

MARCH MEETING

Program:

AAUW Winona / La Crosse Joint Meeting

When:

Saturday, March 11, 2023

Where:

Minnesota Marine Art Museum
800 Riverview Drive, Winona, MN

Time:

- Gather at 10:45pm MMAM
- 11am-noon Docent Guided Tour
- Noon-1:30pm Box Lunch & Meeting/Discussion

Cost and Menu:

MMAM Member & Box Lunch: \$13
Non-member & Box Lunch: \$7 + \$13 = \$20

Cash or check (payable to AAUW Winona) accepted upon arrival.

Box lunch: includes sandwich, chips, fruit and cookie
Choose:

- _____ Turkey and Colby Jack cheese
- _____ Ham and Colby Jack cheese
- _____ Vegetarian – lettuce, cheese, tomato, onion & peppers

Please include lunch choice with RSVP.

RSVP Deadline:

Sunday, February 26, to Robert at 608-788-0595
or richards.rob2@eagle.uwlax.edu

Use our branch Directory to create car pools. It's a 32 mile distance / 40 minute drive.

The Minnesota Marine Art Museum is a nonprofit art museum that engages visitors in meaningful visual art experiences through education and exhibitions that explore the ongoing and historic human relationship with water.



AAUW

LA CROSSE (WI)



The Current

a publication of the La Crosse, WI AAUW Branch

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MARCH 2023



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Women's History

by Andrea Hansen, Branch President

“Women’s history is women’s right — an essential, indispensable heritage from which we can draw pride, comfort, courage, and long-range vision.”

-Gerda Lerner, historian

<https://womeninwisconsin.org/profile/gerda-lerner/>

Every March, our AAUW branch brings Women’s History Month to our communities. Each year, ideas abound, partnerships and opportunities surface, and we get to work. We can’t do everything, but what we do matters!

In 2023, we will be *“Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories”* this way:

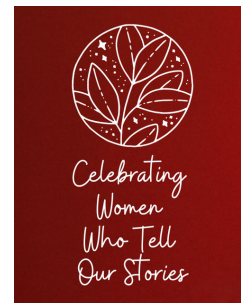
- Daily profiles of notable women are published in the La Crosse Tribune.
- Displays at the La Crosse Library and the Pearl Street Books are planned.
- A dynamic panel presents on International Women’s Day at UWL on March 8. (see pg 3 for details)
- We’ll introduce the film *My Name is Pauli Murray* on March 15 for the new public library series, “Movies with a Mission”. (see pg 3 for more info)
- The film *Persepolis* on March 28 will lead an April speaker series on

women’s status and struggles in Iran and Afghanistan. (See details on pg 3)

History is essentially story-telling about our collective experience. Yet certain stories continue to be ignored, trivialized, misrepresented, and even actively suppressed. History also challenges us to see the patterns of

inequality and advantage present in our national and official stories. Did you know the U.S. has 5,193 public statues of historical figures and less than 8% represent women and very few nonwhite women?

(Smithsonian Magazine, 2/29/16)



When I teach undergrads, I ask my students to name 20 notable women in U.S.

Continued on Page 2 »

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Monday, March 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

Women's History ... (continued from page 1)

history as quickly as they can. Most stall out at 5-6, with Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks and Helen Keller leading the lists. Madame Curie and Malala are often claimed as American. Working with partners, they can add more. This pattern has largely been unchanged in the 15 years of teaching and I, too, sometimes struggle to reach 20 names. Exploring "why?" leads to some version of the often-quoted adage, "history is written by the victors" and off we go, filling the board with all the factors that help explain, not only women's absence from the historical record, but also our forgetting. They get a little mad.

Illuminating the stories of individual women and their allies continues to provide balance and depth to our collective story - the good, bad and the ugly. "Where are the women?" "Which women are included?" and "Who is excluded?" are the essential questions that can also ignite change. We begin to understand our present more fully. Learning the stories of the fight for freedom and justice, rights and opportunities, care and compassion, we begin to shape our unfolding stories, too.

Please enjoy the Tribune's daily profiles. Be sure to attend the March 15 film ***My Name is Pauli Murray***, too. They are remarkable! See info on pg 3.

There are so many stories to lift up and celebrate. Make your March special by exploring the stories that are your story, too. Here are some wonderful sources:

www.womeninwisconsin.org

www.womenshistory.org

www.womenofthehall.org

www.nps.gov/subjects/womenshistory/index.htm

<https://unladylike2020.com/>

www.nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org

3 Ways You Can Fight for Equality in 2023

Adapted from blog by Ava Lee-Green, eracoalition.blog

1. Contact your elected representatives. This is one of the most important things you can do to fight for gender equality because legal change promotes social change. As a community member, you are encouraged to reach out to your elected officials to urge them to support legislation that fights against discrimination. You can find the email addresses of your elected officials at house.gov; encourage your friends and family to also contact their representatives. By putting pressure on these officials, we can get politicians to make change happen. Or check out the ERA Coalition action center, where we make it easy for you to contact your elected officials about supporting the Equal Rights Amendment!

2. Uplift the voices of marginalized communities. Instead of talking over people who are trying to get their voices heard, give them a platform to speak. On social media, you can repost or tag creators whose messages are incredibly important, but whose accounts are not getting enough attention. In places like schools or workplaces, invite someone to speak on their experiences with equal rights and the steps they are taking to help in the fight for equality. Listen to them and learn the best ways you can support their community and fight for equality without overshadowing their voices.

3. Continue to educate yourself. Chances are, if you are reading this, gender equality is something you are interested in and hope to fight for in the coming years. By learning more about other communities and perspectives, we can create a more understanding and equal world. Equality is constantly evolving, so it is important that you stay up-to-date and informed about your rights and how you can support other communities. You can start by signing up for the ERA Coalition newsletter.

AAUW-WI Public Policy Statement 2022-24

Part 3 of 3

3. To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society, AAUW-WI advocates for:

- Promotion of gender-fair opportunities, representation, and compensation at all levels of employment
- Increased voter education, voter registration, and candidate development
- Vigorous enforcement of voting rights
- Campaign finance reform that will promote equitable participation and representation
- Expansion of opportunities for women's participation at all levels of government
- Vigorous defense and expansion of civil and constitutional rights
- Preserving rights of individual choice in the determination of one's reproductive life
- Improved accessibility and affordability of quality mental and physical health care
- Improved research and treatment of women's health across the life span
- Support for programs that include adequate funding to prevent violence against women and to address the impact of violence against women
- Adoption of safe harbor laws to protect child victims of human trafficking from being prosecuted for something to which they cannot consent



FROM THE TREASURER

Ann Brice

Financial Report as of February 22, 2023

Checking Account.....\$9,106.48

Scholarship Bridge.....\$321.00

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WGSS Spring Conference

"Sustaining Hope: Feminisms,
Freedom, and the Future"
April 13-15, 2023

Co-Convened by UW System Women's and
Gender Studies Consortium and UW System
Gender and Women's Studies Librarian

FULLY VIRTUAL AND FREE TO ATTEND!

Join us for the Spring 2023 Women's
and Gender Studies Consortium
Conference. This fully virtual
conference takes place Thursday, April
13 - Saturday, April 15, 2023.

Dr. Sona Kazemi, one of our *Women
Supporting Women Globally* speakers,
will be presenting on "Building
Transnational Feminist Solidarity" in
the conference as the last panelist on
session 7; Friday, April 14, 2:00-3:00pm.

For full details and to register,
[CLICK HERE](#)



Transition, 2022, mixed media
by Gabrielle Javier-Cerulli

On The Web

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



A chart listing common microaggressions and how they appear in everyday language can be found on our website at: <https://lacrosse-wi.aauw.net/dei/>.

Congratulations to Lois Gilbert for winning the "Powerful Women in History" deck of cards at our last meeting. If you would like to check out the cards, click on this link: <https://lacrosse-wi.aauw.net/2022/12/18/gift-ideas/>.

Both <https://aauwlacrosse.org> -or- <https://lacrosse-wi.aauw.net> can be used to get to the AAUW branch website.

Last Call for Name Grant Nominations

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!

Did You Know?

by Andrea Hansen, Branch President

President Jimmy Carter was the first to recognize National Women's History Week on March 8, 1980. Women's History Month was authorized in Congress in 1987 and the first annual proclamation was signed in 1995 by President Bill Clinton.

"If you can control a man's (sic) thinking, then you do not have to worry about his action." Carter G. Woodson, historian and author, and organizer of the first Negro History Week, February 1926. President Gerald Ford signed a proclamation to make February Black History Month in 1976.



"I know that many men and even women are afraid and angry when women do speak, because in this barbaric society, when women speak truly they speak subversively—they can't help it: if you're underneath, if you're kept down, you break out, you subvert. We are volcanoes. When we women offer our experience as our truth, as human truth, all the maps change. There are new mountains. That's what I want—to hear you erupting. You young Mount St. Helenses who don't know the power in you—I want to hear you." Ursula LeGuin, Bryn Mawr Commencement speech, 1986.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

by June Reinert, DEI Chair

The DEI committee will be finishing our presentations on Diversity in April. Here are a series of videos developed by the national AAUW. These are excellent resources to implement what we have covered.

DEI Toolkit: Understanding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

AAUW's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plug and Play Programming is a way to help branches create programming and events. Join national Inclusion & Equity Committee members to discuss Understanding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, to learn about key terms and concepts to help you create branch programming to achieve your equity and inclusion goals. <https://youtu.be/2FPD673lppo>

The Microintervention Anti-Bias Workshop

Presented by AAUW alumna [Sarah Alsaidi](#), The Microintervention Workshop aims to increase awareness and self-reflection skills, and explain the difference between microaggressions and macroaggressions. Learn response strategies that can be used to defend against daily experiences of microaggressions. Read original article [HERE](#). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJPQxaUx464&list=PLTL0yfGgwGXMyKsroxieiKh4StRXtW3aN&index=43>

Intersectionality Identified

Join the Inclusion & Equity Committee for a discussion of intersectionality. By understanding the dimensions of diversity and how they intersect, we can begin to understand the complex and cumulative impact of discrimination and oppression. In this webinar, participants will learn about intersectionality as well as how to create branch or state programming for members on this concept. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntrXgrE_8ds

Creating Allyship

What is allyship? How can one truly be an ally? What is the connection between allyship and privilege? Please join us for a discussion of allyship and how to hold branch programming on this topic. With a diverse set of allies within their membership, states and branches can better build inclusive spaces and attract new audiences, including potential new members.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYwOgVuc7J4&list=PLTL0yfGgwGXMyKsroxieiKh4StRXtW3aN&index=12>

Unconscious Bias: Recognizing Your Biases & How to Interrupt Them

Join members of AAUW's National Inclusion and Equity Committee for a conversation about this topic. Where do unconscious biases come from? How do you know you have them? Learn how to confront your biases and what you can do to interrupt them. Only when we confront our biases are we able to truly recognize the value of diversity. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MylqzmemmT8&t=70s>

Inclusive Spaces

How do you create inclusive spaces? Diversity is only the beginning, and it isn't enough. To create truly diverse spaces, those spaces also need to be inclusive, where all parties feel welcomed, appreciated, respected and heard — and have full access to all resources and can contribute to AAUW's success. Join the national AAUW Inclusion and Equity Committee in this conversation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zFKQ33aWq4&t=308s>

Historian's Corner

by Marilyn Hempstead (32 yr member), Branch Historian

Study Groups

A crucial aspect of branch action and personal enrichment throughout our 100 years has been study groups.

In 1922 the newly formed branch set out to study equal pay, supporting college women financially, women in government and voter education.

Over the years various groups were created to study literature, the arts, education and the status of women. A World Problems study attracted so many members it was divided into two groups which met through the 1980s until it again merged into one in 2004. It studied Europe and the Middle East that year (always timely).

In 1989 a whopping nine study groups were listed in the directory. Four of these involved books! Two of the nine exist today: Contemporary Authors and Hearth and Home. Sharon DeCicco was the Hearth and Home leader then and she is now. In that same year there were two other study topics. One was on Promoting Individual Liberties. The other was Women's Issues/Women's Work chaired by Pam Thiel.

Because of the number of groups in the branch, a position of Study Group Coordinator to which each group reported was created in 1990. As the number of groups declined the position was eliminated in 2009.

The newest study group to form is AAUW in Action designed to be a springboard for community projects. Erica Koonmen called a meeting to organize it in September, 2009. It has been going strong ever since.

Throughout study group history there have been both change and consistency: change to stay relevant and consistency staying true to our mission of advancing gender equality for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

That's what we have done and will continue to do.



Lila Seager, Betty Heuslein, Marian Ramlow, Ruth Nixon-Davy - probably early 2000s.

Membership News

by Barb Fischer, VP Membership

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Raghad Al-Khazraji



Welcome
Glad you're here!

SPEEDY RECOVERY WISHES

Michele Strange is in the midst of cataract surgeries. She had one eye surgery on February 13th and the 2nd on February 20th. We are all hoping the healing goes well.

EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGE

The new email address for **Anita Evans** is: aevans@eagle.uwlax.edu

ADDRESS CHANGE

Joan Koonmen will be receiving mail at Erica's address for the foreseeable future:
1214 Jefferson Avenue, Sparta, WI 54656.
She is still happy to get emails at jckflits@outlook.com
Her phone # is no longer connected and there is not a new one.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

The Membership Committee has come up with many great ideas that I will be sharing soon. If any of you have suggestions please contact me at fischerba@live.com or 608-780-1601 (please leave a message if no answer). Thank you!

Movies with a Mission

Each month at the La Crosse Main Public Library, a local non-profit organization will share how their work positively impacts our community, then we'll watch a film together celebrating their mission.

For Women's History Month, the **La Crosse Branch of AAUW** (American Association of University Women) will screen the 2021 documentary, "**My Name is Pauli Murray**," featuring the life and contributions of this little-known and visionary legal scholar, activist, poet and Episcopal priest.

Murray, a gender nonconforming trailblazer, influenced Thurgood Marshall, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Eleanor Roosevelt, laying down a path for generations to come. Please encourage friends and family to attend this screening and discussion!

[Register HERE](#)

Wednesday, March 15
6-7:30pm.

Main Library 800 Main Street
La Crosse



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, Mar. 23, 2pm. JavaVino

International Women's Day Event: Wednesday, March 8

The theme this year is:

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

Please join us on **Mar. 8th at UWL Student Union Bluffs Room, 5:30-7:00pm.**

Our panelists are Dina Zavala (Honduras), Raghad Al-Khazraji (Iraq) and Edith Ben-Eboh (Nigeria). Coffee and cookies will be served starting at 5:30pm.

Please like and share the event from our FaceBook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/aauwlacrosse>

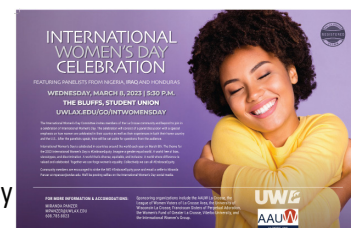
March is Women's History Month

Remember to read the daily bios in the La Crosse Tribune every day in March. These were written by Lois Gilbert and her daughter, Liza. They'll also be on our FaceBook page and Instagram. The 2023 theme is "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories." Thank you Lois and Liza!

Support for Iranian and Afghan Women

The **Women Supporting Women Globally** group (AAUW La Crosse, UWL RGSS and Viterbo DEI division) is planning a 3-part series:

- Screening of the movie **Persepolis** on Tues, Mar 28, Viterbo University, 6-8pm. Discussion following film.
- **A History of Afghan Women's Fight for Rights**, Tues, Apr 18, Viterbo University, 6-7pm.
- **Understanding Iran's Feminist Revolution**, a talk by Dr. Sona Kazemi. Thurs, Apr 20, UWL Centennial Hall, 6-7p
Please watch for more details next month.



Women's History Month Quiz

by Lois Gilbert

The theme for Women's History Month 2023 is "The Women Who Tell Our Stories." Can you match the famous woman or women on the left with their correct identity on the right?

1. Josephine Baker A. In her 1929 book, *A Room of One's Own*, this author argued that sexism, in the form of poverty, suppression, and male-dominated social norms, is what has kept women out of the documented history of humankind.
2. Mary Ritter Beard B. A free, informative, and conversational podcast all about women throughout world history. Over 200 episodes are currently streaming.
3. Simone de Beauvoir C. Black human rights activist whose life's work pointed out the important crossover of racism, sexism, and poverty. She earned a law degree and called attention to "Jane Crow" laws.
4. Nellie Bly D. She reported on the Great Depression, child prostitution, and hunger. To report on WWII, she disguised herself and was the first woman on the beach at the invasion of Normandy.
5. Sandra Cisneros E. She changed American history by becoming a female historian. This woman pointed out that the entire history of documenting world events in print, women were almost totally absent.
6. Katherine Clarenbach F. A great intellect and the top of her class at the Sorbonne, she taught philosophy and literature. In 1949, she published *The Second Sex*, creating the foundation of the modern feminist movement.
7. Martha Gellhorn G. She is the author of the novel *The House on Mango Street*, which has sold over 6 million copies and been translated into over 20 languages.
8. The History Chicks H. In 1889, this daring reporter, carrying only 1 small piece of luggage, traveled around the world in 72 days, beating the record of a Jules Verne character and a contemporary rival.
9. Pauli Murray I. Born in Sparta, WI, this women's rights activist chaired the WI Governor's Commission on The Status of Women for 15 years and was one of the founding members of the National Organization of Women (NOW).
10. Virginia Woolf J. The highest paid entertainer in Jazz Age Europe, this woman was also an important spy for the French Resistance during WWII.



Answers: 1J / 2E / 3F / 4H / 5G / 6I / 7D / 8B / 9C / 10A