

FEBRUARY MEETING

Program: Everyday Life for
Women: Diversity, Equity and
Inclusion in Western Wisconsin

Presenters:

Choya
Woods



Jean Stacy-Snow

Facilitator: Diana Elena Moran
Sanchez Thundercloud

When:

Saturday, February 11, 2023

Time:

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

Where:

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

Parking is available in lot next to
the Nursing Building.

Cost and Menu: \$10

Eggs, selection of 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 **February 5th** to Robert at
608-788-0595 or richards.rob2@eagle.uwlax.edu

Choya Wood, Owner of *Melanin Beauty Bar* & Community Advocate, LaCrosse is a wonderful advocate of women and girls. She has been a pillar of strength within the African-American community in La Crosse.

Jean Stacy-Snow, Division Manager- Elder Workforce Development Manager, Labor Department Aging Division, Ho-Chunk Nation/Black River Falls & Doctoral Student in Ethics in Leadership Graduate Program, Viterbo University.

Diana Elena Moran Sanchez Thundercloud, Branch DEI Committee Member, is affiliated staff at Edgewood College, and completed her doctorate in *Educational Leadership and Community-Based Education* in 2021.

- Also...Fun facts about the branch Centennial by Marilyn Hempstead

AAUW

LA CROSSE (WI)

The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch



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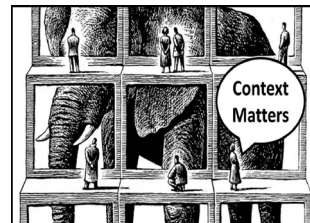


PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Seeing the Context of Our Lives

by Andrea Hansen, Branch President

Our January meeting was packed, rich in history and grounded in our present realities. Branch Historian Marilyn Hempstead, in recognition of our 100th Anniversary, focused on the changes in our organizing tools from phone-trees to email lists. Sandy Sechrest followed, encouraging the use of buses and highlighting Transit Equity Week (1/29 – 2/4). Feb 4 is Rosa Parks' birthday, a significant reminder of the connections between transportation policy/ access, climate action, civil rights and equity. More followed.



fraught" - a summary as succinct and honest as they come. She reflected on the pivotal moments that shaped her professional journey. Barbara referenced the questions that guided her decisions and actions throughout her career: "How am I to be in this

world?" "Where do I find my place in all of this?" "Where do I stand and land on this?" "Who am I really in this moment?" For a Black woman, working in white-

dominated spaces, these questions must have layers that largely unknown to many white folks.

Barbara and I both studied sociology at Iowa State. If you remember your Soc 101 class, perhaps you recognized

Continued on Page 2 »

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Monday, February 6th

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

Seeing the Context of Our Lives ... (continued from page 1)

Barb's expert use of the "sociological imagination." Coined by C. Wright Mills (1959), this concept points to the ability to connect the facts of our personal biographies to the larger history and social realities. "The personal is political" of the 2nd wave of the women's movement says it another way!

Identifying the connections between the public issues and our personal circumstances isn't always easy. Early in Barbara's career, sexual harassment on college campuses became a galvanizing issue. Encountering how young women of color were targeted and invisible was especially difficult. When the ADA passed, Barbara recounted how she was "humbled by what I did not know." In her role of supporting LGBTQ students, she recalled how meeting locations were kept secret and the hypocrisy of the institution in asserting their support of all students. Barbara recalled that it was difficult to know realize that Black women's usual approach, as in "We can figure this out," had limits when encountering institutional power. "I learned how important it is to be strategic in my response," Barbara responded.

Seeing the context in which we live our lives is unsettling. We can't ignore the on-going backlash and organized resistance to the hard-won progress for more fairness, freedom and democracy. It is wide in scope, cruel and damaging, and quite daunting to upend. Gathering on a Saturday morning as AAUW to plan good work, listen and learn, revisit our history, support activists, and recognize the work that has brought change becomes even more important in these times.

"It is in collectivities that we find reservoirs of hope and optimism."
Angela Davis, *Freedom is a Constant Struggle*, 2016

See you in February!

2023 Name Grant Nominations Are Open

by Jan Eriksen, Name Grant Chair

The AAUW-La Crosse Branch Name Grant has been awarded each year since 1960 to honor a member who has provided service to the branch, state, and/or national AAUW organization. We are currently accepting nominations for the 2022-2023 Name Grant. Your nominee cannot have received the honor previously. For a list of past recipients, please see the end pages of your membership directory.

Please send me your nomination via e-mail (jperiksen@viterbo.edu). I will need the name of your candidate, along with a paragraph or more about why you think that she or he is deserving of the award. Please discuss the following questions:

- Approximately how long has this individual been a member of AAUW-La Crosse?
- What has this person done to advance AAUW's mission?
- What are some examples of activities that your nominee has contributed to or accomplished?



The deadline for nominations is **March 31**. A small committee of past Name Grant awardees will select the winner(s) for 2022-2023 and a donation will be sent to AAUW national in their honor. Honorees will be announced at the April 8 branch meeting.

Thanks for your nominations!

AAUW-WI Public Policy Statement 2022-24

Part 2 (to be continued next month)

2. To achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women, AAUW-WI advocates for:

- Pay equity and fairness in compensation
- Affirmative action programs to improve racial, ethnic, and gender diversity
- Programs that empower women by providing them with education, training, and support for success in the workforce, including non-traditional occupations
- Public assistance programs for women in poverty that improve access to education, career development, and earning potential
- Strengthening Wisconsin laws regarding victims' rights, sexual assault, domestic abuse, spousal impoverishment prevention, and sexual harassment through increased legislative efforts and improved enforcement
- Access to quality, affordable dependent care and adequate family and medical leave
- Improved economic security for all women across their lifespan

Hmong Diaspora Event



The La Crosse Public Library presents **Hmong Diaspora: A Spotlight Collection**, featuring titles by established and emerging Hmong authors across multiple genres.

From January 22 to February 28, a boutique exhibition of vintage Hmong clothing, artifacts, and history exploring the long journey from the mountains of Laos, across the Mekong to the shores of the Mississippi will be on display.

For complete info, click [HERE](#)

Membership News

by Barb Fischer, VP Membership

We want members to bring guests to AAUW meetings because the meetings are educational and visitors will learn more about AAUW. Guests do not need to become members.

EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGE

Anita Evans has a new email address: aevans@eagle.uwlax.edu. Please make a note in your directory.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Dr. Judith Green is moving back to her Eagle Crest North address and plans to be there until mid-April.

Eagle Crest North #119
351 Mason St. NW
Onalaska, WI 54650
Phone: 608-779-1758

She is starting to feel better. Making it to a meeting before summer is her goal.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Amy Poteet is on medical leave until late February. We wish her a speedy recovery.



Lema Kabashi is still recovering from surgery, but has returned to work. Let's keep her in our thoughts. If you know of anyone she can hire to shovel snow please contact her at 608-345-3358.

June Reinert had been in the hospital for three days with Covid. She is feeling better and we were glad to see her at our last meeting.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

We had a great first meeting with lots of exciting ideas. Many thanks to our membership committee.

SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS COMMITTEE (SGC)

by Robert Richardson, Co-Chair

Final call for scholarship applications! The deadline for most applications is February 4, 2023.



And, we need **YOU** to nominate a woman 30 years of age and older who could benefit from AAUW support at any level of education. **YOU** would need to write a letter of support; the letter can be short and to the point or long and to the point. **YOU** or your nominee can download the application from our AAUW-La Crosse Branch website: www.aauwlacrosse.org

The SGC will meet in-person prior to our branch meeting on 02/11/23 @9am in Room 103 in the School of Nursing Building. Grant researchers will report on their findings. Funds available for scholarship awards will be verified. Review teams will prepare for reviewing applications.

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: Wednesday, February 15, 4:00pm Zoom

Support for Iranian and Afghan Women

As we continue to consider actions we can take, we've decided to work on a 3 series in-person event: 2 talks covering the history of Iranian women and Afghan women and then a film followed by discussion. We're thinking week nights, around 6:30pm, starting in April or May and every other week. We'd love to have you join us in planning the program!

Betty followed up on the Afghan women students in Milwaukee and found out that they were able to secure funding to finish this semester but the future is still uncertain. We'll keep you updated on that and what we can do to help.

International Women's Day Event: Wednesday, March 8

The theme this year is: **#EmbraceEquity**: when we embrace equity, we embrace diversity, and we embrace inclusion. Equality is the goal and equity is the means to get there.

We are working with several other local organizations to host the in-person event at the UWL Student Union. Our 3 panelists will represent Jordan, Nigeria and Honduras. More info next newsletter. Mark your calendars!

Internships

We are looking forward to meeting our new Social Media intern and introducing her to you next month.

March is Women's History Month

Lois Gilbert has been hard at work researching and writing the daily bios that will be featured in the La Crosse Tribune every day in March. The 2023 theme is "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories." Thank you Lois!

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

by June Reinert, DEI Chair

Microaggression

Definition of microaggression

1 : a comment or action that subtly and often unconsciously or unintentionally expresses a prejudiced attitude toward a member of a marginalized group (such as a racial minority).

Source: [Merriam-Webster Dictionary](#)

Microaggressions aren't the same as a regular insult. While microaggressions are surely insulting, they specifically have to do with a person's membership in a marginalized group. Microaggressions are based on stereotypes and tied to implicit bias. They are not the same as overt racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia, etc... and so happen often without an intent to harm.



However, we know that intent is not the same as impact and microaggressions can have serious negative impacts on those who experience them.

So, how do we avoid perpetrating microaggressions?

[Read a common list of microaggressions](#) so that you understand how they may appear in everyday language. Examine your own language and biases. And if someone accuses you of perpetrating a microaggression, listen, don't get defensive, apologize, and continue to learn and examine your biases so that you don't make the same mistake.

- "Where are you from?" "Where were you born?" "You speak good English."
- You are a credit to your race." "You are so articulate." Asking an Asian person to help with a Math or Science problem.
- When I look at you, I don't see color." "America is a melting pot." "There is only one race, the human race." "All lives matter"
- A White man or woman clutching their purse or checking their wallet as a Black or Latinx person approaches or passes.
- A store owner following a customer of color around the store.
- Crossing the street when a person of color approaches.

The impact of these statements might be:

- You are not American. You are a foreigner.
- Denying a person of color's racial / ethnic experiences.
- You must assimilate / acculturate to the dominant culture. Denying the individual as a racial / cultural being.
- You are a criminal. You are going to steal. You are poor. You do not belong. You are dangerous.

Historian's Corner

by Marilyn Hempstead (32 yr member), Branch Historian

COMMUNICATION DEVICES

All our activities, programs and other good things we've accomplished, and are accomplishing, are dependent on communication. In our 100 years as methods changed, the goal remained the same.

Telephone

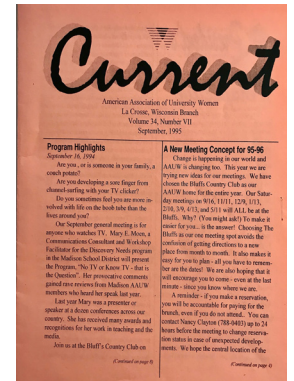
In 1922 members most likely communicated by phone. (A telephone switchboard was installed in La Crosse in 1881.) In the 1940s the branch had an 11-member Telephone Squad (which dialed only 3 or 4 digits). Substantial telephone committees continued with 1989 having a 30-person calling tree. Current members involved then were Sarah Stuber (co-chair), Phyllis Miletto, Sue Heuer, Elsie Patterson and Margaret Wood. But today only a few members are being called due to an innovation that swept society.

Email

When email addresses first appeared in the 1989 directory, that of pioneers Ardis Cleveland and Pam Thiel were included out of 11. That number doubled by 2004 and continued to grow. Thus in 2012 we were reminded of meetings via email with Robert Richardson becoming the RSVP coordinator. Only 11 people remained on the Calling Committee list and that number has dwindled.

Newsletter

The first branch bulletin was published in 1927 and sent through the mail. In 1962 the newsletter was revised and named the *CURRENT*. A used typewriter and a mimeograph machine were purchased and kept in the home of the editor. In later years it was sent to a printer to make copies which were mailed to members. In 2009 Erica Koonmen became newsletter editor, redesigned it, updated the name to *THE CURRENT* and began its distribution digitally as it's done today.



1995 Issue of the *CURRENT*

Another critical communication device is our comprehensive directory (a resource for this information). The earliest one I have is from 1947 with "Yearbook" as the title. Forerunners are still to be found.

Ultimately it is we, the communicators who use the devices to help carry on the task of keeping our branch vital and serving our mission. Thanks to all, past and present.

FROM THE TREASURER

Ann Brice

Financial Report as of January 9, 2023

Checking Account.....\$9,077.74

Scholarship Bridge.....\$321.00

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District 4 Coordinator

Did you know that our branch is in District 4 of the AAUW WI divisions? This includes the Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, La Crosse, River Falls and Tomah AAUW branches.

We are seeking someone to serve a 2-year term as District 4 coordinator beginning July 1, 2023. The individual would be confirmed in that position at the April convention so we hope to find interested people by the end of March.

Requirements:
Leadership skills and experience

Duties:

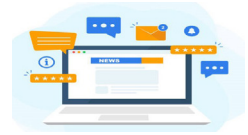
- * Provides communication between branches and state board
- * Builds a sense of community within district
- * Develops ownership, empowerment and leadership potential within district
- * Advocates for branches at the state board
- * Reports branch needs to the state board
- * Chairs district meetings
- * Acts as a resource to district's branches
- * Provides articles for Badger Briefs as needed
- * Submits board meeting reports as needed

Our current D4 Coordinator is Suzanne Hagen, River Falls. She shares: "Best things about the role, for me: getting to know more of our Western Wisconsin members, seeing our collaborative initiatives help achieve AAUW goals, and enjoying the support and camaraderie of our dedicated AAUW-Wisconsin leaders!"

I'd be happy to chat more about the role and duties with any interested folks -- via a phone call or FaceTime (715-307-8744), zoom, or an in-person lunch or coffee."

On The Web

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



<https://aauwlacrosse.org>

AAUW La Crosse Branch, Website Quiz

The website quiz questions that were answered at our last meeting came mostly from the "Historian's Corner". Thanks to Marilyn Hempstead for doing a wonderful job writing them. You can find past **Historian's Corner** articles on the website under **History**. Send the answers to me at fischerba@live.com.

At the meeting members were challenged to answer the remaining six questions before January 20th. No one did, so I took three more questions out. There is a wonderful deck of "Powerful Women" cards for the first person to answer the remaining three questions before our next meeting.



To find the answers go to AAUW La Crosse Branch website: www.aauwlacrosse.org and then follow "Find the answer" below the questions.

1. Name 2 people in the last photo on the 100th Anniversary Special Events page?
Find the answer by clicking "more info" next to the 100 Anniversary logo on the first page.
2. How many links are on the Stem page?
Find the answer by clicking on "Federal Stem" link next to "It was never a dress" logo.
3. When viewing the DEI circular chart, what words do you see in the two purple sections?
Find the answer by clicking on "read more" next to the DEI light bulb on the first page.

Scholarship Deadline Extended for NCCWSL 2023

by Jan Eriksen, Coordinator

The deadline for NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) scholarship applications has been extended to **March 7**. Our branch is providing a \$1000 scholarship to cover registration, room and board, and airfare. AAUW-Wisconsin is also offering five \$1000 scholarships. With a single application form, on our branch website at www.aauwlacrosse.org, a student can apply for both the La Crosse Branch scholarship as well as the state scholarship. On the website click on "NCCWSL and Application." Student applications will first be considered for the branch scholarship and then passed along for consideration by AAUW-WI. The AAUW-La Crosse Face Book page also contains information about NCCWSL.

In addition, students are encouraged to apply for the AAUW national scholarship through NCCWSL.org. Doing so not only triples a student's chances for receiving a scholarship but also allows for more Wisconsin college women to attend the conference.

For the first time in three years, NCCWSL will be held in person this year. The dates are May 31 to June 2 and location is University of Maryland-College Park, just outside Washington, DC. Students from around the world are invited to an inspiring weekend for growth and networking. Please spread the word among women college students who are from Wisconsin or are attending college in the state. Eligible nominees should be enrolled in a program leading to an associate degree (or equivalent), bachelor's degree or master's degree. They may be attending a technical college or other two or four year public or private college or university.

AAUW La Crosse Board Meeting Minutes

by JoAnne Revels, Secretary

Monday January 9, 2023

5-6 p.m. Via Zoom

Members present Andrea Hansen, Jan Eriksen, Barb Fisher, Karen Lange, Erica Koonmen, Marilyn Hempstead, and JoAnne Revels.

Andrea called the meeting to order at 5:00. The minutes were read and approved with 2 corrections. The Treasurer's report was sent in by Ann and stated that we currently have \$9077.74 in checking.

Announcements:

1. The Current submission date is 1/20.
2. NCCWSL applications are due 2/1
3. Zoom meeting with Dr. Lata Murti, AAUW Santa Barbara JABEID on 2/1 at 7:30 pm -contact Andrea for the link.

Committee Reports:

Program: Karen stated that the program on Saturday 1/ 14 would be about Diversity and Inclusion in La Crosse with Barbara Stewart, retired Vice Chancellor, Diversity and Inclusion. Noting that our meetings are great avenues for recruitment, Andrea asked if a simple flyer could be created to share in advance of the meetings.

Membership: Barb shared that there were no new members. Barb reported that individuals with 2 or more years of coursework but no degree are eligible for membership on a case-by-case basis. A resume is requested that includes education, paid and volunteer work history, with 1-3 references and/or recommendation letters. Barb has offered to help with resumes and information on submitting the membership application.

AIA: Erica stated that their next meeting is 1/18. The group is beginning planning on a lecture series on the history of Iranian and Afghan women and may include a film and discussion component.

Diversity: June reported that the committee would like to emphasize DEI, and a personal connection with the branch members.

Name Grant: Jan reported that she and her committee will start accepting nominations for the April award. She will have an article in next month's *The Current*.

Public Policy: (Open) 1/26 will be the next meeting via Zoom: How to Communicate with State Legislators. Public Schools week is 2/27-3/3. 4 Public listening sessions on Evers' Budget 1/11 is virtual.

Scholarships and Grants: February 1st. is when the nominations are due for the Karen Wilson Scholarship.

College/University Liaisons: They will meet before Saturday's meeting.

NCCWSL: Students' applications are due to Jan on Feb 1. Suggestion for students who receive the grants and scholarships are great prospects for membership and should be invited to become members.

Website: More people need to utilize it. There is a quiz included in *The Current*.

Old Business:

1. Andrea asked about nominations for offices as we have some openings, a committee will call for volunteers and present their nominations in April. The committee will be made up of past and current presidents

New Business:

1. The question was posed if we should keep our domain name which expires on February 22, 2023. A motion was made and passed to renew the domain name (www.aauwlacrosse.org) for another year, the cost is \$19.99.
2. There is a national survey that needs to be filled out and Marilyn volunteered to assist Andrea in completing it.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by JoAnne Revels