



# Current

Volume 47 Issue 7

March 2008

<http://www.aauw.org>

<http://www.aauw-wi.org/lacrosse>

<http://www.aauwwi-wi.org>

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March General Meeting.  
March 15

**When:** Saturday, March 15--PLEASE NOTE **DATE CHANGE!!**  
The HCC wasn't available on the second Saturday.

**What:** Tour of the new Hmong Community and Cultural Center

**Where:** 1815 ard Ave (the former Cerise restaurant location at Ward Ave and Mormon Coulee Rd)

**Where:** Registration begins at 9:30am; tour begins at 10:00am and an early lunch will be served at 10:45am. Please note that the program is BEFORE the meal this time so people may want to eat breakfast before coming.

**Cost:** \$7.00

Egg rolls (chicken and vegetarian), spring rolls; fried rice and beverage.

Late reservations, after Tues, March 11, can be made to Erica at 608-366-1509 or moogs56@hotmail.com

## LOOKING AHEAD -----

We will be presenting a **name grant award** at our annual Scholarship Brunch in May. If you would like to nominate someone contact Sue Heuer.

## President's Perspective

It was great to have our state president, Marge Mueller, come to La Crosse to present information and her *State of the Association* message. I wish that I could relay the strength, depth and power of our association as effectively as Marge. It is as Marge says, "Nationally AAUW gives our vision a strong, unified voice and it possesses the talent and skills needed to make a systemic difference". I heard several members comment after her talk that they were so pleased to learn that AAUW accomplished so many things. Marge expressed her endorsement of the scholarships and activities of our branch that impact our local community. It is with gratitude that I express appreciation to Marge for her time and energy and her **courage** for heading off into the winery blast that accompanied her departure from our meeting February 9.

The state convention is April 25-27 at the Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel. Please consider attending this conference. Our branch qualifies for four voting delegates in addition to the president. It would be fun to have some members accompany me to this convention. Let me know if you are interested. Information will be in the new *Badger Briefs*.

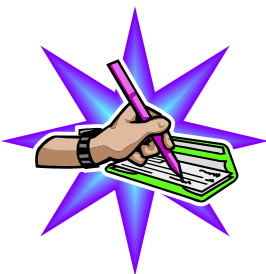
The state website has a wealth of information for members. Three reports that you might find interesting are *Wisconsin Women and Economic Opportunity Report*, *Best and worst State Economies for Women* and *The State of Girls in Wisconsin*. There are links to each of these reports at [www.aauw-wi.org](http://www.aauw-wi.org). Look for these reports under **Additional Links** on the website. Some discouraging statistics from the first report point to a continued need for AAUW. Wisconsin women's median wage of \$12.62 is 25 percent below men's median wage of \$16.84. Wisconsin's inflation adjusted gender gap actually grew from 2000 to 2005, even as the national gap closed. If you are a woman living in Wisconsin, you are 35 percent more likely to live in poverty than if you are a man.

March 8 is International Women's Day. Check the website for more information. <http://www.internationalwomensday.com>. In some countries, including Kyrgyzstan, this day is a national holiday.

April 1 is the deadline for applications for the \$500 Wisconsin scholarships for the Student Leaders conference in Washington D.C. If you know of an interested student, please contact me. Any student can register to attend the conference.

Share your interest in AAUW and invite friends and associates to attend our informational tour of the new Hmong Cultural Center. I'll look forward to seeing you.

Betty Kruck



### Financial Report as of 01/31/08

- Certificate of Deposit (matures 9/08)) \$9,199.58
- Certificate of Deposit (matures 7/08) 4,009.08
- Checking account 3,818.14
- Scholarship Bridge 4,775.53

## KAREN WILSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

AAUW is looking for deserving nontraditional Women students to take advantage of the Karen Wilson Scholarship this year.

The Karen Wilson Scholarship is available to any of our AAUW members or anyone sponsored by one or more AAUW members. The scholarship is designated for women 30 or older who need financial help to pursue a definite goal through higher education. The scholarship may be used at UW-L, Viterbo, or Western Technical College.



Please give the Karen Wilson Memorial Scholarship careful consideration. This year we would be able to offer one \$1000.00 scholarship or two \$500.00 scholarships.

**Contact:** Alice Ross, scholarship chair, at 788-4206 if you would like to apply for the scholarship yourself or if you would like to sponsor someone.

## ART FAIR CHRONICLES



## SCHOLARSHIPS AND ARTIST'S FEES

During the 1970's and '80's, the art fair was not the only source of scholarship funds. Home tour, Scholarship Bridge and other projects paid for a full year tuition scholarship for a La Crosse area high school senior girl to attend UW-La Crosse plus \$300 grants to a Logan, Aquinas and Central High senior girl. Art fair proceeds continued to pay for three high school girls to attend summer art camp and for \$200 to \$300 grants each year throughout the decade to three Viterbo and three UW-L female art majors. However, when in 1976 one of the UW-L scholarships went to a music student, the art department vehemently objected. The AAUW board passed a resolution that two scholarships would be guaranteed the art department and that the third would be given to a student in the arts at the discretion of AAUW. A delicate balance needed to be maintained in giving out money.

Ticket sales provided the majority of profit for the scholarships, but the artists' presence was the essential element. In 1981 there was evidently a problem with artists not returning the second day. A proposal was made for 1982 that the \$35 entrance fee be raised to \$50 with \$15 being returned to every artist who persisted through Sunday. (I'll keep researching to see if this creative solution was implemented.)

*Next Month – the Pump House connection and more.*

*Marilyn Hempstead, Historian.*

## Meet the Kyrgyzstan Delegates

AAUW is joining the LWV in helping to host six delegates from the country of Kyrgyzstan. The delegates, as announced earlier, will be visiting La Crosse from March 21-29. They will be studying the legal system in the United States. The planning committee can use some volunteers to help with transportation between events, and possibly some help will be needed to assist host families with transportation from residences to meetings in the morning and evening. If you would like to assist, please call Betty Kruck or e-mail at 608-689-2222 or [krux@mwt.net](mailto:krux@mwt.net).

An opportunity to meet the delegates, and to learn something of their country and culture, will be provided at a reception at the Wine Guys on Tuesday, March 25, from 5:00-8:00. The Reception will be for AAUW and LWV members, the La Crosse International Committee and host families. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided by the International Committee. Drinks will be on your own. There will also be a farewell dinner on Friday, March 28 from 5:00-8:00 at Huck Finn's banquet building. The cost of this dinner will be about \$16.38. Please call or e-mail your reservations to Betty.

Interesting information regarding Kyrgyzstan can be found at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/kg.html#Military>

## A Visit to Plaquemines Parish

I have recently returned from my 2<sup>nd</sup> visit to the New Orleans area doing volunteer work. The highlight of this year's trip was spending Valentine's Day with our friends at the Belle Chase Library in Plaquemines Parish. We were treated like royalty! Director Janet Cantwell gave us a tour of the facility explaining the work that has been done and what is yet to be done. The staff recently moved back into the facility after operating since October out of a very small bookmobile. They are trying to meet the needs of the entire parish out of this facility and with their new bookmobile while waiting to have the other 2 branches rebuilt. It is a huge undertaking and unless you have seen the devastation it is hard to comprehend why it is taking so long. Each of these staff members is dealing with trying to get the library up and



running as well as trying to get their personal lives back on track. Many of them lost their own homes or had them badly damaged and some also lost family businesses. Without the wonderful support system they have created for themselves I don't know how they would have made it as far as they have. They have my utmost admiration.

My friends and I worked the rest of the day putting together bookshelves and organizing the biography section. They are fortunate to have several faithful volunteers who have taken charge of getting the books back on to the shelves. We were treated to a wonderful seafood lunch and were even interviewed by the local newspaper. It is great to be able to put faces to the names we've been working with for the last year. Although our \$5000 donation has not yet been spent I have no doubt that when the time is right the staff will find just the right way to use it!  
Sue

## LAF REMINDERS:



- If you haven't turned in your money for coupon books, please do so ASAP. As of 2/15/08 we have collected \$385.
- We're still looking for items that we might auction off at the state convention: jewelry, art, coffee table books, etc. Contact Sue Heuer or Betty Kruck.

Sue Heuer  
LAF-EF Coordinator

## Scholarship Review Committee

The committee has met twice to look at the scholarships that we award each spring, to consider community need, and to look at the amount of money available for scholarships in our AAUW Foundation. For about ten years, AAUW has awarded the following scholarships:



### University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

\$2000.00- 4 freshman Scholarships (\$500 each)

\$ 500.00- Fine Arts Scholarship

\$ 500.00- Math or Science Scholarship

### Viterbo University

\$500.00- Fine Arts Scholarship

\$500.00- Math or Science Scholarship

### Western Technical College

\$500 Scholarship

The committee discussed the above scholarships and investigated additional ways that we could open possibilities for women to extend their education. We looked at programs and agencies that were in place in La Crosse, and we looked at the possibility of partnering with them to assist a non-traditional student. Consideration was given to the La Crosse Tribune's high school Extra Effort Award Winners, the Self-Sufficiency Program at UW-L and the Jail Ministry, New Horizons, the Salvation Army and the YWCA.

Because we have had large, successful art fairs the last few years, and because we have some accumulated scholarship money, the committee is recommending that in addition to the traditional scholarships detailed above, that we award some extra scholarships this spring. The committee is recommending that we award a \$1,000 scholarship to a La Crosse Tribune Extra Effort Award winner, a \$1,000 scholarship to a continuing student from the

UW-L Self-Sufficiency Program, and a tuition scholarship to two women from the Ruth House Program at the YWCA. More information on these programs will be included in the next issues of the Current.

Members of the committee are Alice Ross, Mary Hall, Michelle Strange, Janet Rosseter, Carlene Roberts, Robert Richardson, Silvana Richardson, Marie Eumurian, Marilyn Hempstead, Rosemary Burnett, Sharon DeCicco, Liz Wing and Betty Kruck.

### **Spotlight on members!**



If you have news of a special event in your life or the life of other members please submit it to the Current. This could be a milestone of some kind: wedding anniversary, birth, death, award, graduation; anything memorable about your family or the family of a member.

U.S. News & World Report in conjunction with School Evaluation Services recently announced the results of their 2008 search for the best High Schools in the U.S. Kee High School, where our member Pat Staupe teaches, was awarded a Bronze medal for being one of the best high schools in the U.S. Congratulation, Pat!

### **Special events in March**

Community Days at Herberger's

March is Women's History Month

Women's equality Day Summit will be held in Washington, D.C. March 10 – 11.



*Study Groups*

*Study Groups*

*Study Groups*

Hearth and Home

**Date:** March 19

**Event:** Tour of Hamlin Garland home.

**Where:** West Salem

**Time:** 6:30PM

Meet for dinner beforehand at Features restaurant (5:00)

Contemporary Authors New members welcome.

**Meets:** 4<sup>th</sup> Tues at 2:00PM

**Date:** March 25

**Hostess:** Pat Boge

**Author:** Danielle Trusoni: Falling through the earth

**Inquiries:** Pat Sheehan: 788-3808

World Problems New members welcome.

**Meets:** *No meeting* due to Good Friday.

**Hostess:**

**Speaker:**

**Topic:**

**Inquiries:** Mary Sullivan: 785-7095

Bookfellows Meets on 4<sup>th</sup> Wed. at 2:30. New members welcome.

**Date:** March 26

**Topic:** Gertie Sennett & Claire Englehart

**Speaker:** Pat Sheehan

**Hostess:** Liz Wing

**Inquiries:** Pat Sheehan: 788-3808

Bridge, Card games Times and places to be announced.

**Inquiries:** Sharon DeCicco: 788-5356

Vital People

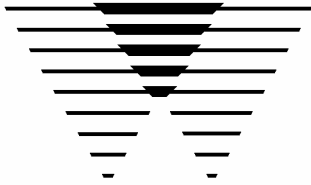
**Meets:** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 1:00PM

**Date:**

**Hostess:**

**Inquiries:** Lyn Quinlisk 784-8498

American Association of University Women  
La Crosse Branch  
P.O. Box 2112  
La Crosse, WI 54602-2112



AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY  
WOMEN

The American Association of University Women promotes equity for all women and girls through advocacy, education and research. The AAUW Educational Foundation provides funds to advance education, research, and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change. The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund provides funding and a support system for individuals seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination

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