

## March Meeting:

# My Mighty Mississippi

**Presenter:** Steven Marking

**When:** Saturday, March 14, 2015

**Where:** Viterbo School of Nursing, Room 195

**Breakfast Cost:** \$10.00

**Menu:** Ham & Swiss Quiche  
or Vegetarian Quiche  
Fresh Fruit  
Banana and Cherry Breads  
Orange Juice, Coffee & Tea

If anyone has dietary restrictions, please notify the person taking reservations, and the food service will do their best to accommodate you.

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

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

*For cancellations or late reservations contact Marla French  
Marla French at 782-6589, by noon  
on Wed, Mar. 11th*

Born and raised on the backwaters of the Upper Mississippi, Steve Marking knows our Mississippi River well. A world class vocalist, photographer, and videographer, he takes his audience for

*Continued on Page 2 »*

# The Current

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

VOLUME 54, ISSUE 7

MARCH 2015



## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE: Women's History Month

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

Each March we have the opportunity to celebrate the contributions of many women throughout history. I am struck each year by the accomplishments of women and

am so glad we are able to highlight what they have done. This year the theme for Women's History Month is "Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives" and our Branch will observe the month in various ways. On March 5, we will

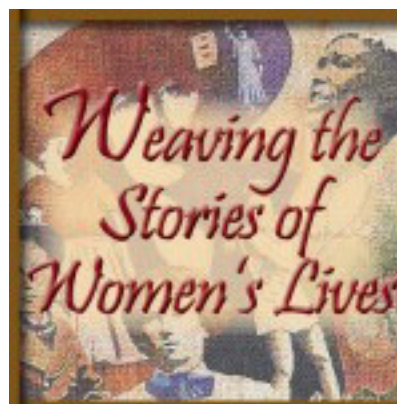
celebrate International Women's Day with an event at Hall of Nations, Centennial Hall, UW-L campus. There will be a panel of four women who will discuss their personal journeys and share the ways women have overcome barriers in their countries. Be sure to check out the details elsewhere in this issue.

Once again we will have a display in the windows at Pearl Street Books in which we recognize the

works of women in all aspects of art, literature, science, and mathematics. Stop by when you are in downtown La Crosse and check out the windows. Thank you

to the group from InAction (and our intern) for their time in putting the display together.

Also, as in the past few years, the LaCrosse Tribune will publish each day in March a short



*Continued on Page 2 »*

## Next Board Meeting

**Monday, March 9, 2015**

**6:30 pm**

River Place Apartments  
1 River Place Dr.

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

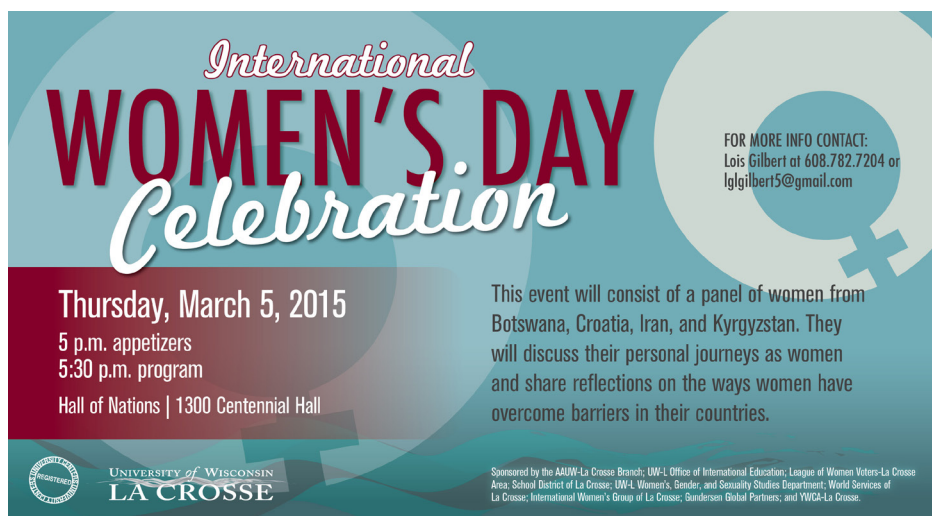
**Contact Carol at:** 519-0548 or  
[cfr Robertson@charter.net](mailto:cfr Robertson@charter.net) to place items on the agenda.

## Women's History Month... *(continued from pg. 1)*

summary highlighting individual women. Our thanks go to Lois Gilbert for researching and compiling these entries. These will run March 1 – 31.

I would like to remind you that March means the Scholarship committee is busy reading applications from deserving students for the selection of our scholarships and grants. Thanks to all those who diligently study these applicants and make the difficult choices of who receives the awards.

Thanks to all of you for your contributions to women's history. We all have a story to tell and weave!



*International*  
**WOMEN'S DAY**  
*Celebration*

Thursday, March 5, 2015  
5 p.m. appetizers  
5:30 p.m. program  
Hall of Nations | 1300 Centennial Hall

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:  
Lois Gilbert at 608.782.7204 or  
lgilbert5@gmail.com

This event will consist of a panel of women from Botswana, Croatia, Iran, and Kyrgyzstan. They will discuss their personal journeys as women and share reflections on the ways women have overcome barriers in their countries.

Sponsored by the AAUW-La Crosse Branch; UW-L Office of International Education; League of Women Voters-La Crosse Area; School District of La Crosse; UW-L Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department; World Services of La Crosse; International Women's Group of La Crosse; Sunderson Global Partners; and YWCA-La Crosse.

## Membership News

*by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership*

### Address Change

Martha Jane O'Donnell  
280 S. Luce Del Sol, #311  
St. George, UT 84770

Jane, a life member, is incorrectly identified as Jean in the directory. Please note the change of name and address in your book.



### Bargain Rate on Dues for New Members

If someone joins our branch at the International Women's Day event, the dues will only be \$22.75. National dues for any new members joining at a public event are just \$12.25 — 75 percent off AAUW national dues! This offer applies to the 2014–15 fiscal year, so the membership will expire June 30, 2015. I will be at the program on March 5th with brochures and membership materials.

### Gear Up for Graduation Season

With a blue and green graduation cord, students can show their AAUW pride when they walk on graduation day. Give the graduates you know an AAUW cord and a free AAUW membership to honor the occasion. To order, go to <http://aauw.org/> and click on "ShopAAUW". Cost is \$10 for the cord.

## March Meeting *continued...*

an all-seasons ride on the river, including the cities, sandbars, and backwaters. You will see beautiful photography from every season, as well as hear some of your favorite river songs.

Steve received a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance from Viterbo College in 1986 and went on to study in the east, receiving his MM degree in 1991 from Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore. He began his teaching career while he was still a Viterbo student, as a voice teacher with the La Crosse Boy Choir. He now resides in the Twin Cities area where he teaches voice and performs.

This program will be both informative and entertaining, so why not bring a guest? Potential members? Friends? Husbands?



*Steven Marking*

Study Group	Meeting day/time	Contact person
Bookfellows	3rd Wednesday of month at 2:00pm	Liz Wing, 782-7963
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	Sharon DeCicco, 788-5356
AAUW in Action	Various times & locations; please see below for current one	Erica Koonmen, 366-1509

## Study Group News

### Hearth & Home

#### Irish Dinner

**Date:** Wed., March 18, 2015

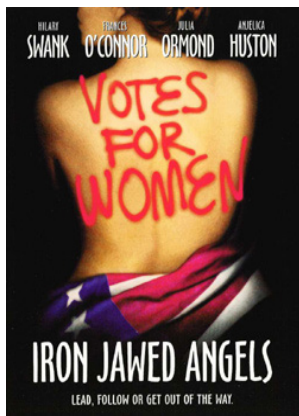
**Time:** 6 p.m.

#### Dublin Square Irish Pub and Eatery

103 Third Street N. downtown La Crosse (Parking ramp nearby)

Dublin Square is an authentic Irish Pub featuring traditional Irish and American cuisine. Check out their webpage: [www.dublinsquarepub.com](http://www.dublinsquarepub.com)

RSVP by Sunday, March 15th to: Jane Wernecke at [janeWernecke@gmail.com](mailto:janeWernecke@gmail.com) , 780-1121 or Sarah Stuber at [sjz212@charter.net](mailto:sjz212@charter.net) , 784-9310.



#### Free showing!

Sparta Cinema 6  
Saturday, March 28  
10:00 am

Donations requested to support Brighter Tomorrows

Co-sponsored by AAUW La Crosse, Options Clinic, League of Women Voters La Crosse and Brighter Tomorrows

### AAUW in Action

**Next Meeting:** March 18; 4:30pm; Eagle's Nest, 1914 Campbell Rd (near UWL)

Here are a few of our upcoming events; please join in if you see anything that interests you!

#### ***Celebrating March as Women's History Month:***

- International Women's Day panel; see pg 2 for more information. Thurs, March 5, 5pm, UWL
- Informative window at Pearl St. Books; see pictures on page 4
- Lois Gilbert will be doing her 4th year of daily women's history blurbs in the La Crosse Tribune for the entire month of March.
- Our branch, along with co-sponsors Brighter Tomorrows, Options Clinic and League of Women Voters, present a free showing of the movie "Iron Jawed Angels" on Sat. March 28, 10 am, Sparta Cinema 6 in Sparta. A donation is requested with proceeds going entirely to Brighter Tomorrow's Domestic & Sexual Abuse programs.

#### ***Start \$mart salary negotiaion workshops:***

Please see the article on Women Moving Ahead on page 4 for complete information.

**WINGS (Women INterested in Going to School)** a full day program on Sat. April 18th.



# WOMEN moving ahead

by Pam Thiel, AAUW Representative

Women Moving Ahead (WMA) is a collaborative multi-day conference to encourage the development of skills necessary for women to succeed in the professional world. AAUW along with several other community and student organizations have been on the planning committee since its inception. All events will be hosted at UW-L and kicks off most probably on April 8 with a free film and facilitated discussion. The main conference starts at 9:00 AM on Friday, April 17 with a keynote address delivered by Shelmina Abji, a senior executive at IBM in their Information Technology Sector and an UW-L alum originally from Tanzania. Senator Jennifer Shilling and Representative Jill Billings will speak on their experiences as legislators, and there is an international women's forum, along with other presentations on building confidence and developing your voice, and how to transform workplaces. AAUW's Start Smart negotiating salaries and benefits workshops are on Saturday, April 18 from 9:00 AM until 12:15 PM and local members will help facilitate the workshops.

Women Moving Ahead has its own webpage and it is the only place to register: <http://womenmovingahead.org/> Registration for non-students is \$25 for the Friday WMA Conference and \$15 for the Start Smart Workshop. Student fees are reduced and will be refunded when they attend. This is the first WMA Conference, but there are already movements to make it an annual event. Mark your calendar for these interesting and educational programs supporting our local women students.

## Chili Supper

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2015

5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Corner of West Ave & Division St) Fundraiser to benefit the Coulee Region Transitional Housing Ministry Partnering with the Transitional Housing Programs for women of the YWCA of the Coulee Region.

COST: \$7.00

**MENU:** Red chili, white chili and vegetarian soup (non-tomato), Panera Bread, crackers, veggies and dip, desserts, beverage. (CARRYOUTS AVAILABLE).

Please make checks payable to YWCA of the Coulee Region  
Contact Persons: June Kjome, 787-0466  
Debbie Dukatz, 788-7706

## Public Policy

By Carlene Roberts, Chair

A bipartisan ***Student Non-Discrimination Act*** was introduced by representatives from Colorado, Florida and Virginia. This would protect public school students from discrimination and harassment based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. AAUW supports this legislation and believes that all students should receive a high quality education free from discrimination. Please contact Rep. Ron Kind and encourage him to watch for and support this act. His contact information can be found in our branch directory.

***'Black Girls Matter: Pushed Out, Overpoliced and Underprotected'*** is the title of a report by the African American Policy Forum and the Columbia Law School's Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies. It raises the issue that girls of color often face much harsher school discipline than their white peers, but they are excluded from current efforts to address the school-to-prison pipeline. What is the extent of this problem in Wisconsin? Are state legislators from our area aware of this? Please look for an opportunity to bring this up and reference the above study. Find our legislators and their contact information in the branch directory.

Both of these situations negatively effect the quality and quantity of education for girls in our country, which in turn effects their quality of life, their ability to develop to their full potential, and their right to equality in our society.

***Remember, Tuesday April 14th is  
Equal Pay Day 2015.***

## Pearl St. Books Windows



*From the Treasurer*  
*Michele Strange*

**Financial Report as of  
February 28, 2015**

**Checking Account** .....\$12,142.03

**CD's**

*none at this time*

**Scholarship Bridge** .....\$320.02

## Art Award

The UW-L Department of Art's All Students Juried Exhibition was held Friday, Feb. 13 at the Fine Arts Building at UW-L.

Our Branch presented a \$50.00 award to Stewart Stehly, for *Ziggurate*, Sunflower seeds.



## Name Grant Nominations

*by Jan Eriksen, Chair*

It's time for nominations for the 2015 Name Grant award. Your candidate should be an AAUW La Crosse Branch member who has been an active contributor to the association and the branch. Members are permitted to receive the honor only once (the back of the 2014-2015 directory has past recipients). The Name Grant award funds are contributed in the awardee's name from the branch to the national AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund. The mission of the fund is "to support educational and lifelong learning opportunities that give women a chance for a lifetime of success."

Please let Jan Eriksen know of your nominee(s) for the grant. I can be reached at 796-3398 (office), 787-5946 (home), or jperiksen@viterbo.edu. You may leave a message at either of the telephone numbers. Please indicate why your candidate is deserving of the honor. The deadline is April 11. The recipient will be announced at the scholarship reception on April 30.

## WI State AAUW Convention

April 24—25, 2015  
The Osthoff Resort  
Elkhart Lake, WI



Registrations postmarked by Friday, March 13th will be entered in a drawing for a free, future one night stay at The Osthoff Resort. We encourage you to register early! Registration deadline is postmarked April 6, the same date that lodging reservations are closed.

The theme of the convention is Entitled to Succeed (Title IX).

Wisconsin Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson and WTMJ4-Milwaukee sportscaster Jessie Garcia are scheduled to speak at the AAUW-WI convention in Elkhart Lake at the Osthoff Resort on April 24-25. Abrahamson will be the keynote speaker on Saturday while Garcia will keynote on Friday evening.

For more information and to register, go to <http://aauw-wi.aauw.net/>



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 AT:

**aauwlacrosse@hotmail.com**