

OCTOBER MEETING

Meringue! Top That!

When: Saturday, October 12

Where: UW-L Student Union
521 East Ave N.
Room 3110

Free parking is available in the Cleary Alumni Center lot and in the parking ramp, both across the street from the student union. There is an elevator to the 3rd floor.

Cost: \$12

Menu: Silver dollar pancakes (sugar-free syrup available), Scrambled eggs, Bacon, Hash brown potatoes, Seasonal fresh fruit, Assorted bakery (gluten free available), OJ, Coffee (decaf available) and assorted teas.

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, October 7th.

We welcome Jen Barney, twice named a champion on the Food Network. She will share her experiences competing on the TV show and bring us up-to-date on her own local business, Meringue Bakery.

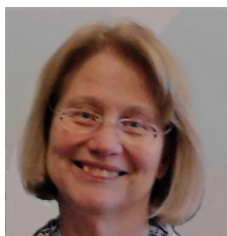


The Current

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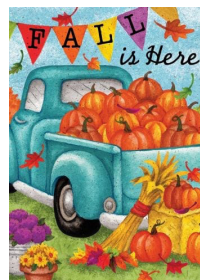


PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

A Thank You and Coming Events

by Jan Eriksen, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

Our branch received a very nice note from the La Crosse Salvation Army expressing gratitude for our support of their Back2School Project earlier this Fall. The letter indicated that over 800 children in the area were helped with an outfit and school necessities. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed clothing, supplies, and funds to assist the students in getting their school years off to an excellent start.



of the myriad tasks involved in hosting a conference.

Upcoming events include the Self-Sufficiency Program Locally Grown Scholarship Breakfast, 7:30-9:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 17, in the Bluffs Ballroom in the UWL Student Union. If you have never been to an SSP breakfast, I encourage you to attend. The stories of the keynote speaker, herself an SSP graduate, and the scholarship winners are inspiring. Most of them have overcome tremendous obstacles to continue their educations in order to secure better futures for themselves

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NEXT BOARD MEETING

**Monday, October 7, 2019
6:30 pm**

Goodwill Retail Store and Training Center, 3954 Mormon Coulee Rd.
(corner of Losey and Mormon Coulee)
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.

A Thank You and Coming Events... (continued from page 1)

and their children. The breakfast is free but an RSVP is required. Please send an E-mail to uwlaxssp@gmail.com by October 11 or call SSP Director Andrea Hansen at 785-8733.

Another important event is the AAUW Wisconsin Public Policy Day, Saturday, November 2, in Madison. The overall theme of the day is getting out the vote and branches are encouraged to send teams. More information is on page 4 of this newsletter as well as on our branch website and Facebook page.

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, Chair



Those of us who are long time members of our branch remember Mary Jane Randolph who passed away in August at the age of 89. She had been active as a member for many years receiving the Name Grant award in 1981-82. In the 1990s she developed health problems and dropped her membership.

She is a vital part of art fair history. She and her husband Burleigh along with another couple were the originators of the Art Fair on the Green in 1959. As the La Crosse Fine Arts Association they operated the fair until 1967 when AAUW was asked to take it over. (Joan Koonmen, current member and mother of Erica was our first chair!)

Condolences to Burleigh and the family.



Please add Barb to you directory as she was inadvertently omitted.

Barbara J. Fischer

402 22nd St N

La Crosse, WI 54601

UW-L ME, PD Ed Professional Development

fischerba@live.com

Also, I gave Barb the profession of librarian in the last *CURRENT*. She actually is retired from the IT Department at Western.



Members are the best recruiters to grow our branch. Thanks to Sharon De Cicco and Ann Brice for giving me names of people interested. We have a wonderful reputation and we welcome others who would like to be part of our mission.

AAUW-JANESVILLE BRANCH NEEDS YOUR HELP

Please help us preserve our historic home! AAUW calls the Janesville Woman's Club Building home for meetings and events. Recently, the foundation that cares for the building applied for a major grant that would complete several vital repairs to the almost 100-year-old building.

We are 1 of 20 projects in the U.S. competing for funds. AND we are the only project in Wisconsin. Winners will be chosen based on how many online votes they receive from their network of friends and supporters. Anyone with an email address can vote!

Please vote for the Janesville Woman's Club Building. After you register with your email, you will be able to cast 5 votes when you visit the site each day from September 24 through October 29.

www.voteyourmainstreet.org/janesville

Thank you,
Pat Phillips & Carole Salinas
AAUW-Janesville Co-presidents

The Wisconsin Women's Network

The Wisconsin Women's Network is an organization that promotes

the advancement of women and girls in Wisconsin through communication, education, advocacy, and connections.



From our programs to our events, we work hard to ensure that women have the tools and resources that they need to succeed in their lives.

We Engage, We Inform, We Connect.
For more information, go to:

<https://wiwomensnetwork.org/>

Interested in learning more about how we got started in 1979? It's a great story. [Read more here.](#)

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 DeCicco, 788-5356

CONTEMPORARY AUTHORS

3rd Tuesday of the month at 2pm

Contact: Alice Ross, 788-4206

SCHOLARSHIP BRIDGE/CARD GAMES

TBA

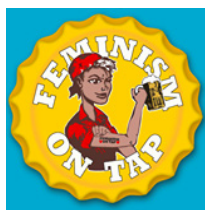
Contact: Sharon DeCicco, 788-5356

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 meeting



We are looking forward to seeing you at our October Feminism on Tap event on **10/2/19** at 5pm at **Global Grounds Coffee**, 1808 State St., La Crosse, WI.

We are honoring National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. With help from staff at New Horizons, we will be talking about Healthy Relationships, including how to identify, avoid or leave toxic relationships, as well as tips for dealing with loved ones who are in unhealthy relationships.

Bring a friend and get the chance to win Feminism on Tap prizes!

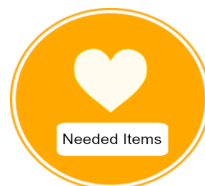
Questions? Contact Rebecca Schwarz, 608-781-2783, feminismontap@gmail.com

AAUW IN ACTION

AAUW in Action 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: Mid-October, contact Erica for details



New Horizons has immediate need for the following items:

Full-size body wash, shampoo, conditioner, feminine hygiene products and children's unbreakable plates.

We'll be collecting these items at the

October 12th meeting but if you can drop them off at New Horizons (1223 Main St, La Crosse) before then, they'd appreciate that.

Mark your calendars for the Annual International Women's Day panel...Sunday, March 8, 2020.

SSP Breakfast Invitation

by Andrea Hansen, Director SSP

The 2019 Self-Sufficiency Program's Locally Grown Scholarship Breakfast is **Thursday, October 17, 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Bluffs in the Student Union at UW- La Crosse**. Open to the community and campus, the free Breakfast celebrates the accomplishments of SSP graduates who attend area colleges and to award the fall scholarships.



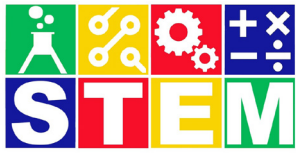
*Kemesha Harper
(Jordana Snyder photo)*

The speaker is Kemesha Harper, Strong Families Program Consultant at the Parenting Place in La Crosse. As a single mother with her infant daughter MacKenzie, Kemesha successfully completed SSP's Spring 2012 semester. Despite disappointments and setbacks, Kemesha persisted in her drive for an education. In April 2019, Kemesha graduated from Western Technical College with honors. In 2019, Kemesha was selected to represent WTC at the National Legislative Summit in Washington D.C. as an advocate for education programs, like Project Proven, that supports people with criminal records to attain their educational goals. Kemesha was honored by the YWCA as a "Young Woman of Promise" in 2018.

Please RSVP at uwlaaxssp@gmail.com by Friday, October 11, 2019. For more information, please call Andrea Hansen, SSP Director at 608.785.8733.

Public Policy

by Ann Brice, Public Policy Chair



In a recent survey of the state's largest business group, Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, 77% of members surveyed stated that they are facing a worker shortage.

This shortage represents opportunities for women, especially in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) jobs. However, women working in STEM careers still do not earn as much as their male counterparts and this issue of a pay gap is one on which AAUW continues to work.

Unfortunately, pay inequity is not the only issue women face in STEM fields. For one thing, women and girls do not receive the focus of STEM education in school. In 2010 AAUW conducted a study which demonstrated the effects of societal beliefs and the learning environment on girls' achievements in math and science. Researchers found girls do better in math when teachers tell them that their intelligence will expand with experience. Research also indicated that negative stereotypes about girls' abilities in math can affect girls' performance, and also found that while girls traditionally believe they do not perform as well as boys in math, parents and teachers can help dispel this myth. Finally, while boys and men consistently outperform girls and women in spatial skill activities, spatial skills can be improved dramatically in a short time with a training course. (Included in the references section is an article on improving spatial skills.) To help quash the negative stereotype about girls and math, in 2013 AAUW then-president Sharon Schuster demanded a recall of a talking Barbie that said "Math class is tough." Because of Schuster's demand, along with AAUW's 1992 report about how girls are being shortchanged in schools, Mattel removed this phrase from Barbie's collection of sayings.

Boosting girls' access to STEM education is only part of the battle. BBC News reported in September 2019 that though women make up 50% of students studying life sciences, women only represent 25% of life science professorships. The report states this is mainly due to recruiting and retaining women into influential positions, as well as unconscious bias in the workplace, tensions with work-life balance, poor funding and pay, and a lack of networking opportunities. "More worryingly, a staggering 99% of women told us they had experienced or witnessed barriers to women's progression and retention," said Dr Jo Reynolds, director of science & communities at the Royal Academy of Chemistry.

By remaining vigilant and vocal about opportunities in STEM fields, AAUW continues to strive for equity for women and girls.

AAUW WI Public Policy Day

Saturday, November 2, 2019

9:00-3:00 (light breakfast 8:30)

Madison Technical College Truax Campus Health and Information Technology Building

1705 Hoffman St., Madison, WI 53704 (608) 246-6065

At some time, every member has experienced occasions where political discussions occur. While this can be an uncomfortable situation, as AAUW members we strive to continue to encourage citizens to exercise their right to vote as an informed voter. So, there will be times when we want to talk about issues with people even if they don't see how their voting makes a difference or they have difficulty listening to information you want to share on issues.



2020 is viewed as an important election year. This is an opportunity for our members to be active in the election process and advocate for AAUW issues. Our overall theme for the day is about getting out the vote as informed members skilled in advocacy strategies. The AAUW WI Public Policy Day is intended to be informative as well as an opportunity to hone your advocacy skills. Don't miss this opportunity to participate.

Cost for the day is \$20 that includes a light breakfast and lunch. Lunch will be a make your own sandwich with a salad.

More information can be found at :

<https://aauw-wi.aauw.net/> under Public Policy tab.

If you are unable to travel to Madison, you can still participate by using the Go to Meeting.

Please register by filling out the form at the above website or attached to this newsletter. Contact Jan at jperiksen@viterbo.edu or Ann Brice at bricea@westerntc.edu to discuss transportation to Madison.

Sources for Public Policy article:

<https://www.aauw.org/2013/12/11/barbies-story/>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelpoliakoff/2019/09/10/cal-state-must-ignore-teen-talk-barbie-and-require-more-math/#55400ecd4fd6>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-49552812>

<https://www.parentingforbrain.com/visual-spatial-reasoning-skills-stem/>

<https://www.aauw.org/research/why-so-few/>

<https://history.aauw.org/aauw-research/1992-how-schools-shortchange-girls>

https://madison.com/wsj/business/wisconsin-businesses-grapple-with-a-growing-worker-shortage/article_3ef1000e-c18b-5f72-bbcd-720ee2456111.html

FROM THE TREASURER

Susan Fabian

Financial Report as of
September 19, 2019

Checking Account..... \$10,120.56

CD's none at this time

Scholarship Bridge..... \$504.00

Coffee and Conversation

*Hosted by Always United,
an Affinity Group for those in & approaching retirement.*

Great Rivers United Way is putting on the coffee and inviting you to learn more about issues affecting you and our community.



Thursday, October 3
10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at United Way on
1855 E. Main St. in Onalaska.
This is a free event.

We provide coffee and a sweet treat; you join the conversation. On-site parking and an elevator are both available. RSVPs aren't required but allow us to be better-prepared. Thanks for helping out!

Our October topic is How to care for an energetic toddler in your slow & calm years. Heather Pfaff, The Parenting Place, will lead the conversation on grandparents caring for grandchildren--what's working, what's not and what can be done on a larger scale to make childcare accessible.

Here is the link to register:
www.gruw.org/coffee

Brighter Tomorrows Fundraiser

Remembering Teresa
Join us for a Brighter Tomorrow
THURSDAY | 24th | OCTOBER
5:30-8:30 p.m. | 2019
Featuring Guest Speaker:
Author Carolyn Colleen
Dinner • Raffles • Awards
Tomah Fairgrounds (Gold Building) | 1625 Butts Ave. | Tomah, WI
For more information, to sponsor, or purchase tickets
please contact us at 608-269-7853 or go to
www.ticketstripe.com/brightertomorrows

The \$30 ticket includes buffet dinner, speaker and basket raffle. Ten dollars of the ticket price is tax deductible. Purchase a ticket by contacting Erica at aauwlacrosse@hotmail.com or 608-366-1509. You can also purchase tickets online at:

www.ticketstripe.com/brightertomorrows.

The speaker is Carolyn Colleen, PhD. She is a national speaker and author. She was born and raised in the Midwest and is a self-described FIERCE mother, daughter, sister and friend. While her past has been a permanent stamp on her life, it doesn't define her. Her past trauma and abuse has positioned her to develop and leverage her grit so she can help other women who want to transform their lives. She has written a book about her life called *FIERCE: Transform Your Life in the Face of Adversity 5 Minutes at a Time*. You will find her to be an inspiring speaker. Here is a link to her website: <http://carolyncolleen.com/guide>.

Since 1996 Brighter Tomorrows has been committed to creating a safer personal environment for residents of Monroe County. Last year they served nearly 400 domestic abuse survivors by providing them with advocacy, support, and safe housing. By purchasing a ticket, you will be able to help raise funds used for the purchase of toiletries, household items, school supplies and gift cards for gas, food and clothing – everything a survivor needs to re-establish his or her life.

Monroe County Victim Advocate
Position Open**Summary of Position:**

Monroe County Sheltercare Inc. Division: Brighter Tomorrows. The victim advocate is responsible for assisting victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. This includes but is not limited to: giving support throughout the court process; accompaniment to court proceedings, providing assistance to clients with filing restraining orders, providing legal advocacy and personal advocacy, safety planning, as well as providing information and referral.

Position Status:

Full-time, will include some weekend and evening hours. Must be flexible with scheduling and willing to stay later/arrive early to meet the needs of clients as well as participate in school/community events.

Qualifications: Minimum of a two-year associates degree; work experience may be considered in lieu of associates degree.

For full list of qualifications and responsibilities, and for more information, please contact Jan Bruder, Project Director, at mocobrightertomorrows@gmail.com or 608-269-7853





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)

WebminderPosition Open

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