

**MARCH MEETING:**

*Our Legacy, Our Future*

**Presenter:** Pam Thiel

**Date & Location:**

Saturday, March 9th, 2013  
UWL Cartwright Center,  
Ward Room

**Breakfast Cost:** \$10.00

*Eggs, Bacon, Fruit tray,  
Assorted breads, Juice, Coffee*

**Registration** .....  
9:30am

**Breakfast** .....  
10:00am

**Program** .....  
10:30am

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

**Program Overview**

Pam will help us relive the day in 1922 when 48 La Crosse charter members started our Branch in Library Hall by signing the constitution. The four topics that these impressive women chose to study are issues that are still important to us today. She will note fundraising projects that we have undertaken over the years for scholarships and highlight some of our study

*Continued on Page 2 »*



# The Current

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

VOLUME 52, ISSUE 7

MARCH 2013



**PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE**

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

## Be a Part of Women's History

Our La Crosse Branch is supporting several endeavors to observe Women's History Month in March. First, each day in the month of March the La Crosse Tribune will feature a daily write-up highlighting the accomplishments of women throughout history.

The theme is "Inspiring Innovation through Imagination" which showcases what women have done in the areas of technology, mathematics, and science. A big thank you goes to Lois Gilbert for researching and submitting these entrees. Secondly, we are again sponsoring "25 Books for 25 Years" to celebrate the beginning of Women's History Month. A book list is available for individuals to purchase books and donate them to various organizations in the community. We are partnering with Pearl Street Books as we did last year. Details are listed in this issue of the Current. Thirdly, AAUW is sponsoring with UW-L an International Women's Day Event to be held March 7, 5:30 p.m. Centennial Hall, UW-L. Four women will share their experiences as to how their country's attitudes toward women

have affected their lives. It should prove to be an enlightening evening. Check out the details in this issue. Lastly, InAction hopes to finalize plans to sponsor a program in April on Salary Negotiations aimed for college seniors (all women could benefit). The details are being worked out and more information will be available for the April Current.

And what better time is it to celebrate Women's History then at the General

*Continued on Page 2 »*

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

**Monday, March 4, 6:30 pm**  
RiverPlace Apartments, 1 River Place Drive, La Crosse

Meetings are open to any member interested in attending.

**Contact Carol at:** 519-0548  
or *cforbertson@charter.net* to place items on the agenda.

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

## Be a Part of Women's History *(cont.)*

Meeting, March 9. Pam Thiel will present "Our Legacy, Our Future"—a program to observe the 90th Anniversary of the Branch. Many women before us have worked on programs such as the ones I have listed above and we give credit to them for their efforts.

Lots of activities are happening with our Branch as we turn 90 and I hope you will take advantage of any or all of the programs outlined. Check out in this Current other events/study groups in which you would like to participate. I hope to see you at the events.

## News

### Membership:

Thanks to Marian Schiesser for inviting new member Mariellen! Please add the following to your directory:

### Mariellen Janiszewski

*UWM, MA in Education*

1048 S. 28th St.,

La Crosse, WI 54601

**Home:** 608-788-8665

**Work:** 608-386-4985

**Email:** mjanisze50@gmail.com

It is members who are the best source of spreading the word about the benefits of belonging to our branch. If you know someone who might be interested, I have brochures for you or would be glad to make a contact.

### National:

For the 4th time in the 131-year history of AAUW, a new logo will be unveiled. A new tagline: "Empowering women since 1881" will be incorporated in the rollout of the new logo. More details are forthcoming from National.

## Nominations

### The Nominating Committee:

is working to present a slate for the Executive Board. Positions open are: Pres. Elect, VP of Program (1), and Treasurer. Michele Strange is the incumbent and nominee for Treasurer for another term. If you are interested or would like to nominate someone, please contact one of the members of the Committee.

We hope to present the slate at the March meeting.

### Name Grant Nominations:

At our Scholarship and Awards Brunch, we traditionally recognize a member of our branch who has given outstanding service to our organization. We donate money to the AAUW Educational Foundation in that person's name.

Please send Katie your nominations for this honor by April 15, 2013. Be sure to include info in support of your choice. **Katie Webster:** 788-7232 or [skwebster@centurytel.net](mailto:skwebster@centurytel.net)

## MARCH MEETING *(cont.)*

groups back to 1935. The shared pride in our legacy of empowering women will lead us on a bright future path of continuing to break down barriers for women and girls.

### Presenter Bio:



Pam Thiel has been a member of the La Crosse branch for 36 years or for more than a third

of our history. She has served as our Branch President and Program Vice President; State President and Membership and Educational Foundation Vice Presidents; Regional Director; and on the National Membership and Fundraising Committees.

Pam recently retired from the US Fish and Wildlife Service as the Supervisor and Biologist at the La Crosse Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office. She is currently vacationing with her husband in Mexico and hopes to catch a big marlin before she and her husband return home.

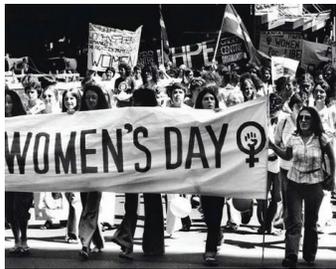
For cancellations or late reservations, please contact Pat Markos ([pmarkos@uwlax.edu](mailto:pmarkos@uwlax.edu) or 780-8623) or Marla French ([mfrench000@centurytel.net](mailto:mfrench000@centurytel.net) or 782-6589) by noon on Wed., Mar. 6, 2013.

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 Staube, 788-7439
AAUW in Action	3rd Thursday of month at 6:00pm	Erica Koonmen, 366-1509

## International Women's Day Celebration

by Marilyn Hempstead

**Thurs., Mar 7th at 5:30 pm**  
 UW-L Centennial Hall, Hall  
 of Nations Rm 1300



As a part of Women's History Month, March 8 is designated as International Women's Day. The AAUW In Action Study group initiated a program to honor the occasion. In collaboration with UW-L Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies (WGSS), Office in International Studies and History Department; YWCA-La Crosse and the La Crosse League of Women voters, we have scheduled a presentation that will feature a panel of women who live and work in La Crosse but were raised in cultures unfamiliar to most of us.

Cecilia Manrique from the Philippines, Ayesha Patnaik from India, Diana Moran Thundercloud from Mexico and Justine Horvath from Benin, Africa will each share a unique journey as a woman in her respective country. Also discussed will be the life and future of women in general of the four cultures. Time will be devoted to questions from the audience.

*Doors open at 5pm. Enjoy refreshments while meeting UW-L international students who will be greeters.*

## AAUW in Action News

- **25 Books for 25 Years:** See the story on page 5.
- **Celebrating International Women's Day:** Please attend (and remind your friends to attend!) this exciting program on Mar 7th.
- **\$mart\$start salary negotiations workshop:** This program is still in planning so please watch for updates! We hope to offer it in early April.

**Monthly collections:** We're collecting papergoods at the general meeting on Mar 9. Thank you to all who contribute to this project benefitting local women's orgs.

## Hearth & Home News

### Join us for a tasting event!

Wednesday, March 20, 6pm at Traditions Restaurant  
 (corner of Hwy 35 & Main Street in Onalaska)

Mary Cody, the owner of Traditions, will put together a special menu for us including some of her home-made chocolates. Wine and specialty coffee drinks will be available as well.

### Please RSVP to:

Bev Bodine, 781-3849 or [bevbodine@yahoo.com](mailto:bevbodine@yahoo.com)  
 Carol Robertson, 519-0548 or [cfrobertson@charter.net](mailto:cfrobertson@charter.net)

## Public Policy: Take Action!

by Carlene Roberts

Did you watch President Obama's State of the Union speech on February 12? He laid out an ambitious agenda on many of AAUW's priorities: passing the Paycheck Fairness Act, increasing access to preschool education, improving opportunities in STEM, making college affordable for more of our students, and passing an inclusive Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). He was speaking to Congress AND to all of us.

We have a responsibility to communicate with and hold elected to represent us, and to hold them responsible for their actions—or inactions. Contact information can be found in the back of our membership directory for everyone except Sen. Tammy Baldwin. Also, AAUW website's "Two Minute Activist" provides quick easy connections. Together we can improve the state of the union.

The U.S. Senate voted to reauthorize VAWA, showing bipartisan support for a measure that would reinstate domestic violence prevention programs, and extend the law's protections to gays and lesbians and to women on tribal reservations. The bill also included campus safety provisions, and a human trafficking bill was added as an amendment. The 78-to-22 vote puts pressure on the House to renew the 18 year-old measure which lapsed in 2011. **Update:** the House passed the House version of the bill Feb. 28, 2013.

**To take action:** 1) urge Rep. Kind to support an inclusive VAWA reauthorization and 2) tell your senators how you feel about their votes. Sen. Baldwin voted in favor and Sen. Johnson voted against. Simply enter your zip code in AAUW's online "Two-Minute Activist" tool to see tailored messages for you to send.

---

## AAUW Art Fair on the Green

by Pat Staube, Chair

Preparations for the next Art Fair on the Green have begun. The registration packets have gone out to both returning and potential new artists. However, it's not too late to send in names of artists that may be interested in jurying for our art fair. New artists need to apply by March 31 so there is still plenty of time for anyone who is interested in our show. We have had approximately 90 artists participating the last few years. We would like to see this number grow to 100 artists this year. Jury Day will be in April.

**Welcome to Marian Schiesser who will be taking over Student Art!**

## National Conference for College Women Student Leaders

by Betty Kruck

Karin Johnson, a UW-L junior, was chosen by AAUW-WI to receive a \$500 scholarship to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. Karin was recommended as the La Crosse Branch nominee by member Bev Mach. Karin will attend the conference at the University of Maryland in College Park May 30–June 1.

The Spring issue of Badger Briefs announces Karin's selection, highlighting Karin's impressive credentials. She is working toward a triple major in Public Administration, Political Science and English Rhetoric. As a freshman, she was appointed and then elected to the La Crosse County Board where she served on the Judiciary and Law Committee, Health and Human Services Board and ad-hoc committees. She is employed by UW-L Office of Residence Life where she pioneered a "global village" program with domestic and international students living side by side. She has experience working with students with disabilities in afterschool program and summer parks programs.

La Crosse Branch members will have an opportunity to meet Karin at the May Scholarship Brunch.

# Treasury Report

*Michele Strange, Treasurer*

## Financial Report as of February 20, 2013

Checking Account ... \$11,928.73

CD's ..... none at this time

Scholarship Bridge .....\$324.02

# Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) Community Days

*by Bev Bodine, Chair*

By now everyone has received their coupon books for Community Days which is being held on March 1 and 2 this year. I still need 2 or 3 volunteers to help sell booklets in Herberger's the days of the event. If you are able to help for a 2-hour, or even a 1-hour, shift please let me know. All sales go directly to support LAF which works to end sex discrimination in work places and in higher education.



# 25 Books for 25 Years

*by Erica Koonmen*

Back by popular demand! Thanks to the generosity of our members and the local communities, we were able to donate over 100 books to 5 organizations serving women and girls last year. The organizations were very appreciative and so we decided to do it again this year. The plan is the same: asking community members to either purchase a book from the 25 on the recommended list or donate funds toward purchases. Once again, Pearl St. Books is offering 20% off the books. The list is new this year though. You can find it at Pearl St. Books or at our website: [www.aauwlacrosse.org](http://www.aauwlacrosse.org).

Please know that we are not asking our branch members to be the main source of support for the program but we do ask that you spread the word and encourage your friends and family to participate!

**Monetary donations can be sent to:**  
AAUW La Crosse/ 25 Books for 25 Years  
P.O. Box 2112 La Crosse, WI 54601



Checks should be made out to AAUW La Crosse. Organizations receiving the books are Couleecap, YWCA La Crosse, Brighter Tomorrows (Sparta) and Family & Children's Center.

# Scholarship Committee

*by Robert Richardson & Sharon De Cicco, Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs.*

We will meet directly after the Mar 9 Branch meeting. Each subcommittee will receive the application pool to review. During March, the committee members enjoy the honor of reading about the amazing growth, development, challenges, and hopes of our widely diverse applicants.

At the Branch Scholarship Brunch, all AAUW La Crosse members will get to meet our 2013 scholarship and grant recipients! We thank the Art Fair Committee for doing what they do which results in what we get to do!

Our branch member, Lois Gilbert, has been hard at work again this year researching and writing interesting tid-bits about notable women for the La Crosse Tribune. Watch for her items every day in March to learn about women centered around the National Women's History Project's theme this year: Women Inspiring Innovation through Imagination. Lois' work gives our branch some very positive visibility!



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 by sending an email to: [aauwlacrosse@hotmail.com](mailto:aauwlacrosse@hotmail.com)

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.