

# JANUARY MEETING

## Meet the Artist: Annie Goldman

**When:**  
Saturday, January 8  
10am

**Presenter:**  
Annie Goldman



**Where:**  
Comfort of your home

Many of you will recognize the name of Ann Goldman Stoneware Pottery; Annie has been participating in our AAUW Art Fair on the Green since 1984.

Well-known for her whimsical cat themed ceramics, Annie is also focused on function; creating heat-safe, dishwasher-safe items that she uses exclusively in her kitchen.

Annie spends four hours a day in her basement studio, lined with mugs, bowls, teapots and goblets in various stages, along with a row of glaze-filled buckets, a clay-spattered wheel and an ever stocked kiln.

Come and meet the La Crosse Potter herself and learn more about her journey.



# AAUW

LA CROSSE (WI)

# The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch



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### PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

## Happy New Year!

by Ann Brice, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

Happy New Year! Thank you to everyone in our wonderful AAUW chapter for your continued caring spirits as we made it through another unusual pandemic year.

This past weekend, my husband Bill and I went to a friend's 80th birthday party at the Wisconsin Club in Milwaukee. If you're not familiar with the Wisconsin Club (we weren't!), it was the estate of Alexander Mitchell, the founder of Milwaukee Rail railroad and the Marine Bank. Alexander was also the grandfather of General Billy Mitchell, who is regarded as the father of the Air Force. General Mitchell continuously advocated for an independent air force and believed that our country needed to build up our air defense instead of putting more money into battleships. His outspokenness and criticism of the government for disagreeing with him resulted in a court-martial and cost him his career.



While wandering though the club, I realized that though Mitchell's upbringing and experiences were vastly different than mine, I too have causes for which I am willing to fight. Being part of our wonderful AAUW group gives me the courage to stand up for what I believe. I am grateful to all of you, and I wish you perfect health in the coming New Year!

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/William-Mitchell>

[https://www.army.mil/article/33680/william\\_billy\\_mitchell\\_the\\_father\\_of\\_the\\_united\\_states\\_air\\_force](https://www.army.mil/article/33680/william_billy_mitchell_the_father_of_the_united_states_air_force)

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

### NEXT BOARD MEETING

#### Virtual Meeting

**Monday, January 3, 6:00 p.m**

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

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

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

## Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership

### NEW MEMBER

It is a pleasure to welcome  
**Marlene De La Cruz Guzman**  
2635 Schubert Place  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
785-393-8043  
mdelacruzguzman@viterbo.edu  
Ohio University Athens, PhD African Women's Literature



She was recently hired as the first VP for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Viterbo University. Having been active in AAUW in Ohio before her move here, Dr. De La Cruz Guzman reached out to Jan Eriksen and me about joining our branch. We look forward to your involvement, Marlene!

### ARTICLE IN COULEE REGION WOMEN MAGAZINE

President-Elect **Andrea Hanson** is featured in the December/January issue as director of the Self Sufficiency Program at UW-L. Free copies of the magazine can be picked up at Festival Foods and the YMCA. It is great Andrea's work with SSP is receiving publicity.

### CONDOLENCES



**Liz Nutter**, who had been active in our branch since 2005, passed away on December 14, 2021. Receiving a bachelor's and master's degree from UW-L, she taught in the La Crosse school district for 25 years. Liz was an activist making a difference in causes relating to women, education and the community. Sincere sympathy to her four children, grandchildren and siblings.

Sympathy to **Cindy Mischnick** whose mother passed away in December.

### CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF LA CROSSE BRANCH AAUW

We are forming a committee to plan our process of recognizing this milestone for next year. Several people have indicated interest. Please consider joining. Contact - Marilyn Hempstead marizah@yahoo.com



## AAUW WI State Convention 2022

Mark your calendars for the AAUW WI State Convention! It will be held April 22 and 23, 2022.

Due to uncertainties with the Covid situation, District 5 is hosting a zoom convention.

Details coming soon!



## NAME GRANTS 2021-2022

by Jan Eriksen, Chair

It's not too early to begin thinking about nominees for the 2021-2022 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 call or email me [(608)787-5946; jperiksen@viterbo.edu], with your nominee. I will need the name of your candidate, along with information about why you think that she or he is deserving of the award. The deadline for getting nominations to me is March 19.

A small committee of past Name Grant awardees will select the winner(s) for 2021-2022 and a donation will be sent to AAUW national in their honor. Winners will be announced at the April 9 branch meeting.

## SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

by Robert Richardson, Co-Chair

The committee gets quite active in February when we begin application reviews.

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. In Karen Wilson's name, I invite YOU to nominate a deserving individual. YOU or your nominee can download the application from our AAUW-La Crosse Branch website.

Nomination/application forms are available on our website: [www.aauwlacrosse.org](http://www.aauwlacrosse.org)

## "Why I Vote" campaign

"Why I Vote" is a partnership between the League of Women Voters of the La Crosse area and the La Crosse Tribune. Each week on the "Good Morning" page, hear from local residents on why they vote.

You are invited to send in your own reason and photo to be considered for publication!

Using 100-150 words, tell the Coulee Region why you vote. Fill out the information below, attach your photo (headshot preferred), and send in email to Chris at: [cshaskell@gmail.com](mailto:cshaskell@gmail.com)

1. Name
2. Municipality
3. Identifier (ex: student, volunteer, occupation, member of)
4. I vote because:

If you haven't seen one of the series yet, examples can be seen on the LWV La Crosse Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/lwvlacrosse>) and on the La Crosse Tribune website Why I Vote Good Morning page (click [HERE](#)).

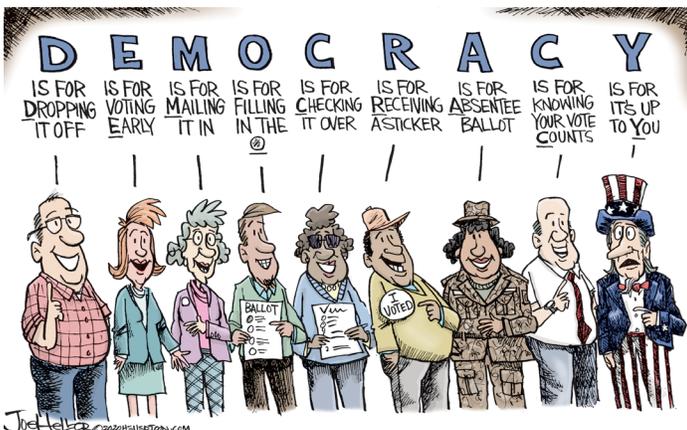
AAUW and The League of Women Voters share a passion for obtaining voting rights for all citizens and for nonpartisan education. Participating in The League's "Why I Vote" series is a great way for our two organizations to support each other and get the message out!

### AAUW's voting policy statement:

AAUW is committed to open and fair elections, nonpartisan voter education efforts that will promote equitable political participation and representation in appointed and elected office, and the expansion of voting rights.

### The LWV statement:

The League of Women Voters of the United States encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



## Study Group News

### AAUW IN ACTION (AIA)

See this page for meeting info

Contact: Erica Koonmen, [moogs56@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:moogs56@hotmail.com)

**Next meeting: Zoom meeting in January.**

We invite you to write down your memories of people in your life who broke ground in large or small ways, helping to develop women's rights and share them with us. Please send your stories for our **Celebrating Our Connections** column to Erica at [moogs56@hotmail.com](mailto: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*.



It's time to start looking ahead to Women's History Month in March. The 2022 Women's History theme, "**Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope,**" is both a tribute to the

ceaseless work of caregivers and frontline workers during this ongoing pandemic and also a recognition of the thousands of ways that women of all cultures have provided both healing and hope throughout history. Lois Gilbert plans to return to writing the daily biographies featured in the La Crosse Tribune!

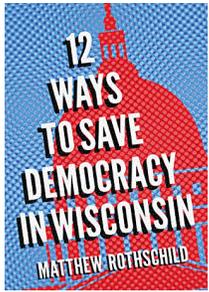
The theme for International Women's Day, March 8, 2022 is "**Equality Today For a Sustainable Tomorrow**", recognizing the contribution of women and girls around the world, who are leading the charge on climate change adaptation, mitigation, and response, to build a more sustainable future for all. We are looking for a chairperson or co-chairs for the committee! Please contact Erica if you are interested.

## Public Policy

by Ann Brice, Public Policy Chair

It seems like every month, I mention something about how important it is to stay optimistic during these troubled times. Every day I quickly look over the New York Times and the Washington Post to try and stay abreast of what's going on in our country. It can be depressing and scary, especially when I read that our country is close to a civil war, COVID infections and deaths are on the rise, and women's rights are being stripped away before our eyes.

When I feel worried, I think of Mr. Rogers' mother saying "Look for the helpers. You can always find people who are helping." I was able to see one of my favorite helpers on December 9th when I heard Matt Rothschild speak at Pearl Street Books. Matt came to La Crosse to promote his new book *Twelve Ways to Save Democracy in Wisconsin*. I was happy to see quite a large group of masked and socially distanced community members (including our own Betty Kruck!) who had gathered to hear Matt speak. If



you're not familiar with Matt and his work with the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, their website offers a plethora of information about what is going on in our state.

Another group of helpers is our own AAUW State Public Policy committee. This devoted group of women stays on top of the issues and keeps us informed of actions we can take. The State Public Policy committee continues to forge our Policy Statement for 2022. Our statement includes the desire to preserve a strong system of public education promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion; to achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women; and to guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society.

My wish for all of us this year is that we continue to work together to keep our democracy in place. Staying involved with AAUW and other groups promoting equity is a great way to do that.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/12/17/how-civil-wars-start-barbara-walter-research/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/30/learning/look-for-the-helpers.html>

<https://www.wisdc.org/>

## Special Project for Afghan Women

by Deb Thiel, AAUW Tomah President

AAUW Tomah is uniquely positioned to reach out and assist Afghan Refugee guests currently residing on Fort McCoy—only 10 miles away. Young women who were the first to be educated in their country had to choose to leave with only a passport on them, alarmed for the future of their country, friends and families left behind. We can all share what this must feel like. There are many organizations and individuals involved making an amazing difference! Many of you are involved in these efforts – THANK YOU from the people. They really are appreciative.

### **Here's another opportunity!**

As basic needs for safety, food, shelter, clothing are met and time passes Afghan Women have showed a longing for personal luxuries such as skin care and cosmetics. So the idea – wouldn't it be great if we could provide quality cosmetic kits for these women?

**What:** Gift Bags for Women "Prep for Success"

**To include:** make-up, skin and hair care products. Individual gift bags of quality products they have mentioned (that is eye shadow, eye liner, mascara, lipstick, cleaner, sunscreen, moisturizer) as a token of our shared sisterhood and support. Handwritten notes of encouragement and local women sewing handmade carry bags for these items.

**Goal One:** Gift bags to the Afghan University Women and single women launching to schools and work throughout the USA (150). **Goal Two:** Provide cosmetic products to as many Afghan women at Fort McCoy as funding supports (est. up to 3000). 113 kits with encouraging messages have been delivered!

**Sponsor:** AAUW Tomah Branch

### **How to support:**

AAUW Tomah is currently collecting \$ donations to cover the cost of cosmetic products.

Send Checks payable to:

AAUW Tomah Branch (**Note in ledger: Afghan**)

Mail to: Tomah AAUW, Treasurer

15400 Headquarters Road, Tomah, WI 54660

**or**

Transfer money (debit card preferred) to:

[www.venmo.com/u/AAUWTomahPrez](http://www.venmo.com/u/AAUWTomahPrez)

**Note: Afghan Women Project**

**If you would like to donate cosmetics, hair or skin care products, please call Deb Thiel 608-387-1976 or 608-372-4625 or Audrey Chambers 608-387-2490 to arrange a drop off.**

**Bonus:** Write uplifting notes of encouragement, support, and kinship for inclusion in gift bags and shared with these women.

To Learn More about Afghan Refugees and Volunteer Opportunities:

<https://www.viterbo.edu/social-justice-and-equity/afghan-evacuees-fort-mccoy>

FROM THE TREASURER

Michele Strange

Financial Report as of  
December 22, 2021

Checking Account..... \$ 8,118.16

Scholarship Bridge.....\$321.00

RELIVE THE MAGIC!

AAUW's 140th Celebration

In November, we held a truly special gathering and celebration of AAUW's 140th Anniversary. If you weren't able to attend the live event, we have now posted the event to our 140th Anniversary page. We hope you'll be as inspired as we were by the words of 2021 AAUW Alumnae Recognition Awardee

Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, director-general of the World Trade Organization and one of Time magazine's 100 most influential people of 2021.



Our 140th hub page also includes affiliate milestones and recognizes the many AAUW leaders, board and staff that contributed to this year's historic matching gift of \$75,000!

Affiliates and members can double the impact of your 140th Anniversary contributions by donating at [www.aauw.org/give140](http://www.aauw.org/give140).

AAUW Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan

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

Got busy during December and forgot to contact me about joining this committee? There's still time! The group's goals are to:

- 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

If you would be interested in being part of this group, please contact me. Let me know if mornings, afternoons or evenings are best for you. My email address: reinert.june@eagle.uwlax.edu. My telephone number: 608-881-0456

I hope to hear from you and looking forward to working with you on this important adventure.

**DI-VER-SI-TY**  
All the ways in which people differ.

**EQ-UI-TY**  
Fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement for all people. One's identity cannot predict the outcome.

**IN-CLU-SION**  
A variety of people have power, a voice, and decision-making authority.

Incredible Inventions by Women that Changed the World

by Dr. Pamela Williamson, Women's Business Enterprise Council

1. Circular saw

Inventor: Tabitha Babbitt Year: 1812

Babbitt lived in the Shaker community and worked as a weaver. She noticed people having difficulty cutting wood with a pit saw. This type of saw required 2 people to use it, and it only cut wood in a single direction. To provide a solution to the problem she attached a circular blade to a spinning wheel which resulted in the invention of the circular saw.

2. Dishwasher

Inventor: Josephine Cochran Year: 1872

Cochran came up with the invention to use water pressure, instead of scrubbers that were used back then, to clean dishes. Although there were other prototypes, Cochran's design was the most effective one from the rest.



3. Life raft

Inventor: Maria Beasley Year: 1882

Maria Beasley was a serial inventor who was already credited with the barrel-hopping machine patent. She later designed a life raft with guard rails that was foldable and fireproof. The life rafts created based on her design were used on the Titanic, and saved over 700 lives.

4. Windshield wiper

Inventor: Mary Anderson Year: 1903

Anderson was refused by manufacturers when she tried to sell her new windshield cleaning device. However, it was only after 10 years, and after her patent expired, that a similar device became a standard on cars.

Learn more about Women's Business Enterprise Council: <https://wbec-west.com/>

# AAUW La Crosse Board Meeting Minutes

by JoAnne Revels, Secretary

AAAUW La Crosse Branch  
December 6, 2021 Meeting  
6-7 p.m. Via Zoom

Ann Brice called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. The minutes were read and amended; the amount of the checking account was incorrectly reported. They were approved with the change.

## Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Michele stated that we currently have \$8060.16 in checking and \$321.00 in Scholarship Bridge. Deadline is Friday.

Art Fair: They are looking for feedback on purchases and activity on the website.

Membership: No report

Public Policy: Nothing new to report

Name Grant: Nothing until January

Website: Reminder that the website will be up until December 31st.

AIA: Erica stated that the focus will be on why equity is important.

Scholarship: No report

Diversity: No report

Newsletter: No report

Old Business: The cookie walk is Friday with delivery on Saturday.

New Business: 2022 is the 100 years anniversary of our branch. Ideas are being sought for programs or projects honoring it. Ann has volunteered to be on the Program Committee after her term as President ends.

Adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by JoAnne Revels