

ART FAIR ON THE GREEN 2021

by Carol Robertson, Chair

When: Saturday, July 24
10 am- 4pm

Where: Myrick Park, La Crosse St.

Art Fair on the Green will look a bit different this year. It will be a one day event; we will have 70+ artists, food trucks and booths, and of course, the raffle will be held. We will not be charging admission this year, either.

The committee has been working hard to make sure that we can provide a venue that will encourage people to stroll the park, eat some food, and buy some art from our selection of artists. It has been a rough year for our artists since all art fairs were cancelled in 2020.

Elsewhere in the Current the volunteer opportunities are listed. Please consider signing up for what you are able to help with this year. We will need a set-up and takedown crew, greeters to hand out programs, booth sitters, and raffle workers. Let Marla French know what you would like to assist with this year.

Even though we had to cancel in 2020, as you know, we were still able to award \$29,000 .00 in Grants and Scholarships this year. Our efforts over the years have given us a substantial fund at La Crosse Community Foundation that enabled us to continue awarding our scholarships and helping out the non-profits in the community.

Thank you for all your help in past years and come check out the new look of Art Fair on the Green for 2021. Be sure to spread the word with your friends about the change in venue.

The Current

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SUMMER 2021



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

What A Year!

by Ann Brice, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

Wow, what a year it has been! When I met with Jan Ericksen and Michele Strange back in early March 2020 to talk about becoming the president of our branch, I couldn't have imagined all that would transpire until today. Jan, Michele, and I met just a week before the Breonna Taylor murder, and George Floyd was murdered only two months later. Since Derek Chauvin was found guilty on March 29th, at least 64 people have died at the hands of the police. AAUW's mission of equity has never been more important. I believe that lifting women up is critical to healing and revitalizing our country and our world, and I feel so lucky to be part of a group that believes the same thing.

Despite the challenges brought about by COVID, our branch members embraced the AAUW spirit and joined together every month via Zoom. Instead of having outside speakers for our programs, our members shared their interests and skills. This was a great way for our members to connect, and I want to thank Megan Preston and Cristina Kovacs for organizing this wonderful series. Thank you too to all of our speakers. Thank you

to everyone for your patience with me while I learned to navigate large Zoom gatherings.



Last summer's art fair was virtual and still a success! Many thanks to Barb Fischer for the website we used to showcase and sell artists' work. Barb put in countless hours getting the site to work just right for us. Also many thanks to Carol Robertson and Erica Koonmen for all they did to organize the event and help our artists show their work. I'm excited to remind you that this year's Art Fair will be a one-day live event on Saturday, July 24th at Myrick Park.

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NEXT BOARD MEETING

Virtual Transitional Meeting
Thursday, June 24
5:00 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.

What A Year!... (continued from page 1)

We don't know yet if we'll be able to meet again in person this fall, so please stay tuned as we learn more. Even if we can meet in person, we'll continue to offer you the option to attend via Zoom.

Thank you again for your patience with me this year as I had the honor of being your branch president.

Art Fair Volunteers Needed

by Marla French, Art Fair Volunteer Coordinator

Art Fair at Myrick Park may look different this year, but we're anticipating a very successful one day event! Mark your calendar for July 24th and plan to help out for a couple hours, or more if you wish! As in the past, we'll need help with setting up, so if you're an early bird, this may be just for you. You'll need to be at the park between 6 and 7 a.m. At 4:00 p.m. we'll need another crew to help with takedown.



While we're not charging admission, we'll still have tables at the entrances where greeters (you) will hand out programs and explain to our guests that we're depending on their gracious donations this year to fund our many scholarships. There will be donation containers at each table.

Some of you have enjoyed Booth Sitting in the past, giving the artists a brief lunch break. We'll need three for that.

The Raffle will operate as usual, selling tickets for the many "prizes." Almost all of the 65+ artists have indicated they're contributing a piece to the Raffle, so it should be better than ever!

With a one day event, there won't be as many 2 hour time slots to fill, so you'll need to contact me quickly to claim your spot. I'm counting on you to contact me before I start making panicky phone calls: 608-385-7432 (text or call) or mmfrench1959@gmail.com.

New Food Vendors this year!

by Betty Kruck, Concessions Coordinator

Our art fair is happy to welcome back Roncalli Newman selling their generous and delicious hot fudge sundaes and root beer floats. Main Squeeze Fruit Juice is also returning with fresh squeezed lemonade. We'll still hear the familiar call of Cowboy Kettle Korn with a fresh popped batch of Kettle Korn. In addition we'll have two food trucks; Apothik and 5 Star Egg Rolls.

Please come to the art fair hungry and ready to eat.



AAUW will again sell bottled water as well as soda pop. Donations of bottled water and various soda pop will be appreciated. Contact Betty Kruck, krux@mwt.net, if you have donations.

AAUW NATIONAL ELECTION

FROM AAUW NATIONAL

We have the results of national AAUW election and bylaws change vote: This year's voter turnout reached a record high with 23% of all members casting a ballot.

Julia Brown has been re-elected to serve as board chair for three more years. Malinda Gaul was re-elected as board vice chair, and Elizabeth Haynes and Joseph Bertolino also will retain their board seats.

AAUW's public policy priorities were approved by 92% of voters.

The board-recommended ballot initiative to remove the college-degree membership requirement did not receive the two-thirds, or 66.6%, vote required to enact a bylaws change. However, the board is heartened that a remarkable 63% of you voted in favor of making this change, indicating a momentum shift toward a more inclusive membership. This was a significantly higher number than we saw in previous votes, which hovered just below 50%, to make the change.

While we have many voices, I know we all share the same commitment to AAUW's mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy, and our vision of achieving equity for all.

More than ever, we must embrace our values and continue to strive towards diversity, equity and inclusion; it's a journey that will never end.

No matter how you voted in this election, you are a valued part of our community. In fact, you—our members—are our core community, and the final decisions about board leaders and bylaws will always be yours to make. Now it's time to move forward together. Thanks again for making your voice heard.

Membership News

by Marilyn Henpstead, VP Membership

CHANGE of ADDRESSES

Carol Robertson has switched apartments. Her new address is:
930 Linden Dr, Apt 101
Holmen WI 54636.



This summer Carlene and Cam Roberts are downsizing to Eagle Crest South. Their new address is:
622 Bennora Lee Court Apt 4021
La Crosse, WI 54601

CONDOLENCES



We note the passing in May of former member Lynn Quinlisk who was 93. Active for many years she served as president in 1997-98. Sympathy to her family and friends.

Introducing STEMEd for Girls

Are you looking for ways to inspire the young women in your life to learn more about STEM?

AAUW is proud to introduce STEMEd for Girls, a **free** virtual summer program created exclusively for girls in grades 9 through 12—with a particular focus on girls of color—and for the parents, guardians and caregivers who support their dreams and aspirations. The sessions begin July 7th.

Join us for a series of six lively, informative and engaging virtual workshops. Designed for those who want to stand out among their peers, the program will:

- Demystify the world of STEM and show how accessible — and exciting — these fields can be.
- Explore the different subject areas that can be chosen as a college major, including biology, chemistry, physics, engineering, mathematics, and technology/computer science.
- Show the many types of lucrative jobs and careers a STEM education can prepare you for.
- Pair you up with a STEM Ambassador who can mentor and guide you in your education and beyond.

Please share this link with your network!

[STEMEd](#)

Study Group News

AAUW IN ACTION (AIA)

See this page for meeting info

Contact: Erica Koonmen, moogs56@hotmail.com

HEARTH & HOME

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

SANE (SALIENT AND NEWSWORTHY EVENTS)

Contact: Ann Brice, annbrice@bricecohey.com

Women Who Worked for Peace Quiz

1. Who was branded a traitor when she begged the British and the Colonials to lay down their arms instead of waging a revolution?
2. Who ran for US President on Equal Rights Party in 1884 and 1888 and was an American delegate to the first world peace Congress in Paris in 1889?
3. Who organized and led the 1914 peace parade in New York City in 1914 and aided conscientious objectors and refugee relief programs in World War I?
4. Who was the famous suffragist who joined Jane Addams in 1915 in founding the Woman's Peace Party at a meeting of 3000 women in Washington DC?
5. Who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931, was first president from 1919 to 1935 of the Women's International League of Peace and Freedom and was called an unpatriotic subversive by press and the US government?
6. Who was an organizer of the Woman's Peace Party, a leader of American Union Against Militarism, and latter co-founded the ACLU?
7. Who helped found Women Strike for Peace in 1961 which opposed the Vietnam War – the first woman elected to Congress on a women's rights peace platform?
8. Who joined 49 other Congress members in voting against entry into World War I; was the only member to vote against World War II and organized a Brigade which demonstrated against the Vietnam War in 1968?

Answers on page 6. Click [HERE](#) to for more quizzes and their answers!

Art Fair Contributions

by Jan Eriksen and Marilyn Hempstead, Co-Chairs: Awards

Because we had no live art fair last year and we're not charging admission this year, we need financial donations more than ever to help us continue to award our scholarships! As you know, Art Fair on the Green is AAUW La Crosse Branch's biggest fund raiser of the year. So we're seeking your assistance in two ways: direct donations to the Scholarship Fund and requests to potential corporate donors.

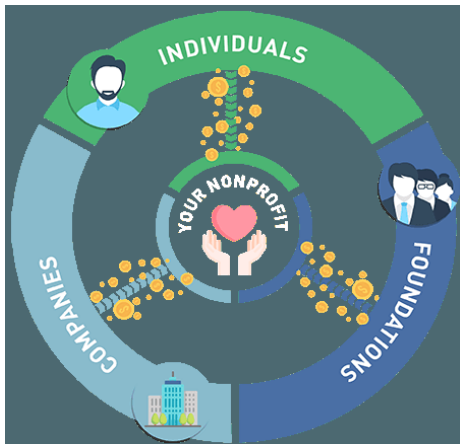
Scholarship Fund

The Scholarship Fund Contribution Form is attached. Please print it out, complete it, and send it, along with your check, to the AAUW La Crosse post office box (Box 2112). We will note your name, get it in the Art Fair program, and forward your check on to the La Crosse Community Foundation. Contributions are tax exempt. We need to receive your donation by July 12 to meet the deadline for printing the program.

Corporate Donors

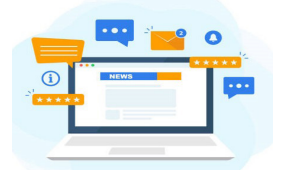
We all have retailers, financial institutions, restaurants, salons, health and wellness professionals, and other businesses that we patronize or where we may have connections. Obviously the personal touch works so much better than receiving a letter, Email, or phone call from a stranger. If you have a friendly relationship with a business, please contact Marilyn at marizah@yahoo.com or 784-8763 or Jan at jperiksen@viterbo.edu or 787-5946. We will provide you with a letter explaining the AAUW La Crosse Scholarship Fund and a contribution form for businesses. Please take these to your contact person when making your donation request.

Thank you very much for your help!



On The Web

by Barb Fischer, Branch Web Manager & Art Fair on the Green Web Designer



The new Art Fair on the Green site will be ready in early July. <https://artfaironthegreen.org>

Although we are expecting the Art Fair on the Green at Myrick Park to go well, we will have a back up. The Virtual 2021 Art Fair on the Green will begin early July. This will give everyone a chance to view the Artist's work ahead of time and to help advertise the event. Please view the site often and spread the word.

Besides the two reasons above, there are many other reasons for having a virtual site this year. Because it is only a one day event, a rain day could hurt us. With the virtual site, you still have a place to view the art work regardless of rain or shine. Then there is Covid-19. Variants should not be a problem if people are vaccinated. However, we have a safety back up with the virtual site. Also, if you want to revisit an artist later, the virtual site will allow you to search by the artist name, by booth number, by medium used, or by looking randomly using the links from one artist to another. Help AAUW and the artists in many ways by: sending a link, suggesting it in an email, posting it on social media, or any way you can.

On the virtual site, artists' work and contact information will be available to you well beyond July 24th (even for Christmas shopping). So if you forgot something, just visit <https://artfaironthegreen.org>

The same easy links will continue, but many improvements will also be made such as links to larger images and larger navigation links.

If you have suggestions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Barb Fischer, at jabs2media@gmail.com or call 608-784-1949 (best to leave a message for me to return your call).

Be The Change

From AAUW National

Beginning June 22, AAUW will launch its Social Change Ambassadors Certificate Program, a virtual learning and networking experience for early- to mid-level professionals who want to make workplace practices more inclusive and equitable. Encourage the young professionals in your life to take advantage of this seven-week series of career-development courses. For \$25, you can sponsor their journey. For more information or to register, visit:

[Social Change Ambassadors Certificate Program](#)

FROM THE TREASURER

Michele Strange

Financial Report as of May 21, 2021

Checking Account..... \$10,971.44

CDs none at this time

Scholarship Bridge..... \$321.00

Dues Renewal

by Michele Strange, treasurer

Renewals for branch membership have been trickling in, so many of you have yet to renew. As in the past few years, you have a choice of renewing directly online with a credit/debit card through AAUW National's database or sending me a check. The total dues this year is \$83.

For those who want to renew online, I will need to send you an email directly from AAUW National. Just email me a request and I will send you the form. You will be renewing for national, state and local. Your state and local dues will be paid automatically into the Wisconsin and La Crosse branch bank accounts. I will receive a notice from national when your renewal is processed.

For those who want to renew with a check, there is an email attachment with the 2021/22 renewal form included with this month's Current. This includes all the information you need to renew. Please mail the form and your check to me.

If anyone has questions about this process, please contact me at mstrange@eagle.uwlax.edu or 608-781-6962.

Scholarships & Grants 2021

by Robert Richardson, Co-Chair



AAUW Members' Cause-to-Celebrate!

A receptive 30 individuals joined us for the ZOOMception on May 8. The recipients said "thank you" in ways we cannot recapture in these written words. All members benefit from hearing our recipients speak and from realizing these scholars will continue to break barriers! Their stories refresh and inspire all in attendance! In one way or another, all 19 recipients documented their personal and academic accomplishments. Truly amazing. And because of modern technology, almost all of our recipients attended (live or via pre-recorded video).

With lesser fanfare, we announced our 10 Grant recipients during our April branch meeting. Our committee members researched the uses of the funds granted in 2020 and determined that these recipients used the grants as intended and they each deserved a renewal grant. We did have one new recipient: through a \$1000 grant, we supported the Kosovo Project created by our member, Dr. Lema Kabashi to introduce Kosovan teachers, families, students to special education assessment and intervention.

Thank you S&G Committee members who researched agencies nominated for grants, read the scholarship applications, and selected the amazing cadre of recipients. Thank you Art Fair Committee members and all the AAUW members who make the Art Fair a success and, thereby, provide the proceeds we use to (1) award our grants and scholarships and (2) facilitate barrier breaking for decades to come!

Sharon DiCicco & Robert Richardson, Co-Chairs; S&GC members: Ann Brice, Betty Kruck, Carol Robertson, Francie Ball, Marilyn Hempstead, Mary O'Sullivan, Michele Strange, Sandy Sechrest, & Silvana Richardson.

Scholarship Recipients

- **Tribune Extra Effort (2):** Sarah Kirsch, Luther HS; Maeghan Wikkerink, Sparta HS
- **Pat Staupe (Arts) Memorial:** Lillian Bendel, Central High School
- **Holistic Nursing:** Anelita Larson, Viterbo University
- **Janet Isler (Teacher Education) Memorial:** Kiley Peterson, Viterbo University
- **Karen Wilson Memorial (3):** Amy Dummer, Viterbo University [Graduate Program: Servant Leadership]; Sara Pederson, Western Technical College [Radiation Therapy]; Carmen Ritter, Western Technical College [Human Services]
- **UW-La Crosse (4):** Oluwaseyi Adeoshun [Biomedical Science]; Jenelle Higgins [Biology/Pre-OT]; Natalie Maufort [Nuclear Medicine Technology]; Hannah Riegl [English/Economics]
- **Viterbo University (2):** Nyah Brooks [Nursing]; Sheridan Schmitt [Nursing]
- **High School Graduating Seniors:** Grace Hoskin, Onalaska High School; Natasha Komperud, Holmen High School; Ava Krause, Central High School; Alexism Sye, Holmen High School; Eden Winga, Central High School.

Grant Recipients

- Brighter Tomorrows of Sparta
- New Horizons
- Self-Sufficiency Program
- Kosovo Project
- YWCA Teen Lead
- Task Force to End Modern Slavery
- WTC Pathways & Transitions Scholarships + Student Assistance.



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

Answers to Women Who Worked for Peace Quiz:

1. Ann Lee February 29, 1736-September 8, 1784
2. Belva Lockwood October 24, 1830-May 19, 1917
3. Fanny Garrison Villard Dec. 16, 1844 – July 5, 1928
4. Carrie Chapman Catt January 9, 1859-March 9, 1947
5. Jane Addams September 6, 1860-May 21, 1935
6. Crystal Eastman June 25, 1881-July 8, 1928
7. Bella Abzug July 24, 1920- March 31, 1998
8. Jeannette Rankin June 11, 1880- May 18, 1973