

2012-13 Branch Officers

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FALLS NOTES



AAUW-River Falls, WI

Branch Newsletter January 2014

WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Saturday, JANUARY 18, 2014

11:30 Business meeting and Lunch

1:00 PM PROGRAM

Recognition of *Women in Math and Science*

Essay Contest Award winners

Juniors -- 414 S. Main Street, River Falls – lower level

University of Wisconsin-River Falls professor Dr. Eileen Korenic will be the featured speaker at the January 18 AAUW-River Falls branch program. A luncheon/business meeting will be held beginning at 11:30 AM at Juniors Grill in the Riverview Hotel on Main Street in River Falls. This will be a working lunch with members ordering from the Juniors menu. Winners of the *Women in Math and Science* essay contest and their families, as well as members of the community, will be welcomed at 12:45 for the 1:00 PM program.

Dr. Korenic received a bachelor's degree in Chemistry, Biology and Education at Mount Mary College in Milwaukee. After teaching high school science for six years in Waukesha WI, she returned to school at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee as a physics major. She attended graduate school at the University of Rochester (NY) and received her Ph.D. in optical physics specializing in the color of liquid crystals. After receiving her graduate degree, Korenic worked at 3M in Woodbury for two years. She has been a professor at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls for the past 14 years.

As part of the program the branch will recognize and honor the four middle school winners of the "Women in Math and Science" Essay Contest. This year's winners are: Jazylynn Prudlow, Morgan Steckbauer, Danielle Miller, and Sophiis Swenson. They will have an opportunity to describe the person they chose for their essay prior to receiving their award. Dessert will be served at the conclusion of the program. Please RSVP by January 15, 2014 to: Elaine Baumann at elainebaumann1@gmail.com.

"Women have made tremendous progress in education and the workplace during the past 50 years. Even in historically male fields such as business, law, and medicine, women have made impressive gains. In science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), however, women's progress has been slower, especially in engineering, computer science, and physics. In an era when women are increasingly prominent in medicine, law, and business, why are so few women becoming scientists and engineers?"

--Introduction to Executive Summary of AAUW Research report *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics*

PRESIDENT' S COLUMN

Ruth Lee, Branch President

January 2014

Imagine that you made a New Year Resolution that each month you would seek to learn something new or perhaps just more detailed about AAUW. Which venue of interests would you pursue to achieve this task? Perhaps starting with the Website would give you some food for thought and lead to more opportunities. Maybe it's the local branch you want to know more about, in that case read the newsletter, ask questions especially of board members, and come to meetings. Be sure to share your thoughts and suggestions especially with board members so new ideas can be explored.

Have you been a member of the River Falls branch long enough to remember "*The Choices*" conferences that were organized with the River Falls Public Schools and the University of Wisconsin-River Falls? There were a few people of the branch and additional community members who worked diligently to develop a one day conference for girls in the middle/junior high age group. This was held at the University and students from surrounding communities took advantage of this opportunity even though it sometimes conflicted with "an athletic competition" on a Saturday morning. The current woman in science essay contest is a continuance of this conference.

AAUW continues to develop opportunities for girls to explore science, math, technology and engineering in friendly environments. Ellen Thuy Le, a recent chemical engineering graduate from Stanford University shared that "Tech Trek was the first time I didn't have male classmates looking down on me or making me feel weird for loving science and math". Tech Trek is a science camp for girls which was created over 15 years ago by AAUW of California. It's a week-long camp which develops self-confidence and excitement in STEM for these young women. This program expanded at the four pilot sites in Florida, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Washington in 2013. The national pilot camps will be extended to Alabama, New Mexico, and Oregon in 2014.

Eight years ago Tech Savvy, was launched in Buffalo, New York. In 2014 this will become a national pilot program at 10 sites which will serve more than 2,000 girls around the country. Ana Kay Yaghoubian, STEM manager at AAUW, is excited about this day long conference being financially supported by AAUW. "Volunteers are giving resources to communities that really need them to bring more girls and women into STEM." (Perhaps similar to the Choices Conference done in River Falls?)

Our January meeting, by acknowledging the local eighth grade students' essays regarding "Women In Science," demonstrates again how the River Falls Branch of AAUW is right in step with activities going on throughout the land of AAUW! Come, hear Dr. Korenic, and celebrate eighth grade students learning about women in the sciences!



EDUCATION

PROGRAM NOTES

Lorraine Davis and Elaine Baumann, Co-Chairs

BOOK GROUP NEWS

Ethel Johnson

The AAUW Book Group was organized in 1986 when Grace Swenson was President and remains active to the present time. The group meets the second Wednesday of the month in the Board Room of the River Falls Public Library. If you would like to attend one of the meetings, it would be wise to call Ethel Johnson, 715-425-6220, to confirm time as meeting time could be changed depending upon holidays, trips, etc. of present members. All newcomers are welcome to join us. The following is a list of the books being read:

January *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand

February *Out Stealing Horses* by Per Peterson

March *The Madonnas of Leningrad* by Debra Dean

April *The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain

May *The Light Between Oceans* by M L Stedman

June *The Kitchen House* by Kathleen Grissom

July *Daughter of Time* by Josephine Tey
August Planning Meeting

Those in attendance at the planning meeting choose the books to be read. If this Book Group appeals to you, come and join us and let your reading interest be known.



INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Yolanda Dewar, Chair

UN: Afghanistan slow to enforce law on women-By Patrick Quinn

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - The United Nations complained Sunday that Afghan authorities have been slow in enforcing the August 2009 "Elimination of Violence against Women" law protecting women against forced marriages, domestic violence and rape. The law also criminalizes child marriage, selling and buying women to settle disputes, assault and more than a dozen other acts of violence and abuse against women

A report issued by the U.N. mission in Afghanistan found that although Afghan authorities registered more reports of violence against women under the four-year-old law, prosecutions and convictions remained low.

The report found that incidents of violence against women remain largely under-reported because of cultural restraints, social norms and religious beliefs

Women: Looking Ahead: Opportunities & Challenges for Women's Political Participation in 2014-Remarks: Catherine M. Russell, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues National Democratic Institute

(NDI) Offices-Washington, DC, December 12, 2013

Despite comprising over 50 percent of the world's population, women continue to be underrepresented in every aspect of political and public life. Today, only 21 percent of the world's parliamentarians are women. There are 21 women either serving as head of state or head of government. Only 17 percent of government ministers are women, with the majority serving in the fields of education

and health. Since 1992, women have represented fewer than 3 percent of mediators and 8 percent of negotiators to major peace processes. These numbers are too small. These are the places where decisions get made, and simply put, there aren't enough women in them.

Increasing women's meaningful participation in political and public life is about changing cultural norms about women and changing the culture of politics. It's about building and sustaining representative societies. It is essential to ensuring that laws, regulations and policies reflect the reality of women's everyday lives. Women often raise issues that others have overlooked, reach out to constituencies that others ignore and have unique knowledge that stems from their societal roles and responsibilities.

ADVOCACY

PUBLIC POLICY
Barbara Peterson, Chair



In a recent edition of AAUW Action Network, AAUW Vice President of Government Relations Lisa Maatz shared some of the accomplishments of AAUW's advocacy efforts through an e-mail entitled *Look What We Did Together*. Following is an excerpt from that document:

"Thanks to the work and generosity of you and our members, we can be proud of some impressive advocacy achievements in 2013. Here are just a few:

AAUW helped lead the fight for passage of the [Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\)](#). AAUW members played a significant role by personally visiting congressional offices and sending thousands of messages to Congress. Without AAUW, campus sexual assault measures would have been overlooked in the legislation that became law.

Because of AAUW members' stalwart advocacy for pay equity, AAUW was invited to stand with President

Barack Obama at the White House ceremony commemorating the [50th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act](#).

As state lawmakers and courts threatened to roll back voting rights protections, AAUW members across the country mobilized at colleges, community events, and other public spaces to register people to vote during [National Voter Registration Day 2013](#).

The Senate passed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which was first brought to the floor by the late Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-MA) 17 years ago. This bill would explicitly protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans from discrimination in the workplace. AAUW activists took charge and successfully delivered thousands of [messages](#) to all 50 senators in support of ENDA

AAUW stepped up to provide help and technical assistance to a student campaign for enforcement of Title IX protections. A collective of current students and recent graduates worked together to launch a website to help students end sexual assault and improve the climate on their college campuses. The [Know Your IX](#) site features stories and resources – including a link to [AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund](#) – where you can learn more about campus sexual assault, Title IX, and recent court cases. AAUW was glad to see these students meet with Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and deliver a petition with more than 100,000 online signatures calling for stronger enforcement of Title IX protections against campus sexual assault.

AAUW provided important research to the U.S. Department of Labor on the status of women in honor of the 50th anniversary of the influential [American Women](#) report. AAUW also weighed in on the original report, done by the Presidential Commission on the Status of Women, at Eleanor Roosevelt's invitation.

AAUW celebrated Computer Education Science Week and the [Hour of Code](#) – a one-hour introduction to computer science – across the country. Twenty-seven events were organized by AAUW members or reported through our website, 17 proclamations were signed by mayors and governors, and more than 500 individual registrations were recorded through the Greater Rochester Area Branch (NY).

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MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP NOTES
Jane Matthews, Chair

The January meeting will be another opportunity for *Shape the Future* and to offer reduced dues to any new or lapsed member joining the branch at the January 18 meeting and/or program. Because this is the half-way point in our fiscal year, new members joining between January 1 and March 15 may join at a special half cost rate of \$36.50. New or lapsed members who join *on January 18*, will receive an additional 50% off through the *Shape the Future* program and be able to join at the rate of \$18.25 for a six month membership.

This is an ideal time to introduce new members or to invite former members to become part of AAUW. Who are the people, male and female, in your life that would welcome an opportunity to become part of AAUW?



PHILANTHROPY

Suzanne Hagen,
Finance Co-Chair

The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund

Even though we have just said farewell to 2013, I encourage you to consider your charitable giving for 2014. As you know, AAUW Funds support five key initiative categories: Legal Advocacy, Educational Opportunities, Leadership Programs, Public Policy and the Eleanor Roosevelt Fund. While the latter fund's name of an iconic woman leader is familiar to us all, we may not be aware of the specific work it supports.

The Eleanor Roosevelt Fund enables AAUW's research section to provide analysis, data, and accurate information about issues that are important to women and girls. In our RF branch we've discussed, shared, and been energized by past reports including *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics* (2010), *Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School* (2011), *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap* (2012), and *Graduating to a Pay Gap: The Earnings of Women and Men One Year after College Graduation* (2012).

Individual donations (checks payable to AAUW Funds) can be mailed directly to AAUW, P.O. Box 98045, Washington, DC 20090-8045 or made online via AAUW's secure website. As a branch, we will be discussing additional spring fund raising efforts to support national initiatives.

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DID YOU KNOW ...

-- that when the *New York Times* printed an article in November 2013 about an exhibit at the Grolier Club in New York City called "Honoring Female Pioneers in Science," AAUW fellowships, grants, and awards were behind **almost half** of the 32 women featured in that exhibit.
(Source: www.AAUW.org)

BRANCH BUSINESS

MINUTES - AAUW RIVER FALLS BRANCH MEETING

December 10, 2013, Suzanne Hagen's home

President Ruth Lee called the meeting to order at 6:55 pm.

Announcements:

STEM Webinar Dec. 12, information to be forwarded to members; the Quarterly STEM newsletters will also be forwarded.

Check of \$20.00 towards National travel fund result of 10 member's responses about the newsletter

Thank you to Sue Halseth for updating the Bylaws.

November minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer's report was to be filed for audit. After discussion, it was recommended to give \$500 to AAUW Funds this year.

Program Development: Lorraine Davis reported on a proposal with the River Falls Public Library to get documentary grants and recommended Mildred Fish Harnack. Lorraine announced the January 18 branch meeting at Junior's to begin at 11:30 which will be a working meeting through lunch. For lunch, order off the menu, self-pay. Speaker and program at 12:45. Sue Danielson will bring bars for dessert. There is a need for one more host for February with Barbara Peterson, and one in March with Suzie Danielson.

SCHOLARSHIP: Bob Gustafson reported on the UWRF scholarship. According to the committee, the funds for this year were sent to the University but a selection was not made. Bob is trying to make contact with Logan from the University regarding this process and the committee will develop a plan to make this continue in the future. Any action has been tabled until further information is gathered.

Philanthropy committee will meet in January.

Judy Freund was introduced as a guest at the meeting.

Ann Gustafson announced that the December 20th newsletter deadline has some flexibility.

Suzie Danielson commented on the Wisconsin State Convention to be held at the Holiday Inn South in Eau Claire on April 25 – 26, 2014. Elise Whaley will be asked to sit on a panel discussion. Ann encouraged many to attend as it's close and very worthwhile.

Ethel Johnson reported that the AAUW book group is meeting Dec. 11 at 10:00 am in the public library board room. Ruth asked to have the book list published in the newsletter.

Yolanda shared the Scandinavian tradition of putting a sheaf of wheat out for the birds in the spirit of kindness and plenty.

Ruth thanked our hosts and adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm.

The "Holiday Auction and Fund Raiser" was the program for the night.

FINANCE REPORT

Kay Montgomery, Co-Finance Chair

AAUW-River Falls Finance Report December 20, 2013

Checking balance: 11/21/2013 - \$2151.03

Receipts		Disbursements	
Auction (for state travel)	\$ 816.00	AAUW (national dues)	\$ 98.00
Auction (AAUW funds)	24.00	AAUW (state dues)	19.50
Dues	<u>36.50</u>	AAUW Funds donation	500.00
	\$ 876.50	AAUW Action Fund (donation)	65.00
		RF Postmaster (mail directories)	<u>11.42</u>
			\$ 693.92

Balances: 11/21/2013

Checking:	\$2333.61
Savings:	<u>1954.37</u>
	\$4287.98

(Book Sale total income, minus expenditures: \$1410.01)

Restricted Accounts:

UWRF Scholarship	\$500.00
High School Scholarship	\$300.00
AAUW Funds	\$472.01
LAF	\$ 00.00
Travel	
State	\$816.00
National	\$ 00.00*

*Any funds left in State travel after the State convention are added to the National travel fund.

DIRECTORY UPDATES – please clip and add to your directory

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Olle-LaJoie, Maureen (2013)

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221 North Winter Street

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B.S., University of Detroit-Mercy, Computer Science

MLIS, Wayne State University, Library and Information Studies

.....

Willis-Rivera, Jennifer (2013)

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M.A., Bowling Green State University,

Ph.D., Bowling Green State University, Communication

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY 11	Branch Board meeting – 10:15 AM
	Public Library Board Room
JANUARY 18	Branch Business meeting & Lunch - 11:30 AM
	Juniors Grill - 414 South Main – River Falls
	Program – “Women in Math & Science”
	Awards to 8th grade essay winners
FEBRUARY 11	Branch meeting – 6:30 and Program – 7:30 PM
	Kurt Liechtie, “Women in the Civil War”
MARCH 11	Branch meeting – 6:30 and Program – 7:30 PM
	Dr. Tom Westerhaus, “The Impact of Vouchers on
	WI Public Schools”
APRIL 8	Branch annual meeting – 6:30 and Program – 7:30
	Heather Logelin – “The Impact of the ACA on
	Women’s Health
APRIL 25-26	AAUW-WI State Convention, Eau Claire



AAUW’s MISSION STATEMENT

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

AAUW’s VALUE PROMISE

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.