

DECEMBER MEETING

Program: WAFER Food Pantry

Presenters:

Pastor Mark Solyst and
Madeline Buelow

When:

Saturday, December 10

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: \$10

Eggs, Choice of three Breakfast Pastries served with butter, jam, cream cheese, seasonal fruit platter, assorted juice, water, coffee, decaf, and hot water with tea bags.

Please RSVP by **December 4** to Robert at
608-788-0595 or richards.rob2@eagle.uwlax.edu

Pastor Mark Solyst and
Madeline Buelow will
speak about WAFER,
the largest food pantry
in Central



Wisconsin
serving families in La Crosse
and Houston Counties,
and story of hunger in the
Coulee region. They will
show a short film. Since

their inception in 1985, they have
seen an increased number of hungry
people needing assistance. WAFER has
purchased the former Gordy's Market
on the corner of George and Gillette
streets, and is renovating the facility to
carry out their mission with excellence.
Their "Capacity, Hope and Dignity"
appeal needs to raise \$3.6 million to
complete this project.

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

**An Educated Women's Book Walk –
members book exchange will follow
the program. Please see page 2 for
details on this new event!**

AAUW

LA CROSSE (WI)

The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

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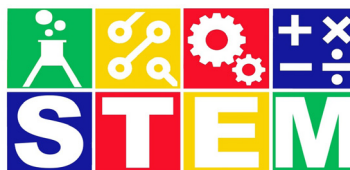


PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

The Importance of STEM

by Andrea Hansen, Branch President

I encourage everyone to read the 11/15/22 article from *The 19th* entitled, "What holds women back from the tech industry." I was dismayed to learn that progress has not only stopped, but regressed for women and nonbinary people entering tech. How depressing it is to know Black and Latina women hold only 5% of all computing jobs. I was not surprised, though. Computer science students in my WGSS 100 classes have been sharing their experiences of being an "only" or "one of a few" for years.



You can read the full article here:
<https://19thnews.org/2022/11/girls-who-code-tech-gender-gap/>

AAUW has long documented the significant and intersectional STEM equity issues in all levels of education, and workplaces. Initiatives to encourage and support girls and women in STEM share a long history as well. STEM fields were represented among AAUW founders. STEMEd for Girls is one of AAUW's newest program. Launched as an online program in 2021, it features mailed STEM kits, livestreamed workshops with women scientists, and support for parent and caregiver involvement.

In-person workshops are planned for summer 2023. Take a look:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/stemed-for-girls/>

The WI-AAUW has challenged every branch to host a yearly STEM program. To make this happen, **our Branch needs a STEM Coordinator.** Jeanne Tondryk, out-going WI-AAUW state STEM coordinator, shared with me wonderful program ideas in a recent phone conversation. One idea is simply promoting 2023 STEMEd for Girls through our area's diverse youth-serving programs. I know we will find excitement for this project, not only in schools and colleges, but also nonprofits, civic organizations and

Continued on Page 2 »

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Monday, December 5

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

The Importance of STEM ... (continued from page 1)

businesses. What a joy it would be to support girls' and nonbinary youth of color interest in STEM! (Note: Offering support and opportunities for nonbinary youth in our programming is needed more than ever.)

If you are interested or know someone who has a passion for making STEM fields better, please let me know at ahansen@uwlax.edu. All members or not-yet-memberx are eligible! AAUW-WI's new STEM coordinator is Pat Phillips, aauwstemwi@gmail.com

Which of these findings surprise you?

- The percentage of women and nonbinary people entering tech has dropped over the last 40 years.
- Women in computing is stalled at about 26%,
- Black and Latinx women account for only 5%.
- 1 in 5 people earning degrees in computer science were women
- In the workplace, 90% of women report experiencing micro-aggressions
- 40 percent of women have survived sexual harassment
- ½ of women end up leaving the tech industry by the age of 35

19thnews.org/2022/11/girls-who-code-tech-gender-gap/

On The Web

by Barb Fischer, Branch Web Manager &
Art Fair on the Green Web Designer



LOOKING FOR GREAT GIFTS?

Art Fair on the Green is still be available online.

<https://www.artfaironthegreen.org>

TAKE ACTION

<https://lacrosse-wi.aauw.net/2022/11/15/take-action/>

Check out the "to the editor" sample letter for inspiration.
(Or, on main page use the link next to image of "it never was a dress" on page 1.)



100TH ANNIVERSARY PHOTOS

Check out photos of AAUW La Crosse Branch 100th Anniversary Celebration.

<https://lacrosse-wi.aauw.net/programs-events/special-events-and-programs/>

(Or, on the main page, go to 100th Anniversary Celebration logo and click on "More Info".)

If you have photos to share, please send them to fischerba@live.com.

DEI PAGE

Check it out. DEI objectives are posted.

<https://lacrosse-wi.aauw.net/dei/>

(Or, on the main page click the link next to the light bulb.)



AAUW LA CROSSE BRANCH SITE

<https://aauwlacrosse.org>

A link to AAUW National is under "Great Articles"

How the Book Walk Works

By Marlene De la Cruz-Guzman, Co VP Programs

Every member wishing to participate brings a minimum of 3 books but, ideally, more than three.



The books should be in good condition, of any genre, address issues that college educated women would be interested in reading, and they can be books that:

- *inspired you
- *you wish your fellow AAUW members would read
- *focus on diversity and inclusion
- *are favorite novels, poetry, short stories, etc.
- *focus on women's issues
- *resonate with you

The books can be new or gently used. There is not price range. Think of it as a chance to share a part of yourself with the other AAUW members.

Every person participating gets 3 tickets when they turn their books in. Karen and I will set the books up. Everyone can look at them while they eat and socialize, and then we open it up. Then, those with tickets can pick out three books and redeem them with their tickets. When every member has redeemed their three, the rest (the extras everyone brought) are there for anyone to take.

This allows for a fun time of looking, selecting, and then sharing. We can have a little discussion time with folks sharing why they brought a certain book or why they think everyone should read a particular book. This closes out the book swap.

If desired, folks could also share earlier in the program, before they get to pick the books, and then people would just be done once they redeem their tickets. Depending on how long we give them to pre-view the books and to share about their favorite books, it can last as little as 15 mins. or as long as 40 mins.

Membership News

by Barb Fischer, VP Membership

CONGRATULATIONS!

Marlene De la Cruz-Guzman, branch Program Co-Chair, was named a Leadership Academy Fellow/La Academia de Liderago by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. It is designed to increase more diverse leadership representation in higher education.



GET WELL WISHES

Roz Schnick is recovering from surgery and is doing amazingly well.

Dr. Judith Green is at home waiting for her surgery scheduled in early December. When she leaves the hospital she will remain at her Onalaska Tahoe Dr. address until at least mid-January.

Joan Koonmen is presently in the hospital recovering from a second surgery.

Michele Strange is recuperating from her back injuries at home.

GREAT MEMBERSHIP NEWS

AAUW La Crosse Branch is at 100%. Thank you Ann! Thank you everyone!

NEW MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Thank you to the following members who have joined the newly formed Membership Committee.

Annie Allen-Wyman

Lois Gilbert

Marilyn Hempstead

Cynthia Mischnick

The first meeting will be mid-January to brain storm ideas.

We welcome anyone willing to join. If interested please contact Barb Fischer at fischerba@live.com or 608-780-1601.

When someone says "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas", remember, they're not doing it because of political correctness. They do it out of respect, because from the 20th of November to January 24th, there's at least 14 different religious holidays. So, when someone says Happy Holidays to you, thank them. Because they don't know what you believe in. It's called respect. Not a war on Christmas.

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: Erica at moogs56@hotmail.com

Next meeting: Thursday, Dec. 15, 1:30pm, Bean Juice coffee shop

Hope Restores Follow-up

Thank you all for your generous contributions for both the toiletry donations and money to buy Ross Dress For Less gift cards. The toiletries have been dropped off and we were able to fund almost ten \$25 gift cards!

Support for Iranian and Afghan Women

Jan Eriksen spearheaded the writing of the resolution for AAUW WI support. As a group, we developed the resolution that will be presented to the AAUW WI state convention in April for voting. We'll publish it here before that; it will be in the Badger Briefs as well.

We agreed that it would be a good idea to contact these groups to brainstorm and plan activities:

- International Women of La Crosse group
- UWL groups: ALANA, Awareness Through Performance, College Feminists, International Student Org
- Viterbo: Global Connections club, International Club
- Central HS: Fem Club

Our goal is to collaborate with them to do meaningful activities. If you are a member or know a member of any of these groups, please contact us so we can reach out to them.

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 that the women of Iran and Afghanistan do not stand alone.

Here are a couple of inspiring articles to read:

[Women Need to Support Each Other](#)

[10 Inspirational Quotes From Afghan Women](#)

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Dimensions of Diversity

The past few issues of the newsletter have given definitions of various terms used in DEI language: inclusion, equity, equality, etc.... If you were to ask 20 people "What is diversity?" it is likely that you will get 20 different answers.

AAUW is defining it this way: 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. Some of these dimensions are more visible than others.

Dimensions of diversity can be broken down into two categories – primary dimensions or inner sphere, which can't be changed, are usually the most visible and secondary dimensions or outer sphere, are defined by way of experience, which we have some control over.

Primary dimensions include gender, ethnicity, ability, age, race and sexual orientation. The visibility of primary characteristics lend themselves to the assumptions made by the majority society about the presumed worth of minority group members. The values and judgements assigned to these attributes by the majority group may determine whether minority group members are accepted as full participants.

Secondary dimensions are such things as legal status, education, job level, personal appearance, religious beliefs, military experience, and values for a few. You can see more on the chart. Secondary characteristics account for the ability to shape your life and choice, so the influence of secondary characteristics is more variable. In structurally inequitable societies where access to opportunities is not equal across populations, personal choice in secondary characteristics is not always fully realized.

Many of these dimensions of diversity give meaning to our identity: For example, "I am a parent, ethnically I am a Heinz 57, I am from Wisconsin." All of these are elements of an individual's identity.

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.

The national AAUW website has extensive information about DEI terms and concepts as well as toolkits for learning more.
<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/>

Historian's Corner

by Marilyn Hempstead, Branch Historian

The Memorable 1960's

This month we look back at the 1960's, a momentous decade for our branch and a decade that notable members of our branch recall.

In 1961 one of our fundraisers was producing plays for children. Ardis Cleveland joined the branch that year and was recruited to take the part of a playing card in "Alice In Wonderland." The same year the Home Tour Project was initiated which gave ticket holders the opportunity to tour local homes and buildings.

In 1962 the newsletter was renamed the CURRENT. It then began being produced using a used typewriter and a mimeograph machine.

In 1963 Ginny Brochhausen, as a senior in high school, was invited by her aunt to attend an AAUW meeting in Clintonville, Wisconsin. Remembering being impressed by the professional women of that branch she became a member of our branch in 2000 when she graduated with a degree in business.

That same year, senior girls at Sharon De Cicco's St. Cloud, Minnesota high school were invited to attend an AAUW meeting.

In 1966 Sue Heuer was introduced to AAUW when she received a small scholarship from the Greeley, Colorado branch in her senior year. She subsequently joined our branch on moving to La Crosse.

In 1967 we established our own foundation which was administered by a member. Thus, there was greater freedom involving the range of scholarships given.

In 1967 we took over the Art Fair on the Green which had been organized and run by an arts organization the previous 5 years.

Our member Joan Koonmen was the first chair.



Joan Koonmen looks at the 1967 art entries

What was your introduction to AAUW? Let Marilyn know by emailing her at marizah@yahoo.com.

FROM THE TREASURER

Ann Brice

Financial Report as of
November 27, 2022

Checking Account.....\$8,211.87

Scholarship Bridge.....\$321.00

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Gift Ideas for Strong Women
and Girls

Everyone should have strong women and girls in their life, someone who is supporting the feminist movement and fighting for equal rights for all genders. Knowing what to buy them can be a challenge so here are a few ideas.

The Woman Cards: Developed by a sister and brother from Iowa and inspired by Hillary Clinton's response to the accusation by Donald Trump that she was playing "the woman card." Chose between the original deck featuring American women who changed the world; Girl Power and Tech Deck. <https://www.thewomancards.com/>



Votes For Women puzzle: Celebrate a century of suffrage by building this beautifully illustrated circle of voting rights champions. Prices vary but one option:

<https://shop.pbs.org/UR7952.html>

Historic Women Who Dared Wine Glasses: Toast to women who dare to challenge social norms and push for progress. <https://www.uncommongoods.com/>

Little Feminist Board Book set:

These board books contain easy to read stories of strong females, making them perfect for small children to enjoy. You can buy the set [HERE](#) but the <https://littlefeminist.com/> website also offers books for kids of all ages and a book club.



At the Age of 18-Ode to Girls of Color

By Amanda Gorman, American poet and activist



At the age of 5

I saw how we always pick the flower swelling with the most color.
The color distinguishes it from the rest, and tells us:
This flower should not be left behind.

But this does not happen in the case of colored girls.
Our color makes hands pull back, and we, left to grow alone,
stretching our petals to a dry sun.

At the age of 12

I blinked in the majesty of the color within myself,
blinded by the knowledge that a skinny black girl, a young brown teen,
has the power to light Los Angeles all night,
the radiance to heal all the scars left on this city's pavement.

Why had this realization taken so long,

When color pulses in all that is beauty and painting and human?

You see, long ago, they told me that snakes and spiders have spots and vibrant
bodies if they are poisonous.

In other words, being of color meant danger, warning, 'do not touch'.

At the age of 18

I know my color is not warning, but a welcome.

A girl of color is a lighthouse, an ultraviolet ray of power, potential, and promise

My color does not mean caution, it means courage

my dark does not mean danger, it means daring,

my brown does not mean broken, it means bold backbone from working
twice as hard to get half as far.

Being a girl of color means I am key, path, and wonder all in one body.

At the age of 18

I am experiencing how black and brown can glow.

And glow I will, glow we will, vibrantly, colorfully;

not as a warning, but as promise,

that we will set the sky alight with our magic

You Can Be An Alzheimer's researcher!



How can you play a part in solving some of the biggest problems facing our planet? Enter citizen science, where volunteers help scientists collect data for their studies and experiments. Anyone can be a citizen scientist. All you need is curiosity and a willingness to help!

Stall Catchers is an online game that anyone can play - no experience necessary. Currently, catchers range from 6 to 88 years old. In the game, you look at movies from the brains of mice and try to identify vessels as flowing or stalled. This helps to speed up Alzheimer's disease research at Cornell University.

Stall Catchers is a citizen science project developed by the Human Computation Institute. The idea was born on February 19, 2014, when after being introduced by a mutual colleague, Pietro Michelucci spoke with Chris Schaffer, whose lab was in need of citizen scientists' help.

For more information and to get started, visit <https://stallcatchers.com/>

AAUW La Crosse Board Meeting Minutes

by JoAnne Revels, Secretary

Monday-November 7, 2022

5p.m.- 6p.m. Via Zoom

Members present: Andrea Hansen, Marilyn Hempstead, June Reinert, Jan Eriksen, Erica Koonmen, Barb Fischer, Ann Brice, Carol Robertson and JoAnne Revels

The meeting was called to order at 5:03p.m. The minutes were read and approved.

Announcements were made-

November 18th Pump House program, We Will Not Stay Silent, monologues, scenes, poems & discussion with Rep. Jill Billings.

The Hello Girls 3/31, 4/1, 4/2 Viterbo a musical (Tomah Branch offered to include our Branch in their block purchase: AAUWTomah@gmail.com).

Coffee with Hope Restores 1st Friday of the month at 8:30 a.m. in person and 3rd Friday on Zoom.

Treasury Report: Ann stated that we currently have \$9,042,62 in checking. We received 3 checks for Hope Restores. She would like any budget requests sent to her and she will have the current budget ready for publication in the December Current.

Committee Reports:

Program: Karen reported that Sister Laura Nettles will do a presentation about Sister Thea Bowman. The 100 year Anniversary Committee will update the membership. We will also have 2 short videos from the NCCWSL recipients. The DEI committee will have a short presentation. In March, the Winona Art Museum is set.

Membership: Barb reported that 3 people have not yet paid.

Art Fair: Carol reported that the committee will start making plans soon. They are considering the Viterbo Courtyard as a new place. Parking might be an issue, but on Saturday, we'd have access to the hospital parking lot too.

AIA: Erica reported that Badger Briefs branches might support the women of Ira and Afghanistan. Would like to start AIA is writing a resolution expressing AAUW WI's support. The resolution will be voted on at the state convention in April 2023. November 15th is the deadline for gift cards and donations for Hope Restores. AIA would like to start writing and posting bio's of area women in STE that are not on WIKI.

DEI: Barb reported that their reports will be on the website. June reported that the state representatives will be getting together. She would like to put together a book club.

Historian: Marilyn informed us about the display at Pearl Street Books which included posters and artifacts. It will also be at the Main Branch Library later.

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

Website: Barb would like to post pictures of the meetings. In the December newsletter, she will be reminding people about using the Air Fair website for holiday shopping.

Old Business:

1. Everything has been worked out for the meeting in March for Winona
2. We are still looking for a STEM coordinator
3. There are still open board positions.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted by JoAnne Revels