

DECEMBER MEETING

Beloved Christmas Nostalgia & Cookie Walk

Presenter:

Ryan Howe

*Multi-instrumentalist
Singer-Songwriter*



When: Saturday, December 14

Where: UW-L Student Union

521 East Ave N. , Room 3310

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: Scrambled eggs, with cheese and salsa on the side; French toast; Bacon; Fresh fruit; Assorted bakery items (including GF banana bread); Orange juice, Coffee and 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. For late reservations or cancellations, please call Robert Richardson at 788-0595 by end of day, Mon. Dec 9th.

We will be entertained by multi-instrumentalist and singer-songwriter Ryan Howe. Ryan has titled his program selections, "Beloved Christmas Nostalgia." He is from La Crescent, MN and is a graduate of the Music Performance/Jazz Studies program at Winona State University. He has done further study in the Music Education program at Viterbo University. His musical composition, "A Place to Be," was featured in the award-winning film "Decoding the Driftless."



The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

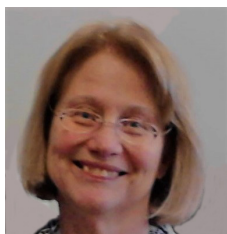
VOLUME 59, ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2019

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

A Notable November

by Jan Eriksen, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President



It has been a busy month. On Saturday, November 2, four of us from our branch went to Madison to attend the AAUW-Wisconsin Public Policy Day. The theme of the day was "Get Out the Vote" and we heard from some wonderful speakers. More information about the day is contained in Ann Brice's report on page 4.

The following week the YWCA Tribute to Outstanding Women festivities began. On November 6, the evening before the actual tribute dinner, nominators were invited to accompany the nominees at a gathering in the library at Le Chateau. As a co-nominator of Lois Gilbert (Erica Koonmen was the other co-nominator) I was thrilled to have the opportunity to attend. The setting was gorgeous, the appetizers were delicious, and it was exciting to be in the company of so many accomplished area women. November 7 was the tribute event, at which the YWCA did a good job of honoring all nominees. Two tables full of people were there to clap and

cheer for Lois.

Saturday, November 9, was our branch's monthly meeting. The speaker, Dr. Greg Wegner, UW-L Professor Emeritus, was excellent.

He has spent years researching propaganda during the Holocaust and spoke about how it was directed to children in schools. The topic, while not a happy one, was fascinating and Dr. Wegner's knowledge is profound. We were fortunate to be able to welcome some guests as well, including two UW-L students.



Continued on Page 2 »

NEXT BOARD MEETING

**Monday, December 9, 2019
6:30 pm**

Marilyn Hempstead's house
224 South 20th St. (between King & Cass)
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 Notable November ... (continued from page 1)



On November 16 eighteen AAUW members from our district gathered at the Radisson Hotel in La Crosse for convention planning and a District 4 meeting. We were given a tour of the hotel, especially the conference facilities. The out-of-towners were impressed with the beauty of the setting on the Mississippi. We made good progress with selecting featured speakers and break-out sessions for the convention. For the rest of the day Deb Thiel, District 4 Coordinator from Tomah, presented some information from AAUW national.

I'm looking forward to our December meeting with Christmas music and the cookie walk.

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, Chair

NEW MEMBER

Our new member this month:

Kathy Ivey
2001 Hyde Ave
La Crosse, WI 54601
608 519 1045
MA Education Viterbo
kathycivey@gmail.com



She has been active in League of Women Voters. We're glad she has joined us also.

EMAIL CHANGE

Note this new email for Ardus Cleveland in your directory:
aecleveland@me.com

SINCERE CONDOLENCES



Our Secretary Jo Anne Revels lost her husband Richard in late October. He had a long time struggle with declining health and was faithfully cared for by Jo Anne. We are grateful to have Jo Anne involved with the branch as she adjusts to her loss.

We note the passing of Doris Frick in November. Although not a member, she provided a scholarship through our branch in memory of her daughter Mary which was awarded yearly from 2007-2015.



Cookie Walk!

by Michele Strange

Our December meeting cookie walk has been so popular the past two years we decided to try it again! It's great fun and gives you a chance to purchase holiday treats you wouldn't normally bake yourself. The Cookie Walk will begin after the musical entertainment, around 11:15. Items are priced as last year: \$6/ lb.

We are asking members who are able to donate 2 dozen homemade cookies for sale. Small, attractive cookies work best so that buyers have a variety. You can stir up your donation early and freeze it to deliver later. If you cannot attend and want to donate, please drop your items off at Marilyn Hempstead's home the week before. If she isn't home, you can leave them on her porch. Her phone number is 608-784-8763.

This is a perfect event to invite your neighbor, friend or relative to attend also. Guests coming to the cookie walk do not have to participate in the brunch to attend.

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 cannot 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 fund helps 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 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.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, December 18

Time: 5:30 pm at Washburn
on the Park Community Room

Cost: about \$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. 11.

Chef Shawn McManus of Savory Creations will prepare our holiday meal for us to enjoy
It is always a delightful evening and 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 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: Email meeting for January 2020. Agenda will be sent out to group members on Jan. 15th.

Bronze Ceiling Project

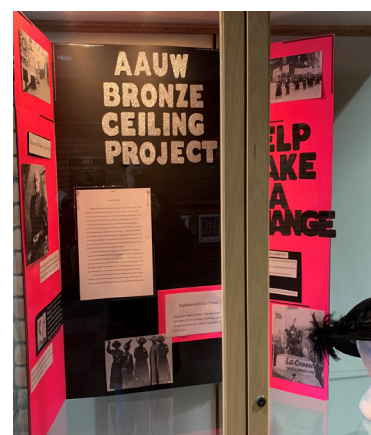
Carly Buchholz, a sophomore in one of Dr. Mahruq Kahn's Women's Studies classes, contacted our branch about helping with a project. We offered several suggestions and Carly chose to work on the Bronze Ceiling Project.

Across the country there is a growing movement to recognize noteworthy women and their historical contributions through public monuments. Unfortunately, less than 7% of the 5,193 monuments in the United States presently recognize women. In NYC's Central Park a new monument to Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony will be unveiled in August 2020. Lexington, KY has unveiled a sculpture representing 5 suffragists that will be placed downtown next year.

Carly has written a paper about the project, put up a display at the Main Public Library in La Crosse and started a petition for La Crosse to put a similar statue in a public park. Please check out her display, up through January 2020, and sign the petition. Her goal is to reach 1000 signatures!

<https://www.thepetitionsite.com/320/777/023/aauw-bronze-ceiling-project/>

We think Carly's done a great job of helping to raise awareness of the lack of women represented in public art and we hope to start a community dialogue about remedying that situation in La Crosse.



Public Policy

by Ann Brice, Public Policy Chair

AAUW-WI Public Policy Day



On Saturday November 2nd, Jan Eriksen, Pam Thiel, Barb Fischer, and Ann Brice attended the AAUW Wisconsin Public Policy Day at Madison College Truax Campus. It was a fast-paced day with opportunities to network as well as to hear some very informative and inspirational speakers. Our first speaker was Matt Rothschild, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign. Matt talked about why voting is important, even when we think our vote doesn't count. At the bottom of this report, I've added a link so you can read Matt's talk.

We then heard from Sara Finger, the founder and director of the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health. Their vision statement is: *"Every Wisconsin woman - at every age and every stage of life - is able to reach her optimal health, safety and economic security. We aim to achieve this vision by informing, involving and inspiring individuals to be effective advocates."*

To that end, Sara talked about the importance of knowing your legislators (only 7% of Wisconsin residents know who their representatives are) and advocating for issues that affect women. She also stressed that to be good advocates, we need to encourage others to vote and to take the 2020 census. I've listed the Alliance's website at the end of this report.

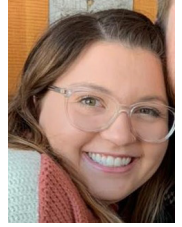
Our third speaker was Wisconsin Public Education Network Executive Director Heather DuBois Bourenane, who discussed the importance of advocating for fair school opportunities for all children.

The group describes themselves this way:

We are an informal, non-partisan alliance of parents, educators, board members, administrators, schools districts, and groups all over the state. We are committed to the public schools that ensure every child at every school has equal opportunity to learn and succeed in the classroom and beyond. I have included their website at the end of this report.

After lunch we had breakout time to work with our individual branches. Our team brainstormed some ideas for projects, including ways to keep members aware of public policy issues and encouraging more women to run for political office. During our team session, we were able to secure Sara Finger from the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health as one of our speakers for the state AAUW conference in April.

Branch Former Public Policy Intern Recognized by UWL



A recent email from Joe Gow, UW-La Crosse Chancellor, announced an award and recognized Kathryn Draper, our 2017 Public Policy Intern and a NCCWSL attendee. We know Kathryn will continue to be a force to be reckoned with in the community!

Chancellor Gow writes:

As many of you know, UW-La Crosse has an outstanding tradition of participating in elections at rates well above the national average. And I'm delighted to share the news that today we received prestigious national recognition for our stellar student voter engagement. [\(https://news.uwlax.edu/\)](https://news.uwlax.edu/)

UWL received a gold seal at the national ALL IN Challenge Awards Ceremony for achieving a student voting rate between 40% and 49%. Colleges and universities committed to increasing college student voting rates were honored at the Newseum in Washington, D.C.

Many people in our community assist with voter registration efforts. In particular, I'd like to thank UWL students John Lawlis and Kathryn Draper who led voter registration efforts prior to the 2018 midterm elections and also worked to improve voter turnout on election day. These two dedicated students worked diligently with the League of Women Voters, the city clerk and student volunteers to get out the vote on our campus.

I hope the news of this much-deserved recognition is motivation for all of us to continue to vote, and I hope we see even higher rates in upcoming elections!

We also thank our branch members who set up voter information tables on campus!

It was a great day despite the rain, fog, snow, and sleet. I hope you'll join us for Public Policy Day next year!

References:

Public Policy Chair Matt Rothschild's talk to AAUW on Nov. 2, 2019: <https://www.wisdc.org/news/commentary/6412-why-voting-is-important>

Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health: <https://www.supportwomenshealth.org/>

Wisconsin Public Education Network: <http://www.wisconsinnetwork.org/>

FROM THE TREASURER

Financial Report as of
November 20, 2019

Checking Account..... \$12,555.55

Scholarship Bridge..... \$569.00

Professional Development



Women face more challenges in the workplace than men. The University of Wisconsin La Crosse, Extended

Learning is launching a professional development series for women. If you want to be a part of a changing workforce that values women, advocates for change and empowers women to lead, this 4-part workshop series is for you. It is designed to help you:

- Understand how gender and other systems impact women's career development.
- Strategize plans for developing critical career skills leading to personal advancement and organizational advocacy.
- Develop a regional network of women-identified colleagues who can support career development.

The series starts on January 8th from 7:30-11am, and goes through January 29th.

Register on or before Dec. 16, 2019: \$350
Register Dec. 17, 2019 or later: \$550

For more information, please go to:
<https://www.uwlax.edu/ex/pd-for-women/>

AAUW La Crosse Website News



Several updates have been made to our branch website!

First, Dr. Wegner's Select Bibliography on Nazi Education and Propaganda from last month's meeting has been posted. You'll find it under "Programs/Events" on the Home page; click "Monthly Meetings" on the drop down menu. It can then be found under the "November 9" meeting notes. There are 2 pages and the links will open them for you.

Secondly, the membership directory is now online. It's the last tab on the Home page and is password protected. The password can be obtained by calling or emailing Jan (jperiksen@viterbo.edu; 608-787-5946) or Erica (moogs56@hotmail.com; 608-366-1509).

You will also note that the list of Past Presidents can now be found under "Our Branch", then as a sub-set off the "History" tab. We'd like to complete the list by finding the first names of the earliest presidents. In the older directories, they were listed by their husband's names. If you know any of these ladies' first names, please let Erica know so we can update the list.

NCCWSL Scholarship Opportunity



AAUW-Wisconsin is pleased to announce two \$500 scholarships to two Wisconsin students to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), pronounced "nick-whistle".

The conference will be held at the University of Maryland College Park campus May 27-30, 2020. To learn more about the conference: www.nccwsl.org or www.aauw.org.

Eligible nominees must be currently enrolled in a program leading to an Associate degree, Bachelor's degree, or Master's degree at a technical college or two-or four- year public or private college.

Candidates must be nominated by an AAUW Branch with a limit of one nominee per Branch.

Branches are also encouraged to provide additional support to their nominee for air fare and other expenses beyond registration.

Branches are asked to complete a Scholarship Nomination Form for their nominee.

Please email questions and completed nomination forms to Maggie Winz, AAUW-WI Leadership VP at: mrwinzster@gmail.com. Nominations must be received by February 15, 2020. The winner will be notified and payment sent as soon as possible, to ensure a space at the conference.

For more information and an application, please visit our branch website: www.aauwlacrosse.org



American Association of University Women
La Crosse Branch
P.O. BOX 2112 • LA CROSSE, WI 54602-2112

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.

Newsletter Contact & Deadlines

Newsletter EditorErica Koonmen (aauwlacrosse@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