has made Winona so well known for the products they make for health and home.

The history of the Watkins Company began in Plainview, MN in 1868 as a door-to-door sales business in which natural ingredients were used by J.R. Watkins to make household and health products. Working out of his Plainview home, Watkins created his original pain reliever by using camphor from evergreen trees and capsi-cum from red peppers. This liniment is still sold today with 96.5% natural ingredients, now in eco-friendly packaging. Products have been made in the same factory for over 100 years. You have probably used a Watkins product, whether it is a spice, a cleaning solution, or a skin cream.



If you are a label-reader and a consumer who cares about the ingredients in personal and home products you purchase, then you will enjoy knowing about the Freedom Code on the Watkins website at www.jrwatkins.com, which lists all the ingredients which Watkins will NOT put into their products. Come along on our March road trip to Winona on Saturday, March 11 to learn more and to meet our MN neighbors from AAUW Winona! Let's ask what that branch is doing for projects and see what we can learn and share!

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. If you are interested in planning a program for the group or if you would like to head it up, please contact Sharon.

Dinner with Patti and Chef Mark Tennie

Date: Wed., April 5th, 2017

Time: 6 p.m.



Place: La Crosse Country Club
300 Marcou Rd, Onalaska

Branch member Patti Savarin will be hosting a fun, casual dinner at the La Crosse Country Club. Chef Tennie was last employed in Kohler, WI at the American Club. He will come out and talk to us about the food we are eating and it's preparation. As it gets closer to the 5th, Patti will email those who want to attend, the new spring menu for their perusal. The prices usually range from \$25 to \$35.

All are welcome, you don't have to be a member of Hearth & Home.

To RSVP, ask any questions or let us know of special dietary needs, call Sharon at 788-5356 before March 24th.

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: Tuesday, March 28; 1:00pm; JavaVino

Since the March general meeting is in Winona, we won't have a collection this month. However, in April we'll be helping out the **YWCA Teen group with arts & crafts supplies like beading, paper, paints, markers, crayons.**



WINGS is back this year!

The **Women INterested in Going to School** workshop will be Thursday, April 13 at the Myrick Park Center. Branch members have been so wonderful in helping provide lunch for the ladies in the past; we'll be asking for help with that again!

More information will be in next month's newsletter.

See the articles on page 6 for complete information about the **International Women's Day** program and all the "**March is Women's History month**" events!

Marilyn Hempstead has gotten the new **Write Read** program up and running:

In meeting with Steve Michaels, Principal of Hamilton Elementary, I proposed our branch members engage with his students in a program developed by the Lansdale, Pennsylvania AAUW branch. He readily agreed and made this plan using our guidelines: Selected students would write a short narrative about themselves describing their interests, favorite books etc. which would be given to an AAUW member. We would write a response to the child and list some possible books that might interest them. After the student writes back the matched member would purchase and send the child a book. A thank you note from the child would follow.

An email will be sent to the membership giving more details and asking for volunteers as this develops. Please let Marilyn know if you are interested in participating.

The AAUW In Action group would like to thank Ardis Cleveland for her years of enthusiastic contributions to the committee as she leaves the group to concentrate on personal life. Ardis was our YWCA liaison, organizing dinner and activities with the Ruth House, Ophelia House and Transitional Housing program several times a year. We appreciate all she did for us! If any of you are interested in working with the YWCA for a few special events, please let Erica know at the number above.

Scholarships & Grants

By Robert Richardson, Co-Chair

The committee met as a whole on February 21 to discuss grant nominations and to enliven sub-committees with actual scholarship applications to read and review!

This will be a busy month for committee members. Committee members feel assured as they re-discover that our schools and colleges in the Coulee Region produce amazing learners and active community members. They also feel challenged to identify the most qualified and deserving in each of the applicant pools.

All branch members will enjoy the opportunity to meet our recipients at the Scholarship & Grants Reception on Thursday, May 4 from 5pm to 7:30pm in the School of Nursing at Viterbo University.

Women's March Madison

by Andrea Hansen



Saturday, January 21, 2017, 3.3 million U.S. residents participated in the 500 local and national freedom marches known as the Women's March. I traveled with other Sparta women to join 75,000+ women, men and children from all over

Wisconsin. Everyone was there--grandparents, babies, students, parents, young adults and elders, workers and retirees--all ages, ethnicities, faith traditions, genders, abilities and walks of life.

How did it feel to march in such a massive people-parade? Awesome, fun, energizing and incredibly touching. There were signs that broke my heart: "I am a survivor of rape. Protect the Violence Against Women Act" and "The ACA keeps my brother alive". Others made me laugh: "Even the Introverts are here".

I saw my country's democratic ideals and felt such pride. Our Constitution and Bill of Rights were on full display that day; the right to freedom of speech, the right to peaceful assembly and the right to petition our government. I saw our country's religious diversity represented in the marchers, too. "This is what democracy looks like!" was my favorite chant.

It was an honor to march with tens of thousands of Wisconsinites who care about protecting our freedoms and the well-being of our children and families.

Public Policy

by Linda Myers, Chair

Standing Against Bias and Bigotry

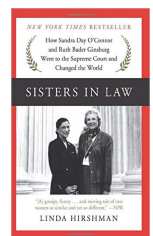
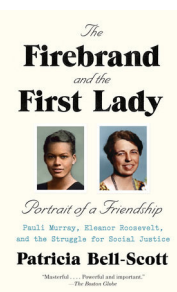
AAUW members marched around the world in January. Nearly 5,000,000 people participated in the Washington DC march and 670 sister marches for equality and tolerance. Keep the energy moving forward!



AAUW has joined over 100 civil rights and religious organizations in support of the Protect American Families Act (PAFA) (S 54), introduced January 5, 2017, and now referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. PAFA would block the establishment of an immigration-related registry of people based on religion, race, age, gender, ethnicity, national origin or nationality. Contact Senators Baldwin and Johnson to urge their support of PAFA!

Champions for Equality: Read *The Firebrand and the First Lady*, by Patricia Bell-Scott, PhD, professor emerita, University of Georgia. This fascinating work explores the friendship of Pauli Murray, civil rights activist/lawyer, and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt as both women worked to advance the cause of equality. Dr. Bell-Scott, winner of a 1984 AAUW American Fellowship, is a pioneer researcher into the barriers black women face in academia. Please see the AAUW homepage for more information.

Supreme Women: On March 28, author Linda Hirschman will host an AAUW online book discussion of her work, *Sisters in Law*, a dual biography of Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Hirschman details the differences between the two Justices, "Republican and Democrat, Christian and Jew, western rancher's daughter and Brooklyn girl," and how together they helped shape the jurisprudence of women's legal rights. Please see the AAUW homepage for registration information.



FROM THE TREASURER

Kristin Foehner

Financial Report as of February 20, 2017

Checking Account\$10,060.62

CD'snone at this time

Scholarship Bridge.....\$998.02

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Art Fair Needs Your Help!

by Carol Robertson, Chair

Art Fair on the Green Committee Meeting will be held Monday, March 20, 6:30 p.m. at Viterbo. We have an opportunity for another volunteer to assist Marian Schiesser with Publicity and handle Student Art.

Volunteers are wanted for both Artspire on June 10 and Neighborhood Expo at the La Crosse Center on March 25.

Artspire is, as in the past, with a booth and promotion of AAUW and Art Fair on the Green. It runs during the day on Saturday, June 10 and people can help out as they are able.

The Neighborhood Expo is a new initiative for us. It is a promotion of all good things that are happening to help neighborhoods grow and flourish in La Crosse. We will have a table (similar to set up for Global Initiatives). It will be held during the day and people can help out for an hour or two.

If interested in helping, contact Carol Robertson:
cfrobertson@charter.net or
608-399-1751.

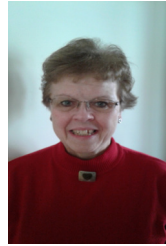


La Crosse Branch Cameos

"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?



Sarah Stuber

1) I joined in 1977. I had been married about 1 year, I wanted to meet people and be involved in an organization. I believe I looked up the info somehow, library?, Chamber of Commerce? Not sure. My mom was a member in Delavan, my hometown.

2) Things are very different in our branch now. There were many projects/ fundraisers then. I worked on Art Fair committee, chaired the Home Tour 2 years, worked on committees for Children's Theater and chaired the Children's movie project for several years. What we do now in our branch is right for today.

3) Equal pay for women is an important issue for today's woman. I hope there is more ground gained in the near future.

4) On my bucket list would be more travel, New England area, and I always love the beach. I still would like to swim with a dolphin !

5) I was in a high school musical when I was in 4th grade, The King and I. To this day I love the music from it.

Sarah Koehler

1) One of my Professors, Dr. Richardson, told me about AAUW and suggested I apply for the Karen Wilson Scholarship. After receiving the scholarship, I wanted to help AAUW.

2) I see that AAUW La Crosse branch is becoming more open minded inviting people from different cultures to join the group and this is a big plus for the community.

3) I think even though there are women prepared to occupy very important jobs there are still obstacles to reaching them.

4) On my bucket list is to move to a warmer weather.

5) You do not know that I am just about to give up working to stay at home with my husband because I know he needs me. I am scared about my future. Even though, I am old, I know that I will need to work as long as I am able to do so.

PS. I also want to take this opportunity to thank AAUW for all the extra support in many aspects that it has given to me. I am very proud to be a AAUW member!



By Lois Gilbert



Here is an experiment for you. Take 2 pieces of paper. Label one WOMEN; label the other MEN. Now write down names of all the famous women and famous men who you were taught about in either elementary or high school. Only include the ones you learned about in school before you graduated from high school! If you filled up your men sheet quickly and not your women sheet, then you have answered the question, "Why do we have to set aside a whole month for women's history?"

March is a great month to learn more about women's history! Watch the La Crosse Tribune every day to see a woman known in labor or in business with information about her achievements. The Tribune has partnered with us for several years and performed the community education service by posting a vignette of a famous woman, provided by our branch, every day in March.

If you are walking downtown anytime in March, stroll by Pearl Street Books and see our March AAUW window display, also using this year's WHM theme of celebrating trailblazing women in labor or in business. Pearl St. Books will also display books on women during the month.



Excellent sources to learn more about women's history, including what was left out of your grade school and high school textbooks, can be found at: www.nwhp.org and <http://internationalwomensday.com>.

Celebrate International Women's Day

By Lois Gilbert

Now more important than ever, the International Women's Day Celebration will be held on Wednesday evening, March 8, 2017, beginning with light refreshments at 5:00 p.m., and the program starting at 5:30 p.m. This free event will be held once again on the UW-L Campus, in Centennial Hall, in room 1300, the Hall of Nations. Parking is free in Lot C-10 across from the Fine Arts Building. There is no need for tickets or reservations. However, because we have been getting approximately 150 people the last few years for this program, we do suggest you arrive closer to 5:00 than to 5:30 to get a good seat.

International Women's Day was first observed in February 1909. Today, International Women's Day celebrates the economic, social, cultural, and political achievements of women around the world. It is now observed every year on March 8, and March is also Women's History Month.



AAUW-La Crosse joins ten other area organizations, all with women's and some or a lot of international focus, in sponsoring this event. Each year a panel of local women who have different nations of origin, are asked to share the stories of their journeys and to comment on the IWD theme of that year. The 2017 theme asks women to #BeBoldForChange and step up their efforts for gender equity in equal pay, equal rights and equal treatment. We are so very pleased to announce that the nations represented this year at our celebration will be: Bulgaria, China, Iceland, and Ukraine, with a special guest panelist from Syria. Their stories will educate us all about our immigrant neighbors and more about the world outside our own.

If you have not attended this special event in the past, we welcome you this year. You'll be pleased to meet and hear from these bold and high achieving international neighbors in your community! If you have any questions prior to attending this program, feel free to call Lois at 782-7204.

susan Kagarise Fabian Fundraiser

Raffle tickets will be sold for cash drawing, Chinese raffle for most donated prizes, we are working on other prizes as well. We are also trying to put together a bake sale, there will be music, and food.



Susan is a single mother of two daughters, on February 11th her life changed due to the fire in Onalaska at the apartment complex that was destroyed. They lost everything including their 2 cats, we are wanting to raise funds to support her and her children, please come down to show support.

The Brickhouse
228 5th ave S. LaCrosse, WI 54601
1PM - 12AM



Phantom Dream, Nailed Down & The Allnighters

March 25th, 2017

Benefit for Susan Fabian

As many of you know, member Susan Fabian's Onalaska apartment was destroyed by fire on February 11th. She is a single mom to both her daughters; they lost everything, including their 2 cats. There is a GoFundMe page to help (<https://www.gofundme.com/3dg6thk>) and there will be a fundraiser event on March 25th at The Brickhouse, 228 5th Ave S. in La Crosse. The event goes from 1pm-midnight. There will be raffle tickets sold for a cash drawing, a Chinese raffle, music, food and other fun offerings. Come on out if you can. Susan and her family are in our thoughts and we wish them the best!



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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Please send all content for *The Current* to Erica by the 20th of the month.

Problems receiving the CURRENT? Let us know at:
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