



# Current

Volume 47 Issue 9

May 2008

<http://www.aauw.org>

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

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

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## President's Perspective

The May newsletter! It seems impossible. Our AAUW La Crosse Branch is completing its 85<sup>th</sup> year of existence. Our branch has a wonderful history of activities over those years. With the many scholarships that we are awarding this year, the co-sponsorship of the Kyrgyzstan women judges and the excellent programs that we have had, I think we are adding a positive chapter to that history. Thanks to Marilyn Hempstead for preserving articles for historical records. Thanks also to Marilyn for the review of our art fair history in each issue of the *Current* leading up to the 50th anniversary of the Art Fair on the Green this July.

I sincerely thank all members of the board for their work, support and assistance this year. Everyone's work has made my job easy. I would like to express appreciation to Polly Smith for the years that she has spent on the board, the last four years as recording secretary. Thanks also to Sharon DeCicco who has so graciously stepped in to fill just about every elected and appointed position on the board at some point in time. Polly and Sharon will be stepping down from the board and taking a break this next year.

This year our branch will be awarding 15 scholarships and 1 grant. Some of the recipients have an amazing story of high achievement under very difficult circumstances. The winner of the AAUW Extra Effort Award Scholarship will be announced at the La Crosse Tribune's reception on April 30. (The date that I wrote in the last *Current* was in error.) Watch for the announcement in the paper May 1. The scholarships and grant that will be awarded at our program are varied. I hope that you will be able to attend our Scholarship Brunch May 3 to meet the recipients. Alice Ross deserves our thanks for all of the work that she has put into this event.

Betty Kruck

## Special Meeting

There will be a special meeting on June 3 for the board and all branch members who are interested in contributing to some long-range planning. We would like member input into the goals and focus for our branch. We will look at the money in the Karen Wilson Fund,

Endowment Fund, and in the general Foundation Fund. A discussion is needed to determine how much of the money accumulated in the Foundation should be awarded in scholarships and how much money should be used to build the Endowment and Karen Wilson Fund to earn money for future scholarships. The meeting will begin at 5:30 at the La Crosse Public Library, Main Street. Please RSVP to Betty Kruck, [krux@mwt.net](mailto:krux@mwt.net), 608-689-2222 or Sue Heuer, [fredsueret@charter.net](mailto:fredsueret@charter.net), 526-9397 if you can attend. Food will be served. This will be a good way for new members to learn more about our organization, and this is an opportunity for all members to contribute their ideas.

### **Special Gift**

A beautiful book, *In Her Own Words, the Writings of Eleanor Richards Roraff*, was donated to the La Crosse Branch of AAUW by Catherine and her sister, Peggy. This book was published shortly before Eleanor's death earlier this year. As many of you know, Eleanor was an Honorary Life Member of our branch, a member for over 50 years. Catherine, Eleanor's daughter is the Web Master for our branch. The book is a treasure of wonderful poetry and expressions of Eleanor's life experiences that she published for her grandchildren. Reading from this book made me feel as if I had just met a remarkable woman with a gift of words. Marilyn Hempstead, our Historian, will be the keeper of the book. Look for it at our next meeting. A gift of \$75.00 was donated to the Foundation Endowment Fund in memory of Eleanor Roraff by our branch and a member.

### **General Meeting**

#### **May 3**

Last general meeting of the year! Join us in recognizing the recipients of the annual AAUW scholarships and in the voting for and installation of next year's AAUW officers.

**When:** May 3, 2008 (please note this is the FIRST Saturday of May, not the usual second)

**Where:** Forest Hills Golf Course, Plum Room  
600 Losey Blvd N

**Times:** Registration 9:30am  
Brunch: 10:00am  
Program 10:30am

**Cost:** \$11.50. Brunch includes a plate service with scrambled eggs, bacon, fruit and coffee cake.  
Juice and coffee also provided.

Late reservations and cancellations will be taken until Monday, April 28. Please call Erica at 608-366-1509 or email [moogs56@hotmail.com](mailto:moogs56@hotmail.com).

AAUW and the Judges from Kyrgyzstan  
A Commentary from Robert and Silvana Richardson

We all learn so much when we host international guests. We learn protocol, patience, joy, determination, culture, and much more. We benefit immensely as ambassadors within the global community.

No, we do not understand the same word meanings. No, we cannot always find the best word matches in the two language dictionaries. In fact, we must take care that the international lexicographers matched the selected word with the definition needed and not a definition the international guest finds confusing or nonsensical.

Silvana and I hosted a senior judge – clearly dedicated to justice. Zhamal Dzhusupova traveled with three other judges to La Crosse to experience democracy in action – via jury trials. With them came two apt and versatile bilingual translators. At the end of each Zhamal was most eager to share with us what she learned and to ask questions about the administration of justice.

The original inhabitants were known as Mongolians. Kyrgyzstan was part of the Russian Empire in 1876 and was incorporated as part of the U.S.S.R. in 1924. The Kyrgy people formed an independent republic in 1991 and instituted their constitution by 1993. The population of 5 million lives on a landscape of beauty. They share borders with China, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan. Fifty-two percent of the populations claim native Kyrgy ancestry. The people affiliate as Muslims (75%), Russian Orthodox (20%), and other religions. Proudly, the Republic reports a 97% literacy rate. Our visiting delegation hailed from Bishkek, a thriving city of half a million people.

Zhamal was most delighted to see and “feel” the Mississippi. In school all students read about the adventures of Tom Sawyer. We noted this as one of many connections between our worlds and our intellectual knowledge bases. With each day and each event during the week, we learned more about our similarities in visions, dreams, and hopes. Amazingly, and perhaps, serendipitously, we met as a combined delegation for a closing banquet at Huck Finn’s on the River. Even academics and justices can wax romantic!

## **ART FAIR CHRONICLES**

### **IT’S THE SCHOLARSHIPS!**

This year our branch will enjoy its 47<sup>th</sup> May Scholarship Brunch if my research is accurate. At first the awards were few in number but increased when the first proceeds from the Art Fair became available in 1968. In the 1970’s through the 1990’s the Home Tour, used book sales, Children’s Theater, Scholarship Bridge and Children’s Movies also fed into the foundation in varying degrees. Art Fair monies were earmarked for the Viterbo and UW-L students in the arts and for summer art workshops for high school girls while the rest of the scholarships were supported by the other fundraisers.

The peak in scholarship awards came in 1992 when over \$9700 was distributed. A math and science scholarship to each UW-L and Viterbo was added that year to the six arts scholarships already divided between the two institutions. Four awards of \$500 each were given to local high school seniors. The Karen Wilson Scholarship for a non-traditional student, first awarded in 1983, was continued and there was a \$500 award to WWTC given for the second year. In addition, the blue ribbon scholarship for a UW-L freshman was again granted. Similar sums were given out through 1994. After that fundraising projects were gradually abandoned for many reasons until Art Fair and Scholarship Bridge, donations and bequests became the primary funding sources for the foundation as they are now.

This year, thanks to the diligence of branch members working on the art fair, we are giving a record sum in scholarships. We are proud to again be increasing our assistance to struggling students in meeting their educational goals.

*Enjoy the Scholarship Brunch, the Art Fair and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party and your summer.*  
*Marilyn Hempstead, Historian*

### Mobile Meals

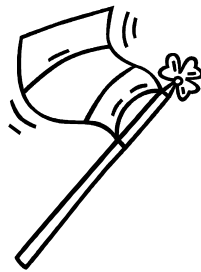


Our organization is responsible for delivering meals during the week of May 5--11.

The pick-up site is Gundersen Lutheran. The route is on the North side.

Contact Dee Schilling, 788-1912, or Lynn Quinlisk 784-8498 to volunteer.

### **ART FAIR ON THE GREEN RECEPTION JULY 26, 2008**



### **50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

All AAUW members are invited to help celebrate 50 years of Art Fair on the Green on Saturday, July 26th at the Pump House. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served from 5:30pm to 8:30pm by Chef Mike Raymond of Culinary Visions Catering. A cash bar will be available. Please mark your calendar now to reserve the date and help us congratulate those who have supported the Art Fair over the years.

## YWCA Ruth House

The YWCA Ruth House is a home for single homeless women who are transitioning from treatment facilities for alcohol and other drug addictions and/or mental health issues. The women must be actively working a treatment plan, after care plan, or receiving other community support while living at Ruth House. All women living at the Ruth House must be employed during residency, obey rules of the Ruth House and be substance free. A strong support system with financial consultants and mentors is part of the program.

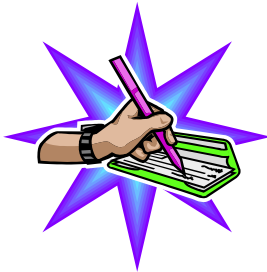
Two women from this program were identified to the scholarship committee as having a high probability of success. They reportedly exhibit excellent attitudes, motivation and ability. The scholarship committee decided to award both women a tuition scholarship. One planned to enroll in the Culinary Arts Program at WTC and the other plans to complete her schooling and accreditation as a beautician. Charlotte, who has successfully completed most class work at the Scientific College of Beauty and Barber, has four children. Her oldest son is a top achieving student in a La Crosse Public School. Amy, who was accepted into the program at WTC, has declined our scholarship at this time. She has decided that she is not ready to be a full-time student and mom with reduced work hours and greater financial pressures.

## Successful Community Day

Thank you, thank you, and thank you to all of you who turned in money for Community Day Coupon Books. A special thank you to Betty Kruck and Erica Koonmen for selling books at Herbergers for us.

We collected \$725 from coupon book sales and recently received a check from Herbergers for \$132.92. Our expenses were \$40.86 which gives us a profit \$817.06.

Sue Heuer  
LAF/ED Coordinator



### Financial Report as of 03/31/08

Certificate of Deposit (matures 9/08))	\$9,199.58
Certificate of Deposit (matures 7/08	4,009.08
Checking account	3,667.55
Scholarship Bridge	477.53



*Study Groups*

*Study Groups*

*Study Groups*

Hearth and Home

**Date:** May 14

**Event:** Dinner

**Where:** Nell's: new restaurant in former Brewery's Hospitality Room

**Time:** 6:30

**Contact:** Jan Davenport: 895-1199

Contemporary Authors New members welcome.

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

**Date:** May 27

**Hostess:** Pat Sheehan

**Author:** Agnes Grey by Anne Bronte

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

World Problems New members welcome.

**Meets:** May 16

**Hostess:** Bev Mach

**Speaker:** Rosemary Hickish

**Topic:**

**Inquiries:** Jean Knorr

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

**Date:** May 23

**Topic:** annual meeting

**Speaker:**

**Hostess:** Pat Sheehan

**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

**Reminder**

Just a reminder that it will make Bev’s job easier if dues are paid by June 25, before she must complete her records for the Association. Listing your e-mail address on the dues form will provide a way to contact you of a special event or bulletin that may have missed the deadline for the *Current*. You will still receive a hard copy of the *Current* unless you contact Mary Reiman and request that she take you off the mailing list and put you on the list to receive the newsletter electronically. The latter will save the branch some money.

**AUW-La Crosse Branch Membership Renewal**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email (for directory) \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$67.00 includes:  
Association 49.00  
State 10.00  
Branch 8.00

Dues	<u>67.00</u>
Education Foundation (EF)/ Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF)	_____
Karen Wilson Scholarship Fund	_____
La Crosse Branch Endowment Fund	_____
Total Enclosed	_____

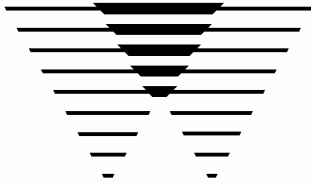
Make check payable to: AAUW – La Crosse Branch

Send form and payment to: Bev Bodine, Finance VP  
1021 Lauderdale North  
Onalaska, WI 54650

Address and email changes will appear in 2008-2009 yearbook.

**Dues must be paid by June 30th (Article VI, section 3 of the Branch By-Laws). Dues are sent to the Vice-President of Finance, Bev Bodine. To make sure that your information is printed correctly, please fill out this membership renewal form and send it along with your check.**

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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La Crosse, WI 54602-2112