

DECEMBER MEETING

THE JINGLE BELLES

A Musical Holiday Celebration

When: Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015

Where: Viterbo University School
of Nursing Room 195

Breakfast Cost: \$10

Breakfast Menu:

Hot breakfast, coffee and hot tea

Please note: Anyone with dietary restrictions should notify the person taking reservations. The food service will do their best to accommodate.

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

Registration9:30 AM
Breakfast10:00AM
Program10:30AM

RSVP DEADLINE:

For cancellations or late reservations please call Silvana Richardson at 608-788-0595 by **NOON on MONDAY, December 7th.**

THE JINGLE BELLES, Rebecca Weber, Trina Schlifer and Mary Leithold, have been members of the Coulee Region Gospel Choir for more than 15 years. They made their trio debut a few years ago as one of the featured musical

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The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

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DECEMBER 2015



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Hope...

by Carol Robertson, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

The last few weeks have challenged us to keep up the spirit of hope and thankfulness that surrounds us during the holiday season. The events in Beirut, Paris, and Mali together with the downing of a Russian plane remind us once again that there are those around the world that want to frighten us as we live our daily lives. As in past conflicts, there are no easy answers to solutions but as educated individuals, we need to read and learn the facts about any situation. Rumors and innuendos do not give us hope – only fear. I wish for all of you hope and peace this season.

A way to give hope to others is through the wonderful programs we have throughout the region that support those who are experiencing hardship. Giving trees, warming shelters, coat drives, and toy donations are ways to give back the hope that some have lost. Check out

the various ways you can help through volunteer organizations.

H = Have
O = Only
P = Positive
E = Expectations

A big thank you goes to Betty Kruck and Carlene Roberts for their efforts in preparing the proposal for hosting a delegation with World Services. Last year we submitted a proposal but were not selected.

That did not deter Betty and Carlene because they submitted another proposal this year on behalf of the Branch and we were selected! AAUW –LaCrosse will be hosting a delegation from Kosovo Nov. 11-19,

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NEXT BOARD MEETING

Monday, Dec. 7th at 6:30 pm

Location:

Viterbo University Nursing Building,
Room 103 Meetings are open to any
member who is interested in attending.

Contact Carol at:

399-1751 or cfrobertson@charter.net
to place items on the agenda.

Get all the CURRENT news at our website: www.aauwlacrosse.org

Hope... *(continued from page 1)*

2016. The topic will be "Domestic/Gender Violence". More details will be forthcoming but we are happy to serve as hosts with World Services. Our efforts may help to give hope to those living with violence.

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

Thanks for all you do.

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership



This month we welcome two new members. Please add their info to your directory.

Suzanne S. Toce

232 17th Place S La Crosse, WI 54601

608 793 1516

UW-Madison MD

toCESS@charter.net

Suzanne is a recently retired pediatric physician from Gundersen.

Sangeetha Lourdes Kelly

304 21st St. S La Crosse, WI 54601

785 550 4571

University of Kansas ESL MA

sangeethalourdes@yahoo.com

Sangeetha grew up in Malaysia, came to the US for her college education and stayed here. She joined at our November meeting.

CORRECTION

Aubrey Stetter-Hesselberg's address was incorrect in the Nov. *The Current*: 808 Judith Court

Holmen WI 54636

Apologies to Aubrey and thanks to her for alerting us to the error.



Kudos to Lois Gilbert for her record of recruiting new members. She invited Sangeetha to our last meeting. You, our members, are the best source of spreading the word about our great branch. Thank you.

DECEMBER MEETING

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groups that performed for the Coulee Region Gospel Choirs Christmas concert. They enjoyed singing (and laughing) together so much that they have continued to be a regular part of the annual program. Today they will be sharing a collection of standard and contemporary songs of the season.



The Jingle Belles

Sue Heuer's collection of handmade Christmas cards made by former Roosevelt Elementary kindergarten teacher, Gretchen Mader, will be on display.



If you would like to bring a few holiday cookies we will sharing these as part of our brunch. Please do not feel pressured at this hectic time of year to do this.



FROM THE TREASURER

Kristin Foehner

Financial Report as of November 20, 2015

Checking Account\$11,122.49

CD'snone at this time

Scholarship Bridge.....\$654.02

.....

December Highlights in Women's History

December 1, 1955 – Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a bus to a white person; her arrest sparks the modern civil rights movement in the US.

December 7, 1941 – Capt. Annie Fox receives the first Purple Heart awarded to a woman for her service while under attack at Pearl Harbor.

December 10, 1869 – Wyoming is the first territory to give women the right to vote.

December 14, 1961 – President's Commission on the Status of Women is established to examine discrimination against women and ways to eliminate it.

December 28, 1967 – Muriel Siebert becomes the first woman to own a seat on the N.Y. Stock Exchange.

AAUW La Crosse 2015-2016 Budget

The following budget was approved by the La Crosse Branch Board at their meeting on August 31, 2015. Please contact Kristen Foehner at K_Foehner@yahoo.com with any questions related to the budget for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

Income

Art Fair	\$1,600.00
Branch Dues.....	\$750.00
Investment Income	\$0
Meals	\$100.00
Fundraisers (LAF, etc.)	\$1,250.00
Miscellaneous donations (LAF, etc.).....	\$245.00
In Action Projects	\$200.00
Total Income	\$4,145.00

Expenses

Board Tools (postage, supplies)	\$50.00
Convention	\$400.00
Current (printing, postage, supplies)	\$135.00
Legal Advocacy Fund Donation	\$1,000.00
Other Donations	\$550.00
Hospitality	\$25.00
Insurance	\$560.00
Membership.....	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$0
Name Grants	\$1,000.00
Organization (directory, PO box, website)	\$199.50
Program (room rent, honoraria)	\$530.00
Scholarship Expenses	\$55.00
In Action Projects	\$500.00
UWL Senior Art Award	\$50.00
Total Expenses	\$5,054.50

OVERALL TOTAL -\$909.50

Holiday Gift Guide for Empowering Girls: The 2015 Edition

To help you find gifts that defy stereotypes, inspire creativity, and promote self-confidence in the girls in your life, AAUW has created a holiday guide to navigating the evolving toy aisles. For toy suggestions based on age as well as the following categories: Defies Stereotypes, Builds Spatial Skills, Makes a Charitable Impact, Promotes Leadership Development & Teaches Empathy, go to:
<http://www.aauw.org/2015/11/10/gift-guide/>.



You'll also find gift guides for past years there.

Public Policy

By Carlene Roberts, Public Policy Chair



Don't be fooled by the Workplace Advancement Act, Senate Bill 2200. PLEASE contact our Senators Baldwin and Johnson to oppose this bill. Contrary to its name it puts forth a very weak solution to the gender pay gap: a very narrow non-retaliation provision that would require workers to use legally 'magic words' when initiating discussions about pay. The bill fails to close many loopholes that have been used for over 40 years in the Equal Pay Act of 1963. Much more work needs to be done to expand the effort to eliminate the gender pay gap in the US.

AAUW's Involvement in the United Nations

By Olivia Dorscheid, UWL Student Volunteer and Betty Kruck, AAUW La Crosse

As part of her semester volunteer hours with our branch, Olivia researched AAUW's involvement in the United Nations and, with her branch mentor Betty Kruck, developed a fact sheet that was handed out at the November branch meeting. If you missed it, here is the handout:



AAUW is represented in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs on a special consultative basis. The ECOSOC, initiates reports, makes recommendations, and promotes respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.



AAUW is working towards ensuring that women's voices are heard in international policy arenas, and to ensure that the advancement of women's rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women are part of the global agenda.



There are five AAUW members that are active representatives in the United Nations: a U.N. representative, 2 youth representatives, 1 former youth ambassador and 1 girl advocate from the Working Group on Girls.



Different issues that the AAUW's U.N. representatives focus on include women's empowerment, human trafficking and increasing women's opportunities in mathematics, science, technology and engineering.



AAUW's representatives plan events, host events for the Commission on the Status of Women, attend briefings, sign on to relevant documents and submit research.

More information on the representation of AAUW in the United Nations can be found at:

<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/global-connections/international-coalitions/united-nations/>



AAUW U.N. youth representatives (from left)
Antoinette Gingerelli and Katherine Moreira

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	meeting occasionally, see below for details	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

Join us for our annual Savory Creations dinner event!

When: Wednesday, Dec. 9th, 2015

Time: 6:30pm

Place: Savory Creations,
1230 Calendonia St. La Crosse



Cost: \$30. Menu includes: smoked salmon croquettes with lemon dill creme, pan seared pork tenderloin with Door County cherry and caramelized shallot chutney, rosemary roasted red potatoes with cracked pepper oil, a veggie, beverage, hot apple cider and infused water.



Hosts: Sharon De Cicco &
Phyllis Miletto

Please RSVP to Sharon at 608-788-5356 or sharon.decicco@gmail.com

Hearth & Home study group meets periodically to explore new ideas, culinary experiences, fun activities and our area through visits to local businesses or in-home happenings. If you are interested in planning a program for the group or if you would like to head it up, please contact Sharon.

AAUW IN ACTION

Next Meeting: email meeting in January 2016.



AAUW in Action is a study group that serves as a springboard for community service activities for our branch that promote AAUW's mission.

We welcome new members and suggestions for events and programs.

INTERESTED IN STARTING A NEW STUDY GROUP?

We are always open to starting new groups! The Contemporary Authors book group is full so a new book group would be great. Other ideas include Walkers and Talkers, Out to Lunch Bunch, Gourmet Cooking or Money Smart. Let others know what your interests are and perhaps there will be enough people to get a group going!





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 EditorErica Koonmen (moogs56@hotmail.com)
Webminder*Position Open!*
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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