

DECEMBER MEETING

Holiday Melodies & Cookie Walk

Presenter:
The Community Carolers

When: Saturday, December 8

Where: : UW-L, Centennial Hall,
Room 1300 (Hall of Nations)

Cost: \$12

Menu: Cheesy Hashbrown Egg Bake, Gluten Free/Lactose Free Egg Bake, Cinnamon Cream Cheese Coffee Cake, Gluten Free Pastries To Include Pumpkin Bread, Fresh Fruit Tray, Coffee, Reg And Decaf, Hot Tea And Oj

Registration: 9:30 AM

Breakfast: 10:00 AM

Meeting & Program: 10:30 AM

Cookie Walk: 11:15am-12:15pm

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, Dec. 3rd.

When they last entertained us, they were known as Bella Voce but now this group is a merging of several community groups so they're called the "Community Carolers." The merging groups are Bella Voce, Coulee Chordsmen, and Coulee Region Gospel Chorus.

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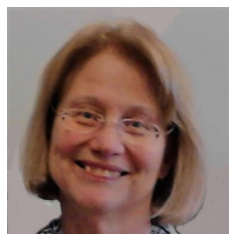


The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2018



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE: The Self-Sufficiency Program: 30 Years of Changing Lives

by Jan Eriksen, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

In this wondrous season of gratitude and hope, I would like to spotlight the inspiring work of the Self-Sufficiency Program (SSP) and congratulate SSP faculty, staff and administration on improving lives for 30 years. SSP is housed at the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse (in the Department of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies) but is open to all adults who possess a high school diploma, GED or HSED. The program "extends the availability of higher education to low-income parents by preparing them to be successful college students" (www.uwlax.edu/ssp). SSP is a free, one-semester pre-college program that meets one or two evenings per week during the fall and spring semesters. Complimentary childcare is also provided at the same location as the classes.

After completing SSP, students go on to a degree program at one of the three institutions of higher education in La Crosse

or at another regional college or university. But the financial assistance doesn't stop there. SSP graduates in their first four semesters of college qualify for the Locally Grown Scholarship. Many carry a B or better college grade point average and have majored in a variety of undergraduate areas, with some continuing on for graduate, law, or medical degrees. The student-parents serve as role models for their children, with the result that the children themselves often experience increased success in school and community activities.

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NEXT BOARD MEETING

**Monday, December 3, 2018
6:30 pm**

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

Contact Jan at: 787-5946 or
jperiksen@viterbo.edu
to place items on the agenda.

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

The Self Sufficiency Program ... (continued from page 1)

So, as Director Andrea Hansen often says, "Lives are changed – two generations at a time."



Truth Tellers

UW-L Self-Sufficiency Program



I recently had the privilege of attending two SSP events, both commemorating the program's 30th anniversary. The first was a Poet's Reception on November 12. SSP students, instructors, and graduates were encouraged to bring their families to hear them read poetry that they had written. Dr. Jan Wellik, SSP Writing instructor and Andrea Hansen, SSP Director edited and compiled the poems into a book titled "Truth Tellers: SSP Poetry Collection 2018." The artwork for the cover of the document was created by Lisa Ehlers, SSP graduate and UW-L student.

The second event was the Fourteenth Annual SSP Locally-Grown Scholarship Breakfast, held on November 14. The speaker was Dr. Amy Sullivan, Director of SSP from 2002-2011. She described the concept of "historic mentors" – women in the past who achieved incredible goals. Dr. Sullivan indicated that she sees SSP as a mentoring organization and cited author bell hooks' sentiment that caring about the souls of the students is a condition of learning. The breakfast also included a welcome from UW-L Chancellor Dr. Joe Gow and a celebration of the students receiving Fall 2018 Locally Grown Scholarship Awards.

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, Chair

There is one new member joining our branch this month:

Jacqueline Kartman
W5620 Skyline Drive
Coon Valley, WI 54623-9408
608 787 6052
UW-Madison MS Nursing
jlkartman@gmail.com



Welcome Jacquil!

We are grateful to Carlene Roberts for recruiting you.



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 MEETING

(continued from Page 1)

The main group is Bella Voce, which is directed by Linda Lieb. Denise Christy is director of the Christmas Carol portion of the performances. Bella Voce has 10 - 12 members at any given time. The Coulee Chordsmen have over 35 members, and the Coulee Region Gospel Chorus is giving its Christmas Concert with almost 100 singers Nov. 30th - Dec. 2nd.



Cookie Walk!

by Michele Strange

The cookie walk concludes the brunch meeting. We will wait to begin until our musical performance concludes around 11:15. We are asking members who are able to donate 2 dozen homemade cookies for sale. Small, attractive cookies work best so that buyers may choose a variety. Holiday type cookies are encouraged!

Here are a few other tips to help you with your donations:

- Please bring your items in a container that you do not need returned.
- If your items contain nuts, please let the cookie elves know so that a NUTS label is attached. If it's gluten-free, please note that too. You can also attach a note stating what your item is or what it contains.
- We are not equipped to take debit or charge cards, so please come prepared with cash or check.

Proceeds from the event will go to AAUW National's Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). This is a great way to help women and girls challenge sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace. If you do not wish to contribute cookies, you are always welcome to make a cash contribution towards our annual gift to the LAF. Questions? Contact Alice Ross at 608-788-4206.

Study Group News

AAUW IN ACTION (AIA)

See this page for meeting info

Contact: Erica Koonmen, 366-1509

HEARTH & HOME

See below for meeting info

Contact: Sharon De Cicco, 788-5356

CONTEMPORARY AUTHORS

3rd Tuesday of the month at 2pm

Contact: Alice Ross, 788-4206

SCHOLARSHIP BRIDGE/CARD GAMES

TBA

Contact: Sharon De Cicco, 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.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, December 19

Time: 5:30 pm at Savory Creations

Cost: \$40, includes appetizers, the meal, dessert and wine.

Make reservations by emailing Sharon DeCicco at sharon.decicco@gmail.com or call 788-5356 before Dec. 12. More information will be available when you make reservations.

Chef Shawn McManus will prepare a gourmet meal for us as we watch him cook. He has a running dialog on what he is doing. Questions on the process are always welcome. It is always a delightful evening. All are welcome.

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.



AAUW IN ACTION

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

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: December email meeting. Agenda will be sent out on Dec. 11th with responses appreciated by Dec. 12th.

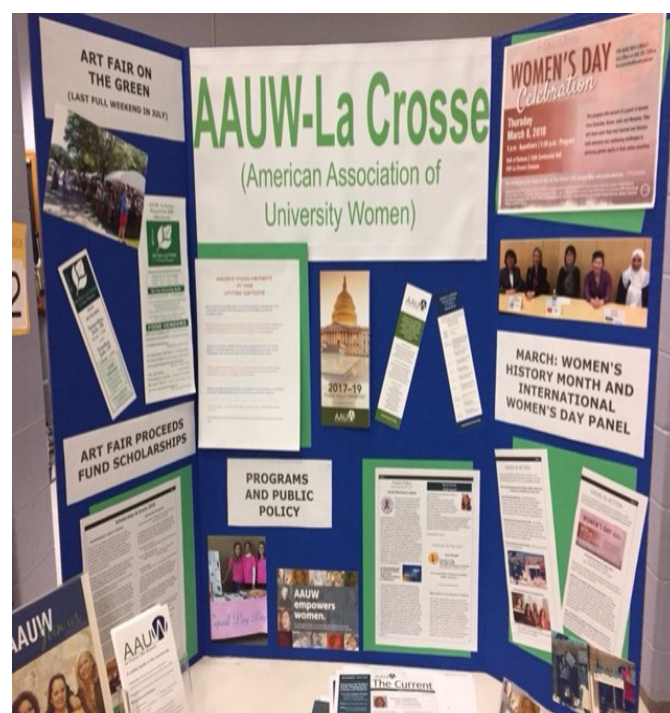
At the December 8th general meeting we will be collecting holiday gift wrap, bows, cards and calendars so please save the freebies you get in the mail or bring your extra ones. These items will be donated to YWCA, New Horizons and Brighter Tomorrows.



Brighter Tomorrows is also in need of bowls--soup or cereal size-- so we'll be happy to take any you are not using.

New Branch Info Board

Jan Eriksen and Michele Strange updated our branch information board for display at the Global Initiatives Week this year. Thank you to the both of them for their hard work!



Public Policy

By Ann Brice, Chair

Title IX

Despite the 1972 Title IX Education Amendment, the Clery Act which was signed in 1990, and the Violence Against Women act reauthorized by congress in 2013, AAUW reports that in 2016, 89% of institutions reported no instances of rape on their campuses. This underreporting is due to a combination of factors, including students' fears about reporting and institutions' reluctance to be associated with assault.

After the announcement of the retirement of Justice Anthony Kennedy from the Supreme Court, AAUW released a statement urging all Senators to ensure that the next Supreme Court Justice have "a clear reputation for fairness and independence and value equality and inclusion." After the Kavanaugh-Ford hearing, and our White House's response about Dr. Blasey-Ford's credibility, there is a danger that assault victims will be even more afraid to report.

AAUW continues to advocate that the Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Education receives adequate funding to enforce its Title IX enforcement efforts. AAUW also continues to advocate for the protection of Title IX and stands with assault survivors.

Take the Pledge to Protect Title IX

Title IX is essential to ensuring that our schools are free from discrimination, including sexual harassment and violence. But recently, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos took action to roll back protections for survivors of sexual assault.

TITLE IX
"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

Later this year, the Department of Education is expected to change Title IX's regulations, which could have significant implications for students' civil rights and federal enforcement of the law. With progress under threat, we all must be ready to make our voices heard.

Help fight back against attacks on Title IX by pledging to take part in AAUW's upcoming campaign to protect Title IX. Go to the [Two Minute Activist](#) to pledge your support.

A great article on this topic can be found in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*: "[What You Need to Know About the Proposed Title IX Regulations](#)".

AAUW Vote Comment Period Is Open

It's your AAUW, and your voice counts. It's time to comment on and propose changes to the AAUW bylaws and Public Policy Priorities.



In spring 2019 AAUW members will be asked to vote on amendments to the Public Policy Priorities, in addition to electing members to the national Board of Directors.

While no amendments to the AAUW bylaws have been proposed by Governance Committee of AAUW Board of Directors for the 2019 vote, all members have the right to propose their own amendments to the bylaws, propose resolutions, and to comment on or suggest changes to the Public Policy Priorities [at www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org).

Here you'll find all the information you need to comment on proposed Public Policy Priorities changes or propose your own changes and resolutions. Proposed amendments can be submitted until January 11, 2019, at 6:00 pm ET. Comments will be accepted until March 31, 2019, at 6:00 pm ET.

2019 Scholarship Applications



The scholarship applications for:

- High School Graduating Senior
- UWL Students
- Viterbo U Students
- Karen Wilson Memorial
- Janet K. Isler Memorial

are now available on our branch website: www.aauwlacrosse.org for downloading.

FROM THE TREASURER

Kristen Foehner

Financial Report as of
November 20, 2018

Checking Account..... \$8,591.87

CD's none at this time

Scholarship Bridge..... \$714.00

NCCWSL

by Jan Eriksen

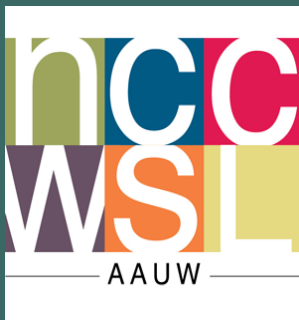
The deadline has passed for students to apply for AAUW Wisconsin scholarships for the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).

However, national scholarship applications can be submitted until February 15, 2019 by going to AAUW.org and typing "NCCWSL" into the search box.

If a student receives a state scholarship she is still eligible for a partial national scholarship.

The conference, hosted by AAUW, will be held May 29 – June 1, 2019 at the University of Maryland, College Park.

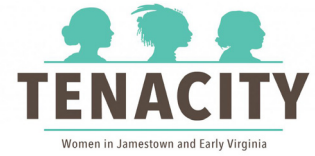
Please pass this information along to college women students who you know



Celebrate 400 Years of Women's History in Virginia

by Liza Weisstuch, *Budgettravel.com*

A new year-long exhibit at Jamestown Settlement spotlights unsung women throughout history.



It's often said that well-behaved women seldom make history. But now, one exhibit is aiming to give some well-mannered women—and a few defiant ones, too—their due tribute. Running through January 2020 at the Jamestown Settlement (historyisfun.org), a living-history museum dedicated to 17th-century Virginia history and culture, **Tenacity: Women in Jamestown and Early Virginia** highlights women whose stories have been lost to history, although their contributions to society live on.

It sounds like a pretty impossible feat, but the curatorial staff at the Settlement sifted through 400 years of history in search of determined, accomplished, yet little-known women to spotlight in the show: women who defied their husbands, women who challenged the status quo in order to be treated as average citizens, and women like Amelia Bloomer, who, in her pursuit to popularize less restrictive clothing for women, created the garment that bears her name today.

The intention of the exhibition is to draw a connective thread through history, using objects to examine the accomplishments of women, grouped here into five themes: occupation, citizenship, marriage, education, and healthcare.

Art Fair on the Green Financial Report

by Carol Robertson, Chair



Good news from Art Fair! The final numbers are in and we have wonderful results. With all the bills being paid, we are able to donate \$ 2,460.61 to AAUW – La Crosse and \$22, 145.54 to the La Crosse Community Foundation!!

We were fortunate this year for good attendance and for the \$2000 from Trane Corporation as part of their summer package for their employees. A big thank you goes to the committee and for all members who helped with the art fair. It is truly an "all branch" initiative and I appreciate the work that everyone does each year. Thanks to the committee heads who were fiscally responsible and made sure they asked the question "If I spend money, will this contribute more or take away from scholarships?"

Thank you once again for your efforts!



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