

NOVEMBER MEETING

Program:

The Sister Thea Bowman Center at Viterbo and Sister Thea Bowman's path to Social Justice Advocacy.



Presenter:

Sister Laura Nettles, FSPA

When:

Saturday, November 12

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: \$12

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

Please RSVP by **November 6** to Robert at 608-788-0595 or richards.rob2@eagle.uwlax.edu

Sister Laura Nettles, a faculty member who also serves as Viterbo University's Executive Director for Mission and Social Justice, is a member of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. As a fellow FSPA, she will speak about Sister Thea Bowman's journey to become a leading international advocate for African Americans and other disenfranchised groups. Sr. Thea's story has much to teach us about advocacy for human and civil rights and is an inspiration for educated women creating a more just and equitable society for women's empowerment and that of other marginalized groups.

Prior to the program beginning, the DEI - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion-committee will have a 5 minute discussion about *Dimensions of Diversity*.

2 short videos from Viterbo students that attended 2022 NCCWSL will be shown.

We will be collecting toiletry items to donate to the Hope Restores Giving Cabinet.

AAUW

LA CROSSE (WI)

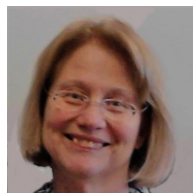
The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch



VOLUME 62, ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2022



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

AAUW State Board Report

by Jan Eriksen, Past President and Guest Columnist

AAUW Wisconsin Board Approves Statement in Support of Oppressed Women.

Erica Koonmen, chair of La Crosse Branch's AAUW-In-Action (AIA), brought an idea to the last committee meeting. Her proposal was that AAUW, at the branch and possibly even state levels, show support for the women of Iran who are protesting human rights violations in that nation and the women in Afghanistan as they fight for basic rights as a result of the Taliban take-over in August 2021, when women are severely restricted from access to education and work.

AIA committee members heartily approved the concept. So Erica wrote to Maggie Winz, AAUW Wisconsin president, requesting that it be added to the agenda of the state board meeting on October 22 in Stevens Point. Maggie readily agreed.

Megan Preston and I were pleased to have the opportunity to attend the state meeting. [Ann Brice is also a member of the AAUW Wisconsin board but was unable to make it on October 22.] When President Maggie raised the issue of AAUW Wisconsin standing in solidarity with oppressed women, the board unanimously agreed.

This is the statement that was generated at the meeting:

We, AAUW Wisconsin State Board, stand with women and girls across the world, especially our Iranian and Afghan sisters, for their right to education, the pursuit of happiness, self-determination, and safety.

The next steps are that Erica will write an article to appear in the fall issue of Badger Briefs. Members across the state will be encouraged to send letters and press releases to their local newspapers, discuss this issue at branch meetings, and post it on social media. National news outlets may be contacted. Branches may choose to sponsor active events, such as vigils, marches and rallies.

Continued on Page 2 »

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Monday, November 7

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

AAUW State Board Report ... (continued from page 1)

Then, the La Crosse Branch AIA committee will prepare a resolution based on the statement to be brought before the board at its January Zoom meeting. Once the board approves the language of the resolution, it will be submitted to the general state membership for a vote in conjunction with the 2023 AAUW Wisconsin Convention, to be held in Waukesha April 28-29.

Please see Erica Koonmen's AIA report on page 3 for more information about this issue.



2022-2023 AAUW WI state board

Membership News

by Barb Fischer, VP Membership

WISHES FOR SPEEDY RECOVERIES

Please keep **Roz Schnick** in your thoughts. She will be having surgery later this week.



Lets all hope that **Joan Koonmen** heals well from her recent hand surgery.

Our concerns and well wishes to **Dr. Judith Green**. She is still waiting for gallbladder surgery.

Michele Strange is home and recuperating. But we need to send warm wishes because she is still needing to use her back brace.

NEW ADDRESS

Healing thoughts also go out to **June Reinert** for a continued recovery.

Her new address is :

The Willows, 2555 7th Street South, Apt.129
La Crosse, WI 54601
Telephone 608-461-1109



PLEASE REMEMBER: VOTING IS IMPORTANT!!

If help getting to the polls is needed, please contact me or Margaret Woods. We will be glad to get you to City Hall between now and election day to vote. If you need a ride on election day, we will help you arrange something! Our contact info is:

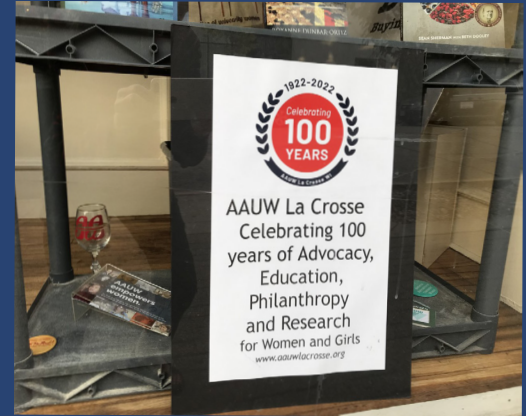
Barb Fischer 608-780-1601 fischerba@live.com

Margaret Woods 608-790-2565 pixielacrosse@centurytel.net



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Our branch's Centennial Celebration continues with a display in the Pearl Street Books window! Check it out and then watch for a display in the La Crosse Main Library next month.



EMAIL RSVP

By Robert Richardson

Please reply whether you plan to attend or not to attend.

Those members who select the livestream option will receive the link after the registration deadline passes.

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

The Scholarships & Grants Committee continues our work. By November 4, AAUW scholarship applications will be posted on our website and will be sent to all area schools and colleges. The application due dates are in early February.

Please note: The only way for a non-traditional female student to receive AAUW-La Crosse's Karen Wilson Memorial Scholarship is for one of our members to nominate her.



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: Erica at moogs56@hotmail.com

Next meeting: Thursday, Nov 17, 1:30pm, Bean Juice Coffee

Hope Restores Follow-up

The September presentation by Tashyra Jackson on the work and vision of Hope Restores was outstanding. She invited AAUW to be a partner to support their community work. Shy also encouraged members to attend the Coffee with Hope Restores : in-person on 1st Friday at 8:30 a.m. and via Zoom on 3rd Friday, 8:30 a.m.

We are collecting monetary donations to purchase gift cards to Ross Dress for Less. If you would like to contribute to this, please send a check made out to AAUW La Crosse, noting "Hope Restores" in the memo and mail it to AAUW La Crosse, POBox 2112, La Crosse 54602 by **NOVEMBER 15th**.

Also at the November 12th meeting, we will be collecting toiletry items to donate to their Giving Cabinet.

Support for Iranian and Afghan Women

As Jan shared in her guest President's Perspective column on page 1, our AIA group was motivated to action by the September 27, 2022 article in the *Washington Post* By Masih Alinejad entitled "Women are leading a revolution in Iran. When will Western feminists help?" Read it [HERE](#).

We felt it was important that our branch make a show of support for both Iranian and Afghan women but the BIG questions were how and what? We realized that expanding our circle of people who could work with us would be the best way to be visible. We'd like to reach out to women's groups on the local college campuses and to local high school clubs for an intergenerational approach that would include social media postings. High school students in Winona held a vigil with an open mic for discussion and education on Monday, Oct 17. What a great action!

We took the idea to the AAUW WI state board to ask what we could do as a state organization. These dynamic women came up with the statement Jan included in her article. It's a great jumping off point and other plans of action are in the works. Internationally, people have rallied in solidarity using the slogan "Women! Life! Freedom!". I think this would be a great motto for us to use too—it's concise, easy to remember and unites us with the rest of the world.

We would like to hear your ideas for action. We'll also be asking for your participation in activities, as they are developed, so we can use our passion for women's advocacy to show, loud and clear, that the women of Iran and Afghanistan do not stand alone.



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

Help Needed for Afghan Women Students

The Afghan Student Partnership of Milwaukee organization was formed in partnership with the Eastbrook Church and the English Language Institute at UW Milwaukee to assist the 10 Afghan Women students who ended up there after their evacuation and subsequent stay at Fort McCoy. The women were led to believe that they were receiving full tuition and housing. In January, the women finally figured out that they had enrolled only as non-degree students — and that the offer of tuition and housing would end when the intensive English program finished. This spring, Eastbrook Church vowed to continue funding the women's education through their first year of college at UW-Milwaukee. They have launched the Afghan Student Partnership of Milwaukee to collect donations. The women have part-time jobs but still need help. To read the full article and make a donation, click [HERE](#).

CALLING ALL VISUAL CREATORS

The 2023 AAUW-WI Convention committee needs a visual to represent the event: a graphic image that will be used in our upcoming promotions for State Convention 2023. Using the theme 'AAUW-Wisconsin - Building a Brighter Future Together' as your inspiration, we're asking you to let your imagination lead the way. Members, friends, family -- this competition is open to all but just one entry per person. Use whatever medium you prefer: photography, Canva, Photoshop, paint, pencil etc. However, your final entry needs to be in a .jpg format. Ideally, the image should be at least 1200 px wide with 300 px resolution. If you want to include an AAUW logo in your concept, we can provide that. The planning committee has no pre-conceived ideas so give us your interpretation of what the theme 'looks' like. AAUW logo requests and final entries should be sent to Carol Surges surgesca@gmail.com (West Suburban-Milwaukee). Send your entry no later than November 30, 2022 for review by the committee. You will get credit for the work in the program and a special award!

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

From AAUW.org Diversity Toolkit

Dealing with diversity can be daunting. It will help to keep in mind the **Seven Underlying Principles of Diversity**:

- 1.** 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 of 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.

The beauty of diversity — and the thing that makes it so powerful — is learning to appreciate it and creating an environment where it can grow and thrive. Diversity can be a great source of strength. Our aim is to create an environment where we can explore our differences in a safe and respectful way that helps each person understand their value and celebrates what diversity brings to 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.

Historian's Corner

by Marilyn Hempstead, Branch Historian

The 1930's - Contrasts and Similarities

We were still calling ourselves The College Club and giving \$2.00 of our \$3.50 dues to the National Association of University Women. The 80 members then is a similar number to our membership today. Activities reflected our current ones: monthly general meetings, study groups, fundraisers for scholarships. The interest from a \$1000 fund provided a scholarship to a student at the Teacher's College (forerunner of UW-L) even though its graduates were not eligible to join A.A.U.W. (Note that periods were used then in the abbreviation.)

La Crosse members - all graduates of approved institutions - were activists in promoting the use of radio in the classroom which is a likely technological equivalent to the current computer at every desk. Their lobbying for the headquarters of the Soil Conservation Service to stay in La Crosse instead of being moved to Madison was met with defeat.

In 1938 National put out a report on The Economic and Legal Status of Women encouraging members action for the promotion and protection of women in the labor force.

Discussion of The Equal Rights Amendment, which was being debated in a Senate Committee, ensued in the branch about the ERA's relationship to that issue. There was

concern over the erosion of the rights of women happening in Germany and the possibility of it happening in the U.S. As war was looming, A.A.U.W. changed its stance from aligning with the Council for the Prevention of War to recognizing that defense may be necessary.



1933 Eleanor Roosevelt with women reporters

Challenging times were present then as now. We aren't experiencing the Great Depression, dust bowls or our nation on the verge of going to war, but many concerns are the same: women's rights, economic disparity, preservation of the environment and an unstable international situation. These are common threads running from then to now in our 100-year history.

Greater La Crosse Area Diversity Council

2022 Rebuilding for Learning Summit

November 4 @ 8:00 am - 3:30 pm; Free

Lunda Center on Western Technical College's campus.

Whole Child, Whole Family, Whole Community...there is a place for everyone in this work. Join us on November 4 to discover your role. Session topics will focus on ensuring that all kids within our community are mentally healthy, safe from abuse and neglect, out of the criminal justice system, in school and ready to learn, and on track to graduate.

For more info and to register, click [HERE](#)

FROM THE TREASURER

Ann Brice

Financial Report as of
October 25, 2022

Checking Account..... \$ 10,256.62

Scholarship Bridge.....\$321.00

Caffeinated Conversations
for Hope

From New Horizons:



Learn how violence is effecting our community and what you can do to prevent it over a complimentary beverage from Bean Juice Coffee Roasters.

Over Zoom, the New Horizons staff will discuss this month's topic:

Understanding the Intersection of Homelessness and Domestic Violence

Friday, Nov. 18th at 8:30 am



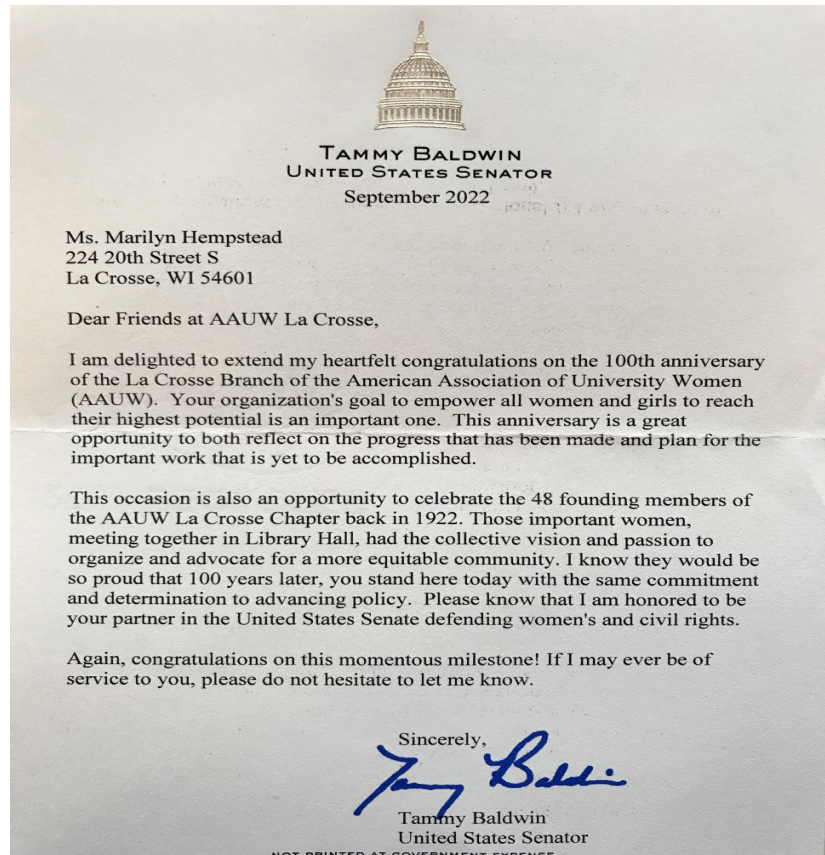
Attendees registered 10 days prior to the event will receive a coupon in the mail for a free 16 oz coffee.

A Zoom link will be emailed to all registered attendees one week prior to the event.

Please contact our Development Coordinator, Sierra, with any questions at dev@nhagainstabuse.org or 608-791-2610 ext. 1305.

Register [HERE](#)

Centennial Congratulations Letter



Women in Math and Science Quiz

Created by Margaret Zierdt, NWHP Board Member

1. Who photographed wildlife in Africa and worked for preservation of animals, especially in the Congo, in her books on conservation?
2. Who spurred the rise of molecular biology using mathematical techniques and published 192 monographs while lecturing at Smith College for 30 years?
3. Who was the first African-American woman to earn a degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery in 1890?
4. Who collected more than 12,200 sets of plants in the western world after attending the Chicago Exposition in 1893, and improved disease-resistant grasses? An avid suffragist, she was arrested and force-fed for her advocacy.
5. What chemist developed an extract from the Awa Root which relieved leprosy symptoms when injected and which was widely used until sulfa drugs were invented in the 1940's?
6. Who was first woman of color to go into space on the shuttle Endeavor in 1992?
7. She came to the U.S. when she was a teenager to study science and stayed to become "the world's foremost female experimental physicist." Her most famous experiment disproved what had been thought to be a fundamental scientific law.

Answers on page 6.

AAUW La Crosse Board Meeting Minutes

by JoAnne Revels, Secretary

October 3, 2022 Via Zoom 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Members present: Andrea Hansen, Erica Koonmen, Jan Eriksen, Ann Brice, Marilyn Hempstead, Barb Fischer, Karen Lang, and JoAnne Revels.

Andrea called the meeting to order at 5:02p.m. The minutes were read and approved with corrections.

Treasurer: Ann reported that our current checking account balance is \$9,648.23. She submitted a financial summary.

Committee Reports:

Programs: Karen reported that Saturday's meeting would be a guest speaker from Hope Restores, Shy Jackson. She also reported that all other programs are in place.

100th Anniversary: Marilyn reported that the celebration was a success. There will be a display at Pearl Street Books and the Public Library. She submitted two bills which the board approved.

Membership: Barb reported that Amy Poteet from Western has joined and Rep. Jill Billings has joined. She responded to the question of how many current members with 76.

Art Fair: No report at this time.

AAUW In Action (AIA): Erica stated that we currently do not have interns for this semester. Hope Restores has a need for gift card donations. These and cash donations can be submitted to Ann who will coordinate them.

Diversity: No report at this time.

Name Grant: Jan stated that requests for nominations will begin after the first of the year.

Public Policy: Open position

Scholarship and Grants: No report at this time.

Website: Barb stated that the Website is up to date and there is a national link for membership.

Newsletter: Erica reminded us that the deadline for the Current is the 20th of each month.

Old Business:

- There are open positions for fund raising and publicity. Job descriptions would be helpful, a STEM coordinator would be an asset.
- Ann is working on the budget and will be contacting committees for their anticipated expenditures.

New Business:

- A schedule/location of the March meeting needs to be worked out with the Winona branch. Erica sent an email to the Winona President Marge Wallerich, Winona Newsletter Editor Lynn Theurer, and LaCrosse Program Co-Chairs Karen Lange and Marlene de la Cruz-Guzman about the joint meeting in March, letting them know that it needs further discussion. They will be working on it.
- We recieved a letter from Sen. Tammy Baldwin recognizing our AAUW centennial. It will appear in the newsletter. An idea was introduced: would the branch consider a community marker recognizing the branch's Centennial? Would the branch consider a donation drive and consider a location?
- Andrea was concerned if there would be a conflict with her membership on the scholarship and grants committee. Ann addressed the issue by saying she could just abstain from scholarships to UW-L.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by JoAnne Revels

Answers to Women In Math and Science Quiz on page 5:

1. Mary Jobe Akeley, Jan. 29, 1878 – July 19, 1966
2. Dorothy Wrinch, Sept. 12, 1894 – Feb. 11, 1976
3. Dr. Ida Gray, 1867 – 1953
4. Agnes Chase, Apr. 20, 1869 – Sept. 24, 1963

5. Alice Ball (1892- 1916)
6. Dr. Mae Jemison (1956)
7. Chien-Shiung Wu (1912 – 1997)