

## OCTOBER MEETING

### The La Crosse Oktoberfest that's under the radar!

**When:** Saturday, Oct. 10th, 10 am

**Where:** The comfort of your home!

Ein Prosit mit Gemutlichkeit!

{From our House to Yours, we salute you with friendliness and wish you good health and happiness.}

Das beste Oktoberfest in La Crosse since 1961. 15 Mio. EURO für lokale wirtschaftliche Auswirkungen. 100 000 Menschen kommen, um die Zwei-Meilen-Parade zu sehen. Es ist virtuell in diesem Jahr.

Hear the oompah of the tuba! It's Oktoberfest time although we have no Crown Prince Ludwig getting married to Princess Therese von Sachsen-Hildburghausen (as happened on October 12, 1810, in Bavaria.

One of the achievements which helped La Crosse gain a 1961 All-American City Award, Oktoberfest, USA, is one of the few authentic Old World folk festivals held annually in the United States.

The fest in 2020 looks and feels differently in a mostly virtual format.

So, during our AAUW 2020 October program, we learn about a special connection between four of our own members who share their ongoing involvement in Oktoberfest through positive traditions and community engagement. Carol



Taebel and Katie Webster will make their ZOOM DEBUT for this program! Zoomers Silvana and Robert Richardson will keep the barrel rolling. The foursome will dress for Fest and bring some gemutlichkeit into your home. If you feel so inclined, wear some fall colors or fall jewelry, affix a maple leaf in your hair or on your lapel.

# The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 60, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2020



## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE: Looking ahead in October

by Ann Brice, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

Greetings! Our virtual Fall Potluck was a success! It was good to get to see everyone even though it was a virtual setting. We had about 20 members join us for an informative presentation on voting by Jan Thornberg of AARP. Thank you Margaret Wood for arranging this opportunity for us.

We spent some time in breakout sessions talking about our goals for the year. We are mindful that we need to continue to work to address the systemic racism that affects so many women and girls. One way we can continue to help women and girls is to continue to fundraise for scholarships. We brainstormed several ideas for fundraising this year to make up for the usual income we get from the Art Fair on the Green. Watch for communications from Robert Richardson in the next few months about you can help.

Speaking of Art Fair on the Green, our virtual art fair is going on until December 31st, so please visit the site to talk to the artists, view their work, and shop from

home. This is a great way to support our wonderful artists during this unprecedented difficult time. We hope to see them in person next year, and in the meantime, you can catch up with them at <https://artfaironthegreen.org/>.



If you weren't able to attend the virtual Fall Potluck, I hope you will be able to attend our October 10th meeting featuring

a presentation about Oktoberfest by our own Robert Richardson. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom, and I welcome you to call or email me if you would like help navigating Zoom. You can reach me at 608-780-5026 or [bricea@westernnc.edu](mailto:bricea@westernnc.edu).

## NEXT BOARD MEETING

**Virtual Meeting**  
**Monday, October 5**  
**6:00 p.m**

Meetings are open to any member who is interested in attending.

**Contact Ann at:** 780-5026 or  
[bricea@westernnc.edu](mailto:bricea@westernnc.edu)

to place items on the agenda and for the Zoom link to the meeting.

## Art Fair

By Carol Robertson, Art Fair Chair



Because we had to cancel our annual Art Fair on the Green, we did not send out our usual request for scholarship and awards donations. There was not a need for money for artist awards this year, but there is always a need for money for scholarships. If you would like to contribute to our scholarship fund, you can still do so by sending a check to the La Crosse Community Foundation. The check is made payable to the La Crosse Community Foundation with the notation "for AAUW Scholarships". Contributions are tax deductible.

Your donation can be mailed directly to La Crosse Community Foundations, 401 Main St, #205, La Crosse WI 54601.

We have appreciated your donations in the past and thank you in advance for your continued support.

Thank you,  
Carol Robertson  
Marilyn Hempstead  
Sue Johnson

## Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, Chair

### Change of Address

Bev Bodine has downsized to an apartment:  
1 RiverPlace Drive, Apt 319  
La Crosse WI 54601



Enjoy easier living in your new space, Bev.

### Best Wishes



Michele Strange, Treasurer VP, has diligently brought her duties up to date before major thoracic surgery on September 29th. At Gundersen Health Care she will spend up to a week post op and then have a 6 to 8 week recovery period at home. May your healing go well, Michele. You'll be in our thoughts.

### Condolences

One of our lifetime members, Martha Jane O'Donnell, recently passed away in Utah where she was living near her son. She was 4 months shy of her 104th birthday. She had been an active member of Contemporary Authors and Bookfellows study groups. Our condolences to her family.

### Thank You

As our membership declines because of the pandemic, we value all who renewed for this year. Our venues for recruiting new members are temporarily unavailable, also. So we will hold steady until the time comes when we can resume our in person events.

## ELECTRONIC RSVP

by Robert Richardson

One week prior to each monthly ZOOM meeting, I will send an e-mail request seeking each member's response.



If you simply reply to my message, I can keep all replies together in a stream. I appreciate your reply.

Given our exciting virtual format, I will set reply dates closer to meeting dates. Thank you!

## BRANCH DIRECTORY

by Robert Richardson

AAUW mailed (via USPS) the Directory to all members. If you did not receive your Directory or if any of your information in the directory is inaccurate, please contact Robert. This year's cover-color, Mountain Green, likens the green color of the heart chakra which governs emotions, compassion, love, truth, and forgiveness.

In our pandemic response let's try our best to remain optimistic.

## SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS COMMITTEE (SGC)

by Robert Richardson, Co-Chair

The Scholarships & Grants Committee will meet via Zoom immediately prior to the October Branch meeting.

In advance, Robert will send meeting preparation materials and a Zoom link for a 40 minute meeting to begin at 9am.

We will use our time efficiently and finish our business prior to the start of the branch meeting/program.

Optimism reigns supreme!

## 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.*

Currently on hiatus, the group is looking for ideas and at ways to do activities.

Please contact Sharon at [sharon.decicco@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.decicco@gmail.com) for more information.

## Reminder from our Webminder

By Barb Fischer, Branch Webminder

The first page of AAUW La Crosse website has links to meetings and zoom assistance information. Links to reading material are also included.



You'll find links to our Facebook and Instagram pages.

Need to contact a branch member but don't have your directory? You can access it at the website! You'll need the password to enter it so contact me, Ann or Erica now to make sure you have it!

Anytime you lose emails or need to find info please look at [www.aauwlacrosse.org](http://www.aauwlacrosse.org) to help you stay informed.

## 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](mailto:moogs56@hotmail.com)

**Next meeting: Email meeting on  
Tues, October 15.**



We posted 2 internships at UWL: Social Media and Public Policy but did not receive applicants for either one! Apparently students are grappling with other issues.

Lois Gilbert, who has been the indomitable chair for the International Women's Day event in March for the past 6 years has given notice that she will not be able to chair it for 2021. We're not sure what format it will take yet but being that it's held around March 8th, it will more than likely be virtual.

Lois will, however, continue with the daily blurbs recognizing trailblazing women in the La Crosse Tribune to celebrate March as Women's History Month. This will be her 6th year! Thank you so much, Lois.

We'd love to hear your ideas too. Please join us!

## Contemporary Authors Report

by Alice Ross

We had our September meeting at Myrick park. It was a lovely day. We socially distanced and wore masks, of course. It was really nice to see everyone. Most everyone was able to show up. Those who didn't feel comfortable coming emailed their feelings about the book we were discussing.



We decided to have our October meeting in the park as well, weather permitting. We discussed plans for the rest of the year but didn't really come up with anything that was satisfactory. We didn't really want to zoom so maybe we'll just take a gap year.

If anyone is interested in our book list for the year, I'll be happy to email it out. Please contact me at [aross5243@centurytel.net](mailto:aross5243@centurytel.net).

# Public Policy

by Ann Brice, Public Policy Chair

On September 5th, 2020 a wildfire broke out in El Dorado Ranch Park east of Los Angeles. As of September 17th, one firefighter has died and 19,000 acres have been destroyed in the flames. The blaze is only 66% contained so far. The cause of the fire? A pyrotechnic device used to reveal the gender of a baby's birth. This is not the first time a gender reveal party has caused damage. In April 2017, an explosive substance meant to reveal pink or blue sparked an explosion that resulted in a fire consuming 45,000 acres south of Tucson. And in September of 2019, a crop-dusting plane stalled and crashed in a field in Texas after dumping thousands of gallons of pink water to reveal a baby's gender.

Shortly after I read about the El Dorado fire, I read a comment somewhere that said "Instead of having fireworks at a gender reveal party, you could hand out fortune cookies. If there's a dollar inside, it's a boy. If there's 77 cents inside, it's a girl."



<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/07/us/gender-reveal-party-wildfire.html>

[com/2020/09/07/us/gender-reveal-party-wildfire.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/07/us/gender-reveal-party-wildfire.html)

AAUW continues to work actively to eliminate the gender pay gap. If you are a Facebook user, you may be interested in following their page: <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.GENDERPAYGAPAWARENESS>

We will never be able to eliminate the gender pay gap until we elect legislators who will fight for women's equal rights. Currently however, we are facing historically unprecedented roadblocks to our right to vote. One way you can help is by joining AAUW in demanding that Congress ensures our access to voting by protecting the U.S. Postal Service.



Go to AAUW's Two-Minute Activist site here: <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/delivering-for-america-act/>, fill out your name and address, and AAUW will send a letter to Senator Tammy Baldwin and Senator Ron Johnson telling them you want them to pass the Delivering to America Act. I just did this and it took about 30 seconds. This is a great way to stand in solidarity with AAUW as we fight for equal rights.



## New Horizons Donation Needs

Current needs and how to donate.

- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Hairbrushes/picks
- Teen clothing
- Adult pajamas, robes, and sweatpants (XL – 4X)
- Women's plus-size clothing (winter only)
- Cellphones, chargers, and phone plans (Straight Talk)
- Disinfecting wipes
- NEW toys for holiday program
- Diverse hair care products: [SEE HERE](#)
- Winter outer-wear
- Men, women, and children winter boots

**DONATIONS HOURS:** The Donation Center is staffed by volunteers, which is why they ask you to call ahead to arrange an appointment on a week day. The number to call is (608)791-2610, ext. 1300. The Donation Center is closed on holidays and the first Tuesday of each month.

## Remembering Ruth Bader Ginsberg

AAUW National's Statement by AAUW CEO Kimberly Churches

America lost one of our most beloved role models tonight, a pioneering jurist and iconic feminist who blazed new trails, not only in her own life, but in the lives of the countless women she championed — and inspired. On behalf of AAUW and its members and supporters who recognized Justice Ginsburg with a 1999 AAUW Achievement Award, we extend our condolences to her family, her colleagues and to every American whose lives and hearts she touched. The nation owes it to her — and to all women — to honor her final wishes and refrain from naming a replacement until after a new president is inaugurated.



## FROM THE TREASURER

Michele Strange

Financial Report as of  
September 20, 2020

Checking Account..... \$9778.63

CD's .....none at this time

Scholarship Bridge..... \$357.00

Apply for Election to  
AAUW Board

Between now and October 30, AAUW is accepting applications for election to its Board of Directors.

Board members share our passion for advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. [Learn more and apply today.](#)

## AAUW Webinars

Take a look at our 2020 member webinars, which range from interviews with notable Fellows to updates on your membership to tips on how to enhance your activism.

Click [HERE](#) for the 18 webinars.



## Anti-Racism: The La Crosse Area Viewpoint



The Greater La Crosse Diversity Council invites you to join them for this urgent roundtable discussion, shaped by the perspective of local leaders: Shaundel Spivey, Rebecca Schwarz, Ricardo Acevedo, Dr. Bee Lo, Nicky Buck, and Amanda Goodenough, as they collectively react to and process the current state of racism in the here and now and ultimately explore what it would take to realize a healthier multicultural community. Don't miss out on being part of this high-priority conversation to shift the La Crosse area toward racial justice.

When: Thursday Oct 1, 2020; 6:00pm-8:00pm

Where: virtual event

For more information, click [HERE](#)

To register, click [HERE](#)

## October dates in US Women's History



October 3, 1904 - Mary McLeod Bethune opens her first school for African-American students in Daytona Beach, Florida

- October 4, 1976 - Barbara Walters becomes the first woman co-anchor of the evening news (at ABC)
- October 4, 1993 - Ruth Bader Ginsburg joins the U.S. Supreme Court as its second woman Justice
- October 8, 1993 - Toni Morrison becomes the first African American woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature
- October 10, 1983 - Dr. Barbara McClintock receives the Nobel Prize for Medicine for her discovery in genetics about mobile genetic elements
- October 11, 1984 - Dr. Kathryn D. Sullivan is the first U.S. woman astronaut to "walk" in space during Challenger flight
- October 15, 1948 - Dr. Frances L. Willoughby is the first woman doctor in the regular U.S. Navy
- October 16, 1916 - Margaret Sanger opens the U.S.'s first birth control clinic in Brooklyn, New York
- October 23, 1910 - Blanche Stuart Scott is the first American woman pilot to make a public flight
- October 24, 1956 - Reverend Margaret Towner is the first woman ordained a minister in the Presbyterian Church
- October 28, 1958 - Mary Roebling is the first woman director of a stock exchange (American Stock Exchange)





American Association of University Women

La Crosse Branch

P.O. BOX 2112 • LA CROSSE, WI 54602-2112



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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 Editor** .....Erica Koonmen ([moogs56@hotmail.com](mailto:moogs56@hotmail.com))

**Webminder** ..... Barb Fischer ([fischerba@live.com](mailto:fischerba@live.com))

### **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](mailto:aauwlacrosse@hotmail.com)