

## December Meeting:

### “A Note Above” quartet &

### Recycled Art Auction

**When:** Sat, Dec 13, 2014

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

**Breakfast Cost:** \$10.00

**Menu:** French Toast Bake, Fresh  
fruit, Ham, Muffins/breads  
Coffee/Tea/Orange Juice

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  
at [mfrench000@centurytel.net](mailto:mfrench000@centurytel.net) or  
782-6589 by noon on Wed, Dec 10th.*

Come join us for a festive brunch  
and get into the holiday spirit as we  
are entertained by *A Note Above*.  
*A Note Above* is a women's bar-  
bershop quartet from Onalaska,  
Wisconsin. This foursome has  
been together for about 10 years.  
Professionally, Donna Hoffman,  
bass, is a family medicine physi-  
cian; Kathy Kammel, tenor, is a 4th  
grade teacher; Denise Kachel, lead,  
is a pharmacist and Ellen Ritger,  
baritone, is a customer service rep-  
resentative at a local credit union.  
The quartet has appeared multiple  
times with the La Crosse Coulee

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# The Current

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

VOLUME 54, ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2014



## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

### Wintertime...

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

The cold and the snow arrived a  
little early this year, but as much  
as we would like it to have waited,  
we do live in Wisconsin, and so we  
may as well hunker  
down with mugs of  
hot chocolate and  
enjoy the view from  
our windows. Or, we  
can take advantage  
of the volunteer  
opportunities that  
were given to us at  
the November general meeting. The  
panel from the Homeless Coalition  
presented us with reminders that the  
cold weather is one more problem  
for those who struggle with finding  
a permanent place to live. So, if  
you are not content to sit by the fire  
for the next few months, why not  
consider giving your time at the  
Warming Shelter and/or Salvation  
Army, or calling the YWCA and  
New Horizons to see if you can help  
with any of their programs. It might  
just “warm” your day.

As we move through winter, our  
Branch activities continue. The

December general meeting  
program is the musical group, “A  
Note Above” along with the annual  
Silent Art Auction.

I want to thank  
Betty Kruck and  
Carlene Roberts  
for their efforts  
in preparing  
the proposal  
for hosting a  
delegation with  
World Services.

Unfortunately, we have learned  
that we will not be hosting the  
delegation. It seems that the  
funding for World Services has

*Continued on Page 2 »*

## Next Board Meeting

**Monday, December 1, 2014**

**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.

## Wintertime... *(continued from pg. 1)*

been decreased which means they will not be able to host as many groups as they have done in the past. Hopefully, we will be able to pursue being a host organization in the future.

As I wrote last year, not all share what we have. We know that local organizations are stretched to meet the needs of those who have difficulty providing for their families. I encourage you to support in any way, through time or money, those who are experiencing hardship.

However you choose to celebrate the holiday season, I wish for you a time of renewal and joy as families and friends get together to have good times, share memories, and create new ones to remember in the years to come.

## Membership News

*by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership*

Life member Jane O'Donnell has moved to be closer to family;  
Martha Jane O'Donnell  
280 S. Luce Del Sol, #311  
St. George, Utah, 84770

Pat Sheehan is in rehab in a Sparta care center. We wish her a healing recovery

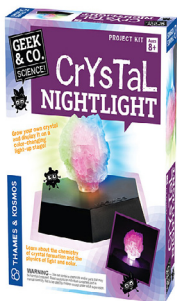
When the old year is done, new members joining receive a bargain. From January 1 to March 15 national dues for 2014/2015 are \$24.50 - half price. State dues are still \$13.00 and branch dues are \$8.00.

If you bring a friend to our December meeting, this might be an incentive to join.

Best of holidays to all La Crosse Branch members whether new or long time!

## Empowering Holiday Gift Guide for Girls

*from AAUW National*



You do have options beyond the "pink aisle." Giving a gift to the girl in your life is more than just a way to celebrate the holidays: It's a way to empower girls to believe in themselves, be creative, dream big, and try new things. For the third year in a row (check out our gift guides from 2012 and 2013 for even more ideas), we're looking beyond the "pink aisle" to find gifts that will stay with girls all year. Check out our picks for what will inspire the girls in your life this holiday season.

<http://www.aauw.org/2014/11/10/gift-guide-2014/>

## December Meeting continued...

Chordsmen Barbershop Chorus and performed recently on the Black River Falls annual barbershop show. They perform "Singing Valentines" annually to benefit the Children's Miracle Network. Besides traditional barbershop, they enjoy singing a variety of vocal styles including vocal jazz, doo-op, gospel, religious and winter holiday music. They have even sung for a Zucchini festival! The entertainment will be followed by our Silent Art Auction and our business meeting.



## Silent Art Auction

Here's a golden opportunity to make room for some new art in your homes! By bringing those pieces that have outlived their usefulness in your own home, you'll be giving someone else an opportunity to recycle them in theirs. This should be gently used original art that deserves a second chance. Just bring your art (pottery, paintings, jewelry, carvings, etc.) to the meeting by 9:30am.

If you feel that we should get a minimum amount for the piece, indicate that on the piece.

Don't forget your own checkbook so you can help others recycle!

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	Second Saturday of month, after general meeting	Erica Koonmen, 366-1509

## Study Group News

### Hearth & Home

Date: Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Time: Appetizers: 6:00 pm Dinner: 6:30pm

Location: 1230 Caledonia Street

Cost: \$30

RSVP and pay: ASAP to Sharon De Cicco

We will again join chef Shawn McManus for a gourmet dinner at Savory Creations! He will prepare our dinner while we are there and able to watch his technique. He loves to answer questions about food and food preparation.



#### Our menu :

Appetizers: Creamy Olive Tapenade; Caprese Skewers

Salad: Classic Caesar

Soup: Zuppa Toscana

Entree: Chicken Saltimbocca

Dessert: Chocolate Truffle with dusted Maldon Salt

So mark your calendars for an evening of fine dining and lots of good times. **Everyone is welcome!**

### AAUW in Action

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, December 9; 3:30pm  
JavaVino, 2311 State Rd, La Crosse

**Thank you for all the card, paper and calendar donations!** These have been distributed to local women's organizations and greatly appreciated.

We had a request from Brighter Tomorrows for new, **rectangular laundry baskets** so if, in your holiday shopping, you come across a good deal on them, please **bring them to the December meeting**. Brighter Tomorrows, in Sparta and Tomah, provides help for people dealing with domestic abuse. They fill the laundry baskets with needed household items as an efficient way for clients to carry the supplies and then, as an added bonus, the clients keep the basket to use.

Thank you!



Upcoming activities:

- *International Women's Day program:* our 3rd year of celebrating this with a panel of international women sharing their stories. Thurs, Mar. 5, 2015. UWL

***New members are always welcome!***





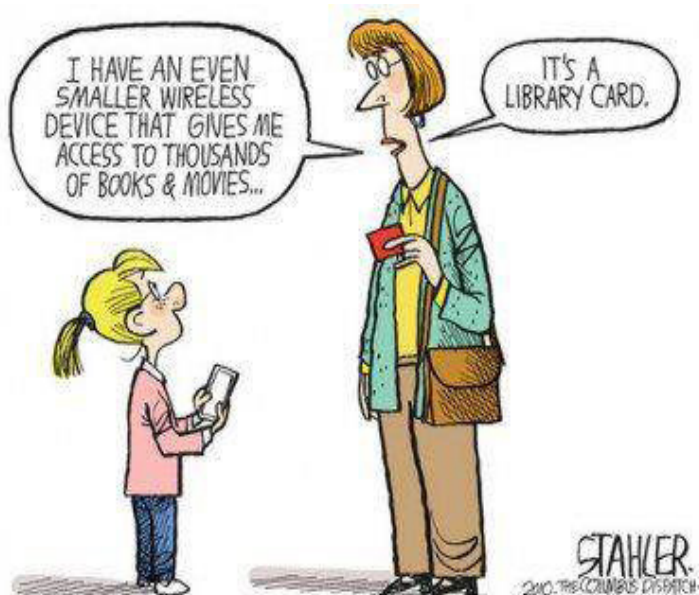
## SEASON OF GIVING

Each holiday season, people around the world take action to give back to their communities and build a better world. The best way to do that is to empower women — something AAUW has been doing since 1881. Don't miss your chance to support women and girls during this season of giving.

Here's just a sample of what your contribution can do:

- \$20 mails 50 student workbooks to one Elect Her training site, helping us teach college women how to run for office — and win!
- \$50 provides resources for AAUW student organizations to use in the fight for women's rights on campus.
- \$100 helps print and deliver get-out-the-vote materials for an AAUW voter registration table on a college campus.

Donate to AAUW now.



## Public Policy

From AAUW.org

### 5 Issues to Watch in the Supreme Court This Year

#### 1. Fallout from *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*

In this past summer's disappointing *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* decision, the Supreme Court ruled that closely held corporations can't be required to cover contraception through their employee health insurance plans. Hobby Lobby's legacy could mean that even more employers will be able to restrict their employees' access to contraception.

#### 2. Restricting Choice: TRAP Laws

In the last few years, a number of states across the country have passed so-called TRAP laws in an attempt to restrict and even eliminate women's access to legal abortion. TRAP stands for Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers. While many anti-choice laws impose restrictions on patients, TRAP laws are designed to prevent doctors from performing abortions altogether. We don't know when, and we don't know which case, but it seems likely that the Supreme Court will see a significant reproductive rights case very soon.

#### 3. Pregnancy Discrimination: *Young v. UPS*

Peggy Young, a UPS driver, requested temporary light-duty work because of medical complications during her pregnancy. UPS refused to provide light-duty work, even though it allowed several other categories of workers to be assigned such work when they were temporarily disabled. Young was forced to leave her job, losing her income and health care coverage at a critical time. Young eventually sued UPS under the Pregnancy Discrimination Act. Unfortunately, both the federal district court and the Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit sided with UPS.

#### 4. Voting Rights at Risk

This November, voters in nearly half the country faced new voting restrictions at the polls; restrictions that weren't there during the last midterm election four years ago. Those cases will likely return to the Supreme Court once they have gone through circuit court.

#### 5. Marriage Equality Surging

In the best news of the new term, marriage equality is increasing across the country as one same-sex marriage ban after another is struck down. So far, the court has declined to hear any of the cases, making marriage equality a reality in many states.

*From the Treasurer*  
*Michele Strange*

**Financial Report as of  
November 20, 2014**

Checking Account .....\$12,269.38

**CD's**

*none at this time*

Scholarship Bridge .....\$1,590.02

.....

**Directory Correction**

*Please note & correct  
your membership  
directory:*

The annual Scholarship  
reception will be  
Thursday, April 30th,  
not May 1st.

**NCCWSL Nominations**

If you know of a young college woman student leader you would like to nominate, please send the name to Carol Robertson by December 15. Eligible nominees must be enrolled in a program leading to an Associate degree (or equivalent), Bachelors degree, or Master's degree at a technical school or other 2-4 year public or private college/university.

For more information on the conference, please check the website AAUW.org or contact Carol Robertson: cfrobertson@charter.net

## Scholarship Committee

*by Robert Richardson, & Sharon DeCicco, Co-Chairs*

The Karen Wilson scholarship is only available to members and to applicants nominated by members. We award this scholarship to non-traditional (in age), female students.



You will find the qualifications listed on the scholarship application.(attached to the emailed edition) as well as on our branch website: [aauwlacrosse.org](http://aauwlacrosse.org)

The due date looms 2 months into the future, but time flies; and many applicants like to complete their application during the semester break.

We send this to you so that you begin to think about a possible nomination.

## Gift Wrapping

*by Marcia Wine, Chair*

Unfortunately we will not be doing the gift wrap set up at the Valley View Mall. After our success last year, I told the manager how profitable it had been, that we enjoyed it, and wanted to do it again this year.

When I went to sign up last week, she told me all the slots were taken. Several groups came to her after the holidays and said they didn't make enough money, what with three gift wrap stations in the mall, so the manager changed it to one big station each day this year. Apparently people signed up last January but she never notified me.

I will bring the left over gift wrappings to the December meeting.



Every two years, hundreds of women leaders from across the country gather to discover new ways to empower themselves and other women and girls. AAUW's national convention is a unique opportunity to learn new skills, gain insight and inspiration, and connect with other women leaders.

We can't wait to find new ways to empower women and girls at our **2015 convention, June 18–21, 2015, at the Sheraton Hotel and Marina in San Diego.**

Registration is open now! Register before January 15, 2015 for the best value. For registration and all the info, please go to:

<http://convention.aauw.org/>



**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.*

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- 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](mailto:aauwlacrosse@hotmail.com)**