

APRIL MEETING

GET GROWING! A TOUR OF WESTERN'S HORTICULTURE EDUCATION CENTER

Presenter: Josh Gamer, Interim
Vice President, Academic Affairs,
Western Technical College

When: Saturday, April 14 , 2018

Where: Western Technical
College Lunda Center
319 N. 7th Street

*Free parking is available in any
Western lot for Saturday*

Cost: \$10

Menu: Scrambled eggs (both plain
and Denver style), cut seasonal fruit,
breakfast potatoes, bakery items,
including gluten-free bread, freshly
brewed local Kickapoo light roast
coffee (regular and decaf), hot tea,
ice water, and assorted chilled juices.

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 Tuesday, April 10th.

If it's springtime in Wisconsin, our
thoughts are turning to cleaning up our
lawns and gardens, anticipating more
time outside in warmer temps, and
waiting for our fresh vegetables and
flowers.

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The Current

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APRIL 2018

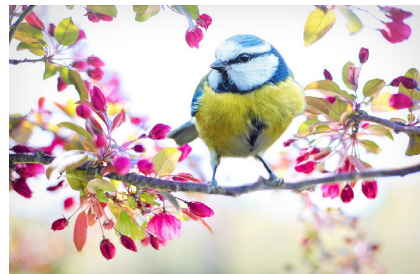


PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Moving Along Into Spring

by Michele Strange, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

The days are getting longer and we are drawing to the end of our year. Only one more brunch before our scholarship reception in May. This year we will be awarding \$30,000 in scholarships and grants. This is a record amount of money that our branch has been able to award. Again, we thank everyone who made this possible through your efforts at the Art Fair. The committee will be meeting in mid-April to begin finalizing their plans for this year's 60th Art Fair on the Green.



was our sixth annual event and it has grown in popularity every year. Kudos to Lois Gilbert and her great committee for their hard work.

At our April meeting we will have a new experience with our brunch at a new location – the Lunda Center, Western Technical College. The annual meeting will include election and installation of officers and recognition of our Name Grant winner(s). The tour of

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NEXT BOARD MEETING

**Monday, April 9, 2018
6:30 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

Moving Along Into Spring... (continued from page 1)

WTC's new horticultural center will conclude the day's events.

Our congratulations go to Kathryn Draper, our student intern from UW-L, who was awarded one of two National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) state scholarships from AAUW-Wisconsin. We have another student who was nominated for the scholarship as well. Unfortunately, we could only send one name per branch. Both students have applied for an AAUW National scholarship. Our Board is committed to giving monetary support to both, so when we learn whether either or both get a national scholarship, we have money in our budget and are prepared to help them. We hope to hear about these awards in early April.

April is busy with other events as well. Jan Eriksen and I will be attending the AAUW Wisconsin Convention in Milwaukee. If you would like to join us, please see the registration form in the convention issue of Badger Briefs.

And don't forget to vote in the April 3rd election! Our democracy depends on exercising our right to vote.

Thank you for all you do.

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, Chair



BEST WISHES

Barb Newcomer is recovering from a stroke. Many good wishes to her for successful healing.

THE 2018/19 PROGRAM YEAR

Those joining our branch in April will be members for the remainder of this program year as well as 2018/19. It is sad, but true, that the dues will be \$80.00 because of the \$10.00 increase in the National dues.

Candidates for 2018-2019 Board

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the slate of candidates for elected Board positions for 2018-2019:

President: Jan Eriksen

President-elect: open

Secretary: Lora Anderson

Financial VP Co-Chairs: Kristen Foehner (incumbent) & Bev Bodine (incumbent)

Membership VP: Marilyn Hempstead (serving for another 2 year term)

Program VP Co-Chair: Silvana Richardson (incumbent; serving another 1 yr term)

Program VP Co-Chair: Margaret Wood

We give a loud round of applause and thanks to Patti Savarin, who served as Secretary and Lois Gilbert, who served the past 2 years as Program VP co-chair.

APRIL MEETING (continued from Page 1)

Join us at our April meeting to find out what's growing in those shiny greenhouses on the Western Technical College campus. If you have an interest in the local foods movement, sustainability, or eating healthier, this program is for you!

According to Josh's description, "Western's investment in a three-bay greenhouse, complete with community and potting rooms as well as a state-of-the-art control system, is helping to advance our agriculture and horticulture education. Within the greenhouse, two bays are dedicated to Western students. We highlight various growing technologies including flood tables, misting systems, drip systems, hydroponics, aeroponics, aquaponics, and light controlled grow benches. The greenhouse allows us to integrate our food production efforts with our campus restaurants. Additionally, each year in January, students begin raising edible and ornamental plants for their annual plant sale, which takes place in April. A third growing bay is dedicated for use by Hillview Urban Agriculture, in conjunction with the Get Growing partnership between Mayo, Hillview and Western. Together, we are advancing the local foods movement while providing real world applications in learning."



Josh Gamer

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.

Feminism On Tap Event

This group took a short break to reorganize but they're back with some great programs. You're invited to the next one on April 4th:



FEMINISM ON TAP

JOIN US!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4

ENVIRONMENTAL FEMINISM:
LEARN THE WAYS ENVIRONMENTALISM AND FEMINISM INTERSECT

THE ROOT NOTE-115 S. 4TH STREET
5 P.M. SOCIAL
5:30 P.M. PANEL AND DISCUSSION

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

**Next meeting: Monday, April 9, 5:00pm, MOKA Coffee Shop
123 West Ave N. (By Marine Credit Union)**

April 14th General Meeting: to celebrate National Women's Health Care month, we'll be collecting hygiene products to go to YWCA, New Horizons and Brighter Tomorrows. Please watch for sales of deodorant, shampoo, soaps, feminine hygiene items, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc... and stock up! Travel-size items are always welcome.

Equal Pay Day information table at UWL: On Tuesday, April 10th, Betty Kruck, Carlene Roberts and several UWL students will host a table in the Student Union from 10am-noon, handing out information and cookies. If you can volunteer some time at the table or bake cookies to donate, please let Betty know: KruX@mwt.net.

Pearl Street Books window display: Thank you to Lois and Liza for the beautiful job.



International Women's Day Panel 2018:



Left to right: Cristina Kovacs, Romania;
Puja Mehta, India; Angela Amoako, Ghana;
Lynda Crowley, Colombia

Public Policy

By Pat Markos, Public Policy Chair

Gun Violence Prevention Update

Since the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida I'm very proud to report that several AAUW branches and state organizations are now involved in gun violence prevention efforts focusing on school safety and gender-related work, as it aligns with AAUW's mission. This is further supported by AAUW's Public Policy Priorities that states, "AAUW recognizes that gun violence is a public health crisis" and that we advocate "freedom from violence and fear of violence, including hate crimes, in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities." Additionally, "AAUW is proud to support the March for Our Lives events this weekend. Members are welcomed to join this and other local efforts towards gun violence prevention. Together we will call for students' lives and safety to become a priority and the end to gun violence and mass shootings in schools (AAUW in the Statehouse, March 2018)".

Washington Update

Top Stories

The U.S. House of Representatives planned on releasing a spending bill this week. As of now, progress on the proposal continues to stall. With funding is set to expire on March 23, here are a few take-a-ways relevant to AAUW:

- Immigration deal – unlikely: It looks like funding will not be included for the border wall. Democrats rejected the White House proposal for \$25 billion in wall funding in exchange for a two-year extension of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.
- Sexual harassment — unlikely: Congressional leaders on both sides were working together for a bipartisan overhaul of the policies for deterring and punishing workplace harassment. Now it looks like there will not be any reforms included in the spending bill since a public release date is hours away and there is a Friday deadline to avert a government shutdown.
- Obamacare stabilization — unlikely: A bipartisan push to fund Obamacare costsharing subsidies and reinsurance now appears on life support. Democrats have drawn a hard line over adding Hyde prohibitions on the Federal funding of abortion as part of the Obamacare stabilization package.
- In addition, women's health riders, including proposals to eliminate funding for Planned Parenthood or limit women's access to reproductive health care, have also delayed the release of the package.

State Spotlight

AAUW of Alabama members are advocating for their state's first equal pay bill! H.B. 368, sponsored by Alabama State Rep. Adline Clarke (D-Mobile) would make it illegal for employers to pay lower wages based on sex for similar work. There are only two states without an equal pay law. With AAUW members' advocacy, Alabama may get an equal pay law.

Equal Pay Day is April 10, 2018



Equal Pay Day is an opportunity to raise awareness about the gender gap in our area. Did you know that in Wisconsin, the median annual pay for a woman with a full-time job is \$38,594 while the median annual pay for a man with a full-time job is \$49,306? In other words, women in Wisconsin are paid 78 cents for every dollar paid to men, making for an annual wage gap of \$10,712. This wage gap is even bigger for women of color. Among women living in Wisconsin holding full-time jobs, Black women make 62 cents, Latinas 53 cents, and Asian women 64 cents for every dollar made by white, non-Hispanic men.

Name Grant Nominations



All AAUW La Crosse Branch members are eligible for the Name Grant award, as long as they have not previously received it. 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 award-ee 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.

FROM THE TREASURER

Kristen Foehner

Financial Report as of March 20, 2018

Checking Account..... \$12,398.57

CD'snone at this time

Scholarship Bridge..... \$900.00

.....

And...It's renewal time

by Kristen Foehner, Treasurer

As you enjoy the warming weather and anticipate the early spring blooms, we hope that you will be thinking about renewing your AAUW dues.

Please remember that there is an increase in the National dues portion of your membership for next year (2018-19). The deadline for membership dues is June 30, 2018. Dues are \$80.00 of which \$56.00 is tax deductible. Additional information on the breakdown of dues can be found on the membership renewal form (attached to the newsletter email) or by contacting Kristen.

Please submit the form and a check for \$80 made out to AAUW La Crosse Branch before **June 30th**. If you are unable to return it at the April meeting, my mailing address is below:
Kristen Foehner
4104 Beverly Drive
Onalaska, WI 54650

Thank you!



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?



Marsha Erickson

1. A friend in Green Bay invited me to join almost 30 years ago. However, life got in the way when my husband died and I was busy with 2 young teenagers. In La Crosse, I ran into AAUW again at the International Event at Myrick Park and joined again after all these years.

2. I feel strongly that bullying/harrassment/ lack of respect, is a problem, often subtle, in schools and the work place. I would hope to work to address both the problem and the response from victims.

3. I think the biggest issue facing women is true respect for our abilities in the workplace or at home. Respect brings fair pay, equal opportunities and promotions based on ability, not to meet "quotas". Respect means recognition and appreciation of what we do at home and in the community. Verbal or physical abuse or harassment should not happen if women are truly respected.

4. My bucket list is primarily travel and I've been diligently working on that list the last few years, including a Danube river cruise, Costa Rica, Machu Picchu, and an African safari among other trips. I have Asia and New Zealand and Greece left on my list, if anyone is interested in joining me.

5. Being a home economics graduate of UW-Stout, with primary interest in fabrics, I now sew as a volunteer for several local organizations. Rheumatoid arthritis has limited the amount of hand work I can do but the sewing machine still works for me.

Sandy Sechrest



1. I've known of AAUW for many years but I was busy with other activities. I was on the League of Women Voters Board for a number of years. After I retired from UW-L's library, I spent a lot of time attending Learning in Retirement classes and teaching a few. LIR dissolved in 2017 so it was time to join a new group, AAUW.

2. I just joined AAUW this year so I can't speak on the changes.

3. I'd have to say the current political climate.

4. 1. Visit New Zealand for a movie related tour. 2. Attend Icelandic Noir mystery conference. 3. Take a Viking River Tour. 4. Visit Highclere Castle where Downton Abbey was filmed.

5. Due to winning charity auction bids at the mystery conferences I go to, my name appears in over twenty mysteries.



American Association of University Women
La Crosse Branch
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THE CURRENT

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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:
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