

JANUARY PROGRAM

The Future is Nonbinary and Queer

Presenter: Willem (Will) Van Roosenbeek
he/him/they/them
LGBTQ + Services Director, UW- La Crosse

When: Saturday, Jan. 13

Time: 9:30 Registration, 9:45 Brunch
10:15 Meeting, 10:45 Program

Where: Viterbo University
School of Nursing, Rm 195
10th and Jackson Streets, La Crosse
Parking available in the lot next to the building

Brunch: \$12; pay with cash or check
Menu: eggs, selection of pastries,
potatoes, fruit, water, coffee, tea

Please RSVP to email from Robert.

LGBTQQIAAPNB2S – just to name a few identities within the community. 2023 research shows 5.6 % or 14.1 million adults in the U.S. identify as LGBTQ+ (Williams Institute). In 2020, 9.5% (1,994,000) of the U.S. population of youth ages 13-17 identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community (Williams Institute). Young people are embracing their identities and are more open to others who come out. As a society are we ready?

In the past couple of years, states have advanced a record number of bills that attack LGBTQ+ rights. In 2023 there have been 591 bills introduced in 49 states (translegislation.com). Are you ready? Come learn about the LGBTQ+ community and how you can help.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify terminology and examples of identities within the LGBTQ+ community.
2. Illustrate the barriers and the needs of LGBTQ+ people.
3. Discuss ways to be an active support to the LGBTQ+ community.



I identify as a trans man (AFAB) and queer. I have been out as a queer person for over 30 years. However, I did not come out as trans until the early 2000s. On January 15th, Will will be honored with the 2024 Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Award.

AAUW

LA CROSSE (WI)

The Current

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JANUARY 2024



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

A Hopeful New Year

by Andrea Hansen, Branch President

We are halfway through our 2023-24 program year and the mid-semester questions to my WGS100 students surfaced for me.

What do I know now that I didn't know before?
What do I want to explore further?
What do I want to always remember?

Taking a moment to reflect on the knowledge gained, questions raised, and particularly meaningful experiences can equip us for what comes next. 2024 will be a tough political year with a high stake presidential election in the U.S. and in many other countries. Defining what matters, affirming what we've learned, and celebrating accomplishments and gifts shared can help ground and center us. Here are my answers. I'd love to hear yours.

What I know now:

I know about the incidence of anti-HMoob violence and the biases in reporting (Sept), the labor involved in creating and promoting standards and evaluations of learning (Nov), and how learning about diversity, equity, and inclusion comes when we engage in unlearning what we've internalize about ourselves and others, as individuals and as a society (Dec).

What I want to explore further:

There is such expertise present in our membership and at work in our committees, programming and projects. I want to learn

more about who's here: your hopes and dreams, experiences and talents, interests and passions. Our recent BOD Work Session opened with: "Tell us something most people (here) don't know about you."

What I want to always remember:

Our December meeting stands out for me. The "Mix-It-Up" seating was a stroke of genius which also required some risk and openness. Judging from the buzz, folks embraced the opportunity and new conversations happened. Our common commitment to building education equity for women and girls brings us together. It is the strength of our relationships and the sense that our individual stories, interests and talents matter that make us effective, now and for the future. Plus – it was a lot of fun!

At the end of the program, Silvana read the letter she received from WI Speaker of the Assembly Robin Vos. This, too, took some courage and willingness to be vulnerable.

Continued on Page 2 »

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Monday, January 8

via Zoom at 5:00pm
Zoom link available from Andrea

Meetings are open to all members.
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

A Hopeful New Year... *(continued from page 1)*

Speaker Vos presented his rationale for holding funding from the UW-System until diversity, equity, and inclusion programs are defunded. As she read this long letter, it was obvious that feelings of indignation were spreading throughout the room. Silvana then shared what it meant to her, as an educator, community member and citizen, to read opinions from this powerful man dismissing the work she does and the commitments she holds. As the meeting ended, the conversations did not. Committee chairs and individuals were beginning to formulate their next actions and strategies for this moment and the coming year. At this writing, the AIA Committee has met, and plans are being made.

One thing more I want to remember for 2024:

The AAUW-La Crosse Branch has more than 100 years of experience of advocating for equitable and inclusive education and opportunities. This is what we do. It is our shared expertise and continuous learning that make us effective. With 22 branches in Wisconsin and over 1000 local branches nationally, AAUW was made for times like this.

Have a Hopeful New Year!

Stop the Tax on Period Products in Wisconsin

A petition started by Olivia Veit

According to Worldbank.org, around 800 million people menstruate everyday, yet menstruation products are seen as a non-essential item in the eyes of our state government. More than twenty states have made the change to tax free period products, but Wisconsin is not one of these and continues to apply the standard sales tax of 5% to purchases. These personal hygiene products which are claimed to be non-essential have a large impact on the community.

The expense of paying for just one box of pads may appear to be low, but overtime purchasing these items every month adds up. Menstruators who are unable to afford these products can suffer from unsanitary habits that can worsen over time. Some are forced to stay at home to try and take care of their period and may miss critical work or school time. If our government fails to resolve this issue, the cycle of period poverty will continue. Eliminating, or at least reducing, the tax on period products will not only decrease the price, but be a step in the right direction to help end period poverty and provide more support for menstruation rights.



On May 2, 2023, the Republican-controlled budget committee of the Wisconsin Legislature, the Joint Committee on Finance, voted to exclude the sales tax exemption for menstrual products proposed in Gov. Tony Evers' 2023-25 budget.

Sign the petition here:

https://sign.moveon.org/petitions/stop-the-tax-on-period-products-in-wisconsin?source=rawlink&utm_source=rawlink&share=78af3916-d6a9-4e66-be74-3110d224ca55

The first step in passing legislation in your state is to contact your legislator. Your legislator may not be aware of the issue of period poverty and how it may be impacting your state. Through either a phone call or email, tell your legislator that all students in your state should have access to an adequate supply of period products required for their health.

Visit <https://allianceforperiodsupplies.org/> for sample emails and phone call scripts for talking to your legislators as well as more actions you can take.

OPEN BRANCH POSITION

Social Media Coordinator

Contact: Erica Koonmen

Duties:

Branch Facebook page, Branch Instagram acct, Art Fair Facebook page, Art Fair Instagram acct, working with a Social Media Intern from one of the universities.

My hope for the next chair:

I hope that you will post more often and keep up with it more than I have! It is a great way to get branch information out and to toot our horn about happenings.

I'll help you!

I will show you how I've done particular postings, kept up with changing the Facebook cover and answer any questions you have.

Our accounts:

<https://www.facebook.com/aauwlacrosse>

<https://www.facebook.com/AauwArtFairOnTheGreen>

<https://www.instagram.com/aauw.lacrosse/>

<https://www.instagram.com/artfaironthegreen>

BRANCH BOOK EXCHANGE

By Carlene Roberts

Our AAUW branch 'Little Free Library' began in December. Do you have a book you would like to share? Something that you found especially interesting, moving, informative, entertaining - fiction or non-fiction? Or is there a topic you would like to read about and you appreciate a recommendation from an AAUW friend?



The 'library' will be out at each meeting. Deposit your donation and check out what others have brought. Post-it notes will be available for your brief enticement to adopt your book.

STEM

by Annie Allen-Wyman, Chair



PARTNERS in STEM

Our local AAUW branch partners with school districts and higher education to promote access to opportunities related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics careers. Women and people of color are under-represented in STEM careers, partly due to lack of access and partly due to a lack of mentors. AAUW members can serve as mentors, telling young people about STEM educational opportunities and STEM jobs in our area.

UW-La Crosse faculty help high school students engage in original research at Junior Science and Humanities Symposium every spring, and host STEM camp for elementary students in the summer. At the child care center, a curriculum section called Loose Parts included these activities (Share! Try them!):

- If you have a mirror that can be laid flat on a table or the floor, put it down and add some Legos, blocks, wooden spoons, or bits of nature to build with and explore reflections at the same time.
- Buttons, rubber bands, shoe boxes, Tupperware with no matching lid, serving spoons...empty out the junk drawer and watch your child go to work!

Western Technical College offers students, in September and January, a chance to explore programs and talk to instructors. The event features STEM jobs like these, that you can study at WTC:

- Electronic & Computer Engineering
- Healthcare Technology Management
- IT – Computer Support Specialist, Web and Software Developer, Cyber Security
- Mechatronic & Robotic Engineering Technology

Viterbo has its own STEM department -- and there's a department Facebook page! Course offerings include applied mathematics and analytics, biochemistry, biology, computer science, engineering, and neuroscience. Viterbo supports STEM professional development with additional opportunities:

- The latest scientific and mathematical techniques and methods within cross-disciplinary programs.
- Preparation for a broad range of careers—medical professions, graduate school, government and private sector research, and teaching.
- Opportunities to conduct undergraduate research with a faculty mentor in research projects, many of which are at the interface of biology, chemistry, engineering, and math.

Small Group Contacts

AAUW IN ACTION (AIA)

See this page for meeting info

Contact: Erica Koonmen, moogs56@hotmail.com

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION (DEI)

Contact: June Reinert, 608-461-1109

reinert.june@eagle.uwlax.edu

CONTEMPORARY AUTHORS

3rd Tuesday of the month at 2pm

Contact: Alice Ross, 788-4206

SCHOLARSHIP BRIDGE/CARD GAMES

Contact: Sharon DeCicco, 608-452-4571

sharon.decicco@gmail.com

STEM

Contact: Annie Allen-Wyman 608-514-2871

therosyorb@gmail.com

WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN GLOBALLY

Joint partnership group with Viterbo and UWL

Contact: Erica Koonmen, moogs56@hotmail.co

AAUW IN ACTION (AIA)

AAUW in Action (AIA) is a study group that serves as a spring-board for community service activities for our branch that promote AAUW's mission.

Next meeting: ZOOM, Wed., Jan 17, 6:30pm.

Please contact Erica for the link.

- Thank you to all of you who brought menstrual products to the December general meeting. These products are provided free to middle and high school students in the La Crosse schools. We collected 28 boxes of tampons, 33 pkgs of pads and 7 toiletry bags--we filled four 13 gallon plastic bags! You are awesome! It was mentioned that other locations can benefit from menstrual product collections: jails, food pantries and unhoused centers. We'll be doing a collection at the International Women's Day event for that.
- Please read the article on page 2 about the petition to remove sales tax on menstrual products... and sign it! Also consider contacting our legislators about it.
- Speaking of International Women's Day, mark your calendars for Tuesday, March 8 for this annual event. More information in the next newsletter.
- AAUW WI response to the UW System regents vote to accept the WI legislature's offer to release funds if they agreed to cut DEI positions is on-going. A statement was drafted before the holidays, got tabled and will be picked up in the new year. It will now be a position statement that we hope you will share on your social media.

New Year's Greetings

by Maggie Winz, AAUW WI President

Wishing all of our AAUW members and friends a happy New Year 2024, with much Joy, Good Health, and Meaningful Experiences in the coming year.

Personally, I do wish for peaceful and diplomatic resolutions to the terrible wars and conflicts in the Ukraine, Gaza, and in 40 other countries worldwide. In addition to world events, many of us are mourning the loss of dear family and friends. However, the most touching losses for me this past year were of two special icons who represent values we hold dear: Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, and Senator Herb Kohl. They both were advocates for equal justice, women's rights, and universal quality education.

Much has been written about Justice O'Connor, a brilliant and well thought of Supreme Court Justice, who paved the way for other women to sit on the nation's highest court. We were all moved and saddened by her death, and grateful for her service and all she accomplished.

However the death of Senator Kohl affected me more personally. I first heard about him in the 1970's when my husband and I lived in a duplex in Milwaukee. The downstairs neighbor was a cashier at a Kohls grocery store in the area. She would tell us how the owner, Mr. Kohl, would visit each and every one of his grocery stores, and greet every employee on a regular basis. He always had a kind word, and would ask after their families.

My next encounter with Senator Kohl came in the early 1990's, when my school district nominated me for the prestigious Herb Kohl Award for excellence in teaching. As I was one of the recipients, I remember attending a dinner with the other teachers, and hearing Senator Kohl thank us for our work. My husband and I sat at a table with one of Senator Kohl's assistants who shared that the Senator was very surprised and actually dismayed at the celebrity status that he received in Washington, D.C. After all, he went there to do good for our country, not to be given status and opportunities that his constituency wouldn't share. That impressed me.

The Kohl Award included \$1000 for each recipient, and an additional \$1000 for each of our schools. While the money would not be life changing for me, it was life affirming that someone so high in government would recognize and appreciate the work of an ordinary kindergarten teacher, which really meant that he recognized all teachers. Each year since then, I have received a holiday greeting card from the Senator, until this year. It was such an honor to be on his holiday greeting list, even though I never donated to his election campaigns.

Senator Kohl gave back to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and to our nation year after year, quietly and without fanfare. We need more leaders like him.

Today I honor Justice O'Connor and Senator Kohl for their vision and quiet, consistent work toward a strong democracy, for good governance, equal justice, women's rights, and strong public education.

My wish for 2024 is for us all to honor their legacy with our own quiet, consistent works and acts of inclusion, kindness and bravery.

Let's start the new year together with inspiration and hope for the future.

With my fondest regards,
Maggie

Historian's Corner

by Marilyn Hempstead (33 yr member), Branch Historian

Let's Write!



January 1, 1982 was the publication date of ***Wisconsin Women, a Gifted Heritage*** which was a project of the Wisconsin State Division of AAUW. Its 328 pages included biographies, contributed by branch members, about Wisconsin women spanning a period of 300 years. For the book, our member

Patricia Boge wrote about educator Mauree Applegate Clack.

When Mauree Applegate came to La Crosse in 1945 to join the faculty of the State Teachers College she already had 30 years of experience. She had begun teaching at the age of 17. At the time only one year of training was required. Subsequently, while working as a classroom teacher and administrator in rural school districts, she obtained bachelor's and master's degrees.

Using the skills she had developed over those years, she instructed and inspired future teachers in the college classroom.

In addition, she was an author of many textbooks on teaching language arts and she lectured nationally. In her prolific writing she was an advocate for writing by children.

In 1952, Mauree created the "Let's Write" radio program on the Wisconsin School of the Air, where she reached over 60,000 Wisconsin school children over a period of 12 years.

In 1955 she married Willis Charles Clack but was widowed sadly after only four months.

Mauree Applegate Clack continued on with her goal of supporting teachers to stimulate children's imagination and creativity expressed through writing. She once wrote, "If each teacher, in her own way, follows a vision of what a school can really be like, she grows and develops with her children."

Mauree retired in 1966 and died three years later at the age of 72. May her legacy and vision be revived in this time of attack on free, expressive and true writing.



Mauree Applegate Clack

FROM THE TREASURER

Ann Brice

Financial Report as of
December 30, 2023

Checking Account.....\$9,018.83.

Scholarship Bridge.....\$321.00

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New Branch Scholarship

Joan Koonmen Memorial Scholarship for Non-Traditional Collegiate Students is a new scholarship with eligibility requirements that match a previous one:

An applicant must be either an AAUW member or be nominated by an AAUW La Crosse branch member. She must be 30 years of age or older and working toward a specific educational goal.

Joan's family has funded the scholarship, through the La Crosse Community Foundation, with an initial \$10,000. The branch will award at least one \$1000 scholarship.

Applications will be found on our branch website: www.aauwlacrosse.org and is attached to this newsletter email. Please let Robert know if you'd like one sent to you.

You are an important piece of the process of awarding it: please think about and nominate a woman you know who would benefit from this award!



Joan C. Koonmen

On The Web

by Barb Fischer, Branch Web Manager <https://aauwlacrosse.org>Please contact me if you need help on the Internet. 608-780-1601 or fischerba@live.com**AAUW DEI Survey and Micro-aggression Chart**Link: <https://lacrosse-wi.aauw.net/dei/>

Please help our branch respond to National's request for completion of this survey.

AAUW EMPOWERING WOMEN Since 1881

Check out AAUW action, experts and research making headlines.

Link: <https://aauw.org/resources/news/media/in-the-news>

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Membership News

by Barb Fischer, VP Membership

*Welcome to Our New Member***Lynn Winter**

Lynn has taught elementary school for 33 years. Her most recent position was at La Crescent/Hokah.

Address: 1103 Nancy Court, La Crosse, WI 54601

Contact info: lynnwinter111@gmail.com, 608-769-1396**WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY****Phyllis Miletto** is healing from a broken ankle**CONDOLENCES**

Sharon K. Imes passed away on Friday, December 15th, 2023, at Benedictine Manor in La Crosse. Sharon was a previous member of AAUW La Crosse Branch and served as our Branch President from 1995 to 1996. She was also a Name Grant recipient in 1985. A Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date. Our sincere sympathy to her family and friends.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS**

The Membership Committee will be meeting on January 17th at 1:00 at Java Vino. Everyone is welcome.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Best wishes to all of our members and their families throughout the New Year

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Position Available

Monroe County ShelterCare INC.

If you are passionate about making a difference in the lives of individuals, we invite you to join our team as a Program Coordinator. In this role, you will have the opportunity to develop a new Program called Truant Youth Diversion (TYD) Program. We offer competitive compensation packages, including benefits such as health insurance, and paid time off.

Job Type: Full-time

Salary: From \$20.00 per hour. Expected hours: 30 – 40 per week.

Schedule: Monday to Friday; Weekends as needed.

Work Location: Hybrid remote in Sparta, WI 54656

Complete info and application: [CLICK HERE](#)

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AAUW La Crosse Board Meeting Minutes

by JoAnne Revels, Secretary

DECEMBER 4, 2023

5P.M.- 6P.M.

VIA ZOOM

Members Present: Andrea Hansen, Ann Brice, Anne Allen-Wyman, June Reinert, Barb Fischer, Silvana Richardson and JoAnne Revels

Andrea opened the meeting with asking if there were any meeting updates or needs for Saturday's meeting. The November meeting notes were read and accepted. Committees were asked if they had any new/old business. None requested

Treasurer's Report and Budget Session

Andrea and Ann presented a draft of a proposed budget for January 2024 - June 2024 to finish the program year 2023-24. Spreadsheet included spending to date and 2019-2020 passed budget was used for comparison.

Review of presented budget followed with corrections made. Revised spending plan (budget) will be sent to BOD for review with the goal of presenting to membership for action January 13 meeting.

Corrections/Clarification to draft 6-month budget (incomplete list) made:

1. \$13.00 of the \$93.00 of our dues goes for local scholarships.
2. Scholarship Bridge has resumed for 2023-24 with revenue going to Scholarship Fund.
3. NCCWSL support should be increased to \$1000.00.
4. Insurance is an annual expense at \$500.
5. Money donated at time of registration should be designated for scholarships and receipts should be provided.
6. There are 2 separate accounts for Art Fair.

Questions/Needs:

1. Funds for AIA are for designated or ongoing projects.
2. Question was raised to what are the priorities for scholarships and grants.
3. Committees need to address needs for next year.
4. We need someone in fundraising and to write grants.
5. Money for stamps to send out cards to members (sympathy/illness).
6. Name Grant program is AAUW honor for local branch member and fundraising for National.
7. State Conventions: Can budget include money for baskets and paying expenses for attendance.
8. Question on honoraria continues, but good discussion brings us closer.
9. Publicity committee is forming.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by JoAnne Revels, Secretary