

DECEMBER MEETING

Cookie Walk & Recipe Exchange

When: Saturday, Dec 11



'Tis the season for cookies! While we can't be together for our annual cookie walk, we can still celebrate, and this year it's free!

We will not have

our usual December membership meeting, but here's how we will share cookies in a Covid-friendly way:

All members are welcome to drop off cookies at Megan's house at **1626 Onalaska Ave La Crosse, WI 54603** on **Friday, December 10th between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.** For anyone who wants to drop off cookies, please make 3 dozen. Board members have volunteered to assemble plates and deliver to those who want one on Saturday, in place of our typical meeting time. ***If you want to receive a cookie plate, please let Megan know at MPreston@rwbaird.com. You don't have to bake cookies to receive cookies!*** While we are not charging anything for those who want to receive cookies this year, you can still donate!

There's another way to partake in the festivities! ***Send your favorite holiday time recipes to Megan Preston at MPreston@rwbaird.com*** and she will create a digital AAUW holiday cookbook for all members. There's no limit as to how many you can submit, and they can be sweet or savory. **All submissions must be in by Sunday, December 5th.**



AAUW

LA CROSSE (WI)

The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

VOLUME 61, ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2021



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Working Towards Healing

by Ann Brice, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

As we move toward the end of this year, I'd like to express my gratitude to the members of this branch who have helped keep our group thriving during the second year of the pandemic. I know it's been hard to continually meet over Zoom, and I appreciate your patience as we all work toward optimal health.

This December, we won't have our usual Saturday morning Zoom meeting because Megan Preston, Karen Lange (our Program Chairs), and I will be delivering cookie trays to any AAUW member who requests one. We are excited about our adjusted form of the cookie walk this year. We are going to remain on Zoom for our January meeting and then we'll reassess the Covid situation after that.

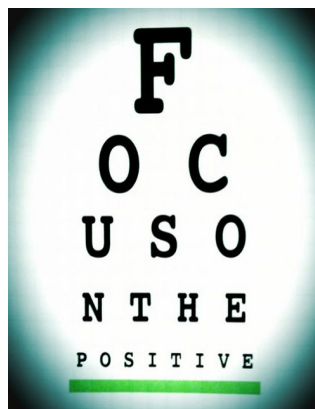
This has been a difficult year, not only because of the pandemic, but because of the continued civil unrest in our country. If you're like me, it's hard not to be discouraged. Bill and I watch the PBS News Hour every night,

and sometimes I don't want to see negative story after negative story, but I know it's important to

stay informed. To counterbalance the negativity around us, I try to focus on all the groups and people who are doing things to lift others up and to heal our country. Through my work with AAUW, I've become aware of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, Mosaic, Towards One

Wisconsin, The Unity Project, Leader Ethics of Wisconsin, and the Greater La Crosse Area Diversity Council. I'm sure you can think of many other

Continued on Page 2 »



NEXT BOARD MEETING

Virtual Meeting

Monday, December 6, 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.

Working Towards Healing... (continued from page 1)

organizations who are working towards healing instead of tearing apart.

As AAUW members, we too are contributing to making the world a better place, especially for women and young girls. Please know how grateful I am for each of you! Wishing you perfect health and much happiness as we approach the winter solstice.

<https://www.wisdc.org/> <https://www.mosaic-connect.org/> <https://inclusivity-wi.org/>
<https://www.fort4all.com/> <https://leaderethicswi.org/> <https://www.glaxdiversitycouncil.com/>

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership

OUR BRANCH IS 100!



In January of 1922 a group of college educated women gathered at the La Crosse library to hear a talk describing the American Association of University Women. The speaker was the national president who happened to be from Madison. A unanimous vote followed to establish a local affiliate here. So began our branch which has been thriving and active for a century.

In order to make the next program year a celebration of that anniversary, a committee will be formed to plan events, programs and publicity. Please consider being a part of honoring our heritage. It will be a great chance to learn our history and give our branch greater visibility.

In January, after the holidays, we'll send out a call for volunteers. We have many materials in our archives to use as resources. We hope you'll participate in some way.

AAUW WINONA Branch December Holiday Social

AAUW Winona invites us to join them for their December meeting:

Date: Saturday December 11, 2021

Location: Sobieski Park Lodge – Garbrych Park 950 7th Street, Winona MN
 (A Gathering location: City Park & Rec Building with indoor room for "Social Distancing")

Time: 11:00 am to 2:pm – Bring your own beverage if prefer other than bottled water.

Note: AAUW membership voted to have "proof of Covid-19" to attend this social, due to the upsurge in Covid-19.

Program: "Mental Health and the Holidays- Coping during the Covid- 19 Pandemic 2020-21"

Speaker: Christy Ferrington

Menu: Steak Shop catered meal for 11:30 am - Traditional Holiday meal of Ham & Turkey with all the trimmings. **Cost** - \$22 per person.

LWV Winona will be invited. Guests welcome.

RSVP by December 1, 2021. Email: dtheurer@charter.net



Holiday Gifts (cash preferred) will be collected at the event. All will be divided equally for Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center and Winona Volunteer Services Food Shelf.

SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS COMMITTEE

by Robert Richardson, Co-Chair

The Scholarships & Grants Committee (SGC) continues our work. AAUW-La Crosse Branch scholarship applications are posted on our website and at all area high schools and colleges. The application due dates are in early February.

Karen Wilson Memorial Scholarship

AAUW-L members can nominate a female student at least 30 years of age for the Karen Wilson Scholarship.

Each year, our branch offers at least one scholarship designated for a non-traditional student (female 30 years or older). With this memorial scholarship, we seek to support the educational advancement of these individuals who might be continuing their collegiate education, returning to college after a hiatus, or studying in graduate school.

To find these individuals, we need our branch members to nominate these women via a letter of support. Completed applications are due 02/01/22.

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



Celebrating Our Connections

Celebrating our Connections is a new monthly column encouraging our members to uncover and share their own personal or ancestors' stories of women who broke ground in large or small ways, helping to develop women's rights. "Who are the s/heroes in your family or community who helped "write our future"? Please send us your stories!

Making a Difference in Women's Lives

By Jan Eriksen



Mary Beth Paquette

As my sister Mary Beth Paquette prepares to retire this month, I'm reflecting on the realization that she is the first real feminist in our family. She earned a B.S. degree in Child and Family Community Services from Bowling Green State University in 1977 and then joined VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America). Her first assignment was at a women's shelter in Anchorage, Alaska, the only refuge for survivors of domestic abuse in the state at that time. Mary Beth devoted a year to learning the operation before being sent to Nome to establish the Bering Sea Women's Shelter.

Following two years in Alaska, Mary Beth spent all of 1980 studying for a B.A. degree in Women's Studies at Western Washington University in Bellingham. From Washington she re-joined VISTA and spent two years in Idaho, working with the state disability office in Idaho Falls and then with the Task Force on Child Sexual Abuse in Pocatello. While in Pocatello Mary Beth volunteered with victims of domestic abuse. "There was a cowboy mentality," she said. "Many of the perpetrators attempted to justify the abuse and the Mormons hid the abuse."

Mary Beth then moved to the state that would become home: Maine. She began as director of Caring Unlimited, the southernmost women's shelter in Maine. Her later work included 10 years with Women Unlimited, funded by the Maine Department of Transportation and headquartered in Augusta. The curriculum operated at various locations around Maine, primarily at community colleges. Mary Beth began as a program coordinator. Although the program was open to any woman who wanted to work in the trades, most students were on state assistance. Grants covered nearly all of their tuition.

Some of the non-traditional careers that women prepared for included auto mechanics, printing press operations, Class B truck driving, carpentry, computer-aided design, pipe fitting, and landscaping. Mary Beth was promoted to senior program coordinator and eventually became executive director. Women who completed the course work were eligible to take an entry-level engineering test (Engineering I) and then could apply for positions with the DOT or with private industry.

My sister Mary Beth made a positive difference in women's lives during her career, but she's just one person. We still

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 in January.

Normally at the December meeting, our group is collecting calendars, cards and gift wrap to donate to local organizations that help women. Since we are not together again this year, please consider contacting New Horizons, YWCA and/or Brighter Tomorrows to ask if they need these items.

The column to the left inaugurates our ***Celebrating Our Connections*** stories! Thank you to Jan Eriksen for the first story. 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 illustrated (although a picture of your subject WOULD be great!). We'll print them in future issues of *The Current*.



have a long way to go with preventing domestic violence and with educating women and girls for STEM and trade careers. For example, a recent report on National Public Radio indicated that women hold only 3% of jobs in the trades (such as plumbing, electrical, and ironworking) in the United States. The broadcast went on to indicate that part of the reason it can be difficult to retain women in the trades is inappropriate behavior and language on the part of their male co-workers.

Both women and men prospective trade workers are in need of training and possibly apprenticeships. Veteran as well as incoming tradesmen can also benefit from sexual harassment awareness workshops.

Public Policy

by Ann Brice, Public Policy Chair

I am writing this the day after the Rittenhouse verdict was announced. To me, this verdict gives the white vigilante population the green light to attack anti-racist protestors. Matt Rothschild from the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign released a statement yesterday saying he is worried we are heading towards some sort of civil war and believes this verdict gives people the ok to shoot Black Lives Matters or other protestors.

You can read Matt's full statement here:

<https://mailchi.mp/wisdc.org/an-appalling-verdict?e=727c1e7257> but this is the part of the article that stands out for me:

To counteract this threat, we need to be courageous. We need to protest nonviolently against this verdict despite the threats, we need to call out racism wherever we see it, and we need to try to reach two or three people in our lives who don't always agree with us but are otherwise decent people and try to draw them away from the lures of the far right.

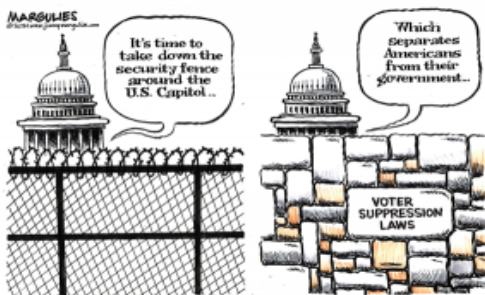
The Wisconsin Democracy Campaign website lists some concrete ways you can take action. The website (<https://www.wisdc.org/get-involved/take-action>) has specific information about acting around these six topics:

1. Help overturn CITIZENS UNITED and build election campaign integrity
2. Support nonpartisan redistricting for Wisconsin
3. Make it easier, not harder, to vote
4. Fight to uproot racism
5. Fight for economic justice
6. Say no to the Article V Convention of the States

This is a great time to remind you to sign up for AAUW's Two-Minute Activist if you haven't done so. By adding your email to this list, you'll get pre-formatted emails you can send to your legislators.

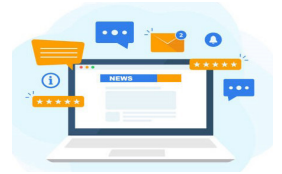
<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

Let's continue to be courageous and fight for equity!



On The Web

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



Do you need gifts for the holidays?

Using the Art Fair on the Green site is easy and it is also very safe. The artist's work is fantastic. Remember this is a juried Art Fair show. These artists need our help. Below are some direct links that you might find helpful.

Main Site: <https://artfaironthegreen.org>

Basketry: https://artfaironthegreen.org/21schoen_p/
 Ceramics: https://artfaironthegreen.org/21campbell_k_d/
 Drawings: https://artfaironthegreen.org/21megal_a/
 Fiber: https://artfaironthegreen.org/21biesterfelt_b/
 Glass: https://artfaironthegreen.org/21clark_k/
 Jewelry: https://artfaironthegreen.org/21frietsche_r_m/
 Metal: https://artfaironthegreen.org/21peterson_c/
 Painting: https://artfaironthegreen.org/21carlson_d/
 Photography: https://artfaironthegreen.org/21stuempges_j/
 Sculpture: https://artfaironthegreen.org/21rouleau_v/
 Wood: https://artfaironthegreen.org/21barone_g/
 Writing: https://artfaironthegreen.org/21berg_s/

Continue to look at other artist's work by using the links at the bottom of the page or by using NEXT at the top of the page where you will view all artists work. ENJOY!

I designed and developed this site for you and for the artists. Please give them the support they deserve.

If you have suggestions or comments, please do not hesitate to 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.

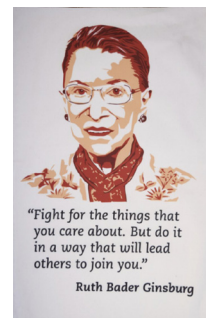
Radical Tea Towels

Here's an idea for a functional and unique gift for that someone who has everything.

Radical Tea Towels is a company based in the UK with a fulfillment center in Pennsylvania. Started by the daughter of Pat Crick, a teacher from London and a lifelong liberal, feminist and socialist, to honor her mother's values,

Radical Tea Towels is a small family business. "Some people like to read about history. Others are more likely to engage with it visually. Either way, we're happy if people are learning about where their rights and freedoms actually come from!" They highlight amazing Americans who've fought the cause of freedom and equality over the years on tea towels, toiletry bags, aprons, face masks and more. Check it out—learn some history and find a great gift at the same time!

<https://www.radicalteatowel.com/>



FROM THE TREASURER

Michele Strange

Financial Report as of
November 21, 2021

Checking Account..... \$ 8,068.16

Scholarship Bridge.....\$321.00

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NEWS ABOUT WOMEN

Looking to take a break from Facebook and other Social Media? Looking for articles and podcasts about women in the world? Check out [Women's eNews](#).

What We Do

Women's eNews is an award-winning nonprofit (501c3) news service covering issues of particular concern to women and providing women's perspectives on public policy.

Women's eNews editors seek out freelance writers from around the world to write on every topic—politics, religion, economics, health, science, sustainability, education, sports, legislation—and commission them to write 800-word news articles for distribution each day to our subscribers and for posting on our Web site.

Our Mission

Women's eNews reports the stories of women and girls to create a more equitable world.

Our Vision

A world that honors, respects and supports the lives of women and girls.

<https://womensenews.org/>



AAUW Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan

by June Reinert, AAUW-WI DE&I La Crosse Branch Coordinator

Announcing a new committee of the La Crosse Branch of AAUW!

I have volunteered to be a Branch Coordinator for a new initiative that was formed by the Wisconsin AAUW, as an extension of the National AAUW strategic plan.

As DE&I branch contact to the WI AAUW DE&I Committee, part of my job is to form a group within our branch to do the following:

- Become familiar with the AAUW DE&I Tool Kit
- Educate ourselves and our branch on diversity, equity and inclusion issues
- Become a resource for programming and newsletter articles
- Use the Tool Kit and webinars to create branch and/or district programming

I would like to help you become familiar with the DE&I Tool Kit that is on AAUW.org. I've found it easiest to just click on the following link:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/>

Please save this link for future access. I've found the tool kit to be a great resource but difficult to absorb all in one sitting. There is so much information and many ideas presented plus dozens of resources that I found it was overwhelming the first time I discovered it.

At our first meeting we will get to know each other, choose a day, date and time that will (hopefully) work for everyone for future gatherings (either by Zoom or in person) and decide how we want to proceed with the tool kit. It will be great to network on this project and learn from each other. As a group we need to determine the best time to meet and discuss how we want to proceed. If you would be interested in being part of this group, please send me your email address.

Let me know if mornings, afternoons or evenings are best for you. Please let me know as soon as possible as I would like to set up a meeting ASAP. I hope to hear from you and looking forward to working with you on this important adventure.

My email address: reinert.june@eagle.uwlax.edu

My address: Eagle Crest South, 622 Bennora Lee Ct., Apt 5002, La Crosse, WI 54601.

My telephone number: 608-881-0456

„Our commitment to diversity is not just among the staff at the national office, or with the nationally elected board — this must be a commitment from all of our 170,000 members and advocates around the nation who believe in our vision of equity for all. That means we must hold each other accountable, we must set bold goals and be transparent about where we are and where we are going, we must be lifelong learners in reading, listening and understanding. **This is work we must all embrace...„**

Kim Churches
CEO, AAUW



AAUW La Crosse Board Meeting Minutes

by JoAnne Revels, Secretary

November 8, 2021

6-7 p.m. via Zoom

Ann called the meeting to order at 6:01p.m. The minutes were read and approved.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Michele reported that we currently have \$341.32 in checking and \$321.00 in Scholarship Bridge accounts. She is planning on contacting someone in regards to the Scholarship Bridge account to see if they will start meeting again.

Art Fair: Nothing new

Membership: No activity

Public Policy: We are still working towards fair maps.

Name Grant: Nothing new

Website: No changes or additions, just a reminder that the Art Fair is still on line until the end of December.

AIA: Erica is still looking for personal feminism stories. There may be a Spring Intern for all 3 internships; but they need to be re-listed at UWL.

Scholarship: Nothing new

Diversity: There is a director for National/Wisconsin to coordinate equity information and training. June Reinert is the new AAUW-WI DE&I La Crosse Branch Coordinator.

Newsletter: We'll start including the minutes in *The Current*. Perhaps a monthly column on diversity too.

New Business:

A question was posed that we return to in-person meetings with live streaming. Megan will check in with UW-L to see about their cancellation policy and AV hookups. It was thought maybe in February.

Erica suggested that next year will be the 100th year of our branch and maybe we could do something to honor it. She suggested planning programs around it, newsletter articles. It was also mentioned that March is our month to host AAUW of Winona.

We adjourned at 6:49pm.

Respectfully submitted by JoAnne Revels