

MARCH MEETING

Art That Inspires

Presenters: AAUW Art Fair on the Green Artists Marcia Newquist, Laurel Grey and Mike Holler

When: Saturday, Mar 10 , 2018

Where: UW-La Crosse,
Centennial Hall, Hall of Nations

Cost: \$10

Menu: Scrambled eggs, (shredded cheese & salsa on the side) French Toast, butter, syrup, Bacon, Fresh fruit , Mini wheat bagels, cream cheese on the side, tea bread , gluten free bread, Orange juice, coffee, decaf coffee, hot tea

Registration: 9:30 AM

Breakfast: 10:00 AM

Program: 10:30 AM

Members and guests are welcome to attend the brunch or just come for the program. Please indicate such when you RSVP. For late reservations or cancellations, please call Robert Richardson at 788-0595 by NOON on Monday, March 5th.

We are fortunate to have a panel of our Art Fair artists for our March meeting. Join us to hear what inspires their work, what media they use, and the process they follow in creating their art. In addition, Carol Robertson will share insights into the planning and execution of AAUW's annual Art Fair.

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The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

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MARCH 2018



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Hope and Inspiration

by Michele Strange, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

Listening to the Town Hall meeting in

Florida this week after the school shootings makes me hopeful that change may be in the wind. I was so inspired by the young men and women from Stoneman

Douglas High School who had the courage to stand up and confront their legislators and the NRA.

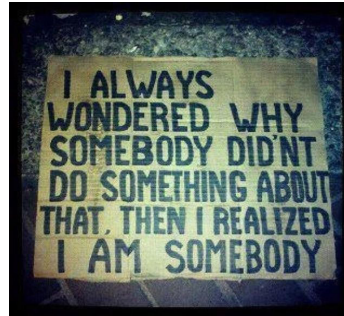
Where are our future leaders but in students like these who will rise out of this tragedy and push for positive policy changes, not only on gun control but on other issues like campaign financing? Please see Pat Markos's thoughts in her public policy article.

Our February event was held at the Viterbo's Food Science Lab where dietetic students worked with us to prepare a light, heart-healthy meal. There were four stations where we helped them cut, slice and mix a Greek salad,

hummus and olive dips, lentil soup and fruit pizza. We ate this wonderful meal together at a huge table. We had a great time getting to know these young women and two of their instructors. They are aware of our organization and one student told me she has applied for one of our scholarships. I have a copy of the recipes, if anyone is interested.

This month at our meeting we will be hosting our friends from AAUW-Winona branch. Please make them

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NEXT BOARD MEETING

Monday, March 5, 2018
5:00 pm

Viterbo University Nursing Building, Room 502. Meetings are open to any member who is interested in attending.

Contact Michele at: 781-6962 or
mstrange@eagle.uwlax.edu
to place items on the agenda.

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

Hope and Inspiration... (continued from page 1)

welcome. They will be visiting The Pump House after our brunch. A short history of the building and arts center will be presented. All are invited to accompany us.

March is usually a busy month for us and this year is no exception. We have the International Women's Day panel, our Women's History Month window displays in Pearl Street Books and daily short biographies of women in the La Crosse Tribune. A big thank you again to Lois Gilbert, who spearheads all these activities. I am so looking forward to hearing what the women panelists from Ghana, India, Columbia and Romania have to tell us. A special thank you goes to our 10 co-sponsors for making this such a well-received event. Please mark your calendars for Thursday, March 10th at 5 p.m. for this presentation.

We lost two wonderful members in February. The first one was Pat Sheehan, who belonged to our branch for many years and was very active. Many members will have fond memories of her. And probably many of you saw the obituary in the paper for Dottie Kruse. Those of us who knew her loved her quiet, sweet demeanor and appreciated her dedication to our branch, giving her time as board secretary and Art Fair treasurer, among other efforts. They were both lovely ladies and we will miss them.

Thank you again for all that you do!

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, Chair



CONDOLENCES

We have recently lost two members who had been active for many years in our branch.

Pat Sheehan (92) served in several branch capacities, but her main focus was as a faithful attendee of both our book groups, Bookfellows and Contemporary Authors. Those of us who took part remember her gracious hospitality when she had her turn at hosting.

Dottie Kruse (86) spent several terms on the board of directors and rarely missed a general meeting. She especially enjoyed the art fair, acting as treasurer for many years. Even after she moved to Texas to be near her daughter Brenda, the two of them would come up so Dottie could participate by selling water at the information booth.

We are grateful for the contributions to our branch by these fine women and extend our sympathy to their families.

BEST WISHES

Phyllis Miletto has returned home after a short stint in Hillview rehab. She fell on some stairs and had a hairline fracture in her right fibula.

Joan Koonmen is recuperating at the Sparta Mayo hospital after surgery in Rochester on her right shoulder.



MARCH MEETING

(continued from Page 1)

Our artists include:

- **Mike Holler**, a nature photographer. Mike grew up in Ohio where he lived in an area abundant in wildlife. He started taking photos of birds when he was quite young. Nature photography combines his love of the outdoors with the challenge of getting photos of beautiful birds and other wildlife.

- **Laurel Grey**, a glasswork artist. Laurel uses her painted and kiln fired glass pieces to create three dimensional sculptures. Some of her panels have incorporated up to seven layers of glass, painted front and back.

- **Marcia Newquist**, a jewelry artist. Marcia designs each piece of jewelry using a variety of media, intertwining metal, clay and beadwork to create a stunning statement. Marcia's passion for her work leads her to try new methods and designs.



Mike Holler



Laurel Grey



Marcia Newquist

Study Group News

AAUW IN ACTION (AIA)

See below for meeting info

Contact: Erica Koonmen, 366-1509

HEARTH & HOME

See below for meeting info

Contact: Sharon DeCicco, 788-5356

CONTEMPORARY AUTHORS

3rd Tuesday of the month at 2pm

Contact: Alice Ross, 788-4206

SCHOLARSHIP BRIDGE/CARD GAMES

TBA

Contact: Sharon DeCicco, 788-5356

HEARTH & HOME

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.

If you are interested in planning a program for the group or if you would like to head it up, please contact Sharon at 788-5356 or sharon.decicco@gmail.com.

MORE T-shirts For a Cause

Central High School has a new club--the FEM Club! They are fundraising for New Horizons Women's Shelter by selling black t-shirts that say "This is what a FEMINIST looks like". The group will be at the International Women's Day event on March 8, UWL Centennial Hall, selling the shirts. Short sleeve shirts are \$10 and long sleeve shirts are \$15.

All shirts are made in America, therefore sweatshop labour free and profits go to New Horizons. If you are unable to attend the IWD panel, you can contact their faculty advisor, Susan Beauchamp (sbeauchamp@lacrossesd.org) for more information on how to purchase a shirt.



AAUW IN ACTION

If you are interested in joining us for a meeting, or just knowing what we're planning, please ask to be on our email list by sending an email to Erica at moogs56@hotmail.com

International Women's Day Panel

Thursday, March 8, 2018

UWL Centennial Hall. 5pm-7:30pm

Women from Colombia, Ghana, India and Romania will discuss advances and continuing challenges in achieving gender equity in their native countries.

Watch for our branch-sponsored daily blurbs in the La Crosse Tribune. They will post all of the March 1-31 WHM biographies and photos on the online Tribune website on March 1, for anyone who wants to read them all at once. Then, as usual, starting March 1, they will print one per day in the print version throughout the month. The theme for Women's History Month is: *Nevertheless She Persisted: Honoring Women Who Fight All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*, so these will be women who have stood up for other women and girls.

Also during March, check out the display in Pearl Street Books window downtown. Fitting in with the 2018 theme, the window this year will show a timeline of sorts, women protesting for the rights of women, with a variety of protest signs, through the years.

Remember that in April 2018 to celebrate National Women's Health Care month, we'll be collecting hygiene products at the April general meeting to go to YWCA and Brighter Tomorrows. Please watch for sales of deodorant, shampoo, soaps, feminine hygiene items, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc... and stock up!

AAUW National Dues Increase

By Michele Strange, President

As of March 16th branch members may renew their membership, which includes dues for national, state and our local branch. Please see the statement below from AAUW National Board of Directors about their dues increase.

The AAUW Board of Directors voted in June 2017 to enact the first dues change in almost a decade. Effective March 16, 2018, national dues will increase from \$49 to \$59. Annual dues currently account for 13 percent of AAUW's annual budget. They help to sustain and grow AAUW's programs and work that advances equity for women and girls. A combination of dues, donations, and corporate and foundation funding is critical to supporting AAUW's salary negotiation workshops, groundbreaking research, advocacy efforts, campus leadership programs, and so much more.

AAUW national membership dues are \$59, of which \$56 is tax deductible as a charitable contribution. The remaining \$3 is not tax deductible because it supports the AAUW Action Fund's section 501(c)(4) Capitol Hill Lobby Corps and get-out-the-vote activities. Student dues are \$18.81, of which \$16.81 is tax deductible and \$2 is not. AAUW national life membership is \$1,180 and is fully tax deductible.

We believe we can do great things together and thank you for your continued support.

Renewal forms will be available next month. State and local dues will remain the same as last year.

Women's History Trivia

- Who co-authored a book on birth control and was then sentenced to prison? **A.** Ida Tarebll **B.** Annie Besant
C. Mother Jones **D.** Anna Leonowens
- Who said "I paint my own reality" ? **A.** Mary Cassatt
B. Georgia O'Keeffe **C.** Frida Kahlo **D.** Artemisia Gentileschi
- What was the first coeducational college in the US?
A. Oberlin Collegiate Institute **B.** Racliffe College
C. University of Tennessee **D.** Andover Newton College
- Who was the first modern women to graduate from medical school? **A.** Clara Barton **B.** Elizabeth Blackwell
C. Florence Nightengale **D.** Mary Ewing Outerbridge
- Which woman was not a figure in the Harlem Renaissance?
A. Regina Anderson **B.** Nella Larsen **C.** Marita Bonner
D. Alice Walker

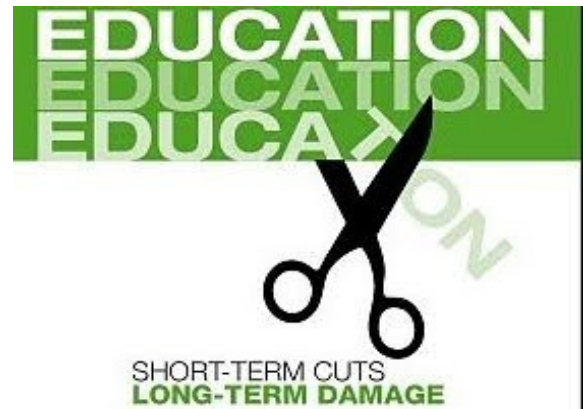
Answers on page 6 (back cover)

Public Policy

By Pat Markos, Public Policy Chair

Washington Update

The White House released its 2019 budget proposal last week, cutting public education funding and training programs that invest in students and the workforce while increasing support for private school vouchers. AAUW has great concerns about this proposal and is asking members to contact those in Congress to pass a budget that ends cuts to programs important to women and girls. I have great concerns as well.



My Take

I know that what I'm about to say will be controversial. I won't apologize for that. Every year there are more and more cuts to public education. Added to this, teachers are being asked to do more and more without compensation. While AAUW has not taken a position on school shootings and gun control and background checks, as an educator for over 28 years, I feel a responsibility to express my personal opinion. It's simple for me, semi-automatic assault weapons need to be banned and background checks need to be comprehensive and include school records and mental health status. My heart is broken for the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida. Teachers are now being asked to carry concealed weapons and use them during a school shooting. Can you imagine? I don't know of any teacher who is willing to take on this responsibility. At UWL we train our teachers to be Culturally Responsive by loving those students who are struggling the most. Now we're being asked to kill them. My answer is, no.

FROM THE TREASURER

Kristin Foehner

Financial Report as of February 19, 2018

Checking Account..... \$11,940.41

CD's none at this time

Scholarship Bridge..... \$900.00

Name Grant Nominations

by Jan Eriksen, Chair



Nominations are open for the 2018 Name Grant. All AAUW La Crosse Branch members are eligible for the award, as long as they have not previously received a Name Grant. The list of past honorees is listed in the back of the branch membership directory. Your nominee should have contributed to the work of the branch. The 2018 Name Grant awardee will be announced at the April 14 meeting. The deadline for nominations is **April 9, 2018**.

Please E-mail or call Jan Eriksen with names of nominees, along with information about why you feel the individual is deserving of the honor. Jan's E-mail address is jperiksen@viterbo.edu and phone is (608) 787-5946.



La Crosse Branch Cameos

1. How did you find & join AAUW?
2. What significant changes/ improvements have you seen in AAUW over the years? OR What would you like to contribute to the branch?
3. What do you think is the most important issue facing women today?
4. What's on your bucket list?
5. What's something we don't know about you?



Carol Taebel

1. When we first moved to La Crosse in 1968 I was a stay at home mom. AAUW was just the outlet I needed. Soon I was Art Fair chairman, and then President and then Vice President and the rest is history! I have always enjoyed the friends I've made in AAUW.
2. I just like the idea whatever changes are going on in

our society AAUW keeps up with them.

3. Education has always been a high priority interest of mine. Right now I'm proud of AAUW for making their values known with congress wanting to reauthorize the Higher Education Act. AAUW remains committed to the promise of the HEA advocating to ensure increased support for and access to affordable education for women and underserved populations.

4. I really don't have a bucket list. I have traveled extensively all over the world to the places I wanted to see. Now I just enjoy each day to the fullest right here in La Crosse whatever I'm doing.

5. Being an outgoing person I'm not sure I've kept many secrets about myself. I am an only child and all I ever wanted was a dog. I finally got one at age 9 and never seemed to long for siblings. I always wanted to be a 4th grade teacher after falling in love with my 4th grade teacher.. My dreams came true and for 21 years I taught either 3rd, 4th or 5th grade.

Silvana Richardson



1. I first heard about AAUW through my husband, Robert, who had just read a research report "How School Shortchange Girls" (1991). Shortly thereafter we were both invited to an AAUW meeting and knew it was an organization whose mission and values matched mine/ours.
2. AAUW has expanded its research, advocacy, and leadership in providing educational opportunities for women nationally. We have done the same locally through programming, raising funds for scholarships and grants, and partnering with other organizations to empower women.
3. The ability to access an education is an issue across the globe. Knowledge empowers and enables us to advocate for ourselves and for those who cannot speak for themselves. It is also important in fostering a global culture that respects human dignity regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, lifestyle and religion.
4. I love to travel and learn from different people about their way of life. I have been to many countries and continents. One remains: Australia.
5. My first language was the Sicilian dialect of Italian. I first learned English watching television. Programming in the 1950's must have been more "kid friendly" as I did not get into trouble when I started school.



American Association of University Women
La Crosse Branch
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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 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

Answers to Women's History trivia on pg 4: 1-B, 2-C, 3-A, 4-B, 5-D