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The Current

A publication of the LaCrosse, WI AAUW Branch
[Volume 65, Issue 4] December 2025

President's Perspective?



December Column

by Lema Kabashi, Branch President

As we enter the holiday season, a time when generosity, reflection, and community naturally come to the forefront, I am reminded of how deeply giving is woven into the American identity. Research shows that generosity is a core value for three-quarters of Americans, a signature trait that reflects our collective desire to support one another and strengthen our communities. Many of the driving factors behind American giving are rooted in altruism: nearly half of Americans donate because it makes them happy (46%) or because the cause aligns with their personal values (45%). A third (32%) are moved by a personal connection, while a quarter (25%) give out of a sense of moral responsibility. Others give out of habit (20%) or because it helps them feel connected to others (17%) (Wells Fargo, 2024).

These motivations reveal something important: people give because they care, because they feel connected, and because their values call them to act. Yet even with these enduring motivations, giving patterns are shifting amid growing economic concerns. Research from the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy (2025) shows that charitable giving among affluent households has declined from 91% to 81% over the past decade. This notable shift raises important questions about how communities can continue to thrive when traditional patterns of philanthropic engagement begin to change.

This makes the work of the La Crosse Area Community Foundation, our guest presenters at this month's meeting, more vital than ever. Their mission to connect people, passion, and giving to build a thriving, vibrant community for five generations speaks directly to this moment. By linking donors with local needs, fostering meaningful partnerships, and empowering initiatives that strengthen the social fabric

of our region, the Foundation demonstrates the long-term impact of strategic generosity and intentional connection.

For AAUW, this message resonates deeply. Our commitment to advancing equity for women and girls is rooted in the understanding that progress unfolds across generations. The opportunities we work to create today—access to education, fair wages, safety, representation, and leadership—shape the lives not only of today's women and girls, but of daughters, granddaughters, and the generations beyond them. We are part of a continuum, just as the Foundation reminds us: generations are connected through the choices we make and the care we extend.

During this season of giving, I invite us all to reflect on our own motivations and values. Whether through advocacy, volunteerism, mentorship, scholarship support, or simply showing up for others with purpose and compassion, each of us contributes to the strength and resilience of the La Crosse community. When we connect our passions to meaningful action, we help build a community where everyone has the chance to thrive—now and far into the future.

Wishing you warmth, hope, and meaningful connection this December!

December Meeting

***Connecting People/Passion/Giving to Help
Create a Thriving, Vibrant Community for***

Five Generations presentation by La Crosse Area Community Foundation



December 6, 2025 (1st Saturday)

9:30am Registration, 9:45am Brunch, 10:15am Meeting; 10:30am Program
Viterbo University School of Nursing, Rm 203, 10th & Jackson Sts, La Crosse

Note: Room Change. You may take either staircase or the elevator to 2nd floor.

(parking available in the lot next to the building)

You are cordially invited!

Goals: Increase awareness of community resources to enhance lives, facilitate equity and community bonding, and enhance knowledge with current data from those at the forefront of change. Learn how to get involved with community resources and information sharing.

- Did you know that the La Crosse Area Community Foundation (LACF) is over 100 years old? That they are a resource for giving, they know the community, and they make grants to qualified organizations?
- Have you heard about Haven on Main, the inclusive housing space?
- Do you know their guiding principle of philanthropy?
- What do you know about the connection between AAUW and LACF?

We encourage all to invite a friend, colleague, or acquaintance to share the morning with us and learn about AAUW and the topic of the day!

Brunch: Cost \$13; pay with cash or check (note price adjustment)

Menu: Egg dish, potatoes, fresh fruit, coffee (reg & decaf) + tea. Gluten-free and meat-free options provided.

Please RSVP by November 30 to the email which will be sent from Robert at 608.788.0595 or richards.rob2@eagle.uwlax.edu.



Email RSVP by Robert Richardson

RSVP Modus Operandi: Fourteen days prior to a branch meeting, each member with an active email address receives from Robert an email message with a request to reply by 11:59 pm on the Sunday prior to the Saturday meeting, October thru May. We need all members to reply so we know how many members/guests plan to attend and how many request the meal. On Monday, we need to report both numbers to the catering service. Aramark prepares food/beverages in a quantity that aligns with the latter number, and the Branch is invoiced based on that number. Program committee members arrange seating based on the total attendance number.

Treasurer's Report

by Andrea Hansen & Noreen Holmes

October 1-31, 2025:

Starting Balance: \$8,077.12

...Deposits: \$1,608.55

...Withdrawals: \$460.87

October 31 ending balance: \$8,724.90

Checking account balance as of **November 18, 2025**: \$8,435.46

Scholarship Bridge Balance (8/1/25 - current): \$360.00



Membership News

by Barb Fischer, VP Membership



Thank you to all who attended the New Member Gathering!

A huge thank you to those who attended NMG. It was a great discussion that included both new members and many of our wonderful members. New members who attended have been connected to mentors.

Member updates:

- **Marilyn Hempstead** is healing from pneumonia.
- **June Reinert** had a hospital stay for a respiratory infection. She is home, but is still healing.

- **Diana Moran Sanchez Thundercloud.** Our deepest sympathies go out to Diana and her family regarding the loss of her brother, Sergio Moran.
- **Katie Webster** is now at Havenwood in Onalaska. Her room number is 134.

Two new student members:

Liliana Millea and Isabella Hall joined our Branch as student members. They both attend UWL.

Mentors needed for new members:

Please let me know if you are willing to be a mentor for new members? All we ask is that you check with them to find out if they have questions.

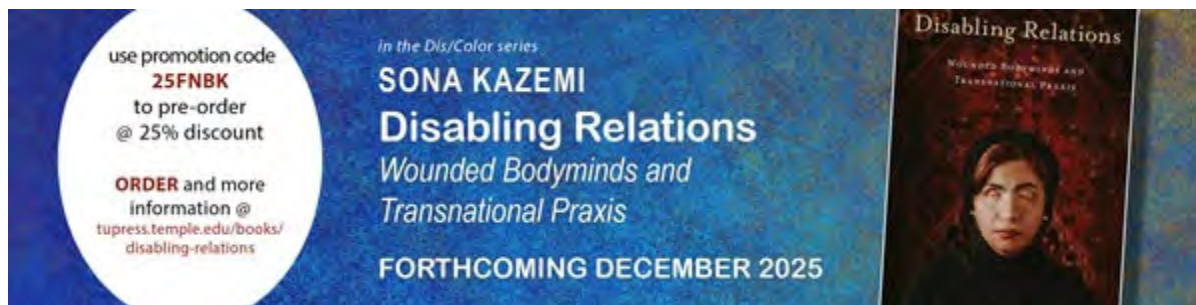
Sona's book talk scheduled after our AAUW December meeting is postponed:

A new date for Sona's book talk will be determined at a later time; an email with the updated date and time will be sent to all AAUW members.

AAUW member, Sona Kazemi PhD, will talk about her new book, "*Disabling Relations - Wounded Body-minds and Transnational Praxis*" that focuses on Woman, Life, and Freedom. Her book can be ordered at a discount during her book talk. You can also order on your own and use promo code **25FNBK** for 25% off! Ordering the book before it is out helps her to get more publicity from her publishers.

Sona Kazemi is an Assistant Professor at UWL in Race, Gender & Sexuality Studies. **Remember the Discount Promo Code: 25FNBK.**

Book Discount for AAUW



Sona Kazemi, PhD, Assistant Professor, UWL Race, Gender & Sexuality Studies. Sona is an AAUW Branch member and our RGSS colleague.

Get a discount with your pre-print order of **Sona Kazemi's** book - major contribution to Disabilities Studies! Use **promo code 25FNBK** for 25% off!

Disabling Relations
Wounded Bodyminds and Transnational Praxis
 Forthcoming Fall 2025

Bears witness to disabled survivors of violence in Iran from war, incarceration, acid attacks, and torture.



We encourage AAUW members to pre-order with the discount code.

FYI: The more pre-print orders, the more resources the publisher will put into promoting the book.

SCAN TO PRE-ORDER



AAUW In Action (AIA)

Tuesday, Dec. 16 @ 4:30 pm via ZOOM

Erica will send out an agenda and Zoom link prior to the meeting.



Thank you branch members--we collected 3 books at the November meeting, put donation labels in them and put them in Little Free Libraries. Please continue to donate books by bringing them to the general meetings. There are extra donation labels in the book box in our regular meeting room at Viterbo; you are welcome to take those to put in books that you want to put in Little Free Libraries in your area.

Bookmarks: we printed 250; about half of them were given out at the November general meeting. Erica will bring them to the December meeting. We encourage people to put some in Little Free Libraries as well as their local library.

Looking ahead for the year: March is Women's History Month and we're planning some fun activities!

1. **Intergenerational talks**, like speed dating with young women on one side and older women on the other, given 3-5 minutes with prompts to talk, then switch partners. Andrea Hansen will take the lead on this as she has experience with the format. We are thinking this could be run as 2 separate events: 1 at UWL and 1 at Viterbo. Please contact Andrea to help with this.
2. **Women's history trivia game night for branch members**. Ann Epstein volunteered to be point person to keep it organized! Please contact Ann to be part of the planning committee!

Both of these activities would be a great way to meet more branch members, to be involved with an event that is mission oriented and with a limited time commitment! Please join us.

New initiative: Birthday cake kits for food pantries: We talked about doing a collection and assembly of birthday cake kits in January or February. These kits can include: box of cake mix, 1 can of lemon lime pop, tub of frosting, sprinkles, candles, birthday card, balloons, etc... packaged in an aluminum pan. Apparently, the can of pop replaces the need for eggs and oil in the cake mix. These kits help families who might not have the means to celebrate birthdays. More info in next month's newsletter.

For more information, please email Erica at moogs56@hotmail.com.

Scholarships & Grants

by Robert Richardson, Co-Chair



The Scholarships & Grants Committee (SGC) continues our work.

Interested to be added to the reader-cadre? Contact Sharon DeCicco or Robert Richardson <[Learn more](#)>

Equity and Belonging Committee Corner

by June Reinert, Equity and Belonging Chair

“What is up in December around the town?”

December is a month rich with various religious holidays, including Christmas, Hanukkah, and the Feast of Saint Nicholas, among others. There is diversity of religious celebrations in our community. I thought I would look at some of them. I am sure many observe some of these holidays. These holidays reflect a rich tapestry of cultural and religious practices followed by diverse communities around the world during December. Each holiday carries its own significance and traditions, contributing to the festive spirit of the month.

Feast of Saint Nicholas (December 6): This holiday honors Saint Nicholas, known for his generosity and gift-giving, which inspired the modern figure of Santa Claus. It is celebrated in various-ways, including giving gifts and attending church services.



Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12): This holiday honors the Virgin Mary's appearance to Juan Diego in Mexico. It is a significant celebration for many Mexican Catholics, involving pilgrimages and festivities.

Hanukkah (December 18-26, 2025): Also known as the Festival of Lights, Hanukkah is an eight-day Jewish celebration that commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. It involves lighting the menorah, playing dreidel, and eating traditional foods like latkes.



Bodhi Day (December 8): Celebrated by Buddhists, Bodhi Day commemorates the day when Siddhartha Gautama attained enlightenment under the Bodhi tree. It is observed through meditation, reflection, and sometimes the decoration of trees with lights.

Yule (Winter Solstice, around **December 21**): Celebrated by Pagans and Wiccans, Yule marks the winter solstice and the rebirth of the sun. It involves various traditions, including feasting and lighting candles.



Christmas (**December 25**): Observed globally by Christians, Christmas marks the birth of Jesus Christ. It is typically commemorated through traditions such as exchanging gifts, attending festive meals, and participating in church services.

Heri Za Kwanzaa! **Kwanzaa**, celebrated from **December 26 to January 1**, is an African American and pan-African seven-day cultural holiday that celebrates family and community. During the holiday, families celebrate with feasts, music, and dance, and end the holiday with a day dedicated to reflection and re-commitment to the seven principles.



Season's greetings from the Equity and Belonging Committee

Branch Book Exchange and Banned Books Study Group

AAUW La Crosse's Branch Book Exchange

The Equity and Belonging Committee of our AAUW branch is excited to announce the launch of our "Little Free Library," beginning in January. This initiative invites members to share books that they found particularly interesting, moving, informative, or entertaining—whether fiction or non-fiction. If there is a topic you would like to explore, you are encouraged to seek recommendations from fellow AAUW members. The library will feature books that address diversity and other vital topics, reflecting their relevance to both our current and past environments and to diversity in our culture. At each branch meeting, the "Little Free Library" will be available for members to donate their books and browse selections brought by others. To help entice readers, Post-it notes will be provided for members to write brief comments or recommendations about their donated books.

Formation of the Banned Books Study Group

We are also proposing the creation of a book club dedicated to studying "Banned Books" found in our libraries. This group will read selected titles and discuss why school boards may have placed them on forbidden lists. Depending on member preferences, meetings may be held in person or via Zoom for group discussions. The club may invite guest speakers to discuss the chosen books or related issues within our community. Recently, the ACLU hosted a discussion on banned books across the United States; our group may adopt some of their procedures to facilitate our own conversations.



Wanted:

Interested AAUW members to join our Equity and Belonging Committee.

Contact June Reinert, 608-461-1109
or reinert.june@eagle.uwlax.edu

STEM Student Empowerment & Mentoring Committee

by Diana Elena Moran Sanchez Thundercloud, New
STEM Coordinator/Chair

January 22 @ 6:30pm. Via ZOOM.



We will begin in January the "call" for STEM Monthly Meetings. AAUW/La Crosse Chapter. You can attend from your home/office. We rescheduled the first meeting from November until January. We are now going into the holiday/winter break season. I encourage you to join the STEM Committee. To support women and girls on their journey into the fields of STEM Education (K-12-College). We will begin by checking out what programs are already out there in the region(s). State-wide. How best can we support STEM for Empowerment?

I have also joined the STEM Wisconsin/AAUW State-Wide Committee:

STEM Equity & Empowerment for Youth/Girls. Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (STEM) K-12 Education. We will work this year—to explore what programs are out in the communities. How best can we support middle-school girls to experience high-quality STEM "experiences" for learning. (I am a former middle & high school teacher. Former Teacher Educator at the College Level. Training: Traditional Ecological Knowledge & the Natural World. Sustainable Education & Social Innovation) Review of Programs. I have taught college in the Midwest, Southwest, and Mexico. I have worked in Pre-College Programs in the past. I also have years of experience in advising students in various ways. I currently support as best as possible as a Master's Thesis or Dissertation Level Advisor. I have supported students in the process of the research and writing of the dissertation. I am an independent researcher and consultant through Moran Thundercloud Consulting (USA, Mexico, Chile. Peru).

The world is changing for women & girls hoping to explore the field of STEM...to continue that support of exploring STEM fields. To Dream Big for Women & Girls! With the current political climate in the USA the future of funding STEM or funding cuts will deeply impact the opportunities for women and girls in STEM fields.

AAUW --- STEM consists of the following "evolving" areas: Science. Biology. Chemistry. Physics. Technology. Computer Science. Information Technology. Math.

Engineering. Archaeology. Ecology. Natural Science. Earth Science. We know many of these fields lead to other professions and fields of study. Etc. We have had lots of discussions of the wide-breath of the STEM fields—Expanding. Exploring!
Where the Humanities intersect the STEM fields is important for Social Innovation. The Future! To build that curiosity. Innovation. Critical thinking. Creative thinking. Research Skills. Critical inquiry. How are we inclusive of Diverse Learners--Communities. Who gets to ask the questions? Experiences & Dreams? Dream Big. Curiosity.

With the changes at the government level and the Department of Education--we will also explore the impact on changes around the field of STEM.

STEM Chair/Coordinator. Focus: STEM/Policy & Law/Times of Crisis/ USA & Global and Impact on Women & Girls and Education. Mentorship. History of Science & Society Education & Civil Rights. Human Rights. Equity & STEM. Women & girls study and learn in various regions and places in the world.

Our goal through STEM this year--to spark the interest and/or support those students who are beginning to inquiry through STEM fields of study--through programs or lectures too. Experiences. Explorations. Limited funding. Collaborations.

I agreed to be STEM Coordinator for three years. 2025-2028. Ideas & Collaboration spark the SEEDS of change and learning. "Semillas". Over the years--AAUW has been able to send girls (who apply) to STEM related--Summer camps, too! Conferences. Wisconsin! Midwest. National. International. Applications are Reviewed. College students to--apply for support. AAUW has supported college women to attend conferences on Women's Leadership--in Washington DC. too in the past. To various places==Conferences. Mentorship is important too. Master's & Doctoral Level. Independent Research too. To break barriers & boundaries.

My Focus the next three years as Chair/STEM Coordinator:

American Association of University Women. AAUW La Crosse Chapter. Policy & Law. Environmental Education. Women & Girls Empowerment in STEM. K-12. How best to support STEM women & girls in Education: Undergraduate. Master's. & Doctoral Level Studies & Research. STEM Advocacy. STEM Policy & Law. USA & Global. Collaboration to Support Programs, Lecturers, & Individuals on their journey.

I encourage you to join: To become a Mentor--your Expertise to Mentor in the Field. Or if you are seeking STEM Mentorship too! (Example: A Science Teacher with expertise on Watersheds--mentor a "program" working with Middle School Students--via a one hour lecture/weekend to support other Teachers/Mentors or to support a future doctoral student--one hour to discuss your professional field.

To seek out Volunteers to give one hour lectures on the importance of various topics! (Example: Photography & Science & Technology). Via ZOOM. You have a chance to share your expertise and spark interest and support training for future Women's Leadership in STEM! To support girls & women with disabilities/special needs too. You are also providing a service to your field/institution/community. You pass on knowledge to the next Generation of Leaders. You also show you care about the VISION of Gender & Equity!

The next few years we hope to focus on MENTORSHIP and Women's Well-being-Social & Emotional Wellness. To spark the interest and sustain the interests in the fields of STEM for study and professions. Lack of mentorship for professional women of color too in STEM fields (in All fields). What do we do after we get those degrees? The research around Latinas, Native women, & African American women is important in Education. There are many "barriers" to get that education--for many. (Also--under-reported too. Under-researched.) Post-Education. Critical issues that impact women/girls regarding issues of gender and sexuality in the USA and globally. LGBT rights in Education. Gender & Sexuality. To end Violence against Women & Girls. Globally. To be Safe--even to study. To thrive.

I just completed a short training this summer from Texas A & M University regarding **"Bilingual Mentorship & Leadership for Latinas in STEM"** fields (K-12 & Higher Education). How to best support and encourage representation of bilingual (English/Spanish) Latinas--many who are first generation--in entering STEM fields of study and professions is critical. Critical for our Future. Innovation. Critical Thinkers. WE focused on STEM Literacy Strategies for Youth. How to Teach STEM in Education. Bilingual/Languages. Culturally Relevant Teaching. Native Indigenous Languages are an important area for me. Women are critical in their communities and in the Natural World. We focused on English/Spanish & Language Access & Understanding.

What I bring to the STEM "table" as the Coordinator: I have taught at three Historically Latino/a Universities in the USA. I have also taught briefly at a college in Mexico. Lectured in Peru at a high school around Water Issues and Education. To support Latinas in STEM is critical. Native Indigenous Education. Tribal Communities in Wisconsin. African Americans in Education. Mentorship for Black Women & Girls/STEM. To support--the Next Generation of Diverse Voices in STEM & the Natural World. Immigration & Education. Migration Studies & STEM. Future World. The STEM training was provided by a small National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant for Teachers/Teacher Educators to attend STEM training at Texas A&M University.

***Teacher Renewal is critical too. The field of Teaching has been at the "Frontlines" for many events in history. Teachers/Educators are at the "Frontlines" of a great deal now! Teachers & Students need support now too! Teacher Renewal. Teacher & Educational Leadership Renewal. My Respect for Teachers & Youth! How can we best support Educational Administrators/Leaders to support STEM and Women/Girls in Education.*

My focus for this STEM Role for the next three years: Mentorship & Well-being! Programs/Lectures: Social Innovation. Ethics of Artificial Intelligence & Teaching/Learning, Climate Change & Literacy & Language (s), Archaeology Education & Native Indigenous & Afro Indigenous & African Worldviews. Watersheds & Mountains in "Las Americas" & Geography & Landscapes. Agriculture. Farming. Agroecology. Ecology. THE ARTS & STEM. THE VISUAL/IMAGES. Areas to study and explore. Questions to Explore. Critical Inquiry.

What does it mean to be an Innovator?

Creative process. The VISUAL. I will work via ZOOM. Remote. It is through dialogue and collaboration that innovation thrives! How do we use Technology to Communicate?

*Outside of STEM Coordinator: I continue professionally as an Independent Consultant/ Researcher regarding Education. I continue to Lecture around various topics. I will continue working towards my Life's work in Mexico & Chile. Peru y Bolivia. USA. Natural World. I will continue to support as a Master's Thesis and Doctoral Dissertation Advisor. **With technology--and the pandemic--many of us have learned to share our "skill set" through remote meetings & workshops. On-line/Zoom meetings. After over 30+ years in a classroom teaching--I now work outside of a classroom. It has been a "learning curve". Technology. It now has allowed me--some freedom to travel and work on a book in progress. I hope to bring some guest speakers from Latina America to do a guest lecture via ZOOM.*

Reminder: AAUW is historically one of the oldest Associations in the USA/Global to support equity and education for women/girls in Education. It is important for us to look at the global impacts of equity for women and girls!

During these current "Times" we risk sending women & girl's education backwards with the loss of access to Education. Loss of Funding. Loss of Knowledge. Barriers to Education. Civil Rights. Erosion of laws that support women and girls at many levels. Erosion of rights and access for youth with disabilities. Loss of "educational pipelines" of access for education for many. USA & Global. Field trips/Exploration. STEM. International students have been supported by AAUW to study or to attend a conference.

Key Question now for Many: Social & Emotional Well-being to be in the "mindset" to STUDY during Turbulent Times.

****Women & girls are already under-represented in the field of STEM.** Women of Color--are greatly impacted. Very under-represented in STEM! The TIMES--unrest--political and social unrest--has created high stress and anxiety in many communities. We will focus on Well-being too. To rejuvenate--that Spirit to continue to Study. Small Action Steps! We need to start somewhere. I am choosing to start here.

The next few years we plan on Empowerment. Mentorship. STEM at the State-Level wants to focus on Empowerment. Mentoring Women of Color & Girls. Social & Emotional. Wellness. To even--just SPARK the interest. Topics. Education is a wide range--means many things. We all have asked these philosophical questions about what education is.

STEM Learning happens in many places: All types of Education too. Sites: Community Education. K-12. Higher Education. Museums. On-Line Education. Social Media. Community Centers. Schools. Libraries. Day Care Centers. Nature Centers. Colleges. Within Families. Tribes. Land-Based. NATURE as Teacher! To begin that SPARK.

How can you support AAW STEM? I may reach out to invite you to consider--donating time--to give a lecture via ZOOM for our Future adult "STEM Mentors" who

may be working to Mentor other Middle/High School Students or College Level Students interested in STEM topics. I encourage the suggestion of a suggestion TOPIC for a lecture too. Or to do some collaborative work. Or to give a community lecture. Or you may want to invite me to visit--to see your program or site. We all have gifts--to share. Gracias.

NOVEMBER, 2025. This month was spent doing some additional training:

- **National Association of Bilingual Education (NABE).** I attended an excellent Webinar on "Protection of Immigration Students. K-12 Safety." It was excellent training. Resources. Various "voices" spoke on this webinar. Role of Teachers, Administrators/Educational Leadership, & Teacher Union, & Communities. How immigration and deportations are impacting students at all levels. The loss of belonging for many students at this time.
- I attended the **League of Women Voters State-Wide Training around DEI.**
- I attended the Lecture by **Catholic Charities around issues of Immigration and the LaCrosse Community hosted by the League of Women Voters/LaCrosse.** I was able to attend through "ZOOM". Important information regarding the federal, state, and local levels and critical issues. I will continue to stay abreast of issues around Immigration and Deportations as they impact STEM students and professionals at all levels too. Many students come from Mixed-Citizenship Families too.
- I was also invited to attend a **Training around "Compassion & Communities during Times of Conflict" from the University of Vermont. Restorative Justice.**
- I will continue to be part of the **Tribal Adaptation Cohort (TAMS)** that meets every other month around issues that impact the Environment and Tribes. GLIFWC hosts those meetings.
- **AAUW District Four Meeting in Chippewa Falls.** My first time attending. It was great to meet people from all over the state. Thanks to Annie for facilitating the discussion/meeting!
- **Sociology of Education.** National Conference. Supported through NYU & John Hopkins University, Co-Chairs. I was able to hear doctoral work in progress. Example: University of California, Berkeley. University of Texas at El Paso. Thanks to Dr. Cesar Augusto Rossatto (UTEP) for the invitation.

NOTE: In the Spring--January (2026) AAUW STEM will host a Book/Film Club. Bilingual/English/Spanish. For Members & Non-Members. On-Line. Discussions. Free. Open to Everyone. USA & International. Diverse Topics! You're invited.

- To build a Learning/Social Community around: Social Innovation & STEM. Global Perspectives. How the Humanities & STEM intersect through FILMS/BOOKS to foster Innovation in STEM==STEM Critical Thinking!
- You do not have to be "attached" to a university to attend the Book/Film Club & Discussions. SPRING. 2026. Film is Visual--a great place for Creativity & Ideas. Learning. I will report another "update" later...Excited to support STEM for our next generation of Leaders. Learning happens--many times in Dialogue! Collaboration. Community. Ethics of Caring. Thanks to AAUW-La Crosse. Wisconsin Chapter. Western Wisconsin. USA. Gracias.

Contact me directly if you have questions. In advance. Gracias! Thanks to each one of you for your support for the Next Generation.
Onward. dmoranthundercloud@gmail.com

Empowerment and Equity for Girls and Women. STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Global Learning for Future Leaders in STEM.

Public Policy

by Silvana F Richardson

AAUW National is proud to be a **Power Partner** with the League of Women Voters on *Unite & Rise 8.5*, alongside the National Council of Jewish Women. These influential women's organizations have come together to defend our constitution, protect the rule of law, demand the preservation of checks and balances, safeguard the right to vote, and build a democracy where every person and every voice counts.



Unite & Rise 8.5 is a nonpartisan, movement-building campaign to engage 8.5 million people in civic education, community activation, and turnout support — with partners working together to lift local voices and make participation easier. *Unite & Rise 8.5* shares ways voters can drive change through advocacy, mobilization, civic education, and engagement. AAUW encourages members to be a part of this movement and help grow this network of 8.5 million people committed to defend our democracy.

You can commit to Unite and Rise in the Fight for Democracy with AAUW and the LWVWI! [Click here for the commitment form.](#)

This latest partnership uplifts AAUW's long-standing commitment to open and fair elections that are broadly accessible to all voters, nonpartisan voter education efforts that will promote equitable political participation and expand voting rights.

ON THE WEB

by Barb Fischer

Check out **AAUW Two-Minute Activist** webpage on our National site - AAUW.org. To reach the next goal only 361 are needed. Actions already taken are at 1639. AAUW's strength is our collective voice. Everyone is asked to take the pledge for gender equity.



Go to: <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>

Join AAUW in the fight for gender equity! Take an action click "Sign Up" to get regular "Two-Minute Activist" alerts on when and how to engage on pressing issues.

Advocacy Toolkit

Ongoing event!

Only two dates left for December!

Robert Reich event in Sparta, WI.

Robert Reich is a former U.S. Secretary of Labor, an author, and a professor. Reich, a teacher for 42 years, discusses wealth inequality, bullying, and the importance of teaching.

Wealth & Poverty Fall Classes w/Professor Robert Reich @ the Sparta Free

Library, (www.spartalibrary.org/calendar). **Thursdays from 1-3 pm: 12/4, & 12/11.** Together we view course videos and discuss the topics. Participate in the entire course, or drop in on any of the individual sessions. No registration is required.

These events are a collaboration between the Sparta Free Library, UC-Berkeley, Inequality Media, and the Bluestockings Book Club.



SPARTA
FREE LIBRARY

WEALTH & POVERTY FALL CLASSES

W/ PROFESSOR ROBERT REICH

Why is inequality of wealth and income continuing to grow in the U.S?
How does this widening gap affect us all?
What can we do about it?

Understanding how inequality undermines our economy and threatens our democracy has become central to understanding this moment in history.

Join us at the library Thursday afternoons and learn how public policy shapes the distribution of wealth and income. Come and discuss the changes needed to improve the well-being of our communities.

This community gathering is a collaboration between the Sparta Free Library, UC-Berkeley, Inequality Media, and the Bluestockings Book Club. Together, we will view course videos and discuss the topics.

Participate in the entire course, or drop in on any of the individual sessions. No registration is required.

THURSDAYS FROM 1-3PM: 9/4, 9/11, 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/13, 11/20, 12/4, 12/11, & 12/18

124 W. Main St. - 608.269.2010 - spartalibrary.org

[Visit our AAUW-WI website to learn more about us!](http://www.aauw-wi.org)





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