

## January Meeting:

# Aging out of Foster Care

**Presenter:** Panel of former Foster Care Youth

**When:** Saturday, Jan. 10, 2015

**Where:** Ward Room  
Cartwright Center, UWL

**Breakfast Cost:** \$10.00

**Menu:** Fresh fruit platter  
French Toast (with syrup)  
Coffee Cake/Breads  
Juice, Coffee, Tea

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, Jan. 7

Desiree Parker from the Youth Advisory Council along with Rowshell and Angel, two young women who have aged out of the foster care program in La Crosse County, will form a panel discussing "Aging Out of Foster Care" for our January meeting. Rowshell and Angel will explain the challenges they have faced since turning 18 and leaving foster care. Ms. Parker, who also serves on the State Youth Advisory Council, will give us a brief overview of foster care. There

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# The Current

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## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE: Happy New Year 2015

by Carol Robertson, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

As we turn the page to 2015, our Branch continues with various projects and activities. Art Fair Committee will begin preparations for the 57th Art Fair on the Green. Letters to artists will be sent the end of January so if you have an artist in mind that you think would be a good addition to the art fair, email Erica Koonmen with the artist's contact information and we will add them to the list.



International Women's Day program will be held on March 5. This is the 3rd year we have collaborated with other groups in the university and local communities to celebrate the contribution of women throughout the world. Save the date!

The Scholarship Committee has begun the process of accepting nominations for the scholarship award recipients. Each year we are privileged to be involved in the lives

of these students who work so hard to achieve their goals.

As you plan ahead in the year, I would call to your attention AAUW-WI's State Convention. It will be held April 24-25 in Elkhart Lake at the Ostoff Resort. The speakers will be Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson and Sportscaster Jessie Garcia. It strikes me that the two speakers illustrate women in leadership in all areas. The theme is "Entitled to Succeed (Title IX)". We are

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## Next Board Meeting

**Monday, January 5, 2015**

January will be an email meeting. Carol will send out the agenda and board members can respond with their reports which will be compiled into one report after the meeting.

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

## Happy New Year 2015... *(continued from pg. 1)*

reminded that not all young women are aware of how groundbreaking Title IX was. The convention committee is encouraging members to plan a family outing in connection with the convention. The location is a departure from the usual "hotel only" setting. Check out the area and see if you would be interested in attending the 2015 State Convention.

Check out the various projects that our Branch offers and choose which one fits for you.

Happy 2015!

## Scholarship News

*by Robert Richardson, Co-Chair*



Reminder: The scholarship committee must receive completed scholarship applications by February 15th. AAUW La Crosse Branch will award \$20,000 in scholarships at our Thursday, April 30th, evening reception.

Note: We moved the Saturday Scholarship Brunch to Thursday Appetizers in order to avoid conflict with all the community activities scheduled for the the first weekend of May.

## Membership News

*by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership*

### Half Price Dues

From January 15 to March 15, anyone joining our branch will pay half of the yearly cost of local, state and national dues. Thus dues will be \$35.00 for the 2014/2015 program year.

That will be good news to guests attending our January meeting who are interested in joining.



## January Meeting continued...

will be time for questions. Join us for brunch or just the program and learn about a topic of which few of us are knowledgeable.



### What can I do?

Compared to other youth in the United States, kids who age out of foster care are more likely to not have completed high school or received a GED, they often suffer from mental health problems, many are unemployed and live in poverty, and nearly 40% become homeless.

You may be asking yourself, "What can I do?"

You can:

1. Be a mentor. If you are unable to commit more than a couple of hours a week, this is the option for you. Having at least one caring adult in a young person's life has been shown to make a substantial difference in adult outcomes.
2. Become a foster parent. This commitment is far more substantial, as is its lifelong rewards for both the youth and yourself. You will have an enormous positive impact, and you will grow as a person beyond your expectations.
3. Adopt a young person. Although the goal is to reunify the youth with family whenever possible and appropriate, there are youth who do not have this option. Be there for a young person who needs you.

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

Hearth & Home does not meet in January. The next meeting will be the annual Valentine's Day Party at Patt Boge's:

Date: Wednesday, February 11

Time: 6:00 -8:00 p.m.

Hearth & Home study group meets monthly to explore new ideas, culinary experiences, fun activities and our area through visits to local businesses or in-home happenings!

### What are Study Groups?

Study groups provide an opportunity for members to grow intellectually and creatively, broaden their involvement in topics of interest, become agents for intelligent community action and meet people who share similar interests. Please note that anyone is always welcome to attend any of these groups – no strings attached! Drop in, and bring a friend, to experience fellowship and the pleasures of lifelong learning.

### AAUW in Action

*Next Meeting: Januray will be an email meeting.*

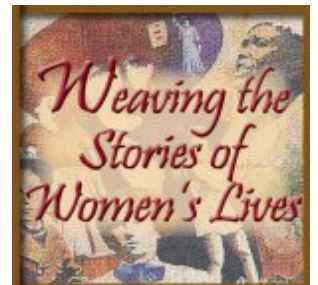
Here are a few of our events for the year; please join in if you see anything that interests you!

- *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

- *\$tart \$mart salary negotiaion workshops:* Pam Thiel, branch member, is working with Moving Women Ahead group to offer a spring workshop

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

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



*New members are always welcome!*



## Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Community Celebration

### Featured Speaker Ruby Bridges

*(the first African-American student to desegregate William Frantz Public School in New Orleans)*

Monday, Jan. 19 at 7 p.m.  
Fine Arts Center Main Theatre  
Viterbo University – La Crosse, Wis.

- Richard Breaux, Master of Ceremonies,  
Assistant Professor, Ethnic and Racial Studies,  
UW-La Crosse
- Music by the Viterbo University Music Department
- Shaudel Spivey's Praise Dance
- MLK Leadership Award Presented

This event is free and open to the public.

## AAUW Announces Acquisition of Start Smart and Work Smart

Making systemic changes for fair pay takes time — and AAUW is proud to be working on the issue. But we also want to give women the tools to empower themselves right now. That's why AAUW is excited to announce our acquisition of the WAGE Project's signature programs, Start Smart and Work Smart. These workshops empower college and professional women to negotiate better salaries and benefits. By teaching women how to negotiate for equitable pay and appropriate benefits for both short- and long-term economic security, these programs allow women to take individual action to help diminish the unexplained wage gap. AAUW's acquisition will build on an excellent foundation of proven results and success.

## Public Policy

*By Carlene Roberts, Chair*

### Watch January 20th:

#### President Obama's State of the Union Address

WATCH to see if he addresses education and economic equity for women and their families.

TAKE NOTE - It's likely that one of the first items on the agenda of the 114th Congress will be reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

WATCH the upcoming debate over adequate funding, accountability from our schools, stopping voucher schemes and keeping student civil rights protections. Let our representatives know where you as an AAUW member stand on these issues.

CHEERS - In November AAUW president Patricia Fae Ho represented us all in a roundtable on women's economic security with U.S. Sec. of Labor Tom Perez.

Eight women seated around the table shared their stories and struggles and the solutions needed at all levels. Single mother households are the fastest growing demographic in our society. These women and their families are in need of fair pay, a decent minimum wage, paid sick leave, access to further education and affordable child care. Sec. Perez expressed appreciation for AAUW's work and leadership on women's economic security.

In December the Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved an AAUW sponsored bill, already passed by the House, aiming to crack down on international child sex offenders.



In 2014 AAUW saw a 57% jump in Two-Minute Activist messages sent by members and supporters to Congress, the Obama administration and state lawmakers. This tool and the AAUW Action Network are the cornerstones of our e-advocacy efforts. Please join this growing effort and educate our elected officials about issues that match our AAUW mission.

*From the Treasurer*  
*Michele Strange*

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

Checking Account .....\$11,776.56

**CD's**

*none at this time*

Scholarship Bridge .....\$620.02

*Nominating Committee*

It's that time of year to think about filling positions for the coming year.

The Nominating Committee will meet in February to start the process.

If you are interested in being a member of the committee, email or call Carol Robertson.



## What a Year for Breaking through the Glass Ceiling from AAUW National



We are thankful for all the firsts that happened for women in 2014, including Janet Yellen becoming the first female chair of the Federal Reserve Board; Malala Yousafzai becoming the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize; Becky Hammon becoming the first female regular season assistant coach in the NBA; Megan Brennan becoming the first female U.S. postmaster general and chief executive; Adm. Michelle Howard becoming the Navy's first female four-star officer; Maryam Mirzakhani becoming the first woman to win the Fields Medal (commonly known as the Nobel Prize for mathematics); and Rep.-elect Alma Adams (D-NC) becoming the 100th woman member of the 113th Congress — a new record for women's representation in government. A special shout-out to 13-year-old Mo'ne Davis for being the first girl to throw a shutout in Little League World Series history and becoming the first Little League player to grace the cover of Sports Illustrated!

### January Highlights in US Women's History

- January 3, 1949 – Margaret Chase Smith (R-Maine) starts her tenure in the Senate, where she stays in office until 1973, became the first woman to serve in both the House and Senate as she previously served in the House (1940-49)
- January 5, 1925 – Nellie Tayloe Ross is inaugurated as the first woman Governor in U.S. history (Governor of Wyoming)
- January 7, 1896 – Fanny Farmer's first cookbook is published in which she standardized cooking measurements
- January 7, 1955 – Marian Anderson is the first African American woman to sing at the Metropolitan Opera
- January 8, 1977 – Pauli Murray is ordained as the first female African American Episcopal priest
- January 11, 1935 – Amelia Earhart makes the first solo flight from Hawaii to North America
- January 12, 1932 – Hattie Wyatt Caraway (D-Arkansas) is the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate, becomes the first woman to chair a Senate Committee and the first to serve as the Senate's presiding officer
- January 25, 1980 – Mary Decker became the first woman to run a mile under 4 1/2 minutes, running it at 4:17.55
- January 29, 1926 – Violette Neatly Anderson is the first black woman to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court



**American Association of University Women**

*La Crosse Branch*

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**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)**