

NOVEMBER MEETING

Curling: An Olympic Ice Sport

When:

Saturday, Nov 13
10am

Presenter:

Robert
Richardson



Where:

Comfort of your home

Robert Richardson will discuss the rich history and culture of curling from Scotland in the 1500s all the way to the Olympic Games in 2018.

Who curls? Robert's teammate curls - Myles is 10 year old. Robert's friend, Carol, curls at age 83. Robert's team curls. This team includes a collegian, a tv anchor, an IT specialist, and a teacher; they will compete in the 2022 Arena National Curling Championship.

The La Crosse Curling Club hosts a variety of learn-to-curl events.. Curling is both easier and harder than it looks. And, the next Olympic Winter Games open in three (3!) months.



AAUW

LA CROSSE (WI)

The Current

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VOLUME 61, ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2021

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Tending to Our Self Confidence

by Ann Brice, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President



Hello and welcome to November! I was so pleased to see so many of you at our last meeting during which we enjoyed Betty Kruck's talk about Native Plants. Yesterday I was at the Boerner Botanical Gardens with my sister Lynn, and while we walked through the lovely gardens, I wished Betty had been there to tell me which things might grow in my own yard.

Thinking about tending plants has me thinking about the importance of tending girls and young women so they grow up feeling confident and self-sufficient. Just like with a plant, we don't always see how our efforts of support affect girls until they are older. Two news stories stood out for me this week and reinforced my belief in the need for AAUW's work.

The first story was about Frances Haugen testifying before Congress about Facebook knowing their platform promoted unsafe material and did nothing about it. The damage facilitated by Facebook related to our democracy is significant. More closely related to AAUW's mission, however, is

the damage Instagram, a Facebook product, does to young women. Studies of Instagram's effects showed "13.5% of U.K. teen girls say their suicidal thoughts became more frequent after starting on Instagram, 17% of teen girls say their eating disorders

got worse after using Instagram, and 32% of teen girls said that when they felt bad about their bodies, Instagram made them feel worse."



The second story was about Linda Evangelista suing a company that offers a product called CoolSculpting. Evangelista's

Continued on Page 2 »

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Virtual Meeting

Monday, November 8, 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.

Tending to Our Self Confidence... (continued from page 1)

experience with CoolSculpting, a procedure that claimed to freeze fat cells and make them disappear, left her with disfigurement. My questions after reading both of these stories were "Why do women and girls STILL feel like they need to look a certain way to be considered worthy? How can we help women and girls feel valued for what is on their insides, not for what is on their outsides?"

Continuing to support AAUW and groups like it is one way we can help! AAUW promotes STEM education, financial equity, and social justice. When you make a donation to AAUW or another group that promotes women's issues, consider making it in honor of a girl in your life who might be interested in science but afraid she won't be accepted unless she focuses on her looks. I hope that someday we won't have to read about girls and women in relation to what they look like, and instead we'll read about them for their contributions to the world.

<https://www.npr.org/2021/10/05/1043377310/facebook-whistleblower-frances-haugen-congress>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/16/fashion/linda-evangelista-cool-sculpting-lawsuit.html?smid=url-share>

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership

PHONE NUMBER-ADDRESS CHANGES

Sharon DeCicco's phone number has changed to 608-452-4571. She states, "I got rid of CenturyLink and went with Coon Valley Telephone. For local people to call there is no need to add the 608."

Barb Newcomer has moved to an apartment. Her new address:
 1 Riverplace Dr. #216
 La Crosse, WI 54601
 Her phone number is still 608-788-2618

CONGRATULATIONS

Joan Koonmen turned 90 on October 23rd: a true milestone. We are grateful that she brings her long legacy of AAUW membership to our branch.



Best wishes to Joan, those with changes in their lives and to you all as the temperatures fall.

Celebrating 140 Years of AAUW

From AAUW National



November is an important landmark for all of us as we mark AAUW's 140th Anniversary, and we couldn't have made it without members and supporters like you.

As a small token of our thanks, we invite you to a celebratory virtual event on **November 17 at 5 p.m. CT** to honor our rich past and look ahead to a bright—and equitable—future. We'll share an interview with our distinguished 2021 Alumnae Recognition Awardee, recognize notable AAUW branch and state birthdays, and hear from our board chair Julia Brown and new CEO Gloria L. Blackwell.

[Register now](#) to join us!

DECEMBER COOKBOOK AND COOKIE WALK

by Megan Preston, Co VP Programs

AAUW La Crosse Branch Holiday Recipe Collection and Virtual Cookie Walk

As we approach the holidays, the board wants to celebrate with everyone even though COVID is keeping us apart.

This year our program co-chair Megan Preston, will be collecting your favorite holiday recipes and creating a digital AAUW holiday cookbook. *Please send any sweet or savory recipes to her before December 6th at MPreston@rwbaird.com.*



We will also be doing a COVID friendly cookie walk, and we welcome anyone who wants to participate. We will be collecting cookies from members on December 10th at one drop off location, and volunteers will arrange them in different plates and deliver to members who want to receive a plate of cookies.

We will not be charging for this year's cookie walk, although donations are always welcome! The drop off location will be announced at November's meeting.



Request for Personal Feminism Stories

As the AAUW In Action (AIA) study group was tossing around activity ideas for the upcoming year, Andrea Hansen suggested encouraging our members to uncover our own personal or ancestors' intersections with events of the 2nd wave of feminism (or before); people and stories of women who broke ground in large or smaller ways.

Her idea was to have those stories shared in a story or article that could be a contributed newspaper article or included in *The Current* so we can recognize and remember people who were involved with the developing women's rights.

The question is: "Who are the s/heroes in your family or community who helped "write our future"?"

Here are some starting points for you to consider:

- Played on the first girls' basketball team of a local high school (after Title IX)
- Served on an early Board of Directors for New Horizons
- First woman to hold elected office in your town/county.
- A woman in your family that was considered a women's libber or feminist
- Joined a union
- Helped organize or participate in the first Take Back the Night march
- Participated in anti-war demonstrations or vigils
- Worked in male dominated workplace
- Was a Supervisor in a male-dominated workplace
- Started a network for women in business
- Owned or managed a farm
- Volunteered for a woman running for office
- Active in the early environmental movement
- Started own business
- Worked in a war time industry in WWII - or was a WAAC
- First woman to earn a degree in your family.
- First person in family to come out as LGBT
- Worked in Civil Rights movement of the 50-60's
- Served on the WI Commission on the Status of Women in 1964 - 1979
- Attended the 1977 National Women's Conference in Houston 1977
- Took a women's studies class in college in the 1970's or early 80's
- Stood up to authority figure when a girl, teen or young adult
- Stood up on behalf of one's daughter on issues of sexism, racism, etc...
- Excelled in sports prior to 1972
- Was a single parent
- Went to college as an adult
- Helped someone leave an abusive partner or left a relationship because of abuse



We would love to hear your stories/memories. You're invited to write them down and send them to Erica at moogs56@hotmail.com. They don't have to be long, or annotated, or illustrated (although a picture of your subject **WOULD** be great!). We'll print them in future issues of *The Current* and maybe send them to the La Crosse Tribune. We hope these histories will be an inspiration to younger generations.

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

AAUW IN ACTION

AAUW in Action is a study group that serves as a spring-board 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: Zoom meeting on Nov 17th, 6pm. Please email Erica for the link.

Now that students are back on the UWL campus, we'll be offering our 3 paid internships again next semester so we hope we'll have a Social Media, a Public Policy and a Diversity Interns in the spring.

Another idea we've been discussing, besides the Personal Feminism Stories (see article to the left), is creating a WI passport for the 14 sites of women's history included on the Nat'l Trust for Historic Preservation's Saving Places "Where Women made History" website. This would encourage people to visit the sites and learn more about them. We'd also like to see more Wisconsin sites added. Does this sound like a project you'd like to work on? Let us know!



Public Policy

by Ann Brice, Public Policy Chair

On Wisconsin!

I love watching shows about Wisconsin on PBS. When the COVID pandemic hit, date night for my husband and I became Thursday nights watching Wisconsin Life, Around the Corner, and Wisconsin Foodie, followed by Midsomer Murders. We've discovered a lot of interesting things about Wisconsin. Since the pandemic started, however, we've also seen a not-so-positive side to Wisconsin. Driving through Viroqua a few weeks ago, I noticed recall signs for a school board member who also happens to be a friend of mine. I have also been following the recalls in Mequon-Thiensville because I have friends who live there. Doing more reading, I found that Wisconsin is second in the nation for school board recall attempts! Wisconsin is one of 12 states that allow recall school board members without stating a reason, but most current recalls are about masking mandates and the effort to accurately teach about systemic racism in the United States.

Add to these recalls is the increasing amount of violence surrounding school boards. Last month, NPR reported that school boards across the country are asking the federal government to help protect members against mobs who come to attack them.

If you're like me, you may feel overwhelmed by the ever-increasing unsportsmanlike conduct in politics. There are some days I just don't want to hear about what is going on in our state, our country, and our world. Now more than ever, it's important to follow the news, especially our local news. It's healthy to take a break from the news occasionally, but if we distance ourselves for too long, we run the risk of losing what's good about Wisconsin. I'll end with Martin Niemöller's words:

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.
Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.



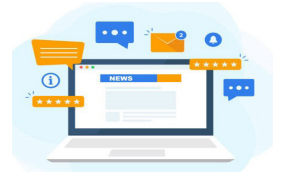
<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/education/2021/10/20/wisconsin-leader-school-board-recall-attempts-tied-masks-crt/8423895002/>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/back-to-school-live-updates/2021/09/30/1041870027/school-boards-federal-help-threats-violence>

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/martin-niemoller-first-they-came-for-the-socialists>

On The Web

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



At www.aauwlacrosse.org, the La Crosse Branch AAUW membership list is available. It is an easy place to get membership information. The membership page is locked and available to only our branch members. You can get the password by emailing me. Link:

<https://lacrosse-wi.aauw.net/membership-directory-members-only/>

Visit the Art Fair site at: <https://artfaironthegreen.org> where artists' work and contact information is available to you. Some artists will be presenting at our 2022 meetings. Check our website for meeting information. Link: <https://lacrosse-wi.aauw.net/programs-events/meetings/>

Covid-19 Information remains available on the La Crosse AAUW site under posts. Even though we have seen lots of information on Covid-19, below are some links that are relevant.

a. This John Hopkins Map link shows the spread across the globe minute by minute.

Link: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

b. Video explaining how Covid-19 works.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BtN-goy9VOY>

c. Harvard Medical Covid-19 Resource Center link:

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-basics>

If you have suggestions or comments, please contact Barb Fischer, at fischerba@live.com, call 608-784-1949 (best to leave a message if no answer) or visit jabs2media.com and leave a comment.

HOW CHILDREN LEARN ABOUT RACE AND HOW ADULTS CAN HELP

Saturday, November 6, 10:30am - 11:30am,
1st Congregational Church, 2503 Main St., La Crosse.
Presentation in person, no streaming available.

There is a myth in popular culture that children are "color-blind" or don't notice race. This leads many parents, families, and educators to avoid discussing race and racism with young children or to be unsure how best to do so.

In this presentation, Dr. Erin Winkler will review the current research on children's understanding of race, including how ideas about race form, what children learn and when, why we see changes at various ages, why all of this matters, and how parents, families, and educators can help children understand racial identity, racism, and racial inequities in age-appropriate ways that empower the young children in their lives.

Sponsored by the Greater La Crosse Area Diversity Council.

FROM THE TREASURER

Michele Strange

Financial Report as of
October 23, 2021

Checking Account..... \$ 8,241.32

Scholarship Bridge.....\$321.00

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UPDATED AAUW LOGO

Have you noticed that our AAUW branch logo has changed colors? And the colors of *The Current* have change along with it!



It reflects recent updates made at both the state and national level as well as an effort toward putting forth a coordinated message that aligns with the Five-Star Rewards Program and the AAUW WI Strategic Plan for 2020-2024.

The Strategic Plan covers the following objectives:

- Governance & Sustainability
- Leadership
- Economic Security
- Education & Training
- Advancement
- Public Policy
- Communications
- Programs.

AAUW Priority Issues

1. Removing Bias from education.

Startling inequities exist in American education. Gender, economics, race and ethnicity should not limit our opportunities.

To ensure a future of equal opportunity — and equal rewards — in the workforce, we need to start with our educational system. It is critical to remove gender-based barriers that keep not only girls but all students from pursuing their dreams and reaching their potential. Schools must teach with an eye toward tomorrow's economy: The fastest growing, most well-paid sectors require technology, math and science expertise that many students — especially female students and students of color — are not getting. To fully explore this issue, click [HERE](#).

We focus on:

- Early Gender Bias
- The STEM Gap
- Title IX
- Sexual Misconduct in Schools
- Higher Education & Other Career Pathways
- Women & Student Debt

**2. Fighting for Fair Pay and Economic Equity**

It's time to close the pay gap and for the work world to embrace Diversity, equity and inclusion so we can all thrive.

In recent decades, American women have made significant strides toward economic equality: They make up nearly half the U.S. workforce, and two-thirds of women are their family's primary or co-breadwinner. Yet men continue to earn more money—and accumulate more wealth—than women do. To fully explore this issue, click [HERE](#).

We focus on:

- The Gender Pay Gap
- The Gendered Workforce
- Workplace Sexual Harassment
- The Motherhood Penalty
- Women & Retirement
- The Future of Work

**3. Advancing Women in Leadership**

Women make up more than half of college graduates and half of the labor force. But we're still not represented at the upper levels. We need equal representation.

Recent federal, state and local elections brought a surge of women leaders into public office. But while that progress is getting widespread attention, the reality is that women still lag far behind men when it comes to leadership roles. They remain significantly under-represented at the highest rungs of almost every field: corporate, government, nonprofit, education, law, medicine, finance and banking, and the military. In 2020, there were only 36 women leading America's biggest companies — that's only about 7% of all Fortune 500 CEO's. To fully explore this issue, click [HERE](#).

We focus on:

- Barriers & Bias
- Test Your Implicit Bias
- Global Connections





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 (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