

# May Meeting: Scholarship and Award Brunch

**When:** Saturday, May 5, 2012

**Where:** Nursing Center room 195  
on the Viterbo University campus.  
The building is located on the corner of  
Jackson and 10th Streets.

**Breakfast Cost:** \$10.00

**Menu:** Assorted quiches, Fresh cut  
fruit, Muffins 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, May 2, 2012.*

- National Conference for  
College Women Student Leaders  
(NCCWSL) recognition
- Announcement of scholarships  
and grants
- Branch meeting and installation  
of officers

*Please see page 2 for information  
on how you can be a sponsor!*

AAUW

# The Current

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

VOLUME 51, ISSUE 9

MAY 2012



## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

## Your Branch Board

*by Marilyn Hempstead, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President*

After the winners of our scholarships  
have been acknowledged at the May  
5th brunch, we will install the new  
board officers. The change in the  
board is a bit of merry mix up this  
year.

We are fortunate in new president  
Carol Robertson's taking the helm  
beginning July1 for our 2012-2013  
year. Carol came to us from Chicago  
a few years ago and entered right  
into branch activities. She and I are  
trading positions, as I will take over  
as membership vice president.

Marla French is handing the office  
of secretary to Jean Petri who is  
adding that to her current role  
as liaison for Western Technical  
College. Marla is moving to join  
Pat Markos as program co-vice  
president. Michele Strange is  
competently continuing as finance  
vice president.

Jan Eriksen has been on the board  
for two years as secretary and two  
more as program co-vice president

balancing those duties with her  
position as assistant dean of the  
Viterbo School of Letters and  
Sciences. As she leaves the board,  
we know she will continue to  
contribute her talents to the art fair  
and other projects. Thank you, Jan,  
for your good and faithful work!

Beyond the elected officers,  
the board is fortunate in having  
15 appointed positions. This  
mix of accomplished, dedicated  
people serves you and, with your  
involvement, facilitates our branch  
in making a difference for our  
community and individual lives.

## Next Board Meeting

The board voted to have no meeting this  
month. Any decisions or announcements  
required will be done via email. Questions or  
concerns may be directed to  
Marilyn Hempstead marizah@yahoo.com

A meeting will be held this summer.

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



## 2012 AAUW Art Fair on the Green

by Pat Staupe, Chair

The Art Fair is rapidly approaching so this is a reminder to keep July 28 & 29 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.

The committee is actively working on the various parts of the art fair to ensure another quality event. A couple of our loyal committee members will be unable to be at the art fair this year. Sharon De Cicco will be filling in for Erica Koonmen and Marcia Wine will be filling in for Lori Kauffman. Thanks!

### **Artists Report:** by Erica Koonmen and Carol Robertson

16 new artists were juried in for this year's fair. There's an exciting selection of painters, potters, photographers, wood workers and mixed media! For the first time, we'll have hand-made chairs. And many of your favorite artists are returning too. Once again, it will be a great year for getting your holiday shopping done in July! Remember that gift certificates are available...they would make a great Mother's Day or Father's Day gift.

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

Our AAUW branch will provide water and soda at the AAUW Art Fair on the Green. The concession committee will welcome any member donations of water or soda. Please contact Betty Kruck to donate.

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

Again we'll be needing your help to make the Art Fair on the Green the huge success it always is! I'm looking for folks willing to work the entry gates, work in the food stand, be artist booth sitters and to sell tickets for the Gazebo Raffle. The art fair this year is Saturday, July 28th and Sunday, July 29th. Shifts are generally 2 hours long, sometimes 2 1/2 hours, and begin as early as 9 A.M. on Saturday or 9:30 on Sunday.

Last year there were several wife/husband teams working, which made my job as coordinator so much easier. AND the husbands enjoyed it! I'm looking for approximately 60 workers, so you can imagine that it will require both some spousal help as well as some of us working more than one shift. (It's fun to move around anyway. For example, it's amazing how many people you get to visit with as they come through the raffle area!)

Please contact Marla French either at 608-782-6589 or mfrench000@centurytel.net if you are available to work that weekend.

Workers are also needed for both the set up on Friday morning and take down immediately after the fair ends on Sunday. Please contact Carlene Roberts if you are able to lend a hand. 608-788-0868 or camcar5@earthlink.net.

## May Meeting (cont.)

### Sponsor a Recipient

AAUW La Crosse Branch has a total of 20 individual scholarships and 3 scholarship/grants that will be awarded at the May Scholarship Brunch. Each scholarship and grant recipient, and a relative or colleague they choose to accompany them, will be our guest at the brunch.



The AAUW scholarship committee invites AAUW members to help with the expense of the brunch by sponsoring a scholarship recipient and/or their guest.

Please contact Michele Strange, mstrange.mich@uwlax.edu if you would like to sponsor a scholarship recipient. You can pay Michele at the brunch or send your contribution to Michele at 2242 Redwing Road, La Crosse 54601.

Thanks for your generosity.

### WI AAUW Convention

The State Convention will be held on April 27-28 in Janesville. See the Spring BADGER BRIEFS for details. Carol Robertson, Marilyn Hempstead and Pam Thiel are attending.

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

### Hearth & Home

#### ***Murder Mystery: Intrigue at Sparkling Water***

Date: Wed., May 16th

Place: Carol Robertson's  
1 River Place Rd  
La Crosse

Time: 6:00pm

Bring an appetizer or dessert to share.



There's been a murder at the Sparkling Water Company and your help is needed to solve it! You'll be given a character profile complete with clues you can dole out sparingly. We'll have appetizers and dessert while mingling and trying to ferret out who dunnit.

While you can come and try to solve the mystery without playing one of the roles, at least 8 people are needed to play the roles. You'll be mailed your character details in plenty of time to be prepared.

Please RSVP to Erica (608-366-1509; moogs56@hotmail.com) by **May 10th**. Please let me know if you're willing to be one of the suspects; there are both male and females so you may have the opportunity to have a little fun with your part!

### AAUW in Action

***Next Meeting:** Thursday, May 3rd  
6:00 pm, River Place Apts, 1 River Place Dr.*

May's collection of items at the general meeting will be for gently used or new children's books, games and puzzles for the children at New Horizons, YWCA's Transitional Housing Program (both in La Crosse), and Brighter Tomorrows (in Sparta) so they will have activities over summer vacation. Also gently used or new baby items such as booster seats, crib sheets, receiving blankets, sippy cups, etc... Thank you!

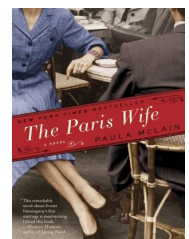
April 26th is the **Bullies and the Internet: The Impact of Cyberbullying on Our Children** presentation by Dr. Troy Harcey at Myrick Hixon EcoPark; 6:30-7:30pm. Thank you to all of you who volunteered to provide refreshments and help with set up and clean up!

On May 24th, we'll be providing dinner and a program (making your own cleaning supplies) to the YWCA's Transitional Housing Program.

### Contemporary Authors

**Our next book will be:**  
**THE PARIS WIFE**  
by Paula McLain

***Next Meeting:** Tuesday, May 15, 2012  
2:00 PM*



We meet 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.

## Here's the Simple Truth about the Pay Gap

*from the AAUW National website*

AAUW's easy-to-use, recently revised booklet, *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap*, is now available! Download it today at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) to see pay gap data for each state and read about the issues — or order free copies from ShopAAUW. Use the companion PowerPoint presentation, with talking points for each slide, to share the latest information on the pay gap at meetings, conferences, and other events.

## Get Your Free Economist Subscription!

As a thank-you for your membership and support, AAUW has 500 more free subscriptions to *The Economist*, a \$356 value! Every week, this publication explores current affairs, science, technology, and more. Call 800/230-0283 or visit [aauw.MagazineLine.com/Economist](http://aauw.MagazineLine.com/Economist) today!

**The  
Economist**

## AMOS Community Conversation

Mental Illness and Youth...The Conversation Continues.

Too often our youth suffer in silence because of the stigma of mental illness and barriers to services that help. Come join us and participate in the community conversation on youth and mental illness; learn how you can get involved and offer your ideas for solutions.

6 panelists will lead the conversation.

Where: Viterbo Fine Arts Center Lobby

When: Tuesday, May 1, 2012

Time: 6:30-8:30 pm

Contact Curtis Miller, AMOS for more information.  
608-487-3552 or [amoslacrosse@gmail.com](mailto:amoslacrosse@gmail.com)

## Public Policy

*By Carlene Roberts, Chair*

### Student Loan Affordability Act

This year the total that American students and graduates owe in student loans will surpass \$1 trillion, greater than total US credit card debt and 50% higher than the Pentagon budget for 2012.

US Senate bill 2051, called the Student Loan Affordability Act, will stop interest on these loans from doubling on July 1st, from 3.4% to 6.8%. More and more men and women are reliant on these loans.

Federal subsidized Stafford loans are one of the tools lower-income Americans use to afford higher education and open the door to better future employment opportunities. Funding for many college/university budgets has been reduced leading to higher tuition. The wage gap for women makes it even harder for them to repay their debt.



For over a century, the American Association of University Women has been fighting to ensure that students who dream of pursuing higher education can do so.

Please call your Senators and express support for Bill 2051, and urge that it be brought to the floor before July 1st.

Sen. Ron Johnson - 202-224-5323

Sen. Herb Kohl - 202-224-5653



*From the Treasurer*  
Michele Strange

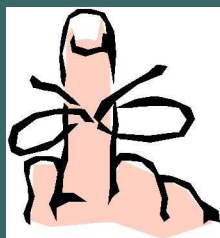
**Financial Report as of  
April 20, 2012**

**Checking Account** .....\$7,773.79

**CD's**

*matures May 2012* ..... \$ 5,133.01

**Scholarship Bridge**.....\$ 617.77



**Dues Reminder**

*by Michele Strange, Treasurer*

Please remember that now is the time for renewing your AAUW dues.

Dues are \$70; of which \$46 is tax deductible.

Attached to the newsletter is a renewal form. Please either give it to me at the general meeting on May 5th or mail it to me at:

Michele Strange, Finance VP  
2442 Redwing Rd.  
La Crosse, WI 54601

## 25 BOOKS for 25 YEARS

Representatives from all 5 organizations as well as branch and community members were on hand on March 26th as stacks of books were donated to the organizations. The representatives were thrilled to receive them and each of them spoke about what a wonderful impact the books would have on the women and children in their groups.

Thank you to all of you who made monetary or book donations! So far, we've given a total of 100 books. It was such a successful initiative, that we've been asked to do again next year...so stay tuned!

We also want to recognize and thank Jim Auler of Pearl Street Books for his generosity and help with the program.



*Organization reps with Pearl Street Books Jim Auler.*

## Membership News

*by Carol Robertson, VP Membership*

**Welcome to new member Maria Stahl**, who was recruited by Dottie Kruse. Thanks to Dottie for bringing Maria to our meeting. Maria's contact information:

Maria Stahl  
PO Box 362  
New Albin, IA 52160  
Home phone: 563-538-7090  
Work phone: 608-392-2620  
Email: maria.stahl@gmail.com  
Graduate of Ambassador University, CA with a BA in Theology



**Note change of email address** for Jean Petri:  
new email is: twojrps@gmail.com

## Announcing the 2012 AAUW Art Contest Winners!

Congratulations to the six winners of the 2012 AAUW Art Contest! These unique works of art — created by and for AAUW members — will be featured on note cards mailed in late April. If you have not received your cards by May 14, please e-mail [development@aauw.org](mailto:development@aauw.org).

The only mid-west winner was Sharon Pottebaum, AAUW West Suburban Milwaukee (WI) Branch with

*Crimson Surprise*





American Association of University Women

La Crosse Branch

P.O. BOX 2112 • LA CROSSE, WI 54602-2112

THE CURRENT

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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?

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.