

FEBRUARY MEETING

Meet the Artist: John Schneider

When:
Saturday, February 12
10am

Presenter:
John Schneider

Where:
Comfort of your home



Continuing our series of "Meet the AAUW Art Fair on the Green Artists", long-time participant John Schneider will talk about his art and processes. John has exhibited both painting and pottery in the past and will be happy to answer questions about each of the mediums.

"I consider painting everyday places with created color a process that captures the essence of life. My goal is to interpret and communicate landscaping painting in a renewed approach of abstraction and representation."

John was just notified he will be the featured artist for the Art Fair Off the Square in Madison. They will use this image for their poster and t-shirt.



Come and meet John and learn about his artistic eye for the ordinary place.

AAUW

LA CROSSE (WI)

The Current

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

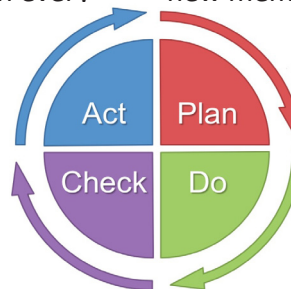
AAUW Planning Continues

by Ann Brice, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

Greetings, Branch Members! I'm writing this on a below zero day and the wind is howling. We just put up thermal curtains in every room and they make such a difference! I can sit next to the window without a coat and hat. I hope by the time you read this, it will be warmer. We had a great presentation last month by potter Annie Goldman, and I'm looking forward to seeing you at this month's meeting when John Schneider will speak to us about his art. Please consider inviting a friend or two to meet one of our Art Fair Artists.

I have been in several AAUW meetings this week. Last night I attended a Membership Brainstorming meeting coordinated by our State Membership Chair, Carol Surges. We broke into small groups and shared ideas for increasing membership. Like our branch, other branches have special interest groups that attract new members. Several branches have Travel Groups, and many branches have book sales. West Suburban Milwaukee (WSM) gets one or two

members a month simply by people finding their website. WSM has also implemented a database to mentor new members and help them more into leadership positions.



Several chapters are already meeting in person, and Mary Messerlie of WSM told us about the many safety protocols they have in place for members.

Everyone is required to wear a mask, food is prepackaged, servers wear gloves, and everyone practices social distancing. I told the group that we are still meeting on Zoom but that when Andrea takes over as President, I know we'll rethink our procedure.

Continued on Page 2 »

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Virtual Meeting

Monday, February 7th, 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.

AAUW Planning Continues... *(continued from page 1)*

I attended our branch's first DEI meeting, chaired by June Reinert. I know June will share more information with you, but I was impressed by her thoroughness and by the other members' passion for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Finally, I am excited to tell you about the State Convention which will be April 22nd and 23rd, a virtual event hosted by District 5. I attended their meeting this week because as State IT Director, I will be updating and maintaining the convention website. They have a lot of exciting speakers and breakout sessions, so I hope you'll join us!

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership

NEW MEMBER

It is a pleasure to welcome our newest member:

Annie Allen-Wyman
P.O. Box 224
Trempealeau, WI 54661
1 608 514 2871
UW River Falls MS Ed
therosyorb@tcc.coop



Annie's grandfather was a legendary professor at UW-RF whom both Erica and Marilyn knew in the 1970's during our times there. We're looking forward to Annie's involvement in the branch.

CORRECTION



Marlene, our new member in January, has a hyphen in her last name: Marlene De La Cruz-Guzman

ADDRESS CHANGE

Karen Lange has moved. Her new address is 2430 Redwing Rd., La Crosse 54601. Her phone number has also changed to 608-790-4989.

100TH ANNIVERSARY RECOGNIZED

Our branch is featured in [Coulee Region Women Magazine](#) Accomplishments section of the February/March issue. Be sure to pick up a copy which is free. Editor Shari Hegland saw notice of the milestone at our website Events and Programs link. <https://lacrosse-wi.aaup.net/programs-events/special-events-and-programs/>

Now that the word is out in the community we can start celebrating. (See Historian's Corner in this issue.)



NAME GRANTS 2021-2022

by Jan Eriksen, Chair

We are currently accepting nominations for the 2021-2022 AAUW La Crosse Branch Name Grant. A nominee should have provided service to the branch, state, and/or national organization. She or he 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 email me (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.



ART FAIR UPDATE

The AAUW Art Fair on the Green committee met via Zoom on January 20th and made a few decisions about the art fair this year.

We will again have just a 1 day art fair: **Saturday, July 30, 2022** from 10am-5pm. It will be at Myrick Park. Information letters and application forms to returning artists and new artists will be emailed out the first week of February. If you have an artist you'd like to suggest we contact, please email their information to artfaironthegreen@gmail.com. New artist deadline is March 31, 2022. Returning artist deadline is May 31, 2022.

The Donation Committee invites you to join them in brainstorming ways to broaden our corporate donors as well as other fundraising ideas. Please contact Carol at cforbertson16@gmail.com for more info.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

by June Reinert, DE&I La Crosse Branch Coordinator

The Initial Call for diversity training for the entire AAUW membership:

In a letter from the CEO of AAUW in 2018, AAUW put forth a bold vision for our future with a new strategic plan. The plan included actionable goals and tactics towards achieving equity, along with the values, mission and vision for the organization. We updated the plan in 2020 with a 2.0 version. But words are only as good as the paper they are printed on if they are not embodied in all we do. Our values include being fiercely nonpartisan, always fact-based and with the utmost of integrity, and a commitment to inclusion and intersectionality.

As the Inclusion & Equity Committee — made up of member leaders dedicated to our mission, vision and values — launches this updated set of resources on diversity, equity and inclusion in Fall 2020, I'm reminded of one of our key goals within the plan: Embody the goals and spirit of inclusion, diversity and intersectionality across all AAUW activities and participants.

We need to not only value the importance of intersectionality, diversity and equity, we must do the work — and it is lifelong work, core to our mission and vision. Systemic racism is firmly rooted in the U.S. and the injustices of today mirror our shameful history, from police brutality to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color.

AAUW must commit and continuously recommit to fighting for justice, long-term and lasting change, and we stand in solidarity against racism. But, as AAUW is nearing 140 years old, we also acknowledge that as an organization we have a lot of our own work to do in diversity, equity and inclusion.

Our commitment to diversity 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, and I'm grateful to the Inclusion & Equity Committee for putting forth a roadmap to help guide your individual and group work ahead.

You'll continue to hear more from me, the staff and the Board about additional efforts in embracing diversity and inclusion in all that we do at AAUW, but for now, I invite you to open your heart, your mind, your ears and your eyes and dive into this work with us.

Finally, I want to extend my personal appreciation to past and present members of the Inclusion & Equity Committee and to express my deep gratitude for all their thoughtful work that went into creating this toolkit.

*In solidarity,
Kim Churches, CEO AAUW*

Any member that is interested in serving on the La Crosse Branch of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee, please contact June Reinert: reinert.june@eagle.uwlax.edu or 608-881-0456. I hope to hear from you and am looking forward to working with you on this important adventure.



Study Group News

AAUW IN ACTION (AIA)

See this page for meeting info

Contact: Erica Koonmen, moogs56@hotmail.com

CONTEMPORARY AUTHORS

3rd Tuesday of the month at 2pm

Contact: Alice Ross, 788-4206

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

Meeting via Zoom

Contact: June Reinert, reinert.june@eagle.uwlax.edu

HEARTH & HOME

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 February, TBA.

*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. 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*.*

*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. Our branch will again be involved in organizing the panel discussion, which will probably be virtual this year. This will be the 10th annual program! You are invited to be part of this committee; please contact Erica at moogs56@hotmail.com.*

Take the Black Women's History Challenge

(Quiz Created by Margaret Zierdt, National Women's History Project Board Member)

*February is Black History Month! Black History Month recognizes and honors important people and events in the history of African-American history. The quiz includes questions like: **Who was member of Harlem Renaissance, an anthropologist, and author of many books, including "Their Eyes Were Watching God"?***

For the answer and for 40 more questions, click [HERE](#)

Public Policy

by Ann Brice, Public Policy Chair

Our La Crosse Branch is celebrating 100 years this year! I am looking forward to our monthly programs that will highlight our special anniversary. There is another special anniversary coming up, and that is the 50th Anniversary of Title IX. Many people think of sports when they hear the phrase Title IX, but neither the word "sports" nor the word "athletics" is mentioned in the original 37-word statute.



Title IX is modeled after Title VI of the Civil Rights which "prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color and national origin in federally funded programs." Soon after the Civil Rights Act was passed, Congress began to recognize that women also faced discrimination in education programs. In 1970, a special House Committee on Education began to hold hearings on sex discrimination in higher education. The Title IX statute was co-authored by Congresswoman Edith Green of Oregon and Patsy Mink of Hawaii and was introduced by Senator Birch Bayh of Indiana.

If you are interested in learning about upcoming celebrations of the 50th anniversary of Title IX, here are a few I've found so far. The Minnesota Title IX Advisory Council is featuring a tour of nine outstanding women athletes whose careers span the last 50 years. Learn more here at: <https://titleix.mnsportsandevents.org/>



The NCAA has an entire year of events, and their website features a plethora of resources about Title IX, including several on increasing diversity in sports. You can access these resources at: <https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2017/6/19/title-ix-at-50-years.aspx>.

In June, ESPN will release a documentary that includes fifty stories of women, sports, and the fight for equity. You can access information about that documentary here: <https://espnpressroom.com/us/press-releases/2021/05/espn-leading-fifty-50-initiative-exploring-fifty-years-of-title-ix-across-the-walt-disney-company/>



The CHAIR

Finally, if you have not seen it yet, check out The Chair on Netflix. Sandra Oh stars as a professor who becomes the first female chair of her university's English Department. You will see plenty of references to Title IX and will probably be able to relate to many of the situations!

<https://www.nfhs.org/articles/50th-anniversary-of-title-ix-coming-in-june-of-2022?ArticleId=537825>

https://www.nsf.gov/od/oecr/awardee_civil_rights/titleix_faqs.jsp

Your Vote Matters in Every 2022 Election

by Common Cause Wisconsin



Elections start up in Wisconsin this Spring. The Spring Primary is **February 15, 2022**. Not everyone in the state will have candidates to vote for during this primary. You can check to see if you have a primary election on February 15, by going to [MyVote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov) and entering your address information or by contacting your municipal clerk.

Make a plan to vote in every election in 2022.

Anyone can vote by absentee ballot in Wisconsin. When you request your ballot, you do not have to state any reason for wanting your absentee ballot mailed to you. You can even sign up to receive an absentee ballot for every election in 2022 with just one request. Request yours online:

<https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/VoteAbsentee>

If you see that you do not have a ballot to cast in the Spring Primary on February 15, then mark your calendar for the **Spring General Election on April 5, 2022.**

The Spring Elections may include nonpartisan local races such as City Council, Village President, School Board, Mayor, Alders, Judges, and County Executive. You have more power with your vote in local elections because there are fewer votes per race and you vote for issues that directly impact your communities.

Keep these 2022 Election Dates handy:

Spring Primary: February 15 (voting only for some Wisconsinites, check [MyVote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov) for your status)

Spring Election: April 5 (voting for all Wisconsinites)

Fall Primary: August 9 (voting for all Wisconsinites)

Fall General Election: November 8 (voting for all Wisconsinites)

Historian's Corner

by Marilyn Hempstead, Branch Historian

As of January 2022, it's official: our branch has been thriving for 100 years! And there is a lot to celebrate. Thus a committee has been formed with your historian as chair. Betty Kruck, Erica Koonmen, Ann Brice, Karen Lange (Program Co-Vice President) have volunteered to be on the committee. More members are welcome.

"Equal pay for equal work

Assistance for needy student

Women on boards – local, state and national

Education for intelligent voting."

Sound familiar? Those were the proposed study objectives for the new 48 member branch in 1922. That philosophy formed a basis which is relevant for today. We'll explore how that grew and evolved with changing times. We'll recognize our multitude of accomplishments. We'll honor those who contributed their talents, intelligence and energy to carry on the mission and the torch of education, equity, philanthropy and research vital to AAUW.

FROM THE TREASURER

Michele Strange

Financial Report as of
January 21, 2022

Checking Account..... \$ 8,195.07

Scholarship Bridge..... \$321.00

NCCWSL 2022

May 24-26, 2022
Virtual Workshop

AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) is where hundreds of young women come to turn a moment into a movement. Each year, we bring together hundreds of college women from around the country for three days of leadership training, inspiration and networking. Enter the conference as a passionate leader and leave it with the skills and confidence to pursue your goals.

NCCWSL offers skill-building workshops that are designed to challenge and inspire you to make an impact on your campus and in your community long after you leave the conference.

2022 NCCWSL is still in the planning stages. Check the website for updated information, registration and scholarship applications.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/events/nccwsl/>



AAUW 2021: A Year in Review

by AAUW National

2021 By the Numbers

AAUW CELEBRATED ITS 140TH ANNIVERSARY
and its legacy of moving women forward.

**170,000**

members and supporters dedicated to advancing equity for women and girls

**68,271**

letters from members and supporters sent to elected officials to advocate for AAUW's public policy priorities including paycheck fairness, paid leave, reproductive rights, student loan forgiveness and more.

260

fellows and grantees received \$5 million in funding to pursue academic work and lead innovative community projects to empower women and girls.

4

research reports produced by AAUW in 2021

**5**

gender discrimination lawsuits supported by AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund

188,675

total people trained to negotiate their salaries through AAUW Work Smart, Start Smart, and Work Smart Online.

**3.3 million**

impressions from AAUW's social media communities, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

**950**

girls and their caregivers participated in AAUW STEMEd for Girls, a pilot program designed to encourage high school girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

**900**

aspiring leaders logged on for AAUW's first-ever virtual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders

A Year of Outreach

- We hosted more than 25 webinars for both AAUW members and the [Equity Network learning community](#).
- We also piloted a new financial literacy program, [Money Smart](#), to provide women at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Women's Colleges and Minority Serving Institutions with tools and resources for personal money management.
- AAUW launched [STEMEd for Girls](#), a pilot virtual program reaching 600 teenagers and 315 caregivers.
- We held AAUW's annual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders ([NCCWSL](#)) virtually for the first time in May, reaching 900 aspiring leaders from over 300 campuses nationwide.

A Year of Action

- AAUW's [Two-Minute Activists](#) sent 68,271 letters to elected officials
- We continued the work of AAUW's [Legal Advocacy Fund](#) (LAF), which provides resources to brave plaintiffs seeking legal redress against pay inequity other forms of sex discrimination. We supported five active cases in 2021 and awarded two new LAF grants to support law-school clinical programs.

A Year of Learning

- More than 260 recipients received nearly \$5 million in [AAUW fellowships and grants](#) for the 2021–22 academic year.
- AAUW is one of the world's leading supporters of graduate women's education. Since 1888, it has awarded more than \$130 million in fellowships, grants and awards to 13,000 recipients from 145 countries.

A Year of Discovery

- [Systemic Racism and the Pay Gap](#), a supplement to AAUW's report The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap, outlines how the wage gap is the result of centuries of intentional structural economic inequalities, exploitation, segregation and implicit bias.
- [Factory Flaw: The Attrition and Retention of Women in Manufacturing](#), made possible through a grant from The Arconic Foundation, explores the dearth of women in well-paying jobs in manufacturing and outlines ways employers and policymakers can recruit, retain and advance women in this field.
- [Pandemic Inequity: Latinas and the COVID-19 Experience](#), part of AAUW's Latina Policy Initiative, assesses the economic and health impact of COVID-19 on Latinas, particularly those who are essential workers and in low-wage occupations.

AAUW La Crosse Board Meeting Minutes

by JoAnne Revels, Secretary

AAUW LaCrosse Branch
January 3, 2022 Board Meeting

6-7 p.m. Via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Ann Brice. The minutes were reviewed and 1 correction was noticed: to change website to Art Fair website in the Website committee notes. The minutes were seconded and approved.

Committee Reports:

Treasury Report: Michele stated that the bank account currently has \$8118.16 and Scholarship Bridge has \$321.00. \$50 was donated from the cookie walk. A check was donated in memory of Liz Nutter. This went into the Scholarship fund. Michele also received a check from a new member.

Art Fair Report: Carol said that no venue has been selected yet due to Covid-19 concerns. The Art Fair committee is meeting to discuss it this month.

Membership Report: Marilyn reported that we have 2 new members. One is transferring from Ohio. She proposed sending \$25.00 to scholarship in memory of Liz Nutter. It passed.

Public Policy Report: Ann stated that she has met with AAUW members from around the state who are working on a resolution regarding the importance of teaching history in an inclusive way.

Name Grant Report: Jan stated that the article in the Current has gotten the ball rolling and she is accepting nominations. The deadline is March 19th. The person will be announced at the April meeting.

Website Report: Barb stated that nothing is really new, but the Art Fair website domain name is up for renewal. The committee voted unanimously to renew the name. The cost will be taken from the Art Fair funds.

AIA Report: Erica stated that we're looking for someone to step up to chair the International Women's Day event on March 8, 2022.

Scholarship Report: There will be a meeting after the regular meeting in February.

Diversity Report: June stated that she has had 2 people (Carlene Roberts and Diana Moran Thundercloud) interested in participating.

Newsletter Report: Erica reminded us to have all articles turned in by the 20th.

Old Business: Marilyn reminded the board that the theme of 100 years of AAUW should be followed for programming and that she would be willing to chair the committee.

New Business: It was decided that with the new variant, the meetings will remain virtual the rest of the year. The board thanked those involved with the cookie walk.

Respectfully Submitted by JoAnne Revels