

FEBRUARY MEETING

When: Saturday, Feb 13th, 10 am
Where: The comfort of your home!

Special Education in Kosovo

Presenter:

Lema Kabashi
Branch Member



In her presentation, Lema will talk about her goals and research project in Kosovo. She explains:

"First, I will conduct a Field Test in Kosovo to study reliability, validity, and utility of the Assessment, Evaluation, and Programming System (AEPS), 3rd Edition. Given that the AEPS-3 consists of both assessment and curriculum, I need to conduct two different parts of the Field Test: a) Test Evaluation and b) Curriculum Field Test so this assessment instrument can be used with confidence with children in Kosovo. I will collaborate with Dr. Jennifer Grisham, the co-author of the revised AEPS-3, who will lend her expertise to the project. An undergraduate UW-L special education student will join us as a research assistant.

Second, Brooks Publishing company approved my proposal for supporting my project by collaborating with a publishing company in Kosovo to translate and publish the New AEPS-3 in Albanian language.

Finally, professionals in Kosovo will use this new version of the AEPS-3 to identify the needs of young children and, based on their needs to design developmentally appropriate educational goals, plan appropriate interventions, and monitor children's progress over time. I will also conduct a study of the effectiveness of the AEPS-3.

The results of this study will be published in an article."

The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 60, ISSUE 6

FEBRUARY 2021



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Healing

by Ann Brice, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

I am writing this on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and by the time you read this, President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris will have been sworn into office. It has been a tumultuous four years, and an even more challenging ride since the November election. I can only imagine what Dr. King would think if he saw the state of our country today. I hope that President Biden and Vice President Harris can bring healing and stability to the United States.

On January 6th we all watched sickened as our Capitol was attacked by domestic terrorists incited by the outgoing president. According to a joint statement put out by AAUW and other women's groups, "This was not the beginning. This was an inflection point in years of hate and division incited by a President who does not care about our country or its people, but only about himself. He has stoked racism, sexism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, ableism, xenophobia, toxic masculinity, and more — allowing

those who share his beliefs to come out in the open and act without fear of repercussions and wreak havoc on the seat of democracy. The failed insurrection at the Capitol this week was shocking, but not without warning."



Racism, misogyny, and the other scourges mentioned in AAUW's joint statement were in place two hundred

years before they began to be stoked in 2015. Our country was founded by pushing out Indigenous Peoples and built by the work of enslaved people. There are many ways we can educate ourselves

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NEXT BOARD MEETING

Virtual Meeting
Monday, February 8th
6:00 p.m

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

Contact Ann at: 780-5026 or
bricea@westerntc.edu

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

Healing... (continued from page 1)

about this history and how it affects us today. As I said last month, "We are They," and that has forced me to look inside myself to examine my own beliefs.

There are many resources we can use to reflect on how our beliefs are informed and to aid us in moving forward with positive change. Two sources that have helped me the most are the daily posts from Heather Cox Richardson, a political science and history professor from Massachusetts (Letters from an American <https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com>) and the book **Caste** by Isabel Wilkerson. I'm eager to hear what sources are resonating with you these days.

Wishing you a healthy and safe February.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/womens-community-statement-on-president-trumps-removal/>

Name Grants 2020-2021

By Jan Eriksen

It's time to begin thinking about nominees for the 2020-2021 AAUW La Crosse Branch Name Grant(s). A nominee should have provided service to the branch and cannot have received the honor previously. For a list of past recipients, dating back to 1960, please see the end pages of your membership directory.



Please E-mail or call Jan Eriksen, Name Grant Chair, with your nominee's name and brief information about her or him by the deadline of March 20.

A small committee of past Name Grant awardees will select the winner(s) for 2020-2021 and a donation will be sent to AAUW national in their honor. Winners will be announced at the April 10 branch meeting.

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, Chair



CONDOLENCES

Our sincere sympathy goes out to members Erica Koonmen and her mother Joan Koonmen who lost father and husband Ned on January 18th. We further offer condolences to the Koonmen family of siblings, spouses and grandchildren.

AAUW WI STATE CONVENTION

by Jan Eriksen, Committee Member



The 2021 AAUW-WI Convention committee has been hard at work, and we are getting excited about how the convention is shaping up. Watch for details in the next issue of Badger Briefs. We also have a website available with more information being added as we get it. You can visit the site now. <https://aauwwistateconvention.com>

Registration will begin on March 1. You will be able to register for the sessions you would like to attend on the site. This is your chance to attend all or part of convention for free. No registration costs or travel and lodging costs. That means you might need to bid on some of the items that branches will be putting in the online auction. More details on that soon. We are hoping to make this a convention with the largest attendance ever. "See" you there.

SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS COMMITTEE (SGC)

by Robert Richardson, Co-Chair

Final call for scholarship and grant applications! The deadline for most applications is February 8, 2021.



And, we need YOU to nominate a woman 30 years of age and older who could benefit from AAUW support at any level of education. YOU would need to write a letter of support; the letter can be short and to the point or long and to the point. YOU or your nominee can download the application from our AAUW-La Crosse Branch website. The deadline is February 5, 2021

Nomination/application forms are available on our website: www.aauwlacrosse.org

Merger Poem

by Judy Chicago. Submitted by Marilyn Hempstead

And then all that has divided us will merge
And then compassion will be wedded to power
And then softness will come to a world that is harsh and unkind

And then both men and women will be gentle
And then both women and men will be strong
And then no person will be subject to another's will

And then all will be rich and free and varied
And then the greed of some will give way to the needs of many

And then all will share equally in the Earth's abundance

And then all will care for the sick and the weak and the old

And then all will nourish the young
And then all will cherish life's creatures

And then everywhere will be called Eden once again

Copyright Judy Chicago, 1979. www.judychicago.com

Stay-at-Home Activities

Looking for something different to do while continuing your quarantine? Something to add to your mid-winter mix? Here are a couple of things you might enjoy!

Visit an art exhibit: UWL Fall 2020 Senior Art Student Exhibition, Blind Date. The five Senior artists, Cassidy Herman, Maria Landgraf, Grace Hintze, Elizabeth Leeck, and Bailey Burgard showcase their artwork online. Click [HERE](#).

Virtual yoga: AAUW Tomah member Kathy Peterson teaches classes geared for women who don't think they can do yoga as well as Beyond Basics. Restorative and Chair yoga classes are easy for anybody. Her website also has free videos such as "10 Easy Seated Movements to add to Your Day". More info at: <https://www.kjpeterson.com/>

Car Concerts: Choirs around the US and Canada have been meeting in parking lots and, from their cars, use technology to practice and put on "car concerts". Audience members honk their horns instead of clapping. Read more about it and listen to a soothing song [HERE](#)

Get outside, take a walk and learn about La Crosse history with *Hear, Here*. Get a map and full details at <http://www.hearherelacrosse.org/>

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

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 on Tues, February 16, 2021.

The **International Women's Day** event will be March 8, from 7-8pm via Zoom. We are working on finding four women to answer specific questions about their experience as women in their native country and contrasting that with their experience in the USA. More information to follow!

A group of our members have volunteered to write the Women's History Month daily blurbs for the La Crosse Tribune. Thank you to Pam Thiel, Betty Kruck, Jan Erikson and Erica Koonmen. The theme again this year is "Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to Be Silenced."

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 ways to do activities. Please contact Sharon at sharon.decicco@gmail.com for more information.

Public Policy

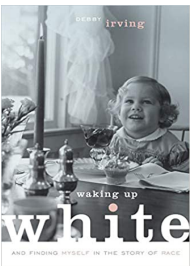
by Ann Brice, Public Policy Chair

It seems hard to believe that it is already time for another election, but Tuesday, February 16th is the Spring Primary. You can go to myvote.wi.gov to find out your voter status (if you requested an absentee ballot for 2020, you'll need to request it again for 2021), where to vote if you're voting in person, and what is on your ballot. If you live in La Crosse like me, you'll be voting for one of seven candidates for Wisconsin State Superintendent, and for one of ten candidates for La Crosse Mayor.

You can watch a State Superintendent Candidate forum at Wiseye.org: <https://wiseye.org/2021/01/07/wisconsin-public-education-network-superintendent-candidate-forum/>. The candidates for the Mayoral race participated in a forum streamed on Facebook on January 21st. You can view the stream on Facebook or on the La Crosse Local YouTube channel.

In other news, thank you to the people who came to the preliminary SANE meetings! We had great discussion and came up with a few things to work on. One is a way to reframe language around the issues of "pro-abortion" or "pro-choice" vs. "pro-life." Instead of making it an either/or concept, we believe that we all can agree we want every child to be fed and cared for. To make that happen, we can focus on a living wage for everyone, equal wages for women and men, accessible health care for everyone, and programming to stop domestic violence. Another thing we'd like to work on is coming up with ways to talk to people who seem to have completely different views. I look forward to meeting again with interested members and will set up another meeting in March.

Finally, the **Waking Up White Regional Read**, a collaboration between the La Crosse Public Library and the Waking Up White Regional Community Learning Collaborative, invites us to participate in a community wide reading of Debby Irving's book **Waking Up White** during the summer of 2021. Our branch agreed to donate some funds to purchase copies of this book to support this wonderful project.



You can get more information at Waking Up White Regional Read (laxwakingupwhite.com)



Creation of Gender Policy Council

AAUW CEO Kim Churches issued the following statement:

AAUW is thrilled to learn that the Biden-Harris Administration has created a White House Gender Policy Council, a team charged with implementing 'a government-wide focus on uplifting the rights of girls and women in the United States and around the world, restoring America as a champion for women and girls.'

We are even more delighted that the Council will be co-chaired by Jennifer Klein, chief strategy and policy officer at TIME'S UP, and Julissa Reynoso, the incoming assistant to the president and chief of staff to First Lady Dr. Jill Biden. Both women have broad and deep experience fighting for gender equity, and we know they have the wisdom, experience and right-minded approach to advance women's equity.



The task they face is formidable: The pandemic has been devastating for women of color and crushing for women in general. Despite making up the majority of the nation's essential workers, women have disproportionately suffered from our country's inadequate response to the COVID-19 crisis, losing more jobs and taking on family responsibilities that drove many out of the labor force. The road to recovery will be long, but with this Council guiding the way in an intentional, coordinated fashion, we are confident we'll be swiftly traveling in the right direction.

Throughout its nearly 140-year history, AAUW has worked with our nation's leaders and policymakers to amplify women's voices and to advocate for the educational advancement and economic security for women and girls. We stand ready to work with the new administration's Gender Policy Council to ensure that racial and gender equity remain front and center as the new administration moves forward.

AAUW's letter to the 117th Congress

During the period between the November election and inauguration of our 46th President, AAUW worked closely with the Biden transition team to delineate our priorities for the incoming administration. We offered our thoughts on executive actions to take immediately to support gender equity. AAUW's letter to the 117th Congress outlines our federal legislative priorities for this session. We urge you to use it as an advocacy tool when speaking with your elected officials about their need to take up and move quickly to support the economic security and education of women and girls. Read it [HERE](#).



FROM THE TREASURER

Michele Strange

Financial Report as of January 20, 2021

Checking Account..... \$9,466.96

CDs none at this time

Scholarship Bridge..... \$321.00

AAUW National Art Contest

In the art world women are underrepresented and undervalued. Only a third of artists represented by commercial galleries are women and women working in arts professions are paid on average 74 cents to every dollar paid to men. This is what motivates AAUW to host an annual art contest — to give women artists the attention they deserve.



Are you an AAUW member with a passion for creating works of art? This year's contest begins on January 6

with entries accepted through **February 3**. Artists may submit up to two pieces of original art. Any entered art piece must be created by the entrant. You are welcome to enter art that was submitted in previous contests, but you may not submit past winning entries.

The six winning entries will be featured in a collection of notecards mailed to AAUW members in the spring. Please consult the contest rules [HERE](#) for helpful tips on ensuring a quality entry.

AAUW National Election Comment Period

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.

This spring AAUW members will be asked to vote on amendments to the Public Policy Priorities and bylaws, in addition to electing members to the national Board of Directors. Every AAUW member has the right to comment on proposed changes to the bylaws or Public Policy Priorities before they are put to the membership for a vote.

You'll find all the information you need to comment on proposed bylaws and Public Policy Priorities changes or propose your own changes at the link below. Comments and proposed amendments can be submitted until February 5, 2021 at 5:00 pm ET.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election>

Community Classes in American Civics

IM Education, a non-profit based in Onalaska, is launching a new program to address the need for civics education and a focus on civic virtue in America. According to founder and president Sam Scinta (who is also an Associate Lecturer in Political Science at UW La Crosse and an Adjunct Instructor at Viterbo University), development of the new program has progressed over the past several months, but the current political climate has reinforced the need for such community programming.

IM Education is launching a series of community classes in 2021 in cooperation with Viterbo's D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics and Leadership. Titled Rebuilding American Civics, the sessions will be free and open to the public. Four sessions will be offered in the spring, on February 3, February 17, March 3 and March 17; the sessions will run from 6:30-8pm, and will initially be offered online via Zoom



(in-person classes will be offered starting in the summer and fall). Course subjects include American political foundations, civil liberties and the bill of rights, understanding the work of the Supreme Court, and participation in the political process. "While many Americans know a bit about our government foundations, processes and institutions, it is important that we have a shared understanding of these topics, so that we can have better and more constructive political conversations," Scinta notes. "These classes will emphasize critical thinking and dialogue, learning along the way that it is okay to 'agree to disagree,' so long as we do it with mutual respect and empathy."

"I am excited about partnering with IM Education on these classes," said Rick Kyte, Director of the D. B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership and Endowed Professor of Ethics at Viterbo University. "If we are going to rebuild confidence in American institutions, it has to start with intentionally cultivating knowledge of how government works and what we can each do to make it better."

To sign up, go to <http://www.viterbo.edu/db-reinhart-institute-ethics-leadership> or email Jill Miller at jmmiller@viterbo.edu or admin@inspiredmindsedu.org for more information. The classes are free.



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)

Webminder Barb Fischer (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