

## OCTOBER MEETING

### Program:

**Advocacy & Creating  
Black Equity in La Crosse**

### Presenter:

Tashyra Jackson  
Hope Restores



### When:

Saturday, October 8

### Time:

9:30-9:45 am Sign-in  
9:45-10:15am Brunch  
10:15- 10:30am Business mtg  
10:30am Program

### Where:

Viterbo School of Nursing  
Room 195  
916 10th S. La Crosse

### Cost and Menu: \$11;

Cage-free scrambled eggs,  
breakfast potatoes, crisp bacon,  
sausage, choice of breakfast  
pastry, coffee, decaf and hot water  
with tea bags.

RSVP by October 3rd to Robert at

608-788-0595 or richards.rob2@eagle.uwlax.edu

Hope Restores is a non profit organization aimed at uplifting, empowering, and restoring the African American community through education, preservation and advocacy. Tashyra's presentation will inform our members of their organization's services and hopes to engage AAUW members in an active partnership to financially support girls and women on their path to higher education.

Members can purchase and donate \$25.00 gift cards from *Ross Dress for Less* for young women to help them with clothes purchases, which gives them a sense of pride and confidence as they attend schooling.

# AAUW

LA CROSSE (WI)

# The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch



VOLUME 62, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2022



### PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

## Continuing Our History

by Andrea Hansen, AAUW-La Crosse Branch President

I find myself thinking about our Branch's 100th Anniversary Kick-Off at Myrick Park on September 13. The special guests, great food, the official City of La Crosse proclamation, and members' lively conversations made the evening a real celebration. I want to thank the Committee for their thoughtful planning, creativity and the heavy lift of making it all happen.

The history-telling and history-sharing made our evening together meaningful and memorable.

The larger history of reform and change is often told as a series of milestones that "just happen." Progress is attributed to a natural process of evolution to more enlightened ways of being or, to an extraordinary leader who arrives on the scene with a vision and determination to make things happen. Branch Historian Marilyn Hempstead and the AAUW Readers Theatre presented something closer to the reality. Complete with costumes, a cast of known characters, and local cultural references, the struggle for access, inclusion, and equity in education came alive in the stories

of people and organizations from the community we know and love.

Here's a small sampling from the past 10 decades: We have organized a coalition of women's organizations for a parade, educated and championed Title IX, provided support and leadership to establish New Horizons, raised funds for scholarships and program support with teas, house tours, and art shows, sent college students to D.C. for national conferences, and brought national AAUW research to local public policy makers and the community.

In one form or another, this organizing, advocacy, support and fundraising continues. The continuity and know-



Centennial Meeting Attendees

*Continued on Page 2 »*

### NEXT BOARD MEETING

**Monday, October 3**

5:00pm

Zoom link available from Andrea

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

**To place items on the agenda or confirm your attendance,** contact

Andrea at 608-487-5571 or  
ahansen@uwlax.edu

Get all the CURRENT news at our website:

[www.aauwlacrosse.org](http://www.aauwlacrosse.org)

## Continuing Our History ... (continued from page 1)

how provided by longer-term members, the ideas and relationships provided by newer members, and a structure that connects the La Crosse Branch to regional, state, and national efforts and support are keys, not only to our long history, but also our future success.

So, what will our next decade (or 100 years!) look like? What will we help make happen in the struggle for equity, access, and belonging in our education systems and beyond? We don't have to look far to answer these questions. Our active committees are creating important pathways for this year. In the planning discussions I've heard, each committee is reflecting on the imperative and value of a more intentional and informed focus on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). Our commitments continue in fundraising and scholarships, strengthening and building relationships, inviting new memberships to reflect the diversity within our schools and community, and lending our talents and time to AAUW's state and national efforts continue.

I have found self-study is important and liberating, too, as I work to live more "consciously and conscientiously" as a white woman. In addition to the AAUW resources, here are a few I have found particularly helpful:

Excellent online newsletters to donate and/or subscribe to:

- ARD: Anti-Racism Daily [www.the-ard.com](http://www.the-ard.com)
- The 19th [www.19thnews.org](http://www.19thnews.org)
- Human Rights Campaign [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org)

A book of the La Crosse Community Read:

*Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving, (Elephant Room Press, 2014)

Eyes on the prize, Andrea

## Art Fair Report

by Carol Robertson, Art Fair Chair

Preliminary financials for the Art Fair on the Green

### Income:

Artists	\$7,222
Concessions	\$500
Donations	\$4,032
Raffle	\$1,131
Water Sales	\$407



**Expenses:** -\$2,538 includes, Programs, Publicity, Insurance, and Grounds fee.

There was a beginning balance of \$550.

The following are not included in the balance because they are sent directly to LCF:

Member Donations to LCF Scholarship Fund	\$5110
Marine Credit Scholarship Donation	\$500

Bottom line balance in the checking account is now \$11,303; the Board will decide if the normal 10% will be taken out for the General Fund and the remainder will be deposited in the LCF Scholarship Fund.

We could end up with raising a total of \$16,000+ this year!!  
Great work everyone. Thanks to all.

## BRANCH DIRECTORY

By Robert Richardson

Please notify Robert Richardson or Barb Fischer of any incorrect Directory information.



After the October branch meeting, Robert will send unclaimed directories to those members.

## EMAIL RSVP

By Robert Richardson

Shortly after reading this message in the "Current," you will receive a message from Robert Richardson asking you to indicate your plans to attend/not-attend the next branch meeting. Please reply.

Since we have returned to meetings with meals, we must provide exact attendance figures to the catering service. AAUW is charged for the number of meals we confirm 5 days prior to the meeting.

## SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS COMMITTEE

By Robert Richardson

Before the October branch meeting, SGC members will meet at 9am in Seminar Room 103 in the School of Nursing. The committee will approve the 2023 scholarship applications and the committee timeline.

An agenda with attachments will be e-mailed to members.



All AAUW La Crosse Branch members (new or continuing) may join the SGC committee. If interested, please contact either of the co-chairs: Sharon DeCicco or Robert Richardson.

## FROM THE TREASURER

Ann Brice

Financial Report as of  
August 31, 2022

Checking Account..... \$ 9,648.23

Scholarship Bridge..... \$321.00

September was National  
Student Parent Month

Who Knew? A resolution offered by U.S. Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and Jerry Moran (R-KS), recognizes the contributions and accomplishments of parenting students. The information is compelling.

- Student parents account for a quarter of all college students, numbering 4 million.
- 70% of all student parents are women and 43% of these women are single parents.
- 54% of single student parents work 20 hrs/wk and most (43%) work more than 30 hrs/wk.
- 51% are student parents of color who are primarily mothers.
- 47% are military-connected students.
- 2/3 of student parents have incomes below or near the poverty line.
- 53% of students report food insecurity and 68% report housing insecurity.
- 1 in 3 student parents are enrolled in health care programs.
- Compared to students without children, student parents have higher grade point averages, but are 10 times less likely to complete a 4-year degree within 5 years.

Read more [HERE](#).

## Finally Getting to Play

from New York Times Instagram Account



'I Feel Like I Am 16 Again.'  
Women Excluded Before  
Title IX Finally Get to Play.

Across the U.S., several generations of women are putting on their shin guards, lacing up their cleats and competing on the soccer pitch in ways they couldn't have when they were kids.

At Adult Soccer Fest in Chattanooga, Tennessee, one of the oldest national soccer tournaments for adults, age divisions range from 40 and over to 70 and over. Many players, particularly those in the divisions for athletes over 60, are discovering the sport anew after growing up in a world before Title IX, the landmark gender equality legislation that opened the door to athletics for women and girls.

Some athletes who grew up before Title IX found sports like soccer through their children, later in life. As youth participation rates soared, more women went from the sidelines to joining their own local leagues.

## American Women Quarters

The American Women Quarters Program is a four-year program that celebrates the accomplishments and contributions made by



women to the development and history of our country. Beginning in 2022, and continuing through 2025, the U.S. Mint will issue up to five new reverse designs each year. The obverse of each coin will maintain a likeness of George Washington, originally composed and sculpted by Laura Gardin Fraser, one of the most prolific women sculptors of the early 20th century. She designed the Alabama Centennial Half Dollar in 1921, becoming the first woman to design a U.S. coin.

The American Women Quarters may feature contributions from a variety of fields. The women honored will be from ethnically, racially, and geographically diverse backgrounds. Click on the names below to learn more about them.

**2022**

- [Maya Angelou](#) – celebrated writer, performer, and social activist
- [Dr. Sally Ride](#) – physicist, astronaut, educator, and first American woman in space
- [Wilma Mankiller](#) – first woman elected principal chief of the Cherokee Nation
- [Nina Otero-Warren](#) – a leader in New Mexico's suffrage movement and the first woman superintendent of Santa Fe public schools
- [Anna May Wong](#) – first Chinese American film star in Hollywood

**2023**

- [Bessie Coleman](#) – first African American and first Native American woman pilot
- [Edith Kanaka'ole](#) – indigenous Hawaiian composer, custodian of native culture and traditions
- [Eleanor Roosevelt](#) – first lady, author, and civil liberties advocate
- [Jovita Idar](#) – Mexican-American journalist, activist, teacher, and suffragist
- [Maria Tallchief](#) – America's first prima ballerina



## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

by June Reinert, DE&I La Crosse Branch Coordinator

### Beginning Difficult Conversations

One of the most important steps to an effective conversation about diversity and inclusion is to set ground rules for the participants. Common ground rules include:

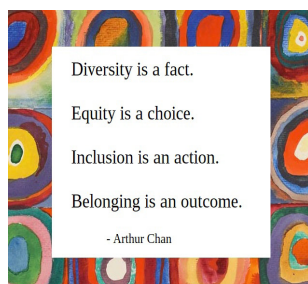
- Listen actively — respect others when they are talking.
- Speak from your own experience instead of generalizing (“I” instead of “they,” “we,” and “you”).
- Do not be afraid to respectfully challenge one another by asking questions, but refrain from personal attacks — focus on ideas.
- Participate to the fullest of your ability — community growth depends on the inclusion of every individual voice.
- Instead of invalidating somebody else’s story with your own spin on her or his experience, share your own story and experience.
- The goal is not to agree — it is to gain a deeper understanding.
- Be conscious of body language and nonverbal responses: They can be as disrespectful as words.

Ground rules may also include participation-management techniques. Do group members want to be called on or would they like to speak freely? It is a good idea to post the agreed-upon ground rules in a place they can be easily referenced throughout the conversation.

Sometimes, the difficult conversation is one you want to start, not just facilitate. Ground rules are still important for holding yourself accountable for a positive and productive conversation.

Regardless of the forum, conversations about diversity and inclusion can be difficult. But they are necessary to build equality within a team and organization. Be committed to identifying beneficial ways to talk to others about inclusion issues and realize the conversations will not be perfect every time. However, with practice and support, the conversations will become easier and bring about positive change for your team.

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.



## Historian's Corner

by Marilyn Hempstead, Branch Historian

### The Celebration Has Begun!

A proclamation issued by La Crosse Mayor Reynolds declared September 11th through 17th as AAUW Week and congratulated us on our 100-year anniversary. That recognition and our September 13th Social at the Myrick Center marked the festive beginning to the year-long celebration of our 100 years of accomplishment.

At our gathering, after a welcome from President Andrea Hanson, the planning committee of Erica Koonmen, Betty Kruck, Karen Lange, Sharon DeCicco, Ann Brice and I each delivered a history synopsis of a branch decade wearing a costume

representing that period. We were joined by Carol Robertson, Silvana and Robert Richardson, Lois Gilbert and Jan Eriksen who were



also dressed fittingly for the parts they read. A huge thanks goes to all these thespians who so expertly added to the fun. If you'd like a copy of the script for the program, it is available on the branch website.

More thanks go to JoAnne Revels at the greeting table and to George Kruck, Jef Jerde and John Hempstead for their role in helping to set up and take down. George and Jef also served the wine. And to all the members who brought the ultra-delicious savories we offer Gratitude (with a capital G)!

We were grateful to all who attended: our branch members and guests, State President Maggie Winz, members from the Tomah Branch, State Assembly Member Jill Billings (who joined that evening), League of Women Voters members and Stacy Coggins, our first Extra Effort Scholarship winner.

The evening was a successful precursor to the year as the committee continues to meet planning displays and other projects bringing attention to our milestone.

### AAUW Tomah invitation to Oct meeting

**Tuesday, October 25: Tomah Senior Center, 1002 Superior Ave.  
6:00-8:00 p.m**

What are Wisconsin Schools Teaching? Why a Culturally Responsive and Inclusive Curriculum is Not CRT (Critical Race Theory). Learn about the Wisconsin social studies curriculum model that promotes a culturally responsive and inclusive curriculum promoting critical thinking. Former social studies teacher, principal, and district superintendent, Cindy Zahrt, will present a powerpoint developed to help explain the difference between this curriculum and Critical Race Theory.

## Membership News

by Barb Fischer, VP Membership

### DEEPEST CONDOLENCES

Our sincere sympathy goes out to members Joan Koonmen and Erica Koonmen on the loss of a dear family member who was Joan's Grandson and Erica's nephew. We extend our deep condolences to all of the Koonmen family.



To Andrea Hansen, La Crosse AAUW President, on the loss of her brother, Brad, in May. We are very saddened by your loss.

### WELCOME and THANKS TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Jill Billings became our newest member at our branch 100th year celebration. Jill is a State Representative known for her non-partisan work.

Jill Billings  
1403 Johnson St., La Crosse 54601  
Cell: 608-317-8915  
email: jebillings19@gmail.com



### GET WELL WISHES

Dr. Judith Green is home from the hospital but is still awaiting her gallbladder surgery. We hope you are resting well and will be able to have your surgery very soon.



### GREAT NEWS

Michele Strange will be returning to her home. She has recuperated and is leaving Mulder Health Care.

### CONGRATULATIONS!

To Marlene De La Cruz-Guzman, Viterbo's Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, on being named a Leadership Academy/Academia de Liderazgo Fellow by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities Leadership (HACU).



[CLICK HERE](#) to read the article in the Sept. 7 La Crosse Tribune

## Save the Date

**April 28 and 29:**

**AAUW State Convention at Milwaukee Marriott West.**

This will be the first face-to-face convention since 2019. Many great speakers and educational opportunities will be provided. More details coming soon!

## 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

## 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're 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: TBA**

Our branch is looking for 2 interns this semester:

**Social Media** and **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)**. The paid positions have been posted at UWL but we had no one respond. If you know a university student who would be perfect for either of the internships, please let me know at the above email. I'll be happy to send details to them.

One of the new ideas this fall is thinking about how we can help support Iranian Feminists as they protest their restrictive situation. Would you like to be in on this? Join us!!

## AAUW T-shirts available

by Jan Eriksen

About two years ago, just before the pandemic hit, I shared information about AAUW T-shirts. Some of you signed up for one, with the money to be collected when the tees arrived. I sold quite a few T-shirts at the September 13 100th Year Anniversary Celebration. A few remain and I will bring those to the branch October meeting, for you to purchase. I have long since lost the original sign-up sheet. The tees are 100% heavyweight cotton, crew neck, with short sleeves. The background color is navy blue, with white lettering on the front, which contains the AAUW logo and the line, "empowering women since 1881" below it. I have limited sizes left: only S, M, and L. Cost is \$10 each.



# AAUW La Crosse Board Meeting Minutes

by JoAnne Revels, Secretary