

## February Meeting:

# Gundersen Global Partners

**Presenter:** Liz Arnold, director of Gundersen Global Partners  
**When:** Saturday, Feb. 14, 2015  
**Where:** Ward Room  
Cartwright Center, UWL

**Breakfast Cost:** \$10.00

**Menu:** *Denver Scramble  
Bacon*

*Fresh sliced fruit with berries  
Variety of Muffins  
Coffee, Hot tea, Orange juice*

*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 Betty Kruck at 608-689-2222 by noon on Wed, February 11.*

Liz Arnold, director of Gundersen Global Partners, will present our February program. Through this role she has the privilege of leading a phenomenal volunteer team of Gundersen employees and community members in the development

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# The Current

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

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## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

### Valentine's Day

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

Ah...Valentine's Day!

This year we will have the pleasure of meeting for our February general meeting on Valentine's Day. What better time to share a morning with friends. Liz Arnold from Gundersen Global Partners will be the speaker and enlighten us as to how we are all part of a larger community.

Caring about others is an integral part of our Branch. We have heard this year how we can assist in caring for the homeless as well as helping our community solve problems.

Continuing in that spirit are our continuing activities. Marcia Wine is arranging for us to again participate in Herberger's Community Days. By purchasing coupon booklets, we contribute to the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) which helps fight injustices in the areas of wage and gender discrimination as well as protecting those in the military by addressing sexual assault.

The Scholarship Committee will meet in February to begin reviewing the many applicants for the scholarships and grants that our branch awards each year. Helping women to complete their education is another way we care for those in need. Each year we hear their amazing stories and are impressed with their fortitude and perseverance.

The committee for Art Fair on the Green will be meeting in February to plan for the annual event which

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## Next Board Meeting

**Monday, February 9, 2015**

River Place Apartments  
1 River Place Dr.  
Meetings are open to any member who is interested in attending.

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

## Valentine's Day... (continued from pg. 1)

will be held the weekend of July 25th & 26th. Without the dedication of all of you who assist with the art fair, we could not award as many scholarships and awards as we do each year. Think about how you would like to participate this year and watch for ways to volunteer your time.

So you see we care about others throughout the year. Thanks for all you do to make sure we are able to continue taking care of others.

## DISPLAY OF VINTAGE VALENTINES



Since our February meeting falls on St. Valentines Day, there will be an array of vintage valentines displayed in the Ward Room from the collection of Marilyn Hempstead. Come early to see lacy, sentimental, cute and flowery examples from the 19th and 20th centuries.

## Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership

Our sincere **Condolences** to Silvana and Robert Richardson on the passing of Silvana's mother Josephine Filippello in South Bend, Indiana, at the age of 96. Members may remember her as a petite lovely lady who came to our branch meetings when she was visiting the Richardson's. We are glad to have known her.



There is a temporary **address change** for Janet Kusch:  
PO Box 308  
La Crosse WI 54602-0308



## VALENTINE SURPRISE

At our meeting on Valentine's Day every guest you bring will receive a valentine. Invite your friends!

## Silent Auction Report

Thank you to all who participated in the annual silent art auction at the December 2014 meeting. We had varied and unique items donated!

This year's fundraiser brought in :

Silent Art Auction - \$150.00

LAF Jewelry Sales - \$99.00

## February Meeting continued...

of sustainable partnerships with underserved communities around the world. Global Partners supports healthcare, education, and community development activities in Nicaragua, Ethiopia, and Pine Ridge Reservation, S.D. More than 350 individuals from the Coulee Region have volunteered with Global Partners since the program began in 2008. Local organizations including UW-La Crosse, Viterbo University, Western, area school districts and Rotary clubs have provided leadership and philanthropic support for a variety of projects. This unique community-to-community partnership model was nationally recognized in November 2014 when Global Partners received an "Indian Health Service Director's Special Recognition Award" for partnership with the IHS clinic in Wanblee, S.D.

Join us for brunch and get an overview of this organization and its work. You might be interested in becoming a volunteer!



Liz Arnold

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

#### *Annual Hearth and Home Valentine's Party*

**Date:** Wed., February 11,

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Place:** Patt Boge's house: 219 S. 21st St. La Crosse

Bring something red to eat, heart-shaped, or in a heart-shaped dish.

Also an inexpensive (maximum \$10) gift to exchange.

Questions? Call Patt Boge at 784-3952 or p.boge lacrosse.lib.wi.us.



### AAUW in Action

**Next Meeting:** *February meeting TBA.*

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

- *Start Smart salary negotiaion workshops:*

Pam Thiel, branch member, is working with Women Moving Forward group to offer a workshop on April 18th.

- *WINGS (Women INterested in Going to School)* will expand to a full day program this year. Tenative date is Saturday, April 18th.

- *Celebrating March as Women's History Month*, there'll be an informative window at Pearl St. Books again this year. The theme is: "Weaving the Stories of Women's Lives." 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.



#### International Women's Day Reception and Program

**March 5th Reception: 5:00 Program: 5:30 UW-L Centennial Hall, Hall of Nations rm 1300**

A coalition of organizations & university departments joins our AAUW La Crosse Branch in co-sponsoring an International Women's Day celebration. Mark your calendar to hear panelists from Kyrgyzstan, Iran, Botswana & Croatia discuss the role of women in their countries. International Women's Day is celebrated all over the world annually on March 8th. The theme adopted for 2015 is *Make It Happen*. This will be the 3rd annual program in La Crosse that AAUW has initiated to commemorate this special day. Sponsoring organizations are AAUW La Crosse Branch, YWCA, League of Women Voters of La Crosse Area, World services of La Crosse, Gundersen Global Partners, International Women's Group of La Crosse, UW-L Office of International Education and UW-L Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Dept.

## Art Fair Chair Position

Nominations for the position of AAUW Art Fair on the Green Chairperson are open and being accepted until February 2, 2015. Voting will be at the next Art Fair committee meeting on Feb 23rd. Carol Robertson has been nominated and is willing to serve!

Please send letters of interest or nominations to Erica Koonmen at [moogs56@hotmail.com](mailto:moogs56@hotmail.com).

## Art Fair Committee Meeting

Art Fair Committee will meet Mon, Feb.23rd, 6:00 p.m. Community Room, RiverPlace Apartments. We will review suggestions from last year and start planning for this year's event. Please join us if you are interested in working on the Art Fair! If you cannot attend, please send Carol Robertson a committee report.

## 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. She can be reached at 796-3398 (office), 787-5946 (home), or [jperiksen@viterbo.edu](mailto: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.

## State Ballot Measures: How Women Fared in 2014

*From AAUW National website*



### Giving Workers and Women a Raise!

Voters in Alaska, Arkansas, Illinois (nonbinding), Nebraska, and South Dakota strongly supported minimum wage increases. In fact, in each and every state, (red and blue) the measures received more votes

than the winning candidates running statewide. Hundreds of thousands of workers will now be eligible, starting in 2015, for an hourly raise.

### Paid Sick Days Pass, Too

In Massachusetts, Question 4 passed, giving more workers the family friendly benefit of paid sick days. Other local jurisdictions in the country also passed paid sick days.

### Protecting Choice, Promoting Equal Rights

Voters resoundingly said no to a personhood measure in ND and rejected a similar initiative again in CO. IL voters passed an advisory ballot initiative requiring health insurance plans to cover prescription birth control. Unfortunately, we had a setback in Tennessee, where Amendment 1, which strips the constitutional protection for access to abortion, prevailed. We'll remain vigilant about the issue there and look for opportunities to restore women's rights to make private medical decisions. In OR, we passed the Equal Rights for Women Initiative, which closely mirrors the language of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the U.S. Constitution. We won with close to 64 percent of the vote — this represents a positive step forward in the national effort for ERA ratification. officials about issues that match our AAUW mission.

### Onward

These are significant victories, and that's good news not just for women and workers but for the country. Based on these election results, the country has entered a more progressive era when it comes to ballot initiatives. That's not to say some regressive initiatives didn't pass in some places this year. But the pendulum has swung back, and advocates for women and girls, like AAUW, were better positioned not only to stop regressive initiatives but to proactively use the power of ballot measures to advance key public policy priorities that have been long stalled in Congress.



## *From the Treasurer* *Michele Strange*

### Financial Report as of January 20, 2015

Checking Account .....\$10,673.41

#### CD's

*none at this time*

Scholarship Bridge .....\$320.02

## Art Award

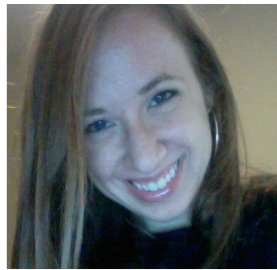
The UW-L Department of Art's All Students Juried Exhibition has been moved up this year and will be held Friday, Feb. 13 at the Fine Arts Building at UW-L. Once again, our Branch will give a \$50.00 award to a deserving student.

Please feel free to attend the reception. Awards will be given starting at 4:30.



## Intern Joins Branch

*by Betty Kruk, Public Policy Intern co-chair*



*Kaitlyn Grueter*

Kaitlyn Grueter will be working as a UW-L Public Policy intern with our AAUW La Crosse Branch. Kaitlyn is a senior majoring in Economics with a minor in Accountancy. Kaitlyn participated in a Global Consulting Program at Economics University of Bratislava, Slovakia in 2014. She worked with a cross-cultural team consulting for the United States Embassy in Slovakia to solve authentic, complex business problems.

Kaitlyn has a keen interest in public policy and is excited to intern with a non-profit organization such as AAUW. She currently is an AAUW e-affiliate member, and she will be promoting AAUW e-affiliate membership on the UW-L campus. Kaitlyn met with Carlene Roberts, Andrea Hansen and Betty Kruck prior to the end of the last semester to discuss possible projects as an intern. She has already researched one AAUW campus project, Elect Her, and she is ready to select and start projects for this semester.

## Women Moving Forward

*by Pam Thiel, AAUW Representative*

Women Moving Forward is a collaborative multi-day conference to encourage the development of skills necessary for women to succeed in the professional world. AAUW has been on the planning committee since its inception. The event is the week of April 13 with an evening book discussion on a common read yet to be determined and another evening at UW-L for a facilitated discussion after viewing a film.

The main event will be held at UW-L during the day on Friday, April 17 and includes a keynote address by Shelmina Abji, a senior executive at IBM in their Information Technology sector and an UW-L alum originally from Tanzania.

AAUW's \$tart \$mart negotiating salary and benefits workshops are on Saturday, April 18. More details on registration and programs will be provided as they become available. Mark your calendar for these interesting and educational programs.





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