



**Issue 5**

**January 2009**

<http://www.aauw.org>

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

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

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### **President's Perspective**

Happy New Year and Best Wishes for 2009!

The national AAUW Convention, *Breaking through Barriers*, will be held in St. Louis June 26-28. The convention will consider some changes to the AAUW bylaws. One proposal will be to change the name of our organization to simply AAUW. This retains the initials that have the reputation we have earned in our 127 year history. An argument in favor of this change is that it may reduce some of the misunderstanding of our connection to a university. It also sounds more accommodating to the men in our organization. A proposal may also be made to eliminate the academic requirements for membership. For best prices to attend the convention, registration must be completed by Jan. 15. If you are interested in attending, information and a registration form is available on the Association website, <http://www.aauw.org>. There are some funds available for women's leadership conferences. Please contact me if you are interested in this.

A special Give a Grad a Gift is offered by the Association. AAUW members can give a recent grad an AAUW national membership free of charge- a \$49 value. There is an on-line form on the national website. State and local dues will be charged to join a local branch.

A special one day conference for Wisconsin high school girls will be held in Madison March 30, 2009. This conference will explore education and career opportunities with an emphasis on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), health care and skilled trades. Fun hands-on activities include college and career exploration, interactive workshops and mentoring by successful, professional women. The student registration fee is \$20. If you know of someone interested in this *Learn, Earn and Prosper (LEAP)* conference, go to <http://teensforward.wi.gov>.

AAUW is working at the local, state, national and international level to improve the conditions for women and girls. The time you devote on the AAUW board or a committee helps to keep AAUW an effective organization. Please consider volunteering to join our branch board in one of the positions listed in the Call for Nominations. It really is quite rewarding. According to our bylaws, officers can serve two terms.

Keep warm. Please invite a friend, relative, or colleague to join us January 10.

Betty Kruck



## Financial Report as of 11/31/08

- Checking account      \$5,065.95
- CD's                      5,000.00 (matures 5/09)
- 5,000.00 (matures 11/09)
- Bridge                    732.811

### **Joint Meeting with League of Women Voters.**

On January 10th, AAUW and The League of Women Voters will host a joint program on pay equity. Our presenter for the January AAUW branch meeting will be Deb Hoskins, an Associate Professor in the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse. Her topic will be pay equity, and she will provide an update on current legislation issues. She will also address ways our organizations could collaborate with the Women's Student Association to promote an awareness of pay equity in our community. ("Equal Pay Day" this year is April 28th.)



- Program:** Pay Equity: Update and Call to Action!  
**Presenter:** Dr. Deb Hoskins, UW-L Women's Studies  
**Location:** La Crosse Country Club  
300 Marcou Rd, Onalaska  
**Cost:** \$11: 00  
**Menu:** Chicken hash, fruit, Danish, juices, coffee, tea (buffet)  
**Registration:** 9:30 AM  
**Brunch:** 10:00 AM  
**Program:** 10:30 AM

Reservations or cancellations after the Jan. 7th can be made to Erica Koonmen at 608-366-1509, moogs56@hotmail.com or Jane Wernecke at 608-534-6330, ajja701@trivest.net

### **BLUFF COUNTRY TALESPINNERS**

The Bluff Country Talespinners, represented by Sara Slayton and Terry Visger, regaled us with two charming stories on Saturday, December 13th. After the meeting, they enjoyed talking with our members and wanted to share more information about the Talespinners with us, hoping that some of you may be interested in joining or attending an event!

Bluff Country Tale Spinners - is a local storytelling guild with a mission to develop the skills of interested storytellers. People do not need to be storytellers, only to have an interest in stories. Listeners are always welcome. They meet on the second Thursday of each month at Grounded Specialty Coffees, 308 Main St., La Crosse. Anyone is welcome and the coffee is great!

## **FYI: Community Day**

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, February 28**. This will be Herberger's next Community Day. You will be receiving coupon books in the mail and the profits will go towards our LAF contribution and the support of other local projects.  
Sue Heuer LAF/EF Coordinator



## **Missions of Mercy**

A *Missions of Mercy* will be held at the La Crosse Center June 26-27, 2009. This program will offer free dental care to those who are not able to afford it. It's estimated that \$600,000 of care will be delivered to 1,200 patients, both children and adults during the two days. The clinic will be sponsored by the Wisconsin Dental Association and supported by the La Crosse Dental Advocacy Coalition of which our AAUW Branch is a member.

This clinic will provide about 80 portable dental units. Dentists from around the state will volunteer their services. Please mark your calendar if you can volunteer to help. Many volunteers will be needed for registration, patient escort, language translation, exit interviews, food service, runners, entertainment, and crowd control. Volunteers will be needed to help set up on June 25 and help will be needed June 28 to clean up and take down equipment.

To learn more about MOM, please go to [www.wda.org](http://www.wda.org) and click on Missions of Mercy. Dental surgeon Tim Durtsche and his wife Sue are serving as co-chairs. To volunteer, please contact Betty Kruck or you can volunteer individually on the WDA website.

## **VOLUNTEER!**

### **Craft Activity Night**

Volunteer Craft Activity Nights (contributed by Betty Kruck and Erica Koonmen)

AAUW members who participated in a Craft Activity Night with women from the YWCA Transitional Housing and Ruth House Program had a wonderful experience. All participants agreed that they would like to continue with additional activities. A pre-Valentine's Day activity is being planned. If you would like to participate in this or a future activity, please contact Carlene Roberts or Erica Koonmen.

Toward this end, we'd like to develop a "talent pool". If you have a talent that you'd be willing to share/teach at an activity night, please let Carlene or Erica know. This could include things like knitting or crocheting, scrapbooking, jewelry making, cooking, etc... This will allow us to tap into your talents when needed!

If you would like to contribute something to help with this project, you can send a money contribution to our treasurer, Bev Bodine. A check can be made to AAUW with a notation of YWCA Activity. The contribution will help to purchase supplies for the activity.



The YWCA staff suggested that any personal products that we might have to donate to the women would be very much appreciated. This could include soap, deodorant, shampoo or body lotion. If you have products to contribute, we will collect these at the next meeting, January 10th.

One of the women from Transitional Housing has a goal of being a nurse. She had already applied to the SSP Program to help reach that goal. Hopefully we can assist and encourage others. What a wonderful way for AAUW to contribute to our community!

## **AAUW La Crosse Foundation**

Our AAUW La Crosse Branch established a Foundation in 1964 to fund local scholarships, grants and activities that advance the AAUW mission. Within our Foundation, the Karen Wilson Memorial Fund was established in memory of a former member to provide scholarships to nontraditional students. In December 1995, an Endowment Fund was started as part of the Foundation to provide a perpetual source of interest and investment income. The principal of the Karen Wilson and Endowment Fund grows through gifts and donations. A major contributor to the Foundation, the Art Fair on the Green, deposits ninety percent of its profits as undesignated income to fund scholarships each year. This undesignated money, in addition to interest earned by the Endowment Fund and Karen Wilson Fund is available for scholarships. The Foundation is managed by our Foundation Secretary/Treasurer, Janet Rosseter and by at least two other Branch Foundation Officers. The current Foundation Officers are the Foundation Secretary/Treasurer, the President and Past President.

Last June a special AAUW meeting was announced and held at the library to discuss our AAUW Branch and the Foundation. A recommendation was made at that meeting to transfer some of the undesignated income that had accumulated in the Foundation to the Endowment Fund. This recommendation was adopted by the AAUW-La Crosse Board. Foundation reports will be available at the membership meetings, and they are available to any member upon request. For more information, or for a copy of the report, please contact one of the Foundation officers.

A goal is to add to the Endowment Fund and to the Karen Wilson Fund through gifts, memorials and estate bequests. Contributions may also be made to the Foundation as undesignated income. If you are interested in serving on the Foundation Board or on the Scholarship Committee, please contact Betty Kruck or Alice Ross, Scholarship Chair.

## **Year Book Errata, Changes, and Additions**

**(In order to be included in the Year Book, dues must be paid by June 15<sup>th</sup>. Please see Article VI, section 3 of the Branch By-Laws. Dues are sent to the Vice-President of Finance.)**

Here is a listing of changes as of 11/17/2008:

**Marian Ford.** New address is 351 Mason St. NW, Apt. 223, Onalaska, WI 54650.

**Sara Harris** is residing in California: 1919 Creston Rd., Apt 204, Paso Robles, CA. 93445-4400.

Please phone me at 783-1247 or email me at [jr67burnett@charter.net](mailto:jr67burnett@charter.net) with any other errors and omissions to the Year Book.

Rosemary Burnett, Year Book Coordinator

### **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

Membership dues for new members are half price from January 1 – March 15. Contact Pat Staupe 788-7439, for more information.



I have been blessed with the privilege of being selected as the 2008-2009 recipient of the American Association of University Women Scholarships for Entering Freshmen (La Crosse Area). This scholarship was made possible through the gifts of your funding, and I would like to thank you. Your gift is truly a blessing in my life, and I believe that it will help me much as I enter college. I come from a Hmong family of eleven children, and my parents are both illiterate. Hence, we struggle financially. However, I believe that I am blessed to be in such a family. My parents work hard to teach my siblings and me to strive to work hard and to do our best. My family struggles have motivated me to study hard to become a family physician. I know that by becoming a family physician, I will be able to give to others by supporting them financially, helping them with medication, and many other ways.

Sheboygan is my birth place and where I lived most of my life. In 2006, my family and I moved to Onalaska due to some family complications. The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse had always been my first choice for college, and our moving to Onalaska made my decision of attending the university more certain. The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse is a diverse university with many opportunities. I will be majoring in Biochemistry. My minor will be English. In the fall of 2008, I will be entering the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

I know that this scholarship will support me financially. Not only so, but it will be an encouragement, inspiration, and motivation to remind me that there are many who are supporting and encouraging me. Once again thank you for your contribution and support! It has truly given me more encouragement to study hard and to give as I have been given. Thank you!

Sincerely

Paj Nra Yang



## Call for Nominations

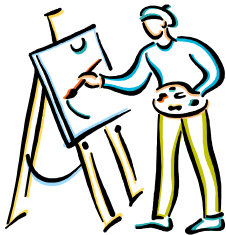
Nominations are requested for the following AAUW board positions. The Nominations Committee consists of Rosemary Burnett, Marilyn Hempstead and Betty Kruck. Please contact a committee member to offer your name or others for consideration.

### **Elected**

President	1 year
President-Elect	1 year
Vice-President Program Co-Chair	2 year
Vice-President Finance	2 year

### **Appointed (All 2 year appointments)**

- Scholarship
- Publicity
- Historian
- Bylaws
- Public Policy
- LAF & Education Foundation
- Diversity
- Hospitality



## ART FAIR ON THE GREEN JULY 25-26, 2009

With the arrival of January comes the beginning of the planning for another art fair. If you have the names of any prospective artists, please give the information to Cathy Bulera or Erica Koonmen. They will be sending out artist packets in late January.

We welcome Sarah Koehler to the art fair committee. She will be working with Julie Noll on publicity.

## Spotlight on Members

Congratulations to **Carlene Roberts** for receiving the Iverson Freking Ecumenical Award! The award is in recognition of ecumenical endeavors and a positive commitment to the community.



Study Groups

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Hearth and Home New members welcome.

**Date:** No event in January

**Program:**

**Cost:**

**Time:**

**Place:**

**Reservation:**

Contemporary Authors New members welcome.

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

**Date:** Jan. 27

**Hostess:** Marian Schuyler  
784-9257

**Author:** Physics of the impossible

**Inquiries:** Alice Ross, 788-4206

Bookfellows New members welcome.

**Meets:** 3rd Wed. at 2:30.

**Date:** Jan. 21

**Speaker:** Marian Schuyler + Liz Wing

**Hostess:** Marilyn Schuler

**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, 1:00pm

**Inquiries:** Katie Webster, 788-7232

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



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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