

MARCH MEETING

Meet the Artist: Carly Petrausky

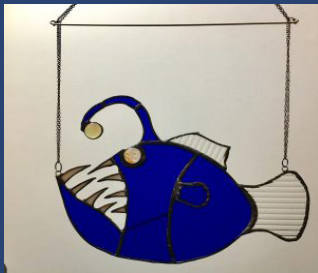
When:
Saturday, March 12
10am

Presenter:
Carly Petrausky,
Local Glass/Stained Glass Artist

Where:
Comfort of your home

For the final program of our series "Meet the AAUW Art Fair on the Green Artists", Carly Petrausky will share her process and inspirations for creating stained glass. 2022 will be Carly's 5th year with us.

Carly Petrausky has been doing stained glass for about 13 years, and tries to combine her love of nature, architecture, and folk art in her designs for her pieces. She moved around a bit as a kid because she comes from a military family, but she definitely considers La Crosse her hometown.



We also welcome the AAUW Winona branch members who will be attending the meeting! Every year, we take turns hosting each other for the March meeting.

AAUW

LA CROSSE (WI)

The Current

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MARCH 2022



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Branch Activities

by Ann Brice, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

Greetings! I am writing this on our one warm day of February. I hope spring gets here soon because I am tired of wearing boots. It was great to see so many of you at our February General meeting. We had a lovely presentation by John Schneider, an artist from our own Art Fair. His brightly colored landscapes lent some cheer to a typically dreary month.

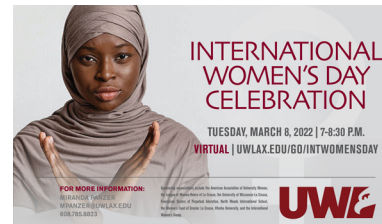
There is a lot of activity going on in our branch during March.

During our March general meeting, we are excited to welcome the Winona branch of AAUW to join us for our artist presentation.

It's Women's History Month, and along with several other branch members, I had the honor of writing several of the biographies of accomplished but not-too-well known women who have made history. As you know, we send these biographies to the Tribune so they can feature one a day. You will also find them on our Facebook page and Instagram account.

Our International Women's Day program will be March 8, and I hope you can attend this wonderful event. See page 3 for complete info on the program.

Our branch's nominating committee has been meeting, and so has the scholarships committee. On page 2, you'll find the slate of candidates for the two positions we'll be voting on in April. If you are interested in a branch board position, please let one of us know.



Finally, I have been meeting with the

Continued on Page 2 »

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Virtual Meeting
Monday, March 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.

Branch Activities... (continued from page 1)

State Convention committee and I can tell you that we have some exciting speakers on board this year. District 5 is hosting the convention and it will be virtual, so look for registration to be open in late March. The convention will be held virtually on April 22-23; mark your calendars!

It's Nearly Time to Vote for Next Year's Officers

The Nominating Committee has been working on the slate of elected officers for the La Crosse Branch 2022-2023. The slate appears below. All are two-year terms. Karen Lange will be serving the second year of her term.

Voting will occur when you are asked to RSVP for the April meeting. The Email message or phone call you receive will request your vote. Even if you will not attend the April meeting, we still hope that you will vote.

Officers will be installed at the April 9 Annual Meeting.

**AAUW La Crosse Branch
Slate of Officers 2022-2023**

President: Andrea Hansen

Vice President/President-Elect: *open*

Vice President-Finance: Ann Brice

Vice President-Membership: Barb Fischer

Vice President-Programs: Karen Lange and
Marlene De La Cruz-Guzman

Secretary: Jo Anne Revels

Membership News

by Marilyn Hempstead, VP Membership

Condolences



Betty F. Heuslein passed away in early February at the age of 95. A business woman and involved in environmental causes, she was active in AAUW serving as president 1990-91. She was an avid Bookfellows member writing numerous papers and was famous for serving homemade vanilla ice cream when hosting the study group.

**DEADLINE FOR NAME
GRANT NOMINATIONS IS
MARCH 19**

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.

**HOW FEMINISM CHANGED
OUR LIVES: A SHORT HISTORY**

League of Women Voters of the La Crosse Area invite you to join them for the virtual March program:

Program: How Feminism Changed Our Lives: A Short History.

Date: Wednesday, March 9

Time: 11:30am- 1:00pm

Presenter: Dr. Jodi Vandenberg-Daves,

Professor and Chair of Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, UW-La Crosse

Dr. Vandenberg-Daves will discuss highlights of the feminist movements in the U.S., including major victories, setbacks and ongoing struggles.



Register [HERE](#).

International Women's Day Program

The International Women's Day Committee invites members of the La Crosse community and beyond to a virtual celebration of International Women's Day on **Tuesday, March 8th from 7 pm to 8:30 pm CT**. The celebration will consist of a panel discussion with a special emphasis on how women are celebrated in their country as well as their experiences in both their country of origin and the U.S.

Panelists will be Sandra Balangoy Mpemwangi from Congo, Oresta Felts from Ukraine, and Thanh Bui-Duquette from Vietnam. This year's celebration will again take place via Zoom and is free to the public.

Prior registration is suggested; please visit the following website to register for the event: [Register HERE](#). You will receive an email that you are registered and then a day or two before March 8th, you will receive an emailed link to the program.

International Women's Day is celebrated in countries around the world each year on March 8th. **The theme for the 2022 International Women's Day is #BreakTheBias: Imagine a gender equal world.** A world free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination. A world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. Together we can force women's equality. Collectively we can all **#BreakTheBias**.

Community members are encouraged to strike the IWD #BreakTheBias pose (see example below) and send a selfie to Miranda Panzer at mpanzer@uwlax.edu. We'll be posting selfies on the International Women's Day social media.

Sponsoring organizations include the American Association of University Women, the League of Women Voters of La Crosse, the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, North Woods International School, the Women's Fund of Greater La Crosse, Viterbo University, and the International Women's Group.

For more information, please contact:

Erica Koonmen, AAUW
aauwlacrosse@hotmail.com

OR

Miranda Panzer, UWL
mpanzer@uwlax.edu

For more details about the history and traditions of the celebration around the globe, please go to <https://www.internationalwomens-day.com/>



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: email meeting in March, TBA.

Women's History Month 2022

- Each year, members of AAUW In Action (AIA) research and write daily biographies of women for the month of March, centered around the theme of the year.

- As set by the National Women's History Alliance, the theme of **Women's History Month 2022, "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.

- Thank you to group members Annie Allen-Wyman, Ann Brice, Jan Eriksen, Pam Thiel and Erica Koonmen who wrote the daily bios of notable women for the La Crosse Tribune this year.



- **Watch for the Pearl St. Bookstore window display!** Group members will be designing a Women's History Month display in the east window on March 12th. A picture will be in next month's issue of *The Current*.

Public Policy

by Ann Brice, Public Policy Chair



Last weekend, I read *Rodham* by Curtis Sittenfeld. If you don't know her work, Sittenfeld has written several novels. My favorite so far was *An American Wife*, a story based loosely on Laura Bush's early life and her subsequent marriage to George Bush. My new favorite is *Rodham*.

In this new novel, Sittenfeld explores what would have happened if Hillary Rodham had not married Bill Clinton and instead pursued her own political career. While the book is fiction, it made me reflect on how underrepresented women are in political positions and how women still face a different standard regarding performance, past history, and the way they interact with others.

The United Nations states that women's participation in politics must equal men's participation if we achieve the Sustainability Goals by 2030. But women continue to be underrepresented in all aspects of politics around the world. Based on the current numbers of women in decision-making roles, the UN estimates it will be another 130 years before we reach gender parity in politics.

What can we do? Continue to support AAUW and groups like it. AAUW strives to increase women's representation in all aspects of life. Consider running for office. In a previous article, I mentioned ways you can learn about running and get support for your own political bid. She Should Run is one organization that can help you if you're thinking of throwing your hat in the ring.

If nothing else, support female candidates by helping their campaigns and be sure to vote in every single election.



<https://www.npr.org/2020/05/18/857004158/rodham-asks-who-is-hillary-without-bill>

<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/state-womens-leadership-continue-changing-face-u-s-politics/>

<https://oversight.house.gov/legislation/hearings/the-equal-rights-amendment-achieving-constitutional-equality-for-all>

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

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation/facts-and-figures>

Historian's Corner

by Marilyn Hempstead, Branch Historian

The CARTWRIGHT and ANNETT CENTERS

It is fitting for Womens History Month to write of two AAUW members whose names are enshrined on UW-L buildings.



Edith Cartwright (1906-?) graduated from Wisconsin State Normal School in 1928 with a major in physical education. After teaching at the high school level, she went back to her alma mater (then called Wisconsin State Teachers College) in 1941 to become the Dean of Women, a position she held until her retirement in 1969. Always looking to improve the situation of female students, she created the Women's Self Government

Association (WSGA) and established residence halls for women on campus. Respected by students, faculty and community members alike, the college recognized her contributions by renaming the student union the Cartwright Center in 1964.

In 1969 the La Crosse Branch of AAUW gave a scholarship in her name.

Margaret Annett (1911-2002) graduated from Central High School in 1929 and La Crosse State College in 1934. She became the librarian at UW-L Murphy Library in 1950 serving until 1977. In 1965 she joined our branch and worked with the Home Tour and Art Fair on the Green. A dedicated and eclectic community activist, Margaret was a member of the school board and the boards of La Crosse Symphony Society, Mississippi Valley Archaeological Society. Her support of women was evident in her belonging to the Women's Political Caucus and the National Organization for Women.

While serving on the La Crosse Housing Authority board of directors, Margaret campaigned for day care facilities to be available in the community.

Because of her efforts the new day care facility on campus was named in her honor in 1975. It is now

the Margaret Annett Head Start Center. A further honor was the naming of the Annett Recital Hall for her and her music faculty husband Thomas.



Women and Work: Increasing Leadership and Economic Equity

The pandemic has spurred radical shifts in the workplace—which present an opportunity because women can't wait any longer for trickle-down change. Join AAUW Chief Executive Officer Gloria L. Blackwell on **Wednesday, March 16, at 1 p.m. CT** as she leads a panel discussion about the transformation we need to achieve equity at work. It will address the double burden and expectations of women's paid and unpaid work and solutions for bolstering women's economic participation in the workplace. This special **webinar** is part of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women and UN Commission on the Status of Women.

FROM THE TREASURER
Michele Strange

Financial Report as of
February 22, 2022

Checking Account..... \$ 8,013.07

Scholarship Bridge.....\$321.00

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NCCWSL 2022

May 24-26, 2022
Virtual Workshop

Registration is now open for the 2022 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) on May 24-26. Act now to secure early-bird rates! NCCWSL is the premier experience for elevating leadership, advocacy and equity for college women, with access to dynamic speakers, workshops and panels. This year's event will be entirely virtual.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/nccwsl/attend/>

NCCWSL Call for Presenters

AAUW is looking for outstanding presenters who want to inspire young women to reach their full potential at NCCWSL 2022! We encourage speakers from all industries to apply to lead one-hour, skill-building workshops that will challenge and motivate aspiring young leaders. **Submit your proposal** by March 15, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. ET.



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

by June Reinert, DE&I La Crosse Branch Coordinator

Seven Underlying Principles of Diversity

"Dealing with diversity can be daunting"

1. It will help to keep in mind the Diversity is an inside job, meaning that diversity is not about "them." Rather, it is about each person coming to terms with his or her attitudes, beliefs and experiences about others and gaining comfort with difference.
2. Diversity goes beyond race and gender. The diversity tent is big enough to include everyone — young and old, homeless and affluent, immigrant and native, white and black, rural and urban, gang member and corporate professional
3. No one is the target of blame for current or past inequities. All human beings have been socialized to behave in certain ways, and all of us are at times both perpetrators and victims of discrimination and stereotypes. The idea is to move forward in creating more opportunities
4. Human beings are ethnocentric, seeing the world through their own narrow view and judging the world by their familiar yardstick. This is not bad in itself, but it can be a source of conflict if we do not accommodate and value other ways of being.
5. The human species resists change. This makes the constant adaptation required by diversity difficult for people already overwhelmed by staggering transitions in today's communities and organizations.
6. Human beings find comfort in likeness. We have a tendency to seek the company of those most similar to us in a variety of ways... age, gender and ethnicity being just several of many.
7. It is difficult for people to share power. History shows that we rarely do it voluntarily. Understanding this past can help clarify why there is sometimes a backlash associated with diversity efforts from people who believe they will lose in this experience.

All these truisms about the human species do not make people mean-spirited or cruel. It just makes us human. Nevertheless, these realities make dealing with diversity a challenge.

Diversity means variety and is all about what makes us unique.

What are some of the dimensions of diversity? They can be anything that has been historically used to differentiate groups, such as ethnicity, gender, religious beliefs or socio-economic status. Some of these dimensions are more visible than others, and some are more salient in the United States than in other parts of the world, given our history of discrimination and exclusion.

Dimensions of diversity can be broken down into two categories: **primary dimensions**, which can't be changed, and **secondary dimensions**, which we have some control over.

SPECIFIC DIMENSIONS OF DIVERSITY:

- Age
- Ethnicity & National Origin
- Gender & Gender Identity
- Occupation
- Race
- Physical & Mental Ability
- Color
- Marital Status
- Immigration Status
- Parental Status
- Religious Beliefs
- Income & Socioeconomic Status
- Education
- Political Beliefs
- Veteran Status
- Sexual Orientation

Resource for for Diversity- **"Finding Myself in the Story of Race | Debby Irving"** - a 101 for white people about what white privilege and institutional racism are and how they manifest. <https://youtu.be/oD5Ox5XNEpg>

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.

AAUW La Crosse Board Meeting Minutes

by JoAnne Revels, Secretary

February 7, 2022 Board Meeting
6:30-7:30 p.m. Via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Ann Brice. The minutes were read and two changes were recommended. They were approved with changes.

Committee Reports:

Treasury: Michele stated that we currently have \$8,013.07 in checking and \$321.00 in Scholarship Bridge.

Membership: Marilyn stated that there was no news.

Art Fair: Carol stated that the date for the Art Fair is July 30th, a Saturday. It will be from 10 am to 5 p.m. in Myrick Park. Only 1 day. Due to construction on LaCrosse St., it will be for foot traffic only. Booth fees will be increased.

Public Policy: Ann stated that they are still working on the fair maps issue.

Name Grants: Jan stated that she is receiving some nominations.

Website: Erica stated that the domain name for aauwlacrosse.org was up for renewal as of 2/23/22. She asked if we would like to keep it and if so, suggested renewing it for 2 yrs. Marilyn made a motion to renew for 2 years; motion passed.

AIA: Erica stated that International Women's Day will be virtual on March 8th. She could use some help for articles for Women's History Month.

Scholarship: Robert asked if we were able to award in excess of \$12,000.00 this year. Carol met with Jamie from the LaCrosse Foundation and we can use the principle to make up the difference from the Art Fair without penalty. It was proposed to take up to \$8,000.00 from the principle to meet scholarship needs. It passed unanimously.

Diversity: June asked that we consider an Environmental Scan questionnaire put forth by National. There were 9 questions. It was aimed at increasing diversity in our branch by assessing where we are and what could we do/improve. This was discussed and will again be brought up at the general meeting. A clear definition of diversity was encouraged. Also how to get the word of our organization out to the general public.

Newsletter: Erica stated that she is looking for members to share how they celebrate connections with early feminists. The Winona branch will join us at our March meeting; it would be nice to acknowledge them then.

Program: Megan stated that she would consider a program on diversity for next year and would welcome any ideas/suggestions. Marilyn suggested that the 100 year anniversary of our branch should be considered.

Old Business: None

New Business: Ann stated that when her term of President is over, she will resign from Public Policy. The Publicity Committee needs a chair person. It also needs a description of the role and guidelines.

The Diversity club at Viterbo invited us to make a 1-2 minute video about our branch and the opportunities we provide for students to be involved in the community.

Ann reminded the group that nominations for offices need to be made to be voted on in the April meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29p.m.

Respectfully submitted by JoAnne Revels